

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report

LT384 Tealing to Westfield Overhead Line (OHL) 400 kV Upgrade

November 2024



Volume 4: Appendix 6.3 - Gate Check Report

Tealing to Westfield Overhead Line 400kV Upgrade

Gate Check Report

October 2024



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GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
Alignment	A centre line of an overhead line, along with location of key angle structures.
Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)	A site-specific environmental management plan setting out the environmental management procedures, legislation and requirements for a particular project and site.
Conductor	A metallic wire strung from structure to structure, to carry electric current.
Consultation	The dynamic process of dialogue between individuals or groups, based on a genuine exchange of views, normally, with the objective of influencing decisions, policies or programmes of action.
Corridor	A linear area which allows a continuous connection between defined connection points. The corridor may vary in width along its length; in unconstrained areas it may be many kilometres wide.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A formal process set down in The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 used to systematically identify, predict and assess the likely significant environmental impacts of a proposed project or development.
General Environmental Management Plan (GEMP)	Developed by the Applicant to document general procedures, legislation and requirements for a variety of processes, typically during the construction phase of a project.
Kilovolt (kV)	One thousand volts.
Limit of Deviation (LOD)	The area either side of the alignment within which micro siting of structures may take place in accordance with the conditions of the Section 37 consent.
Mitigation	Term used to indicate avoidance, remediation or reduction of adverse impacts.
Overhead line (OHL)	An electric line installed above ground, usually supported by lattice steel towers or poles.
Span	The section of overhead line between two supporting structures.
Species Protection Plan (SPP)	Developed by the Applicant to document general procedures, legislation and requirements for ensuring protection to a variety of species.
Stakeholders	Organisations and individuals who can affect or are affected by The Applicant works.
The National Grid	The electricity transmission network in Great Britain.
Volts	The international unit of electric potential and electromotive force.
Wayleave	A voluntary agreement entered into between The Applicant and a landowner upon whose land an overhead line is to be upgraded for the installation and retention of the transmission equipment.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Gate Check Report has been prepared by AECOM on behalf of Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (herein referred to interchangeably as ‘SSEN Transmission’ or ‘the Applicant’) operating under licence as Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (SHE Transmission plc), which is part of the SSE plc group of companies. SSEN Transmission owns and maintains the electricity transmission network across the north of Scotland and holds a licence under the Electricity Act 1989 (‘the 1989 Act’) to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical system of electricity transmission.
- 1.1.2 The Applicant submits this report in advance of an application to the Scottish Ministers under Section 37 of the 1989 Act for consent (‘Section 37 consent’) to upgrade approximately 38 kilometres (km) of overhead line (OHL) between Tower 182 (west of Tealing Substation) and the licence boundary with Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) OHL network (Westfield/Glenrothes) (mid span Towers 66 and 65), to enable operation at 400 kilovolts (kV). There is also a request for a direction that planning permission be deemed to be granted under Section 57 (2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended, (‘deemed planning consent’) for construction and operation of the OHL and carrying out of ancillary works.
- 1.1.3 The application for consent for the Proposed Development will be supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. A Scoping Report setting out the proposed scope of the EIA Report was submitted to the Scottish Ministers in June 2024 with a request for a formal Scoping Opinion¹. A Scoping Opinion was subsequently issued by the Scottish Ministers on 13th September 2024, with an amendment issued on 18th September 2024.
- 1.1.4 The purpose of this Gate Check Report is to ensure that the application is in keeping with the Energy Consent Unit’s (ECU’s) good practice guidance². Namely, to aid in management of the administrative requirements of the submission by outlining consultations with statutory and non-statutory consultees, engagement with the local community and how matters raised during the scoping process have been dealt with in the EIA Report. This allows further dialogue between the ECU, the Applicant, and key consultees to seek feedback on departures from methodologies agreed at Scoping stage, the scope of assessment following any changes since Scoping stage or highlight any other key matters prior to submission of the application.

1.2 Background to Project

- 1.2.1 As the transmission network owner for the north of Scotland, the Applicant is responsible for the maintenance of the existing transmission network, and also ensuring that the current network can facilitate connection requests from developers when necessary.
- 1.2.2 The upgrade / re-conductoring of the existing Tealing to Westfield OHL has been identified as part of the National Grid Electricity System Operator’s (ESO’s) Holistic Network Design (HND). This project will upgrade the line from its existing operational voltage of 275 kV to enable operation at 400 kV to facilitate the transition to net zero in line with the UK and Scottish Government targets of achieving net zero by 2050 and 2045 respectively.
- 1.2.3 The Proposed Development represents a long-term approach in relation to planning for future transmission infrastructure requirements, particularly having regard to the targets fixed by the Scottish and UK Governments to achieve net zero. Furthermore, as a result of an increase in renewable energy projects for which access to the electricity transmission network is being formally requested, there is a requirement to increase the capacity of the existing OHL.
- 1.2.4 SSEN Transmission has sought to maintain an open dialogue with local communities across the Proposed Development throughout the evolution of the project. This has included engaging with local elected members, landowners, residents and businesses that may be affected by the Proposed Development.

¹ Under the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017

² Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (Energy Consents Unit, February 2022)

2. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The Proposed Development consists of the upgrading from 275 kV to 400 kV of approximately 38 km of OHL between Tower 182 (west of Tealing Substation) and the boundary with the SPEN OHL network (Westfield/Glenrothes) (mid span Towers 66 and 65) to enable operation at 400 kV.

2.1.2 The Proposed Development would include the following elements, for which Section 37 consent and deemed planning consent is sought:

- replacement of conductors, insulators and fittings on the existing steel lattice towers;
- where required, tower condition works, including steelwork and tower leg foundation work to strengthen the existing steel lattice towers;
- replacement of existing earthwire with Optical Ground Wire (OPGW);
- subject to further engineering and design checks, some modifications to the existing towers may be required, such as the inverting of cross arms to improve clearances, and changes to the insulator set configurations; and
- subject to further engineering and design checks, the following tower works may be required:
 - to mitigate a 132kV clearance constraint, Towers 155 and 156 may need to be extended in height by using a 2m long body extension, however inverting tower cross arms and/or the use of suspended tension sets may suffice; and
 - due to constraints associated with the conductor type, coupled with an inability to utilise mid-span joints, it may be the case that either Tower 129 or 132 (not both) may need to be replaced. To facilitate these works, a temporary diversion tower (installed for less than 1 year) would also be required. The maximum dimensions of these towers are:
 - Tower 129: The height of the new tower: 45.5m; and the temporary diversion tower 45.5m; **or**
 - Tower 132: The height of the new tower: 51.15m; and the temporary diversion tower 51.3m.

2.1.3 The following elements or works would be required as part of the Proposed Development, or to facilitate its construction and operation, for which deemed planning consent will be sought:

- vegetation clearance;
- access track construction and access track upgrades;
- temporary site compounds;
- laydown areas;
- crane pads;
- equipotential zones (EPZs) and temporary measures to protect road, rail and water crossings; and
- the increase in operating voltage of the OHL requires a wider wayleave corridor, therefore some tree felling will be required where there are infringements to this corridor.

2.2 Other Related Works

The following related works would also be required: Tealing Substation

2.2.1 The existing OHL will be upgraded from the SPEN boundary, south of Abernethy, to Tower 182 west of the existing Tealing Substation, to enable the operation of the OHL at 400kV. The reconducted OHL will be connected into the new Tealing (Emmock) 400 kV substation being developed. This will be achieved by the construction of a new OHL tie-in originating between Tower 180 and Tower 182 (likely Tower 181) on the existing line. This will result in a redundant section of OHL likely between Tower 182 and the existing Tealing Substation which could be used to provide a connection between the new Tealing (Emmock) substation and the existing substation. A separate Section 37 consent for the new build tie-in will

be submitted to the ECU and planning consent for the new Tealing (Emmock) substation will be sought from Angus Council. The application for the new substation, under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, is due to be submitted Q3 2024.

SPEN OHL Boundary

- 2.2.2 The Applicant will seek Section 37 consent down to the licence area border that it shares with SPEN. This is mid-span between Tower 66 and Tower 65. SPEN will submit a separate Section 37 consent for works to be carried out to the OHL in their licence area. It may be the case that SPEN will reconductor a portion (1.5 spans) of the OHL within SSEN's licence boundary with different conductors to those being used by SSEN Transmission. This will be confirmed within the EIA Report.
- 2.2.3 Cumulative effects between these projects, and where details of other works are known or can reasonably be anticipated, and the Proposed Development will be considered in the EIA Report where appropriate.
- 2.2.4 The OHL route for the Proposed Development is shown in Figure 1, in Appendix A. SSEN Transmission's Project Map³ shows the location of where the Proposed Development interfaces with the related works detailed above.

2.3 Decommissioning the Proposed Development

- 2.3.1 The scope of the proposed Section 37 consent is limited to the upgrade and operation of the OHL. The Proposed Development would not have a fixed operational life; however, it is assumed that the Proposed Development would be operational for 50 years or more. Once the design life of the OHL has been reached, a decision would be taken on whether to decommission and remove the transmission infrastructure or potentially to replace or upgrade it. The EIA will focus on the construction and operational effects of the Proposed Development, although some commentary will also be provided on potential impacts predicted from decommissioning.

³ <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/>

3. CONSULTATION

3.1 Scoping

- 3.1.1 A Scoping Opinion was sought from Scottish Ministers on 28th June 2024 on the environmental information to be provided in the EIA Report. Appendix B: Summary of EIA Scoping Responses and Action Taken, of this report includes a matrix detailing the key issues that were raised in the Scoping Opinion and how and where they will be addressed in the EIA Report. The scoping matrix will be included in the EIA Report.

3.2 Key Scoping Issues

- 3.2.1 The Scoping Opinion made reference to site specific issues of interest to the Scottish Ministers, to be considered and addressed in addition to those laid out in responses from consultees. The issues raised were as follows:

Drinking Water and Scottish Water Assets

“Scottish Water provided information on whether there are any drinking water protected areas or Scottish Water assets on which the development could have any significant effect. Scottish Ministers request that the company contacts Scottish Water...and makes further enquires to confirm whether there any Scottish Water assets which may be affected by the development, and includes details in the EIA report of any relevant mitigation measures to be provided.”

“Scottish Ministers request that the Company investigates the presence of any private water supplies which may be impacted by the development. The EIA report should include details of any supplies identified by this investigation, and if any supplies are identified, the Company should provide an assessment of the potential impacts, risks, and any mitigation which would be provided.”

Aquatic Ecology

“In addition to identifying the main watercourses and waterbodies within and downstream of the proposed development area, developers should identify and consider, at this early stage, any areas of Special Areas of Conservation where fish are a qualifying feature and proposed felling operations particularly in acid sensitive areas.”

“Marine Directorate – Science Evidence Data and Digital (MD-SEDD) also provide standing advice for onshore wind farm or overhead line development (which has been appended at Annex B) which outlines what information, relating to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries, is expected in the EIA report. Use of the checklist, provided in Annex 1 of the standing advice, should ensure that the EIA report contains the required information; the absence of such information may necessitate requesting additional information which may delay the process. Developers are required to submit the completed checklist in advance of their application submission.”

Pitmedden Forest

“Potential impacts to Pitmedden Forest should be included within the EIA and woodland protection plans should be undertaken where the proposed Development enters within or above existing areas of woodland as advised by Fife Council.”

Traffic Assessment

“A Traffic Assessment should be included within the EIA as advised by Network Rail which will enable them to assess possible impacts to and suitability of rail infrastructure and crossings. Details of any proposed construction and engineering works over or adjacent to the railway should be subject to further discussion with Network Rail.”

Peat Landslide Risk

“Scottish Ministers consider that where there is a demonstrable requirement for peat landslide hazard and risk assessment (PLHRA), the assessment should be undertaken as part of the EIA process to provide Ministers with a clear understanding of whether the risks are acceptable and capable of being controlled by mitigation measures. The Peat Landslide Hazard and

Risk Assessments: Best Practice Guide for Proposed Electricity Generation Developments (Second Edition), published at <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/04/8868>, should be followed in the preparation of the EIA report, which should contain such an assessment and details of mitigation measures. Where a PLHRA is not required clear justification for not carrying out such a risk assessment is required.”

Visualisations and Viewpoints

“Paragraph 3.2.1 of the scoping report identified that Volume 4 of the EIA would contain visualisations from agreed viewpoint locations as required. The production of these visualisations to form part of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment should follow discussions on agreed viewpoint locations with Perth and Kinross Council, Angus Council and NatureScot.”

Bird Surveys

“It is recommended by the Scottish Ministers that decisions on bird surveys – species, methodology, vantage points, viewsheds & duration - site specific & cumulative – should be made following discussion between the Company and NatureScot.”

Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

“The assessment on archaeology and cultural heritage impacts should be carried out in line with relevant legislation and standards as detailed in section 8 of the scoping report and should also include the recommendations by both HES [Historic Environment Scotland] and Perth and Kinross Council within their consultation responses (Annex A).”

Noise Assessment

“The noise assessment should be carried out in line with relevant legislation and standards as detailed in section 11 of the scoping report. As requested by Perth and Kinross Council Environmental Health, an indoor noise assessment should also be incorporated assuming a partially opened window using Noise Rating curve criteria. It is further expected that all noise from construction works would comply with Perth and Kinross Council, Fife and Angus Councils area’s guidelines for construction noise.”

Cumulative Assessment

“It is recommended by the Scottish Ministers that in order to assess the full environmental impact of the development, the Company include within the cumulative impact assessment not only approved EIA development, but also EIA and non EIA OHL or Substation infrastructure that is associated with SSEN Transmission ASTI projects.”

Existing and/or Planned Infrastructure

“The Scottish Ministers request that the company assess the impact of the proposed development on existing and/or planned infrastructure. In particular, the company should carry out the necessary assessments to confirm if any part of the proposed development is within the consultation zone of any of the following:

- a licenced explosives site;*
- gas (or any other) pipeline;*
- existing overhead electric lines;*
- underground cables;*
- water pipes;*
- telecommunications links.”*

Hazardous Substances

“Scottish Ministers request the company to assess if any flammable, toxic or explosive chemicals detailed in The Town and Country Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Scotland) Regulations 2015 would be stored on site in quantities such that a Hazardous Substances Consent would be required under section 2 of the Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Scotland) Act 1997.”

Mitigation Measures

“The Scottish Ministers are required to make a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the proposed development on the environment as identified in the environmental impact assessment. The mitigation measures suggested for any significant environmental impacts identified should be presented as a conclusion to each chapter. Applicants are also asked to provide a consolidated schedule of all mitigation measures proposed in the environmental assessment, provided in tabular form, where that mitigation is relied upon in relation to reported conclusions of likelihood or significance of impacts.”

3.2.2 Responses to the key scoping issues and how these will be addressed within the EIA Report are provided in Appendix B.

3.3 Community Engagement

3.3.1 SSEN Transmission has sought to maintain an open dialogue with local communities spread across the route of the Proposed Development throughout the evolution of the project. This has included engaging with local elected members, Community Councils, landowners, residents and businesses that may be affected by the Proposed Development.

3.3.2 A series of consultation events were held on the 4th to 7th March 2024, where local stakeholders could meet with the project team to discuss the proposals in more detail. These are detailed in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1 Consultation Events

Date	Event
4 th March 2024	Errol, Errol Village Hall, North Bank Dykes, Errol, PH2 7QH
5 th March 2024	Newburgh, Tayside Institute Community Centre, 90-92 High Street, Newburgh, KY14 6DA
6 th March 2024	Alyth, Alyth Town Hall, Victoria Street, Alyth, PH11 8AX
7 th March 2024	Tealing, Tealing Village Hall, Hall Road, Inveraldie, Tealing, DD4 0QW

3.3.3 The consultation events were advertised using various platforms: local newspapers, SSEN Transmission’s social media channels, and the dedicated project webpage. In addition, a letter was delivered to homes and businesses within the locale advertising the dates, times, and locations of the consultation events.

3.3.4 Comments received from stakeholders in response to the Consultation Booklet (February 2024) or following in person consultation events, were set out within the Consultation Booklet⁴, published 20th May 2024.

3.3.5 A second series of consultation events were held on the 3rd to 6th June 2024, where local stakeholders could meet with the project team to discuss the proposals and feedback in more detail. These are detailed in Table 3-2.

Table 3-2 Second Consultation Events

Date	Event
3 June 2024, 2-7pm	Errol Village Hall, North Bank Dykes, Errol, PH2 7QH
4 June 2024	Tayside Institute Community Centre, 90-92 High Street, Newburgh, KY14 6DA
5 June 2024	Tealing Village Hall, Hall Road, Inveraldie, Tealing, DD4 0QW
6 June 2024	Alyth Town Hall, Victoria Street, Alyth, PH11 8AX

⁴ Alyth – Tealing Overhead Line 400kV Upgrade Consultation Booklet ([Tealing - Westfield Overhead Line 400kV Upgrade - SSEN Transmission \(ssen-transmission.co.uk\)](https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk))

3.3.6 Feedback received during the first and second consultations will be detailed within a Pre-Application Consultation Report which will be submitted in support of the Section 37 consent application.

3.4 Community Councils

3.4.1 Throughout the evolution of the project, SSEN Transmission has maintained dialogue with all community councils along the route and has sought to keep members up to date on project progress, and any upcoming consultation events.

4. SUBMISSION INFORMATION

4.1 Submission

4.1.1 It is the intention to submit a Section 37 application for the Proposed Development in October 2024.

4.2 Advertisement

4.2.1 In accordance with the Electricity (Applications for Consent) Regulations 1990, and Regulation 14(3) of the EIA Regulations, the application will be advertised on the project website and in the Edinburgh Gazette and relevant local newspapers (to be agreed in consultation with ECU as part of gate check stage 2).

4.2.2 In agreement with the ECU, the advert will:

- describe the application and the Proposed Development to which the EIA Report relates;
- state that the Proposed Development is subject to environmental impact assessment and, where relevant, state that it is likely to have significant effects on the environment;
- state that the EIA Report is available for inspection free of charge and the times and places at which, and the means by which, the EIA Report is available for inspection;
- state how copies of the EIA Report may be obtained;
- state the cost of a copy of the EIA Report;
- state how and by what date representations may be made (being a date not earlier than 30 days after the last date on which the notice is published);
- provide details of the arrangements for public participation in the decision-making procedure, including a description of how notice will be given of the subsequent submission by the developer of any additional information and how representations in relation to that additional information may be made; and
- state the nature of possible decisions to be taken in relation to the application and provide details of the authority by which decisions are to be taken.

4.3 Public Viewing of EIA Report

4.3.1 The EIA Report will be made readily available in hard copy for public viewing at the following locations:

- Perth & Kinross Council - Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull St, Perth PH1 5GD
- Angus Council – Angus House, Orchardbank Business Park, Orchardbank, Forfar, DD8 1AN
- Fife Council - Newburgh Library, Cupar Library or Fife House (TBC by Fife Council)

4.3.2 The EIA Report, together with the notice of the application, will also be made available on the project website: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/tealing---westfield-overhead-line-upgrade/>. A hard copy will be provided for the Scottish Government Library at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh (EH6 6QQ) and statutory consultees as required. Further copies will be available from SSEN Transmission at a charge.

4.4 Consultee Lists

4.4.1 The list of consultees to be sent a copy of the submitted EIA Report will be agreed with the ECU. It is anticipated to include those consultees consulted during the scoping process, and any other stakeholders the Applicant or ECU are aware of with a potential interest in the project or its potential effects. A provisional list of consultees is provided in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1 Consultees to be Issued EIA Report

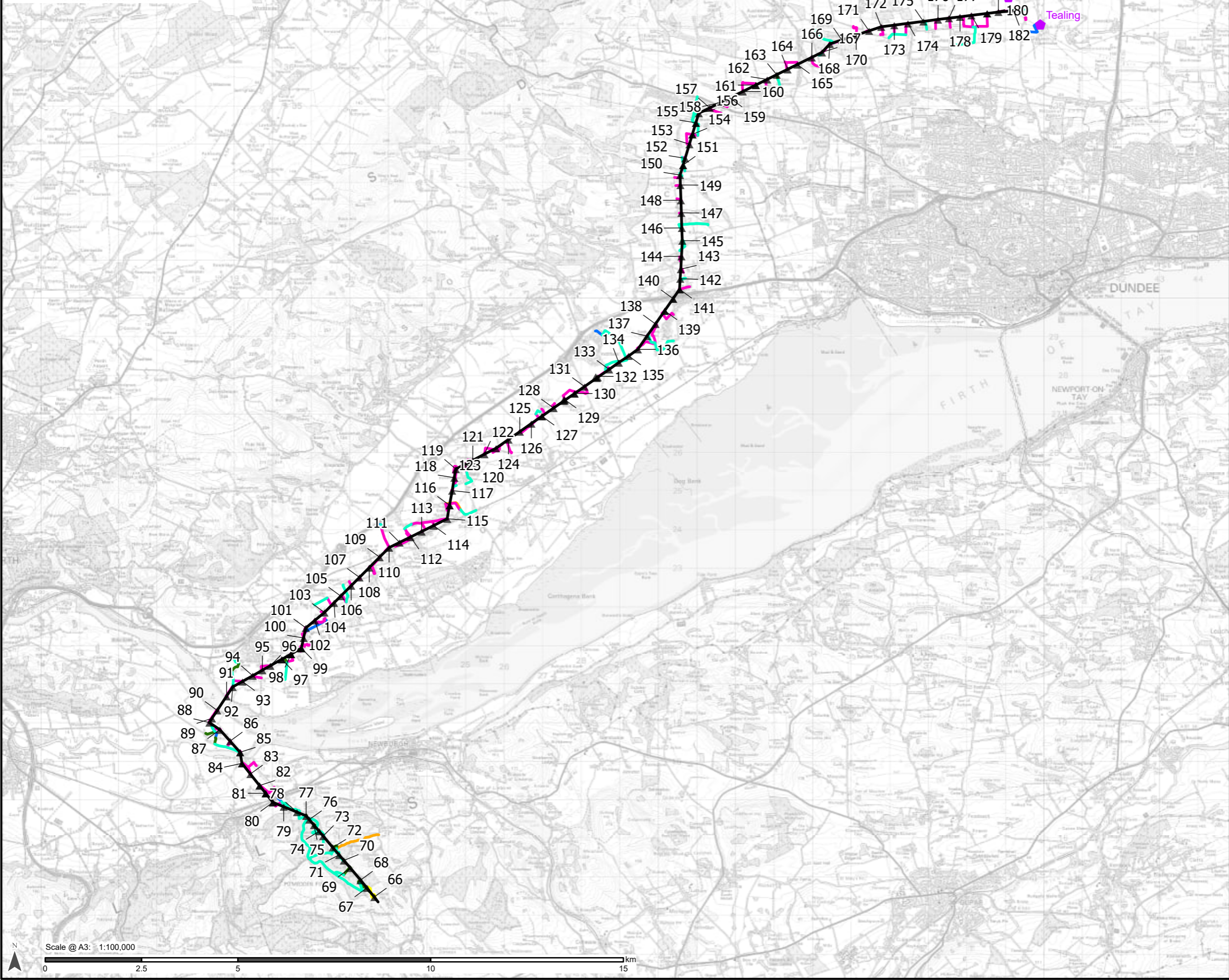
Statutory Consultees	
Perth and Kinross Council	Angus Council
Fife Council	NatureScot
Historic Environment Scotland (HES)	Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
Internal Scottish Government Advisors	
Transport Scotland	Scottish Forestry
Non-Statutory Consultees	
British Horse Society Scotland	BT Group
Civil Aviation Authority - Airspace	Crown Estate Scotland
Defence Infrastructure Organisation	Fisheries Management Scotland
Local District Salmon Fisheries	Fisheries Trust
John Muir Trust	Joint Radio Company
Mountaineering Scotland	NATS Safeguarding
Office for Nuclear Regulation	RSPB Scotland
Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays)	Scottish Water
Scottish Wildlife Trust	Scottish Wild Land Group (SWLG)
Visit Scotland	Woodland Trust
Community Councils	
Tealing Community Council	Errol Community Council
Strathmartine Community Council	West Carse Community Council
Auchterhouse Community Council	Earn Community Council
Muirhead, Birkhill and Liff Community Council	Abernethy and District Community Council
Longforgan Community Council	Auchtermuchty and Strathmiglo Community Council
Inchture Community Council	Newburgh Community Council
Invergowrie and Kingoodie Community Council	
Others (If Required)	
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	Scottish Gas Networks (SGN)
National Grid	Sustrans
Network Rail	National Farmers Union (Policy Advisor)
Scottish Canoe Association	Forth & Tay Navigation Service

APPENDIX A: FIGURES

13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44



TRANSMISSION



Legend

- Proposed Route Alignment
- Tower
- Substation
- Bespoke Track
- ATV Access
- Existing road / track
- Trackway panels
- New Temporary Stone Road
- Upgrade to existing road or track



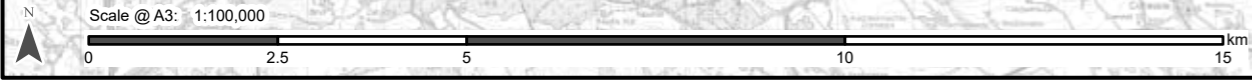
Contains Ordnance Survey Data © Crown copyright and database rights 2024 Ordnance Survey 0100031673

Project No: 60703541
Project: Tealing-Westfield Overhead Line (OHL) 400kV Upgrade

Title:
Overview of the Proposed Development

Drawn by: CD Date: 20/09/2024

Drawing: Figure 2.1



13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44

APPENDIX B: SUMMARY OF EIA SCOPING RESPONSES AND ACTION TAKEN

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
01	Scoping Consultations	Scottish Ministers expect the EIA Report to consider in full all consultation responses included with the Scoping Opinion.	ECU01	6	Throughout the EIA Report	All consultation responses received are summarised within this Scoping Matrix and addressed throughout the EIA Report, where relevant.
02	Private Water Supplies	Scottish Ministers request the presence of any private water supplies which may be impacted by the development are investigated and included in the EIA if identified.	ECU02	6	Volume 2: Chapter 13- 'Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils'	Private Water Supply (PWS) data was obtained from Angus Council, Fife Council and Perth and Kinross Council to determine the presence of PWS within 1km of the Proposed Development. Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils, Volume 2 of the EIA Report will contain details of any assets and / or PWS identified, assess potential impacts arising from the Proposed Development, and set out suitable mitigation measures, where required.
03	Special Area of Conservation	Developers should identify and consider any areas of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) where fish are a qualifying feature and proposed felling operations particularly in acid sensitive areas.	ECU03	6	Volume 2: Chapter 8 – 'Ecology' and; Chapter 13 – 'Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils'	Potential effects on SACs are considered primarily in the noted chapters. The potential effects of felling are also considered in these chapters.
04	Marine Ecology	Marine Directorate- Science Evidence Data and Digital (MD-SEDD) have provided standing advice for onshore wind farm or overhead line development. Developers are asked to submit the completed checklist included, in advance of their application submission.	ECU04	6	Volume 4: MD-SEDD Appendix	The checklist will be completed and included as an appendix.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
05	Peat Landslide Risk	Scottish Ministers consider that there is a demonstrable requirement for peat landslide hazard risk assessment (PLHRA), the assessment should be undertaken as part of the EIA process. Best practice guidance (provided in Scoping Opinion) should be followed.	ECU06	7	Volume 2: Chapter 13- 'Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils'	As there are only localised peat deposits within the study area, the completion of a PLHRA has not been identified as a requirement for the Proposed Development. Potential impacts on peat and carbon rich soils will be addressed within the soils sections of the noted chapter of the EIA Report, which will also provide appropriate mitigation measures as required.
06	Visualisations	The production of visualisations to form part of the LVIA should follow discussions on agreed viewpoint locations with Perth and Kinross Council (PKC), Fife Council (FA), Angus Council (AC) and NatureScot.	ECU08	7	Volume 2: Chapter 7 – 'Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment'	The Scoping Report stated that visualisations would be prepared only if considered necessary. The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) was scoped out of the EIA Report subject to final design. It has since been determined that a targeted LVIA chapter (Chapter 7, Volume 2) will be included in the EIA Report, however visualisations have been determined as not being a necessary part of this assessment.
07	Noise	The Noise Assessment should be carried out in line with relevant legislation and standards as detailed in section 11 of the scoping report.	ECU09	7	Volume 2: Chapter 14 – 'Noise'	The noise assessment will be presented in the noted chapter and associated appendices.
08	Noise	As requested by PKC Environmental Health, an indoor noise assessment should also be incorporated assuming a partially opened window using Noise Rating curve criteria. It is further expected that noise from construction works would comply with PKC and AC area's guidelines for construction noise.	ECU10	7	Volume 2: Chapter 14 – 'Noise', and Relevant Appendices providing SPPs, General Environmental Management Plan (GEMP) and CEMP	A noise assessment will be completed and included as an appendix to Chapter 14: Noise and Vibration, Volume 2 of the EIA Report. An indoor noise assessment assuming a partially opened window using Noise Rating curve criteria will be incorporated and included as an appendix to the noise chapter

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
09	Ornithology	Scottish Ministers recommend that decisions on bird surveys - species, methodology, vantage points, viewsheds & duration - site specific & cumulative - should be made following discussions between the company and NatureScot.	ECU11	7	Volume 2: Chapter 9 – ‘Ornithology’	NatureScot were consulted by letter on the proposed survey scope on 08 March 2024. On 27 March 2024, NatureScot confirmed their agreement with the proposed ecology and ornithology survey scope and the surveys were conducted on this basis.
10	Cumulative Effects	Scottish Ministers recommend that in order to assess the full environmental impact of the development, the Company include within the cumulative impact assessment not only approved EIA development, but also EIA and non EIA OHL or Substation infrastructure that is associated with SSEN Transmission ASTI projects.	ECU12	7	Volume 2: Chapter 15- ‘Cumulative Effects’	In accordance with the advised methodology, each technical chapter of the EIA Report will assess cumulative effects, as well as there being a cumulative effects chapter.
11	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	The assessment on archaeology and cultural heritage should be carried out in line with relevant legislation and standards as detailed in Section 8 of the scoping report and should also include the recommendations by both HES and PKC within their consultation response.	ECU13	7	Volume 2: Chapter 11 – ‘Cultural Heritage’	Chapter 11: Cultural Heritage, Volume 2 of the EIA Report will be carried out in line with the relevant legislation and standards set out in the Scoping Report and will include the recommendations provided by HES and Perth and Kinross Council as required

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
12	Existing and/or Planned Infrastructure	<p>Scottish Ministers request that the company assess the impact of the proposed development on existing and/or planned infrastructure.</p> <p>In particular should carry out necessary assessments to confirm if the proposed development is within the following consultation zones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Licensed explosives site - gas (or any other) pipeline - existing overhead electric lines - underground cables - water pipes - telecommunication links. 	ECU14	8	N/A	<p>Pre-construction surveys will determine whether any elements of the Proposed Development would interfere with any pipelines or cables.</p> <p>To mitigate a 132kV clearance constraint, Towers 155 and 156 may need to be extended in height by using a 2m long body extension, however inverting tower cross arms and/or the use of suspended tension sets may suffice.</p> <p>There is the potential that the proposed temporary diversion tower and new tower which would replace either Tower 129 or 132 would interfere with other telecommunication links, although this is unlikely due to their proximity to the existing OHL. However, should this be an issue at either tower replacement site, it would influence the final design option selected.</p>
13	Hazardous Substances	<p>Scottish Ministers request to assess if any flammable, toxic or explosive chemicals detailed in the Town and Country Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Scotland) Regulations 2015 would be stored on site in quantities such that a Hazardous Substances Consent would be required under Section 2 of the Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Scotland) Act 1997.</p>	ECU15	8	N/A	<p>No flammable, toxic or explosive chemicals are expected to be stored on site. Hazardous Substances Consent is therefore not considered to be a requirement of the Proposed Development.</p>
14	Mitigation Measures	<p>The mitigation measures suggested for any significant environmental impacts identified should be presented as a conclusion to each chapter. Applicants are also asked to provide a consolidated schedule of all mitigation measures proposed in the environmental assessment, provided in tabular form, where the mitigation is relied upon in relation to reported conclusions of likelihood or significance of impacts.</p>	ECU16	8	Throughout the EIA Report; and; Volume 4 - 'Schedule of Mitigation'	<p>Mitigation measures, where required, will be set out within each technical chapter and summarised in tabular form within a Schedule of Mitigation as part of the EIA Report.</p>

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15	EIAR Advice	Applicants are asked to provide a summary in tabular form of where within the EIA report each of the specific matters raised in this scoping opinion has been addressed.	ECU17	9	Scoping Matrix	This scoping matrix will address the noted request and will be included as part of the EIA Report
16	Forestry	<i>Potential impacts to Pitmedden Forest should be included within the EIA and woodland protection plans should be undertaken where the proposed Development enters within or above existing areas of woodland as advised by Fife Council</i>	ECU18	8	Chapter 10- 'Forestry'	Chapter 10: Volume 2, Woodland protection plans are not considered necessary as the additional clearance of trees between the existing and proposed wayleave corridor from 40m to 45m represents a minor adverse effect at Pitmedden Forest and no extended management felling is considered to be necessary
17	Traffic	<i>A Traffic Assessment should be included within the EIA as advised by Network Rail which will enable them to assess possible impacts to and suitability of rail infrastructure and crossings. Details of any proposed construction and engineering works over or adjacent to the railway should be subject to further discussion with Network Rail</i>	ECU19	8	Volume 2: Chapter 12 – 'Traffic and Transport'	A traffic assessment will be carried out and preferred construction routes will be indicated.
18	Traffic	A Traffic Assessment should be included to assess the effects of construction traffic on existing traffic flows and the public road network. Preferred construction traffic routes should be indicated. This will enable Network Rail to assess the possible impacts where/if the traffic crosses over/under our infrastructure and the suitability of these crossings.	Network Rail	A32	Volume 2: Chapter 12 – 'Traffic and Transport'	A traffic assessment will be carried out and preferred construction routes will be indicated.
19	Area of Works	Any works over/adjacent to the railway corridor will be subject to further discussion and agreement with Network Rail.	Network Rail	A32	N/A	Noted.

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20	Forestry	<p>From the route shown in the provided maps, there are two areas of woodland listed in the NatureScot's Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI), which may be impacted by this proposal. According to NPF4 Policy 6, section b) <i>Development proposals will not be supported where they will result in: i. Any loss of ancient woodlands, ancient and veteran trees, or adverse impact on their ecological condition.</i></p> <p>Accordingly, any environmental impact assessment should encompass affected ancient woodland areas.</p>	Fife Council (FC)	A2	Volume 2: Chapter 10 - 'Forestry'	<p>No semi-natural woodland listed in the Ancient Woodland Inventory will be impacted by the Proposed Development. Murie Wood is a long-established woodland of plantation origin. Mixed conifers at the edge of the woodland within the expanded corridor will be removed.</p> <p>At Pitmedden Wood, north of Pitcarlie Hill, the corridor intersects an area identified within the AWI as long-established woodland of plantation origin. However, the woodland composition within the existing and expanded corridor has evolved from plantation woodland, to now comprise regenerated mixed broadleaves. The retention of woodland habitat is proposed by retaining lower growing broadleaf species, whilst removing selected ash and sycamore.</p>
21	Forestry	<p>A large part of the given route ostensibly passes through Pitmedden Forest.</p> <p>Where woodland is removed, compensatory planting will most likely be expected to be delivered. Accordingly, potential impact to this forest should also be included in the scope of an environmental impact assessment.</p>	FC	A2	Volume 2: Chapter 10- 'Forestry' and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Assessment Report	Pitmedden Forest will be included within the Forestry assessment of the EIAR. Compensatory planting will be provided where required.
22	Forestry	<p>With regards to the broad environmental impact assessment, where development will be required within or above existing areas of woodland, protection plans should also be undertaken in order to demonstrate that all necessary steps have been taken to ensure woodland and tree protection (with reference to BS5837:2010).</p>	FC	A2	Volume 2: Chapter 10- 'Forestry'	Woodland protection plans are not considered necessary as the additional clearance of trees between the existing and proposed wayleave corridor from 40m to 45m represents a minor adverse effect at Pitmedden Forest and no extended management felling is considered to be necessary.

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23	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	HES recommend that archaeological mitigation measures should be incorporated within the proposed Construction Environmental Management Plan to ensure they are not accidentally overlooked; this is a particular risk if excavation or monitoring by an archaeological contractor is required as responsibilities on site can become confused.	HES	A11	Volume 4: Appendix - 'Schedule of Mitigation'	The Schedule of Mitigation, including cultural heritage mitigation measures, will be incorporated within CEMP.
24	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	HES note that the creation and use of the main site compound is not included in the EIA process as it is the responsibility of the main contractor. That contractor should be made aware of the mitigation requirements for cultural heritage assets and ensure they are followed.	HES	A11	N/A	The Contractor will be made aware of mitigation requirements for cultural heritage assets and will ensure that they are followed.
25	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	<p>HES noted the proposed works have the potential to result in direct physical impacts on Megginch Castle Designated Landscape (GDL00278).</p> <p>To enable a fully informed decision on the proposal the EIAR should address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Access: describe clearly what physical and visual impacts on tree-lined east drive and any mitigation measures needed to avoid/reduce effects ○ Tower/ foundation strengthening: should make clear what towers this applies to, what will be involved and mitigating measures ○ Reprofilng: clarification is requested within the EIAR regarding if/where earthmoving is proposed and how any potential impacts will be mitigated. ○ Tree Felling: for example, associated with creating 400kV operational corridor 	HES	A11, A12	Volume 2: Chapter 11 – 'Cultural Heritage'	Access formation, Tower/ foundation strengthening and tree felling will be addressed and clarified within the noted chapter.

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26	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	<p>HES state that on large-scale projects such as this there is always a small risk of accidental damage. The EIAR should detail the embedded mitigation measures that will be used to minimise or remove the risk.</p> <p>This could range from 'toolbox talks' to ensure employee awareness, to Site Protection Plans to avoid accidental damage to assets identified as being at particular risk.</p> <p>These mitigation measures should form part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan.</p>	HES	A12	<p>Volume 2: Chapter 11 – 'Cultural Heritage'</p> <p>and;</p> <p>Volume 4: 'Schedule of Mitigation'</p>	Embedded mitigation measures that will minimise/reduce risk of accidental damage will be included in the CEMP.
27	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	<p>HES note the commitment to biodiversity enhancement as part of the project. While this is welcome, any such schemes should be designed to ensure they do not create inadvertent adverse impacts on cultural heritage assets.</p>	HES	A13	Volume 2: Chapter 7 – 'Ecology'	Noted.

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28	Response to the questions asked in Section 18.2 of the Scoping Report	<p>What environmental information do you hold or are aware of that will assist in the EIA described here?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> most of our data is available directly from the SEPA website. Where any data cannot be found please submit a data request via our online form. <p>Are there any key issues or possible effects which have been omitted?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No <p>Do you agree with the list of issues to be scoped out, and the rationale behind the decision?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes. And provided watercourse crossings are designed to accommodate the 1 in 200-year event plus climate change and other infrastructure is located well away from watercourses we do not foresee from current information a need for detailed information on flood risk. However, should any of the track upgrades and new temporary tracks require landraising within a flood extent then a detailed flood risk assessment and appropriate mitigation maybe required. 	SEPA	A15	Volume 2: Chapter 13- 'Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils'	The assessment as detailed in the Scoping Report will continue as proposed.
29	Core Paths and Construction Traffic	<p>Noted several core paths, likely used by equestrians, intersect the OHL and access tracks. BHS are willing to provide guidance on suitable surfaces and infrastructure.</p> <p>Advised that construction traffic will likely encounter equestrians on roads. Drivers should be made aware of this risk (BESS "Guidance to drivers of large vehicles document").</p>	British Horse Society Scotland (BHS)	A20	Volume 2: Chapter 12 – 'Traffic and Transport'	Noted Drivers of construction vehicles will be made aware of potential to encounter equestrians.

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30	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	The EIA for heritage assets should be undertaken on the 'Worst Case Access Strategy' map.	PKC	A5	Volume 2: Chapter 11 – 'Cultural Heritage'	The Proposed Development represents a worst-case scenario for all access and the EIA, including assessment of heritage assets, is assessed on this basis.
31	Agricultural Land	The EIA scoping report omits prime agricultural land but some on/under the proposed development is Class 2 or Class 3.1. It is appreciated that the proposed development may be expected to have little direct effect on soils however, it is important that this is given consideration as the agricultural soil under the line may or may not be indirectly affected as it may become unavailable for use while the line is being upgraded or in use.	PKC	A6	Volume 2: Chapter 13- 'Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils'	Prime agricultural land will be discussed and noted within this chapter.
32	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	It is advised that data extract is requested from Perth and Kinross Historic Environment Record (record of undesignated historic assets).	Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust (PKHT)	A7	Volume 2: Chapter 11 – 'Cultural Heritage'	Perth and Kinross Historic and Environment Record will be used to identify undesignated historic assets
33	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	PKHT are in broad agreement with 8.4 regarding potential impacts. However, it is advised that consideration is given for potential impacts on unknown buried archaeology that are sensitive through geography or indeed blind spots in the record. - Requested that the EIA considers this with regards to where works look to have physical impacts, such as new access tracks. - Requested that compounds and lay down areas are sited in areas without archaeological potential.	PKHT	A7	Volume 2: Chapter 11 – 'Cultural Heritage'	Consideration will be given to unknown buried archaeology, in regard to where works look to have physical impacts. Compounds and lay down areas do not form part of the Proposed Development.

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34	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	Content that most adverse impacts to archaeology from the proposal are mitigated against. However, pre and post conditions surveys are requested for non-invasive tracks, in areas of known archaeological sensitivity (i.e. adjacent to SMs).	PKHT	A7	Volume 2: Chapter 11 – ‘Cultural Heritage’ and; Volume 4: ‘Schedule of Mitigation’	These surveys will be identified in the Schedule of Mitigation if necessary.
35	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	For new access tracks requiring excavation PKHT would be expecting any archaeological requirements to be targeted via proximity to other monuments or as outlined above potential for unknown buried remains to survive (geography etc).	PKHT	A8	Volume 2: Chapter 11 – ‘Cultural Heritage’ and; Volume 4: ‘Schedule of Mitigation’	These requirements will be identified in the Schedule of Mitigation where necessary.
36	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	Protective fencing and buffers should also be considered as measures to avoid accidental damage during works to both designated and undesignated monuments.	PKHT	A8	Volume 2: Chapter 11 – ‘Cultural Heritage’ and; Volume 4: ‘Schedule of Mitigation’	The recommendations will be considered and included within the Schedule of Mitigation if deemed appropriate mitigation measures.
37	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	As final details have not yet been agreed, PKHT would still require consultation in advance of any works and may recommend further programmes of works to those addressed in the EIA report.	PKHT	A8	Relevant Appendices providing SPPs, GEMP and CEMP	Request to be added to the draft CEMP which will be submitted as an Appendix to the EIA Report.
38	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	It's likely PKHT would propose that a condition for a programme of archaeological works would need attached to any future application and potentially a requirement for an Archaeological Clerk of Works to manage the impacts on unknown archaeological remains and protect known archaeology along the route.	PKHT	A8	N/A	Noted.

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39	Cumulative Effects	It is suggested that at the very least, the cumulative impact assessment for this project should also include the impacts of the entire TKUP project, without which this application cannot make even a basic case for need.	Strathmartine Community Council (SCC)	A25	Volume 2: Chapter 15- 'Cumulative Effects'	The cumulative assessment will include other SSEN developments as relevant.
40	EIAR	In light of the 'Finch vs Surrey County Council' ruling, developments such as this should not be allowed to continue asserting no need for climate change assessment because it is helping meet the UK climate targets. - Clarity on the implications of this ruling are advised, to avoid legal arguments further down the line.	Strathmartine Community Council (SCC)	A25, A26	N/A	The climate change assessment was scoped out of the EIA and will not form part of the EIA Report.
41	Regulatory advice	Details of regulatory requirements and good practice advice, for example in relation to engineering works in the water environment and waste management, can be found on the regulations section of our website. If you are unable to find the advice you need for a specific regulatory matter, please contact a member of the local compliance team at: fad@sepa.org.uk.	SEPA	A15	Volume 2: Chapter 13- 'Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils',	Noted.

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42	Advice on key issues	<p>The OHL project has potential to impact on protected areas. However, it is envisaged that significant adverse effects on protected areas can be avoided through the implementation of standard mitigation measures during the construction work, including compliance with both project wide and site-specific environmental management procedures, with reference to SSEN Transmission General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) and Species Protection Plans (SPPs).</p> <p>A Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) will be developed for the project and adopted by the Principal Contractor during the construction phase. The implementation of the CEMP would be managed on site by a suitably qualified and experienced Environmental Clerk of Works (ECOW), with support from other environmental professionals as required.</p>	NatureScot	A18	<p>Volume 2: Chapter 8- 'Ecology' and Chapter 9: 'Ornithology',</p> <p>Volume 4: 'Schedule of Mitigation',</p> <p>Relevant Appendices providing SPPs, GEMP and CEMP</p>	As referenced, these will be provided where relevant within the EIA Report.
43	Site of Scientific Interest	<p>Lochmill Loch SSSI</p> <p>The worst-case access scenario (presented in support of the Scoping Report) indicates the upgrading of an existing track that runs adjacent to the SSSI boundary at Lumbennie Hill. There is also a new stone temporary track required close to the area marked 'springs' on the OS mapping which could impact the wetlands feeding into the loch. Careful planning will be required to avoid direct effects to the SSSI during track upgrading and indirect effects resulting from work on or near wetlands upstream of the loch.</p>	NatureScot	A18, A19	<p>Volume 2: Chapter 8 – 'Ecology' and</p> <p>Volume 4: 'Schedule of Mitigation'</p>	Effects on the SSSI will be avoided where possible and appropriate mitigation measures will be identified.

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44	Infrastructure and Telecommunications	<p>No comment to make on the application at this time as clearance has been given on the specification of the proposed reuse of in-situ pylons.</p> <p>If details of the development were to change, particularly the grid location or scale of any towers, it would be necessary to reevaluate the proposal.</p>	Joint Radio Company (JRC)	A29	N/A	Two sites have now been identified as potential locations for a replacement tower (near Tower 129 and 132). Only one of these would progress and this will be influenced by re-evaluation conducted by JRC.
45	Infrastructure and Telecommunications	<p>No concerns in principle with regard to the scale and massing of the Proposed Development indicated on the submitted plans.</p> <p>Where any amendment is submitted for approval, the MOD should be consulted and provided with adequate time to carry out the assessments and provide a formal response.</p>	Ministry of Defence (MOD)	A27	N/A	Two sites have now been identified as potential locations for a replacement tower (near Tower 129 and 132). Only one of these would progress and this will be influenced by re-evaluation conducted by the MOD.
46	Infrastructure and Telecommunications	<p>The project indicated will not cause interference to BT's current and presently planned radio network.</p> <p>BT requires 100m minimum clearance from any structure to the radio link path. If any changes are proposed to the information supplied, they request that they are informed to reassess the proposal.</p>	BT Group	A23	N/A	Two sites have now been identified as potential locations for a replacement tower (near Tower 129 and 132). Only one of these would progress and this will be influenced by revaluation conducted by the BT Group.
47	Infrastructure and Telecommunications	<p>The Proposed Development does not conflict with safeguarding criteria. Accordingly, NATS (En Route) Plc. ("NERL") has no safeguarding objection to the proposal.</p> <p>If any changes are proposed to the information supplied to NATS, then they should be further consulted.</p>	NATS Safe-guarding	A31	N/A	Two sites have now been identified as potential locations for a replacement tower (near Tower 129 and 132). Only one of these would progress and this will be influenced by re-evaluation conducted by NATS Safeguarding.

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48	Information request	<p>A Traffic Assessment should be included to assess the effects of construction traffic on existing traffic flows and the public road network. Preferred construction traffic routes should be indicated. This will enable Network Rail to assess the possible impacts where/if the traffic crosses over/under our infrastructure and the suitability of these crossings.</p> <p>Details of proposed construction and engineering works in the vicinity of the railway line. Any works over/adjacent to the railway corridor will be subject to further discussion and agreement with Network Rail.</p>	Network Rail	A32	Volume 2: Chapter 12- 'Traffic and Transport'	The requested assessments will be completed accordingly.
49	Scoping Consultations	No formal objection to the Proposed Development. However, they ask to be contacted by the developer before works begin to ensure any plant/machinery intending to cross over the High-Pressure pipelines is either under the safe weight limit to cross the pipeline or to ensure ground protection is installed.	Scottish Gas Networks (SGN)	A35	Relevant Appendices providing SPPs, GEMP and CEMP	Request to be added to the draft CEMP which will be submitted as an Appendix to the EIA Report.
50	Site Location	ONR makes no comment on this proposed development as it does not lie within a consultation zone around a GB nuclear site.	Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR)	A34	N/A	Noted.
51	Scottish Water	Scottish Water has no objection to this proposal	Scottish Water	A38	N/A	Noted.

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52	Scottish Water Assets	<p>There are a large number of Scottish Water assets (both water and wastewater assets) identified in the area of the proposal.</p> <p>This should be confirmed however through obtaining plans from Scottish Water Asset Plan Providers.</p> <p>All Scottish Water assets potentially affected by the activity should be identified, with particular consideration being given to access roads and pipe crossings.</p>	Scottish Water	A39	Volume 2: Chapter 13- 'Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils',	Scottish Water Assets will be confirmed and those which could potentially be affected will be identified in the relevant chapter.