Kintore to Tealing 400 kV Overhead Line

Report on Consultation - Alignment Selection
January 2025

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CONTENTS

List of Appendices

List of Tables

List of Figures (Drawings)

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Document

The purpose of this Report on Consultation (RoC) is to document the consultation responses received as part of our Alignment Selection consultation process for the proposed Kintore to Tealing 400 kV overhead line (OHL) project (the Proposed Development) and to show how the Proposed Alignment being taken forward to the next stage has been informed by this process.

The consultation rounds that have been undertaken for the Proposed Development to date are as follows:

Table 1.1: Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL project consultation rounds

Consultation Period	What was Consulted On	Consultation Documents	Report on Consultation (RoC)
May 2023 to July 2023	Corridor and Route Options	The Corridor Selection Consultation Document can be found here: • Consultation Document – Corridor Selection Kintore-Fiddes-Tealing 400 kV Overhead Line Connection May 2023 The Route Selection Consultation Document can be found here: • Consultation Document – Route Selection Kintore-Fiddes-Tealing 400 kV Overhead Line Connection May 2023	The RoC for the Corridor and Route Selection consultations can be found here: • Report on Consultation Kintore to Tealing 400 kV Overhead Line November 2023
March 2024 to April 2024	New Route Options and Refined Route Options proposed for parts of Sections D, E and F	The New Overhead Line Routes Consultation Document can be found here: • Consultation Document Kintore to Tealing 400 kV Overhead Line – New Overhead Line Routes February 2024	The RoC for the New Overhead Line Routes consultation can be found here: • Report on Consultation Kintore to Tealing 400 kV Overhead Line August 2024
September 2024 to October 2024	Potential Alignment with Alternative Alignments at eight locations	The Consultation Document for the Alignment Selection can be found here: • Consultation Document – Alignment Selection Kintore to Tealing 400 kV Overhead Line September 2024	This document is the RoC for the Alignment Selection consultation.

This RoC details the consultation process undertaken, including details of consultation methods and advertising, and those consulted and/or contributing to the process. It also summarises the feedback received, including objections, concerns, questions and statements of support. It sets out clearly how stakeholder feedback has influenced the decisions we have made and confirms the alignment (the Proposed Alignment) we are taking forward to further develop and submit as part of an application for consent. This report concludes by confirming the key decisions and any resulting adjustments made to the alignments and confirms the Proposed Alignment to be progressed.

1.2 Project Overview

Based on the requirements outlined in the National Energy System Operator (NESO)[1] Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design (HND), we have developed proposals to reinforce the transmission system in the north-east of Scotland between Kintore, in Aberdeenshire and Tealing, in Angus.

To facilitate this, we are proposing to establish a new 400 kV OHL between Kintore and Tealing. This requires two new 400 kV substations to be constructed, one at Fetteresso Forest (Hurlie), and one at Tealing, (Emmock), to enable future connections and export routes to areas of demand.

These are being progressed as separate projects and they were presented during the consultation process.

The substation project webpages, including the relevant planning application documents can be found at the links below:

- Emmock Substation Project Webpage
- Hurlie Substation Project Webpage
- Angus Council Planning Portal (Emmock)
- Aberdeenshire Council Planning Portal (Hurlie)

We are upgrading the existing OHLs between substations at Alyth and Tealing and Tealing and Westfield. Section 37 applications have been submitted to The Scottish Government's Energy Consents Units (ECU) for these projects. The project webpages including the Section 37 application can be found at the links below:

- Alyth to Tealing 400 kV Upgrade (Reconductoring): Alyth - Tealing Overhead Line 400kV Upgrade - SSEN Transmission

[1] The UK's *2023 Energy Act* established an independent system planner and operator to help accelerate Great Britain's energy transition; creating the National Energy System Operator (NESO), replacing the National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO).

- Tealing to Westfield 400 kV Upgrade (Reconductoring): Tealing - Westfield Overhead Line 400kV Upgrade - SSEN Transmission
- Alyth to Tealing 400 kV Upgrade (Reconductoring): Scottish Government - Energy Consents Unit - Application Details
- Tealing to Westfield 400 kV Upgrade (Reconductoring): Scottish Government - Energy Consents Unit - Application Details

1.3 Project Timeline

The project timeline is set out below and may change as the project continues to develop.

Find out more about our Pathway to 2030 projects at this link:

- Pathway to 2030 projects

1.4 What We Were Consulting On

As a stakeholder-led business, we understand the importance of involving communities and other key stakeholders throughout each stage of our project development process. Relevant and insightful stakeholder feedback collected during consultations is critical to ensuring that our decision making is informed, and stakeholder concerns are taken into consideration at each stage of the project's development.

We were seeking feedback on the Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Alignment Selection which was presented in the September 2024 Consultation Document. A link to this document is set out in **Table 1.1: Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL project consultation rounds** above.

During the consultation, we presented the Potential Alignment and Alternative Alignments for the Proposed Development. The consultation included information regarding technology options,

environmental and technical considerations, and set out the project development process and explained the factors which were taken into consideration in the selection process. The consultation explained how the Potential Alignment, shown on **Figure 1.1: Potential Alignment and Alternative Alignment Options** and **Figures 1.2a-1.2f: Potential Alignment and Alternative Alignment Options, Sections A - F** in **Appendix F: Figures**, provides the best balance of environmental, technical and cost considerations from our assessments.

Higher resolution versions of the maps shown in **Figure 1.1: Potential Alignment and Alternative Alignment Options** and **Figures 1.2a-1.2f: Figures 1.2a-1.2f - Potential Alignment and Alternative Alignment Options, Sections A – F** can also be found in the September 2024 Consultation Document.

2 The Consultation Process

2.1 Who We Consulted With

Ahead of our Alignment Stage consultation events, we hosted our refined route consultation events in March and April 2024, providing information on further refinements of the proposed route. During this time, we sought the views of communities, landowners and other non-statutory stakeholders. These events were an opportunity to share our work in progress and to present the development of more refined options which had evolved since the earlier consultations. There had also been some changes to what we called our 'preferred' routes (terminology changed to 'potential' in subsequent consultation documents).

These update events were a precursor to, and extension of the route consultation events from May to July 2023, inviting comments on the refined routes, which then dove tailed into the formal launch of the Alignment Consultation Period on 9 September 2024. All feedback received has been covered in the feedback tables of this document.

Our consultation process sought to capture the views of anyone who had an interest in our proposals. During our engagements, we aimed to ensure that we captured the views of:

- statutory consultees;
- non-statutory consultees;
- residents, homeowners, community members and local organisations, including local elected members; and
- landowners and occupiers.

2.2 Consultation Feedback Period

The consultation period opened on 9 September 2024 and closed on 21 November 2024.

Statutory and non-statutory consultees were invited to provide feedback on the Alignment Selection Consultation Document.

Where possible, affected landowners were contacted ahead of the consultation period to further discuss land related considerations or concerns.

2.3 The Advertising Process

The consultation events were advertised extensively using the following methods:

- The Angus Country Press, The Courier and The Press and Journal;
- our social media channels and the dedicated project website;
- Community Councillors and Local Elected Members were emailed in advance with information and a poster they could share within their local area; and
- a mail drop consisting of a letter and a postcard insert was sent to 56,091 homes and businesses within communities potentially impacted by our proposals.

Appendix A: Examples of Advertisement contains an example of the advertisement, and **Appendix B: Postcard Invites** an example of a postcard invite.

2.4 Stakeholder Participation

A series of in-person consultation events were held between 23 September 2024 and 10 October 2024, where local stakeholders could meet with the project team to discuss the proposals in more detail. The events are outlined in **Table 2.1: List of in-person consultation** events below.

Table 2.1: List of in-person consultation events

Date	Event	Recorded Attendance
23 September 2024	Tealing – Tealing Village Hall	40
24 September 2024	Forfar – Royal Hotel	87
25 September 2024	Memus – Memus Community Hall	101
26 September 2024	Brechin – Brechin City Hall	103
30 September 2024	Menmuir – Menmuir Hall	141
1 October 2024	Kintore – Kintore Public Hall	66
2 October 2024	Echt – Echt Hall	111
3 October 2024	Drumoak – Drumoak, Durris and Crathes Bowling Club	320
7 October 2024	Drumlithie – Drumlithie Village Hall	135
8 October 2024	Stonehaven – Stonehaven Town Hall	71
9 October 2024	Laurencekirk – Dickson Memorial Hall	104
10 October 2024	Durris – Durris Kirkton Hall	165
		Total 1,444

Attendance figures reflect the number of people who registered their attendance at the consultation events on the day. For busier events, the number of attendees was often considerably higher than recorded. For members of the public who were unable to attend the in-person consultation events, an interactive consultation portal and a flythrough video were made available on the dedicated project website that enabled users to view the photosphere visualisations of the overhead line (OHL). These are still available at the links below:

- Interactive consultation portal
- Flythrough video

Stakeholder Meetings

In the weeks before, during and after the consultation events, meetings were held with other key stakeholders such as statutory and non-statutory consultees, Councillors, Community Councils, Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of The Scottish Parliament (MSPs) to discuss the Proposed Development. The list of meetings is outlined in **Table 2.2: List of stakeholder meetings**.

Table 2.2: List of stakeholder meetings

Date	Meeting Type	Stakeholder in Attendance
10 September 2024	Statutory Consultee Meeting	Various statutory consultees
13 September 2024	Meeting	Angus Council Executive
13 September 2024	Pre-consultation Briefing	Elected Members – Councillors, MSPs and MPs
16 September 2024	Briefing Documentation	Elected Members – Councillors, MSPs and MPs
19 September 2024	Meeting	Michael Marra MSP
20 September 2024	Pre-consultation Briefing	Elected Members – Councillors, MSPs and MPs
25 September 2024	Meeting	Alexander Burnett MSP
27 September 2024	Constituency Visit	Michael Marra MSP
17 October 2024	Meeting	Audrey Nicoll MSP
23 October 2024	Undergrounding/Technology Choice Webinar	External stakeholders
30 October 2024	Meeting	Angus Council Executive
30 October 2024	Meeting	Nature Scot
31 October 2024	Meeting	Douglas Lumsden MSP
31 October 2024	Meeting	Andrew Bowie MP
1 November 2024	Meeting	Nature Scot
8 November 2024	Meeting	Mhairi Gougeon MSP

Date	Meeting Type	Stakeholder in Attendance
November 2024	Meeting	Michael Marra MSP

2.5 Feedback Volume

Feedback from our stakeholders was welcomed via a range of methods. Public consultation responses in the form of letters, emails and the feedback form (submitted by post, email or online before the feedback period end date of 21 November 2024) have been included in the analysis undertaken for this Report on Consultation (RoC). Feedback received after the feedback period end date has been responded to and considered by the project team but has not formed part of the analysis presented in this RoC.

Responses to Public Consultation

A total of 872 written responses to public consultation were received comprising of:

- 223 online feedback forms;
- 645 feedback emails/letters;
- 3 posted feedback forms; and
- 1 posted feedback letter.

Discussions with landowners continued regarding the Potential and Alternative Alignments and their feedback has been considered. Additionally, feedback provided in person to the SSEN Transmission team at the consultation events was recorded in writing and has also been considered.

Responses from Statutory and Non-statutory Consultees

A total of 42 statutory organisations (including Community Councils) were contacted and asked to provide feedback on the proposals. A total of 15 statutory organisations responded, with a summary of their key feedback discussed in **Section 3: Consultation Feedback and Our Response** below and their full feedback and our response set out in **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**.

A total of 43 non-statutory organisations were contacted by us and asked to provide feedback on the proposals. A total of 14 non-statutory organisations responded, with a summary of their key feedback discussed in **Section 3: Consultation Feedback and Our Response** below and their full feedback and our response set out in **Appendix D: Non-statutory Consultee Feedback**.

Elected Members

In addition, two elected members responded: one MSP (for the Angus and Mearns Constituency), and one MP (for the Aberdeenshire and Kincardine Constituency). A summary of their key feedback is discussed in **Section 3: Consultation Feedback and Our Response** below and their full feedback and our response is set out in **Appendix D: Non-statutory Consultee Feedback**.

Stakeholder Representations

A number of other non-statutory organisations that were not directly approached by us have responded to the consultation through the public consultation channels. Their comments were analysed along with the public consultation responses.

The list of consultees will be reviewed and updated for the next stage of the project.

3 Consultation Feedback and Our Response

3.1 Introduction

This Section sets out the feedback received by SSEN Transmission in response to the alignment selection consultation held between September and November 2024.

Overall, feedback generally indicated support for the Government's Net Zero policy and energy security aims. In addition, respondents noted they understood the rationale behind our Pathway to 2030 programme as a way to help deliver the Government's targets and aims. However, based on those that responded, feedback from the community was generally not supportive of SSEN Transmission's approach to delivering the Pathway to 2030 programme, or of the Potential Alignment for the Proposed Development in each of the Sections A to F and / or the Alternative Alignments that were considered at eight locations.

Much of the consultation feedback that was received related to issues that are regularly raised, and which are referred to in this report as 'Common Themes' because they are common to all SSEN Transmission's Pathway to 2030 projects, not just specifically to the Potential Alignment or the Alternative Alignments for the Proposed Development. Many of the common themes were raised previously at the Corridor and Route Option consultation stages. The key themes raised and our responses to these are set out in **Section 3.2: Common Themes**.

Responses that were relevant to the Proposed Development not addressed by the responses within the 'Common Themes' have been referred to in this Report on Consultation (RoC) as 'Feedback Related to the Proposed Development'. These responses were received from members of the public, community groups and some statutory and non-statutory consultees and have been grouped into three categories namely:

- community impact;
- environmental impact; and
- economic impact.

This feedback is summarised along with SSEN Transmission's responses in three tables in **Section 3.3: Feedback Related to the Proposed Development**.

Feedback specifically relevant to the Potential Alignment in each of the Sections A – F of the overhead line (OHL) was also received, including responses to the information presented on the Alternative Alignments at the eight locations. This feedback is summarised in **Section 3.4: Section Specific Feedback Including the Alternative Alignments** in a table along with our responses to the points raised.

The responses received from the statutory and non-statutory consultees are set out in **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback** and **Appendix D: Non-statutory Consultee Feedback** respectively along with SSEN Transmission's full reply.

Appendix E: Minor Amendment to Consultation Document sets out an amendment to a minor error identified in the September 2024 Consultation Document in relation to the presentation of the findings of the technical appraisal of alternative alignments in Location 7 of the OHL. This amendment does not affect the completeness or accuracy of the materials presented for consultation.

Figures showing the Potential Alignment in each of the Sections A – F and the Alternative Alignments at the eight locations are set out in **Appendix F: Figures**.

3.2 Common Themes

We have developed a set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) as well as 'Pathway to 2030 Projects – Additional Information' which comprises a series of booklets and leaflets to address the common

themes being raised at our consultation events. In addition, we continue to develop additional information papers which are provided on our website here:

- Pathway to 2030 FAQs

The key common themes identified are summarised below with links provided to our website where further information on each theme can be accessed.

Project Need

The need for the Proposed Development has been independently assessed by both the Great Britain (GB) National Energy System Operator (NESO[1]) and the GB energy regulator Ofgem. Pathway to 2030 is a series of projects to increase capacity of the transmission network in northern Scotland. It is part of a national effort to upgrade power lines across Great Britain to connect and transport renewable electricity, especially from offshore wind farms to areas of demand for power. These projects contribute towards meeting climate goals and renewable energy targets, ensuring energy security and supporting Scottish and UK Government targets for a just transition to a net zero future. The project fulfils the following requirements:

- Addressing Climate Change: The UK and Scottish Governments have ambitious targets to combat climate change and guarantee a secure and reliable supply of energy. The UK is aiming for 50 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind-generated electricity by 2030. Our Pathway to 2030 projects have been identified to help achieve such targets by delivering the vital infrastructure required.
- Promoting Energy Independence: In 2022 the UK Government set out a strategy to reduce dependence on volatile global gas markets, moving to local, sustainable electricity sources instead. Establishing the necessary infrastructure for this is critical.
- Planning for Future Need: NESO carries out extensive analysis and research to predict the UK's future energy needs. This information is then carefully considered to guide infrastructure upgrade decisions.
- Approved by Ofgem: Britain's independent energy regulator, Ofgem, granted approval for the Pathway to 2030 projects in December 2022 as part of its strategy for accelerated network upgrades.

More information explaining the need for these projects can be found here:

- Why are the Pathway to 2030 Projects needed?

For more information on the Government policies that underpin this need and how the need has been identified and assessed, please read our leaflet which can be found here:

- How has the project need been assessed?

Alternatives and Technology Choice

Many respondents to our consultation questioned the OHL technology choice, particularly why the infrastructure cannot all be installed subsea or underground, instead of OHL and steel lattice towers.

Our approach to determining how the transmission network is developed is underpinned by our statutory obligations, as set out in the *Electricity Act 1989*. This requires us to balance technical, cost and environmental considerations and to select a proposed option which is economically viable, technically feasible, minimises impacts on important resources or features of the environment and reduces disturbance to those living in it, working in it, visiting it or using it for recreational purposes. The option must also be capable of being granted consent by The Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU).

In its assessment of what is required to meet 2030 targets, NESO concluded there is a need for both onshore and offshore solutions. NESO's and Ofgem's independent assessment of need for the Pathway

to 2030 programme was based on the technology choice of an OHL for the Kintore to Tealing connection.

Upgrading Existing Overhead Line

Where possible, SSEN Transmission's preference is to upgrade the existing network to meet current and future energy demands. This is evidenced by the current East Coast 400 kV Upgrade project, and the work proposed to the existing Alyth to Tealing and Tealing to Westfield OHL to upgrade these from 275 kV to operate at 400 kV projects.

However, upgrading from 275 kV to 400 kV requires higher statutory clearances to ensure safe operation of the OHL, and typically, larger conductors are required to transfer higher amounts of power. Upgrades to existing OHLs are not always possible if we cannot achieve those statutory clearances, or if larger conductors result in loads exceeding that of the existing tower structure's capabilities.

Where a transmission line already exists, it does not necessarily mean that it would be appropriate to build a new one next to it, as there are many considerations as to why this may not be possible. Sometimes, there is no space for new infrastructure due to existing constraints, including proximity to homes. However, in some areas, it is possible to place new OHL near the existing ones. These aspects are considered in the design development phases of our projects.

Subsea Cables

OHLs can carry roughly three times more power than subsea cables, making them more efficient and cost effective for energy bill payers. Technical challenges and constraints limit the use of subsea cables as a single solution. Moreover, onshore reinforcements help support local electricity needs and improve the network's reliability across northern Scotland.

Underground Cabling

Underground cabling is highly sensitive to ground conditions and terrain. There can be significant and lasting environmental impacts and future land use constraints associated with underground cabling; together with the technical challenges of operating, maintaining and in the event of a fault, restoring power.

The environmental, technical, and operational constraints associated with underground cabling at 400 kV make this option extremely challenging to deliver in many areas of Scotland. Some of the challenges that contribute to this position include:

- Technical Limitations: Underground cables need specific ground conditions and present challenges for maintenance and power restoration, especially if faults occur.
- Environmental Impact: Underground cabling can have lasting environmental effects, such as impacts on habitats and hydrology, and the area required for laying cables needs to be kept clear from significant construction or vegetation for easy access during construction and repairs.
- Terrain Concerns: The region's terrain often has slopes and finding a suitable route for underground cables without challenges is extremely difficult.
- Infrastructure Needs: For underground cables longer than 1-2 km, additional substation infrastructure would be needed, enlarging the project's footprint.
- Operational Needs: Restoring power in the event of a cable fault can take significantly longer than for an OHL. Faults on OHL can typically take a few hours to a few days to repair and are generally easy to locate. Underground cable faults often require extensive works, specialist resources, tools and equipment to locate the fault, followed by significant civil engineering works to expose the damage and replace the damaged section, after which it can take up to a month to carry out the repairs. This presents significant risks to security of supply and network reliability. It also impacts our ability to meet our licence obligations of maintaining an efficient transmission network.

- Cost: Underground cables at 400 kV are estimated to be between 5 and 10 times more expensive than OHLs, and since these costs are reflected in consumer bills, it is a factor that needs to be considered.

Even if technically feasible, underground cables over a significant length, or the entirety, of a project would be unreasonable as it would be contrary to our licence obligations to be economical and efficient in respect of additional costs to the end consumer, while presenting an additional risk to the electricity transmission network in the event of cable failure and consequent outages.

Given these constraints and our responsibility for an economical and efficient transmission network, OHLs are our main choice for the Kintore to Tealing connection. Where there is a clear evidence base to justify underground cables, this will be carefully considered.

In October 2024, we hosted a webinar entitled 'Underground, overground or subsea? How decisions are made on where electricity lines go'. This webinar provided detailed information regarding the decision making process for technology choices, a recording of this webinar is available via this link:

- Overground, underground, or subsea - how decisions are made on where electricity transmission lines go

Links are provided below to papers which have been prepared to explain why we need both onshore and offshore solutions and the difficulties with developing underground 400 kV transmission:

- Why the Pathway to 2030 projects require both onshore and offshore solutions
- The challenges with undergrounding at 400 kV

UK Government's policy and clear presumption for OHL was reaffirmed as part of the UK Government's Clean Power 2030 Action Plan[2] published in December 2024.

Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF)

We develop, build, and operate our infrastructure to meet all health and safety legislation and guidance set by relevant bodies including the UK Government, Scottish Government, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and our regulator, Ofgem, including those associated with electric and magnetic fields (EMF). In respect of EMFs, we strictly follow the guidance as set by the UK Government, which in turn is informed by international guidance.

As well as setting exposure limits that protect against known established effects of EMF, the UK Government's guidance also includes precautionary measures to protect against possible effects below the exposure limits that have not been established by science. In addition to this, the UK Health Security Agency and Department of Health have a remit to review new research in this area and ensure that current guidelines and policies are reflective of that research.

The UK Government has a process in place to ensure that any emerging research is considered and that Government policies continue to be appropriate. The UK Government's latest policy on EMF is set out in National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure EN-5 (NPS EN-5)[3] which was reissued in November 2023 by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, and which came into force on 17 January 2024.

This latest policy is reflective of that review process. The current UK Government guidance, informed by relevant international guidance, is therefore still considered appropriate by the UK Government and their public health experts. We will comply with all EMF guidance as set out in the NPS EN-5.

There have been over four decades of research looking into whether EMF can cause health effects and there are no established effects below the exposure limits. When we design our OHL, substations, and

[2] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (2024), *Clean Power 2030 Action Plan: A New Era of clean electricity. Available online: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-power-2030-action-plan/242aa00e-a82e-4f29-a785-9d7d690a1230*

[3] Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2023), *National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (NPS EN-5)*. Available online: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5

cables, we do so to ensure they will not exceed those exposure limits, even when operating at 100% capacity. We also ensure that precautionary measures are applied to the design where required. We will provide information on compliance as part of the consenting process, which will be publicly available.

The guidance we follow, which remains subject to ongoing review as required, ensures that safety measures will be applied to our 400 kV OHL infrastructure, protecting us all against EMF exposure and keeping our network safe for the public.

A link is provided below to a leaflet prepared by SSEN Transmission to explain EMF and the separation distances we apply, along with a paper by the Energy Networks Association:

- EMF Leaflet
- Electric and Magnetic Fields – The facts[4]

Option Selection Methodology

Our approach to the alignment of the Proposed Development is to seek to minimise the impacts of new infrastructure on both the environment (including a range of natural and cultural heritage features) and on communities who live, work and spend time in these areas. We seek to find the best balance between the range of constraints considered whilst also ensuring the proposal is technically feasible, economically viable and capable of achieving consent.

We follow SSEN Transmission's Guidance 'Procedures for Routeing Overhead Lines and Underground Cables of 132 kV and above'[5] (referred to as SSEN Transmission's 'Routeing Guidance'), which is informed by the Holford Rules[6], and enables us to consistently and rigorously select corridors, routes and alignments. The design development process has a number of key stages, with an increasing focus on detail as development activities progress. During each stage, we undertake a comparative appraisal that seeks to distinguish between options, so that a chosen option can be identified. The appraisal considers which option achieves the best balance across environmental (including people and communities), technical and cost considerations. The appraisals are presented in our Consultation Documents (see **Table 1.1: Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL project consultation rounds**). It may not always be necessary or possible to identify multiple alignment options, however it will be clearly stated how the decision has been reached on balance, with reference to the different considerations.

When undertaking comparative appraisals, environmental, engineering and cost considerations are assigned a Red/Amber/Green (RAG) rating by specialist technical teams across a range of criteria to determine their relative suitability. Alternatives are considered at a level of detail in line with our Routeing Guidance. The RAG ratings for each topic are used to examine differences between the options being considered. The appraisal compares the wider implications of each option on those topics (both individually and combined) and reaches a reasoned conclusion as to the option which is considered on balance to have the least overall constraints.

As well as technical and environmental appraisals, consultation is also undertaken with the public, landowners, consenting authorities and statutory and other consultees. Feedback from this consultation helps to inform which options achieve the best balance and least overall constraint across environmental, technical and cost considerations. The selected option is then taken forward to the next stage of development.

Links are provided below to papers that have been prepared to explain our design development process and the stages each project goes through:

- Routeing Overhead Lines
- How Stakeholder feedback influences our proposals

[4] Energy Networks Association (2012), *Electric and Magnetic Fields the Facts.*
[5] SSEN Transmission (2020), *Procedures for Routeing Overhead Lines of 132kV and above.* PR-NET-ENV-501.
[6] *The Holford Rules: Guidelines for the Routeing of New High Voltage Overhead Transmission Lines* (with National Grid Company plc (NGC) 1992 and Scottish Hydro-Electric Transmission plc (SHETL) 2003 Notes).

Environmental Impacts

As one of the greatest risks to our natural environment and biodiversity is climate change, the Proposed Development is part of the solution to tackle the climate emergency and deliver net zero emissions in Scotland and across the United Kingdom.

However, we do recognise that in delivering the Proposed Development there will be unavoidable impacts, and we would like to reassure stakeholders that we take our environmental responsibilities extremely seriously.

To deliver our projects in the most sensitive way possible we ensure environmental factors are considered at every stage in the development of each project, along with technical requirements and economic considerations. We follow the mitigation hierarchy by firstly seeking to avoid sensitive areas wherever possible and secondly, where impacts are likely to occur, we seek to minimise these, provide mitigation and identify opportunities to restore.

Our environmental teams are embedded in the project development process to consider and consult upon the most suitable OHL route from the very start, using well established data sets and additional detailed survey work. To aid our selection process we have developed an iterative constraints analysis and mapping programme to consider all known environmental constraints and derive routeing and alignment options with the least practicable environmental impact.

We undertake large-scale environmental survey work each year. Working in close collaboration with statutory and non-statutory environmental consultees, we aim to work in partnership to find acceptable OHL routes and alignments. We work towards mitigation outcomes which deliver positive environmental solutions, targeting delivery of a net gain in biodiversity in the longer term on all new sites.

In addition, all of our consent applications will be accompanied by detailed environmental assessments which are prepared by external specialists. These assessments will consider impacts on a wide range of environmental topics and identify measures that may be required to mitigate any impacts. Potential impacts during construction and operation will be assessed in detail as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), the results of which will be set out in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

The legislation governing the consenting of OHL projects in Scotland is the *Electricity Act 1989*. Applications for consent to construct and operate new OHLs are made under Section 37 of this Act and are submitted to The Scottish Government ECU for determination by Scottish Ministers. An EIA is required to be undertaken for the Proposed Development under the *Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017* and an EIAR will accompany the Section 37 application.

Construction impacts on the environment will be managed through the application of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), which will be prepared and implemented by the Principal Contractor once consent has been granted for the Proposed Development. The CEMP will detail how the Principal Contractor will manage construction in accordance with commitments and mitigation detailed in the EIAR, statutory consents and authorisations, and industry best practice and guidance. Implementation of the CEMP will be managed on-site by a suitably qualified and experienced Environmental Clerk of Works (EnvCoW), with support from other environmental professionals as required.

We also acknowledge that minimising impacts is not enough on its own, and we have therefore committed to delivering Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) on all our projects; as well as compensatory planting for any trees felled during the construction phase, where possible with native species. Where our projects are unable to completely avoid irreplaceable habitats (for example peatland or ancient woodland), we have also introduced a commitment to restore more habitat than we affect. Our developments also aim to actively enable opportunities to significantly enhance existing ecosystems at our sites, leaving a positive and lasting legacy throughout the lifetime of our operational assets for the benefit of our environment and our host communities.

You can find out more about how we are delivering a positive environmental legacy within the documents linked below:

- Sustainability Strategy – Pathway to 2030
- Delivering a Positive Environmental Legacy Booklet
- Biodiversity Net Gain

Cumulative Impacts

The EIA will consider the cumulative impacts of the Proposed Development along with the proposed Hurlie and Emmock substations and the OHL upgrades and Emmock tie-ins and will also consider the potential for cumulative impacts arising in combination with other planned electricity transmission connections, and other planned developments where impacts are predicted. The findings of the cumulative assessment will be set out in the EIAR.

Socio-economic Impacts

We understand that there are concerns about the potential impact on properties and businesses within the vicinity of our proposed OHL and we will submit a socio-economic report as part of the Section 37 application for the Proposed Development.

Our Pathway to 2030 projects overall will provide significant benefits to local landowners and the Scottish and UK economies. Independent socio-economic analysis undertaken has estimated that our Pathway to 2030 projects will collectively support around 20,000 jobs across the UK, around 9,000 of which are expected in Scotland, adding billions of pounds of economic value to the economy. Please see our news article below from December 2024:

- SSEN Transmission sets out plans to invest £22bn+ in mission-critical grid infrastructure

We also expect these projects to deliver significant local benefits, including direct and indirect job opportunities, alongside supply chain opportunities for local businesses. We will set out more details of these opportunities in due course, including 'Meet the Buyer' events to introduce local businesses to the opportunities presented through our main supply chain partners.

We have developed a housing strategy to ensure there will be capacity to house workers in the local area and so minimise any negative impacts on availability of accommodation for locals and visitors and thus avoid impacts on the tourism industry. The strategy will also ensure our workers are good neighbours to local communities, actively contributing while they are present and leaving behind benefits once they have left, further details are below under **Housing Strategy**.

Property Impacts

SSEN Transmission will seek to mitigate impacts on land and properties as far as possible and these impacts will be assessed as part of the EIAR that will accompany our Section 37 application. Extensive surveys will be carried out at identified receptors, including selected residential properties, so that we are able to model potential impacts on the wider area.

If mitigation is not possible, assessment of compensation for the impacts on property will be managed through the applicable legal frameworks.

Concerns in relation to impacts on property are being noted by our team however, as a regulated business, SSEN Transmission is obliged to follow a statutory legal framework under the *Electricity Act 1989* and *Land Compensation Act 1963*. If you are entitled to compensation we will assess any claim on a case-by-case basis under the direction of this legal framework.

If you are entitled to compensation, we will recommend that you engage a professional adviser and SSEN Transmission will generally meet reasonably incurred professional fees in these circumstances. However, for the avoidance of doubt, we should advise that SSEN Transmission will not meet fees incurred in objecting to our proposed developments.

Agricultural Land

In finalising tower positions where they may impact agricultural operations, we will work with landowners to minimise operational impacts where possible. We are committed to reinstating affected farmland to its original condition and any crop losses and any other compensatable losses will be assessed on a case-by case basis.

The following leaflet explains how we work with landowners and occupiers:

- Working with landowners and occupiers

Community Benefit Funds

Following the UK Government announcement regarding community benefits in November 2023, SSEN Transmission expects over £100m of wider community benefits funding to be available from our Pathway to 2030 programme to local communities across the north of Scotland. This fund will enable lasting legacies to be delivered across the region, helping communities prosper. We will work with communities and partners to maximise the impact that this can have, with funds planned at both regional and local levels. Links are provided below to papers which provide more information on our approach to community benefits:

- Delivering legacy benefits through Pathway to 2030 Projects
- Community Benefits

We have two types of community benefit funds open to projects in our network area and not-for-profit, constituted groups can apply for funding.

The first £2m round of our Regional Community Benefit Fund was open until 22 November 2024. Funding from £40,000 to £500,000 was available with awards to be made in early 2025. Based on feedback from our public consultation, the fund is to be used to provide support for strategic projects in the region and any successful application must meet one or more of the following themes:

- People: Focusing on skills, training and employability.
- Place: Emphasising the community and culture of the north of Scotland.
- Alleviating fuel poverty: Looking at strategic ways to help people across the region.

Our Local Funds will launch soon and will be dedicated to communities situated close to our infrastructure. The focus for these funds will be developed through discussions with communities, ensuring that local priorities are supported. We are working on a delivery strategy for these funds, and more information on how we plan to administer this will be published once determined. Local communities will be able to apply for both elements of the fund. You can register for updates on our community benefit funding through this link:

- CMS Registration Form – Community Benefit Fund

Career Opportunities

In addition to the community benefit funds, the project is one of many which will lead to the creation of thousands of jobs across the region as it is one of the biggest investment programmes in the north of Scotland for over a century.

SSEN Transmission is placing multi-million-pound contracts with the local supply chain that will create huge economic value for Scotland. In 2024, we recruited another 400 new employees across the north of Scotland. We have produced the following booklet about our graduate and early career programmes and update our website careers page regularly:

- Careers Booklet
- SSEN Transmission Recruitment Webpage

Housing Strategy

SSEN Transmission has developed a Housing Strategy to address the critical challenge of accommodating the workforce required to support the decarbonisation of the UK energy supply. This mission aligns with our commitment to advancing sustainable energy solutions and ensuring the successful delivery of vital infrastructure projects.

The scale of our Pathway to 2030 programme demands a substantial workforce, with projections indicating a peak of over 4,000 workers by 2027. Providing adequate housing is essential to attract and retain this workforce, ensuring that we can meet the ambitious timelines and objectives necessary to achieve net zero and other energy targets. In an industry first, SSEN Transmission has pledged to support the delivery of more than 1,000 new homes across the north of Scotland as it aims to play a role in alleviating the region's housing challenges.

The remote and rural locations of many of our projects, combined with an existing housing shortage in these regions, amplify the challenge of securing appropriate worker accommodation. By addressing these housing needs, we not only support our workforce but also contribute to the long-term resilience and development of local communities.

We are working with Local Authorities to create local accommodation solutions, and we have committed to develop a number of properties, which upon completion of the transmission infrastructure projects, will provide accommodation for local people, delivering a lasting legacy for our Pathway to 2030 programme.

Our Housing Strategy aims to:

- enhance the delivery of projects by finding effective accommodation solutions;
- contribute to tackling housing challenges in rural Scotland by delivering legacy benefits; and
- build support for projects by collaborating with housing stakeholders.

Consultation Process

We began to develop our Pathway to 2030 projects following the outcome of NESO[1]'s recommendations, confirmation of project need and approval of Ofgem funding.

This means, when we consult on our projects, we are consulting on the Proposed Development between its start and end points. We are not consulting on whether the Proposed Development is needed or whether it should be sited elsewhere, as these requirements have already been identified at a national level to ensure the security of the transmission network and electricity supply to consumers. We welcome feedback on the proposals described at our consultation events and are committed to considering this feedback in the design of our projects.

As we have set out in **Section 2: The Consultation Process** above we held a number of public consultation events, public meetings and group engagements, using a range of methods to promote our consultations to our stakeholders. Throughout the consultation process we have listened closely to identify areas of concern relevant to the Proposed Development's design, allowing us to consider our next steps prior to refining proposals. This has involved amending our proposals and considering and investigating alternative routes or sites in some areas.

We recognise there is always room for improvement in the way we consult local communities and as we look forward to the next round of public engagement, we will continue to welcome feedback on how we can further improve how we consult with our stakeholders.

Find out more about our approach to considering feedback:

- How Stakeholder Feedback Influences Our Proposals

The Scottish Government ECU has published Good Practice Guidance for Section 37 applications[7]. This details the voluntary good practice guidance that the ECU encourages developers to undertake before they submit their Section 37 applications, this includes an expectation that at least two voluntary public consultation events are held.

Section 1.1: Purpose of this Document sets out the three consultation stages that have been undertaken for the Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL project with links in **Table 1.1: Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL project consultation rounds** to the Consultation Documents published at each stage. Feedback was received and analysed following our May to July 2023 and March to April 2024 Corridor and Route Options consultation events and was carefully reviewed by the project team, with feedback being followed up as required where concerns were identified.

The subsequent RoCs were published in November 2023 and August 2024 respectively (**see Table 1.1: Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL project consultation rounds**). These reports documented the consultation responses received, and where appropriate, showed how the project was informed by the consultation process.

The consultation material presented for the consultations sought to outline the proposals as clearly as possible, with questionnaires included in the main consultation booklet to gather opinions. Respondents were able to submit responses in their own format using the SSEN Transmission contact details in the booklet and on the project website. The consultation material also included a set of additional information leaflets covering those issues which were being raised frequently by stakeholders, these were available in hard copy and online.

Specifically, following our previous consultation for the Proposed Development, we altered and introduced New Route and Refined Route Options following stakeholder feedback, and subsequently we considered a number of alignment alternatives which were set out in the Alignment Selection Consultation Document linked in **Table 1.1: Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL project consultation rounds**. This RoC sets out how we have responded to the alignment selection feedback which is discussed in **Sections 3 and 4** below.

Section 37 Application

When the Section 37 application is submitted to the ECU there will be an opportunity for all stakeholders to make formal representations on the Proposed Development to Scottish Ministers. These representations will be considered when the Scottish Ministers make a determination on the application, see **Section 5: Next Steps** for further details.

The following leaflet explains more about the Section 37 consent process:

- The Section 37 Consent Process

Mental Health

SSEN Transmission fully appreciate the stress and worry that our project's route and alignment consultations can cause.

We understand the uncertainty created by the consultation phases of our projects, and this can be difficult for those potentially affected. For this reason, we strive to balance the need for certainty with providing sufficient opportunity for people to feed into the consultation processes. We take the route and alignment identification processes very seriously, we follow our required process thoroughly and make every attempt to inform communities of our plans, options being considered, and decisions made at each stage to ensure we ultimately settle on the overall most appropriate proposed alignment for the project.

[7] Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (2022), *Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.* Available online: https://www.gov.scot/publications/good-practice-guidance-applications-under-sections-36-37-electricity-act-1989/

We aim to conclude our consultation processes in a timely manner so as not to prolong the uncertainty for local communities.

We aim to be transparent and keep communities up to date at all times via the project website, and our Community Liaison Team is always available to be contacted via the details set out in each of our documents. Contact details are set out in **Section 5.6: Feedback.**

Private Water Supplies

In relation to the protection of private water supplies (PWS), all PWS located within 250 m of the proposed works (where excavations, such as tower foundations, are likely to be greater than 1 m deep) are identified by the project team during the design and environmental assessment of new infrastructure. We have gathered information on PWS from a range of sources and this work included a questionnaire which was sent to property owners within the vicinity of the proposed OHL. We would encourage anyone who received one of these and who has a PWS to respond if they have not already done so or to email PWS@kayaconsulting.co.uk if they would like another copy of the questionnaire.

A risk assessment will be undertaken to identify those PWS that have the potential to be affected by the works. Should the results of this assessment indicate a risk to the PWS source or infrastructure, then mitigation will be developed for inclusion in a site specific PWS Protection Plan that is discussed and agreed with the PWS owner. A report on potential PWS impacts and mitigation would also be included in the environmental assessments which support the application for consent. In a small number of cases there may need to be consideration of plans for an alternative water supply (on a temporary or permanent basis) in the event of an unforeseen problem with the existing supply. During construction, the contractor will be required to comply with and implement the PWS Protection Plan. More information is available via the following link:

- Protecting Private Water Supplies

3.3 Feedback related to the Proposed Development

Introduction

This section summarises the specific consultation feedback and sets out our responses to the points and themes that emerged from the public consultation process including the feedback provided by statutory and non-statutory stakeholders.

Consultation feedback was collated and analysed by the project teams, supported by Information Analysts, to produce relevant data and key themes.

As set out in **Section 3.1: Introduction**, feedback was then considered as being either a common theme, project specific, or specific to the OHL Potential or Alternative Alignments, with responses prepared accordingly.

Our responses in this section refer to the common themes discussed in **Section 3.2: Common Themes** where relevant.

The project specific feedback is set out in the tables that follow:

- **Table 3.2: Community impact**.
- **Table 3.3: Environmental impact**.
- **Table 3.4: Economic impact**.

Feedback was also provided by some consultees specifically on the OHL Potential Alignments and Alternative Alignments and this is summarised in **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments**.

The stakeholders who responded to the alignment consultation have been grouped into the categories outlined in **Table 3.1: Stakeholder groups** below.

Table 3.1: Stakeholder groups

Stakeholder Group	Examples
Statutory Consultees	Historic Environment Scotland (HES), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), NatureScot, Local Authorities, Community Councils
Non-statutory Consultees	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Scottish Water
Community members and local organisations	Homeowners, local businesses, Residents Associations, elected Council and Parliamentary members
Landowners and occupiers	Landowners, crofters, tenant farmers, occupiers of properties in close proximity to the OHL

The full consultation responses from statutory and non-statutory consultees are set out in **Appendices C and D** along with our responses to the points they raise.

Table 3.2: Community impact

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Landscape and Visual Angus Council noted that with regards to the residential visual amenity assessment (RVAA), careful consideration should be given to thresholds. They also highlighted that four Local Landscape Areas (LLA) have been approved by the Council since April 2024 but are not plotted on constraints mapping, also acknowledging that alignments that favour ground at lower elevations are likely to reduce landscape and visual impacts. Angus Council also noted that they would welcome further discussion in relation to minimising impacts on the LLA at the crossing of the River South Esk. Members of the public raised significant concerns about the impact of the overhead line (OHL) on the landscape, countryside views and amenity; many considered that the proposals would be damaging to the visual character of the area and would diminish its natural beauty and scenic value. It was noted by many that landscape designations are in place as recognition of the area's uniqueness and in order to protect it. The landscape and countryside are valued by respondents particularly due to its amenity, peace and tranquillity. Visual and landscape impacts were of particular concern to residents and local businesses; it was felt they were key to the local economy and bring in tourism and countryside pursuits to the area and that a large number of livelihoods depend on the high-quality landscape of the area. The health, well-being and lifestyle of residents	Statutory consultees Non-statutory consultees Community, organisations and officials Landowners and occupiers	**Landscape and Visual** We are aware of the four new LLAs that have been approved by Angus Council and these are being fully considered as part of the landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA). The LLAs will be included on future constraints mapping where relevant. The threshold for RVAA will be considered carefully by the landscape and visual specialists using relevant guidance, and properties will be considered on a case-by-case basis. All information has been passed onto the project teams. We note Angus Council's request for further discussion in relation to minimising impacts on the LLA at the crossing of the River South Esk. A follow up meeting has been held with the Council to discuss this location. It is acknowledged that with new transmission infrastructure there will be a change to the landscape setting in the vicinity of the OHL. As such, consideration of the landscape was undertaken at the outset of the potential alignment design and appraisal process. The development of the OHL potential alignment design has sought to carefully consider key elements of landscape setting and visual impacts on key views and receptors to integrate the project into the overall landscape and to minimise its prominence as far as possible. This has been included in design considerations such as through the avoidance of ridges and the tops of hills, using hills as back drops to reduce skylining where possible, siting

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
was intrinsically related to the surrounding landscape. Changing the aesthetics of the area was considered likely to cause a significant long term and irreversible socio-economic impact that could not be mitigated or compensated for. See also **Open Space, Recreation and Rights of Way** and **Health and Safety** and **Table 3.4: Economic impact.** Some respondents expressed concerns that the visual impact was going to be significant given the combined and cumulative effects of the project with other structures and projects. It was felt the area would become industrialised, with some residents reporting that they feel they would be surrounded and 'trapped' by OHLs and other existing and proposed infrastructure and energy facilities.		towers on lower areas of land, and avoiding the felling of woodland and trees which provide screening and offer opportunities to interrupt views of the OHL. The following ongoing work will be undertaken as the project develops: • Landscape and visual specialists are undertaking appraisals which aim to minimise and mitigate landscape and visual concerns. • Viewpoints for detailed photography have been agreed with the relevant local authorities, NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland (HES). Further viewpoints will be discussed if required. • An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) will be prepared which will include a specific chapter for the LVIA and will also consider the potential for wider cumulative impacts when viewed against the backdrop of other existing and planned infrastructure in the area. The EIAR will include photomontages showing visual projections of the appearance of the OHL at each key viewpoint. Please also refer to **Cumulative Impacts** discussed in **Section 3.2: Common Themes** which includes our response regarding cumulative impacts with other projects. As noted in **Section 3.2: Common Themes** under **Socio-economic Impacts,** a separate socio-economic report will be submitted alongside the EIAR as part of the Section 37 application. This will consider the impact on the local

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		economy including tourism and other key aspects of the rural economy.
Roads and Access Network Rail highlighted possible impacts in relation to construction traffic and the suitability of Network Rail infrastructure crossings. Network Rail also noted that a Traffic Assessment should assess the effects of construction traffic on existing traffic flows and the public road network. The British Horse Society (BHS) highlighted concerns relating to impacts to access for safe off-road riding routes, requesting that equestrian use should be considered in relation to managing access (see also **Open Space, Recreation and Rights of Way**). Concerns were raised by members of the public about increased traffic, especially during peak hours, which may cause significant delays and disruption to the functioning of the local communities, as well as damage to roads and bridges from heavy and larger construction vehicles. Many local roads and bridges are very narrow and historic with weight limits and may not be able to accommodate the increased levels of traffic. Feedback also highlighted concerns about the impact of the project on road maintenance and road safety, and access to properties, fields and local facilities.	Statutory consultees Non-statutory consultees Community, organisations and officials Landowners and occupiers	**Roads and Access** It is acknowledged that there will be impacts from road traffic movements during the construction of the project. Impacts on traffic and transportation will be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). A Traffic and Transport Assessment will be undertaken, and where appropriate we will consider potential impacts in relation to construction traffic. We do not anticipate crossing any Network Rail infrastructure. Access locations for construction and maintenance will seek to utilise existing roads and access tracks (upgrading where required) as far as practicable to reduce the need for new accesses. Full consideration will be given to assessing the impacts of the project on road safety and road-users, and every effort will be made to ensure access to properties, fields and local facilities is maintained. We note the request from the BHS about considering equestrian use when planning access points. A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will also be produced. This will require approval from Transport Scotland and local authorities. We will undertake specific liaison with Transport Scotland and Local Authority Roads Departments as the project develops to agree measures

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		for public road improvements, temporary traffic management, and other mitigation that may be required. We will consider a range of measures to reduce traffic impacts. In local communities these may include avoiding deliveries at peak travel times for local commuting; route planning to avoid schools, shopping areas, community hubs; and implementing public road improvement works (e.g. widening of roads, strengthening of bridges, repairing of road surfaces). Consideration will be given to road widths, speed limits, road weight limits and historic structures. The CTMP will set out the proposed construction access routes along with measures to minimise construction traffic disturbance. SSEN Transmission and our appointed contractors are required to return roads and access points to the same or better condition than before the project commenced, and any damage to roads and access points caused by the project will be fully repaired. Surveys and photographs will be undertaken before works begin to assess the condition of the roads and access points in advance of works commencing. Monitoring and photographs will then be taken throughout construction programme to ensure the roads are safe and usable. Repairs will be carried out to address any issues as they emerge. A survey will also be undertaken on completion of the works. Prior to construction, we will formalise our engagement at a local level across the route, to enable local forums to

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		be set up for updating and addressing concerns within the communities. We will appoint a specific community liaison representative to provide a contact between communities and SSEN Transmission so that concerns can be raised and addressed as we work with our appointed construction contractors. Access to the OHL and towers will avoid routes that could impact sensitive areas. Access will be developed working closely with landowners and land managers to minimise disruption to local communities and land management activities. Further details of specific access proposals will be presented in the final pre-application consultation and in the information supporting our Section 37 application.
Construction Impacts Concerns were raised by local people about the project's construction working hours, and views were expressed that the construction hours should not overlap with peak commuting hours, so as to minimise the impact on the local community, businesses, schools and health services which may be adversely impacted by longer journey times and staff delays. Concerns were also raised by some community respondents about the impact on residents' privacy during construction. Points of concerns were identified about personal and business safety and security, particularly with respect to strangers having access within residents' land and close to their property during construction.		**Construction Impacts** Within the EIAR, working hours for construction will be proposed. Our EIA Scoping Report has indicated working hours of 7am to 7pm during British Summer Time (BST), and 7am to 6pm during Greenwich Mean Team (GMT). Working hours would normally be attached as a condition of the deemed planning permission that would accompany the Section 37 consent, with any changes requiring local authority approval. Our contractors will also prepare a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) prior to commencement of construction. The CEMP will ensure that best practice measures are employed during construction to control noise and dust, and to prevent pollution.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Numerous respondents raised issues about the impact the construction of the project may have on wildlife which may be further threatened by traffic and impacts to their habitat, as well as noise and general disturbance.		A CTMP will also be prepared for the project which will set out how we will endeavour to minimise impacts on local traffic and transport during construction especially during peak commuting hours. A range of measures may be deployed (e.g. avoiding deliveries at peak travel times; route planning to avoid schools, shopping areas, health centres, businesses; and implementing public road improvement works such as widening roads). See also our response to **Roads and Access** in this Table for further details. All our contractors are fully vetted before appointment and will be required to work under our Considerate Contractor scheme. They will be expected to operate with respect for the local communities, and each other. No access will be taken on private land or property without our contractors adhering to our required access protocols and ensuring that any required consents or permissions are in place. Owners and tenants will always be given prior notice. Our teams will always ensure that communities are kept up to date about planned work on site. Prior to construction, we will formalise our engagement at a local level across the route, to enable local forums to be set up for updating and addressing concerns within the communities. We will appoint a specific community liaison representative to provide a contact between communities and SSEN Transmission so that concerns can be raised and addressed as we work with our appointed construction contractors.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		The impact of the project on wildlife and habitats will be reported in the EIAR. This assessment will consider the potential impacts from construction including construction traffic disturbance. Measures will be included in the EIAR and CEMP to protect wildlife and habitats during construction. See **Table 3.3: Environmental impact – Biodiversity, Habitats, Protected Species and Designated Sites**. Our project teams will oversee the contractors' works, who will be required to employ specialist supervision from ecologists and archaeologists to ensure the works do not impact on local wildlife or archaeological assets.
Noise Concerns were raised by respondents about noise (during installation and operation); not only the impact on local residents, but also the impacts on livestock, wildlife and pets. Requests have been made by a number of local residents for baseline noise surveys to be undertaken at their properties well in advance of work commencing, covering quieter times of the day/night. Concerns were raised that the electrical noise from the OHL during periods of rainfall will be audible, and over greater distances due to the tower heights. It was noted by some respondents that existing OHLs are very noisy in certain weather conditions. Noise from the OHL during operation was also considered by some people to have an impact on health, **see Health and Safety** below.	Statutory consultees Non-statutory consultees Community, organisations and officials Landowners and occupiers	**Noise** Noise assessments are a primary consideration within the design development process for the project. Noise surveys have been undertaken to inform a noise impact assessment as part of the EIA which will be reported in the EIAR accompanying the Section 37 application. The EIA will consider existing noise levels, potential noise impacts from the proposed infrastructure (construction and operation), cumulative noise impacts and any mitigation required to ensure acceptable levels of noise. Noise models will help determine likely future noise levels from the proposed development and whether any changes to noise levels are likely to be significant. The impact of the proposed project will be evaluated against established noise guidelines and where appropriate, mitigation measures identified.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Comments were made indicating that a reduction of noise at certain properties requires greater separation distance from the OHL.		SSEN Transmission has undertaken significant research and testing to better understand the mechanism of noise production from OHLs, and mitigation that can be applied. For the Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL, mitigating noise was one of the key considerations in the conductor selection choice. On this project, a triple bundle conductor configuration has been selected, which will also be surface treated to reduce noise levels typically experienced following new conductor installation. Where the findings of the noise assessment identify a requirement for further monitoring prior to construction work, we will conduct any such noise surveys in accordance with mitigation commitments or conditions of consent and in liaison with relevant property and landowners. The noise impact of the project on wildlife will be considered as part of the EIA and reported in the EIAR. This assessment will consider the noise assessment findings. Measures will be included in both the EIAR and/or CEMP if appropriate to protect wildlife and habitats from noise disturbance during construction. See **Table 3.3: Environmental impact – Biodiversity, Habitats, Protected Species and Designated Sites**.
Open Space, Recreation and Rights of Way The BHS highlighted concerns relating to impacts to access for safe off-road riding routes, requesting that equestrian use should be considered in relation to managing access beyond formal routes. It was		**Open Space, Recreation and Rights of Way** See **Roads and Access** in this Table in relation to the consideration of equestrian users. We will also ensure relevant equestrian mitigation is included within the EIAR

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
considered there is a need to accommodate horses on local path networks. Equestrian road users are classed as vulnerable as they are more likely to be involved in a road accident, and of a greater severity. It was considered by many respondents that the OHL would adversely impact the local amenity and peace and tranquillity of the area and disturb residents' enjoyment of their homes and the surrounding areas of open space for recreation, including walking, horse riding and cycling. Some people considered that this would also have an impact on local residents' health and wellbeing; see also **Health and Safety** below.		as part of the outline Outdoor Access Management Plan (OAMP), which is discussed below. Core Paths, Rights of Way, National Cycle Networks, and other areas of open space were considered during the alternative alignment appraisal process, and they have been avoided wherever possible in the design of the Potential Alignment for the OHL. The potential for visual impacts on recreational users will be assessed as part of the EIA; see **Landscape and Visual** in this Table for further information on the LVIA, and **Noise** for details on the noise assessment. The linear nature of both the OHL and most recreational routes means that it may be difficult to fully avoid crossing recreation assets in some locations. Where the OHL does require crossing of these assets, consideration will be given to project siting such that the amenity value will not be significantly impacted wherever possible. The Traffic and Transport Assessment within the EIAR will consider potential impacts on road users during construction and operation. During construction, an OAMP will be implemented to protect footpaths, and diversions will be provided to ensure footpaths remain open for safe use for all users wherever possible. The OAMP will be included as an appendix to the EIAR and forms part of the schedule of mitigation commitments. Additionally, the project will be designed and constructed to ensure safe conductor clearances to ensure all

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		recreational users can access footpaths and roads that are oversailed by the OHL.
Health and Safety Health and safety concerns were raised in the alignment consultation feedback, especially regarding the proximity of the OHL to schools, residential areas, and wildlife and natural habitats. A number of respondents noted health and safety related risks considered to be associated with OHL projects, including the potential for major accidents. The potential for air and noise pollution and flooding risk from the construction of the OHL was raised, along with specific concerns about the impact of EMF on children and residents' health from operation of the OHL. EMF risks to health was a primary concern of many respondents. Fire risk was also noted as a concern from the OHL during both construction and operation, due to the older nature of properties in the area. It was also considered that noise from the OHL 'crackling' during operation would cause residents constant disturbance and potential mental and physical health issues. Concerns were raised in relation to the impact of the project on road infrastructure during construction from increased traffic flows and heavy good vehicles and plant, which may increase the risk of accidents and unsafe driving conditions. In addition, some concerns were raised about the incidence of historical flooding and fallen trees due to	Statutory consultees Non-statutory consultees Community, organisations and officials Landowners and occupiers	**Health and Safety** Please refer to **Section 3.2: Common Themes** under heading **Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF)** for responses regarding EMF from OHLs and associated health concerns. The following leaflet has been prepared to explain the EMF and the separation distances we apply: • EMF Leaflet Noise and flooding issues were considered during the alignment design development and in OHL routeing work prior to the alignment stage. These will be considered in detail as part of the EIA, and any significant impacts and required mitigation will be reported in the EIAR; see also **Noise** in this Table and **Flooding and Water Resources in Table 3.3: Environmental impact** for further details. A CTMP will be prepared for the project which will set out how we will endeavour to minimise impacts on local traffic and transport during construction especially during peak commuting hours. A range of measures can be deployed e.g. avoiding deliveries at peak travel times; route planning to avoid schools, shopping areas, health centres, businesses; and implementing public road improvement works such as widening roads. See also our response to **Construction Impacts** and **Roads and Access** above in this Table for further details.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
gale force winds and extremely high rainfall, and the impact these may have on the safety of the project and in turn the safety of local communities. It was considered that risk from storm damage, flooding, run-off, land slips, and subsidence may be aggravated. The proximity of the OHL to gas pipelines was also raised as a safety concern, alongside potential threats to national security. It was considered that there may be an increased risk where nationally significant infrastructure is placed in closer proximity. Concerns were raised with regard to SSEN Transmission's statement that as part of the OHL routeing process, the objective was to maintain a target distance of at least 170 m between the OHL, residential properties and other sensitive receptors such as schools. Respondents considered that there will be many properties significantly closer to OHL than 170 m. Some residents noted concerns about redundant infrastructure and kit, construction plant, supplies and materials, waste arisings, and the disposal and removal or otherwise of obsolete facilities. Concerns were raised about the impact the SSEN Transmission consultation process is having on the mental health and well-being of local residents. Respondents reported that some communities and families are conflicted over the proposals where it was felt that some would be detrimentally affected more than others. Other residents reported anxiety, worry or distress and considered that they have been made to		Our business operates with health and safety as a core focus of our operations from project design through to operation and maintenance of our infrastructure. Our equipment design and installation will be fully risk assessed on a site-by-site basis to ensure that it can be constructed, operated and maintained safely and in the weather conditions experienced in Scotland. SSEN Transmission also has robust processes and procedures in place to ensure compliance with *Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (CDM) 2015*. This includes competency assessed Duty Holders, coordinating health and safety and managing risk through the project and asset lifecycle. The flood risk assessments undertaken for the EIA will consider future climate change predictions, and discussions with SEPA. Design development will aim to ensure that the project is not increasing the risk of flooding on project land or elsewhere. See **Flooding and Water Resources in Table 3.3: Environmental impact** for further details. The measures we will deploy during construction are discussed in this Table, see **Construction Impacts** and **Roads and Access**. The safety of the community and our staff is paramount at all times. We are engaging with the owners/operators of other infrastructure along the route, including high pressure gas pipelines, and we will discuss detailed consideration of potential interactions with their infrastructure and any necessary mitigation to ensure that there are no significant safety or accidents risks for the OHL or any adjacent infrastructure.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
feel mentally and physically unwell by the project so far, and do not feel they have fully comprehended the information provided in order to allow them to respond to the project fully. These issues are further outlined in the **Community Viability** section of this Table below.		For gas pipelines specifically, as one of the key technical constraints in the project we: • engaged with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) at the early stages of development to understand the requirements; • mapped all the high pressure gas pipelines based on information provided by the gas pipeline operators; • identified routes and alignments within the preferred corridor to try and reduce interface with gas pipeline infrastructure, where other constraints allow; • have regular meetings with all affected gas pipeline operators; and • are carrying out detailed pipeline modelling and AC interference studies to understand impact. This will then be reviewed in collaboration with the impacted gas pipeline operators to agree values, and if/where required, mitigations to be deployed. One of the key factors considered when carrying out design development for the proposed OHL is proximity to nearby residential properties. We have aimed to route the OHL a target distance of 170 m or more from residential properties and to maintain a minimum distance of 100 m where possible, taking account of other land uses. In addition, a search has also been carried out identifying applications for planning permission along the potential alignment. This will continue to be monitored ensuring the OHL alignment

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		maintains a suitable separation from all existing, in-construction or consented residential properties. Our appointed construction contractors will be required to comply with all relevant waste management legislation and with requirements in the CEMP relating to the management of materials in an environmentally responsible manner. SSEN Transmission appreciate the concerns that our project's route and alignment consultations can create among people in impacted communities. We take the route and alignment identification process very seriously; we follow our required process thoroughly and make every attempt to inform communities of our plans, options being considered, and decisions made at each stage to ensure we ultimately settle on the overall most appropriate proposed alignment for the project. We aim to conclude our consultation processes in a timely manner so as not to prolong the uncertainty for local communities. Please also see **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Consultation Process** and **Mental Health** and the section on **Community Viability** in this Table for further details on our response to these points.
Community Viability It is considered by a number of respondents that the project would have a significant impact on a number of very close-knit communities. It was considered that the socio-economic foundation of these communities would be significantly impacted by the OHL, which would have		**Community Viability** Having comprehensively reviewed all feedback provided through the consultation processes undertaken to date, we fully appreciate the strength of feeling within the community surrounding the project and acknowledge its importance to everyone impacted.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
long-term detrimental impacts on community life and community viability. This concern extended to the current consultation period being carried out by SSEN Transmission and the current survey work being undertaken in the area. Many respondents felt that SSEN Transmission were being divisive and evasive, and a number of respondents indicated that landowners had been contacted directly by SSEN Transmission, but that tenants had not. In addition, it was considered that in some instances the base mapping in the consultation materials did not show existing properties and therefore assessment work in the consultation documents may be under-reporting potential impacts. Respondents also believed that some alignments were currently being marked on the ground and surveyed and others weren't, which gave the impression to the community that the consultation process was not genuine and that the alignments has been pre-determined. **See also Health and Safety above.** Residents stated that they felt overwhelmed by SSEN Transmission's consultation processes, and their survey contractors and they could not make sense of the information provided. A number of residents and Community Councils considered that SSEN Transmission did not appreciate the strength of community feeling towards the project, and that the level of opposition had not been documented in the previous RoCs. Many respondents		We aim to develop all projects sensitively and to reduce impacts on communities as much as possible. Community feedback provides an essential insight into local issues that help to refine the OHL design. Following the comprehensive review of all feedback, we consider what opportunities there are to modify our project's design to reduce impacts as much as possible. We have taken this approach at all stages of the project, and we have presented in the previous RoCs how we have responded to community feedback; links to these reports are provided in **Section 1.1: Purpose of this Document**. We will undertake a full EIA to objectively assess all potential significant environmental effects, and we will prepare an EIAR and standalone socio-economic report which will accompany the Section 37 application to the Scottish Ministers. Where any alignment or tower positions are changed, further survey work will be undertaken. The current ongoing survey work is part of the development process to gather further information on the identified alignments. We are mindful of the uncertainty that our proposals may pose to communities that are impacted. Our project development process seeks to identify an alignment that provides 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 all potentially impacted communities. However, we are also committed to providing sufficient time and opportunity for all stakeholders to inform each stage of our project

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
considered their questions were not fully answered, had requested information that was not provided, information provided by SSEN Transmission was confusing and that local issues were not fully understood by the project team. Feedback from local communities suggested that there is a need for SSEN Transmission to further discuss alignments with communities and preferably at on-site meetings. It was considered that neighbours of the proposed OHL should be directly contacted by SSEN Transmission and invited to attend such meetings. It was considered that there is a need to bring communities together to collectively discuss impacts, possible opportunities, and ensure that communities work together to remain positive and cohesive.		development process, so that views can be understood and wherever possible incorporated into design decisions. This is a balance which continues to be carefully and sensitively managed. We are also in the process of ensuring that all impacted tenants are contacted, as well as all landowners. All alternative alignments were designed and appraised to a consistent level to inform the consultation materials. Surveys have been undertaken on the Proposed and Alternative Alignments as required and no alignment was pre-determined. With regard to properties not shown on our base mapping, the Ordnance Survey (OS) base maps we have used are the latest available, dated July 2024. We do not rely on OS base maps to identify properties, and we use the latest versions of AddressBase data, which we overlay on our GIS systems. We also collect LIDAR data to provide up to date aerial imagery to ensure we are including all properties. Please see **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Environmental Impacts, Socio-economic Impacts, Property Impacts, Community Benefit Funds, Consultation Process, and Mental Health** for further details on our response to these points.
Electromagnetic Interference The Dee District Salmon Fishery Board (DSFB) raised concerns in relation to the crossings of the Rivers Dee, Cowie, Carron and their tributaries, and the potential	Statutory consultees Non-statutory consultees	**Electromagnetic Interference** SSEN Transmission has commissioned specialist consultants to carry out further assessment of the potential impacts of EMFs on qualifying features of the

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
EMF impacts to salmon, trout, eels and brook, and river and sea lampreys, particularly in relation to migratory fish. Concerns were raised by respondents about interference from the OHL with local internet services, mobile phone receptions, Global Positioning System (GPS) and Wi-Fi connectivity including for residents, businesses, farmers and emergency services. The availability of Wi-Fi connectivity in the area is currently poor and many homes use additional boosters to access Wi-Fi and rely on line-of-sight tower to receiver services. Any impacts on communication services from the OHL are therefore considered to be significant.	Community, organisations and officials Landowners and occupiers	Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) along the alignment, including Atlantic Salmon and Freshwater Pearl Mussels (FWPM). The results of this will be set out in the EIAR. Throughout the development of the project, we have engaged with numerous communication operators to understand the potential impact from our proposed OHL on their services. Based on these discussions, the main concern was considered to be potential line-of-sight interference which only occurs in relation to the towers themselves. To date we have had no feedback from the operators that the OHL may impact GPS or mobile phone receptions. Proposed tower positions have been shared so that the communications operators could assess these potential impacts. Where a potential impact was identified, tower positions were moved. Our experience from other projects and OHL asset management is that there is no evidence that EMF impacts communication systems. See also **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF)** for further information.
Mitigation Respondents did not consider that proposed mitigation, community benefits or compensation measures would be adequate to minimise the long-term impacts on local communities created by the construction of the OHL; see also **Table 3.4: Economic impact** below.		**Mitigation** We seek to avoid impacts in the first instance during the OHL design and alignment development processes for our projects. Where we cannot avoid impacts, mitigation will be applied through the EIA process to reduce potential effects to non-significant levels wherever possible. Specific mitigation measures will be discussed and agreed

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		with relevant statutory consultees and set out in the EIAR. In addition to mitigation, we will also deliver our commitments to compensatory planting, biodiversity enhancement and to community support measures via our community benefit funds. Suggestions made by consultees will be considered by the project team and incorporated into the design where practical.

Table 3.3: Environmental impact

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Forestry and Woodland Angus Council advised that the Angus Forestry and Woodland Strategy 2024-2034, which identifies areas of statutory Woodland of High Nature Conservation Value (WHNCV) should be considered as part of the assessment. Scottish Forestry advised that woodland removal should be minimised and only where there are clearly defined public benefits, and any compensatory planting should be considered. Scottish Forestry also noted that cumulative impacts in relation to woodland removal should be assessed. The National Trust for Scotland (NTS) highlighted concerns in relation to Drum Castle and The Old Wood of Drum. NTS noted that part of the woodland crossed by the alternative alignments to the north of Drumoak (see also **Table 3.5**) is classed as a LEPO (Long-Established of Plantation Origin) site and is on the AWI (Ancient Woodland Inventory). Concerns were also highlighted about the potential felling of an area of woodland with a TPO (Tree Preservation Order) to the east of Drumoak that has ecological value and provides habitat connectivity. The Woodland Trust requested that impacts on ancient woodland and veteran trees are fully assessed and recommend an Arboricultural Impact Assessment is undertaken.	Statutory consultees Non-statutory consultees Community, organisations and officials Landowners and occupiers	**Forestry and Woodland** Potential impacts to forestry and woodland were considered in the alignment development process including the appraisal of alternative alignments. We will continue to take account of forestry and woodland constraints as our project design and mitigation develops. The design development process has sought to identify alignment options which take account of woodland and forestry, with a view to minimising woodland removal and avoiding Ancient Woodland and veteran trees, where possible. It is acknowledged that there are a number of developments on-going in the area. The EIAR will present an assessment of cumulative effects which will include other proposed developments, both from SSEN Transmission and from other developers. These aspects are discussed in **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Cumulative Impacts**. Forestry and woodland impacts will be assessed further in the EIA and factored into a number of the other specialised studies in the EIA (e.g. the landscape and visual impact assessments and natural and cultural heritage assessments). A specific chapter on Forestry will be included within the EIAR. Information on compensatory planting, offsite planting, landscape planting within the operational corridor and biodiversity measures will be included within Volume 2, Chapter 8: Forestry, Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
The Woodland Trust also requested mitigation for direct and indirect impacts on ancient woodland, following a full assessment. A number of respondents have identified concerns about the felling of mature, broadleaved LEPO woodland. It was felt that the route of the OHL should avoid ancient and established woodland. As noted in Health and Safety in **Table 3.2: Community impact**, some residents felt that the loss of trees would aggravate risks from storm damage, flooding, run-off, land slips, subsidence etc.		Visual Amenity and Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology of the EIAR or appendices associated with these Chapters where available, however detailed information will need to be provided at a later stage to take account of landowner agreements which will be clarified and confirmed in the relevant Chapter of the EIAR if required. We note the Angus Forestry and Woodland Strategy 2024-2034, which identifies areas of statutory WHNCV. Relevant information in the Strategy will be taken into account in the EIA process. The potential for loss of Ancient Woodland associated with the Old Wood of Drum near Drumoak has been considered as part of the appraisal of alternative alignments for the OHL in Location 6. Please see further details in Section F of **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments** on this issue. As we continue our more detailed forestry field surveys, we will seek to identify further opportunities to avoid, if possible, or look to further reduce the impact on native, Ancient Woodlands (including LEPO), veteran and ancient trees. In addition to avoiding and minimising tree removal, we will mitigate for any tree loss with compensatory planting and biodiversity enhancement measures which will be agreed with the statutory consultees at key stages in the consenting process. Where individual or groups of important trees cannot be avoided, they may be reduced in height. All trees that are impacted will be replanted by way of compensatory

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		planting, within the landowner holding where possible or the local council area, in line with Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal policy[8]. In relation to veteran or ancient trees we will look to adhere to relevant policies within the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4[9]) and the British Standard, 5837: 2012[10]. The EIAR will incorporate relevant mitigation measures which would include procedures and further surveys in respect of ancient and veteran trees, should they be encountered.
Biodiversity, Habitats, Protected Species and Designated Sites Angus Council highlighted that Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) are not plotted on constraints mapping provided for the alignment consultation materials. Angus Council also noted that biodiversity enhancement and mitigation should be developed in relation to WHNCV. NatureScot noted that there are a number of designated sites which form a constraint to the alternative alignments in all Sections (A-F) of the OHL. Full details of NatureScot's responses on each alternative alignment location are provided in **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**.	Statutory consultees Non-statutory consultees Community, organisations and officials Landowners and occupiers	**Biodiversity, Habitats, Protected Species and Designated Sites** Wildlife and natural heritage criteria have formed a key component in the OHL alignment design and appraisal process. The large number and variety of natural heritage designations are noted. Wherever possible, the alignment has avoided designated sites (such as Special Protection Areas (SPA) or SAC) and ensured that buffers and clearance areas are left between the project and designated sites to reduce impacts where they cannot be completely avoided. The OHL design and access tracks have been progressed to avoid and reduce impacts on habitats and species as far as possible, including by avoiding areas of Ancient Woodland, LNCS and aquatic designations, habitats and species.

[8] Forestry Commission Scotland (2009), *The Scottish Government's Policy on Control of Woodland Removal*. Available online: https://www.forestry.gov.scot/publications/285-the-scottish-government-s-policy-on-control-of-woodland-removal

[9] Scottish Government (2024), *National Planning Framework 4.* Available online: https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4/documents/

[10] British Standards Institution (2012), British Standard 5837:2012, *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction to construction. Recommendations.*

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
NatureScot also noted that the project may have direct or indirect impacts on carbon-rich soils which do not currently support peatland habitats but may need to be taken into consideration when assessing the broader impacts of the proposal, and peat depth surveys should be carried out. The Esk DSFB raised concerns relating to the impact of the OHL to important spawning and juvenile rearing areas for the Atlantic salmon and sea trout. The Esk DSFB highlighted concerns related to the crossing of the River South Esk SAC (see detail in **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments** below). The Esk DSFB would welcome further discussions with SSEN Transmission to mitigate potential impacts to the aquatic habitat and salmon fisheries at river crossings. A large number of more general concerns were also raised by members of the public about impacts on local flora, wildlife and wildlife habitat, areas of ancient woodland and a number of specific species such as red squirrel, badger, bats, pole cats, pine marten, otter, geese, and raptors including red kite. Impacts were of concern from construction through to operation and maintenance. It was also noted by a few residents that current surveys being undertaken by SSEN Transmission were not targeting the correct areas and species were being missed e.g. for bat and badger.		The following work, which has already commenced, will be progressed as the project develops: • As part of the EIA, fieldwork will be undertaken by ecologists and ornithologists to survey key habitats and species along the OHL and provide a baseline understanding of the area's ecological importance. This includes invasive species and aquatic species. • The EIAR will include specific chapters reporting on the predicted ecological and ornithological impacts of the proposals setting out the likely significant effects and mitigation measures. • There may be the requirement for an Appropriate Assessment (under the *Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017*) where there is a predicted likely significant effect on qualifying interests of an SAC or SPA. This requirement will be understood following the completion of the ecological and ornithological impact assessments, as part of the EIAR. • The EIAR, along with information to inform an Appropriate Assessment if required, will be submitted along with the Section 37 application. We will mitigate any further adverse ecological and ornithological effects with compensatory planting and biodiversity enhancement measures. Species Protection Plans (SPPs) will be agreed with NatureScot for all protected species which have the potential to be adversely affected by the proposals.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		For projects of this scale, we will prepare a CEMP prior to construction commencing. Implementation of the CEMP will ensure that best practice measures are employed during construction to prevent pollution including preventing the spread of invasive species. SSEN Transmission has committed to Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). For the Kintore to Tealing OHL project, a BNG assessment will be undertaken and discussions have been ongoing with potential partners to deliver biodiversity-led enhancement projects. We will submit further details on our approach to BNG for this project along with the Section 37 application. Whilst the BNG assessment will have a focus on habitats, opportunities to provide enhancement for species, through habitat enhancements and/or species-led projects will also be fully explored and reported. The following papers have been prepared to outline SSEN Transmission's commitment to BNG, they can be accessed via the links below: • Delivering a positive environmental legacy – Biodiversity Net Gain • Delivering a positive environmental legacy In addition to our commitment to BNG, we have also committed to compensatory planting for any trees which are required to be felled for the project. The compensatory planting plans are progressed separately to BNG proposals and will look to provide a greater proportion of the replanting as native woodland wherever possible. We are also working with landowners

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		to identify areas where compensatory planting can be provided. We will continue to liaise with statutory and non-statutory consultees through the next stage of the project and we appreciate the information from Angus Council regarding comments on WHNCV, and from the Dee DSFB and the Esk DSFB regarding the sensitivities of the rivers for aquatic species. The EIAR will incorporate a range of mitigation measures to ensure that best construction practices are employed to minimise the potential for OHL construction works to adversely impact watercourses with a particular focus on the rivers and their tributaries that form part of the SACs which would be crossed by the OHL. Impacts to peat will be assessed within the Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat chapter of the EIAR.
Cultural Heritage Historic Environment Scotland (HES) recommends that visualisations should be used to help assess the impact of the project on the setting of historic environment assets. HES noted a number of assets where potential impacts could occur, these are set out in **Table 3.6** below and in **Appendix B: Postcard Invites**. HES also noted that there are a number of locations where significant impacts upon cultural heritage assets are likely and would welcome further consultation during design progression.	Statutory consultees Non-statutory consultees Community, organisations and officials Landowners and occupiers	**Cultural Heritage** We are aware of the large number and variety of cultural heritage designations and assets along the OHL alignment based on extensive survey and desk-based work already completed, and major sites have been avoided wherever possible through the OHL and access design process. The alignment aims to minimise impacts on heritage assets. A cultural heritage assessment will be presented within the EIAR which will include committed mitigation measures and will be accompanied by Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) maps, wireframe drawings and

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
HES noted that cumulative impacts from other projects (including Emmock and Hurlie substations) should be considered within the visualisations and should be used to assess and mitigate impacts. Aberdeenshire Council provided feedback on setting and direct impacts on Scheduled Monuments and Regionally Significant sites as included in the Aberdeenshire and Angus HERs (Historic Environment Record), these are set out in **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments** below. NTS highlighted concerns in relation to Drumoak and the impact to the property at Drum, see **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments** below. A number of respondents mentioned local historic figures, including writers, designers and artists all of which were influenced by the character of the local area. Concerns were expressed that such social history would be damaged.		other visualisations such as photomontages from key cultural heritage viewpoints. The assessment of cultural heritage impacts will be closely aligned with the landscape and visual assessment in terms of character, setting, and reflecting the integrated landscape and cultural heritage importance of Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL) designations and the settings of scheduled monuments and listed buildings. It is acknowledged that there are a number of developments on-going in the area including the proposed new substations at Hurlie and Emmock. The EIAR will present an assessment of cumulative effects on the setting of important cultural heritage sites which will include those predicted from other proposed developments, both from SSEN Transmission and from other developers. These aspects are also discussed in **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Cumulative Impacts**. We will continue to liaise with statutory and non-statutory consultees through the next stages of the project as the design of the Proposed Alignment is finalised to inform the cultural heritage assessment and identification of appropriate mitigation.
Flooding and Water Resources Scottish Water highlighted that the new alternative alignments fall within a drinking water catchment where abstractions are located and which is designated as a Drinking Water Protected Area (DWPA); namely	Statutory consultees Non-statutory consultees Community, organisations and officials	**Flooding and Water Resources** Areas at risk of flooding have been avoided where possible through alignment design, although it is acknowledged that in some areas, the OHL may need to cross short sections of land prone to flooding. Design

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Inchgarth (River Dee) supplies Mannofield Water Treatment Works (WTW) and the River Tay which supplies Perth Gowans Terrace WTW. It is essential that water quality and water quantity in the area are protected. There are also multiple Scottish Water assets within the area of the OHL which should be protected. All Scottish Water assets potentially affected by the project should be identified, with particular consideration being given to access roads and pipeline crossings. Members of the public raised concerns about the risk to flooding during and following construction of the project as flood plains, river and historic field drainage systems would be altered by the project and trees lost. It was felt that that risk from extreme flooding events has increased in recent years due to climate change which has safety implications as noted in Health and Safety in **Table 3.2: Community impact** above. Many roads and bridges now become impassable due to flooding. Damage and destruction to private water supplies (PWS) was also expressed as a concern, especially as many PWS are in historic asbestos pipes and the exact locations are not always known. Concerns were also raised relating to septic tanks and possible damage or disruption to them and their maintenance from OHL construction activities.	Landowners and occupiers	development will aim to ensure that the project would not increase the risk of flooding on project land or elsewhere and this will be required to be agreed with SEPA. As part of the alignment development process Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) Flood Maps were used to identify flood risk locations. Where possible tower locations will be positioned to minimise impacts on flood risk. The EIA will consider flood risk in general and the EIAR will include more detailed flood risk assessments should a risk to flooding be identified at specific locations. The requirement for flood risk assessments will be progressed considering future climate change predictions, and discussions with SEPA are being undertaken. The assessment will consider construction and operation including methods of working and will take into account aspects such as any necessary tree removal. Information provided during the consultation process in relation to PWS, DWPA etc. will also all be taken into consideration by the project team as part of the final OHL and access design. PWS are widespread in the area and are an important consideration as the project moves into the final design stage. Questionnaires have been issued to properties registered with PWS; discussions held with landowners and follow-up surveys are ongoing to gather as much information as possible, see **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Private Water Supplies** for more information. This information will continue to be used during the next stage of the project to inform the

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		hydrological and hydrogeological assessment which forms part of the EIA. The outcome of these surveys and subsequent PWS risk assessments will be documented in the EIAR with mitigation measures identified where required to safeguard PWS. The EIAR will include a chapter on Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils. Suitable mitigation will be developed through collaboration with the project's specialist hydrogeology team and other environmental specialists. Measures will be set out in the EIAR to mitigate for any identified significant adverse water resources and flood risk impacts. We will continue to liaise with statutory and non-statutory consultees throughout the EIA process.

Table 3.4: Economic impact

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Agriculture and Farming The project's impact on agriculture and land use was a major concern for some stakeholders, particularly in relation to the impact on prime farming land, current farming practices, machinery operation and biosecurity risks from the spreading of pests and diseases during survey work and during construction and operational maintenance. It was felt by respondents that the sterilisation of farmland and the severance of farms and farm access tracks would have a major impact on the practical and economic viability of farming in the area. Respondents were also concerned about restrictions to, and the disruption of, farm tracks, and access points to fields and ancillary facilities during construction. It was noted that the roads in the area are sometimes in very poor repair, are single track with limited passing places and limited scope for widening. Many bridges had weight restrictions on them making alternative routes for farm traffic very limited. See also **Table 3.2: Community impact, Roads and Access.** It was also considered that there would be impacts on farming practices such as the types of machinery that could be used around towers and under/around an OHL, it was reported that some machinery would be taller than the lowest OHL such as a folded crop sprayer. The constraints on operating on land close to OHL towers and conductors and the impact on modern farming practices were highlighted.	Statutory consultees Non-statutory consultees Community, organisations and officials Landowners and occupiers	**Agriculture and Farming** As part of the alignment design and appraisal work agriculture and farming issues were factored into the appraisal process, however unavoidably we will need to cross some areas of prime agricultural land. We are aware of the legislative requirements and policy regarding agricultural land, notably relating to avoiding the loss of, and minimising impacts on prime agricultural land. The EIA will assess the overall permanent loss of prime agricultural land as a result of the project in a regional context which recognises the importance of the resource. This will be reported in the Land Use chapter of the EIAR. We appreciate the concerns raised and the impact poor biosecurity can have on agricultural activities. Strict biosecurity measures will be required of all site staff, including those undertaking pre-construction surveys, enabling and construction work. Soil sampling for both Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) and Clubroot will be carried out before and after both ground investigation works and construction works. Mitigation measures will be set out in the Land Use chapter of the EIAR and the requirement to prepare and implement a detailed biosecurity plan will form part of the CEMP. A socio-economic report will be produced which will accompany the EIAR and the Section 37 application to the Scottish Ministers. This will include consideration of

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Concerns were also raised in relation to OHL interfering with farming communication and GPS systems which may be affected by EMF (see **Table 3.2: Community impact, Electromagnetic Interference**). Other issues expressed related to the impact the project might have on watercourses, field and roadside ditches, field drains and flood risk to farmland, see also **Table 3.3: Environmental impact, Water Resources and Flooding**. The loss of, and disturbance to, agricultural land is highlighted as a significant threat to the rural economy as well as food security. Some respondents felt the impact on agricultural land would have a detrimental impact on the nation's food production supplies.		potential economic impacts of the project on the rural economy. The impact of the OHL on telecommunications is discussed in **Table 3.2: Community impact, Electromagnetic Interference.** We also appreciate the impact the project may have on individual farms that may be affected. Liaison with farmers will continue to understand their businesses and how they use their land. We will continue to engage with landowners and tenant farmers as we progress our project development to the next stage. Our project team will liaise with all farmers directly affected; project contact details are set out in **Section 5: Next Steps.** The following paper provides more information on this aspect: • Working with landowners and occupiers Impacts to watercourses and drainage will be assessed within the Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Peat chapter of the EIAR.
Tourism and Other Local Businesses The Dee DSFB raised concerns about the potential impact of the OHL to fishing opportunities and economy of the fishery. Members of the public felt the OHL project would damage and potentially destroy some businesses and tourism in the area, causing the loss of livelihoods for local residents and leading to the failure of local	Statutory consultees Non-statutory consultees Community, organisations and officials Landowners and occupiers	**Tourism and Other Local Businesses** We note the concerns raised about impacts on local businesses including tourism and fishing opportunities and the impact the OHL may have on the local economy and the River Dee fishery. We will engage with Dee DSFB and other landowners and local businesses to continue to discuss potential direct impacts and any mitigation that may be appropriate in

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
businesses and a general economic decline in the area. It was felt that some tourist attractions and tourist routes were not understood by the SSEN Transmission and therefore had not been taken into consideration in the assessments to date. A number of respondents indicated that they ran small scale tourist facilities such as B&Bs that relied on reputation and recommendations for future business. It was considered by some respondents that such businesses would be significantly affected by the OHL from construction onwards and that they would likely not recover. Traditional sporting and leisure pursuits are a big part of everyday life in many of the communities along the OHL, and many businesses cater for those seeking to enjoy them. A number of respondents were concerned about the impact of the OHL on such traditional sporting and leisure pursuits, on local clubs and organisations and facilities for locals and visitors.		locations where the OHL crosses important fisheries. Please refer to **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Property Impacts.** The following paper also provides more information on this aspect: • Working with landowners and occupiers In addition, we will provide a socio-economic report as part of the Section 37 application to the Scottish Ministers. This will set out the findings of an appraisal of economic impacts of the project including on key sectors of the rural economy which would include tourism related businesses. We are actively committed to maximising opportunities to support local businesses and the economy throughout the construction phase and work with the main contractors to use local supply chains where possible. Project specific opportunities will be developed, and local partners identified as the project moves towards construction. We also intend to support local community initiatives through our community benefit funds, through job creation, career opportunities, our housing strategy and through environmental enhancement. Please see **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Community Benefit Funds, Housing Strategy** and **Career Opportunities** for further details. The following paper which provides more information on these aspects:

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		• Delivering legacy benefits through Pathway to 2030 Projects
Property and Land Value Members of the public raised concerns about the long-term negative economic effects on the community, including potential negative equity and reduced property values, financial insecurity and loss of income which would affect security, investment decisions and business and retirement plans. This concern included possible reductions in property prices to date created by the project due to SSEN Transmission's consultation activities and decreased marketability due to uncertainty.	Statutory consultees Non-statutory consultees Community, organisations and officials Landowners and occupiers	**Property and Land Value** As a regulated business, we are obliged to follow the statutory legal framework under the *Electricity Act 1989* and *Land Compensation Act 1963*. If property owners 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. Please refer to **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Property Impacts** for further details.
Compensation and Community Benefits A large number of comments from respondents related to the need for adequate compensation for those affected and more specifically many raised scepticism about SSEN Transmission's community benefit funds. Many felt that SSEN Transmission were protecting the environment over people and their livelihoods, and that the community benefits funds were seen by residents as 'bribes'. Many respondents felt they had lost their long term financial security and future business and personal financial planning would be significantly affected. It was felt that the community benefits funds would do little for current and future financial losses. Many considered that	Statutory consultees Non-statutory consultees Community, organisations and officials Landowners and occupiers	**Compensation and Community Benefits** We understand that there are concerns about the potential impact on properties and businesses within the vicinity of our proposed OHL. Our proposals are still subject to further consultation and design refinement. During this period, we will work closely with communities and will engage with property owners and seek to mitigate impacts. As a regulated business, we are obliged to follow the statutory legal framework under the *Electricity Act 1989* and *Land Compensation Act 1963*. If property owners are entitled to compensation under the legal framework, we

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
compensation would not be sufficient to meet the loss in property, land and business values. It was felt that compensation would not be extended to all those affected, particularly those affected by the loss of views and amenity and impacts to health and well-being. There was a request from respondents that any benefits from the project should be directly applied to those most adversely affected, and compensation should at least cover any estimated loss in property or business value. A number of suggestions were made by respondents of the benefits that might be considered useful for their areas. These included: • fibre optic broadband improvements* [11] • improving mobile phone signals* • internet and Wi-Fi access improvements* • free electricity for houses affected* • free solar panels for properties affected • wind turbine and battery for all houses affected • support for local groups • cycle path provision and improvements • health monitoring for the communities near OHL • free electric car charging points and free electricity • reduced electricity prices for residents		will assess any claim on a case-by-case basis under the direction of this legal framework. If property owners 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. Please refer to **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Property Impacts** for further details. We announce our community benefit fund. This will provide a direct opportunity for us to work with local communities that will be affected by the proposal on a variety of local initiatives. These will directly support communities across the north of Scotland and will be community-led. We are actively committed to maximising opportunities to support local businesses and the economy throughout the construction phase and work with the main contractors to use local supply chains where possible. Project specific opportunities will be developed, and local partners identified as the project moves towards construction. We are grateful to all respondents that have suggested opportunities that might be useful for the area. We continue to encourage suggestions to be made and are looking for opportunities to provide support to local groups and organisations. We will carefully consider how to ensure that the local communities benefit from our proposed project.

[11] The items marked with an * were mentioned most frequently by respondents.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
• a cash grant for a number of years • support for local groups such as the Scouts and sports clubs • apprenticeship/work experience opportunities for young people • tree planting The Dee DSFB and the River Dee Trust noted they are developing a catchment wide restoration plan for the Culter Burn which aims to enhance biodiversity and improve resilience to climate change impacts. They have also developed a detailed design to restore the Bo Burn, close to Loch of Park. They suggested discussions with SSEN Transmission to look at potential support for their work in this area. Some landowners suggested areas that could be used for tree planting.		We also intend to support local community initiatives through job creation, career opportunities, our housing strategy and through environmental enhancement. Please see **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Community Benefit Funds, Housing Strategy and Career Opportunities** for further details.

3.4 Section Specific Feedback Including the Alternative Alignments

As set out in **Section 1.3: Project Timeline** and **Section 3.1: Introduction**, the September to November 2024 consultation specifically sought feedback on the Potential Alignment shown for each of the OHL Sections A – F along with a number of Alternative Alignments at eight different locations as follows:

- Potential Alignment Section A – Emmock 400 kV Substation to Forfar
  - Location 1: Hayston Hill (Potential Alignment 1a and Alternative Alignment 1b)
- Potential Alignment Section B – Forfar to Brechin
  - Location 2: Padanaram (Potential Alignment 2a and Alternative Alignment 2b)
  - Location 3: Justinhaugh (Potential Alignment 3a and Alternative Alignment 3b)
  - Location 4: Careston (Potential Alignment 4a and Alternative Alignments 4b, 4c, 4d and 4e)
- Potential Alignment Section C – Brechin to Laurencekirk (no alternatives)
- Potential Alignment Section D – Laurencekirk to Hurlie 400 kV Substation (no alternatives)
- Potential Alignment Section E – Hurlie 400 kV Substation to River Dee
  - Location 5: Durris (Potential Alignment 5a and Alternative Alignment 5b)
- Potential Alignment Section F – North of the River Dee to Kintore Substation
  - Location 6: North of Drumoak (Potential Alignments 6a and Alternative Alignments 6b and 6c)
  - Location 7: Schoolhill (Potential Alignment 7a and Alternative Alignments 7b and 7c)
  - Location 8: Echt (Potential Alignment 8a and Alternative Alignments 8b and 8c)

Feedback received that specifically related to the Potential Alignment and the Alternative Alignments is summarised in **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments** below, alongside our responses to the feedback. Our responses in this section include references to the common themes discussed in **Section 3.2: Common Themes** and to the project specific feedback in **Table 3.2: Community impact, Table 3.3: Environmental impact** and **Table 3.4: Economic impact**, where relevant.

It should be noted that the number of responses received that referred in detail to the Potential Alignment or the Alternative Alignments, or which stated a preference, were a small proportion of the overall responses received, and not all statutory and non-statutory consultees responded (see **Appendices C and D** for details). The majority of consultation feedback was general and is captured in **Section 3.2: Common Themes** and **Tables 3.2: Community impact, Table 3.3: Environmental impact** and **Table 3.4: Economic impact** as noted above.

Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
Section A - Overall	• Location specific points: – the OHL was considered to have significant potential adverse effects on areas where people live including near Jericho, Arniefoul, Upper Hayston, Glamis, Craigowl Hill, Coldstream Farm, and Douglastown. – suggestions were made by some respondents that the OHL should be moved away from communities including at Douglastown and Jericho to remove its potential for impacts on residential properties and the character of settlements. – some specific suggestions were also made regarding relocation of the proposed OHL to reduce its prominence in upland areas and to avoid specific land use constraints (such as solar farms). – queries about why there is a lack of alternatives in some locations, e.g. at Jericho. • Stakeholder communication – concerns were raised regarding the nature of communication between SSEN Transmission and the community. It was felt that test drilling had been undertaken along Potential Alignment 1a and had not been undertaken along Alternative Alignment 1b, and residents in the area have felt surrounded by SSEN and their contractors. Concerns were raised that Alternative Alignment 1b could not be a viable alternative since no test drilling had been undertaken. • Landscape and visual – concerns include the landscape and visual impact of the OHL and towers on the area, specifically	In Section A, a large section of the Potential Alignment intersects with areas of prime agricultural land. The Potential Alignment also intersects a small number of woodland areas, including an area of coniferous plantation woodland to the north-west of Balkemback and an area of coniferous plantation woodland to the west and north-west of Hayston Hill. The OHL passes through largely rural areas where the topography is hilly. The alignment has been developed as far as possible to minimise effects on landowners and residential properties and communities, as well as the overall landscape and to avoid protected areas. The undulating topography is a key challenge to alignment and avoiding hilltops and prominent ridgelines has been an important part of the OHL design to date. Views from the Vale of Strathmore towards Lumley Den and visual impacts on Jericho will be considered in detail in the landscape and visual assessment in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). Tower heights are discussed in **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Alternatives and Technology Choice.** The Potential Alignment 1a and Alternative Alignment 1b were considered at the same level of detail for reporting in the Consultation Document and in accordance with SSEN Transmission's Routeing Procedure to support the identification of a Potential Alignment. Please refer to **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Option Selection Methodology** for details on how we identify and appraise alternative alignments. We have aimed to route the OHL a target distance of 170 m or more from residential properties and to maintain a minimum distance of 100 m where possible, taking account of the other

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	referencing the Vale of Strathmore which can be seen from the A928 towards Lumley Den. It was considered that visual impacts on Jericho are not mentioned in the consultation document, although other areas are, and that lower towers would be preferred. • Ecology and ornithology – NatureScot raised specific concerns about potential impacts to the Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA), Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrew's Complex SPA, Loch of Kinnordy SPA, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Ramsar, Loch of Lintrathen SPA, SSSI and Ramsar and the River Tay Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (see **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**). Other concerns raised by respondents in the area related to potential impacts on migrating birds, bats and other wildlife, as well as habitats and their fragmentation. • Cultural heritage – Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Services (ACAS) noted a number of cultural heritage assets in Section A may be impacted, including Balkemback Stone Circle, Arniefoul Cairn, Nether Arniefoul unenclosed settlement, Craig Hill fort and broch and St Orland's Stone, Glamis (see **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**). Concerns raised by other respondents included some of the sites noted above, along with other potential impacts to local heritage and concerns regarding the proximity of the OHL to ancient monuments near Tealing. • Health – potential detrimental impacts on human health were raised.	land use, environmental and technical constraints. This work is ongoing, and we have set out in **Section 4.3: Review of Additional Amendments to the Potential Alignment Considered from the Alignment Consultation** where we have already sought to make minor adjustments in response to feedback to minimise impacts. This includes for example some revision of the Potential Alignment to increase separation of the alignment from some residential properties at Jericho. In relation to Stakeholder Communication, where there are concerns over the alignment, we have commenced advanced survey work as part of the design development process to gather further information on the identified alignments, and where any alignment or tower positions are changed then further survey work will be undertaken. Completing boreholes at tower locations is key part of developing the foundation design. The programme of work associated with completing boreholes at all tower locations is informed by a number of factors including confidence in tower location, access arrangements, seasonal restrictions, locality to other works, weather and rig availability. We will continue to work with impacted landowners, land managers and communities to ensure that disruption from advanced works such as ground investigations and other surveys is minimised. Any issues can be reported to the SSEN Transmission Community Liaison Manager (please refer to **Section 5.6: Feedback**) for contact details. • Landscape and visual – please see our response in **Table 3.2: Community impact** under heading **Landscape and Visual.**

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	• Agriculture – there is a lot of livestock in the area, and concerns were raised over the potential to damage farmland and equipment and impacts to animals and livestock. • Access – concerns were raised over the impacts on roads including historic roads and roadside stone dykes and walls. The U360/1 road to Arniefoul has a notice 'No Through Road' and is not suitable for heavy construction traffic. • Cumulative issues – concerns have been raised regarding other developments that are being proposed within the area and the lack of information on these proposals. Concerns over future SSEN Transmission development were raised. • Mitigation – some landowners in the area have offered to provide land for replacing forestry that may be lost. • Technical issues – internet and phone services are very poor in the area, and concerns were raised over the impact to internet and telecommunication services due to electromagnetic interference. Some towers are positioned in-between internet provider towers and properties that rely on them.	• Ecology and ornithology – please see our response in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact.** Our full response to NatureScot is set out in **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback.** • Cultural heritage – please see our response in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under heading **Cultural Heritage.** Our full responses to HES and ACAS are set out in **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback.** • Health – please see our responses in **Table 3.2: Community impact** under heading **Health and Safety,** and **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF)**. • Agriculture – please see our response in **Table 3.4: Economic impact** under heading **Agriculture and Farming,** and **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF)**. • Access – please see our response in **Table 3.2: Community impact** under heading **Roads and Access**. • Cumulative issues – please see our response in **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Cumulative Impacts.** • Mitigation – noted in **Table 3.4: Economic impact** under heading **Compensation and Community Benefits**. • Technical issues – please see our response in **Table 3.2: Community impact** under heading **Electromagnetic Interference**.
Section A – Location 1: Hayston Hill	**Location 1 Hayston Hill: Potential Alignment 1a and Alternative Alignment 1b**	It is recognised that the majority of respondents to the consultation expressed a preference for Alternative Alignment 1b.

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	A number of respondents referred to Location 1 Hayston Hill in their feedback; some of these respondents stated a preference, as noted below. Of those respondents expressing a preference, feedback indicated a minority of respondents preferred Potential Alignment 1a over Alternative Alignment 1b. The key point raised was: • Alternative Alignment 1b was much closer to, and had more setting impact, on the scheduled monument at Arniefoul Cairn, as raised by HES and ACAS. Of those respondents who expressed a preference, feedback indicated the majority preferred Alternative Alignment 1b over Potential Alignment 1a. Key points raised are listed below: • Angus Council noted they understand the rationale for Potential Alignment 1a in terms of reducing landscape and visual impacts but stated that it may be closer to residential receptors, and other respondents also noted that it would be closer to some environmental receptors. • Alternative Alignment 1b would better protect the unique character of the environment and would have less impact on ecosystems and people. It would help maintain the scenic qualities of the area and thus have less of an impact on local tourism businesses. • Alternative Alignment 1b would be preferable to Potential Alignment 1a for the residents of Arniefoul, Hayston and Upper Hayston due to the visual impacts, damage to the historical integrity of villages and individual properties, and	The appraisal of alternative alignments presented in the September 2024 Consultation Document identified that the Potential Alignment 1a was slightly less constrained than Alternative Alignment 1b for a number of environmental criteria, including for landscape and visual amenity, sensitive upland habitats and cultural heritage. The appraisal identified a similar level of constraint in relation to proximity to property of both alternative alignments. Please refer to the Consultation Document for further details of the comparative appraisal of the alternatives. We have reviewed the findings of the environmental, technical and cost appraisals for the alternative alignments which were presented in the Consultation Document in light of the feedback received. In response to the main points raised: • Proximity to property (within approximately 300 m of the alignment Limit of Deviation (LoDs)) and the potential for adverse visual amenity at locations such as Arniefoul and Hayston is considered to be similar for both alternatives and the OHL alignment will be developed to target a separation distance of at least 170 m from properties wherever possible, taking account of all relevant constraints. • The Potential Alignment 1a provides greater opportunity to reduce landscape constraint by crossing areas of less elevated topography and for the OHL to be back-clothed by the higher ground of Hayston Hill in some views from receptors to the west of it. • Cultural heritage constraint is considered to be greater for Alternative Alignment 1b and any potential impacts on non-

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	the ecological disruption Potential Alignment 1a would create. • Alternative Alignment 1b would be shorter and would require less material and time to build. • Alternative Alignment 1b would have less of an impact on agricultural land. Concerns were raised regarding the impact to agricultural practices on the steeper slopes in Potential Alignment 1a. • Alternative Alignment 1b has less fire risk, access and road damage and disruption, and fewer structural impacts on old properties during construction. • It was considered the Nether Arniefoul Unenclosed Settlement was considerably closer to Potential Alignment 1a than Alternative Alignment 1b and no recognition is given to local knowledge of crop markings indicating an ancient settlement in a field where one Potential Alignment 1a pylon is positioned. • Alternative Alignment 1b would have less impact on watercourses and less flooding risk at Arniefoul. There is a network of spring water and field drains beneath and through the fields of Potential Alignment 1a. • Alternative Alignment 1b would not impact forestry as much as identified in the consultation documents.	designated archaeology will be assessed and mitigation proposed wherever possible through the EIA process. • Alternative Alignment 1b would cross more extensive areas of upland hill land with more sensitive heath habitats. The alignment design will be developed to minimise woodland loss where possible within the LoD and mitigation for any potential effects on water supplies will be proposed through the EIA process. • Alternative Alignment 1b is slightly shorter than the Potential Alignment 1a and is considered to have similar technical challenges including access, although it crosses more challenging ground conditions at higher altitude. We have also considered relevant feedback from statutory consultees (including Community Councils) on the constraints for each alternative alignment including those relating to areas of population, archaeological resources, landscape character and natural heritage (see our responses in **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**). Consultation feedback has been used to inform SSEN Transmission's selection of the Potential Alignment to be taken forward as part of the overall Proposed Alignment in Section A; please see **Section 4.2: Outcome of Consultation on Potential Alignment and Alternative Alignments (Locations 1-8)** of this report.
Section B – Overall	• Location specific points:	In Section B the majority of the Potential Alignment crosses through areas of prime agricultural land. The Potential Alignment intersects with areas of woodland with some plantations of commercial forestry present, including in areas to

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	– a number of respondents have indicated that some properties are missing from the base mapping used in the Consultation Document (e.g. around Padanaram). – Concerns were raised by residents including in Forfar, Brechin, Careston, Lochty, Dunswood, Fern, Tannadice, Findowrie, Coe, Cowford, Milton of Balhall, Balmadity, Farmerton, Fern shallow valley, the Caterthuns and the area around the River South Esk and the Angus Glens. – some residents near Careston, Lochty, Duns Wood and Tannadice were concerned about the potential 'wrap around' effect the OHL created for households in these areas. – Concerns were raised over the proximity to Tannadice, which is noted to be a conservation village with a school. – some respondents from the area in and around Padanaram expressed significant concerns about how the OHL would directly impact them in addition to an existing OHL. – impacts on Wolflaw, and the vicinity of the River South Esk, were noted of particular concern. • Stakeholder communication – it was noted by some tenants / tenant farmers that they have not been directly contacted in the same way that landowners have been, despite being directly impacted. • Cultural heritage – feedback from HES and ACAS highlighted concern about the impact on specific sites (see **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**). These included areas of archaeological significance near Ballinshoe, the Brown and	the west of Craigeassie, west of Battledykes, south-east of Fern as well as woodland areas to the north and north-east of Careston. The alignment has been developed wherever possible to minimise impacts on communities, residential properties and prime agricultural land. Avoiding hilltops and prominent ridgelines has been an important part of the OHL design to reduce landscape and visual effects in particular. The proximity and 'wrap around' of the OHL has been considered in the design and appraisal of alternative alignments in each of the Locations in Section B – see Section B Location 2: Padanaram, Section B Location 3: Justinhaugh and Section B Location 4: Careston in this Table. We have aimed to route the OHL a target distance of 170 m or more from residential properties and to maintain a minimum distance of 100 m where possible, taking account of other land uses, environmental and technical constraints including existing infrastructure such as other OHLs and gas pipelines. The alignment design, including access tracks, has also been sited to reduce interaction with water resources, cultural heritage features, natural heritage designations, habitats and species as far as possible, including areas of Ancient Woodland. With regard to properties not shown on our base mapping, the OS base maps we have used are the latest available, dated July 2024. We do not rely on OS base maps to identify properties, and we use the latest versions of AddressBase data, which we overlay on our GIS systems. We also collect LIDAR data to provide up to date aerial imagery to ensure we are including all properties. Our land teams are on the ground liaising directly with landowners.

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	White Caterthun hill forts, historic bridges and historic buildings such as Careston Castle, Kintrockat House and Brechin Castle. Other assets mentioned included: Ballinshoe Castle, Fletcherfield, enclosure, Battledykes Roman Camp and Cairn, Law of Baldoukie Barrow, Vayne Castle and Standing Stone and Law of Windsor Cairn. Lochty fields is known to include crop marks, and Kirkside of Lochty is a nationally recognised garden designed by plantswoman and artist Irene Mackie. Balmadity is of note as one of the earliest named properties in historical records. • Ecology and ornithology – feedback highlighted concern about the impact on specific sites including Lochty Woods and Dunswood. It was considered that the route through the Lochty to Fern shallow valley / Dunswood would adversely disrupt a delicate environment, some of which has been carefully renatured over the last 30 years with a resulting abundance of red and amber listed species. Ancient Woodland would also be impacted, and wetlands along the Weiris Burn which has otters. Concerns were raised by the Esk DSFB in relation to potential impacts to the River South Esk, particularly to salmonid spawning grounds and salmon fishing beats, and a concern that tree felling may lead to an increase in the levels of fine sediments entering the river which would have the potential to smother juvenile salmon habitat and negatively impact on Fresh Water Pearl Mussels. Bats are known in the area, but it was felt that recent SSEN Transmission bat surveys had set the survey equipment far from where they are known to roost. Concerns were raised by NatureScot (see **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**) about impacts to the Montrose Basin SSSI, SPA and Ramsar Site including Dun's	We will continue to work with impacted landowners, land managers, tenants and communities as the project progresses. Any issues can be reported to the SSEN Transmission Community Liaison Manager please refer to **Section 5.6: Feedback** for contact details. To ensure that there is no conflict with low flying zones, we are working closely with the Ministry of Defence (MoD). We are also working closely with Scottish Water, and we do not anticipate that the project will detrimentally affect the water supply or sewerage system. • Landscape and visual – please see our response in **Table 3.2: Community impact** under heading **Landscape and Visual**. • Cultural heritage – please see our response in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under heading **Cultural Heritage**. Our full responses to HES and ACAS are set out in **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**. • Ecology and ornithology – please see our response in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under heading **Biodiversity, Habitats, Protected Species and Designated Site**s. Our full response NatureScot is set out in **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback** and to the Esk DSFB in **Appendix D: Non-statutory Consultee Feedback**. Ecological constraints raised in areas such as the River South Esk SAC crossing and at Lochty Wood and Dunswood were considered as part of the appraisal of alternative alignments in Locations 3 and 4 respectively and further response is provided in the new section of this Table.

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	Dish SSSI, the River South Esk SAC, and local wildlife species, the Loch of Kinnordy SPA, SSSI and Ramsar, the Loch of Lintrathen SPA, SSSI and Ramsar and the Forest Muir SSSI. • Water resources – concerns were raised by the Esk DSFB with regards to the potential risk of erosion and increase of fine sediments to the River South Esk. Major concerns were raised relating to the increased risk of flooding, noting that there is a long history of flooding in the area, particularly around Tannadice. Road surface runoff is significant, and drainage is considered to be currently under significant pressure which is detrimentally affecting the River South Esk. Reedbeds for the Lochty Council Houses are located within Lochty Woods operated by Scottish Water. Land to the west of the Lochty public road has been significantly drained / reclaimed to create productive fields. • Access – the OHL in Section B would need a large-scale rebuilding of local roads including the Coe Road to access the necessary land with large machinery, and with that comes significant disruption. Access issues were raised due to poor existing road conditions and single-track roads across the area. It was noted that many bridges are historic with traffic and weight restrictions. Road conditions and traffic management were cited as existing critical issues already under pressure. • Health – concerns were raised over the impact on health due to the proposed proximity of the OHL to residents and schools. • Agriculture – concerns were raised over the impact to farming practices (e.g. size of plant operating around OHL	• Water resources – please see our response in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under heading **Flooding and Water Resources.** • Access – please see our response in **Table 3.2: Community impact** under heading **Roads and Access**. • Health – please see our responses in **Table 3.2: Community impact** under heading **Health and Safety**, and **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF).** • Agriculture – please see our response in **Table 3.4: Economic impact** under heading **Agriculture and Farming**, and **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under **heading Flooding and Water Resources**. • Technical issues – please see our response **in Table 3.2: Community impact** under heading **Electromagnetic Interference**.

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	and towers) and access to fields and impacts on prime agricultural land. Concerns were also noted regarding biosecurity issues. The impact on field drains from tracking, construction and excavating was a further concern. • Technical issues – internet and phone services are very poor in the area and some Wi-Fi connections are provided via line-of-sight receivers; many concerns were raised over the impact to internet and telecommunication services from electromagnetic interference. It was noted that some towers are positioned directly in-between internet provider towers and properties that rely on them. The area is also used for low flying military aircraft. Concerns were also raised about the impact of the OHL impact on the existing sewerage system which would be significantly impacted.	
Section B – Location 2: Padanaram	**Location 2 Padanaram: Potential Alignment 2a and Alternative Alignment 2b** A number of respondents referred to Location 2 Padanaram in their feedback specifically; a minority of these respondents stated a preference, as noted below. Of those respondents who expressed a preference, some indicated a preference for Potential Alignment 2a over Alternative Alignment 2b. Key points raised are listed below: • some felt that Potential Alignment 2a has an OHL near it already and infrastructure should be kept together to minimise impacts elsewhere, and therefore Potential Alignment 2a was the most appropriate alignment. • it was felt that Alternative Alignment 2b would have a more significant impact on telecommunications than Potential	It is recognised that some of the respondents to the consultation expressed a preference for Alternative Alignment 2b. The appraisal of alternative alignments presented in the Consultation Document identified that the Potential Alignment 2a was slightly less constrained by a number of environmental factors than Alternative Alignment 2b, including for cultural heritage and forestry land uses, although for most criteria there were similar levels of environmental constraint for the two alternative alignments. On balance it was considered that the Potential Alignment 2a was less constrained overall in relation to environmental and technical criteria, and it is the slightly lower cost option. Please refer to the Consultation Document for further details of the comparative appraisal of the alternatives.

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	Alignment 2a as an internet service provider tower would be directly blocked. • Potential Alignment 2a alignment would significantly reduce the impact to prime agricultural farmland and operations of farmland compared to Alternative Alignment 2b. • concerns were raised by ACAS about the potential impact on cultural heritage assets including Ballinshoe Castle, citing a preference for Potential Alignment 2a to reduce setting impact. Of those respondents expressing a preference, some instead indicated a preference for Alternative Alignment 2b over Potential Alignment 2a. Key points raised are listed below: • Angus Council noted they understand the rationale for Potential Alignment 2a in relation to landscape and visual impacts. However, the Council also noted that Potential Alignment 2a could result in greater impacts on residential receptors north of Padanaram around Ballinshoe and to some residential and farm settings in comparison to Alternative Alignment 2b. • some residents of Padanaram were concerned that the existing OHL near the village has not been considered in the assessments and residents would be over-exposed to the potential detrimental environmental, socio-economic and health effects of the OHL with the introduction of Potential Alignment 2a. It was felt to be unfair to encumber a community with an additional OHL when it could be placed further away with Alternative Alignment 2b. Some people living in Padanaram indicated that they already experienced	We have reviewed the findings of the environmental, technical and cost appraisals which were presented in the Consultation Document in light of the feedback received. In response to the main points raised: • Both alignments were developed to avoid the main settlement area at Padanaram and the constraints associated with proximity to properties, and related issues such as visual amenity have been captured in the appraisals of the alternatives set out in the Consultation Document. • Proximity to property (within approximately 300 m of the alignment LoDs) and potential for adverse visual amenity and related effects such as operational noise from the OHL is considered to be similar for both alignments, and the OHL alignment will be developed to maintain a target separation distance of at least 170 m from properties wherever possible, taking account of all relevant constraints. • Please see **Table 3.2: Community impact** for responses on health and for mitigation of potential noise effects and **Table 3.4: Economic impact** in relation to socio-economic issues. • The level of constraint from farmland and areas at risk of flooding is not materially different between the two alternatives. Similarly, the level of constraint from migratory birds such as geese and swans was appraised as being comparable for the options considered, taking account of information from bird surveys. • Alternative Alignment 2b has been evaluated as being more technically constrained than the Potential Alignment 2a in

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	significant noise impacts from the existing OHL, noting that the conductor 'crackles' and is audible across the village. • the route of the OHL near Padanaram of Potential Alignment 2a would have a direct impact on migratory geese and swans that fly across that area. • Alternative Alignment 2b was considered to significantly reduce the impact to farmland compared to Potential Alignment 2a. • Potential Alignment 2a includes works to protect a gas main and was therefore considered to have more significant construction impacts than Alternative Alignment 2b. • some respondents, including Forfar Community Council, preferred Alternative Alignment 2b based on the fewer number of dwellings impacted and that it would be less impacted by flooding. It was felt that since SSEN Transmission had widened the route to benefit Padanaram, Alternative Alignment 2b would be the only alignment that would provide this benefit. Many respondents stated there is a preference for an alignment that minimises the impacts on communities and the environment; suggestions from the local community indicated a desire to discuss alternatives or some route adjustments with SSEN Transmission and re-evaluate the project's routing and construction plan in this area.	relation to proximity to an adjacent high pressure gas pipeline. We have also considered relevant feedback from statutory consultees on the constraints for each alternative alignment including those relating to areas of population, cultural heritage designations, landscape character, visual amenity and natural heritage (see our responses in **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**). Consultation feedback has been used to inform SSEN Transmission's selection of the Potential Alignment to be taken forward as part of the overall Proposed Alignment in Section B; please see **Section 4.2: Outcome of Consultation on Potential Alignment and Alternative Alignments (Locations 1-8)** of this report.
Section B – Location 3: Justinhaugh	**Location 3 Justinhaugh: Potential Alignment 3a and Alternative Alignment 3b**	The appraisal of alternative alignments presented in the Consultation Document identified that the Potential Alignment 3a was slightly less constrained in relation to environmental factors than Alternative Alignment 3b, primarily as it offers

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	A number of respondents referred to Location 3 Justinhaugh in their feedback specifically, and some of these respondents stated a preference, as noted below. Of those respondents expressing a preference, feedback indicated that some preferred Potential Alignment 3a over Alternative Alignment 3b. Key points raised are listed below: • Angus Council noted and understood the rationale for the preference for Potential Alignment 3b, also noting that both alignments involve challenges relating to the crossing of the River South Esk. • any OHL along Alternative Alignment 3b would be seen from the A90 and from houses near the A90 which would look down on the OHL. This was not the case with Potential Alignment 3a. • concerns were raised from ACAS regarding the potential to impact cultural heritage assets, including Battledykes Roman Camp and Battledykes Cairn, with some respondents citing a preference in this regard for Potential Alignment 3a. • the crossing of the river by Alternative Alignment 3b was raised as a concern due to flooding issues, and flooding was considered less of an issue with Potential Alignment 3a. • concerns were raised about the suitability of local roads for access routes with large machinery, particularly for Alternative Alignment 3b. Potential Alignment 3a was considered to be nearer to a wider and more suitable road than Alternative Alignment 3b.	greater potential to avoid impacts on the River South Esk SAC and its flood plain. For most other criteria there were similar levels of environmental constraint for the two alternative alignments. On balance it was considered that the Potential Alignment 3a was less constrained overall in relation to environmental and technical criteria. There is no material difference in costs between the two alternative alignments appraised. Please refer to the Consultation Document for further details of the comparative appraisal of the alternatives. We have reviewed the findings of the environmental, technical and cost appraisals which were presented in the Consultation Document in light of the feedback received. In response to the main points raised: • Proximity to property (within approximately 300 m of the alignment LoDs) is considered to be similar for both alternatives and the OHL alignment will be developed to maintain a target separation distance of at least 170 m from properties wherever possible, taking account of all relevant constraints. • There is potential for adverse effects on views and visual amenity from some properties adjacent to both alternatives and these will be assessed further in the EIA. Alternative Alignment 3b crosses a pronounced area of raised ground north-west of Battledykes which was considered to have particular landscape and visual constraint compared with the Potential Alignment 3a. • Both alternatives cross the River South Esk which formed a key part of the appraisal of several environmental criteria. The Potential Alignment 3a would span the river and its

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	• it was noted by Esk DSFB that both Potential Alignment 3a and Alternative Alignment 3b would affect salmon spawning grounds as both cross the River South Esk. • it was considered by some that Alternative Alignment 3b would have adverse detrimental impacts on farmland and the residential properties at Craigeassie and that it would sterilise farmland, with Potential Alignment 3a preferred in this regard. Of those respondents who expressed a preference, feedback indicated that some preferred Alternative Alignment 3b over Potential Alignment 3a. Key points raised are listed below: • some respondents expressed strong concerns with regard to Potential Alignment 3a, particularly in relation to the lower number of homes and residential properties that would be impacted by Alternative Alignment 3b, citing impacts on amenity, noise, electromagnetic interference, environmental and visual concerns. It was felt that noise impacts from the OHL during operation could not be mitigated. It was noted that SSEN Transmission's target was to site the OHL no closer than 170 m from homes, whereas Potential Alignment 3a proposed the OHL within 120 m of homes. • visual impact on viewpoints in the area of Potential Alignment 3a would be significant; of note would be the impact on the view north to the Glens across the River South Esk. Alternative Alignment 3b would be less detrimental.	flood plain with reduced level of constraint on surface and groundwaters and less potential to impact on the SAC from construction of the towers compared with the Alternative Alignment 3b. The potential to mitigate issues for recreational fishing will be discussed further by SSEN Transmission with landowners and other key consultees. • Please see **Table 3.2 Community impact** for responses on health and for mitigation of potential noise effects and on road access including disturbance during construction. • The level of constraint from cultural heritage designations and from farmland is not materially different between the two alternatives. • The Potential Alignment 3a includes some tower locations which involve more challenging topography for construction access; however it has been evaluated as being less technically constrained overall than Alternative Alignment 3b. We have also considered relevant feedback from statutory and non-statutory consultees on the constraints for each alternative alignment, including those relating to areas of population, hydrology, cultural heritage designations, landscape character, visual amenity and natural heritage (see our responses in **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback** and **Appendix D: Non-statutory Consultee Feedback**). Further discussions have also been held with Angus Council to review landscape, visual and ecological constraints for both alternative alignments and to identify opportunities for mitigation which will be taken forward into the final alignment design and EIA.

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	• respondents commented that Potential Alignment 3a's impacts would be greater due to sky-lining as the OHL would be located on raised ground. • concerns were raised relating to the crossing of the River South Esk by Potential Alignment 3a, particularly in relation to aquatic ecology, salmon spawning, fishing beats and osprey nesting. • it was noted that both Potential Alignment 3a and Alternative Alignment 3b would impact salmon spawning grounds as both cross the River Esk. • concerns were raised about Potential Alignment 3a regarding the risk of climatic events being exacerbated; for example, the stability of riverbanks causing landslides in the area due to construction of the OHL, which was considered to be less of an issue with Alternative Alignment 3b.	Consultation feedback has been used to inform SSEN Transmission's selection of the Potential Alignment to be taken forward as part of the overall Proposed Alignment in Section B, please see **Section 4.2: Outcome of Consultation on Potential Alignment and Alternative Alignments (Locations 1-8)** of this report.
Section B – Location 4: Careston	**Location 4 Careston: Potential Alignment 4a and Alternative Alignments 4b, 4c, 4d and 4e** A large number of respondents specifically referred to Location 4 Careston in their feedback; a large proportion of these respondents stated a preference, as noted below. A number of respondents stated the alignments had been introduced 'suddenly' without following due process. Respondents also suggested several alternative routes (e.g. one named Alternative Alignment 4f), including some minor realignments to minimise environmental damage. Respondents urged SSEN Transmission to re-assess alignment options in this area before considering certain alignments at the EIA stage.	It is recognised that there is a complex set of alternative alignments in this location; however, all options were fully appraised and this was made available within the information prepared for the alignment consultation. A wide range of preferences for alternative alignments in this location was received in response to the consultation. The alignment alternatives in this location were identified by SSEN Transmission within the area of the Proposed Route Option B1.1. This route option was taken forward following extensive consultation in 2023 and earlier in 2024 on route options. The width of the route option (referred to as a Refined Route) was widened and information on this was presented in materials published for the March 2024 Additional Routes public

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	Of those respondents who expressed a preference, feedback indicated that some preferred Potential Alignment 4a over Alternative Alignments 4b, 4c, 4d and 4e. Key points raised are listed below: • many respondents cited a preference for Potential Alignment 4a due to its lesser impacts on the environment, residents, properties, and visual amenity compared to the Alternative Alignments. • concerns were raised by HES and ACAS regarding the potential to impact cultural heritage assets including Vayne Castle, Vayne Standing Stone and Law of Windsor Cairn, with some respondents citing a preference for Potential Alignment 4a. Potential Alignment 4a is the most northern and furthest from Careston Castle, Kintrockat House and Brechin Castle listed buildings. • HES confirmed that the Potential Alignment 4a was considered to have the least potential for impact on key designated sites (scheduled monuments and listed building). • it was noted by Angus Council that Potential Alignment 4a was situated within a larger scale landscape and therefore may be more suitable for larger structures than the Alternative Alignments. • some respondents felt Potential Alignment 4a was preferred as it runs in a straighter line, therefore it would be better for the environment and the community as it would have fewer towers, fewer trees felled, fewer access roads built and therefore less of an impact on the landscape compared to the Alternative Alignments.	consultation. The route was specifically widened in the Careston location to provide flexibility to develop an OHL alignment considering proximity to properties, and the alternative alignments which were presented in the September to October 2024 alignment consultation were broadly developed within this area. The appraisal of alternative alignments presented in the Consultation Document identified that Alternative Alignment 4d was slightly less constrained in relation to environmental criteria than the Potential Alignment 4a. The principal differences were identified in relation to greater constraint from areas of LEPO woodland and associated sensitive woodland habitats and greater potential for changes to landscape character from loss of mature woodland. For most other environmental criteria there were similar levels of environmental constraint for the Potential Alignment 4a and Alternative Alignment 4d. Alternative Alignments 4b, 4c and 4e were the least preferred overall from an environmental perspective. Please refer to the Consultation Document for further details of the comparative appraisal of the alternatives. The appraisal identified a clear preference for the Potential Alignment 4a on technical grounds. This alignment is also located to the north of, and distant from, the larger settlements in the vicinity of Careston and Little Brechin. On balance it was considered that the Potential Alignment 4a was the least constrained option overall. We have reviewed the findings of the environmental, technical and cost appraisals which were presented in the Consultation Document in light of the feedback received. In response to the main points raised:

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	• concerns were raised about the Alternative Alignments over impacts on Careston Castle, health risks and damage to arable land, and in this regard respondents cited a preference for Potential Alignment 4a. • concerns were raised by Angus Council that Alternative Alignment 4c would have more of an impact on the River South Esk LLA in comparison to Potential Alignment 4a which was preferred in this regard. Concerns were also raised that the LLAs were not considered fully as they were only designated in early 2024. • Potential Alignment 4a would potentially avoid further deterioration of mobile and Wi-Fi services in the area compared to the Alternative Alignments. • Potential Alignment 4a was considered by some to cross poorer quality and flood-prone farmland, and therefore it was more appropriate for OHL development than Alternative Alignments 4d and 4e. • Potential Alignment 4a and Alternative Alignments 4b and 4d were considered by the Esk DSFB as preferable as they were noted to be located above the natural upstream limit of salmonid migration. Of those respondents expressing a preference, feedback indicated that some preferred Alternative Alignment 4b over Potential Alignment 4a and the other Alternatives. Key points raised are listed below: • Alternative Alignment 4b would have less impact on valuable woodland areas and wildlife than Potential Alignment 4a.	• Proximity to property (within approximately 300 m of the alignment LoDs) has been reconfirmed and the Potential Alignment 4a is constrained by a slightly greater number of properties than the other alternative alignments. However, it provides the opportunity to maintain a greater distance between the OHL and residential properties, particularly around the groups of properties in the area of Careston. The OHL alignment will be developed to maintain a target separation distance of at least 170 m from properties wherever possible, taking account of all relevant constraints. • There is a clear difference in landscape and visual constraints, with Alternative Alignments 4c and 4e least preferred due largely to their alignment over a prominent and elevated ridge feature. Alternative Alignment 4b is considered to be more visually constrained than Alternative Alignment 4d and the Potential Alignment 4a due to its proximity and wrapping around receptors at Montboy. • All of the alternative alignments would require some loss of woodlands including areas designated as LEPO associated with riparian planting at watercourse crossings and the woodlands at Duns Wood and Lochty Wood. The Potential Alignment 4a would intersect part of Lochty Wood and is more constrained in this location than the comparable Alternative Alignments 4b and 4d; however, it is considered that groundwater dependent habitats associated with the woodland area could be avoided or mitigated. Alternative Alignment 4d also intersects part of Barrelwell Bog LNCS which can be avoided with the Potential Alignment 4a. The OHL design will be developed to minimise mature woodland loss and wherever possible provide mitigation; for example,

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	• Alternative Alignment 4b would not cause as much disruption as Potential Alignment 4a as it would traverse poorer agricultural ground and very recent conifer planting. • some respondents cited a preference for Alterative Alignment 4b due to its perceived lesser impacts on residents and properties compared to Potential Alignment 4a and the other alternatives. A few respondents considered that Alternative Alignment 4b would attract less opposition from residents than Potential Alignment 4a. • it was considered that Alternative Alignment 4b would potentially avoid further deterioration of mobile and Wi-Fi services in the area compared to Potential Alignment 4a and the other alternatives. • Alternative Alignment 4b has poorer quality and flood-prone farmland, and lends itself more to OHL development than Alternative Alignments 4d and 4e. Of those respondents who expressed a preference, feedback indicated that some preferred Alternative Alignment 4c over Potential Alignment 4a and other Alternatives. Key points raised are listed below: • it was felt that Alternative Alignment 4c would have less impact on valuable woodland areas and wildlife than Potential Alignment 4a. • some considered that Alternative Alignment 4c would have less impact on residents and the landscape than Potential Alignment 4a and Alternative Alignments 4b and 4d. • some respondents cited a preference for Alterative Alignment 4c due to its perceived lesser impacts on	through seeking opportunities to regenerate native scrub and woodland in cleared areas. • The Potential Alignment 4a and Alternative Alignments 4b and 4d are considered to be less constrained than Alternative Alignments 4c and 4e in relation to the setting of designated cultural heritage sites, with no material difference between them in terms of their potential for effects on archaeology. • All of the alternatives require crossing the Noran Water (which forms part of the River South Esk SAC); however, there is no material difference in the level of constraint for flood risk or in the potential to impact water quality of the watercourses during construction. • The level of constraint from farmland is not considered to be materially different amongst the five alternative alignments. • The technical appraisal of the alternatives has not identified any significant constraint with respect to telecommunication links. The Potential Alignment 4a follows the shortest and most direct alignment and whilst it is slightly more constrained in relation to high pressure gas pipeline proximity (than Alternative Alignment 4b), it is less constrained in this respect than the other alternatives and it is considered that all issues could be managed and mitigated. Further ecological and hydrological fieldwork has also been undertaken in areas of sensitive woodland habitats and for potential private water supplies to properties. Survey work will

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	residents and properties compared to Potential Alignment 4a and the other alternatives. Some felt Alternative Alignment 4c would attract less opposition than Potential Alignment 4a. • Alternative Alignment 4c would potentially avoid further deterioration of mobile and Wi-Fi services in the area compared to Potential Alignment 4a and the other alternatives. • some respondents felt that Alternative Alignment 4c has poorer quality and flood-prone farmland, and lends itself more to OHL development than Alternative Alignments 4d and 4e. • it was felt that Alternative Alignment 4c would help protect the River Cruick and its valley more than Potential Alignment 4a and other alternatives. Of those respondents expressing a preference, feedback indicated that some preferred the Alternative Alignment 4d over Potential Alignment 4a and other Alternatives. Key points raised are listed below: • some respondents felt that Alternative Alignment 4d would attract less opposition than Potential Alignment 4a. • it was considered that fewer people would be impacted by Alternative Alignment 4d compared to Potential Alignment 4a and Alternative Alignments 4b and 4c. • Alternative Alignment 4d would have less impact on valuable woodland areas and wildlife than Potential Alignment 4a. Alternative Alignment 4d would be better	inform the EIA for the Proposed Alignment and the identification of relevant mitigation measures. We have also considered relevant feedback from statutory consultees on the constraints for each alternative alignment including those relating to areas of population, cultural heritage designations, landscape character, visual amenity and natural heritage (see our responses in **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**). Consultation feedback has been used to inform SSEN Transmission's selection of the Potential Alignment to be taken forward as part of the overall Proposed Alignment in Section B, please see **Section 4.2** of this report.

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	screened by trees and would have a lower impact on visual amenity. • it was felt that Alternative Alignment 4d poses the lowest risk to the mains gas pipeline in the area. • it was considered that Alternative Alignment 4d would not cause as much disruption as Potential Alignment 4a and could traverse agricultural ground and very recent conifer planting. • some considered that Alternative Alignment 4d would have the least impact to the environment. • it was considered that Alternative Alignment 4d would help protect the River Cruick and its valley. Of those respondents who expressed a preference, feedback indicated that some preferred Alternative Alignment 4e over Potential Alignment 4a. Key points raised are listed below: • some respondents felt Alternative Alignment 4e was the most direct option and would attract less opposition than Potential Alignment 4a. • it was felt that Alternative Alignment 4e would have less impact on valuable woodland areas and wildlife than Potential Alignment 4a. • it was considered that Alternative Alignment 4e would have less of an impact on residents and the landscape than Potential Alignment 4a and Alternative Alignments 4b and 4d.	

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	• some respondents considered that Alternative Alignment 4e was more acceptable than Potential Alignment 4a and Alterative Alignment 4b. Of note, a large number of strong concerns were raised by respondents in relation to Potential Alignment 4a without stating a preferred alternative alignment: • a number of residents indicated that the number of households within 200 m of Potential Alignment 4a was significantly underestimated in the consultation documents and that Potential Alignment 4a would impact the greatest number of residents. Potential Alignment 4a is proposed to run 80 m north of the Lochty Council Houses, which is considered too close, while the OHL is also considered too close to properties at Blackhall, Findowrie Cottages and Lochty Cottages. There is a pinch point at Lochty with multiple properties that needs further consideration. • some respondents felt that the sightlines to and from the Caterthuns and the Angus Glens had not been considered. The 'Edzell to Kirriemuir tourist route' was also stated to have not been considered.	
Section C – Overall (No Alternatives)	• Location specific points: – respondents cited the following locations as areas of concern: Careston, Lochty, Angus Glens area, Little Brechin, Fettercairn and Luthermuir, mainly due to the impact of the OHL on communities and the Mearns countryside.	The OHL in Section C passes through largely rural undulating areas where agriculture is extensive, and where the Potential Alignment crosses several areas of prime agricultural land. A number of woodlands consisting of largely commercial forestry are intersected by the Potential Alignment where these could not be avoided in the design development process, notably at Brechin Wood and Lady Jane's Plantation.

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	• Landscape and visual – concerns about impacts on the Mearns countryside. • Ecology – specific concerns included the impact on ancient woodland, veteran trees and red squirrels, with specific mention of Drumhendry Plantation. In addition, impacts were identified by NatureScot (see **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**) on the Loch of Kinnordy SPA, SSSI and Ramsar, the Montrose Basin SSSI, SPA and Ramsar including Dun's Dish SSSI, Elsie Moss SSSI and the North Esk and West Water Palaeochannels SSSI. • Cultural heritage – HES identified the potential for a number of cultural heritage assets in Section C to be impacted (e.g. Finavon Fort, Stracathro Roman Camp and Witch Hillock, burial mound and stone setting and the Caterthuns, hillforts). • Agriculture – concerns raised about the impact of the project on the alluvial plain's agricultural value and the impact on rare breed Clydesdale horses which are bred in the area. It was noted that the lowest OHL cable would be 9 m from the ground, however crop sprayer machinery when folded up is 10 m in height, therefore causing operational problems for farmers. • Access – concerns were mentioned about the impact of the proposed project on local infrastructure, including traffic and road conditions in Little Brechin. • Water resources and flooding – the removal of trees from Drumhendry Plantation would increase flood risk for a number of properties. Concerns were raised regarding surface waters from the Edzell airbase; the Black Burn runs	The alignment has been developed wherever possible to minimise effects on communities, landowners, and the environment. The alignment will avoid works impacting sensitive areas and is being developed working closely with landowners to minimise disruption to local communities and land-based activities. We have aimed to route the OHL a target distance of 170 m or more from residential properties and to maintain a minimum distance of 100 m where possible, and taking account of the other land use, environmental and technical constraints. We will continue to discuss access and construction arrangements with landowners and land managers to reduce disturbance. • Landscape and visual – please see our response in **Table 3.2 Community impact** under heading **Landscape and Visual.** • Ecology – please see our response in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under heading **Biodiversity, Habitats, Protected Species and Designated Sites**. Our full response to NatureScot is set out in **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback.** • Cultural heritage – please see our response in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under heading **Cultural Heritage**. Our full responses to HES and ACAS are set out in **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback.** • Agriculture – we will work with farmers and landowners to minimise potential for disruption to agricultural operations from OHL installation. Please also see our response in **Table**

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	through the airbase and the site drainage outfalls to the burn, then through Drumhendry Plantation and Inverury Woods, increasing the risk of contamination exposure to a number of properties if disturbed during construction. • Compensation and community benefits – suggestions included cycle paths, with locations mentioned for potential improvements including Westwater House and Westside Edzell. Suggestions also included tree planting to soften the visual impact of the proposed OHL, specifically around Fettercairn.	**3.4: Economic impact** under heading **Agriculture and Farming**. • Access – please see our response in **Table 3.2 Community impact** under heading **Roads and Access.** • Water resources – please see our response in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under heading **Flooding and Water Resources.** Risk from any identified sources of ground or water contamination will be considered in the EIA as appropriate. • Compensation and community benefits – we are grateful to all respondents that have suggested community benefits that might be useful for the area, and these have been added to **Table 3.4: Economic impact** under heading **Compensation and Community Benefits**. Please also see our response in **Table 3.2 Community impact**.
Section D – Overall (No Alternatives)	• Location: – respondents expressed concerns regarding impacts of the project on various locations including Auchenblae, Braes of the Mearns, Strathmore valley, Howe of the Mearns, Monboddo, Northhill Park, Laurencekirk, the A90, and the Mearns. Key concerns included the visual impact on landscapes. • Landscape and visual – concerns about impacts on the Mearns countryside. • Ecology and ornithology – concerns were expressed by NatureScot over impacts to breeding raptors as well as the Montrose Basin SSSI, SPA and Ramsar, the Fowlsheugh SPA	In Section D the undulating topography, particularly in the northern part of the section, is a key challenge to alignment and avoiding hilltops and prominent ridgelines has been an important part of the OHL design. The landscape crossed by the Potential Alignment near Fordoun and the A90 trunk road is largely low-lying and flat farmland, continuing into more elevated land between Auchenblae and Fetteresso Forest where it intersects with Knock Hill, Droop Hill and elevated land at Jacksbank. The Potential Alignment crosses some areas of land classed as prime agricultural land and a few areas of woodland comprised mainly of commercial forestry or coniferous plantations.

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	and the Loch of Lumgair SSSI (see **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**). • Cultural heritage – HES and ACAS identified the proximity of a number of cultural heritage assets in Section D which may be affected by the proposals, including Droop Hill Cairns and Cairn o'Mount (see **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**). • Local businesses – concerns were expressed about the impact on farming and local businesses in areas like the Braes of the Mearns.	We have aimed to route the OHL a target distance of 170 m or more from residential properties and to maintain a minimum distance of 100 m where possible and taking account of the other land use, environmental and technical constraints. The OHL alignment and access track designs have been developed to avoid and reduce impacts on habitats and species as far as possible. • Landscape and visual – please see our response in **Table 3.2 Community impact** under heading **Landscape and Visual.** • Ecology and ornithology – please see our response in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under heading **Biodiversity, Habitats, Protected Species and Designated Sites**. Our full response to NatureScot is out in **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**. • Cultural heritage – please see our response in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under heading **Cultural Heritage.** Our full responses to HES and ACAS are set out in **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback.** • Local businesses – please see our responses in **Table 3.4: Economic impact** under headings **Agriculture and Farming** and **Tourism and Other Local Businesses**.
Section E – Overall	• Location: – residents' concerns, particularly in areas like Drumoak, Durris, Crathes, Banchory and near Strachan, areas near Kirkton of Durris, including West of Durris and Milton of Durris farms, relate to the impact of the OHL on the communities and visual aspects.	Section E consists of a number of commercial forests and is sparsely populated. In Section E we have aimed to route the OHL a target distance of 170 m or more from residential properties and to maintain a minimum distance of 100 m where possible taking account of the other land uses, environmental and technical constraints. Alternative alignments were developed following our previous consultations in early 2024 to

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	– particular concern for routes in close proximity of primary schools and residential properties in Drumoak. – the feedback also included concerns about the visibility of the proposed alignment from locations like Strachan. – concerns were raised about the proposed alignment of the OHL near Upper Ashentilly and Hardhillock suggesting course adjustments. – respondents proposed specific alternative routes, such as moving the line to the east side of the A90 and to the east of Kirkton of Durris to minimise residential impacts or using existing routes through Fetteresso forest. • Landscape and visual – concerns about visual impacts. • Cultural heritage – HES and ACAS (see **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**) identified the presence of a number of cultural heritage assets in Section E which may be affected by the proposals, including Nether Auquhollie Standing Stone, Cairn-Mon-Earn cairn and Campstone Field System. • Ecology and ornithology – concerns were expressed over impacts to breeding raptors. Other concerns were raised by NatureScot (see **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**) about the impact to the River Dee SAC, the Fowlsheugh SPA, and the Loch of Skene SPA, SSSI and Ramsar site. The Dee DSFB (see **Appendix D: Non-statutory Consultee Feedback**) raised concerns that the alignments cross the River Dee near important wild salmon fisheries and cross over or are adjacent to important salmon fishing pools, EMF effects should be assessed on migratory fish. The	find alternative ways of maintaining separation of the OHL from key communities such as Drumoak. The Potential Alignment is constrained by visual considerations in relation to sensitive receptors from small settlements including near Kirkton of Durris as well as from scattered residential properties. Other visual receptors include users of road networks such as the A957 and surrounding minor roads and people engaging in outdoor recreation within the area such as in Durris Forest. Commercial forestry is prevalent in this section at Fetteresso Forest and Durris Forest and a few smaller areas of woodlands are intersected by the Potential Alignment north of Durris. The Potential Alignment follows the route of an existing OHL for much of Section E to help reduce impacts from the proposed new OHL as far as possible by containing transmission infrastructure within a single corridor. The undulating topography is a key challenge to alignment and avoiding hilltops and prominent ridgelines has been an important part of the OHL design. The OHL alignment and access track designs have been developed to avoid and reduce impacts on habitats and species as far as possible. • Landscape and visual – please see our response in **Table 3.2: Community impact** under heading **Landscape and Visual.** • Cultural heritage – please see our response in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under heading **Cultural Heritage.** Our full responses to HES and ACAS are set out in **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback.**

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	Alignment crosses the Dee, Cowie and Carron catchments and will cross important spawning and juvenile rearing areas for Atlantic salmon and sea trout on tributaries such as the Gormack and Sheeoch burns.	• Ecology and ornithology – please see our response in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under heading **Biodiversity, Habitats, Protected Species and Designated Sites**. Our full response to NatureScot is out in **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback** and the Dee DSFB in **Appendix D: Non-statutory Consultee Feedback**.
Section E – Location 5: Durris	**Location 5 Durris: Potential Alignment 5a and Alternative Alignment 5b** A large number of respondents referred to Location 5 Durris in their feedback specifically, a number of these respondents stated a preference, as noted below. Of those respondents who expressed a preference, feedback indicated that the majority had a preference for Potential Alignment 5a over Alternative Alignment 5b. Key points raised are listed below: • Potential Alignment 5a was considered preferable to Alternative Alignment 5b by some as it would have a lower impact on the community, farms and properties. Alternative Alignment 5b runs close to properties in Drumoak. • a few respondents support the presented Potential Alignment 5a as it is an alignment that travels safely to the west of Drumoak and affects fewer properties. • some respondents expressed a preference for Potential Alignment 5a over Alternative Alignment 5b, noting that it runs close to fewer properties and it removes the necessity to pass closer to Drumoak and by the primary school and a woodland used by the schools.	The appraisal of alternative alignments presented in the Consultation Document identified that there was no clear overall preference between the Potential Alignment 5a and Alternative Alignment 5b on environmental criteria. Both alternative alignments would cross the River Dee SAC, the River Dee Special Landscape Area (SLA) and both would be proximate to a GDL. Whilst Alternative Alignment 5b is slightly more constrained in relation to a number of natural heritage criteria, the Potential Alignment 5a follows the course of an existing OHL for much of its length and would be located close to fewer residential properties particularly around the community of Drumoak. Please refer to the Consultation Document for further details of the comparative appraisal of the alternatives. On balance it was considered that the Potential Alignment 5a was less constrained overall. It is less constrained technically (although it would require realignment of a section of existing OHL) and it would be the lower cost option. We have reviewed the findings of the environmental, technical and cost appraisals which were presented in the Consultation Document in light of the feedback received. In response to the main points raised: • The location of the Potential Alignment 5a alongside an existing OHL for a part of its length is considered to help

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	• some felt that Potential Alignment 5a was the most favourable route as it would have the least impact on residents, the local community, and places of historical importance. • concerns were raised by ACAS regarding the potential to impact cultural heritage assets including Nether Auquhollie Standing Stone and Campstone Hill Field System and Cairns, citing a preference for Potential Alignment 5a to reduce potential setting impact. • feedback on Potential Alignment 5a considered it pragmatic due to it being parallel to an existing OHL, minimising disruption, while Alternative Alignment 5b was seen as impacting more residential properties. • strong concerns were raised relating to Alternative Alignment 5b from some residents, stating a preference for Potential Alignment 5a to avoid their properties being 'sandwiched' between two sets of OHL. • Other concerns about Alternative Alignment 5b included its interaction with farms and properties and with the Green Belt around Aberdeen. Of those respondents expressing a preference, feedback indicated that some had a preference for Alternative Alignment 5b over Potential Alignment 5a. Key points raised are listed below: • a few people considered Potential Alignment 5a to be unfair with the proposal of running a new OHL directly alongside the existing OHL, this double line would be of detriment to	contain and reduce the potential for amenity and disruption effects on people and communities and on land management activities compared with Alternative Alignment 5b by keeping transmission infrastructure in the same corridor and sharing access for installation and maintenance wherever possible. • The design of the Potential Alignment 5a and the existing Kintore to Fetteresso OHL has been reviewed at a key location near Wester Durris where the infrastructure would be in close proximity to properties (see **Section 4: Summary of Key Decisions**, **Table 4.1: Factors informing selection of Potential Alignment)**. • Overall Potential Alignment 5a is less constrained than Alternative Alignment 5b in relation to property proximity and has much greater separation from the large number of residential properties and a school at the settlement of Drumoak. • There are fewer scheduled monuments in proximity to the Potential Alignment 5a than Alternative Alignment 5b. Overall there is not considered to be a material difference in the level of constraint between the alternatives for cultural heritage, with the Potential Alignment 5a passing in proximity to Park House GDL and Alternative Alignment 5b close to the edge of Drum Castle GDL. Further ecological, forestry and hydrological fieldwork has also been undertaken in key areas along the Potential Alignment 5a. Survey work will inform the EIA for the Proposed Alignment and the identification of relevant mitigation measures.

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	those close to it in terms of health, wellbeing and quality of life, increasing noise, amenity and visual impacts. • HES noted that Potential Alignment 5a may be in key views of Park House GDL and therefore this alignment may be more impactful than Alternative Alignment 5b. However, HES also noted that Alternative Alignment 5b would be closer to Drum Castle GDL.	We have also taken into account relevant feedback from statutory consultees on the constraints for each alternative alignment including those relating to areas of population, cultural heritage designations, landscape character, visual amenity and natural heritage (see our responses in **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**). Further discussions will be held with HES to review the constraints associated particularly with potential impacts on the setting of the GDLs at Park House and Drum Castle (for the Potential Alignment 5a and Alternative Alignment 5b respectively) and opportunities for mitigation in the final design. Consultation feedback has been used to inform SSEN Transmission's selection of the Potential Alignment to be taken forward as part of the overall Proposed Alignment in Section E and F, please see **Section 4.2: Outcome of Consultation on Potential Alignment and Alternative Alignments (Locations 1-8)** of this report.
Section F – Overall	• Location: – respondents from Echt in particular expressed strong concerns to alignments that would bring the OHL closer to their communities. It was felt that Echt would be surrounded by OHLs. – significant concerns were raised about the negative impact on properties in the communities of Echt, Dunecht, and Drumoak. – particular concern was raised about the proximity of OHL to the schools in Drumoak and Echt due to potential for EMF exposure, noise impacts and fire risk. Such impacts	In Section F, the landscape crossed by the Potential Alignment is generally undulating with frequent woodlands, passing to the east of the Hill of Fare and Barmekin Hill in the northern part of the section. The Potential Alignment intersects with two small areas of prime agricultural land located between the Loch of Park and Drumoak but predominantly crosses areas of non-prime agricultural land. We have aimed to route the OHL a target distance of 170 m or more from residential properties and to maintain a minimum distance of 100 m where possible taking account of other land uses, environmental and technical constraints. Alternative alignments were developed following our previous consultations

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	extended to the woodland areas regularly used by the schools. – respondents felt that the 170 m buffer identified by SSEN Transmission as the separation distance between properties and the OHL was not being achieved. – questions were raised about the lack of alternative proposals for areas like Dunecht. – the proximity of the alternative alignments to historical sites such as Drum Castle Gardens and Normandykes Roman Camp was of concern to some respondents. – the visual impact of OHL on the wider Aberdeenshire countryside and specific areas like Broomfield, Barmekin Hill, Schoolhill, and Loch of Skene was raised with significant concern. – respondents considered there was a lack of thorough consideration of landscape, wildlife, and local community impacts in areas such as Dunecht, Echt, and Drumoak. – concerns were raised specifically about the OHL crossing in front of the Upper Park housing near Drumoak and the River Dee at West Park. Residents of Upper Park would have four OHLs within a few hundred meters of the properties. • Cultural heritage – HES and ACAS identified (**see Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**) the proximity of a number of cultural heritage assets in Section F which may be affected by the Potential Alignment, including scheduled sites at King's Well, Barmekin of Echt hillfort, Tillyorn Moated Homestead, East Finnercy Cairn, New Wester Echt	in early 2024 to find alternative ways of maintaining separation of the OHL from key communities such as Drumoak and Echt. The undulating topography is a key challenge to alignment and avoiding hilltops and prominent ridgelines has been an important part of the OHL design. The OHL alignment and access track designs have been developed to avoid and reduce impacts on habitats and species as far as possible, including areas of Ancient Woodland and Local Nature Conservation Sites, and to avoid interacting with water resources and flood risk areas where practicable. Regarding concerns about health impacts please see our response in **Table 3.2 Community impact** under heading **Health and Safety** and **Noise** and **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Electric and Magnetic Fields** and the information paper provided in the links. • Landscape and visual – please see our response in **Table 3.2: Community impact** under heading **Landscape and Visual.** • Cultural heritage – please see our response in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under heading **Cultural Heritage.** Our full responses to HES and ACAS are set out in **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback.** • Water resources – please see our response in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under heading **Flooding and Water Resources.** Risk from flooding has been an important consideration in the identification and appraisal of the Potential Alignment and the alternatives. • Ecology and ornithology – please see our response in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under heading **Biodiversity,**

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	Stone Circle and South Leylodge Steading Stone Circle. HES noted particular concerns in relation to potential for effects on the setting of South Leylodge Steading Stone Circle and provided comments in relation to proximity to designated Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs). • Water resources and flooding – a number of respondents noted that some areas in Section F are very prone to flooding and residents have photographic evidence of recent severe flood events. Tree felling and construction activities were considered by many likely to make the risk of flooding worse. • Ecology and ornithology – environmental and wildlife impacts were central to the feedback in this area, with multiple respondents expressing concern over the potential negative effects on local ecosystems such as peat bogs and ancient woodlands, and wildlife particularly geese, red squirrels, foxes, badgers and raptors including red kite. Some specific sites were mentioned by NatureScot (see **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**). Other concerns were raised regarding the impacts to the Loch of Park SSSI, and the Loch of Skene SPA, SSSI and Ramsar Site and Old Wood of Drum SSSI. • Community benefits – it was noted that the local school and nursery of Drumoak are looking to improve their outdoor learning areas. • Technical issues – the existing two major gas pipelines in this area are routinely patrolled by the police, it was considered that the introduction of a transmission OHL would increase the security risks in the area.	**Habitats, Protected Species and Designated Sites**. Our full response to NatureScot is out in **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**. Following selection of the Proposed Alignment we will undertake a detailed assessment of the potential impacts of the OHL on important habitats, protected species and designated areas including at Loch of Park SSSI and Loch of Skene SPA. • Community benefits – we are grateful to all respondents that have suggested community benefits that might be useful for the area, these have been added to **Table 3.4: Economic impact** under heading **Compensation and Community Benefits**. • Technical issues – we are working closely with gas pipeline operators to ensure that there will be no significant impacts from the OHL on pipeline infrastructure.

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
Section F – Location 6: North of Drumoak	**Location 6 North of Drumoak: Potential Alignment 6a and Alternative Alignments 6b and 6c** A large number of respondents referred to Location 6 North of Drumoak in their feedback specifically, some of these respondents stated a preference, as noted below. Of those respondents who expressed a preference, feedback indicated that the majority had a preference for Potential Alignment 6a over Alternative Alignments 6b and 6c. Key points raised are listed below: • some respondents noted that Alternative Alignment 6b would adversely affect Drumoak School and community and Alternative Alignment 6a would be preferable. • if Alternative Alignment 5b was chosen (to the south) then some respondents felt they would support the Alternative Alignment 6a or Alternative Alignment 6c rather than Alternative Alignment 6b, with Alternative Alignment 6b considered to be too close to many properties. • Alternative Alignment 6a was preferred by some to Alternative Alignment 6b on health, landscape and visual and other environmental grounds. Of those respondents who expressed a preference, feedback indicated that some had a preference for Alternative Alignment 6b over Potential Alignment 6a and Alternative Alignment 6c. Key points raised are listed below: • concerns were raised by National Trust Scotland (NTS) over the impact to Drum Castle and Drum Wood, in this respect Alternative Alignment 6b would be preferred. HES also	The Potential Alignment 6a and Alternative Alignments 6b and 6c form a sub-set of options on part of the Alternative Alignment 5b in Section E (see above). Consultation feedback has been used to inform SSEN Transmission's selection of the Potential Alignment to be taken forward as part of the overall Proposed Alignment in Section F. We have also taken into account relevant feedback from statutory consultees on the constraints for each alternative alignment particularly those relating to cultural heritage designations (see our responses in **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**). In response to the points raised it is recognised that there is a similar level of environmental constraint for all of the alternatives appraised. Proximity to the settlement of Drumoak is a key issue and the Potential Alignment 6a was considered to offer the greatest opportunity to maintain separation from the overhead line alignment in this respect. The constraints from designated cultural heritage sites in proximity to the alternative alignments was also finely balanced and further discussion would be required with statutory consultees to identify opportunities for mitigation. We propose to take forward the Potential Alignment 5a between Hurlie (in Section E) and Coldstream Plantation north of Drumoak (in Section F) as the Proposed Alignment - please see **Section 4.2: Outcome of Consultation on Potential Alignment and Alternative Alignments (Locations 1-8)** of this report. Therefore, none of the alternative alignments considered in Location 6 will be taken forward to the Proposed Alignment in

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	indicated this preference in relation to potential effects on the Drum Castle GDL. • from a farming perspective it was felt by some that Alternative Alignment 6b would have the least impact on farmland and some local businesses. Of those respondents expressing a preference, feedback indicated that some had a preference for Alternative Alignment 6c over Potential Alignment 6a and Alternative Alignment 6b. Key points raised are listed below: • if Alternative Alignment 5b was chosen then some respondents felt they would support the Potential Alignment 6a or Alternative Alignment 6c rather than Alternative Alignment 6b. • Potential Alignment 6c was preferred by some to Alternative Alignment 6b on health, landscape and visual and environmental grounds.	Section F since they are all sub-option associated with Alternative Alignment 5b
Section F – Location 7: Schoolhill[12]	**Location 7 Schoolhill: Potential Alignment 7a and Alternative Alignments 7b and 7c** A number of respondents referred to Location 7 Schoolhill in their feedback specifically, some of these respondents stated a preference, as noted below. Of those respondents expressing a preference, feedback indicated that some had a preference for Potential Alignment 7a	It is recognised that a range of different preferences for alternative alignments in this location were received in the responses to the consultation. In most cases there was a clear preference for Alternative Alignment 7c over the Potential Alignment 7a principally due to concerns relating to proximity of the OHL to properties and impacts on visual amenity. The appraisal of alternative alignments presented in the Consultation Document identified that the Potential Alignment 7a was slightly less constrained in relation to environmental

[12] Note Appendix E sets out a minor amendment for Location 7 in the September 2024 Consultation Document.

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	over Alternative Alignments 7b and 7c. Key points raised are listed below: • there was a preference for Potential Alignment 7a compared to Alternative Alignment 7b as Alternative Alignment 7b was considered too close to residential properties including some that are not shown on the mapping. • concerns were raised by HES and ACAS regarding the potential to impact cultural heritage assets including Tillyorn Moated Homestead, citing a preference for Potential Alignment 7a or Alternative Alignment 7c to reduce potential setting impact. • some felt there were fewer health risks associated with Potential Alignment 7a compared to Alternative Alignment 7b due to the multiple power lines and the overall safety of the proposed infrastructure in Alternative Alignment 7b. From the respondents who expressed a preference, feedback indicated that some had a preference for Alternative Alignment 7b over Potential Alignment 7a or Alternative Alignment 7c. Key points raised are listed below: • it was noted that wild geese are in constant flight near Potential Alignment 7a and Alternative Alignment 7c, and Alternative Alignment 7b was preferred on these grounds. Of those respondents expressing a preference, feedback indicated that the majority had a preference for Alternative Alignment 7c over Potential Alignment 7a or Alternative Alignment 7b. Key points raised are listed below:	criteria than Alternative Alignments 7b and 7c with Alternative Alignment 7b least preferred in relation to environmental criteria. The principal differences were identified in relation to lower constraints from regionally designated natural heritage sites, distinctive woodlands and proximity to designated cultural heritage sites particularly compared with Alternative Alignment 7b. The Potential Alignment 7a and Alternative Alignment 7c were considered to have slightly less hydrological constraint, principally due to their shorter spans over areas of potential flooding associated with the Gormack Burn. Please refer to the Consultation Document for further details of the comparative appraisal of the alternatives. We have reviewed the findings of the environmental, technical and cost appraisals for the alternative alignments which were presented in the Consultation Document. Taking account of the feedback provided, SSEN Transmission has reviewed a number of technical and environmental constraints in this area for the Potential Alignment 7a and Alternative Alignment 7c including those relating to flood risk, ground conditions and property proximity including related visual amenity effects. Drawing on further field survey findings for these alternatives and post-consultation design development of the OHL, the environmental and technical constraints previously associated with some tower positions for Alternative Alignment 7c have been reduced through tower relocation. Survey work will inform the EIA for the Proposed Alignment and the identification of relevant mitigation measures. We have also taken into account relevant feedback from statutory consultees on the constraints for each alternative alignment including those relating to cultural heritage

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	• Alternative Alignment 7c would reduce the visual and noise impacts to properties and it is the straighter simpler alignment. • Alternative Alignment 7c was considered to be furthest away from houses compared to Potential Alignment 7a or Alternative Alignment 7b. Alternative Alignment 7b is too close to residential properties and some people considered that Potential Alignment 7a is along one of the most densely populated areas outside Drumoak Village. • there was a preference for Alternative Alignment 7c compared to Potential Alignment 7a and Alternative Alignment 7b in relation to flooding, impacts on property and land and opportunity for compensatory tree planting grounds, although some slight amendments to Alternative Alignment 7c would be required. • some people noted that that Alternative Alignment 7c was preferred to safeguard the local bird populations. Alternative Alignment 7b places a tower in a low lying area with an established pond and runs through fields most frequently visited by the geese population. • some respondents felt there were fewer health risks associated with Alternative Alignment 7c compared to Alternative Alignment 7b due to the multiple power lines and the overall safety of the proposed infrastructure in Alternative Alignment 7b. • concerns were raised regarding the potential to impact cultural heritage assets including Tillyorn Moated Homestead, citing a preference for Potential Alignment 7a	designations and natural heritage (see our responses in **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**). Consultation feedback has been used to inform SSEN Transmission's selection of the Potential Alignment to be taken forward as part of the overall Proposed Alignment in Section F, please see **Section 4.2: Outcome of Consultation on Potential Alignment and Alternative Alignments (Locations 1-8)** of this report.

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	or Alternative Alignment 7c to reduce potential setting impact.	
Section F – Location 8: Echt	**Location 8 Echt: Potential Alignment 8a and Alternative Alignments 8b and 8c** A large number of respondents referred to Location 8 Echt in their feedback specifically, some of these respondents stated a preference, as noted below. Of those respondents expressing a preference, feedback indicated that some had a preference for Potential Alignment 8a over Alternative Alignments 8b and 8c. Key points raised are listed below: • Alternative Alignment 8b would be unacceptable to some Echt residents as it passes too close to Echt village, the primary school and playing fields, and the 170 m separation distance could not be achieved, core paths and planning application site boundaries were also being crossed. There was a preference expressed for either Potential Alignment 8a or Alternative Alignment 8c. • Potential Alignment 8a would be located close to fewer residential properties than Alternative Alignment 8b and is therefore less constrained in relation to proximity to communities, sensitive receptors, and visual amenity. • Potential Alignment 8a was supported by some respondents to ensure the route does not encroach on the Dunecht House Garden and Designed Landscape or the planning consent on the land adjacent, to the north and east of Echt for 25 dwellings.	It is recognised that a range of different preferences for alternative alignments in this location were received in the responses to the consultation. Most responses were not in favour of Alternative Alignment 8b due to its proximity to the community of Echt. The appraisal of alternative alignments presented in the Consultation Document identified that Alternative Alignment 8b was slightly less constrained in relation to environmental criteria than the Potential Alignment 8a. The principal differences were identified in relation to greater constraint from LEPO woodland and greater potential for changes to landscape character from loss of mature woodland associated with Alternative Alignment 8b. However Alternative Alignment 8b is located closer to a larger number and density of residential properties than the Potential Alignment 8a. The Potential Alignment 8a is not considered to be the least constrained option from a technical and environmental perspective across all criteria. The Potential Alignment 8a would however be located close to fewer residential properties than Alternative Alignment 8b and is therefore less constrained in relation to proximity to communities, sensitive receptors, and related visual amenity. On balance, the Potential Alignment 8a is therefore considered to be the least constrained option overall in this location. Please refer to the Consultation Document for further details of the comparative appraisal of the alternatives. We have reviewed the findings of the environmental, technical and cost appraisals which were presented in the Consultation

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	• it was considered by some respondents that Potential Alignment 8a and Alternative Alignment 8c would also benefit from greater visual screening from the existing trees which would mitigate the impact to the village of Echt during construction and operation. • concerns were raised by ACAS and HES regarding the potential to impact cultural heritage assets including East Finnercy Cairn, citing a preference for Potential Alignment 8a or 8b to reduce potential setting impact. Of the respondents who expressed a preference, feedback indicated that a minority had a preference for Alternative Alignment 8b over Potential Alignment 8a or Alternative Alignment 8c. Key points raised are listed below: • concerns were raised by ACAS and HES regarding the potential to impact cultural heritage assets including East Finnercy Cairn, citing a preference for Potential Alignment 8a or 8b to reduce potential setting impact. Of those respondents expressing a preference, feedback indicated that the majority had a preference for Alternative Alignment 8c over Potential Alignment 8a or Alternative Alignment 8b. Key points raised are listed below: • concerns were raised about Alternative Alignment 8b near Echt, and a preference was given for alignments that minimise visual impacts and avoid areas with planning permission, with a preference for Alternative Alignment 8c over Alternative Alignment 8b. • some respondents suggested Alternative Alignment 8c was the less disruptive alternative.	Document in light of the feedback received. In response to the main points raised: • Proximity to property (within approximately 200 m of the alignment LoDs) is considered to be similar for all three alternative alignments however Alternative Alignment 8b would be located in relatively close proximity to a large number of properties and a school in the settlement of Echt. • The OHL alignment for the Potential Alignment 8a will be developed to maintain a target separation distance of at least 170 m from properties wherever possible taking account of all relevant constraints. • Alternative Alignment 8b is less constrained in relation to landscape effects than the Potential Alignment 8a or Alternative Alignment 8c as it follows generally lower lying ground with lower loss of mature woodland. • All of the alternatives have potential for adverse effects on visual amenity. The Potential Alignment 8a and Alternative Alignment 8c may compromise visual amenity experienced from the wider landscape where the OHL crosses an area of elevated landform. In comparison, Alternative Alignment 8b would compromise visual amenity experienced by a large number of people at the settlement of Echt as the OHL would lie within close proximity views to residents and other people within this settlement. • All of the alternatives pass within close proximity to the southwestern edge of Dunecht House GDL. However, there is considered to be flexibility to position the alignments to avoid any direct impact on the designated area and there is

Potential Alignment	Summary of Key Feedback	Our Response
	• feedback indicated that Alternative Alignment 8b would be totally unacceptable to some Echt residents, with a preference for Potential Alignment 8a or Alternative Alignment 8c. • it was felt that Alternative Alignment 8c avoids the fields to the north close to the burn / tree line that have large bird populations. Alternative Alignment 8c also keeps the OHL as far from the school / village / fields used by the community as possible. • Alternative Alignment 8c was considered by some as the least impactful to the community and recreational space. • Some cited a preference for Alternative Alignment 8c over Alternative Alignment 8b for reduced visual impact on Echt and to avoid an area with planning permission.	not considered to be a material difference in cultural heritage constraints. • All alternatives would require some felling of LEPO woodlands, with Alternative Alignment 8b slightly less constrained than the Potential Alignment 8a and Alternative Alignment 8c in relation to habitat loss. We have also taken into account relevant feedback from statutory consultees on the constraints for each alternative alignment including those relating to cultural heritage designations and natural heritage (see our responses in **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**). Consultation feedback has been used to inform SSEN Transmission's selection of the Potential Alignment to be taken forward as part of the overall Proposed Alignment in Section F, please see **Section 4.2: Outcome of Consultation on Potential Alignment and Alternative Alignments (Locations 1-8)** of this report.

4 Summary of Key Decisions

4.1 Introduction

This Section summarises the key decisions made following our analysis and review of the consultation feedback presented in **Section 3.3: Feedback Related to the Proposed Development** and **3.4** and **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback and D** of this Report on Consultation (RoC).

The information presented below in **Section 4.2: Outcome of Consultation on Potential Alignment and Alternative Alignments (Locations 1-8)** summarises the outcome of the consideration of alternative alignments for the overhead line (OHL) in the eight locations presented during the consultation process. A summary is provided of the alternative alignments which will be taken forward by SSEN Transmission as part of the complete Proposed Alignment in these locations.

In **Section 4.3: Review of Additional Amendments to the Potential Alignment Considered from the Alignment Consultation** below, a summary is provided of other key decisions made in reaching a Proposed Alignment for the project, considering consultation feedback with respect to the Potential Alignment in areas outwith the eight Alternative Alignment locations.

Finally, **Section 4.4**: **The Proposed Alignment for the OHL** confirms the overall Proposed Alignment for the 400 kV OHL from Kintore to Tealing considering the decisions made on the alternatives.

4.2 Outcome of Consultation on Potential Alignment and Alternative Alignments (Locations 1 to 8)

SSEN Transmission's consultation in March to April 2024 on new OHL route options concluded with the publication of a RoC in August 2024 (see **Table 1.1: Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL project consultation rounds)**, which set out the Proposed Route Options to be taken forward for the alignment design stage of the OHL. Design development for the OHL alignment has since been taken forward in each of the six sections (A to F) of the project within those Proposed Route Options.

A series of Alternative Alignments was identified through this process in eight locations, and in these areas the options being considered were appraised in relation to technical, environmental and cost criteria in line with SSEN Transmission's routeing procedure. The findings of this work were presented in the consultation materials for the September to October 2024 alignment options consultation (see **Table 1.1: Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL project consultation rounds**). In each location, SSEN Transmission's identified Alternative Alignment preference (known as the Potential Alignment) was presented and feedback was sought from stakeholders on the alternatives and the appraisal findings which informed our preferences.

A summary of the consultation feedback received on the Potential Alignment and Alternative Alignments and our responses to this is set out in **Section 3.4: Section Specific Feedback Including the Alternative Alignments (Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments)** of this report. This feedback, including any new information provided by consultees and landowners, was reviewed by SSEN Transmission's engineering, environmental and land teams. In some of the locations where alternative alignments have been considered, further survey work was undertaken over the later months of 2024 (including for habitats, forestry, private water supplies, hydrology, cultural heritage and peat). The results of this work, where relevant, were analysed and a review was undertaken of the principal constraints which influenced the appraisals for the alternatives in each of the eight locations. The key criteria informing the identification of the Potential Alignment in each location and a summary of the factors influencing our decisions to reach a Proposed Alignment are set out in **Table 4.1: Factors informing selection of Potential Alignment**. This work led to the confirmation of the Potential Alignment in each location considering environmental, technical and cost criteria.

Table 4.1: Factors informing selection of Potential Alignment

Alignment Appraisal, Consultation Feedback and Review	Selection of Potential Alignment and Confirmation of Proposed Alignment
Section A. Location 1: Hayston Hill	
The appraisal of alternative alignments presented in the September 2024 Consultation Document (see **Table 1.1**) identified that the Potential Alignment 1a was slightly less constrained than Alternative Alignment 1b for a number of environmental criteria, including for landscape and visual amenity, potential to affect sensitive upland habitats, and the level of constraint from designated cultural heritage sites. The appraisal identified a similar level of constraint in relation to proximity to property for both alternative alignments. The appraisal also identified that there was a preference for the Potential Alignment 1a on technical grounds, including by avoiding areas of more challenging topography and elevation. We have considered the feedback provided on the alternative alignments (as set out in **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments**) and reviewed the findings of the environmental, technical and cost appraisals which were presented in the Consultation Document. The design of the Potential Alignment to the immediate north of the point where the alignment alternatives converge near Upper Hayston has subsequently been refined[13] to screen a proposed tower with existing trees and remove it from principal views to the east from residential properties at Jericho. We have also reviewed proximity to properties for the alternatives and consider that the findings of the appraisal reported in the Consultation Document remain applicable. We have also considered relevant feedback from statutory consultees on the constraints for each alternative alignment including those relating to areas of population, archaeological resources, landscape character and natural heritage (see **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**).	Having reviewed consultation feedback for this alignment location, including statutory consultee views, we will take forward the Potential Alignment 1a identified in the Consultation Document as part of the Proposed Alignment in Section A. This is because the information and responses provided and our subsequent review has not identified that Alternative Alignment 1b would be less constrained on balance from an environmental, technical or cost perspective. On balance and considering the potential to mitigate potential effects on hydrological receptors (which were identified as a slightly greater constraint for the Potential Alignment 1a than for Alternative Alignment 1b), it is considered that the Potential Alignment 1a remains less constrained in relation to the environmental and technical criteria appraised. There is no material difference in predicted costs for the two alternative alignments. Further details on the findings of the comparative appraisal of the alternative alignments are presented in Section 6.2 of the Consultation Document, link provided in **Table 1.1: Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL project consultation rounds**.

[13] The amended alignment will be shown on drawings and information at the final pre-application alignment consultation which will be held in February and March 2025.

Alignment Appraisal, Consultation Feedback and Review	Selection of Potential Alignment and Confirmation of Proposed Alignment
Section B. Location 2: Padanaram	
The appraisal of alternative alignments presented in the Consultation Document identified that the Potential Alignment 2a was slightly less constrained by specific environmental factors than Alternative Alignment 2b. These related to designated cultural heritage sites and reducing the potential for loss of forestry land and habitat within the Woodside Local Nature Conservation Site (LNCS). For most other criteria there were similar levels of environmental constraint for the two alternative alignments. The appraisal also identified that there was a slight preference for the Potential Alignment 2a on technical grounds, primarily due to the greater potential to reduce interaction with the high pressure gas pipelines in the area by reducing the number of crossings, the length over which the OHL and pipeline would run in parallel, and increasing the distance to the pipelines. We have considered the feedback provided on the alternative alignments (as set out in **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments**) and reviewed the findings of the environmental, technical and cost appraisals which were presented in the Consultation Document. We have reviewed proximity to properties for the alternatives and consider that the findings of the appraisal reported in the Consultation Document remain applicable. We have also considered relevant feedback from statutory consultees on the constraints for each alternative alignment including those relating to areas of population, cultural heritage designations, landscape character, visual amenity and natural heritage (see **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**).	Having reviewed consultation feedback for this alignment location, including statutory consultee views, we will take forward the Potential Alignment 2a identified in the Consultation Document as part of the Proposed Alignment in Section B**.** This is because the information and responses provided, and our subsequent review, has not identified that Alternative Alignment 2b would be less constrained overall from an environmental, technical or cost perspective. On balance and considering the potential to minimise tree loss in the woodland at the Woodside LNCS, it is considered that the Potential Alignment 2a remains slightly less constrained overall in relation to environmental and technical criteria, and it is the slightly lower cost option. Further details on the findings of the comparative appraisal of the alternative alignments are presented in Section 6.3 of the Consultation Document.
Section B. Location 3: Justinhaugh	
The appraisal of alternative alignments presented in the Consultation Document identified that the Potential Alignment 3a was slightly less	Having reviewed consultation feedback for this alignment location, we will take forward the Potential Alignment 3a identified in the

Alignment Appraisal, Consultation Feedback and Review	Selection of Potential Alignment and Confirmation of Proposed Alignment
constrained in relation to environmental factors than Alternative Alignment 3b. This is primarily because it offers greater potential to avoid effects on the River South Esk Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and its flood plain. It also avoids an area of more elevated land which would increase the prominence of Alternative Alignment 3b in the landscape. For most criteria there were similar levels of environmental constraint for the two alternative alignments. The appraisal also identified that there was a preference for the Potential Alignment 3a on technical grounds, primarily due to the greater potential to avoid interaction with a high pressure gas pipeline, fewer angle towers and reduced risks from river and road crossings. We have considered the feedback provided on the alternative alignments (as set out in **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments**) and reviewed the findings of the environmental, technical and cost appraisals which were presented in the Consultation Document. We have also considered relevant feedback from statutory consultees (including further discussions with Angus Council) on the constraints for each alternative alignment, including those relating to hydrology, cultural heritage designations, landscape character, visual amenity and natural heritage (see **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**).	Consultation Document as part of the Proposed Alignment in Section B. This is because the information and responses provided, and our subsequent review, has not identified that Alternative Alignment 3b would be less constrained overall from an environmental, technical or cost perspective. On balance and considering the potential to minimise tree loss in the sensitive river crossing area (a designated SAC), it is considered that the Potential Alignment 3a remains less constrained overall in relation to environmental and technical criteria. There is no material difference in costs between the two alternative alignments appraised. Further details on the findings of the comparative appraisal of the alternative alignments are presented in Section 6.4 of the Consultation Document.
Section B. Location 4: Careston	
The appraisal of alternative alignments presented in the Consultation Document identified that Alternative Alignment 4d was slightly less constrained in relation to environmental criteria than the Potential Alignment 4a. The principal differences identified were in relation to greater constraint from areas of Long Established Woodland of Plantation Origin (LEPO) and associated sensitive woodland habitats, and greater potential for changes to landscape character from loss of mature woodland. For most other environmental criteria there were	Having reviewed consultation feedback for this alignment location, we will take forward the Potential Alignment 4a identified in the Consultation Document, as part of the Proposed Alignment in Section B. This is because the information and responses provided, and our subsequent review, has not identified that any of the other Alternative Alignments would be less constrained overall from an environmental, technical or cost perspective than the Potential Alignment 4a.

Alignment Appraisal, Consultation Feedback and Review	Selection of Potential Alignment and Confirmation of Proposed Alignment
similar levels of environmental constraint for the **Potential** Alignment 4a and Alternative Alignment 4d. Alternative Alignments 4b, 4c and 4e were the least preferred overall from an environmental perspective with potential for significant landscape and visual impacts. The appraisal identified a clear preference for the Potential Alignment 4a on technical grounds, with fewer challenges associated with crossings, angle towers and interaction with high pressure gas pipelines than the other alternative alignments. We have considered the feedback provided on the alternative alignments (as set out in **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments**) and reviewed the findings of the environmental, technical and cost appraisals which were presented in the Consultation Document. Further forestry, ecological and hydrological survey work has also been undertaken in areas of sensitive woodland habitats and for potential private water supplies to properties associated with the Potential Alignment 4a and Alternative Alignment 4d. These indicate that the sensitivity of groundwaters and habitats in the vicinity of Lochty Wood may be slightly less sensitive than previously appraised for the Potential Alignment 4a. We have also considered relevant feedback from statutory consultees on the constraints for each alternative alignment including those relating to areas of population, cultural heritage designations, landscape character, visual amenity and natural heritage (see **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**).	Considering the potential to mitigate some of the constraints associated with crossing areas of established LEPO woodland, and to avoid areas of potentially ecologically important wetland habitats, it is considered that the Potential Alignment 4a remains the least constrained option overall, notwithstanding it is considered to have a slightly higher level of environmental constraint than Alternative Alignment 4d. The Potential Alignment 4a has the shortest length and is the lowest cost alternative. The Potential Alignment 4a is also considered to provide separation of the OHL from the larger settlements to the south around Careston and Little Brechin. Further details on the findings of the comparative appraisal of the alternative alignments are presented in Section 6.5 of the Consultation Document.
Section E. Location 5: Durris	
The appraisal of alternative alignments presented in the Consultation Document identified that there was no clear overall preference between the Potential Alignment 5a and Alternative Alignment 5b on environmental criteria. Both alternative alignments would cross the River Dee SAC, the River Dee Special Landscape Area (SLA)	Having reviewed consultation feedback for this alignment location, we will take forward the Potential Alignment 5a identified in the Consultation Document, as part of the Proposed Alignment in Sections E and F.

Alignment Appraisal, Consultation Feedback and Review	Selection of Potential Alignment and Confirmation of Proposed Alignment
and both would be proximate to a Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL) (Park House GDL for **5a** and Drum Castle GDL for 5b). Whilst the Potential Alignment 5a is slightly more constrained in relation to a number of natural heritage criteria, including the potential for forestry habitat to support some protected species, and its proximity to a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) at Loch of Park, it follows the course of an existing OHL for much of its length and would be located close to fewer residential properties than Alternative Alignment 5b particularly in areas around the community of Drumoak. The appraisal identified that there was a preference for the Potential Alignment 5a on technical grounds primarily due to its shorter length and fewer angle towers and lower extent of interaction with high pressure gas pipelines. We have considered the feedback provided on the alternative alignments (as set out in **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments**) and reviewed the findings of the environmental, technical and cost appraisals which were presented in the Consultation Document. Further ecological, forestry, peat and hydrological fieldwork has also been undertaken in key areas along the Potential Alignment 5a. Design development of the Potential Alignment 5a has also been undertaken since the consultation to increase its separation from residential areas near Wester Durris (which involves relocation westwards of a section of the existing 400 kV OHL in this area). We have also considered relevant feedback from (and further meetings with) statutory consultees on the constraints for each alternative alignment including those relating to areas of population, cultural heritage designations, landscape character, visual amenity and natural heritage (see **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**). This has included further discussions with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and NatureScot regarding cultural and natural heritage interests for this alignment.	This is because the information and responses provided, and our subsequent review, has not identified that Alternative Alignment 5b would be less constrained overall from an environmental, technical or cost perspective than the Potential Alignment 5a. On balance and taking account of the slightly amended alignment design to reduce proximity to properties, and the potential to mitigate construction impacts from tower works in proximity to the River Dee crossing and Loch of Park SSSI, it is considered that the Potential Alignment 5a remains less constrained overall. It is less constrained technically (although it would require realignment of a section of existing OHL) and it would be the lower cost option. The Potential Alignment 5a is also considered to provide greater separation of the OHL from a larger number and density of residential properties particularly at Drumoak (including a school). Further details on the findings of the comparative appraisal of the alternative alignments are presented in Section 6.6 of the Consultation Document.

Alignment Appraisal, Consultation Feedback and Review	Selection of Potential Alignment and Confirmation of Proposed Alignment
Section F. Location 6: North of Drumoak	
The Alternative Alignments 6a, 6b and 6c form a sub-set of options on part of the Alternative Alignment 5b to the east and north of Drumoak village in Sections E and F (see above). The alternative alignments were fully appraised in the Consultation Document (see Section 6.7 of that document). We have considered the feedback provided on the alternative alignments (as set out in **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments**). Since it is not proposed to take forward any of the alternative alignments in this location, no further summary of the key constraints is presented here however the information and appraisals can be accessed in the Consultation Document.	We have reviewed the consultation feedback for this alignment location and consider that Alternative Alignment 6a would remain the least constrained alternative overall for the OHL North of Drumoak. This is because the information and responses provided, and our subsequent review has not identified that Alternative Alignments 6b or 6c would be less constrained overall from an environmental, technical or cost perspective than the Alternative Alignment 6a. However, we propose to take forward the Potential Alignment 5a between Hurlie (in Section E) and Coldstream Plantation north of Drumoak (in Section F) as part of the Proposed Alignment. The comparative appraisal of Alternative Alignment 5b with the Potential Alignment 5a was based on the section north of Drumoak following the line of Alternative Alignment 6a as the least constrained alternative in this location. Therefore, none of the alternative alignments considered in Location 6 will be taken forward to the Proposed Alignment.
Section F. Location 7: Schoolhill	
The appraisal of alternative alignments presented in the Consultation Document identified that the Potential Alignment 7a was slightly less constrained in relation to environmental criteria than Alternative Alignments 7b and 7c. The principal differences were identified in relation to lower constraints from regionally designated natural heritage sites, distinctive woodlands and proximity to designated cultural heritage sites particularly when compared with Alternative Alignment 7b. The Potential Alignment 7a and Alternative Alignment 7c were considered to have slightly less hydrological constraint, principally due to their shorter spans over areas of potential flooding associated with the Gormack Burn.	Having reviewed consultation feedback for this alignment location, and taking account of recent design development work for the OHL, we will now take forward Alternative Alignment 7c identified in the Consultation Document as part of the Proposed Alignment in Section F**.** This is because the information and responses provided, and our subsequent review and design development has determined that the Potential Alignment 7a would not be less constrained than Alternative Alignment 7c. On balance, and taking account of design amendments and surveys, Alternative Alignment 7c is now considered to have fewer technical constraints than the previous Potential Alignment 7a particularly in relation to flood risk avoidance and reduced interaction with a high

Alignment Appraisal, Consultation Feedback and Review	Selection of Potential Alignment and Confirmation of Proposed Alignment
The appraisal identified that there was a slight preference for the Potential Alignment 7a[14] on technical grounds primarily due to its lower level of interaction with high pressure gas pipelines. We have considered the feedback provided on the alternative alignments (as set out in **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments**) and reviewed the findings of the environmental, technical and cost appraisals which were presented in the Consultation Document. We have also reviewed the alignment design in relation to a number of technical and environmental constraints in this area including flood risk, ground conditions and property proximity. The alignment of Alternative Alignment 7c has been slightly adjusted to avoid multiple crossings of gas pipelines (see **Figure 4.2f: Proposed Alignment for Location 7: Schoolhill**) and tower positions have been amended to avoid the key flood risk area at Gormack Burn. Taking account of further hydrological and ground condition survey findings and design development of the OHL, the constraints previously associated with some tower positions for Alternative Alignment 7c have been reduced. We have also considered relevant feedback from statutory consultees on the constraints for each alternative alignment including those relating to cultural heritage designations and natural heritage (see **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**).	pressure gas pipeline. It also provides greater separation from a number of residential properties near Quiddies Mill and Milton of Cullerlie**,** and it is considered to have a similar level of environmental and cost constraint. Further details on the findings of the comparative appraisal of the alternative alignments are presented in Section 6.8 of the Consultation Document.
Section F. Location 8: Echt	
The appraisal of alternative alignments presented in the Consultation Document identified that Alternative Alignment 8b was slightly less constrained in relation to environmental criteria than the Potential Alignment 8a. The principal differences were identified in relation to greater constraint from LEPO woodland and greater potential for changes to landscape character from following higher ground and greater loss of mature woodland than those associated with	Having reviewed consultation feedback for this alignment location, we will take forward the Potential Alignment 8a identified in the Consultation Document as part of the Proposed Alignment in Section F**.** This is because the information and responses provided, and our subsequent review, has not identified that any of the other Alternative Alignments would be less constrained overall

[14] Notwithstanding the minor amendment for Location 7 in the 2024 Consultation Document – please see Table 3.5 and Appendix E.

Alignment Appraisal, Consultation Feedback and Review	Selection of Potential Alignment and Confirmation of Proposed Alignment
Alternative Alignment 8b. However Alternative Alignment 8b is located closer to a much larger number and density of residential properties than the Potential Alignment 8a at the edge of the village of Echt. The Potential Alignment 8a is not considered to be the least constrained option from a technical and environmental perspective across all criteria. The Potential Alignment 8a would however be located close to fewer residential properties than Alternative Alignment 8b and is therefore less constrained in relation to proximity to communities, sensitive receptors, and visual amenity. We have considered the feedback provided on the alternative alignments (as set out in **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments**) and reviewed the findings of the environmental, technical and cost appraisals which were presented in the Consultation Document. We have also considered relevant feedback from statutory consultees on the constraints for each alternative alignment, including those relating to cultural heritage designations and natural heritage (see **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback**).	from an environmental, technical or cost perspective than the Potential Alignment 8a. On balance, the Potential Alignment 8a is therefore considered to be the least constrained option overall in this location. The Potential Alignment 8a is also considered to provide greater separation of the OHL from a larger number and density of residential properties particularly at Echt (including a school). Further details on the findings of the comparative appraisal of the alternative alignments are presented in Section 6.9 of the Consultation Document.

A summary of the final decisions reached regarding the alternative alignment preference in each of the eight locations is set out in **Table 4.2: Summary of Proposed Alignments in Locations 1 to 8.**

Table 4.2: Summary of Proposed Alignments in Locations 1 to 8

Location	Alignment Preference
Section A 1. Hayston Hill	Potential Alignment 1a selected in preference to Alternative Alignment 1b as the Proposed Alignment. There is no change to the previous preference for the **Potential Alignment 1a**.
Section B 2. Padanaram	Potential Alignment 2a selected in preference to Alternative Alignment 2b as the Proposed Alignment. There is no change to the previous preference for the **Potential Alignment 2a**.

Location	Alignment Preference
Section B 3. Justinhaugh	Potential Alignment 3a selected in preference to Alternative Alignment 3b as the Proposed Alignment. There is no change to the previous preference for the **Potential Alignment 3a**.
Section B 4. Careston	Potential Alignment 4a selected in preference to Alternative Alignments 4b, 4c, 4d and 4e as the Proposed Alignment. There is no change to the previous preference for the **Potential Alignment 4a**.
Section E 5. Durris	Potential Alignment 5a selected in preference to Alternative Alignment 5b as the Proposed Alignment. There is no change to the previous preference for the **Potential Alignment 5a**.
Section F 6. North of Drumoak	None of the alternative alignments will form part of the Proposed Alignment. Alternative alignments at Location 6 formed part of Alternative Alignment 5b which is not being taken forward as part of the Proposed Alignment (see above).
Section F 7. Schoolhill	Alternative Alignment 7c selected in preference to the previous Potential Alignment 7a and Alternative Alignment 7b as the Proposed Alignment. The revised preference (for **Alternative Alignment 7c**) represents a change from the preference prior to consultation.
Section F 8. Echt	Potential Alignment 8a selected in preference to Alternative Alignments 8b and 8c as the Proposed Alignment. There is no change to the previous preference for the **Potential Alignment 8a**.

The preferences identified in **Table 4.2: Summary of Proposed Alignments in Locations 1 to 8** will now be taken forward by SSEN Transmission into the Proposed Alignment for the OHL (see **Section 4.4: The Proposed Alignment for the OHL** below). The confirmed Proposed Alignment and the Potential Alignment and Alternative Alignments which were considered in each location are shown in **Figures 4.1a to 4.1g: Proposed Alignment for Location 1 – 8** which are provided in **Appendix F: Figures**.

4.3 Review of Additional Amendments to the Potential Alignment Considered from the Alignment Consultation

Following the consultation held in September and October 2024, SSEN Transmission has reviewed the Potential Alignment in each section of the OHL to inform confirmation of the Proposed Alignment. This process has involved iterative design review and updating by SSEN Transmission's design contractor engineers, working closely with the land, environmental and community's teams.

Consultation feedback from stakeholders relating to land use constraints and sensitive areas has been reviewed alongside ongoing discussions with landowners to optimise OHL tower positions, in order to avoid impacts on land management activities, communities and environmental receptors as far as possible through the design process. Information on constraints provided by the public and from the completion of technical and environmental surveys has also fed into this design development process.

In some areas of the alignment, the design development process has required minor adjustments to the indicative tower positions which were shown on drawings of the Potential Alignment in our alignment consultation. These have typically been required to avoid localised constraints identified from survey work or landowner requirements; for example, to achieve buffer distances from residential properties and environmentally sensitive areas or to reduce potential conflicts with other infrastructure such as high-pressure gas pipelines. These adjustments have been undertaken within the indicative Limit of Deviation (LoD) for the Potential Alignment[15], and the changes have not involved relocation of the alignment by more than 50 m.

In a small number of locations, design adjustments for the Proposed Alignment have been made to avoid constraints, which has resulted in a change in alignment of the OHL by more than 50 m from the tower locations shown for the Potential Alignment at the September to October 2024 consultation. These changes have been required at five locations: Auchenreoch in Section C; near Mondboddo and at the approach to Hurlie substation in Section D; at Wester Durris in Section E; and at Schoolhill in Section F.

The key constraints guiding the adjustments in these five locations are shown as annotations to the drawings in **Figures 4.2a to 4.2f: Alignment Deviations Following Consultation – Section A to F** which are provided in **Appendix F: Figures**. The figures also indicate locations where the Proposed Alignment has moved less than 50 m from the Potential Alignment.

During this period, the access strategy for the project has also been taken forward and access tracks have been identified and designed to provide for construction and maintenance access to the proposed OHL tower positions. Wherever possible, the access routes have been agreed with landowners and managers to make best use of existing tracks, to avoid sensitive residential areas, and to minimise disruption to agriculture and other land management. Further details of the proposed access strategy will be made available to the public in advance of the final pre-application alignment consultation in February to March 2025.

4.4 The Proposed Alignment for the OHL

SSEN Transmission has now identified a Proposed Alignment for the Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL. This reflects the decisions made in relation to the Potential Alignment and Alternative Alignments set out in **Section 4.2: Outcome of Consultation on Potential Alignment and Alternative Alignments (Locations 1-8)** above, and design development for the OHL since the alignment consultation described in **Section 4.3: Review of Additional Amendments to the Potential Alignment Considered from the Alignment Consultation** above.

The Proposed Alignment incorporates all of the confirmed Potential Alignments in the eight locations where alternative alignments have been appraised and reviewed, and considering consultation responses. An overview plan of the Proposed Alignment is presented in **Figure 4.3a: Proposed Alignment Overview** and more detailed drawings of the Proposed Alignment for each of the six sections A to F of the OHL are shown in **Figures 4.3b to 4.3g: Proposed Alignment Overview – Section A to F** which are provided in **Appendix F: Figures**.

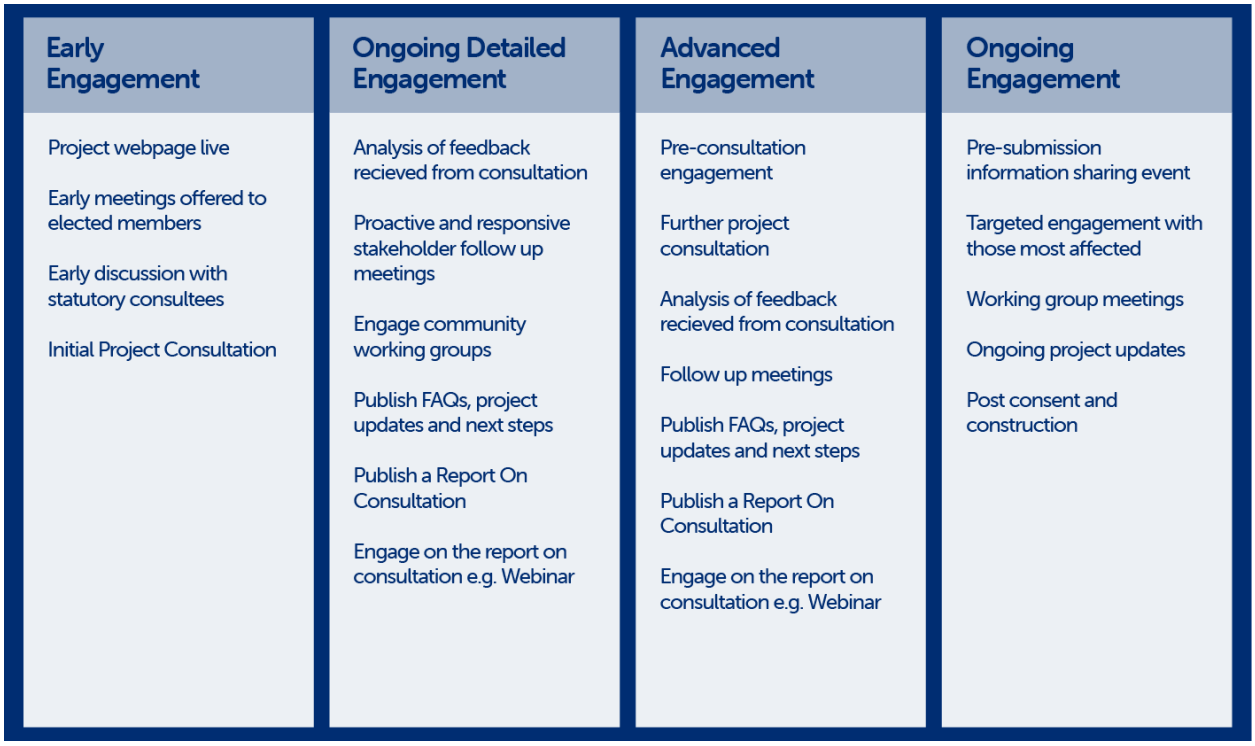
The design of the Proposed Alignment and associated project infrastructure including access tracks has been developed in more detail by SSEN Transmission in partnership with our engineering contractors, together with our communities, land and environment teams. This process included a review of all relevant consultation and landowner feedback and any new information which has become available relating to technical, land or environmental constraints, including finalised environmental and ground conditions surveys along the Proposed Alignment and its likely access routes. The alignment of the OHL has been developed in an iterative manner to avoid and reduce environmental impacts wherever possible through the design process and by identifying further opportunities to mitigate residual effects that cannot be avoided or designed out.

[15] The Limit of Deviation (LoD) for the alignment is typically 100 m either side of the indicative OHL alignment centre line.

5 Next Steps

5.1 Ongoing Engagement

The consultation periods described in this report are part of an ongoing engagement process that spans the full development cycle for the project, where feedback is sought at different stages and engagement with stakeholders is continuous as we refine our proposals.



5.2 EIA Scoping Opinion Request

In September 2024, a request was made by SSEN Transmission to The Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Opinion and an EIA Scoping Report was provided to support this request. The Scoping Report together with supporting Appendices are available here:

- Scottish Government – Energy Consents Unit – Application Details

The request for an EIA Scoping Opinion was made to confirm the scope of impacts to be addressed, and the method of assessment to be applied, in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

Following receipt of the EIA Scoping Opinion from the ECU, the Proposed Alignment design will be subject to a full EIA, which is a process to predict and wherever possible mitigate the likely significant environmental effects of the proposals. The findings of the EIA will be presented in the EIAR, which forms an objective and independent assessment.

5.3 Pre-application Proposed Alignment Consultation

Before we submit the Section 37 application to the ECU we will undertake a pre-application Proposed Alignment consultation in February to March 2025 and hold our next round of public engagement events.

The consultation materials will present the Proposed Alignment and information on the likely access routes to be used for its construction and maintenance.

This pre-application consultation will allow communities and landowners to further discuss the Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL proposals prior to the submission by SSEN Transmission of a Section 37 application.

5.4 Submission of Section 37 Application for Consent

Following the conclusion of the pre-application consultation, the Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL design and EIAR will be finalised.

The EIAR, the socio-economic report and other supporting information will be submitted with our Section 37 application to the ECU seeking consent to install and operate the project.

When the Section 37 application is submitted to the ECU, there will be an opportunity for all stakeholders (including residents, landowners, businesses and statutory and non-statutory organisations) to make formal representations on the proposed project to Scottish Ministers via the ECU's online portal, as well as by email and post. These representations will be considered when the Scottish Ministers make a determination on the application.

The following leaflet explains more about the Section 37 consent process:

- The Section 37 Consent Process

5.5 Project Updates

Regular updates on the project are provided via SSEN Transmission's project webpages at this link:

- Kintore-Tealing 400 kV OHL connection project webpages

5.6 Feedback

If you have any further feedback at this stage, please contact the Community Liaison Manager at tkup@sse.com or at the mailing address below:

Rob Whytock

Community Liaison Manager

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks

200 Dunkeld Road

Perth

PH1 3GH

6 Glossary

Term	Definition
400 kV	400 kilovolt (400,000 volt) operating voltage electrical circuit.
Alignment	A centre line of an overhead line, along with location of key angle structures. See later definitions for Potential Alignment and Proposed Alignment.
Alternative Alignment	A section of an alignment where there are different ways to avoid or minimise interaction with localised constraints. In some parts of the report, the shorthand term 'alternatives' has been used to refer to 'Alternative Alignment'.
Amenity	The natural environment, cultural heritage, landscape and visual quality. Also includes the impact of SSEN Transmission's works on communities, such as the effects of noise and disturbance from construction activities.
Ancient Woodland	As defined by The Scottish Ancient Woodland Inventory. Ancient Woodland (categories 1a and 2a) is interpreted as semi-natural woodland from maps of 1750 (1a) or 1860 (2a) and continuously wooded to the present day. If planted with non-native species during the 20th century they are sometimes referred to as Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS).
Applied Mitigation	Industry standard, well understood good-practice mitigation measures with a high degree of confidence in their effectiveness (often for construction).
ASTI	Accelerated Strategic Transmission Infrastructure (ASTI) is a regulatory framework. This framework will assess, fund and incentivise the accelerated delivery of the large, strategic onshore transmission projects required to deliver the government's ambition to connect up to 50 GW of offshore wind generation to the network by 2030.
AWI	The Scottish Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) is a provisional guide to the location of Ancient Woodland. It contains three main categories of woodland, all of which are likely to be of value for their biodiversity and cultural value. These include Ancient Woodland, Long-established woodlands of plantation origin (LEPO), and other woodlands.
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is an approach to development that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was pre-development. It focuses on the change in the biodiversity value of a site, comparing the pre and post construction biodiversity values to ensure a positive impact overall.
Broadleaved Woodland	Broadleaved woodland is characterised by trees which do not have needles. Their leaves are broad and vary in shape, and most of them are deciduous. Broadleaved woodlands have 10% or less conifer in the canopy.

Term	Definition
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) is a document which defines specific methods for environmental survey, monitoring, mitigation and management throughout construction. A CEMP details how the Principal Contractor will manage construction in accordance with commitments and mitigation detailed in the EIA Report, statutory consents and authorisations, and industry best practice and guidance.
Centre Line	The linear connection between the central point of each support structure along the length of the overhead line.
Circuit	Overhead line or underground cable consisting of multiple conductors, to carry electric current.
Class 1 and Class 2 Peatland	Class 1 – Nationally important carbon-rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat. Areas likely to be of high conservation value. Class 2 – Nationally important carbon-rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat. Areas of potentially high conservation value and restoration potential.
Commercial Forestry	Plantation woodlands typically dominated by conifer species and managed predominantly for timber extraction.
Communities	Those stakeholders (organisations and individuals including residents) with a particular remit or interest in the local area affected by the works.
Conductor	A metallic wire strung between overhead line support structure to carry electric current.
Coniferous Woodland	Woodland that has 10% or less broadleaved trees in the canopy.
Consultation	The dynamic process of dialogue between individuals or groups, based on a genuine exchange of views and, normally, with the objective of influencing decisions, policies or programmes of action.
Consultation Bodies	In terms of *Regulation 2(1)* of the *EIA Regulations*, defined as meaning the planning authority, NatureScot, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency and Historic Environment Scotland.
Consultation Document	In this report, unless otherwise stated, references to the 'Consultation Document' mean the September 2024 Consultation Document made publicly available by SSEN Transmission in advance of the September to November 2024 Alignment Consultation which sets out the findings of the appraisal of alternative alignments for the OHL. A link to the document is provided in **Table 1.1: Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL project consultation rounds** of this report.

Term	Definition
Corridor	A linear area which allows a continuous connection between the defined connection points. The corridor may vary in width along its length; in unconstrained areas it may be many kilometres wide. A corridor should also take into account any pinch points along its length where subsequent design development for the OHL may be subject to fundamental restrictions which may limit the eventual viability of a project or gaining consent.
CTMP	A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) is a document that outlines traffic management measures associated with construction related traffic.
Cumulative Effect	Cumulative effects assessment is a key part of the EIA process and is concerned with identifying circumstances in which a number of potential and/or predicted effects from separate existing or future development projects could combine to cause a significant effect on a particular receptor.
Distribution Network	An electricity transmission network which distributes lower voltage electricity from the Transmission Network to homes and businesses.
Double circuit	A double circuit transmission line comprises of two independent circuits each made up of three sets of conductors (cables).
DWPA	Drinking Water Protected Areas (DWPA). The water in ditches, streams, lochs and possibly groundwater in these areas is protected and likely to be taken to water treatment works, where it is treated and provided to the public as drinking water.
ECoW	Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) is a site-based ecologist who oversees works and provides advice on an appropriate approach for the management of ecological features in the context of environmental legislation and planning policy.
ECU	Energy Consents Unit (ECU) is the department of The Scottish Government responsible for processing applications for consent under the *Electricity Act 1989* on behalf of Scottish Ministers. In Scotland, applications for the installation of certain overhead electric lines and associated infrastructure in relation to energy infrastructure are made to the Scottish Ministers for determination.
Effect	The change in condition of an environmental receptor (beneficial or adverse) arising as a result of a change brought about by the construction or operation of the Project.
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a formal process codified by *EU Directive 2011/92/EU*, and subsequently amended by *Directive 2014/52/EU*. The national regulations are set out in *The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017* as amended. The EIA process is set out in *Regulation 4(1)* of the regulations and includes the

Term	Definition
	preparation of an EIA Report (EIAR) by the developer to systematically identify, predict, assess and report on the likely significant environmental impacts of a proposed project or development.
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is a document which systematically identifies, predicts, assesses and presents information on the likely significant environmental effects of a proposed project or development. The EIAR is usually submitted together with the Section 37 application to The Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU).
Embedded Mitigation	Measures to avoid or reduce environmental impacts which are developed as an inherent part of the design of a project (e.g. reducing the height of a tower) or from adoption of specific design parameters (e.g. compliance with specific buffer distance from an environmental receptor).
Engagement	The establishment of effective relationships with individuals or groups.
EnvCoW	An Environmental Clerk of Works (EnvCoW) is an independent environmental or construction professional with direct responsibility for monitoring and reporting on compliance with planning consents, environmental permits, legislation and mitigation.
ESO	The ESO balances electricity supply and demand to ensure the electricity supply. From October 2024 the nationalised NESO (National Energy System Operator) replaced the ESO previously owned by National Grid Plc (see definition for NESO below).
FLS	Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) is The Scottish Government agency responsible for managing Scotland's national forests and land.
GDL	Garden and Designed Landscapes (GDL), as listed on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes held by HES. These are considered by a panel of experts to be of national importance.
GEMP	General Environmental Management Plans (GEMP) are a series of standardised construction environmental management plans produced by SSEN Transmission.
GWDTE	Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE) are wetlands which critically depend on groundwater flows. They are safeguarded by the *Water Framework Directive* (WFD) and are sensitive to hydrological and ecological changes
Habitat	Term most accurately meaning the place in which a species lives, but also used to describe plant communities or agglomerations of plant communities.
HES	Historic Environment Scotland.

Term	Definition
HND	Holistic Network Design (HND) is a single, integrated coordinate plan that sets out the onshore and offshore electricity transmission infrastructure required across Great Britain, to deliver the UK Government's 2030 targets.
Holford Rules	Principles used to unform the routeing of overhead lines and the siting of substations.
HRA	A Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) is an appraisal to determine whether the Proposed Development is likely to have a significant effect on a European designated sites, to address the requirements of *Regulation 63* of the *Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017*.
HSE	Health and Safety Executive.
HVAC	High Voltage Alternating Current.
HVDC	High Voltage Direct Current.
Impact	Physical constructions or activities that may change or disturb the surrounding environment (e.g. erection of an OHL tower may impact the landscape resource).
Kilovolt (kV)	One thousand volts.
LCT	Landscape Character Type (LCT) is a distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in a landscape that differentiates the areas from each other.
LEPO	Long-established woodlands of plantation origin (LEPO) is a NatureScot category of The Scottish Ancient Woodland Inventory. Many of these plantation sites have developed semi-natural characteristics, especially the oldest ones, which may be as rich as Ancient Woodland.
Listed Building	Building included on the list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest and afforded statutory protection under the *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997* and other planning legislation. Classified categories A – C(s).
LLA	Local Landscape Areas (LLA) are designated by local planning authorities for sites which are considered to be of regional/local importance for their scenic qualities. Local Development Plans (LDPs) typically show the location of LLAs and associated policy. Also sometimes referred to as Special Landscape Areas (SLA), for example by Aberdeenshire Council.

Term	Definition
LNCS	Local Nature Conservation Site (LNCS) is a non-statutory designation given by local authorities to areas of locally important nature. LNCS are intended to safeguard biodiversity and geodiversity of at least local importance.
LNR	Local Nature Reserves (LNR) are areas of natural heritage that are locally important.
LoD	Limits of Deviation (LoD) comprise an area which defines the practical limits within which micrositing of the OHL infrastructure and access tracks, can occur within the terms of the Section 37 consent. The purpose of Limits of Deviation is to allow flexibility within a Section 37 consent for the final micrositing of individual towers/poles or access tracks to respond to localised ground conditions, topography, engineering, and environmental constraints.
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is often presented as a chapter within the EIAR to systematically identify, predict, assess and report on the likely significant landscape and visual impacts of a proposed development.
Micrositing	The process of positioning individual support structures (such as towers) to avoid localised environmental or technical constraints.
Mitigation	Term used to indicate avoidance, remediation or alleviation of adverse environmental impacts (see also Embedded Mitigation and Applied Mitigation definitions).
Mixed Woodland	Mixed woodland is defined as having 10-90% of either broadleaved or conifer in the canopy.
National Forest Estate	The National Forest Estate includes over a third of Scotland's woodland area. Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) manages the National Forests and Land on behalf of Scottish Ministers
Necessary Wayleaves	A wayleave granted by the Scottish Ministers under Schedule 4 of the *Electricity Act 1989* on behalf of a landowner if it is deemed expedient that such a wayleave should be granted, but only sought in circumstances where that landowner will not grant a Wayleave voluntarily.
NESO	The National Energy System Operator (NESO) is an independent organisation which balances electricity supply and demand to ensure the electricity supply. NESO replaced the National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO) in October 2024 which was previously the National Grid for Great Britain.
Net Zero	The term net zero means achieving a balance between the carbon emitted into the atmosphere, and the carbon removed from it. This balance – or net

Term	Definition
	zero – will happen when the amount of carbon we add to the atmosphere is no more than the amount removed.
NFI	The National Forestry Inventory (NFI) is a woodland data map covering all forest and woodland areas over 0.5 hectare with a minimum of 20% canopy cover, or the potential to achieve it, and a minimum width of 20 metres.
NSA	National Scenic Area (NSA) is a national level designation applied to those landscapes considered to be of exceptional scenic value.
Ofgem	Ofgem is Great Britain's independent energy regulator. Ofgem operate in a statutory framework set by the UK Parliament.
Offshore Integrated Link	Offshore cable connection between the onshore network and offshore network being developed as part of the Coordinated Offshore Network. This is being developed as a result of the Holistic Network Design (HND) publication in summer of 2022 produced by National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO which is now NESO) to facilitate greater co-ordination and efficiency for offshore windfarms. In the autumn of 2022 Ofgem published their Asset Classification findings which in turn meant SSEN Transmission was tasked with delivering large parts of the Coordinated Offshore Network.
OHL	Overhead line (OHL) is an electric line installed above ground, usually supported by lattice steel towers.
Operational Corridor	The area either side of the overhead line which needs to remain clear of trees for operational safety and maintenance.
Oversail	A term used to describe when an overhead line occupies space above the ground.
Pathway to 2030	Pathway to 2030 is a series of projects to increase capacity of the transmission network in northern Scotland. It is part of a national effort to upgrade power lines across Great Britain to connect and transport renewable electricity, especially from offshore wind farms. These projects contribute towards meeting climate goals and renewable targets, ensuring energy security and supporting Scottish and UK Government targets for a just transition to a net zero future.
PIC	Properties in Care (PIC) are a collection of monuments, which define significant aspects of Scotland's history, brought into care for their long-term preservation and public benefit through the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*. They are managed by Historic Environment Scotland of behalf of Scottish Ministers.

Term	Definition
Planning Application	Used in this context to describe an application for consent under the *Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997*.
Plantation Woodland	Woodland of any age that obviously originated from planting.
Potential Alignment	The option which the Applicant has identified as the best balance of technical and environmental impact considerations identified through initial appraisal. This is then subject to consultation with stakeholders, where local and previously unknown considerations may confirm or alter the initial preference. Once confirmed, this becomes the Proposed Alignment to take forward to the next stage of project development.
Preferred Option	The option which SSEN Transmission believes offers the best balance of technical and environmental impact considerations identified through initial assessment. This is then subject to consultation with stakeholders, where local and previously unknown considerations may confirm or alter the initial preference. Once confirmed, this becomes the Proposed Option to take forward to the next stage of project development.
Proposed Alignment	An overhead line alignment taken forward to consent application. It comprises a defined centre line for the overhead line and includes an indicative support structure (tower or pole) schedule, also specifying access arrangements and any associated construction facilities.
Proposed Corridor	A corridor for the overhead line taken forward following stakeholder consultation to the routeing stage of the overhead line process.
Proposed Development	The proposed Kintore to Tealing 400 kV overhead line project.
Proposed Route	A route taken forward following stakeholder consultation to the alignment selection stage of the overhead line routeing process. The Proposed Route is the approximately 1 km wide route through sections A-F.
PWS	A private water supply is any supply, not provided by a water company, where the water is used for a home (e.g. for human consumption) or a business (e.g. for livestock).
RAG Rating	A Red, Amber, Green rating provided to allow for a comparison between different options being appraised.
Ramsar Site	Wetlands of international importance that have been designated to reflect their representative, rare or unique wetland types or for their importance in conserving biological diversity.
Refined Route	A route approximately 500 m wide, within which we aim to identify an optimal overhead line alignment.

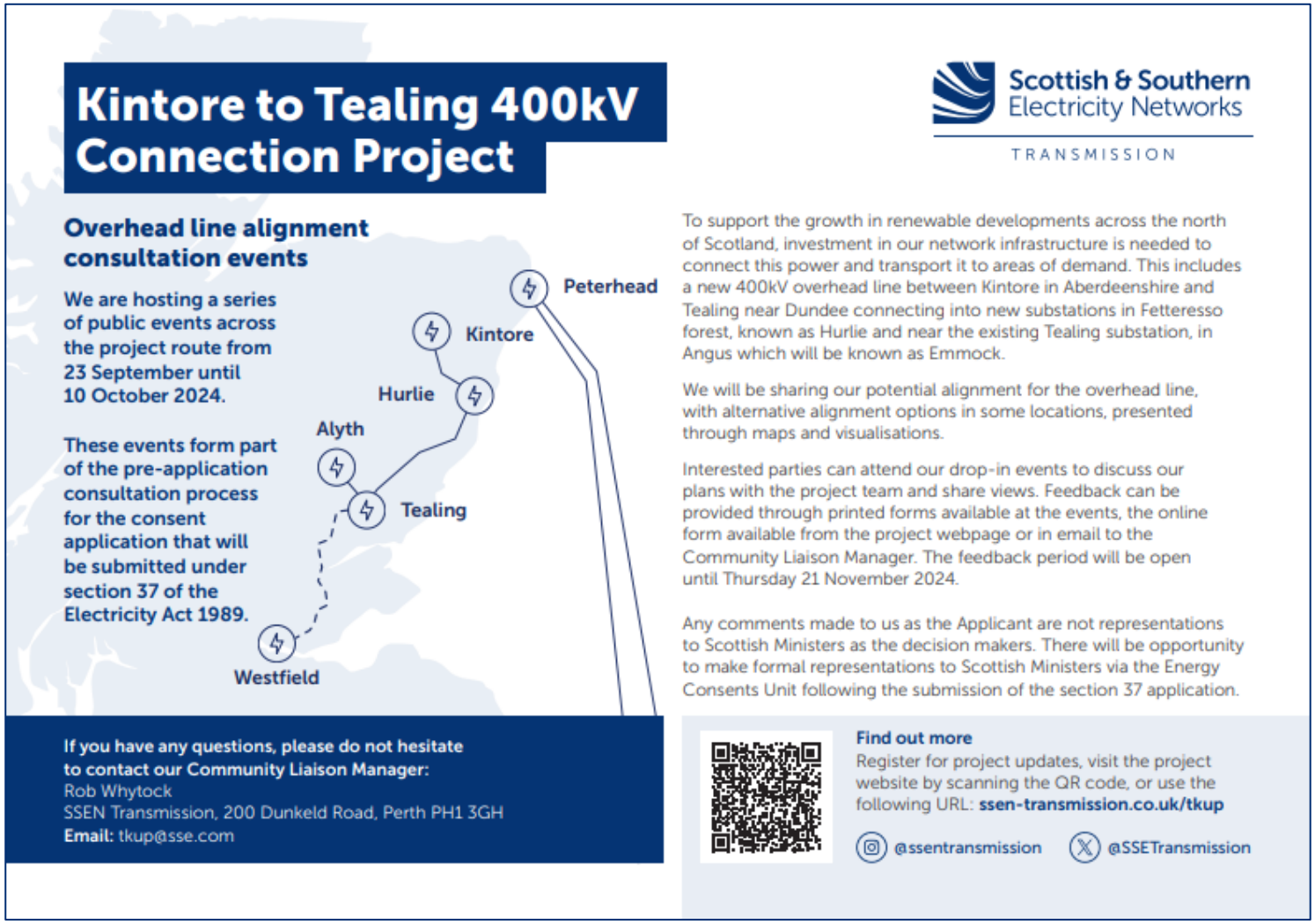
Term	Definition
Riparian Woodland	Woodland on the banks of natural bodies of water and particularly rivers.
RoC	The Report on Consultation (RoC) is a publicly available document and is produced following the consultation on the preferred corridor, route or alignment, as appropriate. Its purpose is to record the stakeholder feedback received during the consultation process; explain how SSEN Transmission have responded and how, if appropriate, it has informed the selection of the proposed corridor, route, or alignment, and where it has not, why not. It may not always be the case that a particular comment or request can be incorporated into the option selection or design.
Route	A linear area of approximately 1 km width (although this may be narrower/wider in specific locations in response to identified pinch points / constraints), which provides a continuous connection between defined connection points.
Routeing	The work undertaken which leads to the selection of a proposed alignment, capable of being taken forward into the consenting process under Section 37 of the *Electricity Act 1989*.
RVAA	Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) considers the effects of development on views from private properties and whether such effects would be of such a magnitude that they would impact 'living conditions' or 'Residential Amenity.
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) are designated under *Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora* (known as the *Habitats Directive*), to ensure that rare, endangered or vulnerable habitats or species of community interest are either maintained at or restored to a favourable conservation status.
Schedule 1 Species	Birds listed on Schedule 1/A1/1A of the *Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981*, for which it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb at, on or near an 'active' nest. The following are included in the schedules: Schedule 1 – birds protected by special penalties; Schedule 1A – birds that may not be intentionally or recklessly harassed at any time; and Schedule A1 – birds whose habitually used nests may not be intentionally or recklessly taken, damaged, destroyed or otherwise interfered with when not in use.
Scheduled Monument	A monument which has been scheduled by the Scottish Ministers as being of national importance under the terms of the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*.
Section 37 application	An application for development consent under Section 37 of the *Electricity Act 1989*.

Term	Definition
Semi-natural Woodland	Woodland that does not obviously originate from planting. The distribution of species will generally reflect the variations in the site and the soil. Planted trees must account for less than 30% of the canopy composition.
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency.
Skylining	A term used where a feature or development is visible across the horizon.
Span	The section of overhead line between two structures.
SPA	Special Protection Area (SPA) are designated under *Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds* (the *Birds Directive*) to protect important bird habitats.
SPP	Species Protection Plan (SSP). Developed to document general procedures, legislation and requirements for ensuring protection to a variety of species.
SSEN Transmission	Scottish and Southern Energy Networks (SSEN) plc is a wholly owned subsidiary of the SSE plc group of companies. Operating and known as Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission) it owns and maintains the electricity transmission network across the north of Scotland and remote islands. It holds a licence under the *Electricity Act 1989* to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission.
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are areas of national importance designated by NatureScot under the *Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004*. The aim of the SSSI network is to maintain an adequate representation of all natural and semi-natural habitats and native species across Britain.
Stakeholders	Organisations and individuals who can affect or are affected by SSEN Transmission works.
Study Area	A defined area for the consideration of environmental effects (including direct, indirect and cumulative) on each relevant factor listed under *Regulation 4(3)* of the *EIA Regulations.*
Substation	A node on the network to allow safe control of the electricity network. This could include convergence of multiple circuits, transformation of voltage or other functions to maintain and operate the electricity network.
The National Grid	The electricity transmission network in the Great Britain.
Tower	Lattice support structure used on straight sections of the overhead line.

Term	Definition
Transmission Network	An electricity transmission network which carries high voltage electricity from areas where it is generated to the Distribution Network and areas of demand.
UK BAP	The UK BAP was published in 1994 after the Convention on Biological Diversity. It summarised the most threatened species and habitats in the UK and gave detailed plans for their recovery.
Volts	The international unit of electric potential and electromotive force.
Wayleave	A voluntary agreement entered into between a landowner, upon whose land an overhead line is to be constructed, and SHE Transmission. SSEN Transmission may also make an application for a 'Necessary Wayleave' to Scottish Ministers where voluntary agreement cannot be reached.
WHNCV	Woodlands of High Nature Conservation Value (WHNCV) designated by Angus Council within the Angus Forestry and Woodland Strategy 2024 to 2034. They are defined as 'all woodland included within the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland and woodlands as Ancient, including Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) in the Ancient Woodland Inventory Scotland'.
WLA	Those areas comprising the greatest and most extensive areas of wild characteristics within Scotland.
Woodland	Woodland is defined as vegetation dominated by trees more than 5 m high when mature, forming a distinct, although sometimes open, canopy.
Works	Constructing new transmission infrastructure such as substations, overhead lines, underground cables; major refurbishment of these; the dismantling and removal of any parts of the system; and associated works, which may include formation of access tracks, bridge and road improvements, tree cutting, drainage etc.

Appendices

Appendix A – Example of Advertisement



The events will be held at the following locations:

Monday 23 September, 1.30-6.30pm
Tealing Village Hall, Hall Road,
Inverdake, Tealing, DD4 0QW

Tuesday 24 September, 2-7pm
Royal Hotel, Wallace Suite,
33 Castle Street, Forfar, DD8 3AE

Wednesday 25 September, 2-7pm
Memus Community Hall,
Memus, Forfar, DD8 3TY

Thursday 26 September 2-7pm
Brechin City Hall, 9 Swan Street,
Brechin, DD9 6EE

Monday 30 September, 2-7pm
Menmuir Hall, Brechin,
DD9 7RN

Tuesday 1 October, 1.30-6.30pm
Kintore Public Hall, 12 School Road,
Kintore, AB51 0UX

Wednesday 2 October, 2-7pm
Echt Hall, Echt, Westhill,
AB32 6UL

Thursday 3 October, 2-7pm
Drumoak, Durris & Crathes
Bowling Club, Sunnyside Avenue,
Drumoak, AB31 5EF

Monday 7 October, 2-7pm
Drumlithie Village Hall,
Station Road, Drumlithie, AB39 3YT

Tuesday 8 October, 2-7pm
Stonehaven Town Hall, Allardice Street,
Stonehaven, AB39 2BU

Wednesday 9 October, 2-7pm
Dickson Memorial Hall, Station Road,
Laurencekirk, AB30 1BE

Thursday 10 October, 2-7pm
Durris Kirkton Hall, Kirkton of Durris,
Banchory, AB31 6BP

Appendix B – Postcard Invites

Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line Project

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

Final overhead line alignment consultation events

We are hosting a series of public events across the project route from 24 February until 13 March 2025. These events conclude the Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) process for the consent application that will be submitted under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.

To support the growth in renewable developments across the north of Scotland, investment in our network infrastructure is needed to connect this power and transport it to areas of demand. This includes a new 400kV overhead line between Kintore and Tealing connecting to two new substations in Fetteresso Forest (Hurlie) and Tealing (Emmock).

We will be sharing our proposed alignment of the overhead line, including details on how this decision was taken. This will be presented on maps and visualisations with booklets and handouts available for attendees and digital versions available to download on our project webpage.

Interested parties can attend our drop-in events to discuss our plans with the project team and share your thoughts on the final alignment ahead of submission of planning. Feedback can be provided through printed forms available at the events, the online form available on the project webpage or in email to the project inbox.

Find out more and register for project updates, visit the project website: **ssen-transmission.co.uk/TKUP**

@ssentransmission @SSETransmission

The events will be held at the following locations:

Monday 24 February, 2–7pm
Kintore Public Hall, 12 School Road, Kintore, AB51 0UX

Tuesday 25 February, 2–7pm
Echt Hall, Echt, Westhill, AB32 6UL

Wednesday 26 February, 2–7pm
Durris & Crathes Bowling Club, Sunnyside Avenue, Drumoak, AB31 5EF

Thursday 27 February, 2–7pm
Durris Kirkton Hall, Kirkton of Durris, Banchory, AB31 6BP

Monday 3 March, 2–7pm
Drumlithie Village Hall, Station Road, Drumlithie, AB39 3YT

Tuesday 4 March, 1–6pm
Inglis Memorial Hall and Library, High Street, Edzell, Brechin, DD9 7TF

Wednesday 5 March, 2–7pm
Dickson Memorial Hall, Station Road, Laurencekirk, AB30 1BE

Monday 10 March, 2–7pm
Menmuir Hall, Brechin, DD9 7RN

Tuesday 11 March, 2–7pm
Memus Community Hall, Memus, Forfar, DD8 3TY

Wednesday 12 March, 2–7pm
Forfar Reid Hall, Castle Street, Forfar, DD8 3HX

Thursday 13 March, 2–7pm
Tealing Village Hall, Hall Road, Inveraldie, Tealing, DD4 0QW

We invite all interested parties to attend our drop-in exhibitions to discuss our plans with the project team and share your views.

Appendix C – Statutory Consultee Feedback

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
No response.	Aberdeen City Council	
We will not be responding to the alignment consultation. At this stage we have nothing further to add over and above the information submitted in the pre-app enquiry response (ENQ/2024/0149) and scoping response (ENQ/2024/1397).	Aberdeenshire Council	Noted. We have received Aberdeenshire Council's responses to the pre-application enquiry and to the scoping request.
Assessment is based on setting and direct impacts on Scheduled Monuments and Regionally Significant sites as included in the Aberdeenshire and Angus HERs, and does not include at this stage any mitigation recommendations. These comments do not take account of Listed Buildings or designated Gardens & Designed Landscapes, as that is outside of our remit.	Aberdeenshire Council – Archaeology Service for Aberdeenshire, Moray, Angus & Aberdeen City Councils	Noted. All details from Aberdeenshire Council – Archaeology Service's (ACAS) will be passed on to the project EIA team. We will continue to liaise with Aberdeenshire Council – Archaeology Service's through the next stages of the project. From extensive work completed already, we are aware of the large number and variety of cultural heritage designations and assets within the vicinity of the Potential Alignment. This includes Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments and Garden and Designed Landscapes (GDL). The alignment development and appraisal work undertaken to date has considered these key constraints and avoided designated sites where possible. The Cultural Heritage chapter of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) will assess the significance of impacts to cultural heritage assets that have been scoped into the assessment. The assessment of impacts on setting will be undertaken collaboratively with the Landscape and Visual

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		Impact Assessment (LVIA) and photomontages will be prepared for key viewpoints. Mitigation will be outlined within the EIAR for any significant impacts that have been identified. Further information on cultural heritage can be found in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under the heading **Cultural Heritage,** and in **Table 3.2: Community impact** under the heading **Landscape and Visual.**
Section A (Route A1) (ANGUS) • Significant concerns over potential setting impact on Balkemback Cottages Stone Circle (SM2868, Angus HER NO33NE0001). Suggest consideration is given to undergrounding cabling at this location. Photomontage required. • Concerns over potential setting impact on Arniefoul Cairn (SM389 / Angus HER NO44SW0001) – suggest adopt alignment 1a to reduce potential setting impact.		We acknowledge ACAS's concerns about potential setting impacts on the identified scheduled monuments and heritage assets. We note your suggestion to adopt Potential Alignment 1a as we have set out in **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments** above. Alternative technology choices have been considered, however overhead transmission lines have been determined as the most suitable technology choice as set out in **Section 3.2: Common Themes - Alternatives and Technology Choice.** We propose to take Potential Alignment 1a forward to the next stage, so the potential setting impact will be reduced. A visualisation will be included within Volume 4: Visualisations of the EIAR for SM2868 and SM389.
Section B (B1.1) (ANGUS)		We acknowledge ACAS's concerns about potential setting impacts on the scheduled monuments and

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
• Concerns over potential setting impact on Ballinshoe Castle (SM162 / Angus HER NO45SW0001) – suggest adopt alignment 2a to reduce potential setting impact. • Concerns over proximity to Battledykes Roman Camp (SM2308 / Angus HER NO45NE0012); concerns over potential setting impact on Battledykes Cairn (SM7234, Angus HER NO45NE0015) – suggest adopt alignment 3a to reduce potential setting impact. • Concerns over potential setting impact on Law of Baldoukie Barrow (SM6314, Angus HER NO45NE0004) – any viewpoint imagery from this site (aside from LVIA12 looking towards the site)? If not, photomontage required. • Concerns over potential setting impact on Vayne Castle (SM4015 / Angus HER NO45NE0001), Vayne Standing Stone (SM135 / Angus HER NO45NE0015), Law of Windsor Cairn (SM3375 / Angus HER NO56SW0010) – suggest adopt alignment 4a to reduce potential setting impact		heritage assets. We note your suggestion to adopt Potential Alignments 2a, 3a and 4a as we have set out in **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments** above. We propose to take Potential Alignments 2a, 3a and 4a forward to the next stage of development, so the potential setting impacts will be reduced. Viewpoint imagery and photomontages will be set out in the EIAR for scheduled monuments where their setting may potentially be affected. Discussion has been ongoing with ACAS regarding Cultural Heritage viewpoints to be included within the EIAR. A visualisation will be included within Volume 4: Visualisations of the EIAR for SM162, SM7234, SM6314 and SM3375.
Section C (Route C1) (ANGUS / ABERDEENSHIRE) • No significant concerns regarding potential setting impacts on the historic environment		Noted.
Section D (Route D4) (ABERDEENSHIRE) • Concerns over potential setting impact on Droop Hill Cairns (SM4778, Aberdeenshire HER NO78SE0022). Photomontage required.		We acknowledge ACAS's concerns about potential setting impacts on the identified scheduled monument and heritage asset. Viewpoint imagery and photomontages will be set out in the EIAR for scheduled monuments where their setting may potentially be affected, along with any required mitigation measures. A visualisation

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		will be included within Volume 4: Visualisations of the EIAR for SM4778.
Section E (Route E2/E4) (ABERDEENSHIRE) • Concerns over potential setting impact on Nether Auquhollie Standing Stone (SM983 / Aberdeenshire HER NO89SW0008) and Campstone Hill Field System & Cairns (SM4878 / Aberdeenshire HER NO89SW0003) – suggest adopt alignment 5a to reduce potential setting impact		We acknowledge ACAS's concerns about potential setting impacts on the identified scheduled monuments and heritage assets, and we note your suggestion to adopt Potential Alignment 5a as we have set out in **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments** above. We propose to take Potential Alignment 5a forward to the next stage, so the potential setting impacts will be reduced.
Section F (Route F3/F2) (ABERDEENSHIRE) • Appreciate that tower locations are not fixed, but suggest that the tower proposed at circa NO 77372 98903 is relocated to reduce impact on King's well (Aberdeenshire HER NO79NE0042), a site of particular local community interest. • Concerns over potential setting impact on Tillyorn Moated Homestead (SM12161, Aberdeenshire HER NJ70SE0118) – suggest adopt alignment 7a to reduce potential setting impact • Concerns over potential setting impact on East Finnercy Cairn (SM6076, Aberdeenshire HER NJ70SE0002) – suggest adopt alignment 8b (or 8a) to reduce potential setting impact • Significant concerns over potential setting impact on New Wester Echt Stone Circle (SM6074, Aberdeenshire HER NJ70NW0001). Suggest consideration is given to undergrounding cabling at this location. Photomontage required.		We acknowledge ACAS's concerns about potential setting impacts on the identified scheduled monuments and heritage assets. We note your suggestion to adopt Potential Alignments 7a, 8a or 8b, as we have set out in **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments** above. We propose to take Potential Alignments 7c and 8a forward to the next stage as part of the Proposed Alignment, so some of the identified potential setting impacts will be reduced. Alternative technology choices have been considered, however overhead transmission lines have been determined as the most suitable technology choice as set out in **Section 3.2:**

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
• Significant concerns over potential setting impact on South Leylodge Steading Stone Circle (SM12350, Aberdeenshire HER NJ71SE0003). Suggest consideration is given to undergrounding cabling at this location. Photomontage required.		**Common Themes - Alternatives and Technology Choice.** Viewpoint imagery and photomontages will be set out in the EIA for scheduled monuments where their setting may potentially affected, and relevant mitigation will be identified. A visualisation will be included within Volume 4: Visualisations of the EIAR for SM12161, SM6076, SM6074 and SM12350. Where possible we will microsite the towers to minimise setting impacts and we will liaise with ACAS further in relation to mitigation measures. In respect of King's well, towers have been microsited to reduce impacts in this location.
Alternative Alignments Assessment – Historic Environment / Archaeology **Location 1: Hayston Hill Alternative Alignments 1a and 1b (ANGUS)** Preference for 1a; 1b much closer to / more setting impact on Arniefoul Cairn (SM389 / Angus HER NO44SW0001) – if route 1b preferred, further visualisations / photomontages will be required.		We note ACAS's preference of Alternative Alignments within each alignment section and at each location. The key feedback has been included in **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments** above. We propose to take Potential Alignment 1a forward to the next stage, so the potential setting impacts will be reduced. A visualisation will be included within Volume 4: Visualisations of the EIAR for SM389.
Location 2: Padanaram Alternative Alignments 2a and 2b (ANGUS) Preference for 2a; 2b much closer to / more setting impact on Ballinshoe Castle (SM162 / Angus HER NO45SW0001), direct impact on undesignated		We note ACAS's preference of Alternative Alignments within each alignment section and at each location. The key feedback has been included in **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to**

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
cropmark site (Angus HER NO45SW0027) – if route 2b preferred, further visualisations / photomontages will be required.		**Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments** above. We propose to take Potential Alignment 2a forward to the next stage, so the potential setting impacts will be reduced. A visualisation will be included within Volume 4: Visualisations of the EIAR for SM162.
Location 3: Justinhaugh Alternative Alignments 3a and 3b (ANGUS) Preference for 3a; 3b much closer to / more setting impact on Battledykes Roman Camp (SM2308 / Angus HER NO45NE0012) and Battledykes Cairn (SM7234, Angus HER NO45NE0015) – if route 3b preferred, further visualizations / photomontages will be required.		We note ACAS's preference of Alternative Alignments within each alignment section and at each location. The key feedback has been included in **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments** above. We propose to take Potential Alignment 3a forward to the next stage, so the potential setting impacts will be reduced. A visualisation will be included within Volume 4: Visualisations of the EIAR for SM7234.
Location 4: Careston Alternative Alignments 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d and 4e (ANGUS) Preference for 4a; 4e closer to / more setting impact on Vayne Castle (SM4015 / Angus HER NO45NE0001) and Vayne Standing Stone (SM135 / Angus HER NO45NE0015), 4c closer to / more setting impact on Law of Windsor Cairn (SM3375 / Angus HER NO56SW0010) – if routes 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e preferred, further visualizations / photomontages will be required.		We note ACAS's preferences of Alternative Alignments within each alignment section and at each location. The key feedback has been included in **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments** above. We propose to take Potential Alignment 4a forward to the next stage, so the potential setting impacts will be reduced. A visualisation will be included

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		within Volume 4: Visualisations of the EIAR for SM3375.
Location 5: Durris Alternative Alignments 5a and 5b (ABERDEENSHIRE) Preference for 5a; 5b closer to / more setting impact on Nether Auquhollie Satnding Stone (SM983 / Aberdeenshire HER NO89SW0008) and Campstone Hill Field System & Cairns (SM4878 / Aberdeenshire HER NO89SW0003) – if route 5b preferred, further visualizations / photomontages will be required.		We note ACAS's preference of Alternative Alignments within each alignment section and at each location. The key feedback has been included in **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments** above. We propose to take Potential Alignment 5a forward to the next stage, so the potential setting impacts will be reduced.
Location 6: North of Drumoak Alternative Alignments 6a, 6b and 6c (ABERDEENSHIRE) No strong views, but probably 6a would be preferred option		We note ACAS's preference of Alternative Alignments within each alignment section and at each location. The key feedback has been included in **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments** above. None of the alternative alignments at Location 6 will be taken forward to the Proposed Alignment as they formed sub-options to Alternative Alignment 5b which will not form part of the Proposed Alignment as Potential Alignment 5a has been selected to take forward to the Proposed Alignment in Sections E to F.
Location 7: Schoolhill Alternative Alignments 7a, 7b and 7c (ABERDEENSHIRE)		We note ACAS's preference of Alternative Alignments within each alignment section and at each location. The key feedback has been included in **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to**

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Preference for 7a; 7b closer to / more setting impact on Tillyorn Moated Homestead (SM12161, Aberdeenshire HER NJ70SE0118) – if routes 7b or 7c preferred, further visualizations / photomontages will be required.		**Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments** above. We propose to take Potential Alignment 7c forward to the next stage and will undertake further visualisations / photomontages. A visualisation will be included within Volume 4: Visualisations of the EIAR for SM12161.
Location 8: Echt Alternative Alignments 8a, 8b and 8c (ABERDEENSHIRE) Preference for 8b, or 8a; 8c closer to / more setting impact on East Finnercy Cairn (SM6076, Aberdeenshire HER NJ70SE0002) – if route 8c preferred, further visualisations / photomontages will be required.		We note ACAS's preference of Alternative Alignments within each alignment section and at each location. The key feedback has been included in **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments** above. We propose to take Potential Alignment 8a forward to the next stage, so the potential setting impacts will be reduced. A visualisation will be included within Volume 4: Visualisations of the EIAR for SM6076.
1. In relation to the consultation document, it is noted that the that the Land Use and Properties plans of the route do not appear to record the location of all housing, or shows single points where there are multiple residential receptors. There is an example of property at Woodhead of Ballinshoe (close the Location 2 – Padanaram) which does not appear to have been recorded on the mapping and is located close to a proposed tower location. The mapping should ensure that all relevant receptors are identified as part of the route alignment selection to ensure impacts on residential receptors are understood and assessed. As noted in Angus Council's response to the EIA scoping opinion, careful consideration should be given to the threshold for residential visual amenity assessment (RVAA)	Angus Council	**1.** The OS base maps we have used are the latest available from Ordnance Survey, dated July 2024. We do not rely on OS base maps to identify properties and we use the most up to date versions of AddressBase data, which we overlay on our GIS systems. We also collect LIDAR data to provide up to date aerial imagery to ensure we are including all properties. Our land teams are liaising directly with landowners.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
and the result of such as assessment will be a consideration which informs the final choice of route alignment and tower locations.		The threshold for RVAA will be considered carefully by the landscape and visual specialists with reference to relevant LVIA guidance, and properties will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Proximity to properties has been a key consideration throughout the design development process.
2. Angus Council's response to the EIA Scoping Opinion Consultation highlighted that four Local Landscape Areas (LLA) have been designated by Angus Council. The consultation document within Overview of Key Constraints indicates that their status is "proposed". For clarification, the LLAs in Angus were approved by Angus Council on 16 April 2024 and are no longer subject to change. They are referred in the consultation document, but they are not plotted on the constraints mapping. Similarly, the Angus Local Nature Conservation Sites are not plotted on the constraints mapping, but where the alignment options have a potential direct impact on a LNCS, this has been identified in the relevant alignment option below.		**2.** Angus Council's comments regarding the LLA and the LNCS have been reviewed by our project team and will be included in the LVIA and the ecology assessment for the EIA respectively. We will ensure that all the LLA and LNCS designated sites will be plotted on all future relevant constraints mapping and will be fully referenced in the EIAR. Please also refer to the response provided in **Table 3.2: Community impact** under the heading **Landscape and Visual**.
3. You should also be aware that the Angus Forestry & Woodland Strategy 2024-2034 was approved by council in June 2024. The strategy identifies statutory "Woodland of High Nature Conservation Value" (WHNCV) (as well as potential expansion zones), which should also be considered under ecology constraints in relation to this development. It may also be relevant to development mitigation and biodiversity enhancement proposals. This has been referred to in previous feedback and it is considered that WHNCV should be included within the assessment.		**3.** This information has been reviewed by our project team and will be used to inform ongoing project development. WHNCV will be considered by the ecology, landscape and visual and forestry and woodland specialist teams where relevant when undertaking the EIA. WHNCV will be fully referenced in the EIAR and mitigation measures will be considered with reference to the ecological criteria which have formed part of the Council's assignment of WHNCV to woodlands. Please also refer to the response provided in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under the heading

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		Biodiversity, Habitats, Protected Species and Designated Sites.
4. **<u>Section A: Tealing to Forfar</u>** **Location 1 - Hayston Hill** In relation to the alternative alignment options labelled 1a and 1b around Hayston Hill, it is noted that 1a is identified as the potential alignment option. The rationale for this potential alignment option is noted and understood, and in landscape and visual terms it is acknowledged that an option which favours ground at lower elevation is likely to result in reduced landscape and visual impacts. However, this option may result in the route being sited closer to an increased number of residential receptors. Micro siting of towers will be important to minimising the significance of impact of the development on residential receptors.		**4.** We note your comments on the Alternative Alignment locations. All details from Angus Council will be reviewed by the project EIA team and we will continue to liaise with Angus Council as the project develops. Location-specific responses are provided below. **Location 1 – Hayston Hill** Proximity to properties has been a key consideration throughout the design development process. We have aimed to route the OHL a target distance of 170 m or more from residential properties and to maintain a minimum distance of 100 m where possible and taking account of other land use, environmental and technical constraints including landscape and visual considerations. Proximity to property (within approximately 300 m of the alignment Limit of Deviation (LoDs)) for the two alternatives in Location 1 such as near Arniefoul and Hayston is considered to be similar, and the OHL alignment will be developed to target a separation distance of at least 170 m from properties wherever possible taking account of all relevant constraints.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		Please also refer to the response provided in **Table 3.2: Community impact** under the heading **Landscape and Visual**.
Section B: Forfar to Brechin **Location 2 – Padanaram** The rationale for potential alignment option 2a is noted and understood, and in landscape and visual terms in particular it is acknowledged that an option which favours ground at lower elevation is likely to result in reduced landscape and visual impacts. While both options are scored as amber for 'people – proximity to dwellings' within Table 6.4, option 2a is likely to result in greater impacts on Padanaram and on rural residential receptors north of Padanaram around Ballinshoe. As referenced above, it appears that not all residential receptors are identified in the mapping (p313) and this should be reviewed. Micro siting of towers will be important to minimising the significance of impact of the development on residential receptors.		**Location 2 - Padanaram** Proximity to properties has been a key consideration throughout the design development process and the Proposed Alignment has been determined through consideration of many environmental, technical and cost constraints. Proximity to property (within approximately 300 m of the alignment LoDs) for the two alternatives in Location 2 is considered to be similar, and the OHL alignment will be developed to target a separation distance of at least 170 m from properties wherever possible taking account of all relevant constraints. Please also refer to the response provided in **Table 3.2: Community impact** under the heading **Landscape and Visual**. We will endeavour to ensure that all mapping uses the most up to date residential data available. Please see our response earlier in this Table in relation to use of up-to-date sources of property information for our assessments.
Location 3 – Justinhaugh The rationale for this potential alignment option is noted. Both options 3a and 3b involve challenges in crossing the River South Esk, which is designated both for its natural heritage value and as a local landscape area.		**Location 3 - Justinhaugh** The comments relevant to Location 3 are acknowledged and have been reviewed by the project EIA team. We note that the River South Esk

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
We would welcome further discussion in relation to this option in an attempt to minimise impacts on the LLA, noting the other relevant constraints which affect route options is this location.		has been designated for its local landscape and its international natural heritage value. Following receipt of the consultation comments, we have met with Angus Council to discuss the LLAs and other constraints associated with the alternative alignments at the crossing of the River South Esk where the constraints were outlined. These discussions have informed our review of the comparative appraisal of the alternatives and we have confirmed that we will take forward Potential Alignment 3a as part of the Proposed Alignment (see **Table 4.1: Factors informing selection of Potential Alignment**). We will continue to engage with Angus Council through the design development process.
Location 4 – Careston (this also encompasses part of Section C) The rationale for this potential alignment option is noted and understood, and in landscape and visual terms in particular it is acknowledged that an option which favours simpler and straighter lines for the route, along ground where there are fewer changes in topography is beneficial over an alternative involving more changes of direction and undulating topography. The potential alignment option 4a appears to be located in a larger scale landscape and therefore more likely to be suitable for larger structures. Potential alignment option 4a appears to have less of an impact on the River South Esk Local Landscape Area (LLA) than alternative alignment option 4c which appears to run in or adjacent to parts of that LLA. The council's Local Nature Conservation Sites are not plotted on the constraints mapping, and you should be aware that alignment option 4d		**Location 4 - Careston** The comments relevant to Location 4 are acknowledged and have been reviewed by the project EIA team. Landscape and visual constraints including topography and river crossings of the Location 4 area formed a key element of the identification and appraisal of the alternative alignments, as set out in the detailed appraisal tables in our Consultation Document. We note the comments related to Alternative Alignment 4a and 4c in relation to landscape and the River South Esk LLA, and the comments related to Alternative Alignment 4d in relation to the

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
runs through or adjacent to Barrelwell Bog (see mapping extracts below]), and therefore may be affected by alternative alignment option 4d. [mapping extract not republished here]		potential effect to Barrelwell Bog LNCS. These have been taken into account during the identification of the Proposed Alignment.
Thank you for your consultation request. I can advise that Dundee City Council has no comment on the proposal.	Dundee City Council	Noted.
Our remit is World Heritage Sites, scheduled monuments and their setting, category A-listed buildings and their setting, and gardens and designed landscapes (GDLs) and battlefields in their respective inventories. Please also seek information and advice from Angus Council and Aberdeenshire Council's archaeology and conservation services for matters including unscheduled archaeology and category B and C-listed buildings.	Historic Environment Scotland (HES)	HES's role is noted. We have also received feedback from the relevant local authority archaeology services.
General comments As identified in our previous responses, we recommend that visualisations are used to help assess the impact of the proposed scheme on the setting of the key assets affected. This will be particularly important for those areas where significant effects on the setting of historic environment assets within our remit are likely. Cumulative impacts (for example, the proposed substations at Emmock and Hurlie as well as the tie-ins and existing 132kV and 275kV OHL infrastructure) should also be considered when providing visualisations as there is also the potential for significant cumulative impacts from the proposals. These should be used to assess and mitigate impacts during the design of the final proposed scheme. Our final position on the severity of any effects will need to be informed by an appropriate assessment produced as part of the forthcoming EIA Report, including photomontages, where appropriate. At this stage, there remain a number of areas along the route where the likelihood of significant adverse impacts is possible. Whilst some of these areas may be capable of being designed out as work on refining alignments		From extensive work completed already, we are aware of the large number and variety of cultural heritage designations or assets within, and within close proximity to the alternative alignments. This includes a number of nationally important cultural heritage designations such as Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments and GDL. The appraisal work undertaken to date has considered these key constraints and avoided designated sites where possible to reduce the potential for adverse effects on their setting. The consultation process has provided a wealth of detailed national, regional and local information which will be included in the EIA including for some sites their locality or setting. The EIA assessment on cultural heritage will be closely aligned with the landscape and visual

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
progresses, it is possible that some significant adverse impacts may remain. We would welcome further consultation as the design progresses in order to assist with any potential mitigation by design and to provide our advice at useful stages during the process.		assessment in terms of character, setting, and reflecting the integrated landscape and cultural heritage importance of GDL designations. The teams involved in these assessments will work together to understand the overall effect on the environment including cumulative effects, and mitigation measures will be developed by the project's specialists wherever possible. Visualisations are being prepared to support the assessment of impact upon setting of key assets and we are consulting with HES to agree the locations for these. The completed visualisations will also show cumulative projects where relevant to inform the cumulative impact assessment of effects on cultural heritage. The visualisations (photomontages and wireline images) will be presented within the EIAR. The Cultural Heritage chapter of the EIAR will set out the findings of the impact assessment and any predicted significant effects on cultural heritage assets. Please also refer to the response provided in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under heading **Cultural Heritage**. Further consultation with HES is ongoing as the EIA and design development process progresses.
We understand that the current consultation has a number of Potential Alignments which form the currently preferred option for the proposed overhead line (OHL) and that in a number of areas along the route there		We note the legislative requirements regarding protected cultural heritage sites. It is also recognised that national and local government

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
are also Alternative Alignments which are still under consideration. There are a number of nationally important designated historic environment assets that either lie within or immediately adjacent to the limits of deviation (LOD) for the proposed alignments, where direct physical impacts will need to be avoided and where impacts on setting will need to be carefully assessed and mitigated. There are also a large number of assets in the wider vicinity of the alignments where potential significant impacts on setting will similarly need to be assessed and mitigated. We welcome that early draft wireframes and 3D-model screenshots have recently been shared with us and we found these useful to review alongside the consultation documentation.		planning policy has a number of policy objectives related to avoiding and minimising impacts on cultural heritage assets. The Cultural Heritage chapter of the EIAR will set out the findings of the impact assessment and any predicted significant effects on cultural heritage assets including those identified in the wider vicinity of the Proposed Alignment where the setting of these sites has the potential to be affected by the OHL.
Section A Scheduled monuments **Balkemback Cottages, stone circle 500m WNW of (SM2868)** The monument is identified in the assessment and we note that the alignment would be located just 20m to the west. CH2 (Figures 10.4a-d) is a wireframe which demonstrates that the OHL pylons would be highly visible from it. As previously advised, the assessment should also consider the potential impact on views looking towards the monument with the OHL appearing in the same view, and we would welcome an additional visualisation (e.g. a wireframe) to demonstrate this. Given the proximity to the monument, we have concerns about the potentially significant adverse impact on its setting and recommend that mitigation measures are considered to reduce this impact. We would be happy to discuss potential mitigation options if that would be helpful at this stage. **Arniefoul, cairn 820m NE of (SM389)**		We note the information provided and concerns related to the specific Scheduled Monuments in Section A and information related to the specific Alternative Alignments 1a and 1b. The feedback provided on the alternative alignments is appreciated. The appraisal of cultural heritage constraints in this location specifically considered the scheduled monuments at Arniefoul cairn and Nether Arniefoul unenclosed settlement. The Potential Alignment 1a was identified to be less constrained than the Alternative Alignment 1b in relation to these designated sites. We will take Potential Alignment 1a forward as part of the Proposed Alignment (see **Table 4.1: Factors informing selection of Potential Alignment**). Discussions are ongoing with HES in relation to the sensitivity of the scheduled monuments identified and the potential for mitigation including through

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
The monument is identified in the assessment and is located within 380m of the OHL. CH4 Figures 10.a-b demonstrate the impact on its setting. We note that two alignment options are located in proximity to it at Hayston Hill. Although Alternative Alignment 1a (the Potential Alignment) would be located in close proximity to the monument, it would not be visible from it. However, the Alternative Alignment 1b would potentially impact on views to and from the cairn and impact on the intervisibility between Carlunie Hill, cairn (SM6449) which is included as a viewpoint at CH3 (Figures 10.5a-b) to the southwest. There are potential impacts on the setting of scheduled monuments in the vicinity from both alignments. However, at this stage and based on the current information the Alternative Alignment 1a (the Potential Alignment) would appear to have less of an impact on the setting of this scheduled monument. **Nether Arniefoul, unenclosed settlement 500m NE of (SM6423)** and **Kirkton homestead moat (SM6070)** We note that these monuments are not identified in the consultation documents. We have previously advised that these assets should be assessed for potential impacts to their settings and we continue to recommend that this work should be carried out and inform any design and mitigation given their proximity to the alignments. **Craig Hill, fort and broch (SM3038)** The monument is not identified in the consultation documents, but we note that a visualisation has been produced (CH1) showing the OHL mostly sitting below the skyline in views from the monument. **St Orland's Stone, Glamis (SM90270 and a Property in the Care of Scottish Ministers)** The monument comprises an 8/9th century AD Pictish cross slab measuring 2.4m high. On one face is a full length cross carved in relief with		final design development and micrositing of OHL tower locations, in particular for issues relating to the setting of Balkemback Cottages stone circle. The Cultural Heritage chapter of the EIAR will set out the findings of the impact assessment and any predicted significant effects on cultural heritage assets. This will take into account potential effects on settings of the other monuments identified in HES's response which did not directly inform the appraisal of alternative alignments. A visualisation will be included within Volume 4: Visualisations of the EIAR for SM2686, SM389, SM90270 and SM3038.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
a variety of interlaced patterns, while on the reverse are several Pictish symbols and figures including a rare depiction of a manned boat. Excavations in 1855 uncovered several burials around the base of the stone. The monument is located in an open and rural landscape with little large-scale modern development in the vicinity. The proposed OHL would be located 865m to the east and is likely to be highly visible from it. As the monument does not currently appear to be included in the assessment, we recommend that this is rectified and that visualisations are produced, looking both from and towards the monument, to demonstrate the potential impact on its setting.		
Section B Scheduled monuments Location 2: Padanaram: **Ballinshoe Castle (SM162)** We note that the Potential Alignment was selected partly because it is further away from the monument. CH6 (Figures 10.8a-c) shows the likely impact on its setting. **Fletcherfield, enclosure 100m SE of (SM5911)** We note that the Potential Alignment was selected partly because it is further away from the monument. **Battledykes Roman Camp (SM2308) and Battledykes, cairn 475m SSE of (SM7234)** There does not appear to be a visualisation included for the Roman Camp, but CH7 (Figures 10.9a-c) shows the likely impact on the setting of Battledykes, cairn (SM7234).		We note the information provided and the concerns related to the specific Scheduled Monuments in Section B and information related to the specific Alternative Alignments 2a and 2b. The feedback provided on the alternative alignments is appreciated. The appraisal of cultural heritage constraints in this location specifically considered the scheduled monuments at Ballinshoe Castle and Fletcherfield. The Potential Alignment 2a was identified to be less constrained than the Alternative Alignment 2b in relation to these designated sites. Battledykes Roman Camp and Battledykes Cairn were specifically considered during the cultural heritage appraisal for Location 3. The Potential Alignment 3a was identified to be less constrained than the Alternative Alignment 3b in relation to these designated sites.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		We will take Potential Alignment 2a and 3a forward as part of the Proposed Alignment (see **Table 4.1: Factors informing selection of Potential Alignment**). Discussions are ongoing with HES in relation to the sensitivity of the scheduled monuments identified and the potential for mitigation including through final design development and micrositing of OHL tower locations. The Cultural Heritage chapter of the EIAR will set out the findings of the impact assessment and any predicted significant effects on cultural heritage assets. This will take into account potential effects on settings of all relevant sensitive designations. A visualisation will be included within Volume 4: Visualisations of the EIAR for SM162 and SM7234. Battledykes Cairn is located immediately south of Battledykes Roman Camp and the visualisation from the Cairn will look across Battledykes Roman Camp (SM 2308) towards the Proposed Development providing landscape context for both the Cairn and the Roman Camp.
<u>Location 4: Careston:</u> Five alternative alignments have been considered in this area (4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e) as there are a variety of constraints including a number of monuments in close proximity (including **Law of Windsor, cairn E of Hilton of Fern (SM3375), Vayne Castle, castle 290m SSW of Vayne (SM4015)**, etc).		We note the information provided and concerns related to the specific Scheduled Monuments in Section B and information related to the specific Alternative Alignments 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d and 4e. The feedback provided on the alternative alignments is appreciated. The appraisal of cultural heritage constraints in this location specifically

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Alternatives 4c and 4e are closest to Law of Windsor cairn (SM3375) and likely to have greater impact on its setting. The Law of Windsor cairn (SM3375) has an important topographic relationship with the landscape to the south and the open views into Strathmore. There are also important views to the east and west along the ridgeline which the cairn and other scheduled monuments are situated on. CH4 (Figures 10.11a-c) shows the likely impact on the setting of the monument. Alternatives 4a, 4b and 4d are further from SM3375, but are located in closer proximity to Wellford Enclosure (SM6390). Given the number of scheduled monuments in the vicinity of the OHL, all of the alternatives have the potential to impact on their setting. Based on the available information at this stage, Potential Alignment (4a) would appear to have less adverse impacts on the setting of scheduled monuments.		considered the scheduled monuments at Law of Windsor cairn and at Vayne Castle. The Potential Alignment 4a was identified to be less constrained than the other Alternative Alignments in relation to these designated sites. We will take Potential Alignment 4a forward as part of the Proposed Alignment (see **Table 4.1: Factors informing selection of Potential Alignment**). Discussions are ongoing with HES in relation to the sensitivity of the scheduled monuments identified and the potential for mitigation including through final design development and micrositing of OHL tower locations. The Cultural Heritage chapter of the EIAR will set out the findings of the impact assessment and any predicted significant effects on cultural heritage assets. This will take into account potential effects on settings of all relevant sensitive designations. A visualisation will be included within Volume 4: Visualisations of the EIAR for SM3375.
<u>Category A listed buildings and Inventory gardens and designed landscapes</u> We highlighted three assets in Section B in our Scoping response (**Careston Castle/ LB4656, Kintrockat House/ LB5011**, and **Brechin Castle/ GDL00070)**. The currently preferred Potential Alignment 4a is the most northern and furthest from these assets and we have a general preference for it in relation to impacts on the setting of these assets.		We note the information provided and concerns related to the specific Category A listed building and GDLs in Section B and information related to the specific Alternative Alignments 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d and 4e. The feedback provided on the alternative alignments is appreciated. The appraisal of cultural heritage constraints in this location specifically considered Category A listed buildings and GDLs.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Alternative Alignment 4c is closer to the northeast, north, and northwest of Careston Castle and could be more impactful in views along the north drive towards the building and would not be our preferred option.		The Potential Alignment 4a was identified to be less constrained than the other Alternative Alignments in relation to these designated sites. We will take Potential Alignment 4a forward as part of the Proposed Alignment (see **Table 4.1: Factors informing selection of Potential Alignment**). Discussions are ongoing with HES in relation to the sensitivity of the scheduled monuments identified and the potential for mitigation including through final design development and micrositing of OHL tower locations. The Cultural Heritage chapter of the EIAR will set out the findings of the impact assessment and any predicted significant effects on cultural heritage assets. This will take into account potential effects on settings of all relevant sensitive designations. A visualisation will be included within Volume 4: Visualisations of the EIAR for LB4656.
Section C Scheduled monuments We note that a number of scheduled monuments have been identified in the consultation documents as being located within 1km of the Potential Alignment and that draft visualisations have been produced for three of these: **Finavon, fort (SM139)** (CH8), **Stracathro Roman camp (SM2829)** (CH11) and **Witch Hillock, burial mound and stone setting (SM4823)** (CH12). **The Caterthuns, hillforts (SM90069 and a Property in the Care of Scottish Ministers)**		We note the information provided and concerns related to the specific Scheduled Monuments in Section C. Discussions are ongoing with HES in relation to the sensitivity of the scheduled monuments identified and the potential for mitigation including through final design development and micrositing of OHL tower locations. The Cultural Heritage chapter of the EIAR will set out the findings of the impact assessment and any predicted significant effects on cultural heritage

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
The scheduled monument is located approximately 4km to the northwest of the Potential Alignment and we welcome that the asset is identified as key constraint. We note that there are no proposed alternative alignments in section C as the Potential Alignment is considered to be the least constrained option overall.		assets taking your comments on board in relation to sensitive cultural heritage designations. A visualisation will be included within Volume 4: Visualisations of the EIAR for SM139, SM2829, SM4823, SM90069.
Section D Scheduled monuments **Droop Hill Cairns (SM4778)** This scheduled monument is located approximately 300m to the north of the Potential Alignment and is identified as being a key constraint. We note that there are no proposed alternative alignments in this section as the Potential Alignment is considered to be the least constrained option overall. We note that a visualisation has been produced for Droop Hill Cairns (CH28). **Cairn o'Mount, cairns (SM4968)** We note that the proposed OHL would be located 9km east of the monument in this section.		We note the information provided and concerns related to the specific Scheduled Monuments in Section D. Discussions are ongoing with HES in relation to the sensitivity of the scheduled monuments identified and the potential for mitigation including through final design development and micrositing of OHL tower locations. The Cultural Heritage chapter of the EIAR will set out the findings of the impact assessment and any predicted significant effects on cultural heritage assets taking your comments on board in relation to sensitive cultural heritage designations. A visualisation will be included within Volume 4: Visualisations of the EIAR for SM4778 and SM4968.
Section E Scheduled monuments A number of monuments in the vicinity of the OHL are identified, including Barmekin of Echt hillfort (SM57), stone circles, cairns and a moated homestead. **Cairn-Mon-Earn cairn (SM4892)**		We note the information provided and concerns related to the specific Scheduled Monuments in Section E. Discussions are ongoing with HES in relation to the sensitivity of the scheduled monuments identified and the potential for mitigation including through

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
The monument is identified as a key constraint and is located approximately 800m west of the Potential Alignment. The alternative alignment would be 4km to the east. **Nether Auquhollie, inscribed stone 400m NW of (SM983)** The monument is not identified as a key constraint, but we note that the proposed OHL would be located just 270m west of the monument. Given the presence of the existing OHL in the immediate vicinity of the monument, we have concerns about the additional cumulative impact and suggest that a visualisation (for example, a wireframe) is produced to demonstrate this impact and identify whether any mitigation is required.		final design development and micrositing of OHL tower locations. The Cultural Heritage chapter of the EIAR will set out the findings of the impact assessment and any predicted significant effects on cultural heritage assets taking your comments on board in relation to sensitive cultural heritage designations. A visualisation will be included within Volume 4: Visualisations of the EIAR for SM57 and SM4892. With regards to SM983, it has since been discussed with HES that a visualisation for SM983 will not be required.
Section F Scheduled monuments We welcome that **Barmekin of Echt, hillfort (SM57), New Wester Echt Circle (SM 6074), South Leylodge Stone Circle (SM12350), East Finnercy Cairn (SM6076) and Tillyorn Moated Homestead (SM12161)** are identified as being key constraints within the consultation documents.		We note the information provided and concerns related to the specific Scheduled Monuments in Section F. The Cultural Heritage chapter of the EIAR will set out the findings of the impact assessment and any predicted significant effects on cultural heritage assets taking your comments on board in relation to sensitive cultural heritage designations. Further discussions will be held with HES in relation to proximity of the Potential Alignment to South Leylodge Steading Stone Circle. A visualisation will be included within Volume 4: Visualisations of the EIAR for SM57, SM6074, SM12350, SM6076 and SM12161.
Location 7: Schoolhill:		We note the information provided and concerns related to the specific Scheduled Monuments in

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
We note that there are 3 options in this area. Alternative Alignment 7b would be located considerably closer to Tillyorn Moated Homestead (SM12161) in comparison to either the Potential Alignment 7a or Alternative Alignment 7c.		Section F and the Alternative Alignments 7a, 7b and 7c. The feedback provided on the alternative alignments is appreciated. The appraisal of cultural heritage constraints in this location specifically considered the scheduled monument at Tillyorn Moated Homestead. The Alternative Alignment 7c was identified to be less constrained than the Potential Alignment 7a or Alternative Alignment 7b in relation to this designated site. We will take Potential Alignment 7c forward as part of the Proposed Alignment (see **Table 4.1: Factors informing selection of Potential Alignment**). Discussions are ongoing with HES in relation to the sensitivity of the scheduled monuments identified and the potential for mitigation including through final design development and micrositing of OHL tower locations. The Cultural Heritage chapter of the EIAR will set out the findings of the impact assessment and any predicted significant effects on cultural heritage assets taking your comments on board in relation to sensitive cultural heritage designations. A visualisation will be included within Volume 4: Visualisations of the EIAR for SM12161.
<u>Location 8: Echt:</u> We note that there are 3 options in this area. Alternative Alignment 8c would be closer to East Finnercy, cairn 330m WNW of (SM6076).		We note the information provided and concerns related to the specific Scheduled Monuments in Section F and the Alternative Alignments 8a, 8b and

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Barmekin of Echt, fort, Barmekin Hill (SM57) The monument is located 1km west of the proposed OHL. We note that visualisations have been produced (CH33 and LVIA36) which demonstrate that the OHL would be visible. **New Wester Echt, stone circle 170m SW of (SM6074)** The monument is located 200m west of the proposed OHL and CH26 shows that the pylons would be highly visible in views looking from the monument. The potential impact on views looking towards the monument with the OHL appearing in the same view should also be considered and we would welcome an additional visualisation (for example, a wireframe) to demonstrate this. **South Leylodge Steading, stone circle 110m W of (SM12350)** This scheduled monument is identified in the consultation document and we note that the Potential Alignment would be located just 30m to the east of the monument. CH27 is a wireframe which demonstrates that the OHL pylons would be highly visible from the monument. As previously advised, the assessment should also consider the potential impact on views looking towards the scheduled monument with the OHL appearing in the same view, and we would welcome an additional visualisation (for example, a wireframe) to demonstrate this. Given the proximity to the monument, we have concerns about potential significant adverse impacts on its setting, including potential cumulative impacts with existing transmission infrastructure and recommend that mitigation measures are considered to reduce this impact. **East Finnercy, cairn 330m WNW of (SM6076)** We note that this scheduled monument is located 325m east of the proposed OHL. All of the alignment options would be in close proximity to this cairn with Alternative Alignment 8c being closer for a greater distance.		8c. The details provided will be passed to the specialist project teams. The feedback provided on the alternative alignments is appreciated. The appraisal of cultural heritage constraints in this location specifically considered the scheduled monuments at Barkmekin of Echt fort and East Finnercy Cairn. The Potential Alignment 8a was identified to be less constrained than the Alternative Alignments in relation to these designated sites. We will take Potential Alignment 8a forward as part of the Proposed Alignment (see **Table 4.1: Factors informing selection of Potential Alignment**). Discussions are ongoing with HES in relation to the sensitivity of the scheduled monuments identified and the potential for mitigation including through final design development and micrositing of OHL tower locations. The Cultural Heritage chapter of the EIAR will set out the findings of the impact assessment and any predicted significant effects on cultural heritage assets taking your comments on board. This will take into account potential effects on settings of the other monuments identified in HES's response which did not directly inform the appraisal of alternative alignments. A visualisation will be included within Volume 4: Visualisations of the EIAR for SM57, SM6074, SM12350, SM6076 and SM6075.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Upper Corskie, stone circle and Pictish symbols 530m SE of (SM6075) This scheduled monument has not been identified as being a key constraint in the consultation documents. As it is located 620m east of the proposed OHL we suggest that a visualisation (for example, a wireframe) is produced to demonstrate the potential impacts on the setting of this asset.		
<u>Category A listed buildings and Inventory gardens and designed landscapes</u> There are multiple alignment options in Section F which diverge from either the preferred Potential Alignment 5a/7a near **Park House (GDL00309)** or Alternative Alignment 5b near **Drum Castle (GDL00141)** and which have the potential to impact the designed landscapes and associated listed buildings (see our earlier responses for our detailed comments). We do not have enough information to identify a preferred alignment for our remit with certainty at this stage. However, as pylons may be visible in key views of Park House (LB3103) and its designed landscape, alignment 5a/7a may be more impactful. Therefore, we may prefer an alignment option to the northeast, particularly 6b. We would appreciate another opportunity to comment on these alignment options after reviewing a cultural heritage appraisal and visualisations for these assets. The Category A-listed Park House (LB3103) is at the centre of the Park House designed landscape. Its principal elevation faces southeast. Because the previous route to the northeast was unlikely to impact the building's setting, we did not raise this asset as likely to receive potential impacts to its setting in our earlier consultation responses. The new preferred Potential Alignment 5a/7a is northwest of the designed landscape. Figure 4.6 shows that pylons could be visible behind the house's principal elevation in views from the south of the designed landscape (including South Deeside Road). If 5a/7a is selected, we advise		We note the information provided and the concerns related to the specific Category A listed buildings and Inventory gardens and designed landscape in Section F and the Alternative Alignments. The feedback provided on the alternative alignments is appreciated. The appraisal of cultural heritage constraints in this location specifically considered the GDLs and listed buildings at Park House and Drum Castle in relation to the Potential Alignment 5a and Alternative Alignment 5b respectively. Discussions are ongoing with HES in relation to the sensitivity of the scheduled monuments identified and the potential for mitigation including through final design development and micrositing of OHL tower locations The Cultural Heritage chapter of the EIAR will set out the findings of the impact assessment and any predicted significant effects on cultural heritage assets taking your comments on board. A visualisation will be included within Volume 4: Visualisations of the EIAR for GDL00309 and GDL00141.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
assessing if the proposed development would impact Park House by appearing in a key view. This assessment may require visualisations.		
Summary In summary, there are likely to be potentially significant impacts on the setting of a number of scheduled monuments, category A listed buildings and Inventory gardens and designed landscapes from the proposed development based on the information provided at this stage. Mitigation measures are likely to be required to reduce impacts on the setting of assets. We have particular concerns about effects on the setting of scheduled monuments from the following alignments given the proximity of the Potential Alignments to the scheduled monuments and that there are no alternative alignments being considered in these areas: **Section A: Emmock 400 kV Substation Near Tealing to Forfar** The alignment would be located just 20m to the west of **Balkemback Cottages, stone circle 500m WNW of (SM2868)**, as demonstrated by CH2. **Section F: North of the River Dee to Kintore Substation** The alignment would be located just 30m to the east of **South Leylodge Steading, stone circle 110m W of (SM12350)**, as demonstrated by CH27. There are a number of other areas along the route of the proposed OHL where potentially significant effects on the setting of assets within our remit are likely as noted above and where mitigation by design may help to reduce effects. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss any relevant options for mitigation and to continue engaging with you as the design of the proposed development continues to progress.		The Cultural Heritage chapter of the EIAR will set out the findings of the impact assessment and any predicted significant effects on cultural heritage assets. This chapter will also set out any mitigation measures required. Please also see our response in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under heading **Cultural Heritage.** During design development, in some locations the proximity of land use, population or environmental constraints required the consideration of possible localised alignments which could better avoid those constraints. At locations where there was an obvious preference for one of the possible alignments explored around these constraints, this alignment was taken forward as the Potential Alignment. In some locations, where more significant, lengthy or competing/complex constraints were identified and a preference could not be easily identified, the alignment options were defined as Alternative Alignments and taken forward for more comprehensive appraisal in order to select the Potential Alignment. We will continue to liaise with HES regarding the assets identified as our design, EIA and any mitigation proposals develop.
In Annex 1, we have provided detailed feedback on protected areas that could be affected by the alignment options. The previous feedback we	NatureScot	We note the feedback provided and the previous feedback provided by NatureScot. Landscape and

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
offered at the route selection stage (dated 31/05/2023 and 30/04/2024) remains relevant and the advice given here is in addition to previous feedback. We do not intend to provide landscape and visual commentary at this alignment stage however we recognise that landscape and visual amenity effects have been one of the key considerations in reaching the alignment options.		visual constraints have formed a key element of the identification and appraisal of the alternative alignments and we have taken into account relevant landscape designations identified by the local authorities.
1. Protected Areas		1. The information provided has been reviewed by our project team and will be used to inform the EIA and ongoing survey work and project development. Natural heritage aspects (including designations, protected species and habitats) have been a key consideration during the OHL alignment study process undertaken to date. The natural heritage designations are noted. Wherever possible, the alignment has avoided such designated sites (such as Special Protection Areas (SPA) or Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)) and ensured that buffers and clearance areas are left between the project and designated sites to reduce impacts. The process of designing the OHL and access tracks has endeavoured to avoid and reduce impacts on habitats and species as far as possible, including areas of Ancient Woodland, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), LNCS and aquatic designations, habitats and species. We have undertaken extensive field survey work for habitats and species and the findings have been used to inform the project design and appraisals and
Section A **Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SPA** The alignment options are within connectivity distance for the SPA. The potential impacts to pink-footed geese are loss of foraging habitat, collision risk and possible barrier effects from the OHL. WWT goose foraging information shows a concentration of goose foraging records along the alignment west of Forfar between the A94 and B957. Collison risk should be mitigated by the installation of suitable bird diverters along this section. We do not consider that the loss of foraging habitat will be significant given the amount of available habitat in the surrounding area.		

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		to reduce potential impacts through careful design and micrositing of towers and tracks. We have undertaken ornithological surveys and, for example, in locations of the OHL which are assessed as being higher risk for collision between qualifying SPA species and the OHL conductors, bird diverter mitigation has been included in the project design and will be taken into account in the ornithological assessment for the EIA. Two Habitats Regulations Appraisals (HRA) will be undertaken and reported as part of the EIAR; one in relation to the SACs and reported as part of the Ecology chapter, and one in relation to the SPAs and reported as part of the Ornithology chapter. Our contractors will be required to prepare a detailed and site specific Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) prior to commencement of construction. The CEMP will ensure that best practice measures are employed during construction to control noise, dust, prevent pollution and protect wildlife. Potential impacts to Protected Areas will be assessed and reported within the Ecology and the Ornithology chapters of the EIAR. Mitigation measures will be set out within each chapter and within the Schedule of Mitigation chapter of the EIAR, including SSEN Transmission's suite of Species Protection Plans (SPP) and General Environmental Management Plans (GEMP) and requirements for

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		other good practice environmental management plans as part of the CEMP. Our approach to designated sites, biodiversity and ornithology is also discussed in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under heading **Biodiversity, Habitats, Protected Species and Designated Sites**. We note that the alignment is within connectivity distance of the Firth of Tay and Eden Estuary SPA. The potential for impacts from the OHL on qualifying species passing through the corridor will be assessed and reported as part of the Ornithology chapter within the EIAR. The findings of an HRA addressing the likely significant effects of the project on relevant SPAs will also be included as part of the EIAR.
Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrew's Complex SPA It is unlikely that there is connectivity between the alignment options and the qualifying species of the SPA. This is because, with the possible exception of redbreasted merganser, they are marine feeding species that will not move inland across the alignment of the OHL. Red breasted mergansers may possibly move inland along rivers leading from the SPA to feed on riverine fish species (e.g. salmon) during the smolt run. We recommend using bird diverters where the OHL crosses waterways to mitigate this possible impact.		This information is noted. All mitigation measures will be set out within the EIAR which will include the use of bird diverters as part of the OHL conductor design in locations where the ornithological assessment identifies they are required.
Loch of Kinnordy SPA, SSSI and Ramsar The alignment options are within connectivity distance for the SPA. The potential impacts to pink-footed geese are loss of foraging habitat, collision risk and possible barrier effects from the OHL.		We note that the alignment is within connectivity distance of the Loch of Kinnordy SPA, SSSI and Ramsar site. The potential for impacts from the OHL on qualifying species passing through the corridor will be assessed as part of the Ornithology chapter

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
WWT goose foraging information shows a concentration of goose foraging records along the alignment west of Forfar between the A94 and B957. Collison risk should be mitigated by the installation of suitable bird diverters along this section. We do not consider that the loss of foraging habitat will be significant given the amount of available habitat in the surrounding area.		within the EIAR. The findings of an HRA addressing the likely significant effects of the project on relevant SPAs will also be included as part of the EIAR. All mitigation measures will be set out within the EIAR which will include the use of bird diverters as part of the OHL conductor design in locations where the ornithological assessment identifies they are required.
Loch of Lintrathen SPA, SSSI and Ramsar The alignment options are within connectivity distance for the SPA. The potential impacts to greylag geese and whooper swans are loss of foraging habitat, collision risk and possible barrier effects from the OHL. WWT goose foraging information shows a concentration of goose foraging records along the alignment west of Forfar between the A94 and B957. Whooper swans are likely to have a similar foraging area as used by the geese. Collison risk should be mitigated by the installation of suitable bird diverters along this section. We do not consider that the loss of foraging habitat will be significant given the amount of available habitat in the surrounding area.		We note that the alignment is within connectivity distance of the Loch of Lintrathen SPA, SSSI and Ramsar site. The potential for impacts from the OHL on qualifying species passing through the corridor will be assessed and reported as part of the Ornithology chapter within the EIAR. The findings of an HRA addressing the likely significant effects of the project on relevant SPAs will also be included as part of the EIAR. All mitigation measures will be set out within the EIAR which will include the use of bird diverters as part of the OHL conductor design in locations where the ornithological assessment identifies they are required.
River Tay SAC The alignment options cross the River Tay SAC at two locations where they intersect tributaries of the River Tay. Atlantic salmon and otter will be present at both crossings and it is likely that brook lamprey will also be present. Given the scale of the work in relation to the SAC, we do not consider there will be long-term impacts to the qualifying interests,		We note that the alignment crosses small watercourses forming part of the River Tay SAC at two locations. These constraints were also considered as part of our appraisal of the alternative alignments in Section B of the OHL. The potential impacts of the project on the qualifying interests of

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
provided standard mitigation measures are followed. Standard mitigation measures should be implemented during the construction work, including compliance with both project-wide and site-specific environmental management procedures. Standard protected species guidance should be followed. Measures should be in place to ensure that the aquatic environment is protected against pollution, excessive sediment run off and accidents (e.g. included within SSEN Transmission General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs), Species Protection Plans (SPPs), Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP)). Our understanding is that the OHL will span the river and SAC boundary. There should therefore be no direct effects on the designated species and indirect effects should be avoided through the above general measures.		the SAC will be assessed and reported as part of the Ecology chapter within the EIAR. All mitigation measures will be set out within the EIAR. Standard mitigation and other measures, including an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) to oversee works, will be implemented when working within the SAC boundary. Please also see our response above at the start of this section on Protected Areas in relation to general construction mitigation.
<u>Section B</u> **Loch of Kinnordy SPA, SSSI and Ramsar** See comments under Section A relating to Loch of Kinnordy SPA, SSSI and Ramsar. **Loch of Lintrathen SPA, SSSI and Ramsar** See comments under Section A relating to Loch of Lintrathen SPA, SSSI and Ramsar.		Noted. Please see our responses above in relation to the designated sites identified in Section A.
Montrose Basin SSSI, SPA and Ramsar including Dun's Dish SSSI As stated in our response to the route stage consultation, the alignment options are within connectivity distance for foraging geese (15 – 20 km) that could be associated with Montrose Basin SSSI, SPA and Ramsar. As such, the potential impacts to greylag and pink-footed geese are loss of foraging habitat, collision risk and possible barrier effects from the OHL. Geese surveys will need to be carried out to establish whether there are any feeding concentrations in the area. If there are, we request the installation of suitable bird diverters on lines in these areas.		We note that the alignment is within connectivity distance of the Montrose Basin SPA, SSSI and Ramsar site, including Dun's Dish SSSI. The potential for impacts from the OHL on qualifying species passing through the corridor will be assessed and reported as part of the Ornithology chapter within the EIAR. The findings of an HRA addressing the likely significant effects of the project on relevant SPAs will also be included as part of the EIAR.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		All mitigation measures will be set out within the EIAR which will include the use of bird diverters as part of the OHL conductor design in locations where the ornithological assessment identifies they are required. Geese surveys have been undertaken at agreed vantage points (VPs) along the entire length of the alignment.
River South Esk SAC The River South Esk SAC is intersected by the alignment options at two locations. It is likely that Atlantic salmon will be present at the crossing option locations. A recent survey was conducted for a casework consultation on the section of river between Tannadice and Inshewan which found freshwater pearl mussel (FWPM), including juveniles. Our understanding is that SSEN do not intend to enter the water and, as such, no FWPM survey would be required. Appropriate bankside construction mitigation methods should be followed. Standard mitigation measures should be implemented during the construction work to avoid excess silt and pollutants into the river, including compliance with both project-wide and site-specific environmental management procedures. Standard protected species guidance should be followed. Measures should be in place to ensure that the aquatic environment is protected against pollution, excessive sediment run off and accidents (e.g. included within SSEN Transmission General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs), Species Protection Plans (SPPs), Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP)). Our understanding is that the OHL will span the river and SAC boundary. There should therefore be no direct effects on the designated species and indirect effects avoided through the above general measures.		We note that the alignment crosses the River South Esk SAC at two locations. These constraints were also considered as part of our appraisal of the alternative alignments in Section B of the OHL. The potential impacts of the project on the qualifying interests of the SAC will be assessed and reported as part of the Ecology chapter within the EIAR. All mitigation measures will be set out within the EIAR. Standard mitigation and other measures, including an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) to oversee works, will be implemented when working within the SAC boundary. Please also see our response above at the start of this section on Protected Areas in relation to general construction mitigation.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Forest Muir SSSI Whilst the alignment options are within 1km of Forest Muir SSSI, we do not consider that they will affect the site due to the distance and the use of standard good practice measures.		Noted.
Section C **Loch of Kinnordy SPA, SSSI and Ramsar** See comments under Section A relating to Loch of Kinnordy SPA, SSSI and Ramsar. **Montrose Basin SSSI, SPA and Ramsar including Dun's Dish SSSI** See comments under Section B relating to Montrose Basin SSSI, SPA and Ramsar including Dun's Dish SSSI		Noted. Please see our responses above in relation to the designated sites identified in Sections A and B.
North Esk and West Water Palaeochannels SSSI Based on the mapping provided, the alignment options will not directly traverse the Geological Conservation Review (GCR)/SSSI area and there is over 500m between the southern-most corner of the designated area and the closest pylon tower (based on indicative pylon locations). Therefore, we conclude that the natural heritage features of the SSSI will not be affected by the proposal. The pylon construction works will fall downstream of the SSSI and so there will be no temporary indirect impacts on sedimentation from the development affecting the SSSI. It is worth noting however, that the terraces and palaeochannel features do not stop at the SSSI boundary and there is an extensive suite of palaeochannels across this palaeosandur (glacial outwash). Whilst not part of the SSSI, they form part of the same suite of landforms and add wider context to the SSSI features. Earthworks for the pylons may be quite extensive where the base is stripped, levelled and cleared for the foundations of the towers. As such, we recommend that the towers should be sited on the large flat terraces, avoiding obvious palaeochannels. The		Noted. Discussions are ongoing with NatureScot regarding the North Esk and West Water Palaeochannels SSSI and micrositing of towers. This will be informed by the findings from ground investigation surveys which are in progress along the alignment.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
indicative tower locations appear to largely be on the terraces rather than the palaeochannels, however, we would be happy to work with SSEN to further support micro-siting the pylon bases to avoid the channels.		
Elsie Moss SSSI Whilst the alignment options are within 1km of Eslie Moss SSSI, we do not consider that they will affect the site due to the distance and the use of standard good practice measures.		Noted. All mitigation measures will be set out in the EIAR.
Section D **Montrose Basin SSSI, SPA and Ramsar** See comments under Section B relating to Montrose Basin SSSI, SPA and Ramsar including Dun's Dish SSSI.		Noted. Please see our related response under Section B.
Fowlsheugh SPA Whilst the alignment options are within the connectivity distance for the SPA, we consider that they are not likely to have an effect on the designated features of Fowlsheugh SPA. The Scoping Report states that "*Although the OHL is within connectivity of the foraging range of SPA qualifying species Herring gull, relative lack of foraging opportunities within the Proposed Development coupled with a likely low collision risk of the species' group would mean that no LSE is predicted for the qualifying Fowlsheugh SPA species*." We agree with this statement.		Noted.
Loch of Lumgair SSSI We do not consider that the alignment options will affect the site due to the distance and the use of standard good practice measures.		Noted. All mitigation measures will be set out in the EIAR.
Section E **Fowlsheugh SPA** See comments under Section D relating to Fowlsheugh SPA.		Noted.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Loch of Skene SPA, SSSI and Ramsar See comments under Section F relating to Loch of Skene SPA, SSSI and Ramsar		
River Dee SAC The River Dee SAC is intersected by the alignment options in three locations. It is likely that Atlantic salmon and otter are present at all river crossing options. FWPM have been found immediately downstream of the alignment and so appropriate bankside construction mitigation methods should be followed. Standard mitigation measures should be implemented during the construction work to avoid excess silt and pollutants entering the water, including compliance with both project-wide and site-specific environmental management procedures. Standard protected species guidance should be followed. Measures should be in place to ensure that the aquatic environment is protected against pollution, excessive sediment run off and accidents (e.g. included within SSEN Transmission General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs), Species Protection Plans (SPPs), Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP)). Our understanding is that the OHL will span the river and SAC boundary. There should therefore be no direct effects on the designated species and indirect effects avoided through the above general measures.		We note that the alignment crosses the River Dee SAC at three locations. These constraints were also considered as part of our appraisal of the alternative alignments in Section E and F of the OHL. The potential impacts of the project on the qualifying interests of the SAC will be assessed and reported as part of the Ecology chapter within the EIAR. All mitigation measures will be set out within the EIAR. Standard mitigation and other measures, including an ECoW to oversee works, will be implemented when working within the SAC boundary. Please also see our response above at the start of this section on Protected Areas in relation to general construction mitigation. Further details of the relevant management plans and specific mitigation commitments will be provided in the EIAR.
<u>Section F</u> **Loch of Park SSSI** The potential alignment, which sits to the west of Drumoak, crosses the eastern edge of Loch of Park SSSI (based on the indicative Limits of Deviation). It is important to note that should this potential alignment be taken forward, our advice at the application stage will be in line with National Planning Framework (NPF4) Policy 4(c) which states that		Thank you for the feedback and information provided in your response about the importance and characteristics of the Loch of Park SSSI. Discussions have been ongoing with NatureScot in regard to the design and mitigation of proposed OHL tower positions and foundations in proximity to the Loch of Park SSSI. Micrositing of towers has

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
"*Development proposals that will affect a… Site of Special Scientific Interest will only be supported where:* • The objectives of designation and the overall integrity of the areas will not be compromised; or • Any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by social, environmental or economic benefits of national importance." Section 5.3 of our 'Development Management and the Natural Heritage' guidance provides further information on our approach. In addressing the criteria of NPF4 Policy 4(c) we will consider: • Impacts on the natural features of a sites (direct and indirect); • The extent to which impacts of a development might affect the condition of the site's natural features; • The permanence of the impacts; • Impacts in combination with other proposals or activities; and • Our balancing duty. Loch of Park SSSI is mainly a surface water fed wetland with the main water supply being from the Black Burn to the west of the site with the outflow to the south. Vegetation communities within the eastern section of Loch of Park SSSI include M9 (NO7705698713) which indicates there is some ground water influence. In SEPA's Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Development Proposals on Groundwater Abstractions and Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems, M9 is listed as a wetland that is likely to be highly groundwater dependant. Our previous records note the '*occurrence of two chalybeate springs (containing metal salts particularly of iron) of great strength on the Park Estate with the stronger of the two at Loch of Park*'. There are a number of wells present in the vicinity of the		been ongoing to ensure that no construction will occur within the SSSI site boundary and to develop a detailed design which can avoid indirect effects on the protected area through hydrological and hydrogeological pathways. Surveys have been ongoing, including ecological (habitats including groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTE)) and hydrological surveys at the Loch of Park SSSI and its environs. The results of these surveys together with desk based data provided by NatureScot will be used to inform detailed design and assessment. This will take account of relevant guidance including the SEPA guidance highlighted by NatureScot. Any potential impacts to this designated site will be assessed with respect to the designation's qualities and objectives and reported as part of the EIAR along with the relevant mitigation measures. We will continue to engage with NatureScot as the alignment design develops in this sensitive location.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
potential alignment, particularly the indicative tower locations. The flow of water from these wells will vary throughout the year depending on their water supply, therefore hydrological connectivity between the wells and Loch of Park SSSI may also vary in strength throughout the year. The King's Well, which is located to the north-east of the site and close to the indicative location of one of the towers, is hydrologically connected to Loch of Park SSSI. SSEN's ecological and hydrological report (November 2024) noted that in the area immediately around King's Well '*There was no semi-natural shrub or field layer as rhododendron formed a dense thicket under the tress, suppressing all other vegetation. As such it was not possible to assign an NVC community, and there were no signs of any community that could be considered to be groundwater-dependent*'. Although any potentially important wetland community cannot now grow here due to the dense rhododendron cover, it is important to note that the King's Well is hydrologically connected to Loch of Park SSSI. The potential alignment also crosses over an unnamed burn which feeds into the eastern edge of Loch of Park SSSI. The indicative Limits of Deviation zone intersects the eastern edge of the Loch of Park SSSI. If any construction was to take place within the boundary of the SSSI we would need more information before providing comments of the level of impacts. Although ecological and hydrological survey results suggested that no Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE) were identified adjacent to or supplying Loch of Park SSSI, the construction and maintenance of the potential alignment must not disrupt the quality or quantity of water supplying the SSSI. Survey work may be needed to support this outcome in addition to micro-siting and appropriate construction methods. There are two potential main impacts of the overhead line and associated works:		

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
• Disruption to the quality and quantity of the water supplying the eastern side of Loch of Park SSSI through construction and maintenance operations. This may result in a change to the vegetation communities for which the site is designated. Careful micro-siting of infrastructure will be needed. • Disruption to groundwater dependant wetland communities which occur within Loch of Park SSSI through construction and maintenance operations. This could also result in a change to the vegetation communities for which the site is designated. Careful micro-siting of infrastructure will be needed. SEPA's Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Development Proposals on Groundwater Abstractions and Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems must be followed to ensure that there are no impacts on groundwater dependant wetland communities within Loch of Park SSSI.		
Loch of Skene SPA, SSSI and Ramsar As noted in our response to the route option stage, there is potential connectivity between the alignment options and the SPA. There are potential impacts to greylag geese as a result of loss of foraging habitat, collision risk with the overhead line and/or potential barrier effects from the overhead line. As such, we consider that line marking should be used in high-risk areas identified by survey work. Survey work should inform the next stages about detailed design and mitigation, as well as the HRA process.		We note that the alignment is within connectivity distance of the Loch of Skene SPA, SSSI and Ramsar site. The potential for impacts from the OHL on qualifying species passing through the corridor will be assessed and reported as part of the Ornithology chapter within the EIAR. The findings of an HRA addressing the likely significant effects of the project on relevant SPAs will also be included as part of the EIAR. All mitigation measures will be set out within the EIAR which will include the use of bird diverters as part of the OHL conductor design in locations where the ornithological assessment identifies they are required.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		Geese surveys have been undertaken at agreed VPs along the entire length of the alignment.
Old Drum of Wood SSSI This site is designated for upland woodland oak and wood pasture and parkland. We do not consider that the alignment options will affect the site due to the distance and the use of standard good practice measures		Noted.
Other Interests 2. Class 1 and Class 2 Peatland The Carbon and Peatland Map 2016 gives an indication as to the areas where both carbon-rich soils and peatland habitats are likely to be present. It is important to note that development may have direct or indirect impacts on carbon-rich soils which do not currently support peatland habitats but may need to be taken into consideration when assessing the broader impacts of the proposal. As the Carbon and Peatland Map 2016 is indicative, peat depth surveys should be carried out. We would welcome a methodology consistent with other OHL EIAs including the Beauly to Peterhead 400KV OHL and, as such we would be open to further discussion on the development of project specific streamline approach due to the linear nature of the development. Data such as the JHI Soil Map (Partial Coverage) and interpreted derived data such as the Map of soil phosphorus sorption capacity could support the survey methodology.		2. Peat surveys have been undertaken to inform ongoing project development and tower locations and drawing on the desk based sources identified to target survey work in areas where peat soils may be encountered. Wherever possible, areas of peat will be oversailed by the OHL and towers and access tracks will be designed and located to avoid areas of deeper peat. Any residual impacts predicted on peat and carbon-rich soils will be assessed as part of the EIA and reported within the EIAR Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils chapter.
3. Schedule 1 Birds We note that some woodland areas of woodland, including at Fetteresso and Durris (Sections E and F), have the potential to support breeding raptors. Pre-construction breeding raptor surveys should be carried out and, if any breeding raptors are found, the overhead line and associated works should be buffered and carried out outwith the breeding season.		3. Ornithology surveys have been undertaken to inform the assessment of potential impacts on breeding birds including raptors. Survey findings have also been used to inform the appraisal of alternative alignments where relevant and the

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		design and mitigation process generally for the OHL alignment. Impacts to ornithology, including predicted effects on Schedule 1 birds, will be assessed and reported within the Ornithology chapter of the EIAR. Our contractors will prepare a CEMP prior to commencement of construction. The CEMP will set out any pre-construction ornithological surveys that are appropriate and response procedures in the event that protected breeding species in close proximity to the construction working areas are found.
4. Landscape and Visual All alignment options identified are likely to avoid impacts on National Scenic Areas (NSAs) and Wild Land Areas (WLAs). Some of the alignment options may affect Special Landscape Areas (SLAs). NatureScot do not intend to offer advice on the effects on SLAs as the respective local authorities are best placed to comment on these.		4. Noted. Potential impacts to SLAs will be assessed and reported as part of the Landscape and Visual chapter in the EIAR. See **Table 3.2: Community impact** under heading **Landscape and Visual.**
The following matters should be taken into account by the developer in the submission of a full application:	Network Rail	We do not propose to cross any rail infrastructure with either the OHL or principal access routes. We will liaise with Network Rail should detailed access planning identify that the works could interface with Network Rail infrastructure. Preferred access routes are being developed and a Traffic and Transport Assessment will be undertaken and reported as part of the EIAR which will assess the impacts of the construction phase. See our
Any works over or adjacent to railway infrastructure will be subject to further discussion and agreement with Network Rail.		
A Traffic Assessment should be carried out to assess the effects of construction traffic on existing traffic flows and the public road network. Preferred construction traffic routes should be identified to enable Network Rail to assess the possible impacts where/if the traffic crosses over/under our infrastructure and the suitability of these crossings.		

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		response in **Table 3.2: Community impact** under heading **Roads and Access.**
I confirm SEPA will not be providing any further comment to the consultation documents referenced below to yourself. SEPA has received a formal Scoping request from both Aberdeenshire Council and the ECU and SEPA will respond directly to each of these relevant consenting authorities on this matter.	Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	Noted. We have received SEPA's Scoping Response and we will respond to this through The Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit's (ECU) Gatecheck process.
Comments relate to that part of the OHL that is within Angus Council area only.	Scottish Forestry	Noted. Information in this feedback has been reviewed by our project team and will be used to inform ongoing project development. Further responses to specific points are set out below.
The first consideration for all woodland removal decisions should be whether the underlying purpose of the proposals can reasonably be met without resorting to woodland removal. Scottish Government's Policy on Control of Woodland Removal clearly sets out a strong presumption in favour of protecting Scotland's woodland resources. https://forestry.gov.scot/support-regulations/control-of-woodland-removal		We note the policies and strategies regarding the strong presumption in favour of protecting woodland resources. SSEN Transmission's approach to the identification and selection of route and alignment options seeks to avoid affecting woodland as far as possible. The linear nature of OHL transmission infrastructure means that not all areas of woodland can be avoided and we carefully consider the constraints from forestry and woodlands in the application of our Routeing Procedure to the identification and appraisal of route options and alignment alternatives. The potential impacts of the project on woodland and forestry receptors will be fully assessed in the EIA, and reported in the EIAR along with mitigation proposals. Please see our responses in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under headings **Forestry and**

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		Woodland and **Biodiversity, Habitats, Protected Species and Designated Sites**, and our plans for compensatory planting and Biodiversity Net Gain which are discussed in **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Environmental Impacts** and in the information papers via the links provided.
In line with Scottish Government's wider objective to protect and expand Scotland's woodland cover, applicants are expected to develop their proposal with minimal woodland removal. Woodland removal should be allowed only where it would achieve significant and clearly defined additional public benefits.		We note the policies and strategies regarding the strong presumption in favour of protecting woodland resources and this is factored into our decision making on OHL routes and alignments as noted above.
The following criteria for determining the acceptability of woodland removal should be considered relevant to this application – • **Woodlands with a strong presumption against removal**. Only in exceptional circumstances should the strong presumption against woodland removal be overridden. Proposals to remove these types of woodland should be judged on their individual merits and such cases will require a high level of supporting evidence. Where woodland removal is justified, the Compensatory Planting (CP) area must exceed the area of woodland removed to compensate for the loss of environmental value. • **Woodland removal with a need for compensatory planting.** Design approaches that reduce the scale of felling required and/or converting the type of woodland to another type (such as from tall conifer plantation to low-height, slow growing woodland), must be considered from the earliest stages, rather than removing the woodland completely. The purpose of any required CP is to secure, through new woodland on site (replanting) or off site (on appropriate sites		Detailed woodland surveys are being undertaken, and data collected has been included in the appraisals presented for the alignment consultations. Survey results have been used to inform the appraisal of alternative alignments and alignment development generally to avoid woodland removal as far as possible. A specific Forestry chapter within the EIAR will set out the findings of the assessment of the predicted direct effects of woodland loss for the Proposed Alignment from the requirement to form an Operational Corridor for the OHL through each affected woodland. Information will be provided in the EIAR on SSEN Transmission's proposals for compensatory planting. The Forestry chapter will be supported by a series of woodland reports as part of the appendices. These reports will provide specific information on each

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
elsewhere), at least the equivalent woodland-related net public benefit embodied in the woodland to be removed.		woodland unit, implications for their management arrangements and to set the basis for future woodland design and other mitigation to accommodate the Operational Corridor for the OHL. Further information on our response to impacts on woodland, including compensatory planting can be found in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under heading **Forestry and Woodland.**
Adopted and published by Scottish Ministers on Monday 13 February 2023, National Planning Framework 4 - Policy 6 Forestry, Woodlands and trees identifies several themes that should be considered relevant to this application – b) 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; ii. Adverse impacts on native woodlands, hedgerows and individual trees of high biodiversity value, or identified for protection in the Forestry and Woodland Strategy; iii. Fragmenting or severing woodland habitats, unless appropriate mitigation measures are identified and implemented in line with the mitigation hierarchy; c) Development proposals involving woodland removal will only be supported where they will achieve significant and clearly defined additional public benefits in accordance with relevant Scottish Government policy on woodland removal. Where woodland is removed, compensatory planting will most likely be expected to be delivered. d) Development proposals on sites which include an area of existing woodland or land identified in the Forestry and Woodland Strategy as		We note the policies and strategies regarding the strong presumption in favour of protecting woodland resources including those set out in NPF4. We have also taken account of relevant local authority Forestry and Woodland Strategies for the area crossed by the proposed project. The alignment identification, appraisal and design development process has sought to avoid ancient and native woodland areas as far as possible when considering other environmental and technical constraints. Veteran trees will be considered within the EIAR where applicable. Mitigation measures, compensatory planting and environmental enhancement proposals will be implemented to help offset the loss of any unavoidable tree removal. These will be reported in the EIAR in the chapters and appendices for Forestry and Ecology.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
being suitable for woodland creation will only be supported where the enhancement and improvement of woodlands and the planting of new trees on the site (in accordance with the Forestry and Woodland Strategy) are integrated into the design.		
The wider Scottish Government environmental strategies must also be considered in relation to this application, including but not limited to; 1. 'Biodiversity Strategy to 2045: tackling the nature emergency'. The Scottish Government Biodiversity Strategy's Vision and Outcomes directly references Riparian Woodland and Woodland Connectivity. 3. Strategic Vision And Outcomes - Biodiversity strategy to 2045: tackling the nature emergency - gov.scot (www.gov.scot) 2. 'Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019-2029' Scotland Forestry Strategy Strategic Drivers includes; 'Natural assets, environmental quality and biodiversity', in which the importance of native and semi natural woodland is specifically referenced and includes the below extract: "All Scotland's forests, woodlands and associated open ground habitats provide some biodiversity value. However, suitably managed native, and in particular ancient and semi-natural woodlands, including appropriately restored plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS), will contribute the most." Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2019–2029 - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)		We note the policies and strategies regarding the strong presumption in favour of protecting woodland resources and in protecting and promoting biodiversity associated particularly with ancient, semi-natural and native woodland habitats. Forestry and ecological surveys have been undertaken extensively throughout the proposed OHL route and the findings will be used to support the relevant ecological assessment and mitigation proposals which will be presented in the EIAR.
Woodland Management and tree felling The first consideration for the developer should be whether the underlying purpose of the proposals can reasonably be met without resorting to woodland removal. Design approaches which reduce the scale of felling required to facilitate the development should be considered and		The design development process has sought to avoid woodland areas as far as possible when considering other environmental and technical constraints. Mitigation measures, compensatory planting and environmental enhancement proposals will be developed to help offset the loss of any

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
integration of the development with the existing woodland structure is a key part of the consenting process. Where a developer intends to undertake construction within a forest, partially within a forest, or that will affect the forest environment, it is important that pre-application discussions takes place with Scottish Forestry (SF), the planning authority and other relevant key agencies, at the earliest possible stage of the project to ensure all parties have a shared understanding of the nature of the proposed development, information requirements and the likely timescale for determination. This collaborative approach will ensure that all forestry issues are identified and mitigated at the earliest opportunity.		unavoidable tree removal. These will be reported in the EIAR (please also see responses above). Consultation with relevant bodies has been undertaken throughout the design development process. SSEN Transmission will continue to liaise with Scottish Forestry as the project progresses to Section 37 application.
The developer should consider the potential cumulative impact of the proposed development in respect to the local and regional context. This should include consideration of the potential cumulative impact of proposed woodland removal, when considering existing development in the surrounding woodland. In particular consideration needs to be given to the implication of felling operations on such things as habitat connectivity, landscape impact, impact on timber transport network and forestry policies included in the local and regional Forestry and Woodland Strategies and local development plans.		A specific Forestry chapter within the EIAR will set out the findings of the assessment of the predicted direct effects of woodland loss from the requirement to form an Operational Corridor for the OHL through each affected woodland. Cumulative effects to forestry from the proposed OHL in combination with other key consented projects and development proposals in proximity to the alignment will be assessed and the findings set out within the EIAR.
The EIA Report should include a stand-alone chapter on 'Woodland management and tree felling' that describes and recognises the social, economic and environmental values of the forest and the woodland habitat and take into account the fact that, once mature, the forest would have been managed into a subsequent rotation, often through a restructuring proposal that would have increased the diversity of tree species and the landscape design of the forest.		We note your comments and the guidance on what the Forestry chapter should set out. Competent forestry specialists will be undertaking a dedicated Forestry chapter within the EIAR which will set out the findings of the assessment of the predicted direct effects of woodland loss from the requirement to form an Operational Corridor for the OHL through each affected woodland. Baseline

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Scottish Government's policy on control of woodland removal: implementation guidance February 2019 provides guidance on the level and detail of information Scottish Forestry expects to be contained within the EIA Report, to help us reach an informed decision on the potential impact of the proposed development. The chapter should describe the baseline conditions of the forest, including its ownership. This will include information on species composition, age class structure, yield class and other relevant crop information. The baseline should be prepared from existing records, site surveys and aerial photographs. The chapter should clearly indicate proposed areas of woodland for felling to accommodate new pylons, access roads and other infrastructure. Details of the area to be cleared around those structures should also be provided, along with evidence to support the proposed scale and phasing of felling. There should be a distinction made between felling required for construction and associated resilience felling, necessitated due to increased vulnerability or isolation. The chapter should describe the changes to the forest structure, the woodland composition and describe the work programme. The felling plan should clearly identify which areas are to be felled and when. The restocking plan should show which areas are to be replanted and when. The plan should clearly identify and describe the restocking operations including changes to the species composition, age class structure, timber production and traffic movements.		information will be presented in the chapter to capture key information on each principal affected woodland drawing on desk-based information, field surveys and consultation feedback. The chapter will be supported with a series of woodland reports forming appendices which set out more specific information on the characteristics and management of each woodland unit and the implications of forming an Operational Corridor for the proposed OHL on woodland management and conservation including from felling and restocking for the OHL and for adjacent woodlands stands where wind blow risk is predicted to require a management response.
Scottish Forestry is the principle forestry consultee and should be consulted throughout the development of the proposal to ensure that proposed changes to the woodland are appropriate and address the requirements of the policy on control of woodland removal. It should be made clear that both felling operations and compensatory planting (if relevant) must be carried out according to good forestry practice as defined in the UK Forestry Standard (5th Edition). The UKFS,		Consultation with relevant bodies has been undertaken throughout the design development process. SSEN Transmission will continue to liaise with Scottish Forestry as the project progresses to section 37 application. We note the guidelines referred to and relevant commitment to the standards applying to the design

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
supported by a series of guidelines, is the reference standard for sustainable forest management in the UK and provides a basis for regulation and monitoring. The Scottish Government expects all forestry plans and operations in Scotland to comply with the standards. SF therefore expects EIA Reports to clearly state that the project will be developed and implemented in accordance with the UKFS and associated guidelines. A key component of this is to ensure that even-age woodlands are progressively restructured in a sustainable manner: felling coupes should be phased to meet adjacency requirements and their size should be of a scale which is appropriate in the context of the surrounding woodland environment.		and management of compensatory planting will be set out in the EIAR.
Conclusion Scottish Forestry advise the developer to consider the policies and strategies outlined in this letter when selecting routes and aligning the operating corridors within a preferred route. Scottish Forestry advises the developer to include a specific chapter on Forestry in future consultation documents and provide detailed information on the types and areas of forestry to be felled and restocked as a result of the proposed development. Detailed information on any compensatory planting proposals should also be provided. All felling, restocking and compensatory planting proposals must be compliant with the UK Forestry Standard. Scottish Government's policy on *Control of Woodland Removal: Implementation guidance February 2019* provides guidance on the level and detail of information Scottish Forestry will expect within the EIA Report, to help us reach an informed decision on the potential impact of the proposed development. Any additional felling which is not part of the planning application will require permission from Scottish Forestry under *the Forestry and Land*		As stated above, we note the strategies and policies regarding the removal of woodland. The design development process has sought to avoid woodland areas as far as possible whilst taking other environmental and technical constraints into account. A specific Forestry chapter will be included as part of the EIAR and will set out any relevant mitigation measures. Mitigation measures, compensatory planting and environmental enhancement proposals will be identified to help offset the loss of unavoidable tree removal for the OHL Operational Corridor. These will be reported in the EIAR.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Management (Scotland) Act 2018 (the Act). For areas covered by an approved Long Term Forest Plan (LTFP), the request for additional felling (and subsequent restocking) areas needs to be presented in the form of LTFP amendment, as outlined on the Felling Permissions webpage. The applicant should note that any compensatory planting required as a result of the proposed development, may also need to be considered under *The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017* and should follow the process for preparing a woodland creation proposal, as set out in our guidance booklet: Woodland Creation Application Guidance.		
Drinking Water Protected Areas A review of our records indicates that the proposed activity falls within a drinking water catchment where Scottish Water abstractions are located. Scottish Water abstractions are designated as Drinking Water Protected Areas (DWPA) under Article 7 of the Water Framework Directive. Inchgarth (River Dee) supplies Mannofield Water Treatment Works (WTW) and the River Tay which supplies Perth Gowans Terrace WTW. It is essential that water quality and water quantity in the area are protected. In the event of an incident occurring that could affect Scottish Water we should be notified without delay using the Customer Helpline number 0800 0778 778. The activity is likely to be of low risk but we should be kept informed as the development progress and contacted at this mailbox address. In addition to meeting the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) and Forests and Water Guidelines, we would request that the "Guidance on Forestry Activities Near SW Assets" is taken into account. Scottish Water have also produced a list of precautions for a range of activities. This details protection measures to be taken within a DWPA, the wider drinking water catchment and if there are assets in the area. Please note that site specific	Scottish Water	This information has been reviewed by our project team and will be used to inform ongoing project development. We acknowledge the specific mitigation requirements to protect water quality. Our project teams are liaising with Scottish Water as the project develops. We have the Scottish Water utility plans which have been used to microsite proposed OHL towers to avoid Scottish Water assets. A summary of these utility plans will be included as part of the baseline of the Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils chapter of the EIAR. This chapter will also report the assessment of predicted effects of the project on hydrology and water supplies and will set out any mitigation measures required to avoid significant residual effects on water resources and supplies including from the indirect effects of run-off from construction of infrastructure in the vicinity of

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
risks and mitigation measures will require to be assessed and implemented. These documents and other supporting information can be found on the activities within our catchments page of our website at www.scottishwater.co.uk/slm.		watercourses forming part of Scottish Water's drinking water supply catchments. During construction, the contractor will be required to prepare and implement a detailed CEMP which include relevant water protection plans and the specific requirements of Scottish Water. SSEN Transmission will continue to liaise with Scottish Water as the project develops.
Scottish Water Assets A review of our records indicates that there are Scottish Water assets in the area. All Scottish Water assets potentially affected by the activity should be identified, with particular consideration being given to access roads and pipe crossings. If necessary, local Scottish Water personnel may be able to visit the site to offer advice. All of Scottish Water's processes, standards and policies in relation to dealing with asset conflicts must be complied with. In the event that asset conflicts are identified then early contact should be made with the Highway Authorities and Utilities Committee (HAUC) at Hauc.diversions@scottishwater.co.uk. All detailed design proposals relating to the protection of Scottish Water's assets should be submitted to the HAUC for review and written acceptance. Works should not take place on site without prior written acceptance by Scottish Water. Scottish Water have produced a list of precautions for a range of activities. The list of precautions for assets details protection measures to be taken if there are assets in the area. Please note that site specific risks and mitigation measures will require to be assessed and implemented. The document/s and other supporting information can be found on the activities within our catchments page of our website at www.scottishwater.co.uk/slm.		Noted. Please see above responses relating to construction mitigation. In addition, Scottish Water's specific requirements, including the precautions to protect assets, will be incorporated within relevant construction management plans which will require to be implemented by the principal construction contractor. These include the CEMP and, in relation to road crossings and highway works, the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP).

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
It should be noted that the proposals will be required to comply with Sewers for Scotland and Water for Scotland 4th Editions 2018, including provision of appropriate clearance distances from Scottish Water assets.		
No response.	Transport Scotland	
Community Councils		
No response to the Alignment Consultation. However, the Community Council responded the Scoping Report.	Aberlemno and District Community Council	
No response.	Abernethy Community Council	
No response.	Auchtermuchty Strathmiglo Community Council	
No response.	Alyth Community Council	
No response.	Arbuthnott Community Council	
No response.	Auchterhouse Community Council	
No response.	Brechin Community Council	
No response.	Catterline, Kinneff and Dunnottar Community Council	
No response.	Cluny, Midmar & Monymusk Community Council	

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
SSEN Proposals for the East Coast 400Kv OHL and associated facilities Crathes, Drumoak & Durris Community Council (CDDCC) strongly objects to both proposals presented by SSEN, which would see the East Coast 400kV OHL come through our communities (Routes E4/F3 and E1/F1.3). CDDCC attended each of the consultation events hosted by SSEN and followed up with a questionnaire which local residents have completed. The opinion of our community is blatantly clear. They (still) say No To Pylons. Wherever they are located.	Crathes, Drumoak & Durris Community Council	We acknowledge the objection from Crathes, Drumoak and Durris Community Council (CDDCC), and we note that CDDCC has undertaken its own questionnaire with residents. We note that the local community who completed the CDDCC questionnaire have indicated that they object to the OHL. Feedback from communities is carefully considered at every stage of the project development process and, where possible, acted upon. The concerns raised by CDDCC, and the information provided, have been reviewed by our project team and will be used to inform ongoing project development where feasible.
Objection to Report on Consultation It is disappointing to note that there is a lack of acknowledgement of the strength of objection by our communities, in the most recent Report on Consultation produced by SSEN. The large numbers of letters conveying objection to the project are not recognised and the results of the previous questionnaire CDDCC shared with SSEN are not included either. Those results shared with SSEN illustrated that out of 275 respondents, 96% objected to the proposal. Not sharing those details suggests that SSEN manipulated its findings rather than being honest about the opposition it faced earlier this year. In order to continue to fairly represent the views of our community, CDDCC launched another questionnaire in conjunction with SSEN's most recent consultation period (ending, 21 November 2024). With an increase in respondents of 23.6%, the results demonstrate that there is increased engagement in the proposals, and rather than being able to mitigate the community's concerns, the level of objection has risen from 96% to 98.5%.		Having fully reviewed all the feedback provided at both previous consultation processes and the most recent one, we acknowledge the strength of objection in the community in relation to the project. We aim to develop all projects sensitively and to reduce impacts on communities as much as possible. Community feedback provides an essential insight into local issues that helps to refine OHL design and alignments. Following consideration of all feedback, we consider what opportunities there are to modify our project's design, route, and alignment.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
The Need Despite reading marketing material produced by SSEN and attending the consultation events, residents still don't see the need for the Kintore to Tealing line to exist as an overhead line, with 80% of respondents to the CDDCC questionnaire supporting a review of the entire project in line with current costs and technology. Furthermore, the Kintore-Tealing 400kV line is not mentioned in the National Energy System Operator (National Grid) Holistic Network Design, nor is it in the subsequent Refresh Document. The NESO does not see the need for this line. It is being driven purely by SSEN although their response, when asked, is that they have been instructed by National Grid to put it in. This simply is not true. Rather, the community's perspective of the line is that it is for export purposes and worry that they are the ones who would bear the brunt of the negative impacts on mental and physical health, destruction of farmland and recreational areas, threats to wildlife, biodiversity and environment, decreased values in house prices and local businesses. So far, no formal compensation options have been presented to residents who would have to carry the burden of such infrastructure, and the community has seen no proof that this line will result, directly, in a reduction in electricity bills as suggested by SSEN and politicians. Taking all of this into account, it is the opinion of our community and many others across the country, that offshoring the Kintore to Tealing line is the only option to protect; landscape visual impacts, physical and mental health, farming, wildlife and recreation.		It is not SSEN Transmission's role to decide on the overall need for the Pathway to 2030 projects; that is for the National Energy System Operator (NESO) and Ofgem. Please see **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Project Need** and **Alternatives and Technology Choice** and the following leaflets: • Why are the Pathway to 2030 Projects needed? • Why the Pathway to 2030 projects require both onshore and offshore solutions • The challenges with undergrounding at 400 kV The following link explains how SSEN Transmission has responded to the Government's targets and developed the scope of the network upgrade which includes the Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL: • Pathway to 2030 Reference to the reinforcements of the Kintore to Westfield power corridor can found on page 21 of the NGESO Networks Options Assessment (NOA)[16] 21/22 Refresh which was updated following the recommendations in the NGESO Holistic Network Design (HND)[17] publication. The scheme was allocated the scheme code 'TKUP' by NGESO. SSEN Transmission operate the transmission network to a point between Tealing and Westfield substations where it transitions to Scottish Power Transmission operation. SSEN Transmission subsequently named the project Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL. There is a corresponding project to

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		upgrade the existing OHL from Tealing to Westfield which forms part of the wider TKUP scheme. On page 22 of the NOA 21/22 Refresh TKUP is confirmed as an essential option for the HND and has an amended Required Inservice Date of 2030. Further to this, on page 23 of the NOA 21/22 Refresh TKU2, which is the alternative to TKUP, is noted as having a Do Not Start recommendation. The NGESO designed an offshore system first HND and then designed the onshore system to work alongside this offshore system (NOA). Links to these publications are as follows: • Network Options Assessment 21/22 Refresh[16] • Pathway to 2030 – Holistic Network Design[17] It is acknowledged that with new transmission infrastructure there will be impacts on and changes to the local community. We are working hard to ensure that the right alignments are selected to be taken forward based on environmental, technical and cost considerations, and ensuring that environmental assessments are undertaken. A socio-economic report will also be prepared. The project will be subject to a full EIA and residents will have further opportunity to comment on our plans once the Section 37 application has been submitted. Compensation will be paid to those that qualify for it, and we aim to ensure that communities benefit

[16] National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO) (2022), *Network Options Assessment 2021/22 Refresh.*
[17] National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO) (2022), *Pathway to 2030: Holistic Network Design.*

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		via our Community Benefit Funds and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) targets. See **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Environmental Impact, Socio-economic Impacts, Property Impacts, Community Benefit Funds** and **Consultation Process.** Alternative technologies have been reviewed for this project, including offshore cables. After careful consideration, an OHL was considered to be the most suitable technology choice for this project. See **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Alternatives and Technology Choice** and the following leaflet: • Why the Pathway to 2030 projects require both onshore and offshore solutions
Alternatives Once again, SSEN failed to provide details on the alternative methods of transmission despite calls from the community. Whilst SSEN have produced some corporate literature to describe the reasons why overhead lines is the only option our community is not satisfied; they want to see the alternatives presented with actual cost comparisons. The CDDCC questionnaire results tell us that 95.5% of respondents don't accept the explanation from SSEN that the only viable option is for overhead lines, with 80.3% in support of a total review of the project in line with current costs and technology. The questionnaire asked respondents if they would support the line being put offshore and 87.6% said they would, 9.8% said they would need more detail and 2.6% said they would not support it going offshore. Similarly, we asked respondents if they would support the line being put underground. The support for this dropped to 68.8%, 21.2% said they would need more detail and 10% said they would not support it. In general, those not		Alternative technologies have been reviewed for this project, including offshore cables. After careful consideration, an OHL was considered to be the most suitable technology choice for this project. Please see **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Project Need** and **Alternatives and Technology Choice,** and the following leaflets: • Why are the Pathway to 2030 Projects needed? • Why the Pathway to 2030 projects require both onshore and offshore solutions • The challenges with undergrounding at 400 kV It is not normal practice for SSEN Transmission to publish cost comparisons for alternatives considered by us, and it is not possible for the costings of alternatives not considered by us to be

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
supportive of these alternatives believe there is no need for this line. This data should be invaluable to SSEN, as it highlights that our community is supportive of moving forward but only if we do so in a meaningful manner. CDDCC is aware of a review undertaken by the ESO, which was pushed for by a group of MPs known as OFFSET, looking at the East Anglian project, because the residents in the areas affected by the proposed plans for onshore infrastructure have the same concerns as our communities. That review revealed that the cost of offshoring aspects of that project were cost neutral compared with going overground over the lifetime of the project. The public no longer trusts SSEN's figures when comparing the options to put the line overhead or offshore. It is time for SSEN to be open and transparent about the costs and the reasons for choosing to go with the overhead line option. When SSEN choose to share the comparative costs, it will be interesting to read how the socio-economic impacts of the options have been factored into the overall costs of the project. In a study undertaken in Norway, to assess the aesthetic impacts on the landscape, it was concluded that: *'Overhead power transmission lines cause external costs including aesthetic impacts on the landscape. We use the contingent valuation method to estimate the external costs from these aesthetic impacts and find that the social benefits of avoiding these negative impacts on the landscape exceed the costs of burying the lines as underground cables. Our best-estimate of the aesthetic benefits from burying the power lines was three times as large as the cost. These conclusions were based only on an assessment of the aesthetic impacts. Impacts of overhead power lines on wildlife and human health would likely make burial of power lines even more attractive. These results were obtained in an urban setting. Additional studies are needed to assess costs associated with aesthetic impacts in rural and pristine natural areas, where power line construction is increasing.* 'Valuing the social benefits of avoiding landscape degradation from overhead		published. Project costing is a complex process and is dependent on a number of fluctuating variants at any one time, factoring in many aspects including costs for surveys, design, consenting, land, construction, materials, operation and future access costs, as well as other less tangible aspects such as risk, time, policy, governance and international factors. In many cases alternative technologies may not deliver on the project's objectives within the required timescales and as such are not viable alternatives, and in other case alternatives are beyond SSEN Transmission legal remit. The independent assessment and approval of need by NESO[1] and Ofgem was on the basis of a 400 kV OHL, which is why this is the solution we have progressed, in line with Government policy. Undergrounding or subsea is estimated to be at least five times more expensive. UK Government's policy and clear presumption for OHL was reaffirmed as part of the UK Government's Clean Power 2030 Action Plan[2]. The National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (NPS EN-5)[3] sets out the UK Government's position on underground cabling, which is that there is a starting presumption for OHL for large network projects. The exception to this is in nationally designated landscapes, where underground cabling is the starting presumption. This position takes into account factors including

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
power transmission lines: Do underground cables pass the benefit–cost test? Ståle Navrud, Richard C. Ready, Kristin Magnussen & Olvar Bergland		cost and environmental impacts, and the UK Government's view is that this sets an appropriate balance between OHL and underground cabling. It is acknowledged that with new transmission infrastructure there will be impacts on and changes to the local communities which we aim to reduce through our design processes. Potential environmental impacts and appropriate mitigation measures will be assessed within the EIAR and a separate socio-economic report will be submitted as part of the Section 37 application.
Environmental Nothing that SSEN has written or said has allayed the concerns that the community has for the environment, wildlife and biodiversity. 99.4% of respondents to our questionnaire told us that that are concerned about the impact that the overhead lines could have on the environment, biodiversity and landscape. As we outlined in the last feedback to the consultation, Aberdeenshire Council has designated the Dee Valley, from Peterculter in the east to Dinnet in the west, as a Special Landscape Area. This includes the River Dee and associated landscapes, taking in adjoining hills, riverside towns and villages. It provides people within the area with enviable green spaces, linking the developed areas of Aberdeen to the recreational facilities in Aberdeenshire and the Cairngorms National Park. This area must not be destroyed by industrial construction, such as gigantic overhead lines and enormous substations. The proposed routes will result in an enormous amount of forestry being lost within our community particularly within the Durris Area. Destroying these habitats by ploughing through them, covering them with concrete		It is acknowledged that with new transmission infrastructure there will be impacts on and changes to the local community. We are working hard to ensure that the right alignments are selected to be taken forward, with alternative alignment decisions informed by thorough appraisal of environmental, technical and cost criteria. The project will be subject to a full EIA. Impacts to the Dee Valley SLA will be addressed as part of the LVIA and impacts to forestry and woodland will be assessed also, including within the Durris area. Residents will have further opportunity to comment on our plans once the Section 37 application and its supporting assessment information including the EIAR has been submitted. Significant impacts will be mitigated as far as possible and we aim to ensure that communities benefit via our Community Benefit Funds and through delivery of projects to

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
and disrupting their integrity is not a sustainable solution to climate change.		secure our Biodiversity Net Gain targets. See **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Environmental Impacts** and **Community Benefit Funds** and the information papers that are linked.
Health The community has the sense that SSEN has dismissed their concerns and are trivializing the risks to health due to EMF exposure. The leaflet produced is wholly inadequate and does not provide any reassurance. Why did the graph not display the EMF exposure of a pylon carrying 400kV, 6GW? Are the connectors carrying 275kV in the image? What is the Wattage? It is widely understood by the community that the current guidelines mentioned in SSEN's EMF leaflet are out of date (as described by 255 scientists from 11 different countries). Nothing in SSEN's EMF leaflet shows the community that the 6GW line, a size unprecedented in this country, is safe. And now that concerns have been flagged and the community is aware that the current guidelines do not address transmission power of the size and power of the Kintore-Tealing line, the onus must be on SSEN to provide evidence to the public to prove that this proposal is safe and will not cause any detrimental health impacts to members of the public. This evidence should be clear and easy for anyone to understand and should also be demonstrated against the proposed routes with associated distances highlighted. Devastatingly, the questionnaire results highlight that 80.9% of respondents attribute poorer health and wellbeing right now to SSEN's proposals. That's 275 respondents telling us that they are experiencing a 'detrimental impact on their health and wellbeing.' It is heart breaking to read the comments that have been written by those respondents who describe, very honestly, how the proposals are making		SSEN Transmission fully appreciates the stress and potential conflict the design development and consultations can have on communities. We develop, build, and operate our infrastructure to meet all health and safety legislation and guidance set by relevant bodies including the UK Government, Scottish Government, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and our regulator, Ofgem – including that associated with Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF). In respect of EMFs, we strictly follow the guidance as set by the UK Government, which in turn is informed by international guidance. There have been over four decades of research looking into whether EMF can cause health effects and there are no established effects below the exposure limits. When we design our OHL, substations, and cables, we do so to ensure they will not exceed those exposure limits, even when operating at 100% capacity. We also ensure that precautionary measures are applied to the design where required. We will provide information on compliance as part of the consenting process, which will be publicly available. See also **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Electric and Magnetic Fields.**

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
them feel stressed, anxious and worried. There is mention of depression, grief, and anger and some have gone as far as to say that they have concerns that the EMF exposure will kill them or their children. The impacts on mental health are felt acutely here. Another concern that frequently comes up is that residents feel trapped because they worry they won't be able to sell their property if they chose to move. It is known that not only are less people attracted to living in close proximity to pylons, but house valuation is impacted by being in close proximity to pylons. In Oftec's 'The Overview of Valuation of Visual Impacts of Transmission Price Control Review (TPCR)' written for Ofgem: *'The hedonic study revealed that there was a negative and significant reduction of about 12% (in the range of about 6 to 17%) for houses which were within 100 metres of a HVTL. For houses within 100 metres of a pylon the drop in property price was steeper at just under 21%.'* Furthermore, a research paper published September 2023 tells us that, *'The effects [of house price devaluation] are larger and more widespread than has been found in previous research. Houses within 300 metres of new pylons sell for 10 per cent less, on average, than those more than 1.5km away after pylon construction. Their influence decays with distance but can be detected up to about 1.2km. On average, houses sell for around 3.6 per cent less within 1.2km than beyond that distance after pylons are installed – see Figure 1. The implied cost is about £6000 per household in 2015 prices, around the end of our study period.'* (about £8054 in 2024 prices) Notwithstanding this evidence, SSEN representatives are still heard saying to residents that house valuations are not impacted by being positioned close to pylons. Denying this is hurtful and disrespectful to those who would be affected by the overhead line.		We take the alignment identification process very seriously; we follow our required process thoroughly and make every attempt to ensure we settle on the overall most appropriate alignment for the project and stakeholders balancing all considerations and feedback. We aim to conclude our alignment identification process in a timely manner so as not to prolong the uncertainty for local communities. Please see **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Consultation Process** and **Mental Health** and **Table 3.2: Community impact** under heading **Health and Safety** for further details on our response to these points. SSEN Transmission will look to mitigate predicted significant impacts on residential properties as far as possible drawing on relevant baseline surveys. These impacts will be assessed as part of the EIA process and reported in an EIAR that will accompany our Section 37 application for consent. A socio-economic report will also be produced. The assessment of compensation due for the impacts on property will be managed through applicable legal frameworks. See **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Property Impacts.**

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
People objecting to these types of infrastructure projects are often referred to as NIMBYs. Often the term NIMBY describes residents with substantial privilege who are seeking to preserve privilege. Is good physical and mental health a privilege now? For the people of this area, the opposition is not just about the fact that the pylons will spoil their view. They worry that it could kill them or their children and they have seen no conclusive and trustworthy evidence to quell those fears. We encourage SSEN to read the responses, review them and understand the impact that this project is having on our community. It is incumbent upon SSEN to react sensitively to these concerns.		
Consultation It was frustrating but not a surprise for CDDCC to learn that 82.6% respondents said that they did not feel like SSEN had listened to their feedback at all.15.9% of respondents told us that they felt listened to 'a little', 1.5% said 'adequately' and 0% said 'effectively'. This is a staggering statistic given that this is SSEN's third consultation event in this community. It is suggested that SSEN take time to reflect on how unsuccessful their interactions and consultation has been throughout this process. We have had several members of the community complain to us about the lack of consultation on the newly proposed routes E4 and F3. We have encountered this approach previously when the F1.3 route was initially presented, which was then retracted and a fresh consultation started. This time however you actively decided not to give people impacted by the new proposals a fair chance to provide feedback before progressing to the next stage of the project – alignment. This is very much against the advice that Gillian Martin, Energy Minister provided to Transmission Operators earlier in the year. This inconsistent approach to the project only adds to the distrust and frustration in the overall consultation process.		Having fully reviewed the feedback provided via the consultation processes we fully recognise the strength of feeling in the community in relation to the project up to this point. We aim to develop all projects sensitively and to reduce impacts on communities as much as possible. Community feedback provides an essential insight into local issues that help to refine OHL design. Following review of all feedback, we consider what opportunities there are to modify our project's design with the aim to reduce impacts as much as possible. Our work to consider and respond to feedback has resulted in some new alternative alignments coming forward for consideration. We have aimed to introduce these for comment as quickly as possible and all feedback has been considered in confirming which alignments are preferred and will be taken forward to the next stage. The details are set out in

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
SSEN timelines for reviewing consultation seems to vary dramatically. As a consequence of being in receipt of an abundance of feedback from the community the Report on Consultation was delayed by a few months. Conversely, this time - before the consultation period ended - SSEN has announced that the next phase of consultation project will be launched within a month of this consultation period ending. Curious. There is a feeling among residents that SSEN has already planned its next steps before the consultation feedback has been read and digested. This is compounded by the fact that landowners were contacted by SSEN consultants regarding route E4/F3 in June this year: at which point we were told SSEN was still reviewing the feedback. Time and time again, this community has sense that this project is a fait accompli but it refuses to accept that this is the case. It is often said by politicians up and down the country (UK and Scotland) that 'we must take communities with us.' This community is about as far from being with them as it gets.		the consultation documents and RoCs linked in **Table 1.1: Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Project Consultation Rounds.** Whilst SSEN Transmission is working to meet Government targets in progressing the Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL, we take the alignment identification process very seriously; we follow our required process thoroughly and make every attempt to ensure we settle on the overall most appropriate alignment for the project and stakeholders balancing all considerations and feedback. We aim to conclude our alignment identification process in a timely manner so as not to prolong the uncertainty for local communities.
Community Impact Many of our questions remain unanswered by SSEN in relation to the impact this will have on our community, the local area, the landscape, our physical and mental health, farming, wildlife, recreation, tourism and economics. 87.6% of our questionnaire respondents say that they anticipate a negative financial impact to them, their property or their business as a result of the overhead lines should they be built. To date, SSEN has not been forthcoming with any information offers for compensation or community benefit to offset any negative impact our residents may encounter.		It is acknowledged that with new transmission infrastructure there will be impacts on and changes to the local community. The EIAR will fully report on the significant environmental effects identified as part of the EIA. The EIAR will include mitigation where practical to avoid, offset or compensate for significant adverse impacts and this report will accompany the Section 37 application. A socio-economic report will also be prepared to accompany the application. This will consider the economic impacts and benefits of the project

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
At the start of this process, SSEN claimed 9000 jobs would be created. CDDCC asked for details on this and have still not been provided with facts to back up this claim. However, in recent feedback to us on this matter, SSEN noted that it expects that 528 jobs will be created in the Scotland between now and 2035, which is enormously different. Please explain why there is this discrepancy. It is also noted that SSEN plan to build hundreds of houses in our region to house workers for the project, this tells us that currently you have no plans to recruit people within our area to fill these jobs. Why is this not part of your strategy? The enormous loss of value to hundreds of individual homeowners, businesses and farmers up and down the country remains unacknowledged without any form of plan for compensation. Until this huge loss is acknowledged and accounted for, SSEN are not in any position to recommend an overhead line as being the best way forward. This project must be paused until adequate information, data and answers are provided to our community, the people of Scotland and our government.		including on direct and indirect employment in local and regional economies. Compensation will be paid to those that qualify for it, and we aim to ensure that communities benefit via our Community Benefit Funds and BNG targets. See **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Environmental Impacts, Socio-economic Impacts, Property Impacts, Community Benefit Funds, Career Opportunities, Housing Strategy** and **Consultation Process.** We have been reviewing feedback on the types of benefits local communities would welcome, these are set out in **Table 3.4: Economic impacts** under heading **Compensation and Community Benefits.** With regard to job opportunities and training please see Section 3.2: Common Themes – Career Opportunities.
No response.	Culter Community Council	
SSEN's alignment proposals for the new 400 kV OHL passes close by the settlements of Lyne of Skene, Dunecht and Echt. On behalf of our communities we object to any proposal for installation of a new 400kV OHL from Kintore to Tealing regardless of the alignment. SSEN has attempted to justify the OHL in comparison to underground AC cables and offshore HVDC cables. It doesn't appear that the option of undergrounding HVDC cables has been looked at and this option would avoid many of the grounds put forward by SSEN for rejecting the undergrounding of AC cables.	Echt & Skene Community Council	We note the objection from Echt and Skene Community Council. Feedback from communities is carefully considered at every stage of the project development process and, where possible, acted upon. The concerns raised by Echt and Skene Community Council, and the information provided, have been reviewed by our project team and will be used to inform ongoing project development.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		With regard to alternatives technologies please see **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Project Need** and **Alternatives and Technology Choice** and the following leaflets**:** • Why are the Pathway to 2030 Projects needed? • Why the Pathway to 2030 projects require both onshore and offshore solutions • The challenges with undergrounding at 400 kV
The Loch of Skene attracts large numbers of wildfowl and common gulls in autumn and winter, and in particular internationally important numbers of greylag geese and pink-footed geese, which are both UK Amber Listed in terms of conservation status. These birds roost on the loch at night and fly out each day across the surrounding farmland to feed. When hundreds or thousands of geese descend together on their chosen stubble field, it's well known that collisions with overhead lines that cross such fields are common, resulting in injury and death for the unfortunate geese. All of the alignment options for the Kintore-Tealing 400Kv OHL involve crossing good quality arable land, and will therefore increase the incidence of goose collisions, as well as having significant adverse landscape and visual impacts.		The project team continues to liaise with NatureScot and other statutory and non-statutory consultees with an interest in ecology, biodiversity and landscape and visual impacts (see their feedback and our responses in **Appendix C: Statutory Consultee Feedback** of this report, and **Tables 3.2 Community impact** under heading **Landscape and Visual** and **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under heading **Biodiversity, Habitats, Protected Species and Designated Sites**). In addition, we have been undertaking ecology and ornithology desk-top analysis and site surveys. Significant impacts will be reported in the EIAR, including any effects related to the qualifying interests of the Loch of Skene designated site, along with details of mitigation and proposals for habitat enhancement which will accompany the Section 37 application.
Our constituents have expressed an overwhelming preference for any new transmission capacity (if required) to be provided by way of offshore subsea cables, or undergrounding if there is no alternative to putting more OHL infrastructure onshore. They have unaddressed concerns about the		As noted above, with regard to alternatives technologies please see **Section 3.2: Common**

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
impact on their residential amenity, property values and health, which we don't believe SSEN/ESO have adequately accounted for in their analysis. They don't accept that their well-being should be sacrificed for the sake of saving a few pounds on UK consumer electricity bills.		**Themes – Alternatives and Technology Choice** and the following leaflets: • Why the Pathway to 2030 projects require both onshore and offshore solutions • The challenges with undergrounding at 400 kV It is acknowledged that with new transmission infrastructure there will be impacts on and changes to the local communities. We seek to ensure that the right alignments are selected to be taken forward, with alternative alignment decisions informed by thorough appraisal of environmental, technical and cost criteria. The EIAR for the OHL will fully report on the significant impacts identified as part of the EIA. The EIAR will include mitigation where practical to avoid, offset or compensate for significant detrimental impacts and will accompany the Section 37 application. A socio-economic report will also be prepared to accompany the application. Compensation will be paid to those that qualify for it, see **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Property Impacts.**
No response.	Elrick Community Council	
No response.	Errol Community Council	

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
No response.	Feughside Community Council	
Background Summary Consultation East Coast 400kV Phase 2 April 2023. Residents around the 1b Corridor were advised to attend 10th May venue locations at Brechin, Tealing or Westmuir some 5 milesfrom the flyer distribution area of Padanaram. Despite offering SSEN the local hall at Padanaram as a venue, residents with no transport could not attend Westmuir due to an unreliable rural bus service from Forfar/Kirriemuir. This would require 2 bus journeys there and return. Given Padanaram location is named at page 25, appeared illogical not to hold a consultation in this location. Westmuir is located with the 1b corridor and B1.1 route and actually within the **Kirrimuir West Landward** boundary, while Padanaram is within **The Royal Burgh of Forfar and District**. A Forfar and District event was eventually held on the 13th July 2023 albeit the B1.1 route was already confirmed on the 23rd May 2023.	Forfar Community Council	We have held events in close proximity to Padanaram in Forfar. We are also holding events again this year in Memus, Menmuir and Tealing, please refer to **Section 5: Next Steps** for next steps.
General Comments 1. Reference system The references throughout the process were confusing in parts from April 2023. Corridor 1b, then routes b1 to B1.1, 2, 3, 4 now 2A Potential Alignment or 2B Alternative Alignment between the two Alignment Option Boundaries.		We seek to ensure our consultation documents are clear, and we introduce new numbering references as the project progresses through each stage of development in order avoid confusion with numbering systems used in previous consultations. We will review our approach to numbering through the next stages to provide more clarity.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
<u>Photospheres</u> 2. Viewpoint 3 – Padanaram and Redford Quite alarming to view a pylon visually close to the road edge with no attempt to blend into the landscape despite proximity to 100 metre exclusion zone signage. Unless local, difficult to determine landmarks, points to North/South etc, unless user not accessing tool to full potential.		The visualisations used in our consultation were used to aid the consultation process for local residents. They did not represent the final OHL alignment. Design and assessment work and mitigation and enhancement work continue and will be presented in the Section 37 application and in the accompanying EIAR which will incorporate more representative visualisations of the OHL from a range of viewpoint locations.
<u>OHL Routeing and Site Section Consultation Booklet 2023</u> <u>Observations</u> 1. RAG ratings format changed from Engineering to Environment 2. Page 26 changed from Environment to Engineering 3. Page 42 changed back to Engineering to Environmental		These minor errors are noted, and we can confirm they have no impact on the work undertaken or the conclusions presented.
<u>RAG Ratings (Low-Medium-High)</u> 1b Corridor (page 16) then B.1 (page 26) 7 High potential markers identified development to be constrained. 6 were dropped leaving only 1 – MASTS at 18th July 2023. How and why were the 6 mitigated to achieve a LOW status?		SSEN Transmission follows a robust approach to the identification and appraisal of OHL corridor, route and alignment options as set out in our Routeing Procedure. The approach commences with wide areas identified as corridors of lesser constraint. Route options are then identified within the preferred corridor and appraised in more detail to inform selection of a preferred route. The findings of our corridor and initial route option appraisals were presented for consultation in May 2023 and following feedback we reviewed route options in some locations for further consultation in March 2024. The Proposed Route for the OHL was subsequently identified and we developed a

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		Potential Alignment within this for the OHL including a series of alternative alignments which were those we presented at the most recent consultation in the autumn of 2024.
<u>Page 19</u> Quote "The corridor 1b also largely avoids densely populated areas and is considered marginally less sensitive to the introduction of new OHL infrastructure due to the existing OHL's throughout the corridor". This statement was not received well by communities and insensitive to the residents already accommodating 275kV infrastructure as the following example demonstrates.		The feedback is acknowledged and all feedback has been taken into account for the design development throughout each stage of consultation. Our corridor selection process was concluded following consultations held in 2023.
<u>Padanaram Current and Proposed Infrastructure</u> There are 153 homes and approximately 400 residents being the closest and largest settlement between Forfar and Kirriemuir that already accommodate the following or pending: • 275kV Line east • 132kV line north to south or other (middle of village) • 1 biomass plant • 2 invertor stations • 1 x 5MW Solar Farm North with additional poles and wiring to the 275kV line on the northern boundary. • 1 x 50MW Solar farm south south (Cossans) pending EIA submission • 1 x 50MW battery Storage south west (Cossans) pending EIA submission Plus telephone poles and wiring to homes on the grass/pavement verges.		The information on land uses and development proposals is noted and we will ensure they are considered in the EIA and the EIA cumulative assessment. The route was widened to allow for alternative alignments to be considered at the alignment development stage. Alternative Alignments 2a and 2b were developed and appraised consistently following SSEN Transmission's Routeing Procedure.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
The 2A proposed alignment double circuit 400kV line envisaged over A926 south to north direction is next to a very busy two-way minor road junction within proposed 1km of Padanaram. SSEN declared the route widened that would benefit Padanaram. The local press also covered this article expressing benefit of this decision. However, the area marked is actually southwest of Forestmuir. 2b alignment is the only option that would quantify this statement.		
<u>Horlock Rules</u> SSEN have recently conducted works near the A926 2A Potential Alignment at 23.10.24 to underground low voltage lines at this location. The rules states 'that in open landscapes especially high voltage lines should be kept as far away as possible, visually and separate from low voltage lines and other overhead lines'. Wirescape can also cause confusing appearance, therefore were these works carried out for the 2a potential alignment before the consultation expiry date or other reason?		The undergrounding of low voltage lines is carried out by Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution (SHEPD) and is entirely separate to the Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL project. SSEN Transmission does not have control over SHEPD works and would only engage SHEPD to underground/divert low voltage lines impacted by the Kintore to Tealing project once consultations and consents are concluded.
<u>Holford Rules</u> Areas of highest amenity value should also be avoided. How have SSEN assessed the 2A and 2B alignments against highest amenity value? 2A and 2B are both open landscape areas for migrating birds therefore regardless of final alignment, measures such as bird flappers or divertors to the earthwires should be a priority.		The alternative alignments in Location 2 were appraised in accordance with SSEN Transmission's Routeing Procedure which is informed by the Holford Rules[6]. This addresses a range of technical and environmental criteria including landscape and visual amenity and consideration of proximity to property. The appraisals also took account of potential constraints from bird movements associated with

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
The fields at present accommodate feeding, hunting and resting areas for variety of birds including raptors. Amphibians' habitats also located in the area.		migratory species and breeding birds. Important habitats and the species they support have been appraised drawing on field survey information. Further information on measures to mitigate the effects of the OHL on birds and other ecological features will be set out in the EIAR alongside an assessment of impact to habitats and species. Please refer to the feedback provided by NatureScot and our response earlier in in this Table.
<u>Alignments 2A and 2B</u> Both routes have a total of 15 pylons between the Alternative Alignment Option Boundaries. From the point of the disused railway line, 2A has 5 to meet the A926, 2B has 4 up to A926, thereafter 2A 10 and 2B 11.		The information on infrastructure within the landscape is noted.
<u>2A Potential Alignment</u> From A926, the route follows west of Padanaram, southeast of Redford, Woodhead of Ballinshoe, Haughs of Ballinshoe, Barnsdale, Overbow and Woodside. <u>2A Summary</u> 2A option no doubt viewed as a lower **cost** effective alignment and **access**. This alignment also would create a very visible pinch point corridor effect. Residents and the landscape are sensitive to more and should not have to accommodate more purely on these two parameters. This area also suffers from severe flooding with run off from surrounding hills and high prevailing storm wind conditions being the lowlands of Strathmore hills. SEPA maps designate the lowlands as potential risk area to properties.		The feedback is noted and has been captured in **Table 3.5: Summary of Feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments.** The appraisal of the alternative alignments included environmental, technical and cost considerations (criteria). Landscape and visual criteria were appraised and found to be similar for both alternatives. The technical appraisal included consideration of access, flood risk and proximity to other key infrastructure such as high pressure gas pipelines. Alternative Alignment 2b was found to be significantly more constrained by the pipeline.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
This area also accommodates major pipelines (PV21) that will be reviewed within the new Angus Plan consultations due to be delivered by 2029.		The costs of the two alternatives were appraised as being very similar.
2B Alternative Alignment From the A926, the route follows northeast direction from Ballinshoe Smithy to Woodside being the only two named settlement locations on the provided map. 2B Summary The 2B option is less populated, within more open aspects and further distance from the existing 275kV infrastructures and all previously listed. Wirescape should also be less visible. The 2B option would also align with SSEN statement the "area has been widened to benefit Padanaram". This would be acceptable if the final alignment also improves the expected within 1km distance.		The feedback is noted and has been captured in **Table 3.5: Summary of Feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments.**
Other Considerations Individual dwellings should also be a priority to conduct maximum efforts to 'back clothing' in their areas where possible and make any adjustments to reduce visual impacts. Private water supplies and other agricultural requirements are essential to some rural areas and minimisations of impacts should be a bespoke approach to those within the finalised alignment.		Landscape and visual considerations, as well as effects to private water supplies (PWS) and prime agricultural land has been considered throughout the design development process. Mitigation for visual impacts where practical will be set out in the EIAR. PWS and other agricultural requirements will be discussed with individual landowners and Scottish Water.
Preference We submit our preference as 2B and hope the content of this letter will be accepted in good faith to approach an outcome that best suits the needs of the people and areas we serve.		We acknowledge the feedback from Forfar Community Council. Feedback from communities is carefully considered at every stage of the project development process and, where possible, acted

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		upon. The points raised by Forfar Community Council, and the information provided, have been reviewed by our project team and will be used to inform ongoing project development. The feedback has been captured in **Table 3.5: Summary of Feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments.**
We would like to start off by thanking you for the positive manner of your staff at the Forfar meeting and in particular the very helpful technology which allowed us to see exactly how close various houses in our community would be to the towers if this project where to go ahead.	Glamis Community Council	We acknowledge the feedback from Glamis Community Council. Feedback from communities is carefully considered at every stage of the project development process and, where possible, acted upon. The points raised by Glamis Community Council, and the information provided, have been reviewed by our project team and will be used to inform ongoing project development.
We would like to recap on the main points that we have made several times as part of the consultation processes since May 2023. We recognise the importance of transporting electricity generated off and onshore Aberdeenshire to the areas of demand and don't contest this concept. We also understand the challenges presented by climate change and wish to take a responsible attitude to dealing with this phenomenon. However we have given lots of thought and had many a discussion amongst our members and residents in our rural community and are compelled to highlight that the following issues remain of grave concern:		The potential impacts on agriculture and farming businesses are acknowledged. Loss of prime agricultural land and related impacts from OHL construction will be considered as part of the EIA and relevant mitigation measures set out in the EIAR. Further economic impact assessment is also being undertaken including effects to the rural economy and a report of this work, together with the EIAR, will accompany the Section 37 application. Comments from respondents relating to agriculture and farming are set out in **Table 3.4: Economic**

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
1 We are concerned that one of Scotland's strategic industries ie agriculture could be damaged by potential disease infestation and drainage implications through the construction phase and thereafter maintenance due to the required machinery and footfall. 2 We are equally concerned that another of Scotland's strategic industries ie tourism would be affected by the visual decimation of the countryside, including areas such as Lumley Den, a well visited tourist spot of local ecological importance and various areas of historic importance. 3 As a Community Council we have particular concerns about the implication for health arising from the transmission of huge quantities of electricity close to people's homes, schools and workplaces. We recognise that there is no absolute proof of harm done but there is widespread concern in many countries about damage being done to particularly young people. In this case we consider that the Precautionary Principle should be adopted. There ought to be scope for a short run of underground cable in areas you deem it to be an absolute necessity to have in close proximity to homes, schools and workplaces.		**iImpact, Agriculture and Farming.** Our contractors will be required to prepare a CEMP prior to commencement of construction. The CEMP will ensure that best practice measures are employed during construction to control noise, dust, and prevent pollution and to ensure sound biosecurity measures are employed to protect farms and prevent the spread of diseases. Drainage concerns are also noted and will be fully considered in the EIA, measures will be identified in liaison with landowners and SEPA to minimise impact to drainage, see **Table 3.3: Environmental impact Flooding and Water Resources.** Landscape and visual impacts will be assessed and reported within the EIAR as part of the LVIA. As mentioned above, a separate socio-economic report will also be submitted as part of the Section 37 application. We develop, build, and operate our infrastructure to meet all health and safety tab and guidance set by relevant bodies including the UK Government, Scottish Government, the HSE and our regulator, Ofgem – including that associated with EMF. In respect of EMFs, we strictly follow the guidance as set by the UK Government, which in turn is informed by international guidance.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		There have been over four decades of research looking into whether EMF can cause health effects and there are no established effects below the exposure limits. When we design our OHL, substations, and cables, we do so to ensure they will not exceed those exposure limits, even when operating at 100% capacity. We also ensure that precautionary measures are also applied to the design where required. We will provide information on compliance as part of the consenting process, which will be publicly available. See also **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Electric and Magnetic Fields.**
As indicated above, we as a Community Council have always recognised that if electricity is produced in the North of Scotland and the demand for it is further South than this electricity requires transportation. We have always suggested through our consultation feedback that as much of the electricity as possible is transmitted via subsea cables. Initially we were told this was technically not possible, then we were told it was too costly, neither argument has been evidenced to us, and now we understand through official news channels that SSE are constructing two cables to take electricity from North East Scotland to England within this same timescale. If you are already committed to laying two cables why not lay three and this would mitigate many of the problems of this proposed Kintore to Tealing line. Of greatest concern is that during the Summer 2024 consultation we were told that SSE were not empowered to consult on putting the cables underground and transmitting the electricity offshore. This was a stunning revelation as it appears to have negated all the work we have done as part of a full year of consultation with yourselves.		It should be noted that SSEN Transmission do not decide on the overall need for the Pathway to 2030 projects; that is NESO[1] and Ofgem's role. SSEN Transmission has sought to clarify the technical, environmental and economic challenges of undergrounding transmission infrastructure since the beginning of the project. Our upgrades to the grid in the north-east of Scotland are based on a project specification which includes both offshore and onshore capacity projects. Please see **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Project Need** and **Alternatives and Technology Choice** and the following leaflets: • Why are the Pathway to 2030 Projects needed?

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		• Why the Pathway to 2030 projects require both onshore and offshore solutions • The challenges with undergrounding at 400 kV The use of HVDC systems is a technology SSEN Transmission has deployed on our network in an offshore capacity to assist with the transfer of electricity over distance e.g. the Caithness to Moray HVDC Link operational; the Shetland HVDC link on track for energisation this summer; planned links from Spittal to Peterhead; the Western Isles-Beauly; in addition to two links leaving Peterhead to connect to National Grid's Transmission area which form part of our Pathway to 2030 Projects. In progressing the use of HVDC technology, our current proposed HVDC subsea links have been considered in conjunction with the use of onshore HVAC OHL technology via the assessments and recommendations set out in the Pathway to 2030 HND run by NGESO[1] to determine the most economic and efficient manner to transport significant volumes of renewable electricity and provide value to the end consumer. This has determined that both HVAC and HVDC technologies are required to achieve the increase in network capacity required for 2030. The selection of HVAC for use onshore in conjunction with offshore HVDC technology has been driven by a number of factors as discussed below.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		The current capacity of HVDC technology is 2 GW, whereas the equivalent HVAC technology operating at 400 kV is 6 GW, offering close to three times the capacity. Therefore, to achieve the capacity of one 400 kV OHL, three HVDC systems would be required along with substantial substations at either end. The use of HVDC to achieve the same capacity would result in more substation infrastructure than HVAC with each system requiring its own convertor station, that being three at either end, as opposed to the one substation site required for HVAC technology. This would result in more convertor stations with a larger number of buildings to house the equipment. The current cost of HVDC systems is significantly higher than that of the equivalent HVAC OHL, therefore in addition to having substantially less capacity than HVAC there would be additional cost to the end consumer to install this technology to achieve the same capacity, resulting in higher energy bills. The onshore system within our network operates on HVAC with the system being interconnected across the different voltages to allow connections of generators to the system as well as to supply businesses and houses via our connections to the Distribution Network. With an HVDC system,

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		additional convertor stations would be required at any point along the routes required to connect the system back to the existing network to either supply the Distribution Network or allow electricity generators or large demand users to connect. These drive additional costs to the consumer as well as requiring additional land take. Our Pathway to 2030 Projects will progress both HVAC and HVDC projects in line with the assessments and recommendations from the HND, as the network continues to develop post 2030 we will continue to work with NESO and wider stakeholders to identify the most suitable technologies to deploy across our network to meet the needs of the Transmission Network.
As a Community Council we cannot argue individual cases because they may conflict, however now that we can see exactly where the towers may be positioned, it is particularly important that they should not be too close to residents. We would very much welcome attendance at one of our Community Council meetings so you can meet our community in person and answer any questions they may wish to pose. Our meetings are held every third Monday of the month, aside of December and July, at 19:30-21:00 hours.		Your feedback is acknowledged. Proximity to properties has been a key consideration throughout the design process. We have aimed to route the OHL a target distance of 170 m or more from residential properties and to maintain a minimum distance of 100 m where possible and taking account of other land use, environmental and technical constraints including existing infrastructure such as OHLs and gas pipelines. We acknowledge your meeting dates and will discuss the details with you in due course as part of our next consultation process. **Section 5: Next Steps** sets out our next steps.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
No response.	Inchture Community Council	
No response to the Alignment Consultation. However, Inveresk Community Council responded to the Scoping Report.	Inveresk Community Council	
No response.	Kemnay Community Council	
No response.	Kintore Community Council	
I am writing to you on behalf of Kirriemuir Landward East Community Council (KLECC) in response to your two consultation reports (August 2024 and December 2023) to register that we strongly object to the flawed consultation process regarding the above project. We believe this has been neither competent nor appropriate with regard to this body (KLECC) nor regarding the community it represents. The entire so called 'consultation' exercise has not been remotely inclusive nor has it designed or employed a clear, specific, consistent or competent consultative methodology or approach (we note the very recent launch of your 'Stakeholder Engagement Strategy'). Despite its' being inadequately informative it nonetheless has apparently progressed to a call for feedback on a series of so-called consultation events on OHL alignment. As such we continue to object to the ongoing failures and weaknesses in this consultative approach which has almost completely bypassed KLECC as a statutory body, taking inadequate account of its legitimacy, remit and responsibilities.	Kirriemuir Landward East Community Council	We acknowledge the objection from Kirriemuir Landward East Community Council. Feedback from communities is carefully considered at every stage of the project development process and, where possible, acted upon. The concerns raised and the information provided have been reviewed by our project team.
As far as the main issues with SSENs shortcomings in any direct engagement with this Community Council are concerned we wish to raise the following points: • At the earliest point in the SSEN process publicising this project you did not contact the local community or its representatives most directly		We seek to ensure that we consult as widely and openly as possible, and we acknowledge your feedback in this regard.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
affected. This failure was communicated to you and did not result in any adequate response or action. • There were no direct or email communications made with any responsible representative of KLECC. This included in follow up to a meeting as a result of the Westmuir SSEN event which involved KLECC, Forfar CC and Aberlemno CCs as well as the MSP and SSEN. • Local KLECC members had attended the SSEN 'consultation' meeting held in Westmuir (SSEN had completely missed that there was a local CC with access to a relevant venue for its community, it also completely missed Forfar, KLECC attended and contributed to the independent locally organised meeting in Padanaram). • Although an SSEN led 'consultation' meeting was held in Memus in March 2024, the extent and nature of local participation and any form of its breakdown was not recorded although it was subsequently claimed that the 'recorded registered attendance' was 142 (KLECC representatives saw no evidence of this when they asked SSEN). • The following report including this event has no documented feedback from the meeting. Overall responses quoted appear to be largely self-selected, the report does not appear to include any specific questions or comments raised from KLECC. • The CC have written to SSEN on several occasions either as a body or individually. KLECC have also actively involved themselves in numerous meeting with other CCs with little effective SSEN response, there has been no direct SSEN communication with KLECC or with any individual members identified. • The most recent SSEN 'consultation' event in Memus in September appeared to function mainly as an information download or lobbying opportunity. There were no consultation activities undertaken. The approach seemed to largely be an attempt to direct participants		We aim to be as accessible as possible to all our stakeholders and keep them informed and consulted throughout a project's lifecycle. Please refer to How Stakeholder feedback influences our proposals which explains our consultation process. The RoC which we prepare after each consultation stage in the project, documents the consultation process, and where appropriate, how we have addressed feedback to define the next stages of the project. RoCs for each stage of this project can be found via the links in **Section 1.1: Purpose of this Document.** The RoC documents also include details of consultation methods and advertising, those consulted and/or contributing to the process and it summarised feedback received.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
towards specific priorities preselected rather than consult. The so called 'alternative proposals' were presented as a fait accompli and in no way represented an effective consultative approach. • The ''Feedback Form' from the 'Consultation event' contains only eight questions of which several are largely administrative, there is a substantially directive approach evident. This appears only to direct people to predetermined and largely closed options rather than offering truly consultative questions. • The timing of this paper is unhelpful as is the overall approach which takes no account of the work cycle of the Community Councils which commonly meet on a bimonthly basis. The approach which SSEN have chosen to employ does not accommodate such participation sufficiently in order for their process to be legitimate and effective, Community Councils have a statutory role and process here which must be allowed to take place and precedence.		
Moving on to the Feedback Form on the so called 'Consultation Events' we are unable to make a direct response as we do not consider this to be a relevant, appropriate, inclusive or competent activity or vehicle. We would however wish to make some limited observations on the paper and approach as it is presented. As it stands it does not appear to be designed to encourage local participation in feeding back effectively on 'alternative alignments' or to directly address these. • The questions are extremely limited and limiting, the value of their relevance is open to considerable question, a large proportion of this remarkably small number are closed questions. Many are based on gross assumptions which are not otherwise justified. • The questions presented are almost exclusively focused on the so called 'alternative proposals' as if these were already agreed, there has been no such agreement. There is a need for more work on real		As previously stated, we seek to ensure that we consult as widely and openly as possible, and we acknowledge your feedback on the Feedback Form and the Consultation Events. We accept feedback in a number of ways and happily accept letters and emails as well as the form, the form is designed to assist those providing feedback. All feedback is analysed by the project team in whatever format it is provided to us. The community benefit funds are new and unique for transmission projects in Scotland, we felt it was important for the local communities to understand that we to aim to ensure that we deliver lasting

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
community options rather than SSEN direction. No one is asked whether they agree with the 'proposals'? • The questions proposed here are not adequately informed. Extensive background documentation is provided but has limited value and accessibility for local participation, the transparency of its purpose and use could be questioned. • The 'community benefit fund' is not relevant here, why is it included? This may appear to be 'diversionary'. • The 'Consultation document' on 'Alignment Selection' is complex but superficial in an area of considerable complexity and sensitivity It is a poor tool to support consultees, it includes numerous omissions, oversights and errors (too many to begin to detail on a section by section basis). • There is no explanation in the RAG tables of the basis of decision making, the criteria employed and how this underpins the RAG approach implemented and the key applied. The RAG approach is not even explained in the glossary. • This Alignment Selection section of the document takes little account of the human and social aspects, this appears to be a critical and very significant deficiency or oversight.		legacies across the region to help communities prosper. We aim to provide our consultation material in a manner that stakeholders can access, and in a format that can be understood. We appreciate that the project is complex. With regard to the Red/Amber/Green (RAG) ratings and the alignment selection process, we follow internal guidance on route development and appraisal. The design development process has a number of key stages, with an increasing focus on detail as development activities progress. As well as technical and environmental appraisals, consultation is also undertaken with the public, landowners, consenting authorities and statutory and other consultees. Feedback from this consultation helps to inform which option achieves the best balance and least overall constraint across environmental (including people and communities), technical and cost considerations. The selected option is then taken forward to the next stage. During each stage, we undertake a comparative appraisal that seeks to distinguish between options, so that a chosen option can be identified. The appraisal seeks to determine which option achieves the best overall balance across environmental

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		(including people and communities), technical and cost considerations. When undertaking comparative appraisals, environmental (including people and communities), engineering and cost considerations are assigned a RAG rating, by specialist technical teams using a range of criteria. The RAG ratings for each topic are used to examine differences between the options being considered. The appraisal compares the wider implications of each option on those topics (both individually and combined) and reaches a reasoned conclusion, on balance across all topics. Links are provided below to papers that have been prepared to explain our design development process and the stages each project goes through: • Routeing Overhead Lines • How Stakeholder feedback influences our proposals
This letter has been prepared quickly as KLECC were only able to meet and discuss this agenda item during our meeting on Monday 18th November. We are only now in the process of formalising CC specific email addresses. At their request I have therefore agreed to write from my own account as a KLECC office bearer on behalf of the membership. The short time available to us within the response period highlights the difficulties which effective community participation faces. We insist that we be adequately and appropriately consulted.		Noted.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
No response.	Longforgan Community Council	
No response to the Alignment Consultation. However, the Community Council responded to the Scoping Report.	Mearns Community Council	
No response.	Muirhead, Birkhill & Liff Community Council	
No response.	Meigle and Ardler Community Council	
No response.	Newtyle & Eassie Community Council	
No response.	Saint Cyrus Community Council	
No response.	Stonehaven & District Community Council	
No response.	Strathmartine Community Council	
TCC formally object to the public consultation process itself and in particular the heavy-handed security attendance at the Tealing Hall events in the village. We do not accept these were needed and would like it acknowledged that the presence of these security personnel was unnecessary and intimidating for residents. It set a confrontational tone for what should be an open and honest discussion with the residents in attendance. It became the focus of much of the feedback to TCC and has set an expectation locally that residents are being monitored and that security will be in attendance at all future events with SSEN. This is disappointing given the efforts made by TCC to engage constructively with SSEN on the major changes being forced on our village with their	Tealing Community Council (First Response)	We acknowledge the objection from Tealing Community Council. Feedback from communities is carefully considered at every stage of the project development process and, where possible, acted upon. We deployed security assistance staff at the events to ensure the health and safety of all people involved, following a risk assessment. This approach is used by other transmission operators in Scotland and the UK to ensure that events are conducted safely for all staff and participants.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
developments and those associated with them. The aim clearly being to turn Tealing from a farming community into an industrial zone at the behest of SSEN and partners.		
Notwithstanding that the latest consultation was deficient in that the plans for the OHL pathways failed to take into account houses that were in its path, most notably the one to be most affected by proximity of the proposed pylons on Craigowl Hill at Grand View near Coldstream Farm. This was completely absent from the video display given and thus allowed residents no clear view of the size nor proximity of this to that area.		The OS base maps we have used are the latest available from Ordnance Survey, dated July 2024. We do not rely on OS base maps to identify properties and we use the most up to date versions of AddressBase data, which we overlay on our GIS systems. We also collect LIDAR data to provide up to date aerial imagery to ensure we are including all properties. Our land teams are liaising directly with landowners.
In terms of the OHL and pylons cresting the hill at Craigowl, there is no effort whatsoever to blend these into the landscape or to take a route that minimises the visual impact on this hill which is known locally as the Gateway into Angus and is the predominant feature in the Sidlaw Hills. On the contrary the proposed pylon and OHL deliberately and provocatively imposes itself on the vista to the north of the village. The rationale given at the public meeting was that it was to fit in with the topography belies the fact that the other side of Craigowl has similar topography and a much less visually intrusive route whilst still allowing access, should consent be granted to the substation.		The topography of the eastern end of the Sidlaw Hills presents challenges to an OHL alignment wherever it is located. The Potential Alignment was identified within the boundary established by the Proposed Route in this area and taking account of a range of land use, environmental and technical constraints. This has included landscape and visual considerations including minimising the visibility of the OHL in areas of steep and higher topography. Visualisations from key locations along the Proposed Alignment will be provided within the EIAR.
Residents' concerns raised at the public consultation event about the impact on mental and physical health, access to the countryside and the destruction of agricultural land to accommodate pylons were dismissed.		We appreciate that comments and concerns have been made by residents in relation to health, access to the countryside and agriculture.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		We review all consultation feedback and take it into account during the design development. A separate socio-economic report will be submitted as part of the Section 37 application. The effects on prime agricultural land as well as mitigation to ensure access to the countryside will be addressed within the EIAR. Please see these comments and our response in **Table 3.2: Community impact, Health and Safety, Open Space, Recreation and Rights of Way** and **Table 3.4: Economic impact** under heading **Agriculture and Farming.** Mental health is also covered in **Section 3.2: Common Themes – Mental Health.**
The roads leading to Craigowl are ill-equipped to deal with the construction traffic that may be required, though we are left guessing as to what that might actually be given no information was available to us locally on that. Again, a clearly deficient part of this local consultation.		It is acknowledged that there will be some impacts from road traffic movements during the construction of the project. Impacts on traffic and transportation will be assessed as part of the EIA, and we will mitigate and minimise significant adverse impacts. For projects of this scale, CTMP will be produced as part of the Section 37 application and its implementation will be made a requirement of the construction contracts. This will require approval from Transport Scotland and local roads authorities. We will undertake specific liaison with Transport Scotland and Local Authority Roads Departments as the project develops to agree measures for public

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		road improvements, temporary traffic management and other mitigation that may be required.
We are aware that landowners potentially affected have offered alternate routes that minimise impact on good farming land and suggested a route through less productive bracken land but these were dismissed at the event in the hall. We hope that these suggestions can be reconsidered should pylons go ahead to minimise business disruption and to maximise the use of agricultural land locally which is already under severe decline due to an accumulation of plans to turn the area into an energy storage park.		We have reviewed all feedback from all consultation events, and responses provided to us during the consultation period from all stakeholders as well as feedback from landowners. We continue to review all feedback and develop the design in liaison with landowners and other stakeholders and are committed to minimising impacts on landowners and managers as much as practically possible while taking into account other technical, environmental and cost considerations.
It is also noted that environmental surveys have not picked up the known protected species on Craigowl, most notably a bat population in the woods at Coldstream adjacent to the pylon route planned and a pair of sparrowhawks nesting in that area. It is noted also that there are badger setts on the hill that seem to have been overlooked in the EIA whilst SSEN staff claimed to be unaware of any protected flora or fauna in the area. We will provide further details on these protected species when we do get a full view of the EIA at planning application.		Your feedback is acknowledged and will be reviewed by the project team. A range of protected species surveys along the entire length of the proposed OHL have been progressed to inform the assessment of potential effects of the project on ecology and biodiversity. The findings of these assessments will be presented in the EIAR.
In summary there is strong and unanimous local opposition to the planned OHL route into Balkemback substation and a fear that local knowledge on alternate routes are being overlooked whilst residents are being intimidated by SSEN staff and contractors into silence on these issues.		We review all consultation feedback and take it into account during the design development. Please see our response above in relation to identification of an OHL alignment within the Proposed Route for the project, and in relation to ensuring that everyone is kept safe during events managed by SSEN Transmission.
The presence of security guards and intimidatory tactics, where the car park is full of SSEN staff vehicles so residents could not park in it at events is the subject of much local concern and needs revisited for any future		Your comments and feedback are acknowledged. We review all consultation feedback and take it into account during the design development. Please see

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
events. Whilst this may not be of relevance to the TKUP consultation we are responding to it as a material concern. It certainly is a worry for TCC as we try to fulfil our statutory duty in canvassing views from a wide range of residents and responding in their voice to the consultation as requested. They do feel locally that their opinions are being ignored on a range of issues relevant to this consultation and we know no sensible changes have been made since the first round of consultations. We hope for better on this one.		our response above in relation to ensuring that everyone is kept safe during events managed by SSEN Transmission.
Can I highlight that at the SSEN consultation yesterday (Mon 23rd Sept) in Tealing Hall for the siting of the pylons coming in to the proposed substation at Balkemback, that there were three security guards on duty from 130-630pm The rationale given, when I asked why they were there, was that they were to ensure the risk assessment on the hall capacity of 150 people was adhered to. Given there have been three public consultation events in Tealing Hall with SSEN in the latest round of events for the energy developments in planning, none have ever been near that capacity and there was no prior need for security guards at any of them. This seems a rather dubious explanation and has been interpreted widely by attendees as intimidation on behalf of SSEN. At no point have I seen any staff from SSEN be treated disrespectfully by attendees albeit many of our community have left this and previous meetings visibly upset at the proposals being presented and lack of any changes from the initial plans. I had expected better of SSEN whose employees have been treated with nothing but respect and courtesy in their dealings with our community despite the clear intent to destroy the landscape and agricultural land around us. Indeed the Community Council have hosted you and colleagues	Tealing Community Council (Second Response)	Your feedback about the consultation event is noted. The safety and well-being of our staff, venue personnel as well as those attending the consultation event are our highest priority. We deployed security assistance staff at the events to ensure the health and safety of all people involved, and following a risk assessment. This approach is used by other transmission operators in Scotland and the UK to ensure that events are conducted safely for all staff and participants.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
in a civil and respectful meeting on the proposals for our area last month in that same hall. Can I ask you to speak urgently with senior colleagues on the folly of this sinister development from SSEN as you move North with your consultations on the pylon route. If you are considering putting burly and intimidating security guards on the doors of the other halls and venues you have booked you might want to consider how this is being interpreted by those attending. I've copied in Graeme Dey so he is aware of how this has been viewed in our area and perhaps that he raise it with Ofgem as no doubt the bill for this unnecessary security will be borne by the bill payers and not SSEN. That is off course the rationale we've been given regards the siting of pylons, sub stations and refusal to move either or to go underground as the cost will be borne apparently by the bill payer. Copied also to your Chief Executive as this is a spectacular demonstration of the contempt SSEN are holding their community neighbours in that they feel the need to pull security in for a public consultation and the intimidation this has caused in Tealing. I will reply separately to the consultation event in due course as a land owner affected rather than as Chair of the Community Council raising this urgent issue. It is disappointing to note also that the consultation finished at 630pm which gave little time for many of us who work to attend it. In a rural farming community at the tail end of harvesting meant a number were unable to attend whilst they were out in the fields in the light. I suspect		

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
other areas will have similar feedback as you move North these coming two weeks.		
No response.	West Carse Community Council	

Appendix D – Non-statutory Consultee Feedback

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
No response.	Aberdeen and District Soarers	
No response.	Aberdeen Hang-gliding and Paragliding Club	
No response.	BAA Aerodrome Safeguarding	
Outdoor Access Access to safe off-road riding routes is vital to the health and wellbeing of horses and their riders. Under the terms of the *Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003*, equestrians have the same rights of access to the outdoors as other non-motorised users, such as pedestrians and cyclists. Equestrian use should therefore be included when planning and designing proposals. Considering all access takers, including equestrians, in the early stages helps to avoid problems down the line and ensures that projects like this are an opportunity to preserve and improve access for all, rather than curtail it or restrict it to certain groups. Whilst designated routes such as core paths, rights of way and promoted routes are important, due to their specific access requirements equestrians also rely heavily on the wider path network, informal paths and field boundaries. It is therefore important to consider how to manage public access, beyond designated routes, in the vicinity of this extensive site. The BHS is here to help and can provide guidance on suitable surfaces and infrastructure to accommodate equestrians and other access takers. We would be very willing to work with you on these aspects.	British Horse Society	We note your points regarding equestrian use of paths and trails and the importance of ensuring that access to these routes is maintained during construction and operation of the project. SSEN Transmission is committed to working with horse owners to ensure there is as little disruption as possible during construction and upon completion of this development. We have been actively engaging with the community to encourage horse owners to notify SSEN Transmission of the number of horses they own, alongside other animals and the concerns which they may have. We understand that some horses may have complex needs, and we wish to work with owners to ensure their horses welfare can be met. SSEN Transmission will work with horse owners who have concerns over the safety of their horses

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		and will compensate towards livery costs if no alternative land is available within their ownership or in neighbouring fields. Mitigation measures to reduce impacts to access routes will be detailed within the Land Use chapter of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and an Outdoor Access Management Plan (OAMP) will be included as an appendix to incorporate key measures to avoid and reduce any significant access impacts particularly during construction. Please also refer to our response on access and rights of way in **Table 3.2: Community impact** under headings **Roads and Access** and **Open Space, Recreation and Rights of Way.**
The Importance of Off-Road Riding Access to safe off-road riding routes is vital to the health and wellbeing of horses and their riders. Equestrian road users are classed as vulnerable as they are more likely to be involved in a road accident and more likely to suffer the worst consequences. Most riding accidents happen on minor roads and with increasing numbers of horses and riders seeking to access the countryside, adequate access to off-road riding should be a priority, especially in rural and semi-rural areas, and areas of high horse ownership, like Aberdeenshire and Angus. Few riders access busy roads by choice (although the horse has as much right to be on public roads as cars, bikes and pedestrians) - but they often have		We note your points regarding off-road riding routes and your guidance leaflet and the need for access to these routes to be maintained during construction and operation of the project. Please refer to our response on access and rights of way in **Table 3.2: Community impact** under heading **Roads and Access**. We will include the guidance document within the OAMP referenced in our response above.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
few other places to ride or no other way to access their safe off-road riding. Vehicles travelling two and from work sites are likely to meet equestrians on the road and drivers should be advised of this risk. I have enclosed a copy of our "*Guidance to drivers of large vehicles*" document.		
Horse care and welfare Horse owners need access to attend to their horses at least twice a day and more often if they are managing an injury or other health issue. In addition, in an emergency, a horse owner and/or a vet may need vehicular access at any time and at very short notice. Horses may be kept; • In the immediate vicinity of their owner's residence, • At a livery yard or stables, along with a number of other horses, • On small pieces of land, not associated with a residential property or stable yard. It is important to consider how to ensure the safety and welfare of horses kept within the vicinity of the site and how to ensure their owners will have access to care for them during both construction and operation.		We note your points about access in relation to horse care and welfare. Please refer to our responses above and generally on access and rights of way in **Table 3.2: Community impact** under headings **Roads and Access** and **Open Space** and **Recreation and Rights of Way.**
The Horse and the Rural Economy Scotland's equestrian industry is worth over £300 million to the Scottish economy annually. This figure excludes the value of the horse racing industry, which is worth a further £300 million. Aberdeenshire and Angus are areas of high horse ownership, so equestrianism is an important part of the rural economy. Recent joint research between SRUC and The BHS showed current trends in the sector point to a continued increase in horse		We note your points about the equestrian industry. Please refer to our response **in Table 3.4: Economic impact** under heading **Tourism and Other Local Businesses.** A socio-economic report will be prepared.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
numbers and riding activity in all geographical areas of Scotland and across a wide cross section of society, leading to growth in the sector. A national survey of riders who had recently given up their horse found that 27% of them had done so because they had lost access and had nowhere to ride. Failing to accommodate horses on our local path networks may lead to riders being forced to give up their horses, which in turn may damage the local economy.		
We have studied the proposed tower positions with respect to EMC and related problems to BT point-to-point microwave radio links. The conclusion is that the Project indicated should not cause interference to BT's current and presently planned radio network.	BT	Noted.
However, some of the towers positions are very close to BT links, therefore if they do change, please inform us so we can re-assess.		Our project team will liaise with BT if tower positions change for re-assessment.
Thank you for consulting CNPA on this development. I would confirm that CNPA has no comments to make.	Cairngorms National Park Authority	Noted.
No response.	Catchment Partnerships	
No response.	Civil Aviation Authority – Airspace	
No response.	Coal Authority	
No response.	Crown Estate Scotland	
The jurisdiction of the Dee DSFB covers the Rivers flowing into the sea at Stonehaven, those small burns that flow into the sea north of Stonehaven and finally the River Dee and all its tributaries.	Dee District Salmon Fishery Board (DSFB)	We note the jurisdiction of the Dee DSFB.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
As a statutory body charged with the protection of Atlantic salmon and sea trout stocks within its district the Dee DSFB has a duty to ensure that there are no significant adverse impacts upon the populations of these species		
The Dee district supports populations of salmon, trout, eels and brook, river and sea lampreys. In 2023 IUCN reclassified Atlantic salmon to 'Endangered' in Great Britain. Salmon are protected under the *EC Habitats Directive* and are one of the species for which the Dee is designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). All lamprey species are protected under *the EC Habitats Directive* whilst river and sea lampreys are additionally protected under the UKBAP priority list. Eels are a UKBAP priority species, critically endangered under the IUCN red list and protected under CITES.		Dee DSFB information and the protection afforded to designated sites such as the River Dee SAC is noted and is being considered by our specialist teams.
Response to Consultation Feedback Form Qu 1. Durris Qu 2. Crossings of the River Dee, Cowie, Carron and their tributaries. Particularly River Dee crossing. Qu 3. Yes Qu 4. Both potential alignments to cross the Dee are located on important wild salmon fisheries and cross over or are adjacent to important salmon fishing pools. Full engagement with fishery owners is essential. If an exclusion zone is required at pylon crossing this could significantly impact the fishing opportunities and economy of the fishery. Any assessment of potential EMF effects for the 400kV OHL should include assessment of potential impacts of EMF on migratory fish.		Qu1. Noted Qu2. Noted Qu3. Noted Qu4. It is noted that the project intersects with wild salmon fisheries and salmon fishing pools. These have been taken into consideration. We will continue to liaise with the Dee DSFB and fishery owners as the project develops including on opportunities to mitigate impacts on fishing interests of the river. Please refer to our response in relation to electro and magnetic fields (EMF) set out in **Table 3.2: Community impact** under heading **Electromagnetic Interference.** A study on the impact of EMF on fish is being undertaken which will be reported in the EIAR.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Qu 5. All alignment options cross the Dee, Cowie and Carron catchments and will cross important spawning and juvenile rearing areas for Atlantic salmon and sea trout on tributaries such as the Gormack and Sheeoch burns. The importance and vulnerability of these species must be highlighted in all EIA reports and meaningful protection and mitigation must be developed for these important species during and post construction. Qu 6. Unsure Qu 7. The Dee District Salmon Fishery Board and the River Dee Trust are developing a catchment wide restoration plan for the Culter Burn catchment which aims to enhance biodiversity and improve resilience to climate change impacts such as increasing floods and droughts. We also have developed a detailed design to restore the Bo Burn, close to one of the pylon alignments at Loch of park. Further discussions with the SSEN team to look at potential support for our work in this area would be welcomed. Qu 8. Do the pylons crossing the Dee have an exclusion zone which would prevent fishing directly under or adjacent to the crossings?		Qu5. Impacts to protected areas and species will be assessed and reported in the Ecology chapter of the EIAR. Impacts to aquatic populations, with the exception of freshwater pearl mussel as a designated feature of SACs, have been scoped out of this assessment. However detailed ecological mitigation measures will be incorporated in the EIAR to ensure that construction works are implemented without significant adverse effects on key watercourses in the SAC catchment. SSEN Transmission has commissioned specialist consultants to carry out further assessment of the potential impacts of EMFs on fish. Embedded Mitigation and Applied Mitigation measures will be set out in the EIAR and implemented to protect watercourses and riparian habitats. Please refer to our response in relation to protected species and mitigation set out in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under heading **Biodiversity, Habitats, Protected Species and Designated Sites.** Qu6. Noted Qu7. We are grateful to all respondents that have suggested community benefits that might be useful for the area, these have been added to **Table 3.4: Economic impact** under heading

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		Compensation and Community Benefits. As part of our Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) obligations, we welcome the opportunity for continued engagement in relation to potential opportunities for community benefits.
		Qu8. The OHL crossing the Esk will have a 30 m exclusion zone as per the Energy Networks Association (ENA) Angler Safety guidance 2014. However as per the guidance if effective alternative control measures can be applied a reduction of the 30 m exclusion zone can be considered. The guidance is linked here: • Angler Safety and Risk Assessment (30m Angling Exclusion Zone)[18]
No response.	Dee Partnership	
No response.	Energy Consents Unit (ECU)	
The Esk DSFB has a statutory responsibility to protect the salmon and sea trout fisheries of the River North Esk, River South Esk, River Bervie and River Lunan. The River South Esk has been designated Special Area of Conservation for Atlantic salmon and Fresh Water Pearl Mussel under the EC Habitats Directive. The River North Esk is an important research river for Marine Scotland Science and the salmon populations of this river have been constantly monitored since the 1960s. Salmon and sea trout fisheries in the Esk Fishery District contribute in the region of £5M annually to the local economy and are important local employers.	Esk District Salmon Fishery Board (DSFB)	We note the statutory responsibilities of the Esk DSFB and the information provided on the designations and importance of the rivers within the DSFB's remit.

[18] Energy Networks Association (ENA) (2013), *Safety, Health and Environment. Angler Safey: A Guide to Risk Assessment Supporting a Reduction in the Default 30 metre Angling Exclusion Zone.* Available online: https://www.energynetworks.org/assets/images/Resource library/1300401_ENA_SHE_AnglerSafety_AW_Final-1_Dec 2014.pdf?1737727874

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
The Esk DSFB wishes to comment on the proposed alignment of the overhead line where it intersects with the rivers within the Esk Fishery District.		
Location 3: Justinhaugh We appreciate that where the line crosses the River South SAC will always be contentious, and that the Esk Rivers & Fisheries Trust raised concerns over potential impacts to salmonid spawning grounds over the original 3b alignment, however we must raise concerns over the potential impact on salmon fishing for the 3a alignment. The 3a alignment will cross the River South Esk at the lower end of the Inshewan Fishing Beat, an important fishing beat for the river. The beat is known not only for salmon fishing, but also for providing anglers with an escape into the countryside, with lush, green surroundings and mature trees. The owners of the fishing beat are very concerned that the pylons at this location will destroy the welcoming environment for visiting anglers, as well as effectively resulting in one of their more prolific salmon pools becoming unfishable. Please note it is not the case the anglers can simply fish elsewhere, as certain pools 'fish' well at certain water heights. Losing access to an important fishing pool may have significant impacts on the viability of the business to offer an enticing environment to their customers. From a river ecology perspective, we are concerned about the loss of mature trees and vegetation on the steep south bank of the river crossing point, which may lead to erosion and an increase in the levels of fine sediments entering the river. These fine sediments have the potential to smother juvenile salmon habitat and negatively impact on Fresh Water Pearl Mussels. Should the removal of trees prove necessary, we would urge mitigation to minimise any negative impacts.		Your comments on Location 3 are noted and have been included in **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative** above. The impacts on fishing beats has been taken into consideration. We will continue to liaise with the Esk District Salmon Fishery Board and fishery owners as the project develops including on opportunities to mitigate impacts on fishing interests of the river. The OHL crossing the Esk will have a 30 m exclusion zone as per the ENA Angler Safety guidance 2013. However as per the guidance if effective alternative control measures can be applied a reduction of the 30 m exclusion zone can be considered. The guidance is linked here: • Angler Safety and Risk Assessment (30m Angling Exclusion Zone)[17] Impacts to protected areas and species will be assessed and reported in the Ecology chapter of the EIAR. Impacts to aquatic populations, with the exception of freshwater pearl mussel as a designated feature of SACs, have been scoped out of this assessment. SSEN Transmission has commissioned specialist consultants to carry out

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		further assessment of the potential impacts of EMFs on fish. Embedded Mitigation and Applied Mitigation measures will be set out in the EIAR and implemented during construction to protect watercourses and riparian habitats. Please refer to our response set out in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under heading **Biodiversity, Habitats, Protected Species and Designated Sites** in relation to woodland and habitat and ecological enhancement. Tree removal will be avoided where possible.
<u>Location 4: Careston</u> Alignment routes 4a, 4b, and 4d are above the natural upstream limit of salmonid migration, and therefore our concerns are limited to mitigation against excess fine sediments entering the watercourse. For information, route 4c would cross the river where there are important salmon and sea trout spawning and juvenile habitat. If the removal of trees at this location can be avoided (as the river is within a steep gorge at this point), then that would be beneficial.		Your comments on Location 4 are noted and have been included in **Table 3.5: Summary of feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments** above. We can confirm that Alternative Alignment 4c is not being taken forward as part of the Proposed Alignment.
The Esk DSFB and the Esk Rivers & Fisheries Trust is keen to work with SSEN to mitigate against negative impacts on the aquatic habitat and salmon fisheries from the installation of the overhead line.		We will continue to liaise with Esk District Salmon Fisheries Board as the project develops.
No response.	Fisheries Management Scotland	
No response.	Heli Colter Helipad	
No response.	John Muir Trust	

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
We are having ongoing discussions with SSE regarding this project and other OHL projects more generally. Following our last monthly meeting, it was agreed that we need not concern ourselves with potential impacts on ST links.	Joint Radio Company (JRC) Windfarm	Noted. The microwave link information will be passed to our project team and SSEN Transmission will continue to liaise with JRC Windfarm.
In light of that discussion, the following microwave links have the potential to be impacted by the corresponding proposed OHL towers: <u>MES (Kintore to Hurlie substation)</u> • Interim Tower Number: T17 (E: 339916.163; N: 741835.82). Affected Link: 0929365/2 • Interim Tower Number: T15R1 (E: 339857.021; N: 741042.52). Affected Link: 0929177/1		
Thanks for consulting the Met Office regarding the above proposal. The overhead line route isn't inside any of our consultations zones and will have no impact on the data or services from our weather radar network. Therefore we have no objections and wouldn't expect to be consulted if a planning application was submitted.	Met Office	Noted.
No response.	Mountaineering Scotland	
The MOD has recently (18/09/2024) been consulted by the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit for a Scoping Opinion on this development. A response has been provided to the Scottish Government which I understand they will be making available to SSEN and, given the statutory safeguarding zones in the locality, this response will also be applicable for	MOD	Noted. We have received MOD's response to the Scoping Report. All scoping responses will be addressed as part of the EIA process and a matrix of scoping responses will be provided in the EIA Report.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
the SSEN consultation even if there are minor alignment alterations to the proposed route.		
No response.	National Farmers Union (Other - Regional Managers)	
No response.	National Farmers Union (Policy Advisor)	
No response.	National Grid (Electricity)	
Our focus in this feedback is in relation to the OHL where it is in close proximity to one of our key cultural and ecological properties in North-East Scotland, namely 'Drum Castle & The Old Wood of Drum'.	National Trust Scotland (NTS)	The impacts to the setting of the historic assets at Drum will be assessed and reported within the Cultural Heritage chapter of the EIAR. The assessment will be closely aligned with the landscape and visual assessment in terms of character, setting, and reflecting the integrated landscape and cultural importance of these designations. The Ecology chapter of the EIAR will assess the impacts of habitat loss, fragmentation and severance of Ancient Woodland and Long Established of Plantation Origin (LEPO) woodland. However, the Proposed Alignment taken forward to EIA will not intersect with the assets at Drum (see **Table 4.1: Factors informing selection of Potential Alignment**).
Looking at the maps of location 6 (where Drum is situated) on p349, 350 & 351 of the consultation document all options run close to the property at		Please see our response in **Table 3.2: Community impact** under heading **Landscape and Visual.** Alignment.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Drum and some will impact the property directly at the south-west corner at Drumhill wood. All will have a visual impact.		A visualisation will be included within Volume 4: Visualisations of the EIAR for Drum Castle (LB3113/ GDL141).
The potential alignment looks to be furthest from the property, (and as such would be our preferred option). Alternative alignments 6a & 6c will directly affect Drumhill wood on NTS ground, with 6c likely to have the greatest impact. That part of the property is on the ancient woodland inventory (AWI) and classified as a LEPO site (Long Established of Plantation Origin) woodland. As a result, we would object to either options 6a or 6c being taken up.		We note your comments on the Alternative Alignment locations. Key feedback on the alternative alignments has been included in **Table 3.5: Summary of Feedback on Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Potential Alignment Sections and Alternative Alignments**. Our approach to taking account of woodland on the AWI including LEPO is also discussed in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under heading **Forestry and Woodland** and **Biodiversity, Habitats, Protected Species and Designated Sites.** We can confirm that as Alternative Alignment 5a is being taken forward, the Proposed Alignment will not intersect with Drumhill Wood (as the alternative alignments at Location 6 formed sub-options to Alternative Alignment 5b).
As you state on p64 on the consultation document, "*All three alternative alignments intersect the area of broadleaved woodland with a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) to the east of Drumoak (AC TPO 126). Felling at least part of this TPO would be required for an operational corridor for the OHL and would be contrary to national and local planning policies where there is a presumption against the removal of trees, woodlands and hedgerows*". Although not on NTS ground, this site has ecological value, in and of itself, as an area of native woodland, and in terms of habitat		Please see our responses in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under heading **Forestry and Woodland** and **Biodiversity, Habitats, Protected Species and Designated Sites.** Impacts and mitigation will be set out in the EIAR. We can confirm that as Alternative Alignment 5a is

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
connectivity within the landscape and our conservation focus on ancient and veteran trees in the area we would request that damage to this feature is also avoided or minimised as far as possible.		being taken forward, the Proposed Alignment will not intersect with Drumhill Wood.
NATS's position as submitted to the ECU is reproduced below.	NATS Safeguarding	Noted.
NATS has reviewed the basic routing and does not anticipate any of these passing within proximity of its infrastructure. It has engaged with the Applicant and understands that most of the work will involve replacing existent towers and masts; accordingly it anticipates no impact from this.		Noted. This applies to the OHL upgrade projects.
With regards to the selection of new routes, again the Applicant has advised this is ongoing and NATS has no major concerns. It has identified its installation at Durris Slug as potentially being in relative proximity, but the ground height advantage of this site, means it considers the risk to be very low.		Noted.
As such, NATS's position is that it considers that Aviation does not need to be scoped in.		Noted.
No comment as it does not lie within a consultation zone around a GB nuclear site.	Nuclear Safety Directorate	Noted.
No response.	Property Consultants	
No response.	River Dee Trust	
No response.	RSPB Scotland	
No response.	Scottish Canoe Association	
No response.	Scottish Environment Link	
Would advise that SGN's high pressure, transmission gas pipeline near this address, will not be affected by the proposed plans.	SGN	Noted.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
We would ask however that contact is made with SGN before works begin to mark out the pipeline as it will be relatively close to the works area.		We will contact SGN prior to works commencing.
No response.	Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays)	
No response.	Scottish Wild Land Group (SWLG)	
No response.	Scottish Wildlife Trust	
No response.	SUSTrans	
No response.	Tay DDSFB (Salmon Fisheries Board)	
No response.	Tay Foundation (Fisheries Trust)	
No response.	The Esks Rivers & Fisheries Trust (Fisheries Trust)	
No response.	Visit Scotland	
We responded to the Scottish Government consultation today. In our response we acknowledge that the proposals recognise potential impacts on ancient woodland and veteran trees, and request that these are fully assessed and appropriate mitigations put in place as the design is worked up.	Woodland Trust	The Ecology chapter of the EIAR will present the assessment of the potential impacts of the project on habitat loss, fragmentation and severance of Ancient Woodland and LEPO woodland. Measures to avoid and mitigate the predicted effects of the project on important woodlands will also be set out in the EIAR. Please refer to our response regarding woodland in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under headings **Forestry and Woodland**

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		and **Biodiversity, Habitats, Protected Species and Designated Sites.**
We have four main aims: ensuring no further loss of ancient woodland, restoring and improving woodland biodiversity, increasing new native woodland creation and increasing people's understanding and enjoyment of woodland		Noted.
The Trust would like to ensure that ancient woodland, and ancient and veteran trees, are appropriately considered as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for this development. Ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees are afforded protection within the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework 4 (Policy 6 - Forestry, woodland and trees).		We note the requirements for specialist environmental assessments which will be reviewed and undertaken as required alongside the EIA.
The development site encompasses within its boundary numerous areas of ancient woodland, including woodlands of Ancient Semi Natural Origin, Long Established of Plantation Origin, and Roy woodlands. There are also ancient woodlands adjacent to the Boundary.		Noted, this information has been passed to the project team. All relevant information from data sources such as The Scottish Ancient Woodland Inventory has been accessed and supplemented with habitat and forestry surveys.
We are pleased to see that the presence of ancient woodland has been acknowledged. The applicant should carry out a full assessment of potential direct and indirect impacts on ancient woodland along with proposals for mitigation.		We note the requirements for the EIA to consider Ancient Woodland, this will be reported in the EIAR along with proposals for mitigation.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
We also note the presence of two ATI Notable trees within the site boundary (Giant Sequoia ID 98042 and Holly ID 113081). We are pleased to see the commitment to assessing impact on veteran trees. We recommend that an Arboricultural Impact Assessment is undertaken to ensure that any important trees (including any ancient or veteran trees) are identified and accounted for ahead of the full planning application. As part of the assessment the applicant should review the Ancient Tree Inventory (ATI) in addition to identifying other ancient or veteran trees that may not be recorded on the ATI. Please note that the ATI is a live database so new tree records are added and updated regularly.		Noted, this information has been passed to the project team. As part of the assessment we will review the ATI in addition to identifying other ancient or veteran trees that may not be recorded on the ATI and we will ensure to check for updates. The two notable trees identified will be taken into consideration within the Ecology chapter of the EIAR. A specific Forestry chapter within the EIAR will set out the findings of the assessment of the predicted direct effects of woodland loss from the requirement to form an Operational Corridor for the OHL through each affected woodland.
As the constituency MSP for Angus North and Mearns, I am aware of how concerned many of my constituents are about SSEN Transmission's proposals for a new 400kV overhead line between Kintore and Tealing.	Member of Scottish Parliament (MSP) – Angus North and Mearns Constituency	Noted.
In my response to the previous consultation I provided you with an overview of my constituents' concerns about the proposals. I would like to take this opportunity to thank-you for responding in full to the issues I raised, and for meeting with me on multiple occasions since to engage in detailed discussions about the key issues.		Noted.
Throughout the current consultation period I have continued to be contacted by constituents who are worried about how the impact that the project will have on the local landscape, biodiversity and the wellbeing of the local population. Consequently, I believe it is important for me to use this opportunity to provide you with an updated overview of my		Noted. Please do refer to our responses set out in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under the heading **Biodiversity, Habitats, Protected Species and Designated Sites** and in **Table 3.2: Community**

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
constituents' concerns. As this consultation is focused specifically on the alignment of the overhead line, I will not repeat some of the concerns that I raised in my previous response. However, it is important to note that many people are still worried about the same issues.		**impact** under the headings **Landscape and Visual, Health and Safety** and **Community Viability.**
The main criticism I have received about the latest round of consultation events related to the presence of security guards. Some constituents felt intimidated by the presence of the security guards, and they were concerned that this may have put people off from participating in the consultation. I understand that the decision to appoint security guards for these events was taken in response to genuine safety concerns, and I recognise the importance of ensuring that every event is as safe as possible for both project staff and members of the public. Nevertheless, it is important to consider the unintended consequences that the presence of these security guards may have had on the willingness of members of the public to engage in the consultation.		Your feedback about the consultation events is noted. The safety and well-being of our staff, venue personnel as well as those attending the consultation events are our highest priority. We work hard to aim to ensure that we consult as widely and openly as possible and that the information we provide is accessible at the consultation events as well as on our project website. We hope that any members of the local communities who felt they could not contribute to the discussion at the consultation events in person felt able to respond to the consultation process in writing either via the questionnaire or by email or post. All responses received via these channels during the consultation window have been analysed and taken into consideration.
Additionally, the carbon footprint of the proposals is also a key concern for many people. I have been approached by several constituents who would like SSEN Transmission and its subcontractors to publish detailed information about how large the overall carbon footprint will be, taking into account both the manufacture and the installation of the infrastructure. There is a sense locally that SSEN Transmission has not been totally transparent about the construction carbon emissions.		The lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions assessment[19] of the National Developments identified in NPF4 included Transmission Infrastructure and it concluded that a development of the scale proposed by SSEN Transmission will, when considered as part of a national priority, be likely to have an overall net

[19] Scottish Government (2022), *NPF4 Research Project: Lifecycle Greenhouse Gas Emissions of NPF4 Proposed National Developments Assessment Findings*. Available online: https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-planning-framework-4-lifecycle-greenhouse-gas-emissions-npf4-proposed-national-developments-assessment-findings/

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		positive impact on achieving national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. The assessment considered carbon in embodied materials and components, and from disturbance of carbon rich soils and vegetation that store or absorb significant amounts of carbon. The assessment of the OHL's carbon footprint is not intended to be assessed further.
It has been brought to my attention that the Caterthun Iron Age Hillforts are not included in SSEN Transmission's list of Preliminary Cultural Heritage Viewpoints. As this site is a key pillar of the local area's cultural heritage, many people feel that SSEN Transmission should consider how the overhead line could negatively impact the local landscape surrounding the Caterthuns.		Noted. We can confirm that a viewpoint from the Caterthuns Iron Age Hillforts has been included in the viewpoints for both the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) and the Cultural Heritage Assessment and will be detailed within the EIAR. The landscape and visual and cultural heritage teams are working together as part of the EIA and we are in liaison with the statutory consultees with an interest in the potential impacts on the landscape and cultural heritage to ensure that the scope of the assessment is appropriate. The Caterthun Iron Age Hillforts will be included in the assessment and reported on within the EIAR and any significant effects will be mitigated where possible. The effects and mitigation will be set out in the Landscape and Visual and Cultural Heritage chapters of the EIAR. Please refer to our responses set out in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under the heading **Cultural Heritage** and in **Table 3.2:**

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		Community impact under the heading **Landscape and Visual.**
Many have spoken about the need for SSEN Transmission to conduct a more comprehensive assessment into how its proposals will impact biodiversity and local wildlife. There are concerns about the impact the construction of the overhead line will have on badgers, ospreys, wild peacocks, newts, and endangered species (such as Pine Martens and Scottish Wildcats). Furthermore, there is great concern regarding the potential of the proposals to negatively impact the delicate natural environments and ecosystems, such as at Lochty.		Wildlife and natural heritage aspects have been a key component in the OHL alignment study process undertaken to date. The large number and variety of natural heritage designations are noted. Wherever possible, the alignment has avoided such designated sites (such as Special Protection Area (SPA) or SAC) and ensured that buffers and clearance areas are left between the project and designated sites to reduce impacts. The OHL design and access tracks will endeavour to avoid and reduce impacts on habitats and species as far as possible, including areas of Ancient Woodland. Feedback has been noted in relation to ecology, ornithology and biodiversity including comments related to Lochty Wood. We have undertaken ecological and ornithological survey work across all areas of the Potential Alignment and survey information will be used to inform the ecological assessment of the Proposed Alignment which will be set out within an EIAR submitted with the Section 37 application. Please refer to our responses set out in **Table 3.3: Environmental impact** under the heading **Biodiversity, Habitats, Protected Species and Designated Sites** for further details.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Furthermore, there continue to be widespread concerns about how the proposals will negatively impact prime agricultural land, and consequently the future of agricultural production in the north-east. There is a limited amount of prime agricultural land in Scotland, and the proposed route runs right through the heart of it. This high-quality land is fundamental for food production in our country and is hugely important not just to the local economy but Scotland's economy more widely. It is therefore vital that SSEN Transmission to do everything it can to work closely with local farmers, listen to and address their concerns.		As part of the alignment work OHL impacts on agriculture and farming were factored into the appraisal process, however unavoidably we will need to cross some areas of prime agricultural land. We are aware of the legislative requirements and policy regarding agricultural land. The EIA will assess the overall permanent loss of prime agricultural land as a result of the project in a regional context which recognises the importance of the resource. This will be reported in the Land Use chapter of the EIAR. Please also see our response in **Table 3.4: Economic impact** under heading **Agriculture and Farming.** A socio-economic report will also be prepared for the project, and along with the EIAR this will accompany the Section 37 application.
There are still concerns about SSEN Transmission's commitment to taking the necessary precautions to reduce the likelihood of any biosecurity threats during the construction of the overhead line. Whilst there is an acknowledgment that SSEN Transmission's revised Biosecurity Protocols are a step forward, some people still believe that they do not go far enough to prevent the rapid spread of both Potato Cyst Nematode and Clubroot.		We appreciate the concerns raised and the impact poor biosecurity can have on agricultural activities. Strict biosecurity measures will be required of all site staff, including those undertaking pre-construction surveys, enabling and construction work. Soil sampling for both Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) and Clubroot will be carried out before and after both ground investigation works and construction works. We will liaise with individual farmers to ensure we understand their business and concerns.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		Please also refer to our responses set out in **Table 3.2: Community impact** under the heading **Construction Impacts** and in **Table 3.4: Economic impact** under the heading **Agriculture and Farming.**
I am also aware of concerns about how significant the noise pollution will be during the construction and operation of the overhead line. Local people have informed me that they would like more information about how SSEN Transmission will keep any noise pollution to a minimum and how it will monitor noise levels.		Noise assessments are a primary consideration within the design development process. Noise surveys have been undertaken to inform a noise impact assessment as part of the EIA which will be reported in the EIAR which will accompany the Section 37 application. The EIA will consider existing noise levels, potential noise impacts from the proposed infrastructure (construction and operation), cumulative noise impacts and any mitigation required to ensure acceptable levels of noise. Please also refer to our responses set out in **Table 3.2: Community impact** under the heading **Noise.**
Due to the rural nature of my constituency, many local people rely on providers such as Marykirk.com to provide their homes with a usable Wi-Fi connection. Some people are worried that the overhead line may interfere with this connection. I would strongly encourage SSEN Transmission to work with both mobile and broadband providers to ensure that no household gets disconnected as a result of this project.		Once the final alignment tower positions have been fully defined we will engage further with mast and telecommunication operators and carry out any required assessments. Tower repositioning may occur as a result as it is acknowledged that in some instances, the towers can cause interference. Our experience is that mitigation to avoid interference will be achievable.
In conclusion, many local people remain very concerned about these proposals, and they feel that many important questions have still not been satisfactorily addressed. I believe it is vital that their concerns are taken on		Having fully reviewed all the feedback provided via the consultation processes we fully recognise the strength of feeling in the community. Whist community feedback is not our only consideration,

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
board by the project team, and I would therefore encourage you to carefully consider all the individual feedback that you have received. Thank-you for taking the time to consider my feedback to your consultation.		we aim to develop all projects sensitively and to reduce impacts on communities as much as possible. Community feedback provides an essential insight into local issues that help to refine OHL design. Following review of all feedback, we consider what opportunities there are to modify our project's design with the aim to reduce impacts as much as possible. Residents will be able to fully review our proposals and accompanying assessment reports on submission of our Section 37 application and will then have the opportunity to make formal representations to the Scottish Ministers. These representations will be taken into account when the Scottish Ministers make a determination on the application. The following leaflet explains more about the Section 37 consent process: • The Section 37 Consent Process
I'm pleased to hear that the high level of community engagement has continued through the latest events for the Kintore-Tealing 400kV OHL. It is evidence that residents put on being able to express their views.	Member of Parliament (MP) – West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine	Noted.
Some comments that have been received by my office recently are that the Report of Consultation, whilst conveying that 1610 written responses had been received in relation to the proposals, gives no indication what proportion were negative and what were positive. It is acknowledged that tables summarising the responses are provided and that it is impractical to detail every comment made, but some indication of the balance could		As noted above, we fully recognise the strength of feeling in the community in relation to the project. Feedback is provided to us in a number of forms, from meetings, letters and the questionnaire and we ensure that the content of the feedback is fully reflected in our Reports on Consultation.

Summary of Feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
have been provided. It is appreciated that those feeling sufficiently committed to provide a responses are likely to be those most directly impacted and therefore likely to have reservations.		
It has been noted that staff attending the consultation events have now been issued with notebooks in which they can record verbal comments. However, some attendees have reported being disappointed that they have had lengthy discussions with SSEN staff and there has been no indication that any comments were noted.		Our project staff were encouraged to make key notes following speaking to attendees at the consultation events and we gathered, collated and reviewed all notes following the consultation events. Feedback gathered during the consultation events was shared with our project teams, and we have compared the feedback received at the events to the written feedback we received to ensure that all key information has been taken into account.
Overall, there have been requests for there to be more transparency in conveying the community feeling expressed.		Our Reports on Consultation fully reflect the issues raised during the consultation processes including non-project specific issues (Common Themes), project specific feedback as well as OHL section specific feedback and any options or alternatives on which we have invited consultee feedback. Our previous Reports on Consultation are provided in the links set out in **Section 1.1: Purpose of this Document.**
I appreciate the efforts that are being made to involve the public in this process and hope that these further points can be taken on board.		Noted.

Appendix E – Minor Amendment to Consultation Document

This Appendix sets out a minor amendment to the September 2024 Alignment Consultation Document (link provided in **Section 1.1: Purpose of this Report**).

A minor error in Table 6.20 of Section 6.8.2 of the report was identified post-publication. This table sets out the summary findings of the technical appraisal (Red/Amber/Green (RAG) ratings) undertaken for the alternative alignments at Location 7 (Schoolhill) in Section F of the OHL route.

The error relates to the labelling of the table headings for the columns marked "Alternative 7b" and "Alternative 7c". The RAG ratings appraised for Alternative Alignment 7b were erroneously listed under the column heading for Alternative 7c and vice versa.

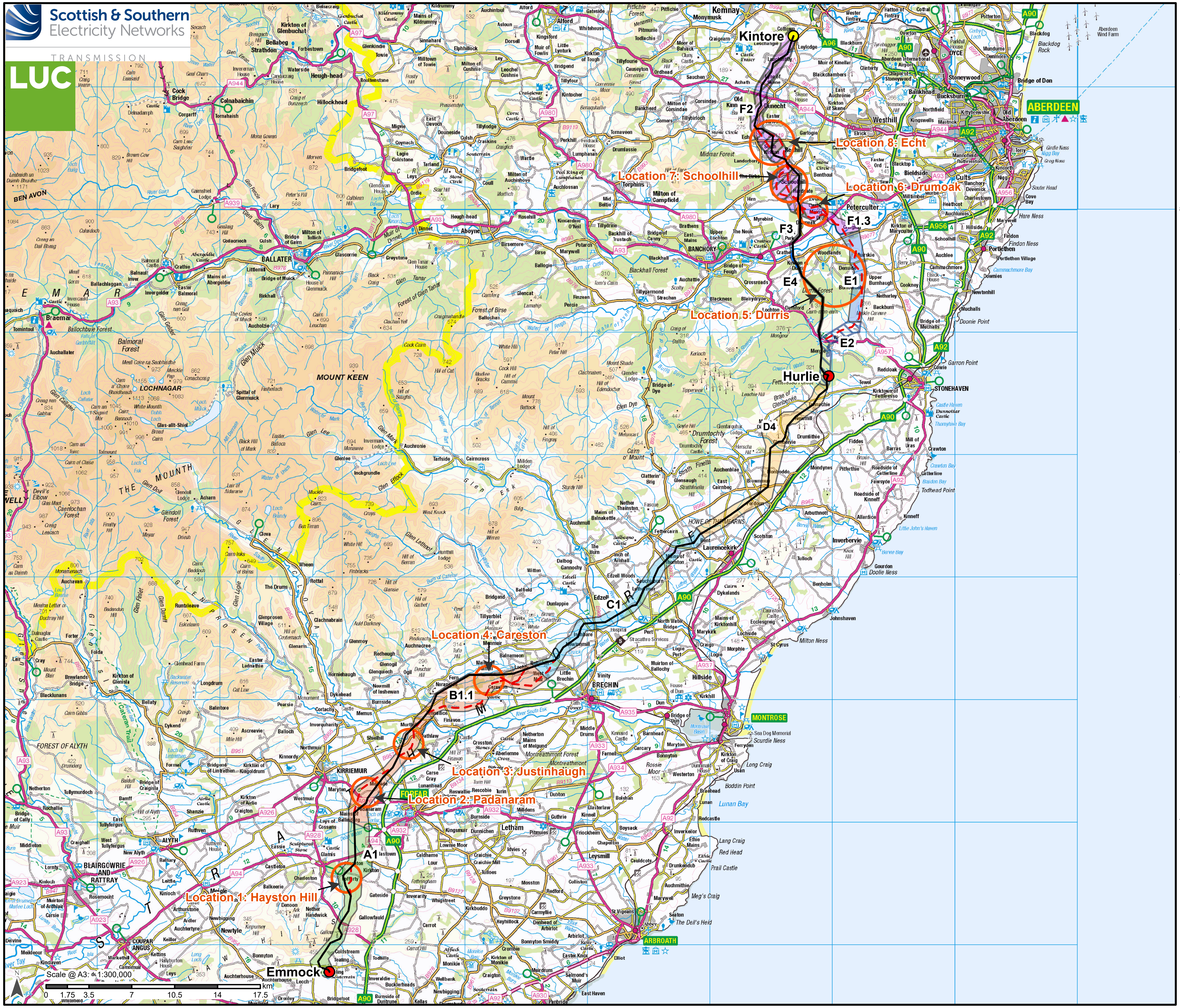
In addition, there was an error in the RAG scoring presented for the 'Metallic Pipelines' criteria. Alternative Alignment 7a should be shown as an amber rating and Alternative Alignment 7b should be shown as a green rating, which reflects the commentary in the text of the report.

These corrections within Table 6.20 have no material effect on our decisions set out in this report and the text within Section 6.8.2 is not affected.

The table below therefore corrects the above-mentioned errors and replaces the original Table 6.20 in Section 6.8.2 of the September 2024 Alignment Consultation Document.

Topic	Criteria	Alternative 7a (Potential)	Alternative 7b	Alternative 7c
Infrastructure crossings	Major crossings (132 kV, 275 kV, Rail, 200+m wide river, navigable canal, gas or hydro pipeline)	R	A	R
	Road crossings	G	G	G
Environmental Design	Elevation	G	G	G
	Atmospheric Pollution	G	G	G
	Contaminated Land	G	G	G
	Flooding	G	A	A
Ground Conditions	Terrain	G	G	G
	Peat	G	G	G
Construction/ Maintenance	Access	G	A	G
	Angle towers	G	A	G
Proximity	Clearance distance	A	G	G
	Windfarms	G	G	G
	Communication masts	G	G	G
	Urban environments	G	A	G
	Metallic pipelines	A	G	A

Appendix F – Figures



Alignment

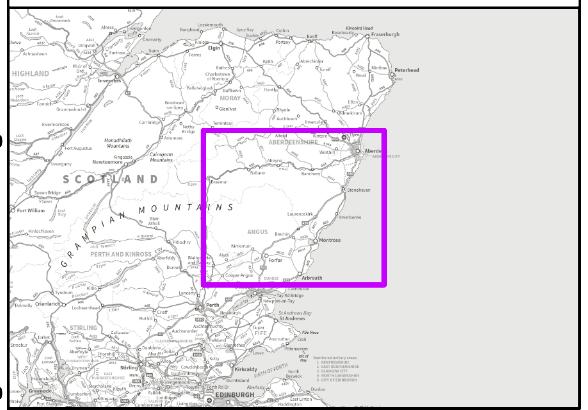
- Potential Alignment
- Alternative Alignment
- Realignment of existing OHL
- Area with alternative alignment option(s)

Substations

- Proposed substation
- Existing substation

Proposed Route

- A1
- B1.1
- C1
- D4
- E1
- E2
- E4
- F1.3
- F2
- F3



Project No: LT455
Project: Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line

Title:

Potential Alignment and Alternative Alignment options

Drawn by: CW   Date: 23/01/2025

Drawing: 1.1

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340

750000m.N

740000m.N

340000m.E

Section A

Section B

Location 1: Hayston Hill - 1a (Potential Alignment)

Location 1: Hayston Hill - 1b (Alternative Alignment)

Scale @ A3: h1:50,000

0 0.3 0.6 1.2 1.8 2.4 3 km

Alignment

- Potential Alignment
- Hayston Hill - Alternative Alignment 1b
- Alternative Alignment Option Boundary
- Section Boundary
- Indicative Limits of Deviation (LoD)*
- Indicative Tower Position

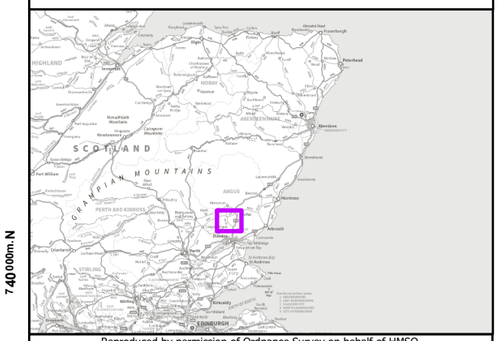
Substation

- Emmock Substation Planning Application (Angus Council Reference 24/00699/FULN)

Proposed Route

- A1
- B1.1

*LoDs to be amended as design progresses.



Project No: LT455

Project: Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line

Title:

Potential Alignment and Alternative Alignment options - Section A

Drawn by: CW Date: 23/01/2025

Drawing: 1.2a

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Location 4: Careston - 4a (Potential Alignment)

Location 4: Careston - 4b (Alternative Alignment)

Location 4: Careston - 4c (Alternative Alignment)

Location 4: Careston - 4d (Alternative Alignment)

Location 4: Careston - 4e (Alternative Alignment)

Section B

Section C

Location 3: Justinhaugh - 3a (Potential Alignment)

Location 3: Justinhaugh - 3b (Alternative Alignment)

Location 2: Padanaram - 2a (Potential Alignment)

Location 2: Padanaram - 2b (Alternative Alignment)

Please see Figure C1.1 for detail of Location 4: Careston Alternative Alignments

*LoDs to be amended as design progresses.

Scale @ A3: 1:55,000

0 0.325 0.65 1.3 1.95 2.6 3.25 km

340000m.E

350

760000m.N

750000m.N

Alignment

- Potential Alignment
- Padanaram - Alternative Alignment 2b
- Justinhaugh - Alternative Alignment 3b
- Careston (Location 4) Alternative Alignments (please see labels on figures for names)
- Alternative Alignment Option Boundary
- Section Boundary
- Indicative Limits of Deviation (LoD)*
- Indicative Tower Position

Proposed Route

- A1
- B1.1
- C1

Project No:	LT455
Project:	Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line
Title:	Potential Alignment and Alternative Alignment options - Section B
Drawn by:	CW
Date:	23/01/2025
Drawing:	1.2b

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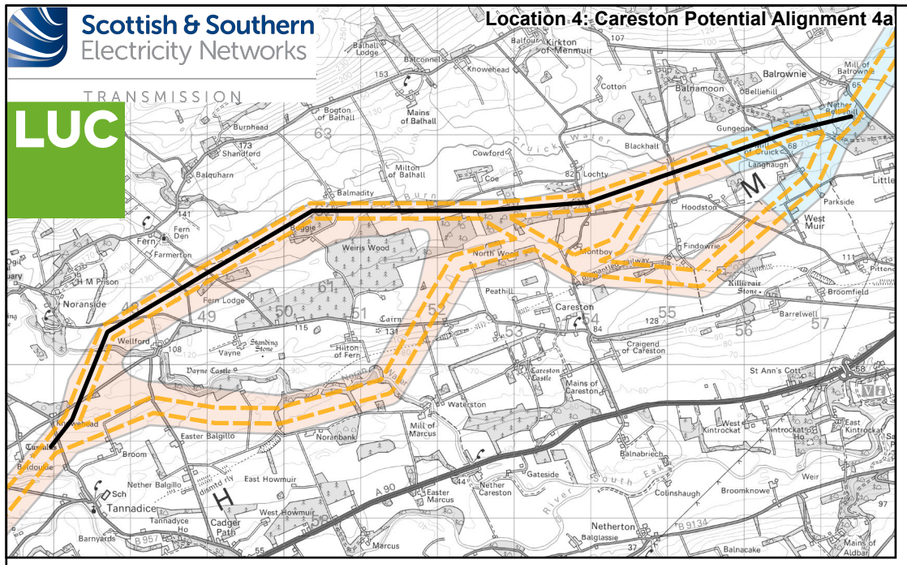
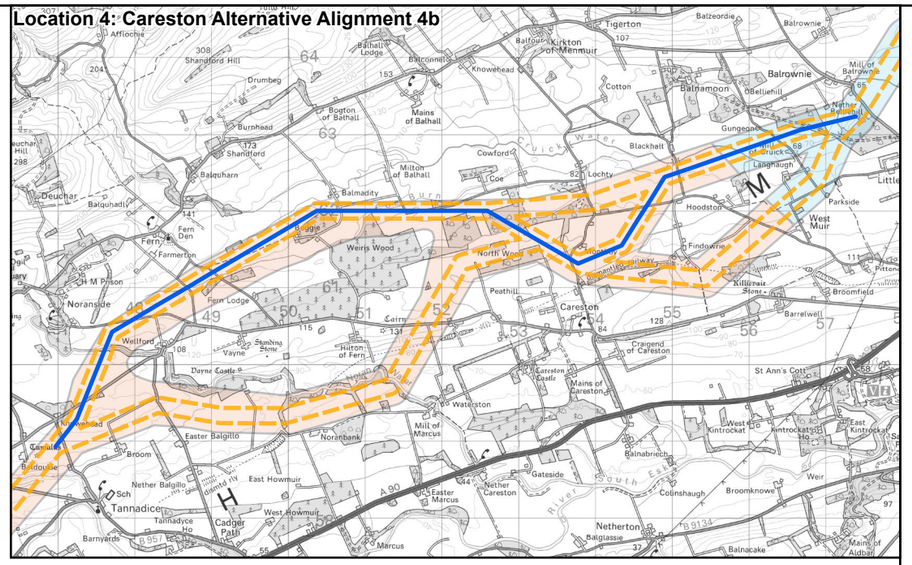
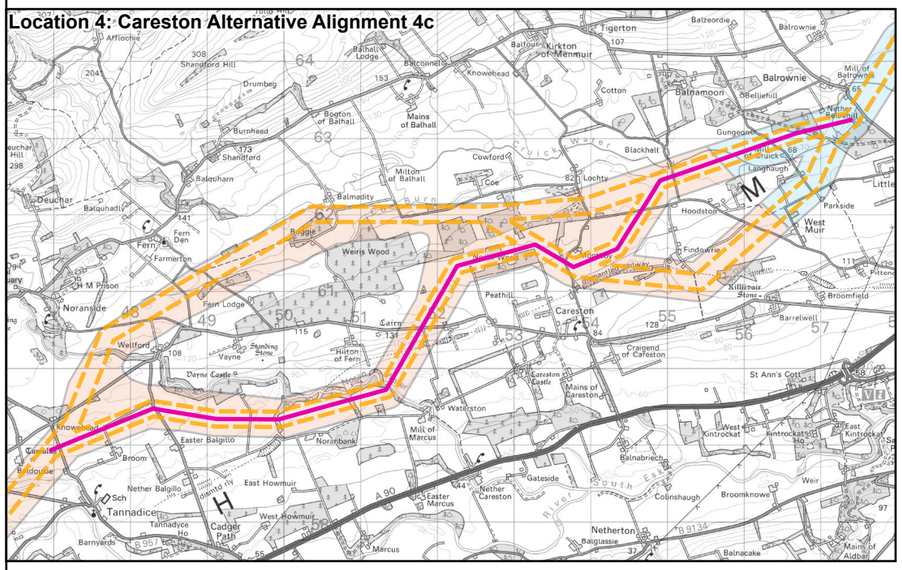
Location 4: Careston Potential Alignment 4a



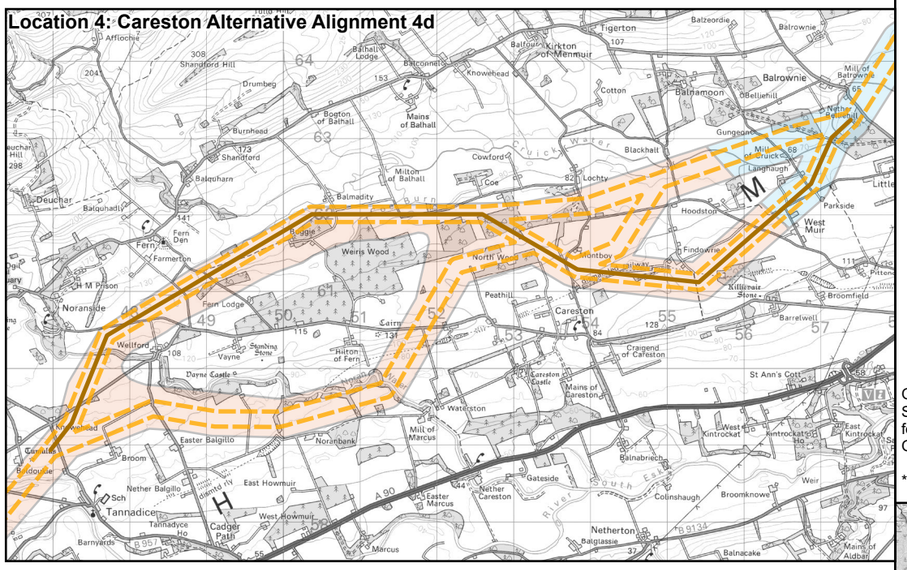
Location 4: Careston Alternative Alignment 4b



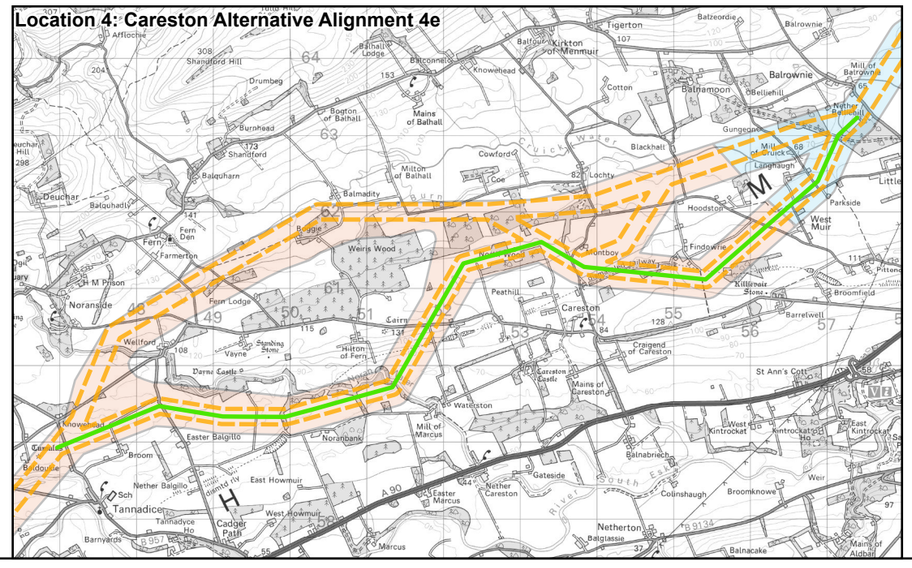
Location 4: Careston Alternative Alignment 4c



Location 4: Careston Alternative Alignment 4d



Location 4: Careston Alternative Alignment 4e



N

Scale @ A3: 1:80,000

0 0.5 1 2 km

Alignment

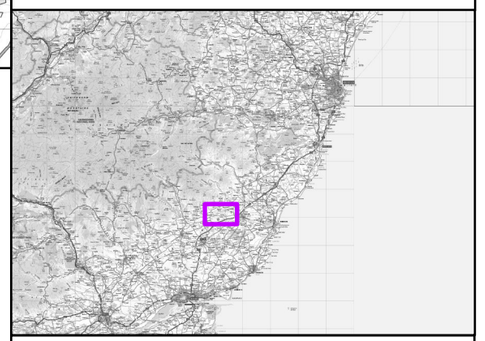
- Careston - Potential Alignment
- Careston - Alternative Alignment 4b
- Careston - Alternative Alignment 4c
- Careston - Alternative Alignment 4d
- Careston - Alternative Alignment 4e
- Indicative Limits of Deviation (LoD)*

Refined Route

- B1.1
- C1

OS base maps are the latest available version from Ordnance Survey, dated July 2024. SSEN Transmission take no responsibility for the release or accuracy of latest version Basemaps from Ordnance Survey.

*LoDs to be amended as design progresses.



Project No: LT455

Project: Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line

Title:

Location 4: Careston Alternative Alignments Detailed Plan

Drawn by: CW

Date: 09/01/2025

Figure: C1.1

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360

370

770000m.N

360000m.E

Section C

Section D

Scale @ A3: 1:50,000

0 0.3 0.6 1.2 1.8 2.4 3 km

Alignment

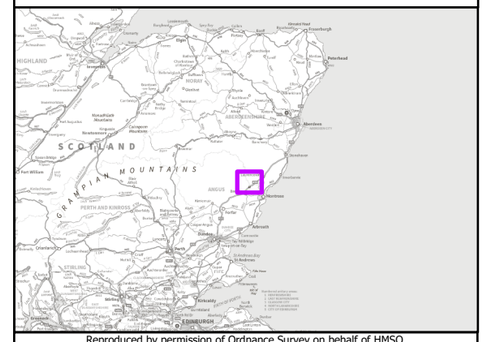
- Potential Alignment
- Careston (Location 4) Alternative Alignments
- Alternative Alignment Option Boundary
- Section Boundary
- Indicative Limits of Deviation (LoD)*
- Indicative Tower Position

Proposed Route

- B1.1
- C1
- D4

Please see Figure C1.1 for detail of Location 4: Careston Alternative Alignments

*LoDs to be amended as design progresses.



Project No: LT455

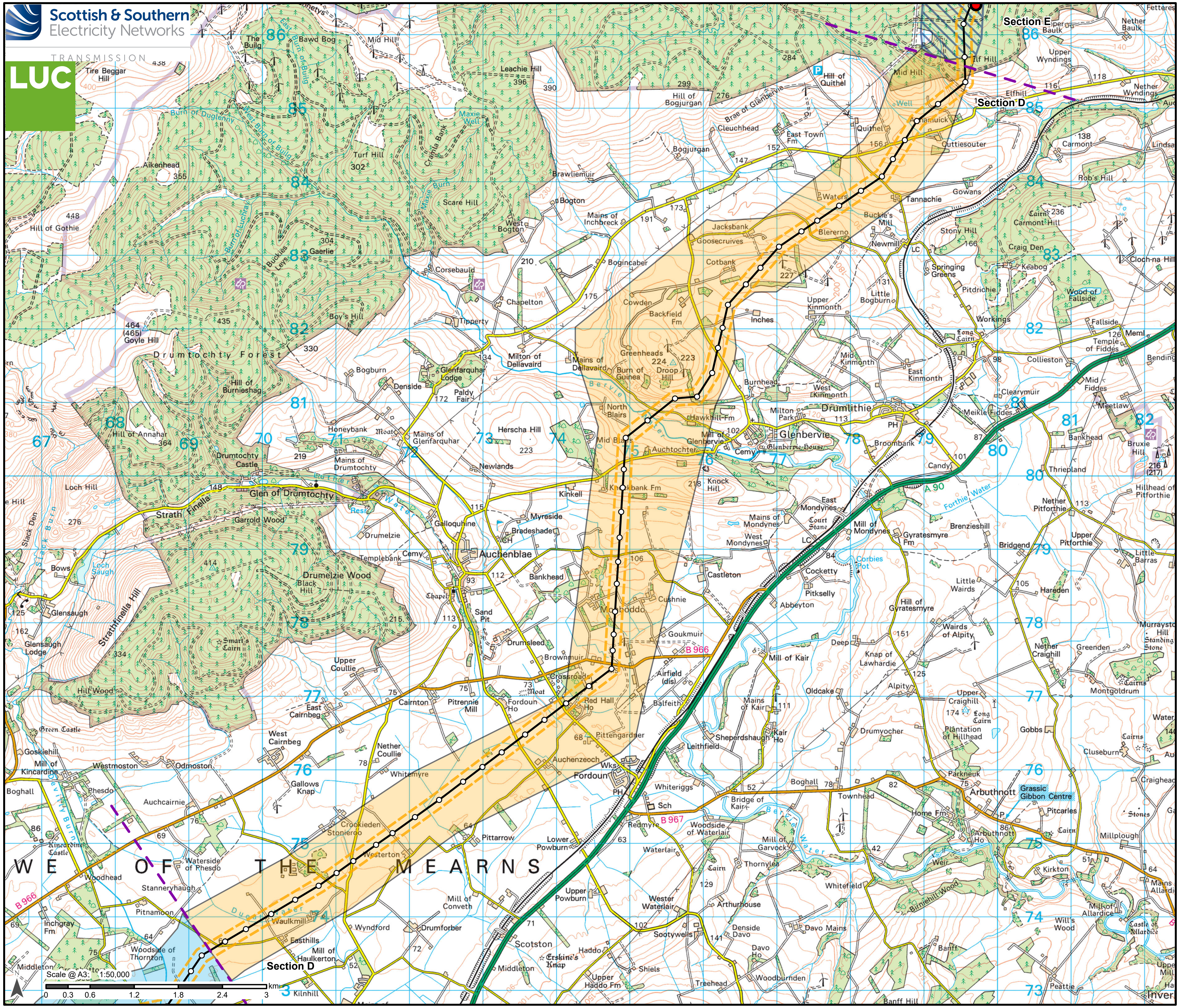
Project: Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line

Title:

Potential Alignment and Alternative Alignment options - Section C

Drawn by: CW Date: 23/01/2025

Drawing: 1.2c



Alignment

- Potential Alignment
- Section Boundary
- Indicative Limits of Deviation (LoD)*
- Indicative Tower Position

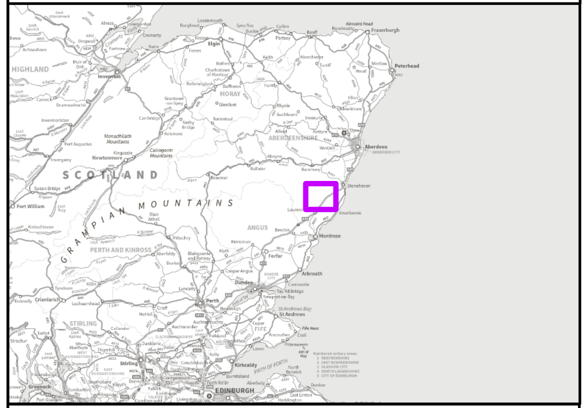
Substation

- Hurlie Substation Planning Application (Aberdeenshire Council Reference APP/2024/1951)

Proposed Route

- C1
- D4
- E2

*LoDs to be amended as design progresses.



Project No:	LT455
Project:	Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line

Title:

Potential Alignment and Alternative Alignment options - Section D

Drawn by:	CW	Date: 23/01/2025
Drawing:	1.2d	

380

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Section F

Section E

Location 5: Durris - 5a (Potential Alignment)

Location 5: Durris - 5b (Alternative Alignment)

Section E

790 000m.N

380 000m.E

Scale @ A3: 1:50,000

0 0.3 0.6 1.2 1.8 2.4 3 km

Alignment

- Potential Alignment
- Realignment of existing OHL
- Durris - Alternative Alignment 5b
- Alternative Alignment Option Boundary
- Section Boundary
- Indicative Limits of Deviation (LoD)*
- Indicative Tower Position

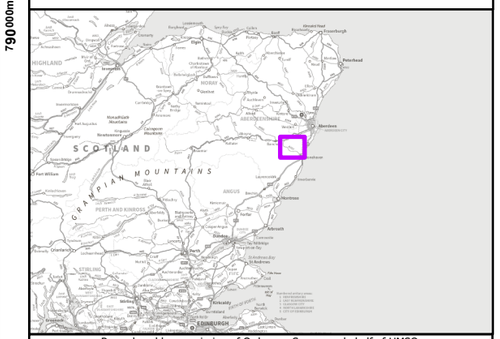
Substation

- Hurlie Substation Planning Application (Aberdeenshire Council Reference APP/2024/1951)

Proposed Route

- D4
- E1
- E2
- E4
- F1.3
- F3

*LoDs to be amended as design progresses.



Project No: LT455

Project: Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line

Title:

Potential Alignment and Alternative Alignment options - Section E

Drawn by: CW Date: 23/01/2025

Drawing: 1.2e

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LUC

370

380

8100000m.N

8000000m.N

370000m.E

380

Location 8: Echt - 8a (Potential Alignment)

Location 8: Echt - 8b (Alternative Alignment)

Location 8: Echt - 8c (Alternative Alignment)

Location 7: Schoolhill - 7c (Alternative Alignment)

Location 7: Schoolhill - 7b (Alternative Alignment)

Location 7: Schoolhill - 7a (Potential Alignment)

Location 6: Drumoak - 6c (Alternative Alignment)

Location 6: Drumoak - 6a (Potential Alignment)

Location 6: Drumoak - 6b (Alternative Alignment)

Section F

Section E

Scale @ A3: 1:70,000 at

0 0.425 0.85 1.7 2.55 3.4 4.25 km

Alignment

- Potential Alignment
- Durris - Alternative Alignment 5b
- Drumoak - Potential Alignment 6a
- Drumoak - Alternative Alignment 6b
- Drumoak - Alternative Alignment 6c
- Schoolhill - Alternative Alignment 7b
- Schoolhill - Alternative Alignment 7c
- Echt - Alternative Alignment 8b
- Echt - Alternative Alignment 8c
- Alternative Alignment Option Boundary
- Section Boundary
- Indicative Limits of Deviation (LoD)*
- Indicative Tower Position

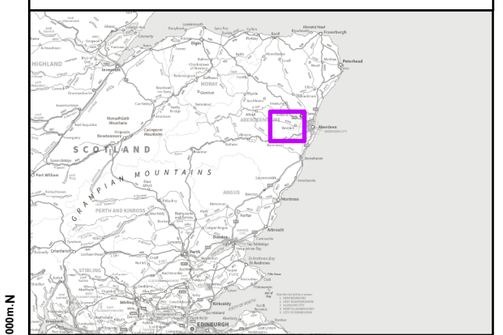
Substation

- Existing Kintore substation

Proposed Route

- E1
- E4
- F1.3
- F2
- F3

*LoDs to be amended as design progresses.



Project No: LT455

Project: Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line

Title:

Potential Alignment and Alternative Alignment options - Section F

Drawn by: CW Date: 29/01/2025

Drawing: 1.2f

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

LUC

340

Location
1: Hayston Hill - 1b
(Alternative Alignment)

Scale @ A3: 1:10,000
0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 km

340 000m.E

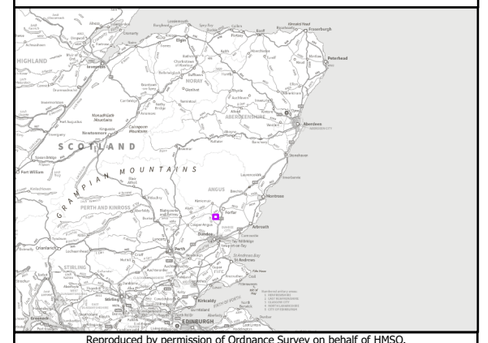
Alignment

- Proposed Alignment
- Hayston Hill - Alternative Alignment 1b
- Alternative Alignment Option Boundary
- Proposed Alignment Limit of Deviation (LoD)*
- Indicative Tower Position

Proposed Route

- A1

*LoDs to be amended as design progresses.



Project No: LT455

Project: Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line

Title:

Proposed Alignment for Location 1: Hayston Hill

Drawn by: CW Date: 23/01/2025

Drawing: 4.1a

340

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

LUC

Location 2: Padanaram - 2b (Alternative Alignment)

Strathmore

Padanaram

FORFAR

Ballindarg

Drumgley

Loch of Forfar

Scale @ A3: 1:20,000

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 1.25 km

N

750000m.N

340000m.E

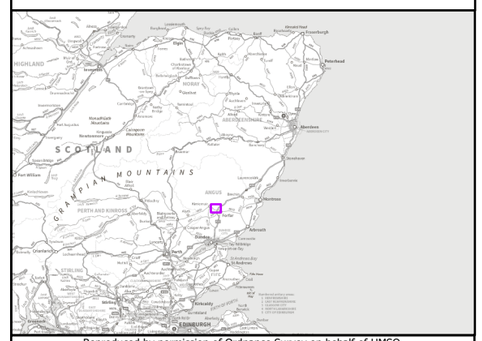
Alignment

- Proposed Alignment
- Padanaram - Alternative Alignment 2b
- Alternative Alignment Option Boundary
- Section Boundary
- Proposed Alignment Limit of Deviation (LoD)*
- Indicative Tower Position

Proposed Route

- A1
- B1.1

*LoDs to be amended as design progresses.



Project No: LT455

Project: Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line

Title:

Proposed Alignment for Location 2: Padanaram

Drawn by: CW Date: 23/01/2025

Drawing: 4.1b

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TRANSMISSION

LUC

Location 3: Justinhaugh - 3b (Alternative Alignment)

Scale @ A3: 1:15,000

0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 0.75 km

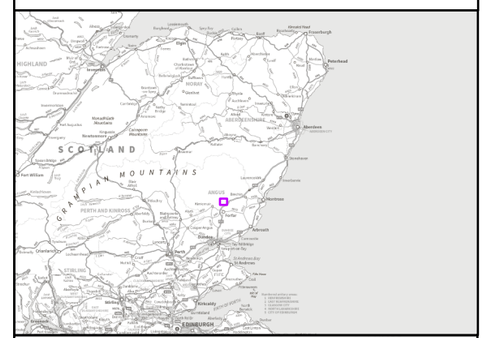
Alignment

- Proposed Alignment
- Justinhaugh - Alternative Alignment 3b
- Alternative Alignment Option Boundary
- Proposed Alignment Limit of Deviation (LoD)*
- Indicative Tower Position

Proposed Route

- B1.1

*LoDs to be amended as design progresses.



Project No: LT455

Project: Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line

Title:

Proposed Alignment for Location 3: Justinhaugh

Drawn by: CW Date: 23/01/2025

Drawing: 4.1c

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

LUC

350

760 000m.N

760 000m.N

350 000m.E

Location 4: Careston - 4b (Alternative Alignment)

Location 4: Careston - 4d (Alternative Alignment)

Location 4: Careston - 4c (Alternative Alignment)

Location 4: Careston - 4e (Alternative Alignment)

N

Scale @ A3: 1:40,000

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5 km

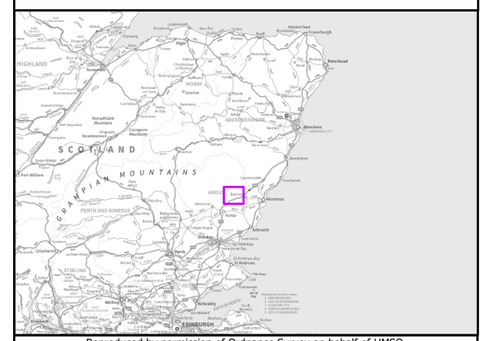
Alignment

- Proposed Alignment
- Justinhaugh - Alternative Alignment 3b
- Careston Alternative Alignment (please see labels on figure for names)
- Alternative Alignment Option Boundary
- Section Boundary
- Proposed Alignment Limit of Deviation (LoD)*
- Indicative Tower Position

Proposed Route

- B1.1
- C1

*LoDs to be amended as design progresses.



Project No: LT455

Project: Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line

Title:

Proposed Alignment for Location 4: Careston

Drawn by: CW Date: 23/01/2025

Drawing: 4.1d

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

LUC

380

800000m.N

790000m.N

380000m.E

Location 6: Drumoak - 6c (Alternative Alignment)

Location 6: Drumoak - 6a (Potential Alignment)

Location 6: Drumoak - 6b (Alternative Alignment)

Location 5: Durris - 5a (Proposed Alignment)

Location 5: Durris - 5b (Alternative Alignment)

N

Scale @ A3: 1:50,000

0 0.3 0.6 1.2 1.8 2.4 3 km

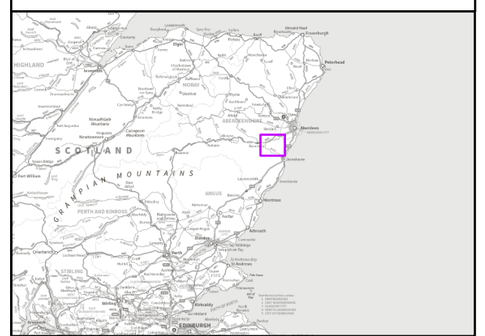
Alignment

- Proposed Alignment
- Realignment of existing OHL
- Durris - Alternative Alignment 5b
- Drumoak - Potential Alignment 6a
- Drumoak - Alternative Alignment 6b
- Drumoak - Alternative Alignment 6c
- Schoolhill - Alternative Alignment 7a
- Schoolhill - Alternative Alignment 7b
- Alternative Alignment Option Boundary
- Section Boundary
- Proposed Alignment Limit of Deviation (LoD)*
- Indicative Tower Position

Proposed Route

- E1
- E2
- E4
- F1.3
- F2
- F3

*LoDs to be amended as design progresses.



Project No: LT455

Project: Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line

Title:

Proposed Alignment for Location 5: Durris

Drawn by: CW Date: 29/01/2025

Drawing: 4.1e

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

LUC

Location 7: Schoolhill - 7c (Proposed Alignment)

Location 7: Schoolhill - 7a (Alternative Alignment)

Location 7: Schoolhill - 7b (Alternative Alignment)

Scale @ A3: 1:15,000

0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 0.75 km

N

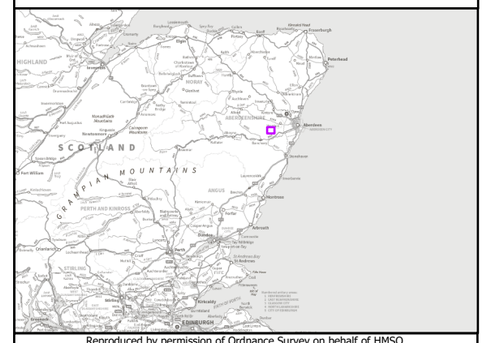
Alignment

- Proposed Alignment
- Drumoak - Potential Alignment 6a
- Drumoak - Alternative Alignment 6b
- Drumoak - Alternative Alignment 6c
- Schoolhill - Alternative Alignment 7a
- Schoolhill - Alternative Alignment 7b
- Echt - Alternative Alignment 8b
- Echt - Alternative Alignment 8c
- Alternative Alignment Option Boundary
- Proposed Alignment Limit of Deviation (LoD)*
- Indicative Tower Position

Proposed Route

- F1.3
- F2

*LoDs to be amended as design progresses.



Project No: LT455

Project: Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line

Title:

Proposed Alignment for Location 7: Schoolhill

Drawn by: CW Date: 29/01/2025

Drawing: 4.1f

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

LUC

Location 8: Echt - 8b (Alternative Alignment)

Location 8: Echt - 8c (Alternative Alignment)

Scale @ A3: 1:15,000

0 0.075 0.15 0.3 0.45 0.6 0.75 km

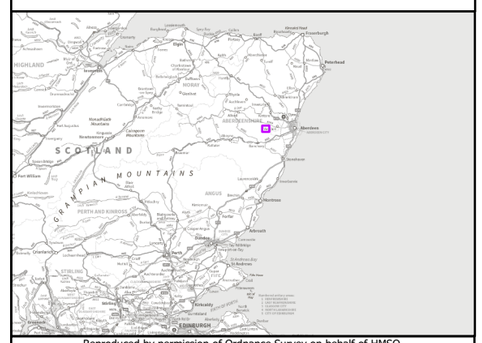
Alignment

- Proposed Alignment
- Schoolhill - Alternative Alignment 7a
- Schoolhill - Alternative Alignment 7b
- Echt - Alternative Alignment 8b
- Echt - Alternative Alignment 8c
- Alternative Alignment Option Boundary
- Proposed Alignment Limit of Deviation (LoD)*
- Indicative Tower Position

Proposed Route

- F2

*LoDs to be amended as design progresses.



Project No: LT455

Project: Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line

Title:

Proposed Alignment for Location 8: Echt

Drawn by: CW Date: 23/01/2025

Drawing: 4.1g

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TRANSMISSION

LUC

340

750000m.N

740000m.N

340000m.E

Scale @ A3: h1:50,000

0 0.3 0.6 1.2 1.8 2.4 3 km

Alignment

- Proposed Alignment
- Potential Alignment
- Proposed Alignment Limit of Deviation

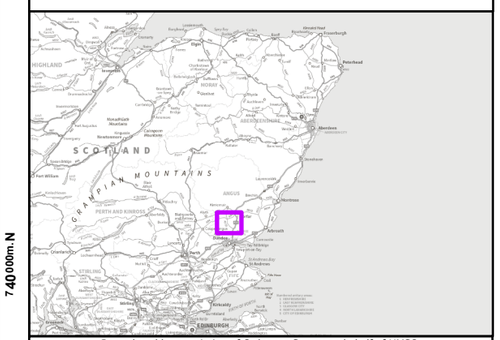
Substation

- Emmock Substation Planning Application (Angus Council Reference 24/00699/FULN)

Proposed Route

- A1
- B1.1

The alignment design development process has also resulted in some minor and localised amendments where the Proposed Alignment has moved less than 50m from the Potential Alignment.



Project No: LT455

Project: Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line

Title:

Alignment Deviations Following Consultation - Section A

Drawn by: CW Date: 24/01/2025

Drawing: 4.2a

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TRANSMISSION

LUC

340

350

760000m.N

750000m.N

340000m.E

350

Scale @ A3: 1:55,000

0 0.325 0.65 1.3 1.95 2.6 3.25 km

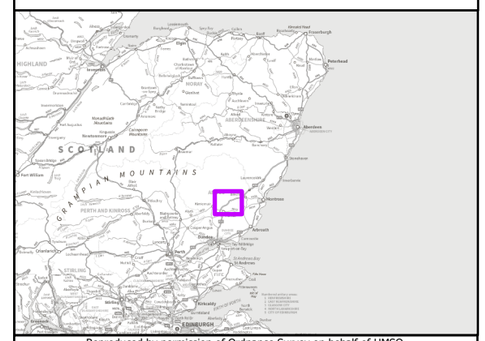
Alignment

- Proposed Alignment
- Potential Alignment
- Proposed Alignment Limit of Deviation

Proposed Route

- A1
- B1.1
- C1

The alignment design development process has also resulted in some minor and localised amendments where the Proposed Alignment has moved less than 50m from the Potential Alignment.



Project No: LT455

Project: Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line

Title:

Alignment Deviations Following Consultation - Section B

Drawn by: CW Date: 24/01/2025

Drawing: 4.2b

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TRANSMISSION

LUC

360

370

770000m.N

Proposed Alignment relocated up to approximately ~300m west of Potential Alignment for a distance of ~1860m near Auchenreoch to provide greater separation from areas providing important habitats for protected species.

Scale @ A3: 1:50,000

0 0.3 0.6 1.2 1.8 2.4 3 km

360000m.E

370

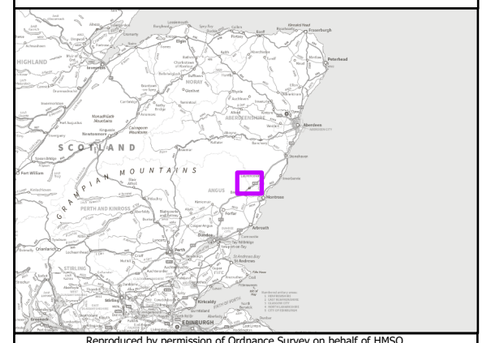
Alignment

- Proposed Alignment
- Potential Alignment
- Proposed Alignment Limit of Deviation

Proposed Route

- B1.1
- C1
- D4

The alignment design development process has also resulted in some minor and localised amendments where the Proposed Alignment has moved less than 50m from the Potential Alignment.



Project No: LT455

Project: Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line

Title:

Alignment Deviations Following Consultation - Section C

Drawn by: CW Date: 24/01/2025

Drawing: 4.2c

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

LUC

370

380

780000m.N

780000m.N

Proposed Alignment relocated up to ~160m east of Potential Alignment for a distance of ~1130m near Elf Hill (entry to Hurlie Substation) to integrate with substation micrositing exercise which relocated the platform ~170m east of its previous location.

Proposed Alignment relocated ~80m west for a distance of ~3240m near Monboddo to provide greater separation from a major gas pipeline. Utilisation of existing access to OHL towers would reduce overall requirement for new access tracks.

Scale @ A3: 1:50,000

0 0.3 0.6 1.2 1.8 2.4 3 km

370000m.E

380

Alignment

- Proposed Alignment
- Potential Alignment
- Proposed Alignment Limit of Deviation

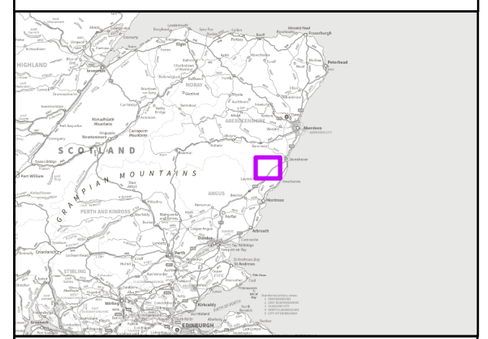
Substation

- Hurlie Substation Planning Application (Aberdeenshire Council Reference APP/2024/1951)

Proposed Route

- C1
- D4
- E2

The alignment design development process has also resulted in some minor and localised amendments where the Proposed Alignment has moved less than 50m from the Potential Alignment.



Project No: LT455

Project: Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line

Title:

Alignment Deviations Following Consultation - Section D

Drawn by: CW Date: 24/01/2025

Drawing: 4.2d

380

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TRANSMISSION

LUC

Proposed Alignment relocated up to ~110m to the west for a distance of ~900m to provide greater separation of Proposed Alignment and the required diversion of the existing OHL from properties to the east at Milton and Wester Durris.

Existing Kintore to Fetteresso OHL to be relocated up to ~190m west of its current alignment for a distance of ~1200m to provide space for the Proposed Alignment of the Kintore to Tealing OHL between the existing line and properties to the east.

Proposed Alignment relocated up to ~160m east of Potential Alignment for a distance of ~1130m near Elf Hill (entry to Hurlie Substation) to integrate with substation micrositing exercise which relocated the platform ~170m east of its previous location.

790000m.N

380000m.E

Scale @ A3: 1:50,000

0 0.3 0.6 1.2 1.8 2.4 3 km

Alignment

- Proposed Alignment
- Potential Alignment
- Realignment of existing OHL
- Proposed Alignment Limit of Deviation

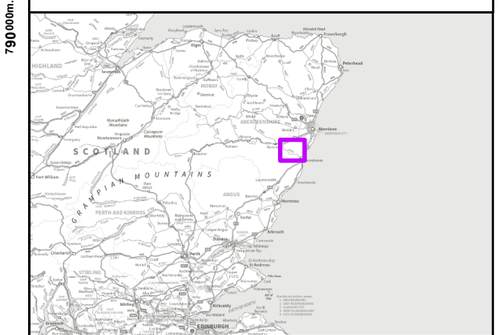
Substation

- Hurlie Substation Planning Application (Aberdeenshire Council Reference APP/2024/1951)

Proposed Route

- D4
- E1
- E2
- E4
- F1.3
- F3

The alignment design development process has also resulted in some minor and localised amendments where the Proposed Alignment has moved less than 50m from the Potential Alignment.



Project No: LT455

Project: Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line

Title: Alignment Deviations Following Consultation - Section E

Drawn by: CW Date: 24/01/2025

Drawing: 4.2e

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TRANSMISSION

LUC

370

380

810 000m.N

800 000m.N

370 000m.E

380

Scale @ A3: 1:70,000 est

0 0.425 0.85 1.7 2.55 3.4 4.25 km

Proposed Alignment relocated up to 75m west for a distance of ~3450m near Schoolhill to avoid multiple crossings of metallic pipelines, to avoid interaction with historic wall, and allows for positioning of towers at the Gormack Burn flood plain boundary

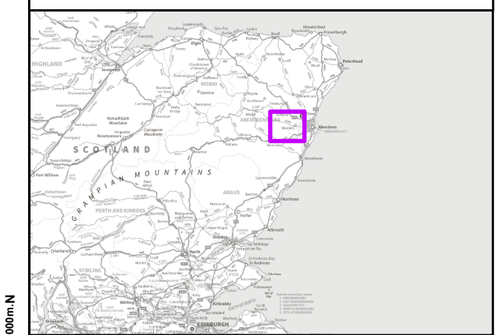
Alignment

- Proposed Alignment
- Potential Alignment
- Proposed Alignment Limit of Deviation
- Existing Kintore substation

Proposed Route

- E1
- E4
- F1.3
- F2
- F3

The alignment design development process has also resulted in some minor and localised amendments where the Proposed Alignment has moved less than 50m from the Potential Alignment.



Project No: LT455

Project: Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line

Title:

Alignment Deviations Following Consultation - Section F

Drawn by: CW Date: 24/01/2025

Drawing: 4.2f

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TRANSMISSION

LUC

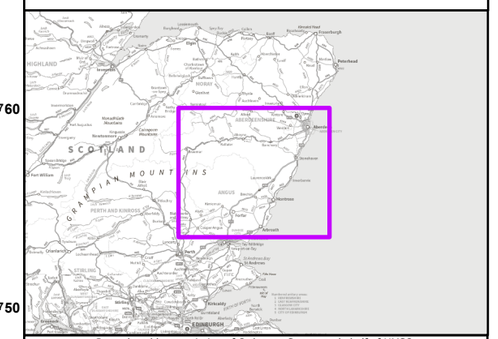
Alignment

- Proposed Alignment
- Proposed Alignment Limit of Deviation (LoD)*

Proposed Route

- Section A
- Section B
- Section C
- Section D
- Section E
- Section F

*LoDs to be amended as design progresses.



Project No: LT455

Project: Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line

Title: Proposed Alignment Overview

Drawn by: CW Date: 24/01/2025

Drawing: 4.3a

Scale @ A3: 1:309,026

0 1.75 3.5 7 10.5 14 17.5 km

310 320 330 340 350 360 370 380 390 400 000m.E

810 800 790 780 770 760 750 740 000m.N

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

LUC

340

750000m.N

740000m.N

340000m.E

Scale @ A3: h1:50,000

0 0.3 0.6 1.2 1.8 2.4 3 km

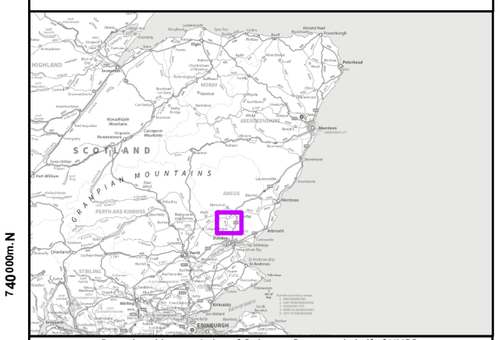
Alignment

- Proposed Alignment
- Indicative Tower Location
- Proposed Alignment Limit of Deviation (LoD)*

Proposed Route

- Section A
- Section B

*LoDs to be amended as design progresses.



Project No:	LT455
Project:	Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line
Title:	Proposed Alignment - Section A
Drawn by:	CW
Date:	24/01/2025
Drawing:	4.3b

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TRANSMISSION

LUC

340

350

760000m.N

750000m.N

340000m.E

350

Scale @ A3: 1:55,000

0 0.325 0.65 1.3 1.95 2.6 3.25 km

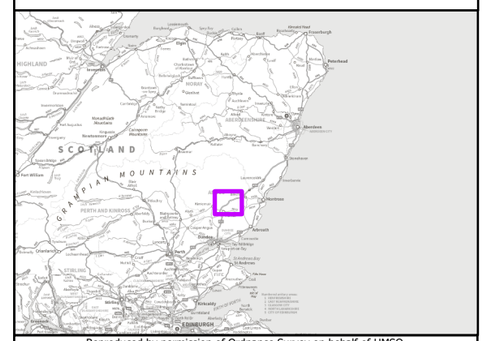
Alignment

- Proposed Alignment
- Indicative Tower Location
- Proposed Alignment Limit of Deviation (LoD)*

Proposed Route

- Section A
- Section B
- Section C

*LoDs to be amended as design progresses.



Project No:	LT455
Project:	Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line
Title:	Proposed Alignment - Section B
Drawn by:	CW
Date:	24/01/2025
Drawing:	4.3c

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

LUC

360

370

770000m.N

770000m.N

360000m.E

370

Scale @ A3: 1:50,000

0 0.3 0.6 1.2 1.8 2.4 3 km

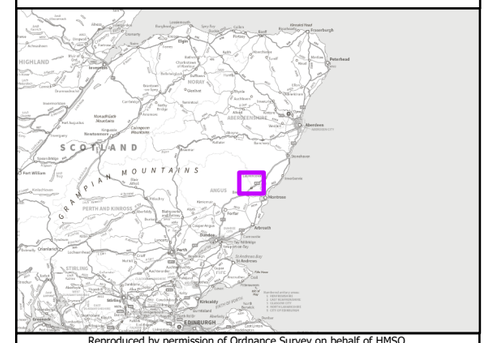
Alignment

- Proposed Alignment
- Indicative Tower Location
- Proposed Alignment Limit of Deviation (LoD)*

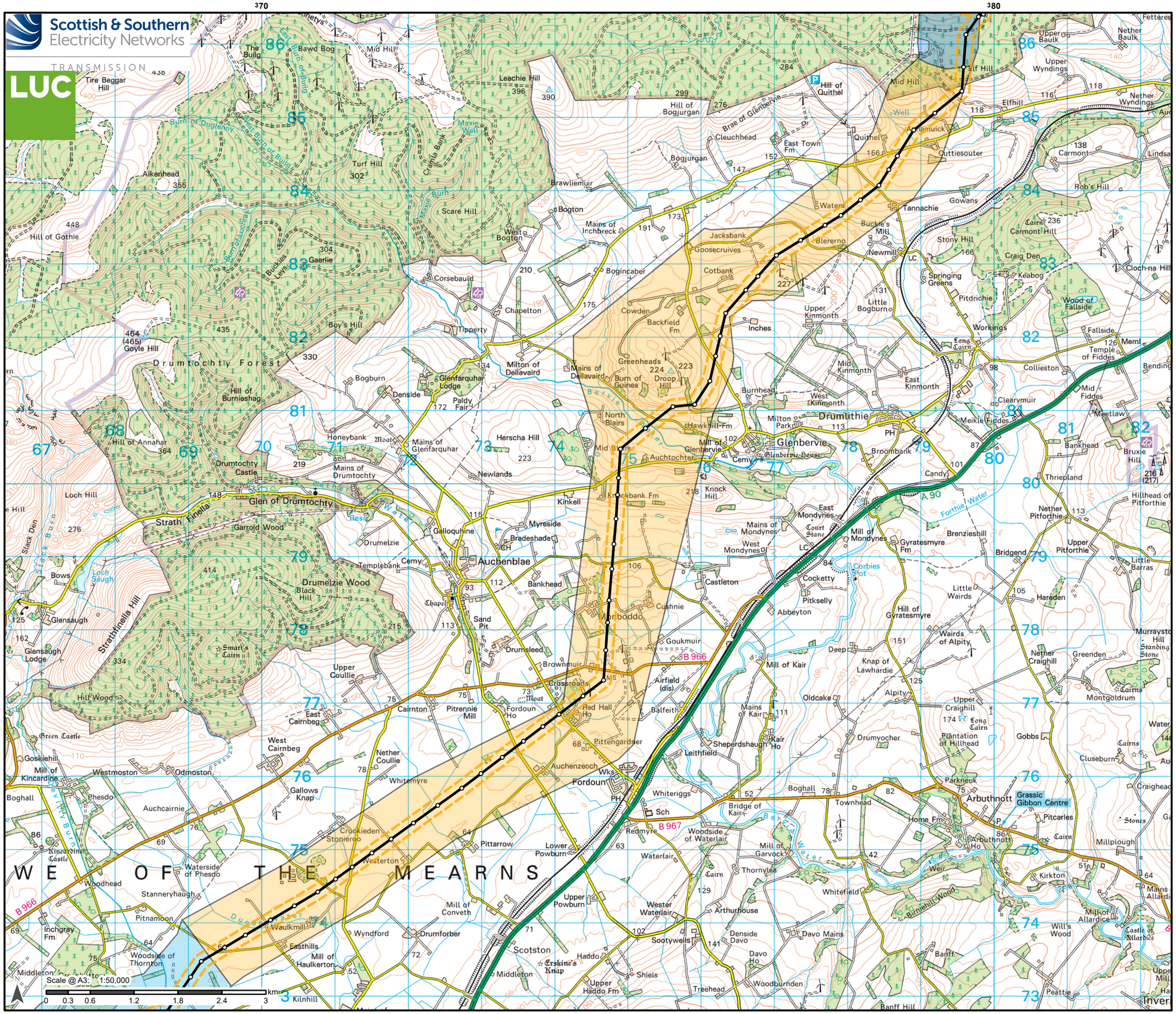
Proposed Route

- Section B
- Section C
- Section D

*LoDs to be amended as design progresses.



Project No:	LT455
Project:	Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line
Title:	Proposed Alignment - Section C
Drawn by:	CW
Date:	24/01/2025
Drawing:	4.3d



Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

LUC

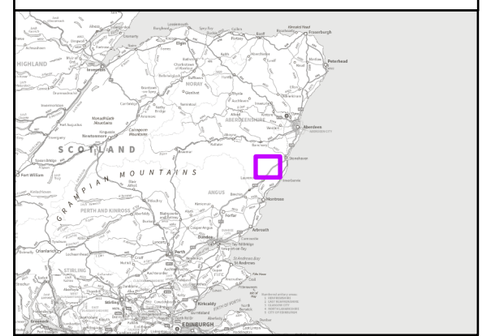
Alignment

- Proposed Alignment
- Indicative Tower Location
- Proposed Alignment Limit of Deviation (LoD)*

Proposed Route

- Section C
- Section D
- Section E

*LoDs to be amended as design progresses.



Project No:	LT455
Project:	Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line
Title:	Proposed Alignment - Section D
Drawn by:	CW
Date:	24/01/2025
Drawing:	4.3e

380

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

LUC

790000m.N

380000m.E

Scale @ A3: 1:50,000

0 0.3 0.6 1.2 1.8 2.4 3 km

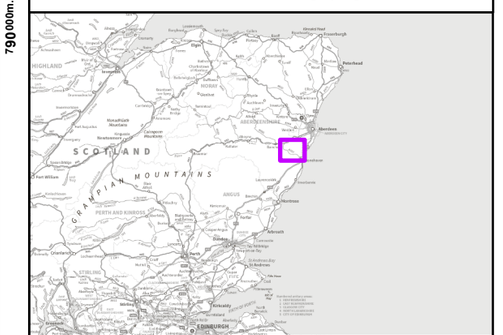
Alignment

- Proposed Alignment
- Indicative Tower Location
- Proposed Alignment Limit of Deviation (LoD)*

Proposed Route

- Section D
- Section E
- Section F

*LoDs to be amended as design progresses.



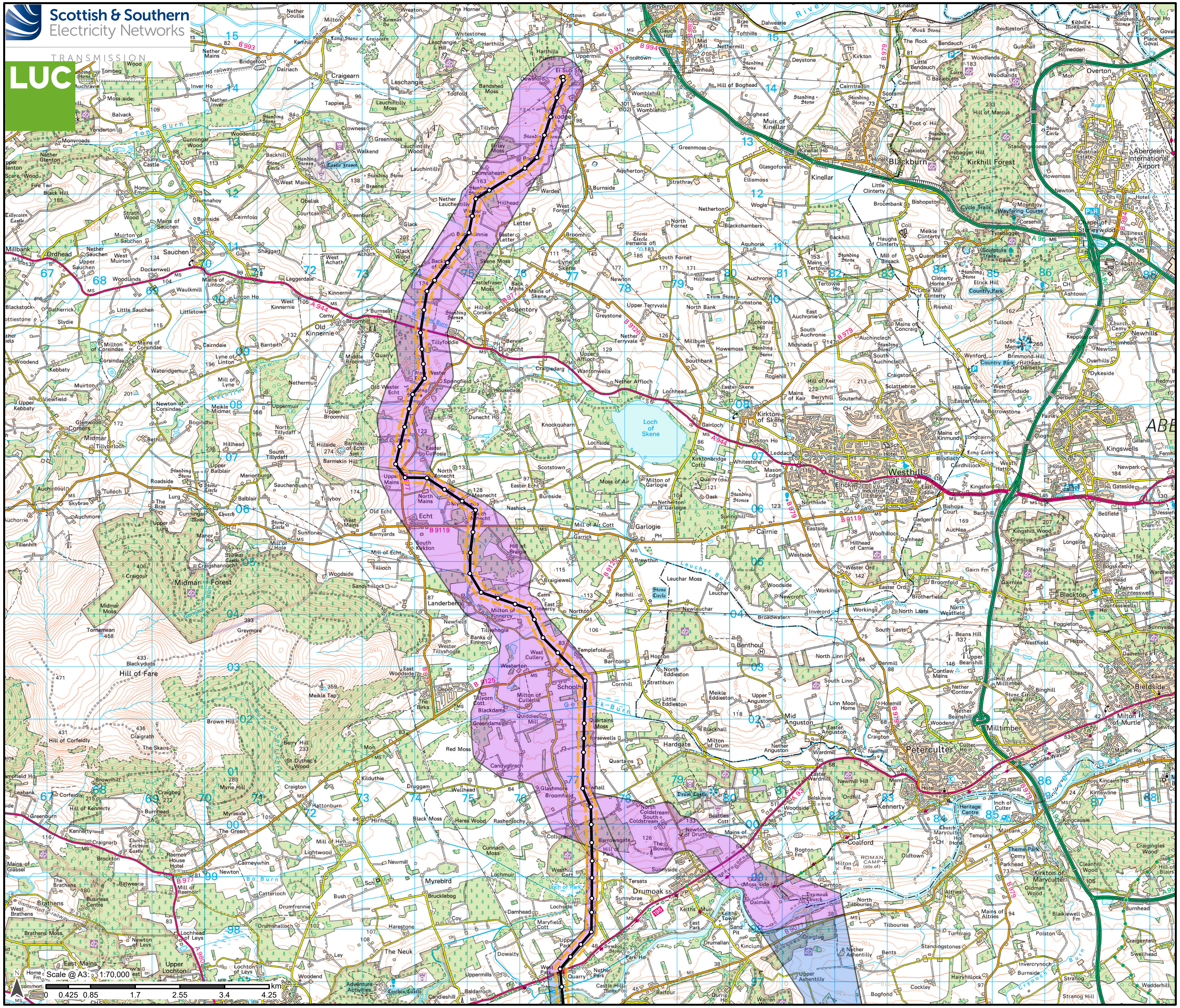
Project No: LT455

Project: Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line

Title: Proposed Alignment - Section E

Drawn by: CW Date: 24/01/2025

Drawing: 4.3f



Alignment

Proposed Alignment

Indicative Tower Location

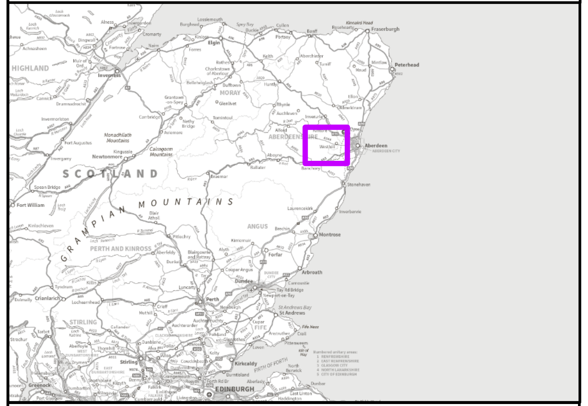
Proposed Alignment Limit of Deviation (LoD)*

Proposed Route

Section E

Section F

*LoDs to be amended as design progresses.



Project No: LT455

Project: Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line

Title:

Proposed Alignment - Section F

Drawn by: CW

Date: 24/01/2025

Drawing: 4.3g