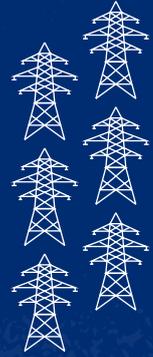
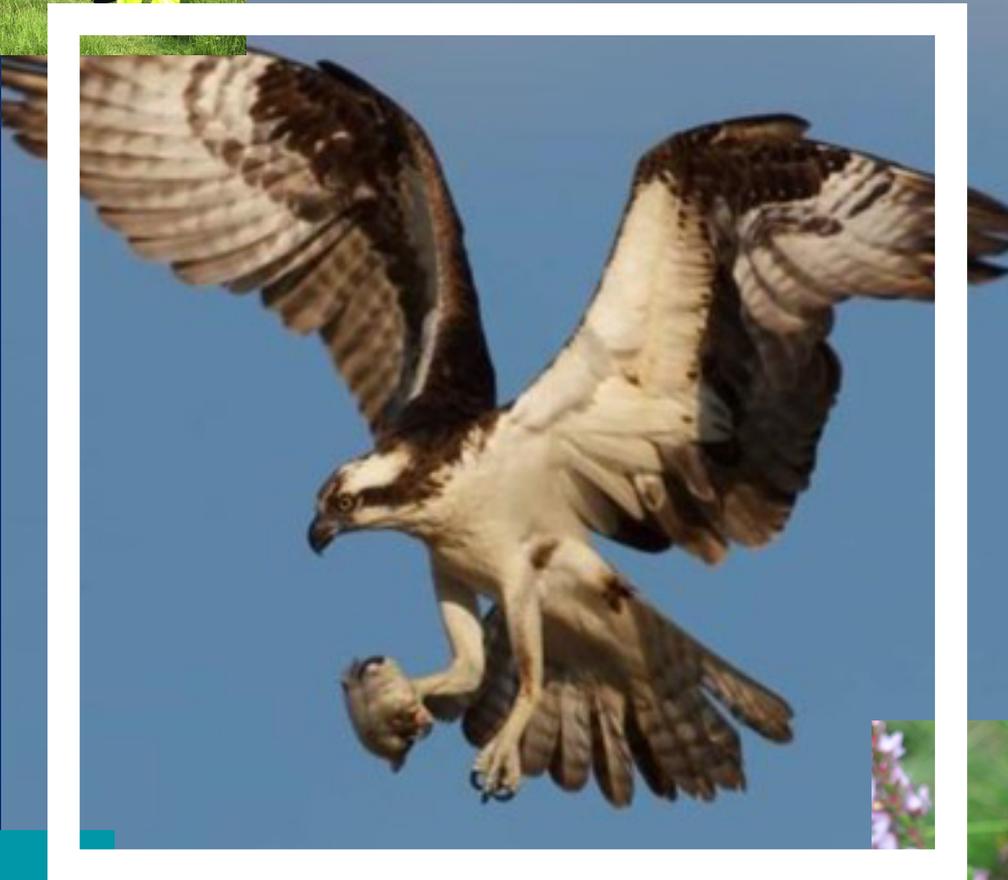
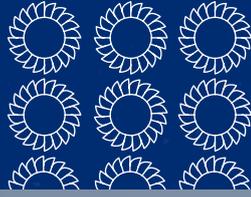


Scottish & Southern  
Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION



# SSEN Transmission & Biodiversity Net Gain

Opportunities for Communities

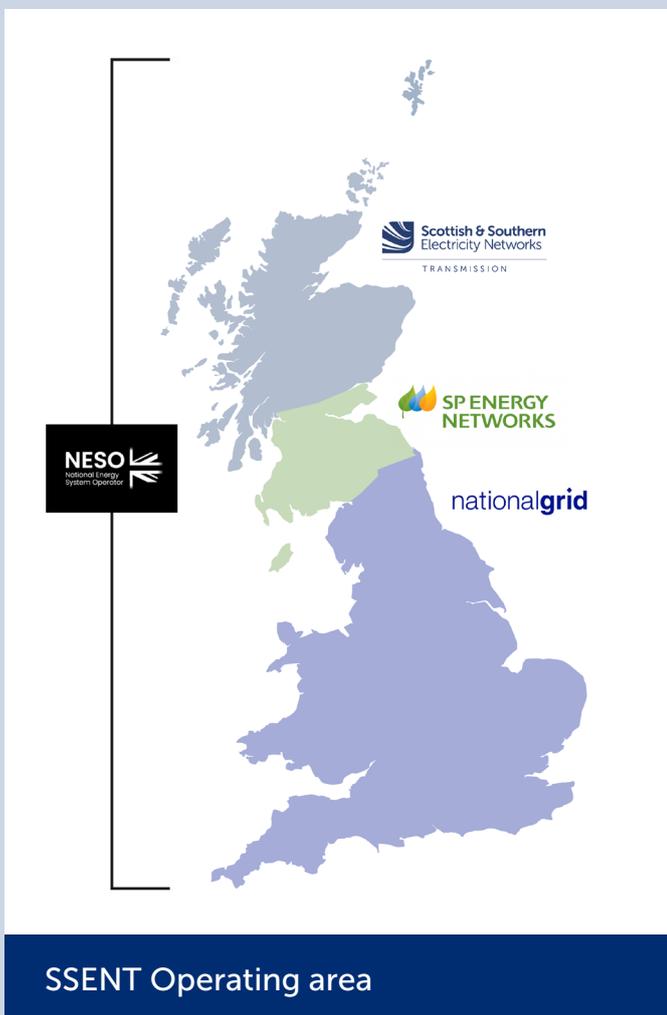
January 2026

## Who are SSEN Transmission and what do we do?

SSEN Transmission are the owners and operators of the high voltage electricity transmission network for the North of Scotland. We transport the power generated through onshore and offshore wind farms, hydro power stations, and other generation assets across a vast network of underground and sub-sea cables, overhead-lines, wooden poles and steel towers, delivering safe, reliable, and secure electricity to millions of homes and businesses across Scotland, the UK, and beyond.

Electricity transmission is crucial to the UK's journey towards net zero. We play a pivotal role in connecting and transporting the clean power needed to decarbonise the UK's energy system. Our network development is making a significant positive impact on meeting net zero targets in Scotland and the UK.

SSEN Transmission has significant interaction with the environment through the activities we undertake in Scotland as we seek to develop and improve the transmission network. With this work comes a legal and [moral] responsibility to design and build our projects in a manner which protects the natural and built environment.



## SSEN Transmission's commitment to biodiversity

SSEN Transmission is committed to protecting and enhancing the environment by minimising the potential impacts from our construction and operational activities. As part of this approach, we made commitments within our Sustainability Strategy to deliver 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) on all projects gaining consent.

BNG is an approach to development that ensures natural habitats are left in a better state than they were before the development. For SSEN Transmission, this means taking steps to avoid, minimise, or compensate for our project's impacts on nature and ensuring that any development project results in a measurable improvement in biodiversity.

In many cases BNG can be achieved on-site, within the development boundary itself, through a range of measures such as tree planting, or wildflower meadows. When all options for on-site BNG requirements have been considered, and insufficient on-site opportunities exist, SSEN Transmission must identify suitable off-site opportunities for biodiversity enhancement.



SSENT Operating area



## Off-site Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

Where we have an identified off-site BNG requirement, we look to engage with other landowners and partners to help us deliver this. These off-site opportunities can be delivered with a variety of partners, including public bodies, private landowners, community groups and charitable organisations, already working to create, restore and enhance biodiversity across Scotland.

Off-site opportunities will be delivered at different locations to the SSEN-Transmission development site but where possible, within the same consenting planning authority area.

In some cases, BNG projects can also deliver other co-benefits for communities, going beyond habitat restoration to deliver other social and economic outcomes in line with local priorities.



### Identifying off-site BNG opportunities

SSEN-Transmission are looking for off-site opportunities that provide ecological benefits and that deliver an increase in biodiversity, measurable through long-term management and monitoring.

We are interested in opportunities that are:

- Land based and aiming to create, enhance or restore biodiversity
- Located in SSEN Transmission's operating area in the North of Scotland including Shetland and the Western Isles (see map of SSEN Operating area above)
- Larger than 30 ha although we can consider smaller if they are part of a wider nature network
- Owned by the community



### Example project types



Restoring woodland habitats through invasives species control, deer management or enhancement planting



Peatland restoration through drain blocking, re-profiling and revegetation



Enhancement of meadows and grassland through grazing management, mowing and seeding



Tree planting and hedgerow creation





## Stages in off-site opportunity development

Where we are interested in exploring an opportunity further, we take the following steps.

- Initial assessment and site visit with the SSEN Transmission Team.
- Full ecological survey by an ecological consultant, carried out during survey season between April and September.
- Development of a Landscape Management Plan. Each site will have a unique management and monitoring plan developed which will provide clear information on what is expected over the agreement period.
- Development and signing of 30-year agreement with landowner, including maintenance plan.
- Monitoring by SSEN Transmission Team and appointed ecological consultants throughout the 30-year period.

This development process can take many months to complete and there is no guarantee of funding until a legal agreement is signed.



## What could funding / support look like?

Where an appropriate opportunity exists that meets the needs of the company, SSEN Transmission can fund:

- appropriate development works including surveys and costs to develop a Habitat/Landscape Management Plan
- capital works to deliver the agreed plan
- maintenance and/or adaptive management
- legal and professional fees
- environmental enhancement compensation or compensation for carbon units forgone (i.e. as may be associated with peatland restoration).



## Potential co-benefits

As well as restoring biodiversity, in some cases, other additional benefits can also be delivered through BNG funding.

These will be project and site specific but could potentially:

- help to build local capacity through training in habitat management skills, providing employment for local contractors or supporting long-term stewardship roles within the community.
- contribute to other community priorities such as cultural heritage, education, recreation or regenerative farming practices.
- enhance your land's long-term environmental value and help demonstrate your community's contribution to Scotland's net zero transition.



## Next steps

If you have a project or opportunity that you are interested in exploring with us, please complete the SSEN BNG-IH Proforma document and email it to [transmissionnatureprojects@sse.com](mailto:transmissionnatureprojects@sse.com) Please provide as much information as possible and include any relevant plans, surveys or maps if available.

There are no set timescales or application windows and you can email us at any time with your ideas. If your project is of interest one of our Nature Delivery Team will get in touch for further information and to discuss next steps. We aim to respond to all emails within 2 weeks.

If you are a community and would like independent advice before approaching SSEN Transmission, organisations such as Community Land Scotland, Community Woodland Association or your local development trust may be able to provide support.

