



**Scottish & Southern**  
Electricity Networks

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# Delivering a Network for Net Zero

Reports on Consultations

*13 December 2023*





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# Welcome and Agenda

Chris Bell, Head of Stakeholder Engagement



# Housekeeping

- After the presentations, we'll be taking your **questions** and **issuing them to the panel**
- **To ask your questions**, please visit **Slido**, and type your question before pressing "Send"
- To visit **Slido**, you can either scan the QR code on the right-hand side or visit **slido.com** and enter the code RoC2023. This code is not case-sensitive
- We will endeavour to answer **as many questions as possible** in the time available
- We are **recording** this webinar. This recording only includes the presenters, their slides, and the panel
- The **slides** and **recording** will be added to our website after the event

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# Agenda

- **Welcome and housekeeping:** Chris Bell, Head of Stakeholder Engagement
- **Delivering a Network for Net Zero:** Christianna Logan, Director of Customers and Stakeholders
- **Reports on Consultation summaries:** Nick Brown and Russell Stewart, Development Portfolio Managers
- **Next steps:** Kelly Scott, Lead Community Liaison Manager
- **Questions & Answers:** Greg Clarke, Head of Corporate Affairs
- **Close:** Chris Bell, Head of Stakeholder Engagement



**Christianna Logan**  
Director of Customers  
and Stakeholders



**Chris Bell**  
Head of Stakeholder  
Engagement



**Nick Brown**  
Development Portfolio  
Manager



**Russell Stewart**  
Development Portfolio  
Manager



**Greg Clarke**  
Head of  
Corporate Affairs



**Kelly Scott**  
Lead Community  
Liaison Manager



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# Delivering a Network for Net Zero

Christianna Logan, Head of Customers and Stakeholders



# Who we are – SSEN Transmission

SSEN Transmission, the trading name of Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc, is part of SSE plc:

- We are responsible for maintaining and investing in the electricity transmission network in the north of Scotland
- Our first priority is to provide a safe and reliable supply of electricity to our communities
- Our operating area is home to vast renewable energy resources, including wind, hydro and marine
- As a natural monopoly, we are regulated by the GB energy regulator, Ofgem



# PATHWAY TO 2030

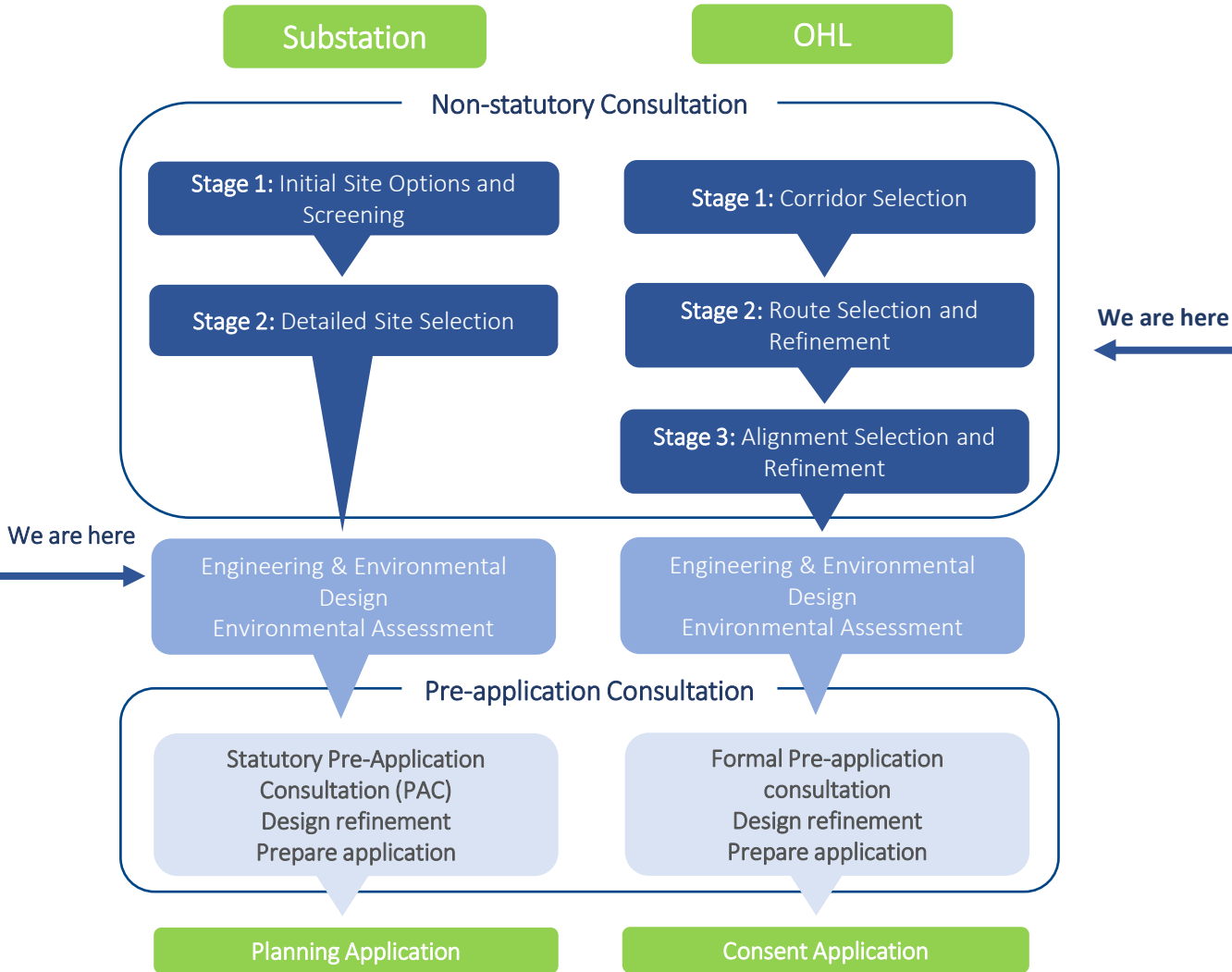
- In-flight Investments
- Pathway to 2030 Investments
- Report on Consultation still to be produced

- New Infrastructure (Routes shown here are for illustrative purposes)
- Upgrade/Replacement of Existing Infrastructure
- Existing Network

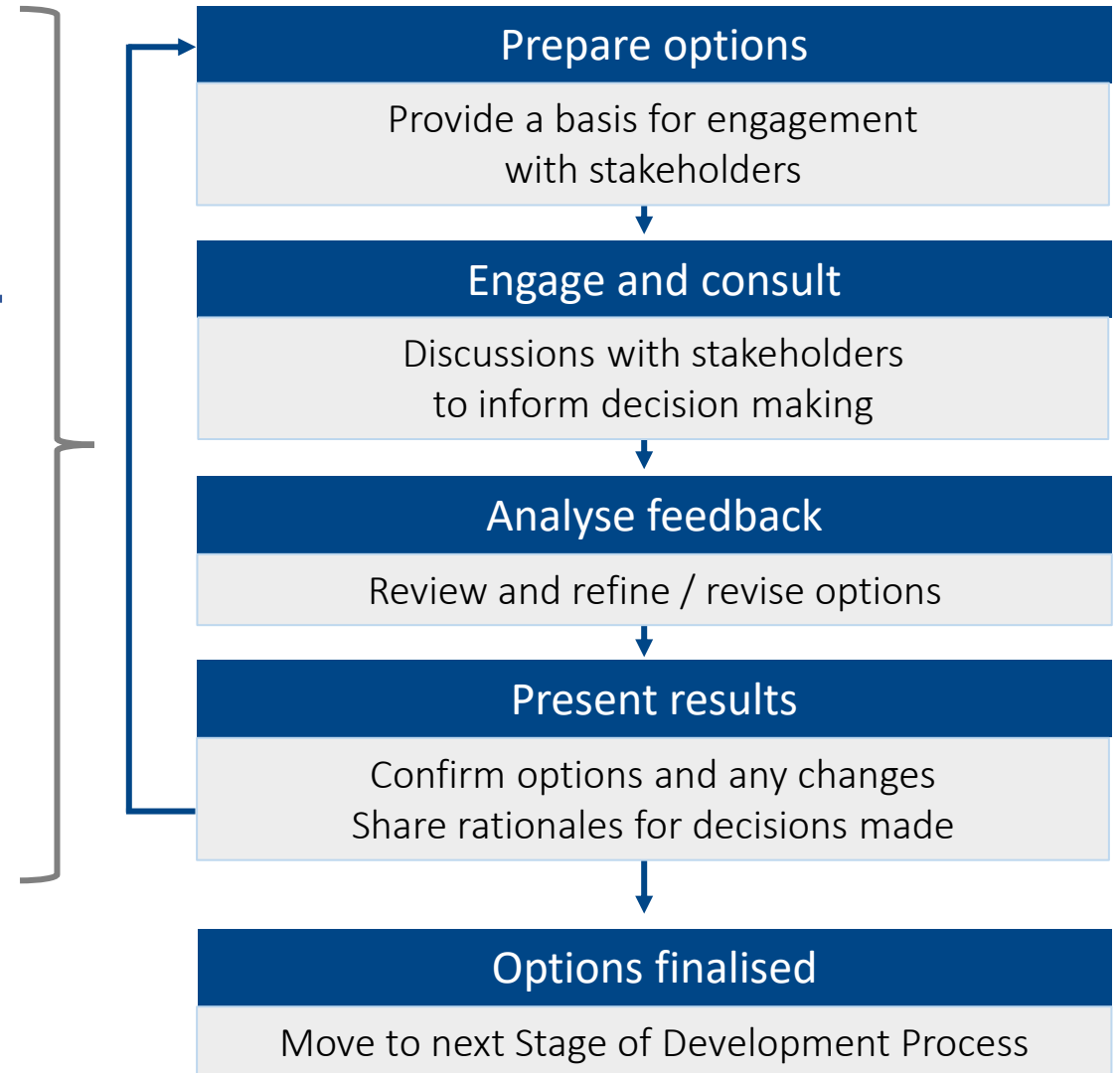
*All new reinforcements remain subject to detailed consultation and environmental assessments to help inform route and technology options*



# Project Development Process Stages



# Project Development Stages - SSEN Transmission's approach to stakeholder engagement





# Summary of public consultation engagement:

More than

**6000**

responses

**48**

in-person public  
consultation events

**20**

community and Town  
Hall-style public meetings

**6**

virtual consultations

**3000+**

registered attendees

SSEN Transmission is committed to continuing to improve our stakeholder engagements. We work to achieve the externally accredited AA1000 Stakeholder Engagement Standard and is proud to be operating with in 'Advanced' level of AccountAbility's Stakeholder Engagement Maturity Ladder.



# Common themes



Technology choice



Environmental impact

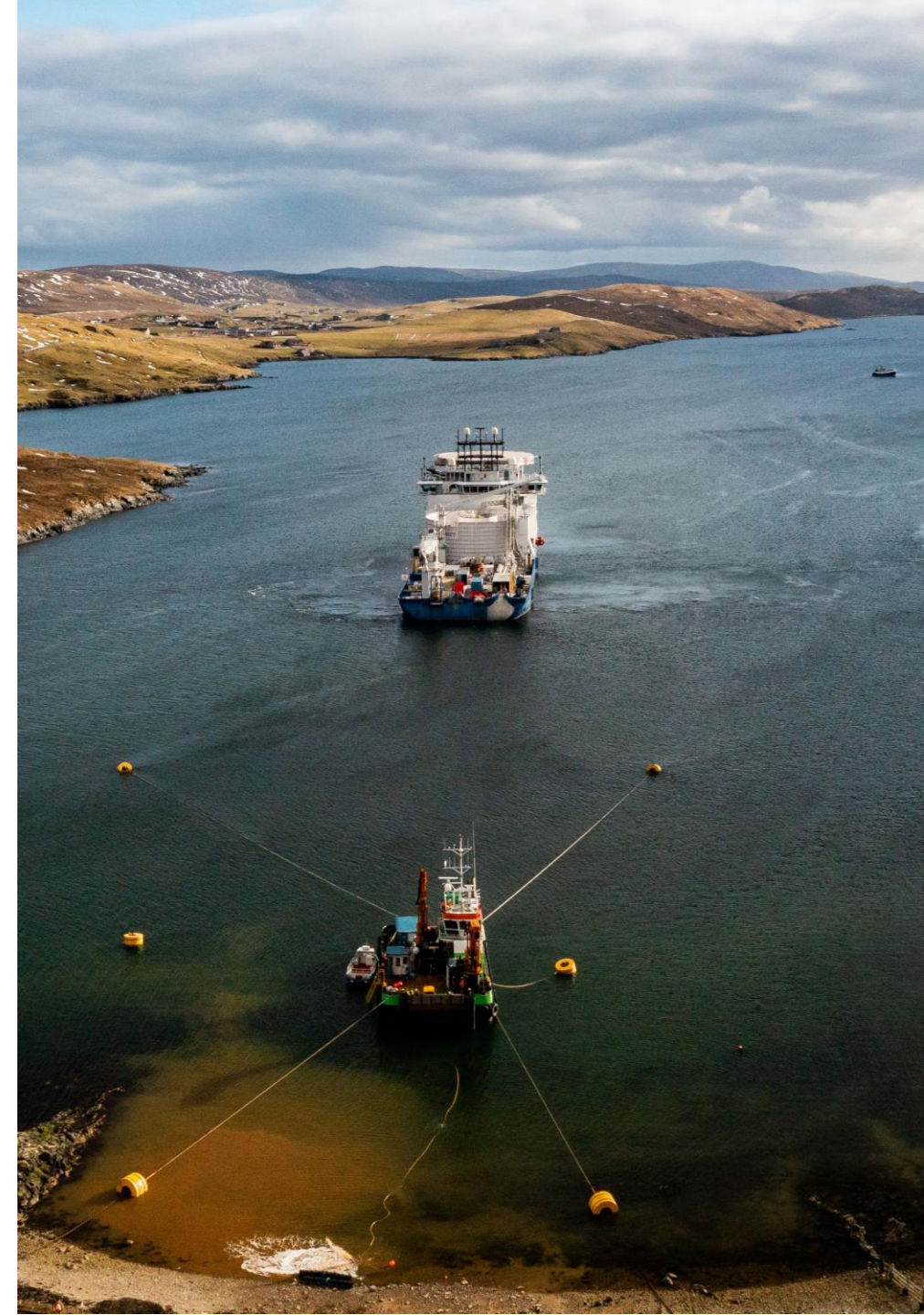


Socio-economic impacts



Consultation process

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# IN ADDITION TO DELIVERING ON ENERGY SECURITY AND NET ZERO GOALS, THE SSEN TRANSMISSION 2030 PROJECTS WILL ALSO DELIVER A LEGACY BENEFIT OF:



Permanent highly-skilled jobs



Housing for at least 200 for the people in the north of Scotland



Over £100m of Community Benefit funding



A 10% net gain in biodiversity



Relieve constrained energy costs and contribute to reducing energy bills

## DURING DELIVERY, THE PROJECTS WILL SUPPORT:



Over 20,000 jobs across the UK, including 9,000 in Scotland during peak delivery



25% local contracts\*



£6.3 in Gross Asset Value Added (GVA) to the UK economy, of which £2.6bn will be in Scotland

\*Local defined as being in our transmission network area

Source: Economic impact of the SSENT Pathway 2030 Investment programme, Biggar Economics, May 2023



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# Reports on consultation

Summaries

Nick Brown and Russell Stewart,  
Development Portfolio Managers



# Reports on consultation

## What is the Report on Consultation?

- Explains the project need and summarises the process which has been followed
- Summarises the findings of the site, corridor and route selection
- Presents the feedback received and our responses
- Sets out our decisions based on feedback and our next steps

## What are we reporting on?

- The outputs of our Consultation on Substation Site Selection and overhead line routeing
- These were the first consultations held for these projects

## Accompanying documents

- Summary Reports on Consultation
- Project websites
- Consultation documentation



# Key changes

## Changes to the plans informed by the feedback include:

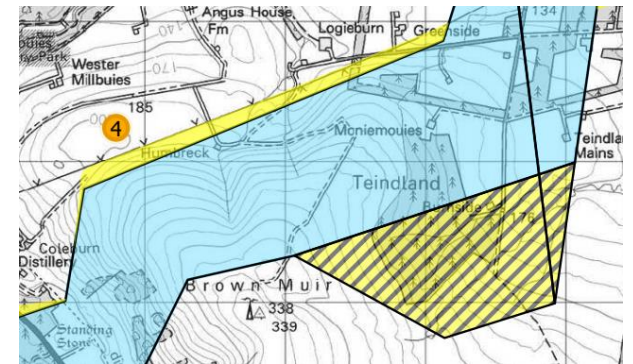
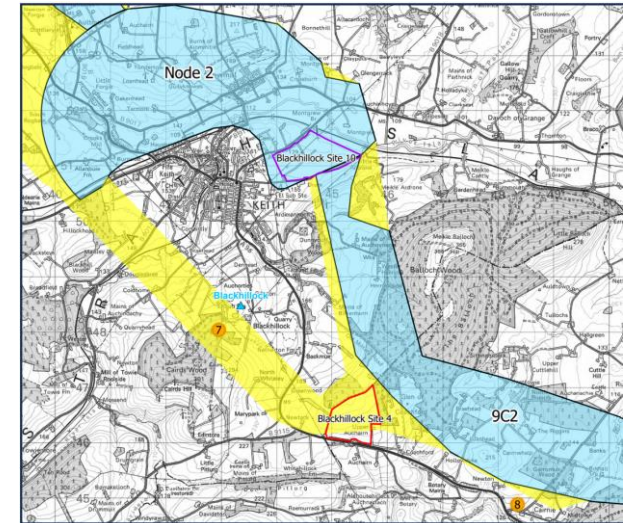
- At **Blackhillock in Moray**: proposed new substation site moving from that consulted on to the east of Keith, to one of the other shortlisted sites to the south east of the existing Blackhillock substation
- Seek to **rationalise cumulative infrastructure impacts** through the removal and undergrounding of existing transmission lines, where technically practical and appropriate, and subject to all necessary planning consents and landowner agreements
- **Overhead line routes**: several changes to and decisions on overhead line routes to reduce community impacts
- Proposed **new substation at Fiddes** in the Mearns is moving to a new site in Fetteresso Forest, near to the existing Fetteresso substation.



# Beauly to Blackhillock to New Deer to Peterhead

## Key Feedback and Actions

- At Blackhillock in Moray, the proposed new substation has been changed from the previously consulted 'preferred' site
  - Response to feedback from local community
  - Response from local and council stakeholders regarding the future development of Keith
- Key sections of previously consulted on routes have been altered in places to reduce community impacts
- Areas have also been removed as a response to community and stakeholder feedback



# Beauly to Blackhillock to New Deer to Peterhead

## Key Feedback and Actions

- All other route options and the proposed locations for Beauly, New Deer and Peterhead substations are being progressed in line with those options presented as 'preferred' when consulted on earlier this year



### Legend

- Proposed Route
- Route Options

0 5 10 20 Km

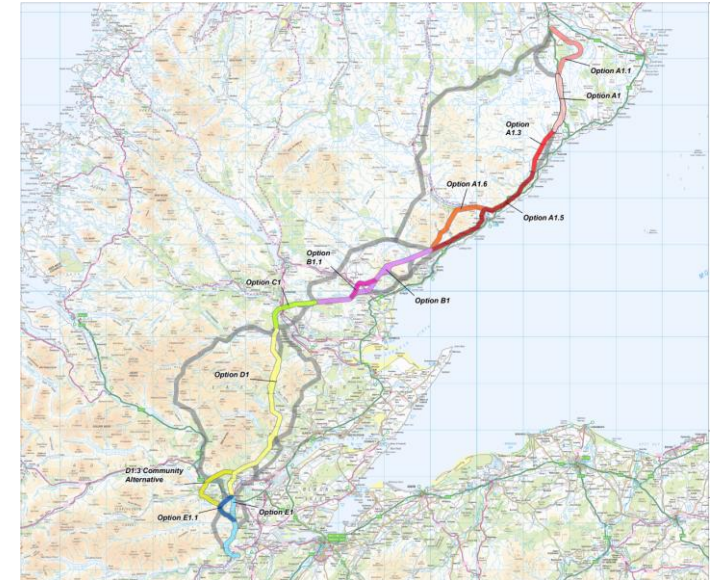




# Spittal to Loch Buidhe to Beauly

## Key Feedback and actions

- Between Spittal and Brora, the proposed new overhead line passes Dunbeath and uses the more inland of the two potential routes consulted
- Near Helmsdale, we are taking forward two options to route alignment stage, one which broadly follows the coastline and an inland option
- At Contin and Strathpeffer, we are continuing to assess an alternative route developed through consultation with local stakeholders
- We are progressing the overhead line route as presented at consultation:
  - Around Bonar Bridge to the west of Dornoch
  - Between Dingwall and Beauly
- Substations at Spittal and Loch Buidhe will progress in line with the options presented as 'preferred' at consultation



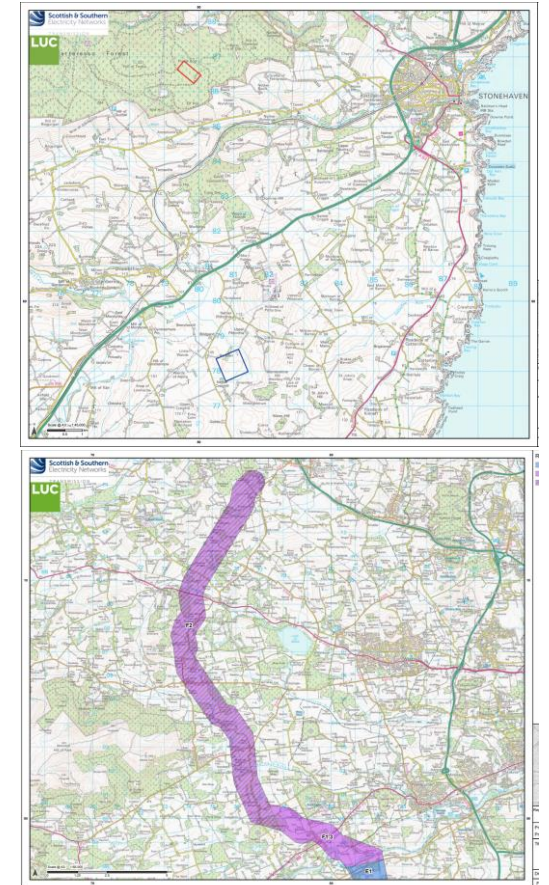
Proposed Spittal Area Substation



# Kintore to Tealing

## Key Feedback and Actions

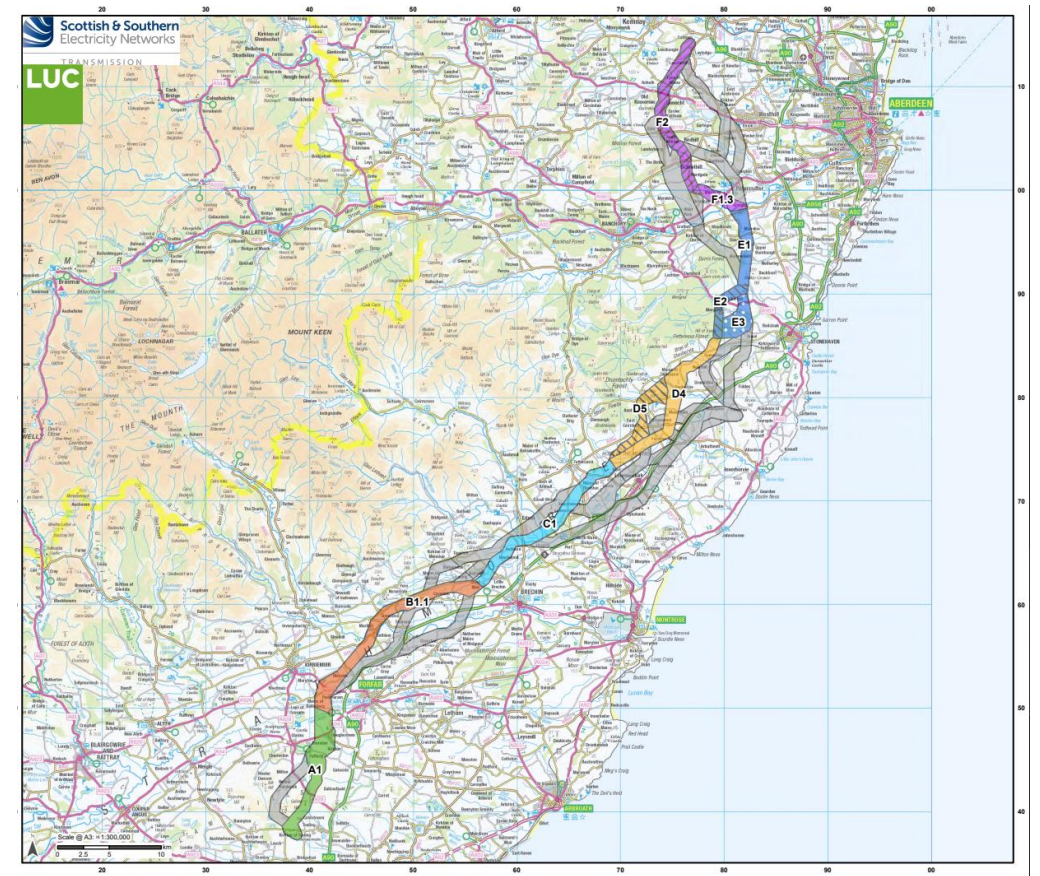
- At Fiddes in Aberdeenshire, the proposed new substation has been changed from the previously consulted preferred site to a new site in Fetteresso Forest due to:
  - Response to feedback from local community
  - Response from local and council stakeholders
  - Reduces impact on childhood home of Lewis Grassic Gibbon
- Key sections of previously consulted on OHL routes have been altered in places to reduce community impacts, this includes:
  - Altering the routes to move away from Fiddes and divert to the new proposed location in Fetteresso Forest
  - Moving the route further from Forfar and the River South Esk
  - Reducing impacts on Peterculter, Westhill and Loch of Skene through moving the route further west



# Kintore to Tealing

## Key Feedback and Actions

- The location previously presented as preferred for Tealing Substation remains so and is now our proposed option due to:
  - Its proximity to existing transmission infrastructure
  - Fewer residential properties surround Site Option 4 compared to Site Option 7
  - Avoidance of prime agricultural land
- Overhead Line routes between Tealing and Forfar (Section A) and Brechin and Laurencekirk (Section C) have remained as per our preferred routes





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## Next steps

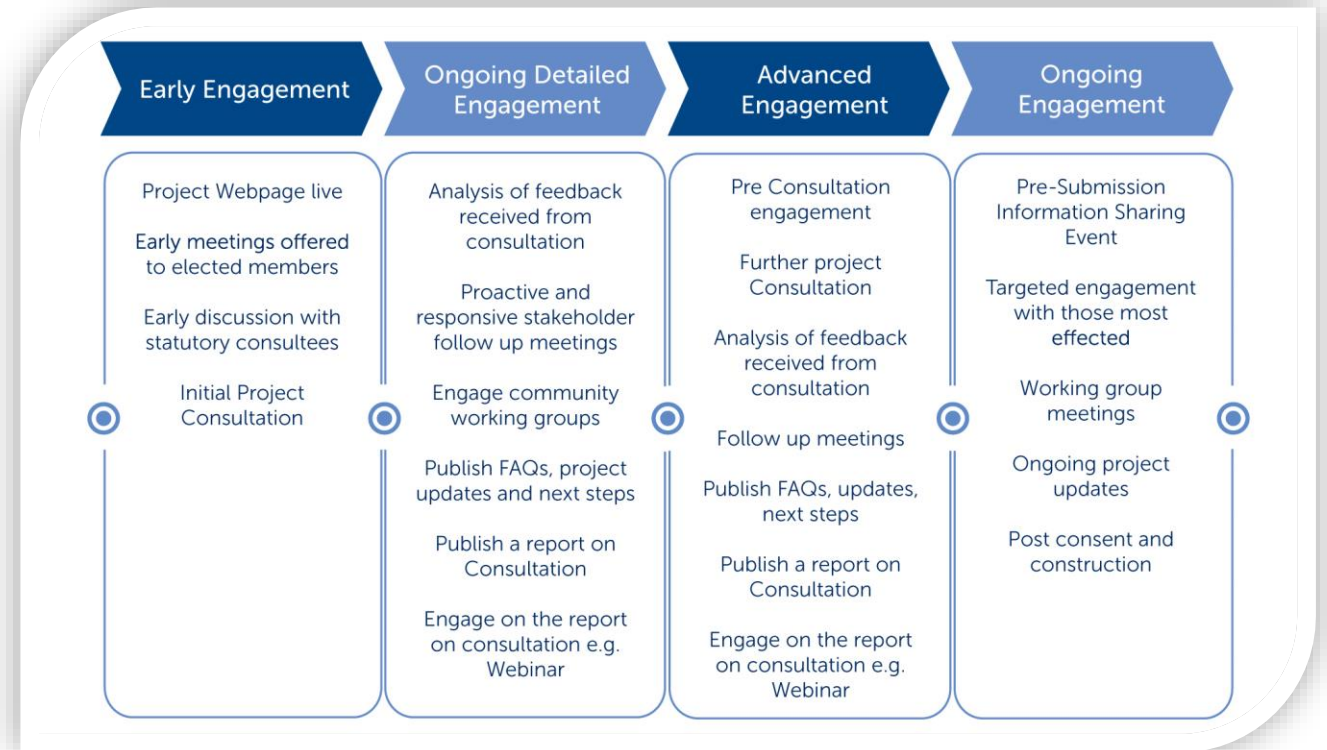
Kelly Scott, Lead Community Liaison Manager



# Next steps

## Our key upcoming next steps include:

- Working closely with stakeholders through the advanced and ongoing engagement stages
- Consultation and engagement events throughout 2024
- Local survey works and assessments
- Developing a Community Benefit Fund





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Q&A

Greg Clarke, Head of Corporate Affairs





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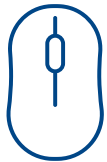
# Summary and thanks

Chris Bell, Head of Stakeholder Engagement



# Find out more about our projects

Scan the QR code opposite or follow the link to visit our Project pages  
Community Liaison Managers' contacts details are listed at the bottom  
of each project's webpage. Please get in touch if you have questions



The slide pack will be available on  
[www.ssen-transmission.co.uk](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk) in the next few days



You can also contact us at  
[Transmission.Stakeholder.Engagement@sse.com](mailto:Transmission.Stakeholder.Engagement@sse.com)



SCAN ME

*Click 'view as a list' to see  
all projects in your area*



# Your feedback

We would value your feedback on today's webinar, this helps us to improve our engagement with stakeholders

Please scan the QR code to complete a feedback form



SSEN Transmission committed to continuing to improve our stakeholder engagements. We work to achieve the externally accredited AA1000 Stakeholder Engagement Standard and is proud to be operating with in 'Advanced' level of AccountAbility's Stakeholder Engagement Maturity Ladder.

<http://tinyurl.com/2vdacwjh>



*Report on consultation webinar feedback form*



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