

Achany Wind Farm Extension Grid Connection

Environmental Appraisal

March 2025



CONTENTS

Main Report

Glossary and Abbreviations

1: Introduction and Background

2: Routeing Process and Alternatives

3: The Proposed Development

4: Landscape and Visual Amenity

5: Ecology

6: Ornithology

7: Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology

8: Cultural Heritage

9: Forestry

10: Schedule of Mitigation

Figures

Figure 1.1: Location Plan

Figure 1.2: Overview of the Proposed Development

Figure 2.1: Corridor and Route Options

Figure 2.2: Proposed Route and Alignment Variants

Figure 3.1a-e: Proposed Development

Figure 4.1: Zone of Theoretical Visibility

Figure 4.2: Protected and Designated Landscapes

Figure 4.3: Landscape Character Type

Figure 4.4: Visual Receptor Locators

Figure 4.5a-c: Visualisation Location 1 - A839

Figure 5.1: Sites Designated for Nature Conservation

Figure 5.2a-e: UKHab Classification

Figure 5.3a-e: NVC of Priority Habitats

Figure 5.4a-e: Potential GWDTE

Figure 5.5a-e: Protected Species Records¹

Figure 6.1: Sites Designated for Nature Conservation

Figure 6.2: Vantage Point Locations

Figure 6.3: Ornithological Survey Areas

Figure 6.4: Target Species Flightlines

Figure 6.5: Moorland Breeding Bird Records

Figure 7.1a – 7.1d: Local Hydrology

Figure 7.2: Soils

Figure 7.3: Superficial Geology

Figure 7.4: Peatland Classification

Figure 7.5a – 7.5b: Bedrock Geology and Legend

Figure 7.6: Regional Hydrogeology

Figure 7.7: Groundwater Vulnerability

Figure 7.8a – 7.8d: Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems

Figure 8.1 - Cultural Heritage Assets

Figure 8.2a-b: Wireline from Invershin Farm, Standing Stone

Figure 9.1 – Forestry Operational Corridor and Felling Overview

¹ Figure 5.5 also has an “f” page which contains confidential information relating to protected species. This will be provided separately to the Scottish Ministers, The Highland Council and NatureScot.

Appendices

Appendix 1.1: Permitted Development Works Appraisal

Appendix 1.2: Achany Wind Farm Extension Grid Connection Works: Electricity Act (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017: Screening Opinion

Appendix 1.3: EA Team

Appendix 2.1: Summary of Consultation Responses at Route Selection Stage

Appendix 2.2: Summary of Consultation Responses at Alignment Selection Stage

Appendix 3.1: Indicative Pole Schedule

Appendix 3.2: SSEN Transmission General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs)

Appendix 3.3: SSEN Transmission Species Protection Plans (SPPs)

Appendix 5.1: Habitat and Protected Species Survey Report

Appendix 5.2: Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment

Appendix 6.1: Ornithology Report

Appendix 6.2: Confidential Bird Records - *Confidential*²

Appendix 6.3: Information to Inform a Habitats Regulations Assessment

Appendix 7.1: Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment (PLHRA)

Appendix 7.2: Peat Management Plan (PMP)

Appendix 7.3: Schedule of Watercourse Crossings

Appendix 9.1: Compensatory planting strategy

Appendix 9.2a-h: Woodland Reports

Appendix 9.3: Photographic Records (Forestry)

² Will not be published with the EA due to the inclusion of confidential data relating to protected species. However, this appendix will be provided to the Scottish Ministers, The Highland Council, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and NatureScot.

GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

132 kV	132 kilovolt (132,000 volt) operating voltage electrical circuit
The 1989 Act	The Electricity Act 1989
ACoW	Archaeological Clerk of Works
ADSS	All Dielectric self-supporting cable
ATV	All-Terrain Vehicle
AWI	Ancient Woodland Inventory
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
BGS	British Geological Survey
CAR	Controlled Activities Regulations
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
CIfA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
CSE	Cable Sealing End
CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan
DTM	Digital Terrain Model
DWPA	Drinking Water Protection Area
EA	Environmental Appraisal
EC	European Commission
ECoW	Environmental Clerk of Works
ECU	Energy Consents Unit
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
EU	European Union
FISA	Forest Industry Safety Accord
FLS	Forestry and Land Scotland
GEMPs	General Environmental Management Plans
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPP	Guidance for Pollution Prevention
GVLIA3	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition
GWDTE	Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems
Ha	Hectare. An area measuring 10,000 square metres
HER	Historic Environment Record
HES	Historic Environment Scotland

IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LB	Listed Building
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plans
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LCT	Landscape Character Type
LI	Landscape Institute
LoD	Limit of Deviation
LVA	Landscape and Visual Assessment
NFL	National Forest and Land
NBN	National Biodiversity Network
NGR	National Grid Reference
NPF4	Fourth National Planning Framework
NS	NatureScot
NVC	National Vegetation Classification
OHL	Overhead Line. An electric line installed above ground, usually supported by lattice steel towers or wooden poles.
OS	Ordnance Survey
PPG	Pollution Prevention Guidance Notes
Proposed Development	The Proposed Development is taken to be the description of: the OHL components, including proposed poles, the 5 pole structure cable sealing end structure, and the overhead conductor.
PWS	Private Water Supply
SAC	Special Area of Conservation – designated under Directive 92/42/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (known as – The Habitats Directive)
SBL	Scottish Biodiversity List
Section 37	An application for development consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SLQ	Special Landscape Qualities
SSEN Transmission	Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission, operating under licence as Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc – part of Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks, and the transmission licence holder for the transmission of electricity in the north of Scotland
SM	Scheduled Monument
SPA	Special Protection Area – designated under Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (the Birds Directive)

SPPs	Species Protection Plans
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest – designated by SNH under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System
T5 DTM	Terrain 5 Digital Terrain Model
THC	The Highland Council
UGC	Underground Cable. An electric line installed below ground.
UKBAP	United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plans
VL	Visualisation Location
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility – the computer-generated theoretical visibility of an object in the landscape