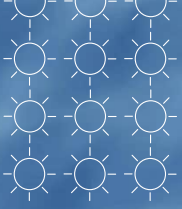




Scottish & Southern  
Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION



# Beauly to Blackhillock to New Deer to Peterhead 400kV OHL

Alignment Report on Consultation

January 2025





# Table of Contents

|                                        |     |            |     |
|----------------------------------------|-----|------------|-----|
| Introduction                           | 03  | Next Steps | 160 |
| The Consultation Process               | 10  | Glossary   | 162 |
| Consultation Feedback and Our Response | 16  | Appendices | 169 |
| Summary of Key Decisions               | 117 |            |     |

# 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 consultation process for the proposed Beauly to Blackhillock to New Deer to Peterhead 400kV overhead line (OHL) project (the Proposed Development) and where appropriate, show how the option taken forward to the next stage has been informed by this process.

## 1.2. Project Overview

Based on the requirements outlined in National Grid Electricity System Operator's (ESO's) Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design, we have developed proposals to reinforce the transmission system between Beauly and Peterhead via Blackhillock and New Deer. To facilitate this, we are proposing to establish a new 400kV OHL between Beauly, Blackhillock, New Deer and Peterhead (the Proposed Development). This also requires four new 400kV substations to be constructed near Beauly (at Fanellan), Blackhillock (at Coachford), New Deer (at Greens) and Peterhead (at Netherton) to enable future connections and export routes to areas of demand.

These are being progressed as five separate projects, and which were all presented during the consultation process.

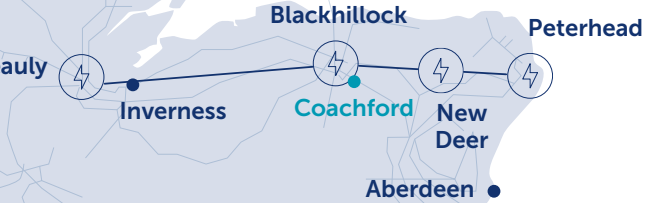
This Report on Consultation relates to the consultation completed for the 'Alignment' stage of The Proposed Development.

Please refer to the following webpages for project specific updates for the associated new 400kV substations:

- [Fanellan \(Beauly Area\) 400kV Substation](#)
- [Coachford \(Blackhillock 2\) 400kV Substation](#)
- [Greens \(New Deer 2\) 400kV Substation](#)
- [Netherton Hub Peterhead](#)

- The consultation rounds that have been undertaken are as follows:
- The first round of public consultation for the Proposed Development covered the Corridor Options and was held in September 2022.
  - The second round of public consultation for the Proposed Development covered the Route Options and was held in April 2023.
  - This RoC relates to the latest round of public consultation held from May to June 2024 which sought feedback on Alignment Options proposed.
  - This RoC also discusses feedback received on the Refined Routes<sup>1</sup> that were presented at the February to March 2024 update events and which provided updates on the Proposed Development as it developed.
  - Documentation for the earlier Reports on Consultation for both Corridor and Route Option stages, along with the Refined Routes and Alignment Options consultation documents can be found [here](#).

This RoC details the consultation process undertaken, including details of consultation methods and advertising, those consulted and/or contributing to the process, and 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 option we are taking forward. The report concludes by confirming the key decisions and any resulting adjustments made to the Potential Alignment<sup>2</sup> which was presented at consultation, confirming the Proposed Alignment to be progressed.

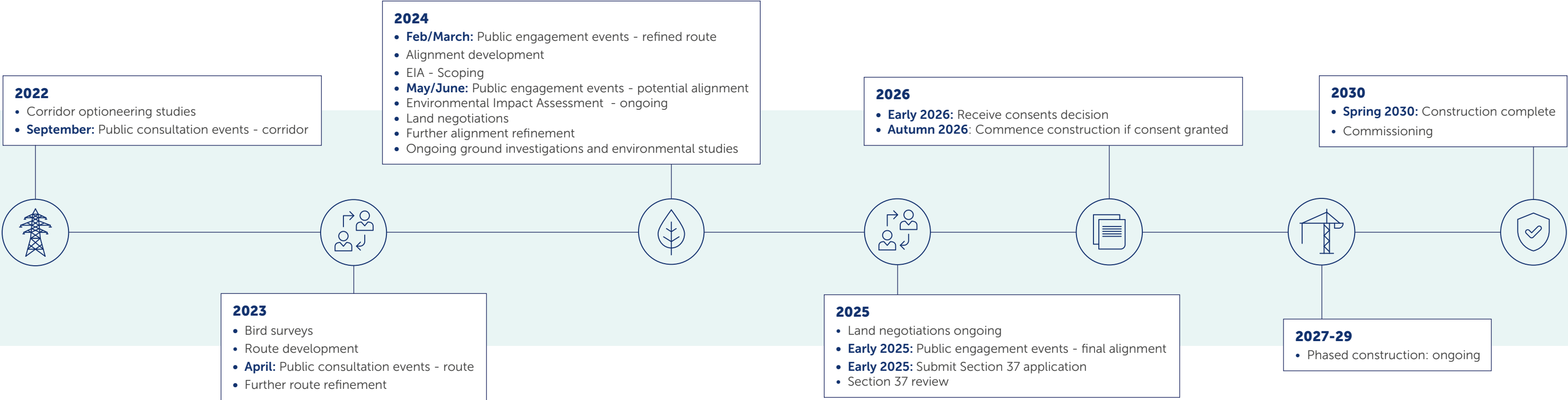


<sup>1</sup> Events were held in Feb/March 2024 presenting an update on progress of the Proposed Development as an additional stage between the standard Route and Alignment Stages, allowing communities to be kept informed and enabling further feedback on the proposal to be considered in advance of the Alignment Stage. This additional stage was referred to as the Refined Routeing Stage.

<sup>2</sup> A change to the terminology has replaced the earlier use of the word 'Preferred' with 'Potential', used to describe alignment and route options to be taken forward to consultation.



1.3. Project Timeline



Find out more about our 2030 projects:  
[www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/2030-projects](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/2030-projects)





1.4. What we were consulting on

As a stakeholder-led business, we understand the importance of involving communities and key stakeholders throughout each stage of our 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.

During this consultation, we presented options regarding our OHL alignment for The Proposed Development. The consultation included information regarding technology options, environmental and technical considerations, set out the development process and explained the factors which were taken into consideration in the selection process. The consultation explained how the Potential Alignment - shown in yellow on the maps at Figure 1.1 - provides the best balance of environmental, technical and cost considerations from our internal assessments.

For higher resolution versions of the maps shown in Figure 1.1 overleaf, the website can be accessed [here](#).

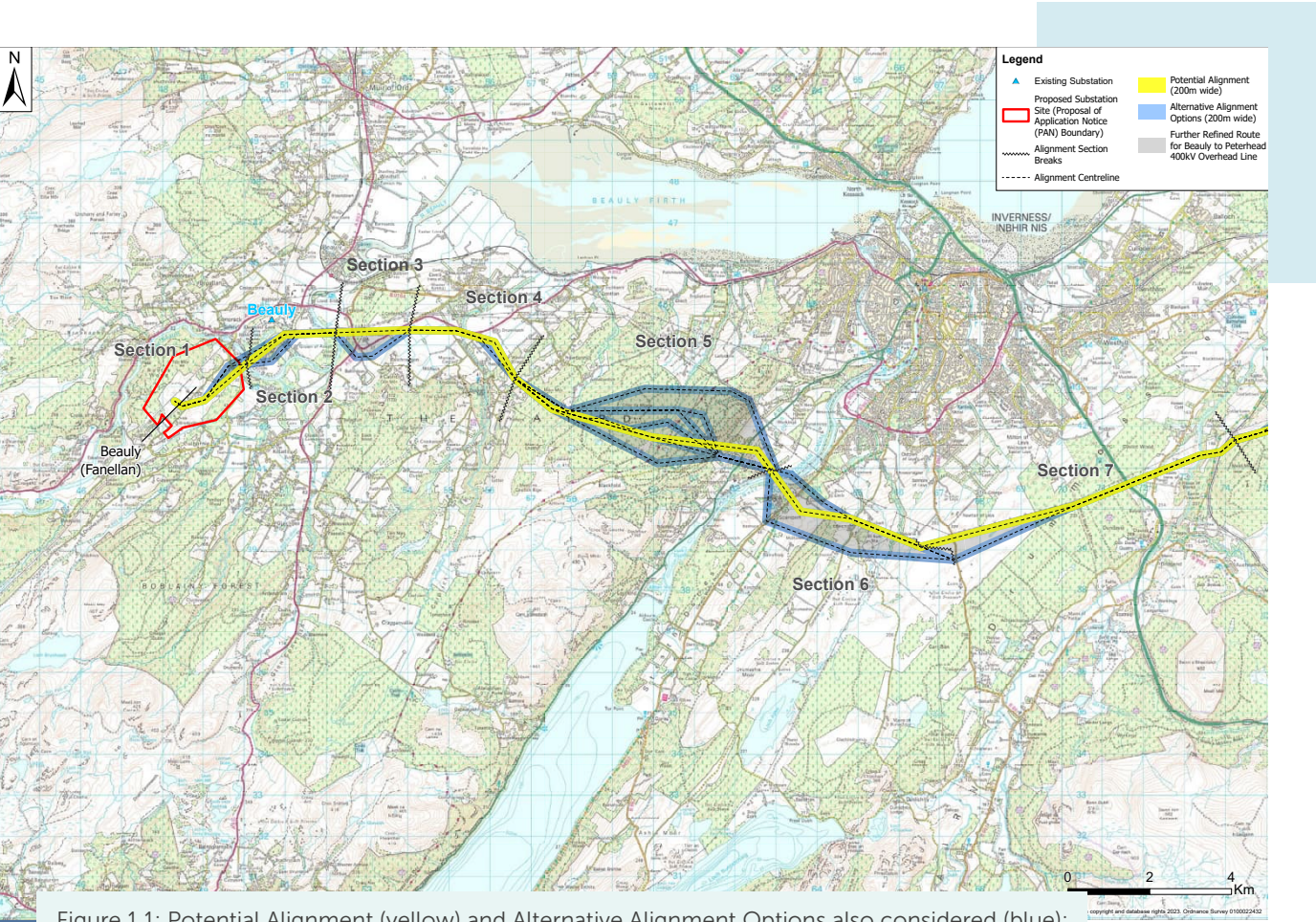


Figure 1.1: Potential Alignment (yellow) and Alternative Alignment Options also considered (blue):

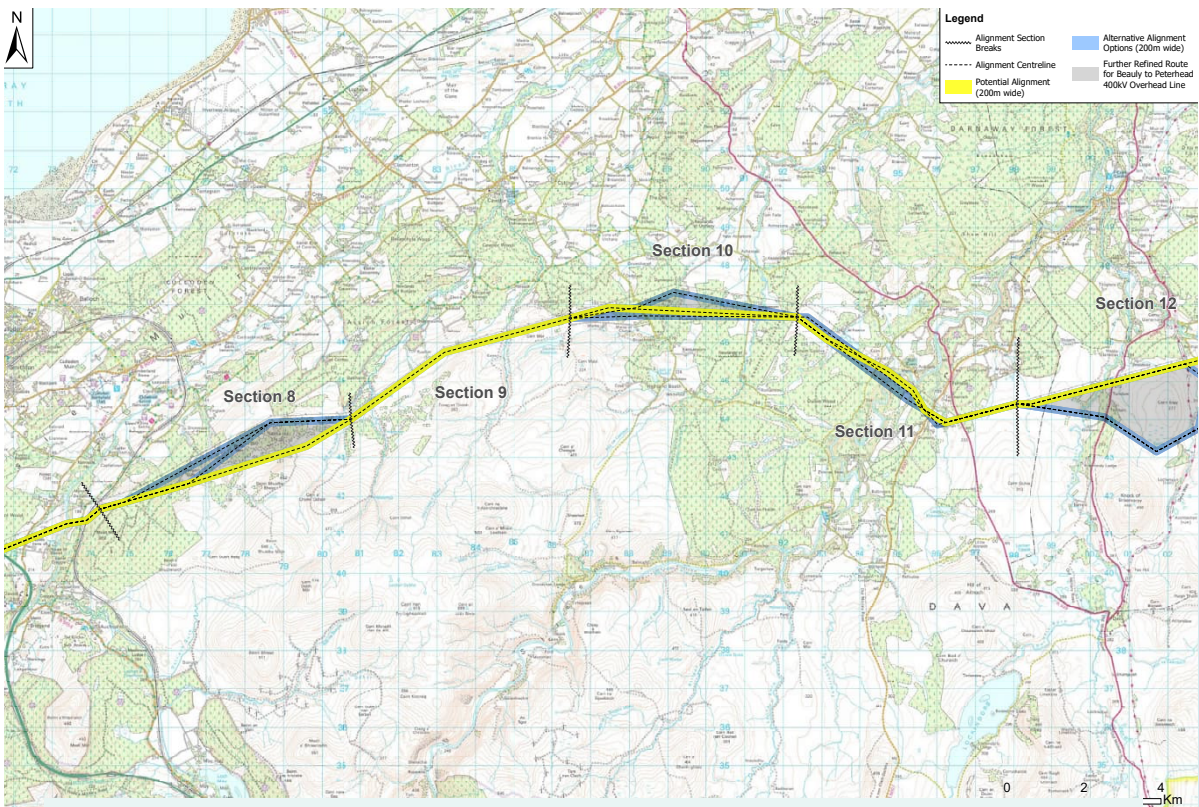


Figure 1.1: Potential Alignment (yellow) and Alternative Alignment Options also considered (blue):

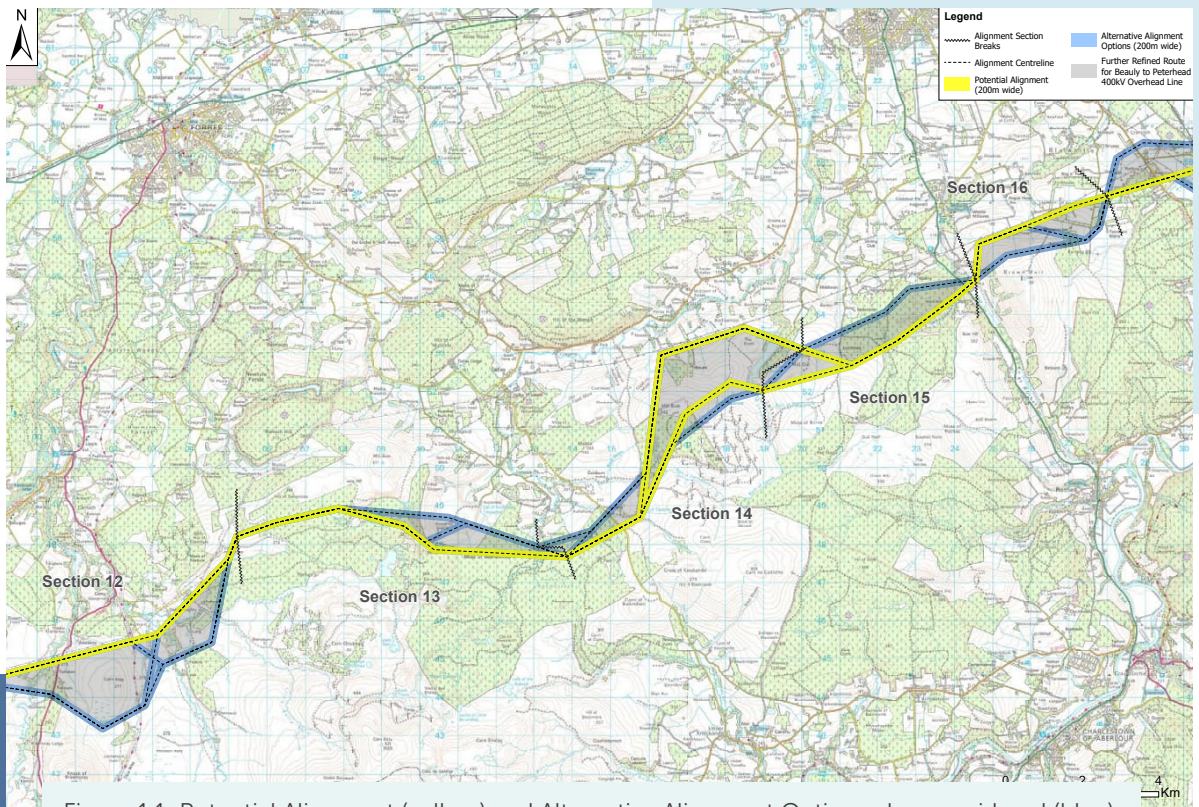


Figure 1.1: Potential Alignment (yellow) and Alternative Alignment Options also considered (blue):



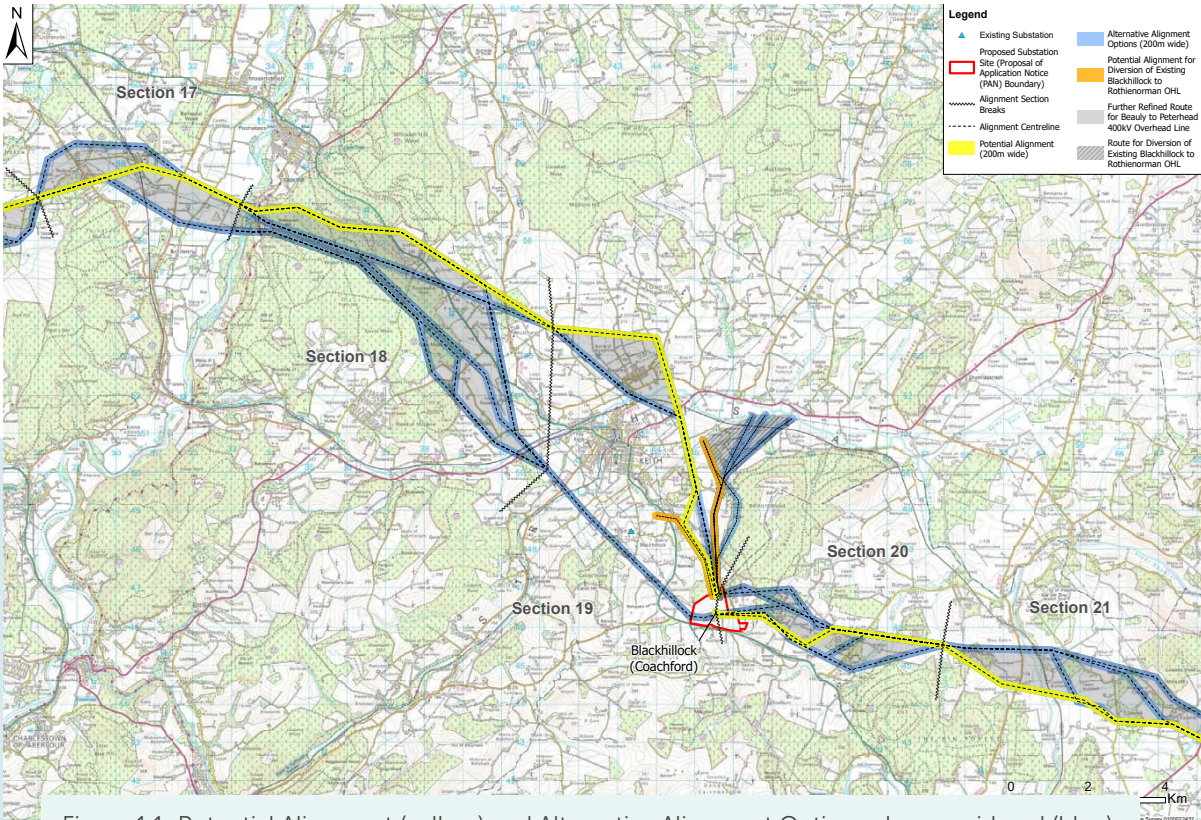


Figure 1.1: Potential Alignment (yellow) and Alternative Alignment Options also considered (blue):

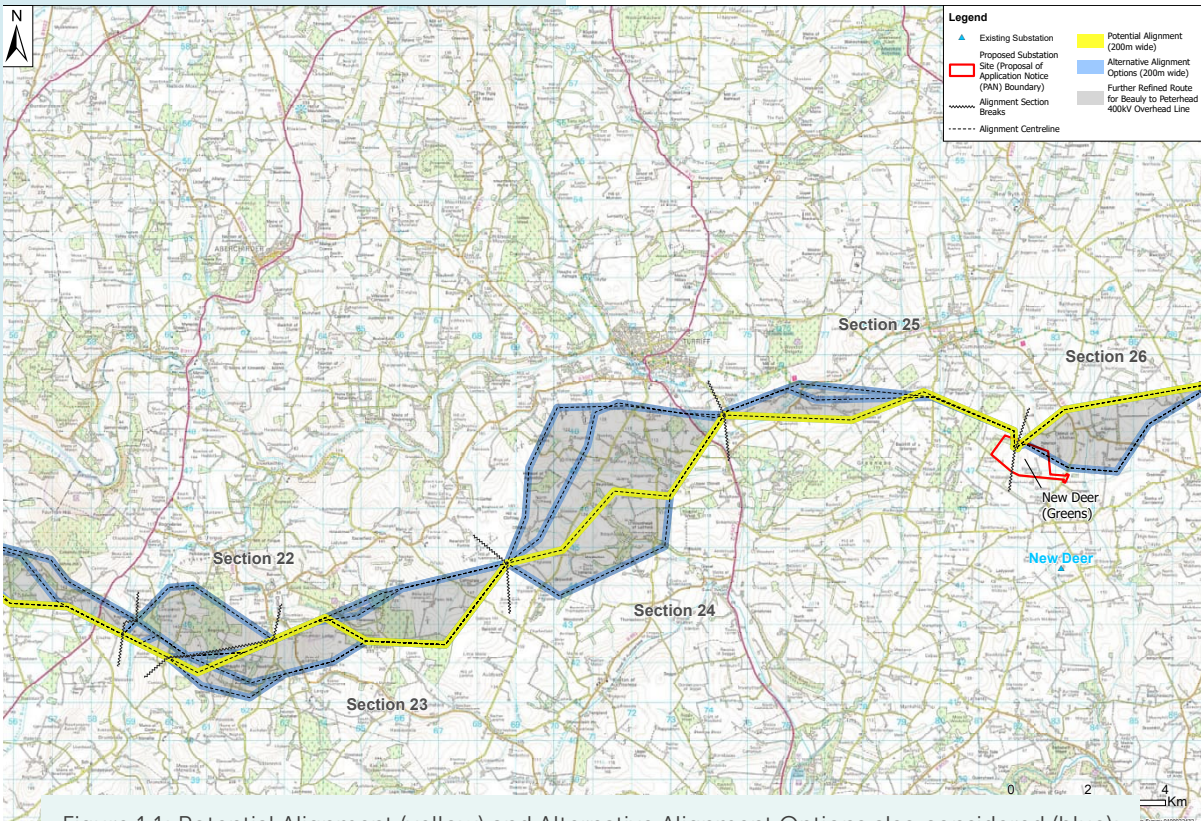


Figure 1.1: Potential Alignment (yellow) and Alternative Alignment Options also considered (blue):

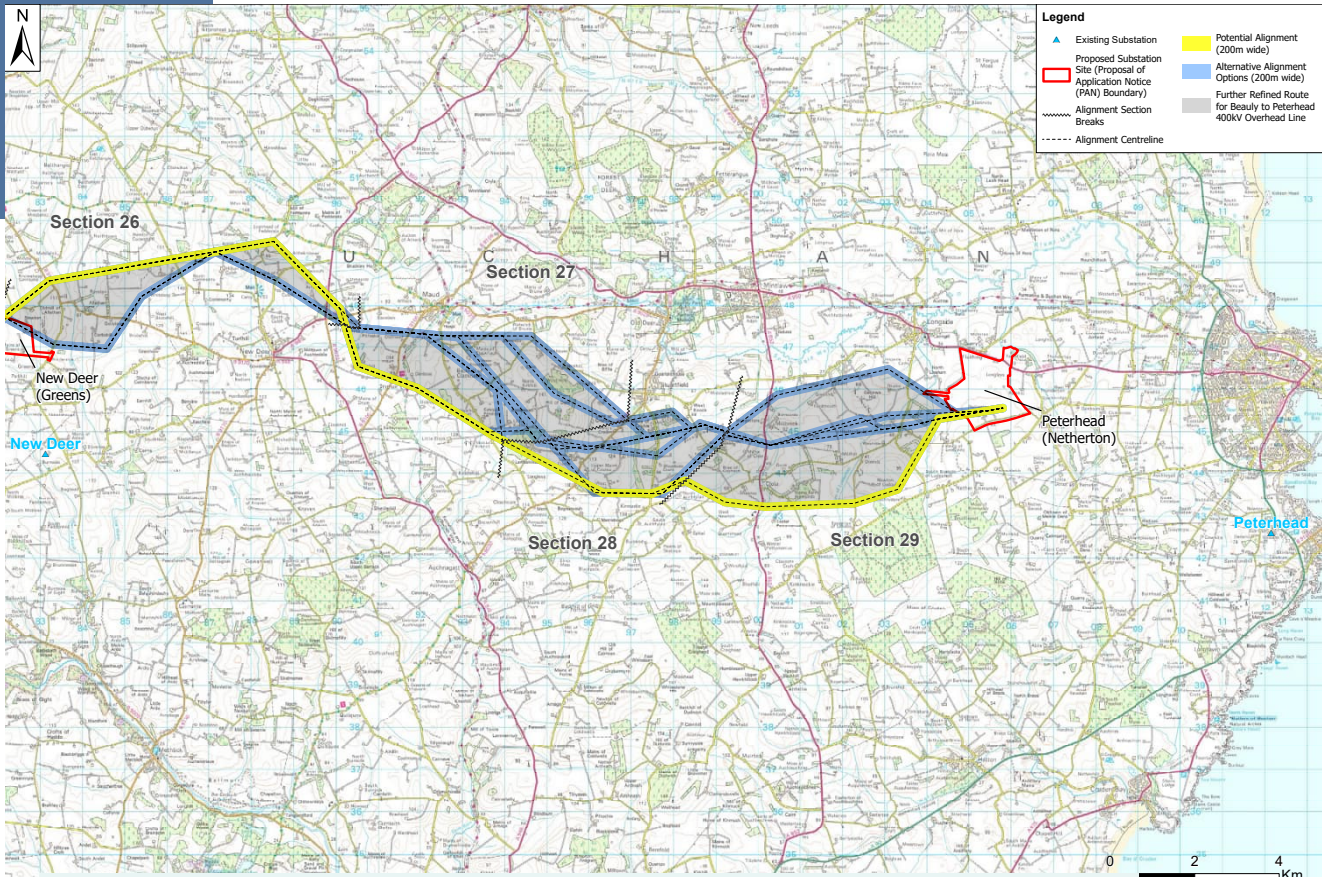


Figure 1.1: Potential Alignment (yellow) and Alternative Alignment Options also considered (blue):



## 2. The Consultation Process

### 2.1. Refined Route Update & Alignment Consultation Events

Ahead of our Alignment Stage consultation events, we hosted a series of update events in February and March 2024, providing information on further refinements of the proposed route whilst finalising the alignment options.

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) and we considered it important to seek views on these changes. This also meant we could review feedback and comments on the proposed refined routes and feed this into the preparation of the potential alignments.

These update events were a precursor to, and extension of the alignment consultation events, inviting comments on the refined routes, which then dove tailed into the formal launch of the Alignment Consultation Period on 14 May 2024. All feedback received has been covered in the feedback tables of this document.

| Date             | Event                                   | Attendance |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------|
| 26 February 2024 | Maud Village Hall, Maud                 | 104        |
| 27 February 2024 | Cuminestown Community Hall, Cuminestown | 131        |
| 28 February 2024 | Longside Parish Church Hall, Longside   | 146        |
| 29 February 2024 | New Deer Public Hall, New Deer          | 43         |
| 5 March 2024     | Baden Powell Centre, Turiff             | 111        |
| 6 March 2024     | Stewarts Hall, Huntly                   | 128        |
| 7 March 2024     | Cairnie Memorial Hall, Cairnie          | 33         |
| 7 March 2024     | Longmore Hall, Longmore                 | 62         |
| 11 March 2024    | Nairn Community Arts Centre             | 19         |
| 11 March 2024    | Fortnighty Hall, Fortnighty             | 11         |

| Date          | Event                               | Attendance |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 12 March 2024 | Culloden Visitor Centre, Culloden   | 15         |
| 12 March 2024 | Kingsmills Hotel, Inverness         | 26         |
| 13 March 2024 | Dallas Village Hall, Dallas         | 35         |
| 13 June 2024  | Forres Town Hall, Forres            | 27         |
| 26 March 2024 | Kiltarlity Village Hall, Kiltarlity | 159        |
| 27 March 2024 | Inchberry Hall, Inchberry           | 18         |
| 28 March 2024 | Phipps Hall, Beaully                | 141        |

### 2.2. Who we consulted with

Our consultation process sought to capture the views of anyone who had an interest in our proposals, and we invited comments from all interested parties. During our engagements we aimed to ensure that we captured the views of:

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

### 2.3. Consultation feedback period

The public consultation period was open from **12 February 2024** for the refined route update events and stayed open until **2 August 2024**.

Statutory and non-statutory consultees were invited to provide feedback on our Alignment Consultation Document between **15 May 2024** and **2 August 2024**. Where possible, affected landowners were contacted ahead of the consultation period to discuss land related considerations or concerns.

### 2.4. The advertising process

The consultation events were advertised extensively using the following methods:

- In regional and local newspapers including The Press and Journal, Inverness Courier, Huntly Express, Banffshire Journal, Banffshire Advertiser, Banffshire Herald, Northern Scot, Forres Gazette.
- Our social media channels and the dedicated project webpage: [www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/bbnp](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/bbnp)
- Community Councillors and Local Elected Members were emailed in advance with information they could share within their local area.
- Postcards were sent to **29,608** homes and **1,088** businesses within communities potentially impacted by our proposals. Copies of the postcard invites can be found in Appendix B.
- An email was sent to **1,088** individuals who had signed up to updates on The Proposed Development.



2.5. Stakeholder participation

In May 2024, we launched our Alignment Consultation materials for the Proposed Development, providing an introduction and starting our engagement process.

Over 5 weeks, we hosted multiple events across the Proposed Development route aimed at local communities which started in the northeast at Maud and worked west finishing in Kiltarlity in June.

| Date         | Event                                   | Attendance |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------|------------|
| 20 May 2024  | Maud Village Hall, Maud                 | 92         |
| 21 May 2024  | Cuminestown Community Hall, Cuminestown | 84         |
| 22 May 2024  | Longside Parish Church Hall, Longside   | 187        |
| 23 May 2024  | New Deer Public Hall, New Deer          | 101        |
| 27 May 2024  | Baden Powell Centre, Turiff             | 108        |
| 28 May 2024  | Cairnie Memorial Hall, Cairnie          | 58         |
| 29 May 2024  | Stewarts Hall, Huntly                   | 31         |
| 30 May 2024  | Longmore Hall, Longmore                 | 67         |
| 4 June 2024  | Fortnighty Hall, Fortnighty             | 15         |
| 5 June 2024  | Dallas Village Hall, Dallas             | 15         |
| 6 June 2024  | Inchberry Hall, Inchberry               | 30         |
| 18 June 2024 | Culloden Visitor Centre, Culloden       | 35         |
| 18 June 2024 | Kingsmills Hotel, Inverness             | 31         |
| 19 June 2024 | Phipps Hall, Beauly                     | 77         |
| 20 June 2024 | Kiltarlity Village Hall, Kiltarlity     | 69         |

Attendance figures reflect the number of people who registered their attendance at a consultation event. For busier events, the number of attendees can often be considerably higher than recorded.

Stakeholder meetings

In the weeks before, during and after the consultation events, various meetings were held with other key stakeholders such as landowners, statutory and non-statutory consultees and councillors to discuss the Proposed Development proposals.

| Date             | Meeting Type                                                                        | Stakeholder group in attendance                      |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 21 February 2024 | In person – briefing meeting                                                        | Aberdeenshire Council: local elected members         |
| 12 March 2024    | In person – briefing meeting                                                        | Beauly Community Liaison Meeting                     |
| 28 March 2024    | Microsoft Teams Meeting                                                             | Aberdeenshire Council                                |
| 18 April 2024    | Microsoft Teams – briefing meeting                                                  | Aberdeenshire Council: local elected member          |
| 1 May 2024       | Microsoft Teams – intro meeting                                                     | Moray Chamber of Commerce                            |
| 23 May 2024      | Virtual statutory consultee pre-application consultation meeting on Microsoft Teams | Aberdeenshire Council, Scottish Forestry, NatureScot |
| 27 May 2024      | Microsoft Teams Meeting                                                             | Aberdeenshire Council                                |
| 30 May 2024      | In person – briefing meeting                                                        | Aberdeen City Council officials                      |
| 12 June 2024     | In person – briefing meeting                                                        | Moray Council officials                              |

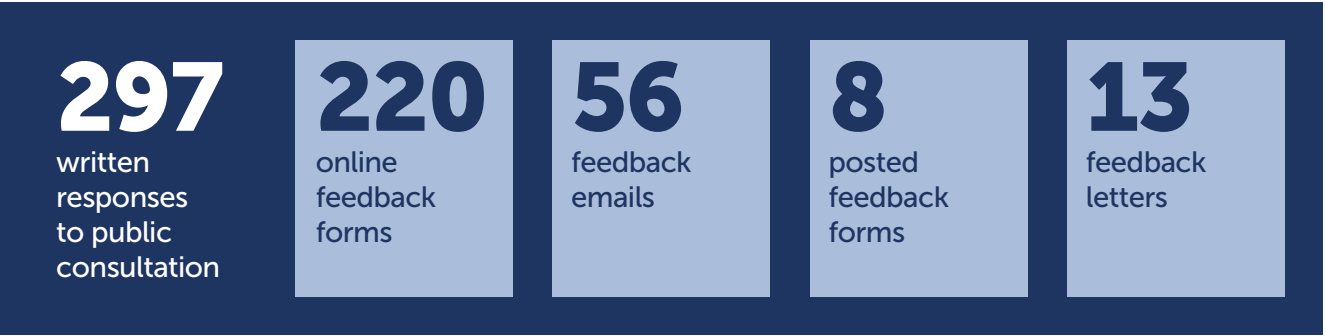


| Date          | Meeting Type                                                                        | Stakeholder group in attendance                             |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12 June 2024  | In person – briefing meeting                                                        | Moray Council officials and local elected members           |
| 12 June 2024  | Virtual statutory consultee pre-application consultation meeting on Microsoft Teams | The Highland Council, NatureScot                            |
| 13 June 2024  | Virtual statutory consultee meeting on Microsoft Teams                              | Historic Environment Scotland                               |
| 27 June 2024  | Virtual statutory consultee pre-application consultation meeting on Microsoft Teams | The Moray Council                                           |
| 16 July 2024  | Microsoft Teams – housing strategy meeting                                          | Aberdeen City Council officials                             |
| 22 July 2024  | In person meeting – briefing and Q&A                                                | Turriff & District Community Council, local elected members |
| 29 July 2024  | Virtual statutory consultee meeting on Microsoft Teams                              | NatureScot                                                  |
| 1 August 2024 | Virtual statutory consultee meeting on Microsoft Teams                              | Scottish Water                                              |

2.6. Feedback volume

Feedback from our stakeholders was welcomed via a range of methods. This included online or hard copy feedback forms, emails or letters, notes from the consultation events or stakeholder meetings or from any relevant telephone conversations.

Responses to public consultation



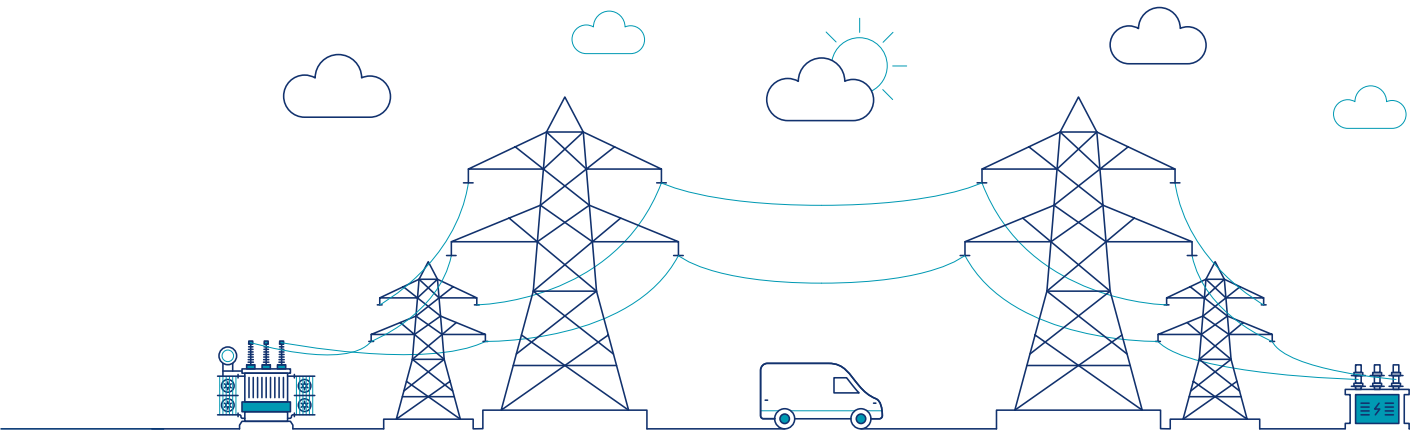
Responses from statutory and non-statutory consultees:

Eight statutory consultees and 52 non-statutory consultees of relevance to the Proposed Development, were contacted and requested to provide feedback on the proposals. Twenty-one responses were received, with a summary of each listed in the Feedback Specific to the Proposed Development Section and full details provided in Appendix A.

Stakeholder representations

In addition to individual feedback from residents, landowners and community groups, a petition was also received. All comments have been reviewed and considered with responses provided in the tables 3.1 – 3.3 in Chapter 3.

We were also copied into correspondence to MPs, MSPs and the Scottish and UK Governments, the contents of which were noted.





# 3. Consultation Feedback and Our Response

## 3.1. Common Themes

Across all of our Pathway to 2030 project consultations, including update events, we received feedback covering a number of common themes. Although some of this feedback related to topics which fell outside of the scope of our consultations, we recognise that it is important to address the points that our stakeholders took the time to raise, which we have summarised in this section. In addition we have also developed a set of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) that can be viewed [here](#).

Most of the common themes identified are the same as those received during the routing consultation stage, however we have amended our responses, where required, to reflect any changes that may have since occurred.

### Project Need

The need for these projects, including the Proposed Development, has been independently assessed by both the GB Electricity System Operator, National Grid ESO (ESO); and the GB energy regulator, Ofgem.

Some responses continued to question whether these projects are needed at all. In many cases, those questioning the need have done so on the basis that the electricity these projects will transmit from generation sources connecting to them is not all needed in the north of Scotland.

Under our licence, we have a legal obligation to provide connections to electricity generators looking to connect to our network and we do not determine the location of new electricity generation or where electricity is consumed. The location of generation is determined by generators themselves, often underpinned by Government targets and policies and electricity consumption is managed according to demand.

These projects - which are part of a major upgrade of the electricity transmission network across Great Britain - are needed to unlock the north of Scotland's vast renewable electricity resources and transport that power to demand centres across the UK.

The renewable electricity these projects will transport will play a key role in meeting UK and Scottish Government renewable energy and climate change targets. They will also help secure the country's future energy independence

by reducing dependence on imported power from volatile wholesale energy markets.

For more details on why these projects are needed and how this need has been assessed, we have published a [short briefing paper](#).

### Technology Choice

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

Due to the significant volume of power we need to connect and transport from generation source to areas of demand the ESO (now NESO<sup>3</sup>) concluded that there is a need for both onshore and offshore network reinforcements.

Our approach to determining how the transmission network is developed is underpinned by our statutory obligations, as set out in the Electricity Act 1989 which 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).

The ESO's and Ofgem's independent assessment of need for the Proposed Development and our wider Pathway to 2030 programme was based on the technology choice of an OHL for the onshore Beaulieu to Blackhillock to New Deer to Peterhead connection.

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 undergrounding; together with the technical challenges of operating, maintaining and in the event of a fault, restoring power.



Cost is also an important consideration, with subsea and undergrounding significantly more expensive than overhead. As the cost of investing in the electricity transmission network is ultimately recovered by electricity bill payers across GB, cost is one of the key factors in the ESO's and Ofgem's assessment of need, and in Ofgem's future assessment of the costs we are allowed to recover for these projects.

In October 2024, we hosted a webinar entitled 'Underground, overground or subsea? How decisions are made on where electricity lines go'. This webinar provides detailed information regarding the decision-making process for technology choices, and you can watch a recording of this webinar [via this link](#).

Please also find additional information regarding alternative technology options via the papers below:

- [The challenges of undergrounding at 400kV](#)
- [Why the Pathway to 2030 projects require both onshore and offshore solutions](#)

### Environmental impacts

We have received feedback highlighting concerns about potential environmental impacts, particularly on local biodiversity.

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

However, we do recognise that in delivering these critical projects, 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.

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 (many of which have been highlighted in the stakeholder responses to this consultation) 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 the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report stage. 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 EIA Report, 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 a 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. You can find out more about how we are delivering a positive environmental legacy within the below listed documents:

- [Sustainability Strategy – Pathway to 2030](#)
- [Delivering a positive environmental legacy](#)

### Socio-Economic impact

Several responses from communities and landowners highlighted concerns about the impact on the local community, including visual and tourism impacts. We have also been asked what local benefits these projects will provide.

We acknowledge that there will inevitably be a visual impact on some local communities and are committed to do all that we can to minimise and mitigate this as part of the ongoing development of this project. The environmental assessment that will accompany our consent applications will also consider landscape and visual impacts.

From a tourism perspective, a Recreation and Tourism Assessment will be undertaken and presented in the EIA Report. It will look at changes to the availability, accessibility and amenity of tourist attractions and changes in the availability of tourist accommodation due to the influx of construction workers during the construction of the Proposed Development. This will ensure that appropriate consideration is given to these issues as part of the consenting process.

*3 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 Electricity System Operator (ESO).*





Furthermore, we have developed a housing strategy which aims to mitigate against the potential constraints to available tourist accommodation resulting from the construction of this and other transmission projects across the North of Scotland.

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 company is working with councils, registered social landlords and other housing organisations to deliver the new homes as part of our £20bn investment to upgrade the transmission network in the north of Scotland in support of energy security and national net zero ambitions.

Workers' accommodation will be required to deliver the proposed projects including the Proposed Development, and we are aiming to create a legacy in the communities that will host its workforce by delivering housing or other infrastructure that will support local need when the projects are completed.

The delivery of this strategy will ensure there is capacity to house workers in the local area and so minimise any negative impacts on availability of accommodation for visitors and thus avoid impacts on the tourism industry. It 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.

These projects will also provide significant benefits to local landowners' national economies. Independent socio-economic analysis undertaken on our Pathway to 2030 projects has estimated that they 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.

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.

In September 2024, we launched our first Community Benefit Fund. The initial Regional Fund of £2 million aims to bring positive benefits and a long-lasting legacy to communities across the north of Scotland. This fund will support strategic projects that benefit communities that lie wholly within our network area. Applications for the Regional Fund closed on 22 November 2024 and an update on successful applications will be provided in due course.

In addition, our Local Fund 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. You can register for updates on our community benefit funding through this link: [CMS Registration Form - Community Benefit Fund](#).

Links are provided below to papers which provide more information on our approach to community benefits and socio-economic impacts:

- [Delivering legacy benefits through Pathway to 2030 Projects](#)
- [Working with landowners and occupiers](#)

We recognise the important role communities will play in delivering the infrastructure required to meet our national endeavours to build a cleaner, more secure and affordable energy system for homes and businesses across Scotland and Great Britain in the long-term.

In the following section of this Report on Consultation, we will address any specific community feedback relevant to the options we consulted on.

Consultation process

We began to develop our Pathway to 2030 projects following the outcome of the ESO's recommendations, confirmation of project need and approval of Ofgem funding. This means, when we consult on projects, we are consulting on the evolution of the Proposed Development between its start and end points or at a specific site. 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 set out in the 'Consultation Process' section of this Report on Consultation, we held a number of public consultation events, public meetings and bilateral and group engagements, using a range of methods to promote our consultations to our stakeholders.

We received some feedback from owners of properties in closest proximity to the potential alignments who felt further targeted engagement should have been undertaken with them prior to the events, in the same way in which some landowners had been engaged.

Others stated that they felt their feedback from previous consultations had not been listened to and we were not engaging meaningfully as the Proposed Development was still progressing despite feedback received that it was not wanted.

Some attendees also raised concerns that the maps being utilised at our events and in the project documents section of our webpage were outdated.

Throughout the consultation process we listen closely to identify any areas of concern and seek local information relevant to the Proposed Development's design, allowing us to consider next steps required prior to refining proposals. This may involve amending our proposals, considering or investigating alternative routes or sites or looking to adopt a different technology in some areas.

Landowners were given advance notice of draft alignments to help inform the development of the route of the line so that we could understand any particular constraints that might exist, for example, in relation to agricultural activities, private water supplies and impacts on grant aided schemes.

In response to feedback from the routeing stage consultations, we ensured materials for our Refined Route update and Alignment consultation were published in advance of the public events commencing, and we introduced longer feedback periods from four to six weeks. We recognise there is always room for improvement 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](#)

Cumulative Impact

Communities highlighted the potential impact of further renewable developments in the areas as a result of the network upgrades. The concerns about the cumulative impact of both construction and operation as well as the visual impact of infrastructure was also included in feedback.

The EIA Report will include an assessment of cumulative effects for each topic included within the report. This will include the effects of the Proposed Development in combination with other SSEN Transmission developments and those by other developers so that the full impact of development in the area can be understood.

Developer Forums have been established for the Greens and New Deer and Peterhead area, open to developers and asset owners with projects proposed to connect within these areas. The aim of these forums is to understand each other's plans, share information and ultimately reduce disruption to the local community and other affected stakeholders.

Mitigating Visual Impacts

Some feedback received questioned whether existing lower voltage OHLs could be undergrounded to mitigate the cumulative visual impact in various areas or utilising other tower types such as T-Pylons. Other stakeholders questioned whether the towers could be painted colours such as green as it was felt the towers could then better blend into the local surroundings.

Where specific rationalisation of existing infrastructure requests have been made, some of these requests are under review by our system planning team to understand the constraints and opportunities in doing so. This involves detailed studies to assess the network performance impacts of introducing underground cables to this part of the network which must be assessed against any other areas of additional cable potentially required as part of the wider Pathway to 2030 projects. We will provide an update on this upon conclusion of the required studies.

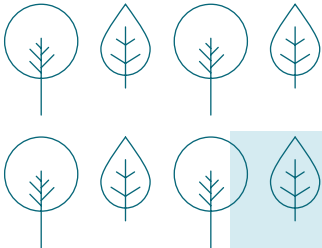
With specific reference to the request to considered other tower designs and the T-Pylon which has recently been developed for use in England and Wales, we don't consider it suitable for our projects in the north of Scotland for several reasons such as weather impact, material lifespan, transport and delivery, design flexibility and reliability and repair. You can read more about this on our [FAQ](#) page.

Electric and Magnetic Fields

Health concerns, particularly in relation to Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF) were another common theme received in feedback.

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 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 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 EN-5](#), (NPS EN-5)8 which was reissued in November 2023 and came into force on 17 January 2024.

This latest policy is reflective of the review process and in line with the NPS EN-5. The current UK Government guidance, is therefore still considered appropriate by the UK Government and their public health experts. We will comply with the 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 currently 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 our consent application which will be publicly available.

A link is provided below to a leaflet that has been prepared to explain the effects of EMF and the separation distances we apply: [EMF Leaflet](#)

Impact on Agricultural Land

We received feedback raising concerns over the potential impact of the Proposed Development on agricultural land across the area.

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.

3.2. Feedback related to the Proposed Development

Introduction

This section of the report sets out our responses to the questions and themes emerging from the public consultation and the feedback provided by statutory and non-statutory stakeholders.

Feedback was collated and analysed by our teams, supported by Information Analysts, to produce relevant data and key themes.

Feedback was then considered as being either a common theme, ‘project wide’ which relates to feedback relating to the Proposed Development but not section specific or related to a specific section of the Proposed Development, with responses prepared accordingly.

Feedback and responses are therefore included in this section and also referenced in the Common Themes in Section 3.1 and in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document which is available via the link also in Section 3.1.

The Proposed Development specific feedback is set out in the tables that follow under the three themes:



Community Impact  
see Table 3.3.



Environmental Impact  
see Table 3.4.



Economic Impact  
see Table 3.5.

The majority of the feedback relates to the alignment consultation however, some feedback also relates specifically to the earlier refined route update events. Both sets of feedback have been collated into the tables.

The stakeholders have been grouped into the categories outlined in Table 3.1 below:

Table 3.1

| Stakeholder Group                         | Examples                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Statutory Consultees                      | Historic Environment Scotland (HES), SEPA, NatureScot, Local Authorities                          |
| Non-Statutory Consultees                  | RSPB, Scottish Water, Forestry and Land Scotland                                                  |
| Community members and local organisations | Homeowners, local businesses, Residents Associations, elected members                             |
| Landowners & occupiers                    | Landowners, crofters, tenant farmers, occupiers of properties in closest proximity to substations |



Based on feedback from previous consultation asking for more detailed maps for each area, ahead of our Alignment Consultation events, we split the previous 11 Routeing Stage sections into 29 Alignment Stage sections. In the feedback tables, 'project wide' feedback precedes the section-by-section feedback which is set out as shown in the 29 sections detailed in Table 3.2 below.

Table 3.2

| Location                                | Routeing Stage                    | Alignment Stage    |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Fanellan substation to south of Beaully | Section 1                         | Sections 1 and 2   |
| South of Beaully to south of Inverness  | Section 2 (and Node 1)            | Sections 3 to 6    |
| A9 and River Nairn crossing             | Section 3                         | Section 7          |
| South of Culloden to Ferness            | Section 4                         | Sections 8 to 11   |
| Ferness to South of Forres              | Section 5                         | Section 12         |
| South of Forres to Kellas               | Section 6                         | Sections 13 and 14 |
| Kellas to Teindland                     | Section 7                         | Sections 15 and 16 |
| Teindland to Keith                      | Section 8                         | Sections 17 and 18 |
| Keith to south of Turriff               | Section 9 (and Node 2 and Node 3) | Sections 19 to 24  |
| South of Turriff to New Deer            | Section 10                        | Section 25         |
| New Deer to Peterhead                   | Section 11 (and Node 4)           | Sections 26 to 29  |

Property Specific Feedback

At the alignment consultation we shared the potential alignment of the Proposed Development and provided an indication on a 3D model where towers may be located. During the consultation period we received feedback from many individuals making specific suggestions or requests regarding changes to the alignment which they believe could improve the proposals in relation to their property. These proposals have been considered on a case-by-case basis and the final decision will be communicated directly with the relevant residents.

Table 3.3 Community Impact 'Project Wide'

| Summary of feedback                       | Contributing Stakeholder Group                    | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Proximity to properties                   | Communities Elected Members<br>Community Councils | One of the key factors considered when carrying out routeing for proposed OHLs is proximity to nearby residential properties. For the Pathway to 2030 OHLs we have endeavoured to route the OHL 170m or more from residential properties and to maintain a minimum distance of 100m where possible. To identify properties along the route, an up-to-date OS Address was used. This dataset provides accurate locations of properties based on Local Authority, Royal Mail and Ordnance Survey information. Buffers have then been applied to each of these properties to allow us to clearly identify where they are situated so they can be avoided. In addition to this dataset, a search has also been carried out identifying applications for planning permission along the route. This will continue to be monitored as the alignment options are finalised, ensuring the OHL alignment maintains a suitable separation from all existing, in-construction or consented residential properties. |
| Effects on people's wellbeing was raised. | Communities                                       | We are mindful of the uncertainty that our proposals can pose to communities who may be affected. Our process for project development seeks to identify options that provide 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 affected communities. However, we are also committed to providing sufficient time and opportunity for all stakeholders to feed into each stage of our project development process, so that views can be understood and wherever possible incorporated into design decisions. This is a balance which has to be carefully managed. We understand that those affected may be impacted in different ways, and we would be interested in residents' views regarding any additional activities that would help to address their specific concerns.                                                                                                               |



| Summary of feedback                                                                   | Contributing Stakeholder Group | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Visual impacts                                                                        | Communities Community Councils | <p>Landscape and Visual impacts are an integral part of the Alignment Stage as well as the previous Corridor and Route Stages, both in terms of identifying options and appraising them. This is in line with the Holford Rules, which is guidance specific to designing OHLs and which seeks to ensure lines are designed with the best landscape and visual fit.</p> <p>For each project we develop, we conduct a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. This is one element of the EIA Reports that forms part of our application to the Scottish Government. In this assessment, we consider visual impact from centres of population, popular spots, like walking paths and tourist sites. Where possible, any potential negative visual impacts are reduced.</p> |
| Property owners raised concerned about the impact when 'sandwiched' between two OHLs. | Communities                    | <p>The presence of any properties that would become 'boxed in' by the different alignment options were identified and influenced alignment choice. We look to avoid 'boxing in' whenever possible. However, across The Proposed Development, there will be occurrences of 'boxing-in' of properties between the proposed OHL and existing OHLs. The visual impact for 'boxed-in' properties will be assessed in further detail in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment as part of the EIA Report.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Potential impact of the Proposed Development on business and recreation in the area   | Communities                    | <p>As part of the consenting process a Recreation and Tourism Assessment will be provided within the EIA Report accompanied by a Socio-economic Assessment Report. Changes to the availability, accessibility and amenity of tourist attractions and changes in the availability of tourist accommodation due to the influx of construction workers during the construction of the Proposed Development will be part of the assessment.</p> <p>Please also see Section 3.1 Common Themes – Socio-Economic Impact.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

| Summary of feedback                                                                                                                                          | Contributing Stakeholder Group                 | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Impact on communities from construction traffic and maintenance of roads                                                                                     | Communities                                    | <p>A Traffic and Transport Impact Assessment will be conducted as part of the EIA Report, including a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) which will assess the proposed construction access routes and identify appropriate measures to minimise construction traffic disturbance. This will be conducted by Traffic and Transport specialists.</p> <p>We will formalise our engagement at a local level across the route, to enable forums for updating and addressing concerns within the communities. We will continue to contact and notify those directly impacted by any activity carried out as part of the process of developing the Proposed Development.</p> <p>We will also endeavour to return land/roads to the same or better condition as before. The overall land budget will compensate individual landowners on a case-by-case basis, if required. Surveys will take place before works begin to assess the condition of the roads in advance.</p> |
| Cumulative impact around Keith                                                                                                                               | Communities Elected Members Community Councils | <p>It is acknowledged that there are a number of developments on-going in the Keith area. The EIA Report will present an assessment of cumulative effects which will include other proposed developments, both from ourselves and from other developers.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Concerns were raised that SSEN Transmission are not sharing information about third party developments that will connect into the substations along the line | Communities Community Councils                 | <p>Those developers who have connection agreements in place are at varying stages of maturity with their projects and do not yet have certainty on the location of their proposals. The information that could be shared is only that which is publicly available, and we do not have certainty or further information on these projects. This feedback was further discussed at the New Deer Developer Forum and the developers are looking to produce a visual development plan</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |



| Summary of feedback                                    | Contributing Stakeholder Group | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                        |                                | <p>with the inputs of members collectively, which could be available at each of the public events. This would show the current publicly available position of the projects, but we would be unable to answer questions on third party developer's proposals.</p> <p>Please also see Section 3.1 Common Themes – Cumulative Impact.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Potential Interference with Telecoms/ Internet Signals | Communities Consultees         | <p>We have been in discussions with several of the main network operators to identify any possible interference and any required mitigations. The general guidance provided by the operators is that as long as the towers are situated 100m or more from a fixed link (line-of-sight) and 250m from a mast then there is no significant concern. The conductors (wires) have negligible impact when crossing a link. Where it is not possible to meet these distances, further assessment may be required to confirm if there is likely to be any interference.</p> <p>Satellite signal is not generally affected by towers unless they block the 'line-of-sight' between a dish antenna and the satellite in the sky. Given that projects are aiming to maintain a minimum of 100 m distance where possible from residential properties and on the basis that satellite signals are received from much higher elevations, the interaction between the two are highly unlikely.</p> <p>As part of the alignment optioneering process, information available through the Ofcom Spectrum information portal has been used to inform us on the position of any registered communication masts and their associated fixed links. This information has been used to optimise the alignments where possible. As the Proposed Development moves into its next phase where there is confirmation of tower positions, a further line of sight assessment will be carried out for known</p> |

| Summary of feedback                                                                     | Contributing Stakeholder Group | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                         |                                | <p>fixed links to identify any possible interactions.</p> <p>In addition to this, telemetry services used by utilities are managed by Atkins and JRC. Both these companies along with BT and Arqiva have been consulted and their feedback has been addressed. These operators along with any others will have a further opportunity to comment on the application once submitted through the Section 37 application process.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Concern was raised relating to the use of AI in assessing sentiment of public feedback. | Community                      | <p>Our AI Feedback and Sentiment Analysis Tool is designed to analyse feedback and sentiment, providing us with valuable insights into how people feel about our proposals. By utilising advanced natural language processing techniques, including those found in large language models (LLMs), the system not only identifies a range of tones within emails and consultation forms but also categorises feedback across various topics and themes.</p> <p>We maintain human oversight throughout this process. We would like to reassure stakeholders that our dedicated team is still actively reading emails and online feedback forms, ensuring that the system complements our efforts rather than replaces them. This integration enables us to work more efficiently, responding to public concerns faster while ensuring we capture the nuances of feedback.</p> <p>Additionally, having all feedback in one centralised system simplifies the process of evidencing concerns. It helps us validate issues with concrete data rather than relying on scattered emails, making our responses more accurate and informed. This centralised approach also facilitates the identification and documentation of concerns, allowing us to present clear evidence in our engagements. For more information on how we use AI to support our stakeholder engagement, please visit: <a href="https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/aifaq">https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/aifaq</a></p> |



| Summary of feedback                                                                                               | Contributing Stakeholder Group | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Concerns were raised that the base maps used in the consultation materials were out of date                       | Communities                    | The Refined Route and Alignment stage consultations used the most current Ordnance Survey maps available for the base maps. Ordnance Survey update their maps on an ongoing basis, but only issue new versions of the map tiles once there are several changes within a map tile extent. Therefore, although some areas (e.g new housing) may have been there for several years, Ordnance Survey may not yet have issued an updated version of the map tile showing this. We would like to apologise for any alarm this may have caused and offer assurances that these Ordnance Survey base maps did not inform project assessments and that other data is utilised in determining the potential routes for the Proposed Development (such as the Optioneer software which was presented on the TV screens) based on the most up-to-date data available to us. |
| At the Refined Route Stage materials were not considered to be refined enough to comment                          | Communities                    | There are four stages to the routing process (Stages 0-3), each increasing in detail and resolution. The Refined Route consultation was an extension to Stage 2 (Route Selection) which aims to identify a Proposed Route (approximately 1 km wide within which alignment options can be identified in the subsequent Alignment Stage. As such detail of specific alignments was not available as the Proposed Development was not yet at that stage.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Community feedback was received that considered the process had been well thought through and was well explained. | Communities                    | We have seen an increase in positive feedback in relation to the proposed alignment as well as the information presented at the event and online.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Equestrian use should be included when planning                                                                   | British Horse Society          | The Traffic and Transport Assessment within the EIA Report will consider use of the roads by horse riders                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

| Summary of feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Contributing Stakeholder Group | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| and designing the Proposed Development. It is advised that steps are taken to manage access to off-road riding, ensure the safety and the welfare of the horses kept within the vicinity of the site. The owners of the horses need to have access to care for the horses both during construction and operation of the Proposed Development. |                                | during construction and operation. Maintenance of access along the path network will also be considered within the Recreation and Tourism Assessment, which will include an outline Outdoor Access Management Plan to ensure access for recreation is maintained throughout construction, which may require the use of temporary diversions. |



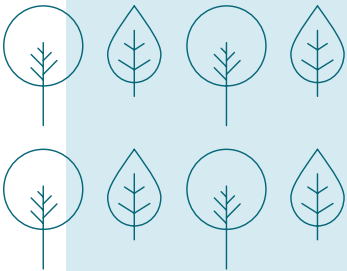
Table 3.4 Environmental Impact ‘Project Wide’

| Summary of feedback                                                                  | Contributing Stakeholder Group | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Concern was raised about noise levels from the recently uprated North East 400kV OHL | Communities                    | <p>In response to concerns relating to noise from the existing North East 400 kV OHL in the area, a trial is currently taking place with the use of a hydrophilic coating applied to the conductors on a 2-tower span on a section of the line. This followed lab trials in the summer where a reduction in noise was recorded using this mitigation technique. This trial was started in late Sept/early Oct 2024 and will continue until February 2025. There is noise monitoring equipment underneath the treated spans and also on an adjacent untreated span to use as means of comparison. Following conclusion of the trial, if results are positive, we will aim to roll out the hydrophilic coating across the rest of the existing 400kV OHL, prioritising those spans closest to residential areas.</p> <p>In addition to the above, a grant scheme referred to as the Acoustic Insulation Assistance Scheme (AIAS) is available to eligible properties to aid with mitigation measures at properties affected by noise from the existing 400kV OHL. We are communicating with all properties closest to the OHL to request that they note their interest in the scheme. At the time of writing, letters are scheduled to be sent to those properties providing details on how individual householders can apply for the scheme.</p> |
| Some key environmental designations were not shown on the maps                       | Communities                    | To ensure the maps were legible, presentation materials at the public consultation events showed the most significant environmental designations which included those of national importance. Local designations may not have been shown however they were, and are, still part of the assessment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| A number of people did not receive any Private Water Supply (PWS) questionnaires     | Communities                    | Private Water Supply (PWS) questionnaires were issued to owners of PWS registered with the local authority, using the details provided by the local                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

| Summary of feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Contributing Stakeholder Group | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                | authority for those supplies. Also, the questionnaires were only issued for properties within a specific study area. Where people did not receive questionnaires, this was due to them being outside the study area, incomplete data provided by the local authority, or the supply not being registered. Where we were made aware of these instances questionnaires were issued. Discussions have been ongoing with landowners, and we are also attempting to make contact with as yet uncontactable PWS owners as part of on-going surveys, to gather as much information as possible on PWS we now know to be close to The Proposed Development. |
| Impact on private water supplies (PWS)                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Communities                    | PWS are widespread in the area and are an important consideration as the Proposed Development 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. This information has been used during the Alignment Stage and will continue to be used during the tower and access track design stage. The outcome of these surveys and subsequent PWS risk assessment will be documented in the EIA Report, with mitigation measures identified where required to safeguard PWS.                 |
| The Highland Council state that various consultees queried whether these route selection criteria were comprehensive enough at this stage and whether the avoidance of single houses was given too much weight when the landscape and visual impact | The Highland Council (THC)     | A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment will be included within the EIA Report which will consider additional mitigation measures where necessary. These measures may include undergrounding small sections of the electricity transmission network where deemed essential. Biodiversity Net Gain and Compensatory planting proposals will be presented alongside the EIA Report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

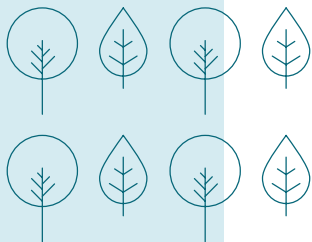


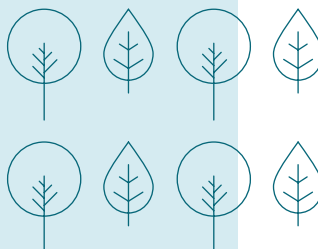
| Summary of feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Contributing Stakeholder Group | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>of the line will be experienced by many more users on certain well used travel routes such as the Great Glen Way, the A82 and the A862.</p> <p>Firm, specific commitments in terms of existing OHL removal and net biodiversity enhancement (including compensatory planting for commercial forestry lost) should all be defined and committed to as soon as possible so informed judgments can be made by consultees and other stakeholders.</p> |                                | <p>We do not consider that too much weight was given to individual properties. The proximity of the OHL, as well as ‘boxing in’ of properties were considered, as well as impact on road users and impact on the character of the landscape. There are many considerations that influence consideration of alignment from a landscape and visual perspective including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimising impact on setting of historic assets &amp; smaller areas of high amenity value (Holford Rule 2)</li><li>• Avoiding loss of woodland and hedgerow (Holford Rule 5)</li><li>• Containing infrastructure into a single corridor, but where divergence occurs, to maintain space between the OHLs for properties between (note on Holford Rule 6)</li><li>• Minimising the number of angle towers (Holford rule 3).</li></ul> <p>In relation to the A862, the alignment looks to minimise woodland loss by utilising the existing OHL corridor through Croiche Wood and Long Wood; maintaining straight lines whilst necessarily diverging away from existing OHLs; maintaining setting around listed structures at Easter Moniack (Reelig Bridge &amp; Reelig Gate Lodge); avoiding residential properties and minimising the number of crossings of the A862. Position of towers adjacent to the A862 are being considered.</p> <p>The Great Glen way, travelling north-south necessarily needs to be crossed. It is crossed in an area of woodland, to help break up visibility of the Proposed Development (Holford Rule 5). We are looking at replanting options to reduce the visual effect of the Proposed Development as a straight line through woodland.</p> |



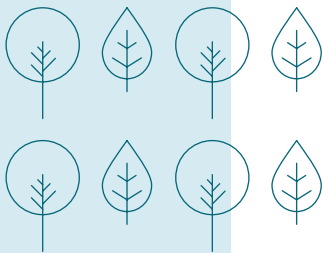
| Summary of feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Contributing Stakeholder Group | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                | <p>The position of towers in relation to the A82 is being reviewed to move further from roadside. Existing vegetation helps to considerably screen and break up views of the Proposed Development until in close proximity.</p> <p>From a forestry perspective, the routeing process has sought to identify alignment options which take account of a range of environmental factors including woodland and forestry with a view to minimising woodland removal and avoiding ancient woodland and veteran trees, where possible.</p> <p>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, Veterans and Ancient trees.</p> <p>Where individual or groups of important trees cannot be avoided, they may be reduced in height or if they must be felled can be left insitu as deadwood habitat. All trees that are impacted within the operational Corridor, will be replanted by way of Compensatory Planting, within the landowner holding where possible or the local council area, in line with Scottish Governments Control of Woodland removal policy.</p> |
| <p>Moray Council emphasise that the use of alternative measures to OHLs (e.g. undergrounding portions of the line) must be considered in more sensitive landscapes such as Special Landscape Areas (SLA). Should these measures not be utilised, justification of their discounting must accompany any future application.</p> | <p>Moray council</p>           | <p>A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment will be included within the EIA Report which will consider additional mitigation measures where necessary. These measures may include undergrounding small sections of the electricity transmission network where deemed essential.</p> <p>A Private Water Supply Risk Assessment and assessment of drinking water supplies will be completed as part of the EIA Report.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

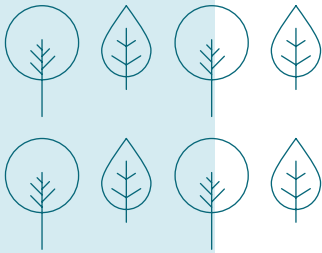


| Summary of feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Contributing Stakeholder Group | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Where this proposal has the potential to impact on private water supplies and drinking water protection areas (Glenlatterach, River Spey, Strathisla and Keith areas), Moray Council advises that any application should demonstrate there is no adverse impact on the water quality of these sources through regular monitoring and identify measures to be taken should works result in an adverse impact on the quality of any water source.</p> <p>Any impacts on peat and carbon rich soils need to be avoided where possible. Any application should be accompanied by suitable analysis of the impact of the proposal on peat, in line with NPF &amp; LDP policies.</p> |                                | <p>Throughout the routeing process, priority peatland has been a sensitive receptor that we have sought to avoid. Where this has not been possible the EIA Report will include a peat management plan and appropriate mitigation proposals.</p>  |
| <p>The Council's Landscape Consultant is in agreement that the preferred route identified generally offers the best option for the new transmission line in terms of landscape and visual considerations. Given the significant adverse effects likely to be associated</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Aberdeenshire Council          | <p>A Landscape and Visual Impact assessment will be included within the EIA Report which will consider applicable mitigation and enhancement measures as appropriate.</p>                                                                                                                                                           |

| Summary of feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Contributing Stakeholder Group | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>with the proposed transmission line, it is considered that landscape mitigation and enhancement measures should form a key part of the proposals.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <p>SEPA's comments will be general at this stage until they have seen detailed plans of pylon and other infrastructure locations at the detailed consent stage through the ECU consultation pre-application stage. No alignment specific comments were provided however the following general routeing comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SEPA prefer any route that avoids large scale felling;</li><li>• areas of peat should be avoided and the NPF4 mitigation hierarchy followed;</li><li>• information on potentially contaminated land sites was provided;</li><li>• a number of private water supplies lie within the corridor route;</li><li>• the future flood extent associated several of the watercourses</li></ul> | SEPA                           | <p>Noted. All of these points will be taken into consideration in the identification of the Proposed Alignment and subsequent tower positioning and access design.</p> <p>The EIA Report will include assessment of forestry, peat, private water supplies, flooding and wetlands (where applicable).</p>  |



| Summary of feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Contributing Stakeholder Group             | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>along the proposed alignment will need careful consideration in terms of infrastructure location and access if this route is taken forward;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>recommended watercourse buffer zones were provided for protection and geomorphic risk; and</li><li>a number of wetlands on the Scottish Wetland Inventory lie within the alignment corridors. This should be further checked before finalising the alignment and infrastructure located outwith suitable buffer zones around these wetlands.</li></ul> <p>SEPA also identified watercourses suitable for riparian planting.</p> |                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p>HES believe it may be possible to accommodate the Proposed Development within the proposed route without significantly impacting nearby A-listed buildings or Inventory Garden and Designed Landscapes. However, this may require mitigation,</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>Historic Environment Scotland (HES)</p> | <p>The Potential Alignment has been chosen to minimise impacts on heritage assets. A cultural heritage assessment will be presented within the EIA Report which will include recommended mitigation measures and be accompanied by Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) maps, wireframe drawings and other visualisations as appropriate.</p> <p>We will continue to engage with HES throughout the EIA design evolution process.</p> |

| Summary of feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Contributing Stakeholder Group | Our Response                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>and HES require a ZTV, an initial cultural heritage assessment, and wireframe drawings to be confident of the level of potential impacts and what mitigation might be appropriate.</p> <p>It is possible, however, that the current alignment, particularly in sections 7, 23, &amp; 24, could have significant adverse impacts on the settings of several Scheduled Monuments such that we might object.</p> <p>HES highlight that direct/physical impacts on scheduled monuments must be avoided in line with policy. Most works within the scheduled area of a monument require scheduled monument consent, obtained in advance through Historic Environment Scotland. HES believe that it is unlikely that Scheduled Monument Consent would be granted for any works to scheduled monuments that might be directly affected by this development.</p> |                                |  |
| <p>Transport Scotland have confirmed that there are no new comments at Alignment Stage. Previous comments can be found in the Route Report on Consultation.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>Transport Scotland</p>      | <p>Noted.</p>                                                                       |

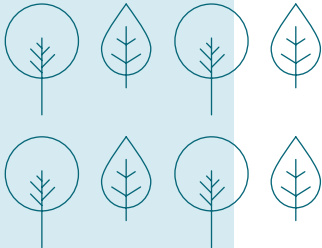
| Summary of feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Contributing Stakeholder Group | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Woodland Trust has significant concerns regarding the proposed routes on account of loss and deterioration of the ecological condition of Ancient Woodland, LEPO Woodland and Veteran Trees. Woodland Trust recommend that non-ancient woodlands affected by the scheme are reviewed to ensure areas of potentially unmapped ancient woodland are accounted for as the scheme progresses. Surveys detailing their woodland flora and fauna alongside an assessment of historical mapping should be undertaken, to ensure impacts on all irreplaceable habitats are considered and mitigated for as part of the design process.</p> <p><b>Impact on Ancient/LEPO Woodland</b><br/>A number of ancient woodlands are potentially impacted by the proposals. The following impacts are possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Direct loss of ancient/LEPO woodland, soils and habitat occurring within or adjacent to the new overhead line.</li><li>• Encroachment on the root systems</li></ul> | Woodland Trust                 | <p>The routing process has sought to identify alignment options which take account of a range of environmental factors including woodland and forestry, with a view to minimising woodland removal and avoiding ancient woodland and veteran trees, where possible.</p> <p>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, Veterans and Ancient trees.</p> <p>Where individual or groups of important trees cannot be avoided, they may be reduced in height or if they must be felled can be left insitu as deadwood habitat. All trees that are impacted within the operational corridor will be replanted by way of compensatory planting, within the landowner holding where possible or the local council area, in line with Scottish Governments Control of Woodland removal policy.</p> <p>In relation to veteran or ancient trees within the Proposed Alignment, we will look to adhere to NPF4 and the British Standard, 5837: 2012.</p> <p>A specific chapter on Forestry will be included within the EIA Report. Details on compensatory planting proposals will be provided within the report.</p> |

| Summary of feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Contributing Stakeholder Group | Our Response |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| <p>and rooting environment of trees within the ancient woodland adjacent to site boundary and associated works.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Where powerlines oversail ancient/LEPO woodlands, the creation of wayleaves typically results in loss or deterioration of woodland habitat below the powerlines.</li><li>• Permanent fragmentation due to the removal of adjacent semi-natural habitats, to facilitate access to the transmission line for construction or maintenance.</li><li>• Noise and dust pollution arising during construction work.</li><li>• Compaction or trampling of sensitive ancient woodland flora and soils.</li></ul> <p><b>Impacts on Veteran Trees</b><br/>Three veteran trees, recorded in the Ancient Tree Inventory, have been identified close to the Proposed Development. The following impacts are possible:</p> |                                |              |



| Summary of feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Contributing Stakeholder Group | Our Response |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Loss of veteran trees.</li><li>Deterioration of veteran trees as a result of new infrastructure encroaching on root protection areas.</li><li>Deterioration of veteran trees resulting from long-term tree management needs where they are oversailed by new lines.</li></ul> <p>It is important that an arboricultural impact assessment is undertaken early within the design process to ensure that ancient and veteran trees are identified and accounted for as the proposals are refined. Also recommend a review of the Ancient Tree Inventory is undertaken to identify newly registered ancient, veteran and notable trees which may pose a constraint to the scheme.</p> <p><b>Mitigation for Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees</b><br/>Potential mitigation approaches for the protection of Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees are outlined in the Woodland Trust's Planners' Manual.</p> |                                |              |

| Summary of feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Contributing Stakeholder Group                                                                                 | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Woodland Trust states that the development should allow for buffer zones of at least 15 metres to prevent adverse impacts such as pollution and disturbance and ensure avoidance of root damage. Buffer zones should be kept free from development and should be planted prior to construction to create a phased habitat adjacent to the ancient/ LEPO woodlands that absorbs the indirect impacts occurring during the construction and operational phases. Root systems, stems and canopies, all need allowance for future movement and growth, and should be taken into account in all proposed works. The Woodland Trust advocates for a root protection area of 15 times the stem diameter, or five metres beyond the crown (whichever is greater).</p> |                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <p>This environmental charity has identified a number of environmental community benefit opportunities within the Deveron River catchment including river restoration, flood prevention and climate resilience projects on the River Isla, Crooksmill and Turriff burn.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p>The Deveron, Bogie &amp; Isla Rivers Charitable Trust &amp; River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board</p> | <p>We are continuing to engage with organisations, trusts and community groups both regionally and in localities closest to the alignment to explore potential environmental and community benefit opportunities.</p> |

| Summary of feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Contributing Stakeholder Group | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Network Rail have stated that any works over or adjacent to railway infrastructure will be subject to further discussion and agreement with Network Rail.</p> <p>Network Rail request that a Traffic Assessment is 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 their infrastructure and the suitability of these crossings.</p> | Network Rail                   | <p>A Traffic Assessment will be carried out as part of the Traffic and Transport Chapter in the EIA Report, which will assess the potential effects of construction traffic on existing traffic flows and public road network. Preferred construction traffic routes will be identified within the Construction Traffic Management Plan, which will accompany the EIA Report. Further discussion will also be undertaken with Network Rail in relation to works over or adjacent to their infrastructure. Where any crossings occur agreements will be sought from Network Rail.</p>  |
| <p>Airwave Solutions have confirmed that none of the proposed towers will cause interferences to existing Airwave Microwave Radio Links or Tetra Radio Network Coverage after detailed discussions with SSEN Transmission.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Airwave Services Limited       | Noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <p>the Proposed Development is sufficiently distant from any Met Office radar and as such they have no comments on the proposal and do not need to be consulted further.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Met Office                     | Noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

| Summary of feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Contributing Stakeholder Group | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>The application site occupies the statutory technical safeguarding zone surrounding RAF Buchan and falls within Low Flying Area (LFA 14), an area within which military aircraft may conduct low level flight training. the Proposed Development has the potential to introduce a physical obstruction to low flying aircraft. The MOD will require that a condition is added to any consent issues requiring that sufficient data is submitted to ensure that structures can be accurately charted to allow deconfliction.</p> | Ministry of Defence (MOD)      | <p>The MOD's response is noted. The MOD will be consulted again following submission of the section 37 application, with updated details of proposed tower positions and heights to be shared at that time.</p> |
| <p>NATS have no comments on the proposal as they anticipate no impact from the proposal.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | NATS                           | Noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                          |



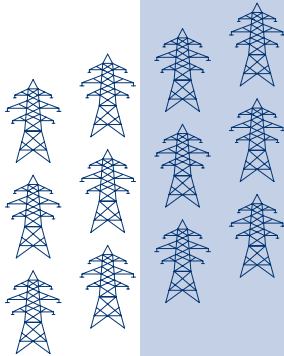
Table 3.5 Economic Impact ‘Project Wide’

| Summary of feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Contributing Stakeholder Group | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Concerns were raised about impacts on property valuations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Communities                    | <p>We will look to mitigate impacts on residential properties as far as possible and these impacts will be assessed as part of the EIA Report that will accompany our application for consent. 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.</p> <p>Concerns in relation to impacts on property are being noted by our team however, as a regulated business, we are obliged to follow a statutory legal framework under the Electricity Act 1989 and Land Compensation (Scotland) Act 1963. If you 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. If this is the case, we will recommend that you engage a professional adviser and we generally meet reasonably incurred professional fees in these circumstances. However, for the avoidance of doubt, we should advise that we will not meet fees incurred in objecting to our proposed developments.</p> |
| Moray Council emphasise that any application must demonstrate how The Proposed Development maximises net economic impact, including local and community socio-economic benefits such as employment, associated business and supply chain opportunities and, where appropriate, community | Moray Council                  | A Socio-Economic Assessment Report will be produced to accompany the section 37 application covering all of the matters raised.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

| Summary of feedback                                                                     | Contributing Stakeholder Group | Our Response |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| ownership. This must include the submission of a Community Wealth Building Plan (CWBP). |                                |              |

Table 3.6 Summary of Feedback Section by Section

| Alignment Section                                                                            | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Section 1<br>(Alignment Section 1 and 2)<br><br>Fanellan substation to south of Beauly | A landowner requested that the alignment in section 1 was kept close to the field boundaries to minimise sterilisation of arable land.                                                                                                              | The alignment has been refined to accommodate the landowner's concerns in this specific section. The Proposed Alignment is shown on Figure 4.2.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                                                                                              | Concerns were raised about the potential for increased traffic on the roads in Beauly due to already high levels of traffic in the area, including disturbance, vibrations, and potential damage which could be caused as a result of HGV vehicles. | A traffic assessment will be provided within the EIA Report along with a Construction Traffic Management Plan. The assessment will also consider cumulative effects in combination with other SSEN Transmission and other development in the area. We are engaging with the local authorities to agree the scope of any additional traffic assessments that they may require.<br><br>Please also see 'Project Wide' Feedback in Table 3.3 Community Impact.                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                              | Concerns were raised relating to the potential for land damage to be caused by construction works and whether compensation would be payable if appropriate.                                                                                         | We will endeavour to return land and tracks to the same or better condition as before. Landowners will be compensated for any losses sustained on a case-by-case basis, if required. Surveys will take place before works begin to assess the condition of the roads in advance.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                                                                                              | There has been no transparency or evaluation of scheduled protected birds and other species that are known to nest and breed in woodland that will be damaged with the current alignment configuration.                                             | The assessment methodology is described within the Alignment Selection Consultation Document and materials. Appraisal of alignment options involved systematic consideration against environmental, engineering and economic criteria. Wildlife was considered under the Natural Heritage environmental criteria. Assessment of wildlife has been a combination of desk-based studies and supporting surveys.<br><br>The rationale to our survey approach to date has been to focus on areas of highest potential to support species of conservation concern and potential vulnerability to impacts associated with |

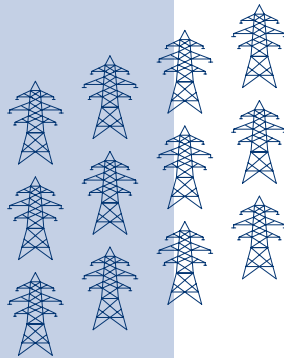


Route Section 1  
(Alignment Section 1 and 2)  
Fanellan substation  
to south of Beauly



| Alignment Section                                                                            | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Section 1<br>(Alignment Section 1 and 2)<br><br>Fanellan substation to south of Beauly |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>OHLs; whilst also considering habitat suitability for protected species across the study area. This approach has been accepted by NatureScot.</p> <p>This information was then fed into the comparative appraisal of the alignment options. Impacts on ornithology will be fully assessed in the EIA Report and applicable mitigation proposed where required.</p> <p>Please also see Section 3.1 Common Themes - Environmental Impacts.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                              | <p>A suggestion was made to follow the existing Beauly to Denny OHL to the Beauly substation and join the two existing lines towards Inverness, which could reduce environmental impact and reduce the length of the route. This would avoid the route going through Balblair Woods where there are wildlife, plants and fungi and many mature oak trees and birches, which are regenerating. The area is also recognised as an area enjoyed by the local community for walking and leisure.</p> | <p>The existing Beauly to Denny OHL alignment is constrained to the south by a number of residential receptors, which means there is not enough space to follow the existing alignment without passing within 100m of multiple properties. To the east of Beauly substation, heading towards Inverness, the Potential Alignment 2B runs parallel immediately to the south of the existing OHLs. The existing 132kV OHL will be removed following completion of this project, and we will align the Proposed Development as close to the existing OHLs as possible, whilst maintaining operational safety clearance distances. With regards to Balblair Woods, the Potential Alignment 1C minimises impacts to woodland to the south of the River Beauly, in comparison to the alternative options 1A and 1B. North of the River Beauly, Alignment 2C would avoid impacts to Balblair Woods, but would also have significant visual impacts to properties within the meanders of the river bends. For this reason, Alignment 2B was selected as the Potential Alignment, as it would have less impacts to woodland than Alignment 2A, and less visual impacts to nearby properties than Alignment 2C.</p> |
|                                                                                              | <p>Feedback was received noting that the Potential Alignment looks sensible and pragmatic.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>Noted.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

| Alignment Section                                                                            | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Section 1<br>(Alignment Section 1 and 2)<br><br>Fanellan substation to south of Beauly | <p>The Highland Council</p> <p>The Highland Council noted that the pattern of woodland and open space is quite distinctive in this local landscape of the Enclosed Farmland Landscape Character Type (LCT), and that the Designed Landscape of Beaufort Castle would be touched on by the route. Effects on both of these should be mitigated by design to the fullest extent achievable.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment within the EIA Report will fully consider the impacts on this LCT and Designed Landscape and will include mitigation as appropriate to minimise effects.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                                                                                              | <p>Historic Environment Scotland (HES)</p> <p>HES state that the line crosses close to Kiltarlity Old Parish Church (SM5570). They would prefer Alignment 1C as The Proposed will be placed furthest from the monument in order to have least impacts. An existing OHL is routed to the north of the monument, so Alignment 1A would carry the risk of surrounding the monument with dominant industrial features. Whilst an OHL within Alignment 1C would be visible from the monument, this route corridor would result in the least significant impacts of all the options. Moving it closer to the monument would result in more severe impacts. Further assessment of this initial view, based on the limited information currently available, will need to be informed by photomontages.</p> <p>Beaufort Castle (GDL00052). HES advise that mitigation options (e.g. careful tower siting) are explored. The Proposed Development would be likely to have visual impacts, and it will be important to establish how significant the northwest woodlands are within the designed landscape and if they form part of any key views - this should be</p> | <p>HES' preferred alignment options are noted, which are the same as the Potential Alignment.</p> <p>Further assessment on the noted heritage designations and assets including accompanying visualisations as appropriate will be provided as part of the cultural heritage assessment presented within the EIA Report.</p> <p>We will continue to engage with HES throughout the EIA design evolution process.</p> |
|                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |



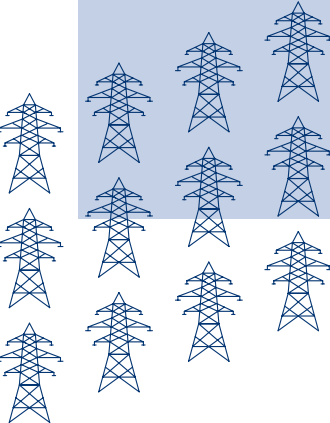
| Alignment Section                                                                             | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Our Response |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Route Section 1<br>(Alignment Section 1 and 2)<br><br>Fanellan substation to south of Beaully | <p>illustrated using visualisations. Beaufort Castle (LB8068). Any important views from the north-facing elevation, for example, from principal rooms, should be established and assessed for potential impacts. This assessment may also require visualisations if the potential impacts are significant.</p> <p>Corff House, fort SW of (SM 3195) is located to the north of all three route corridors. Existing powerlines are located between the proposed line and the monument, and therefore the impact on setting would not be likely to result in significantly higher impacts. Further assessment of this initial view will need to be informed by photomontages.</p> |              |

**Route Section 2  
(Alignment Section 3 to 6)  
South of Beaully to  
south of Inverness**

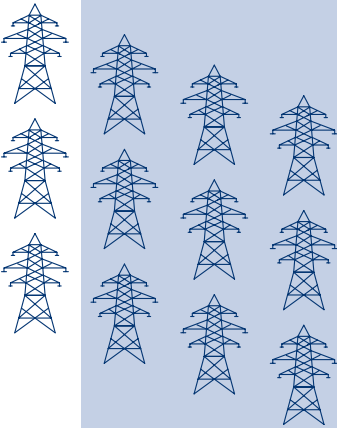


| Alignment Section                                                                          | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Section 2<br>(Alignment Section 3 to 6)<br><br>South of Beauly to south of Inverness | A preference was expressed for Alignment 3A from a householder concerned about the visual impact and height of the towers.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Following consultation, we have reviewed a number of sites and minor changes have been made to the alignment where there would be a detrimental effect on properties. Consideration of properties' views or aspect are considered in the positioning of towers where possible.<br><br>Please also see Section 3.1 Common Themes - Mitigating Visual Impacts.                                                                                          |
|                                                                                            | A request was made to change the alignment in sections 3 and 4 to avoid impacts to the Cononbank wetland area that has recently been restored.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Following further consultation and a site visit with the landowner and tenant farmer, some minor changes were made to the alignment to enable tower placement that avoids impacts to the most sensitive parts of the wetland area. We will continue to engage with the landowner and tenant to ensure proposed access routes and working areas minimise any impacts to the wetland areas as far as practicable.                                       |
|                                                                                            | Concerns were raised in relation to visual impact due to the close proximity of the proposed line adjacent to the A832, particularly at road crossing points and where mature oak trees may be dwarfed by the proposed pylons. Undergrounding was suggested as the only possible solution to reduce impacts to an acceptable level while accepting that some trees would still be lost however, this would be balanced by protecting the skyline adjacent to the A862 from being dominated by the overhead line. | The position of the alignment at Easter Moniack has been considered further and has been moved slightly south and more distant from the A862 to somewhat alleviate these concerns. The increased distance from the road will allow for the mature trees along the roadside to be retained, which will help to screen views of the Proposed Development from the road. The Proposed Alignment presented in Figure 4.2 presents this revised alignment. |
|                                                                                            | A request was made to move the alignment in section 4 to avoid a pond, and a field used by ponies.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Adjustments have been made to the Proposed Alignment due to the presence of underground infrastructure in this area. As a result of these adjustments the landowner's request was also able to be accommodated.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

| Alignment Section                                                                          | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                              | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Section 2<br>(Alignment Section 3 to 6)<br><br>South of Beauly to south of Inverness | A comment was received suggesting that the alignment in section 5 should be relocated further south into open countryside towards Blackfold, to increase separation from residential properties at Altnacardich. | <p>Two alternative route options located further south towards Blackfold (Routes 2C1 and 2C2) were considered at the previous Route Selection Stage which we consulted on in April 2023. Both options travelled in a south easterly direction from Belladrum, past Torr Mor and towards Allt Mor. From here, Route 2C1 turned northeast, following along the Great Glen Way until it joined the more northerly route options (Routes 2A1, 2A2 and 2B) at Dochgarroch. Route 2C2 continued in a south easterly direction from Allt Mor, crossing the Caledonian Canal further south at Kirkton and joining the other Section 2 route options to the south of Newton of Leys.</p> <p>Route 2C1 was generally acceptable from an environmental perspective, although the section between Ballone/ Ladycairn and Blackfold was considered to be very intrusive from a landscape perspective and would be parallel and close to the Great Glen Way long distance walking route for several kilometres. Route 2C1 was preferred from an engineering perspective, however ultimately it was not feasible to proceed with this option due to constraints in the preceding section and at the western end of Section 2, including proximity to the settlements of Culburnie, Kiltarlity and Belladrum and a requirement to pass through the Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival site.</p> <p>Route 2C2 was found to be one of the least preferred options from an environmental perspective, due to potential for setting impacts on scheduled monuments and Dochfour and Aldourie Castle Garden and Designed Landscape designations, as well as potential for impacts on two Category A Listed Buildings. Route 2C2 was also least preferred from a habitats perspective due to having unavoidable ancient woodland and irreplaceable peatland habitat. From an engineering perspective, Route 2C2's crossing</p> |



| Alignment Section                                                                          | Summary of Feedback | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Section 2<br>(Alignment Section 3 to 6)<br><br>South of Beauly to south of Inverness |                     | <p>point of the Caledonian Canal was considered to be more challenging than the northern crossing point and would also have required an additional crossing of an existing 275 kV OHL. Ultimately, as with Route 2C1, Route 2C2 was considered not feasible to proceed with due to the constraints in the preceding section in the Belladrum area.</p> <p>The most northerly route option (Route 2A1), which would have passed to the north of Newtonhill, was preferred from an environmental perspective, as it had the best overall 'landscape fit' along the crossing of the Aird, due to having a lower and less intrusive pathway than the other options. It was also preferred for natural heritage designations, protected species and habitats. Route 2A1 was however least preferred from an engineering perspective, due to unavoidable impacts to a number of residential properties with limited options to maintain at least 100m separation from all properties. Route 2A2 was considered the second preferred option from both an environmental and engineering perspective and was therefore taken forward as the Proposed Route, within which a number of alignment options were subsequently identified and assessed.</p> <p>Following review of feedback received to our alignment consultation stage, we have amended the Proposed Alignment slightly in this specific location to increase the separation distance from the properties in question.</p> <p>For further details on the alternative options considered at the Route Selection Stage, please refer to our April 2023 Route Selection Consultation Document and our November 2023 Report on Consultation, both available to download from the 'documents' tab on our project website.</p> |

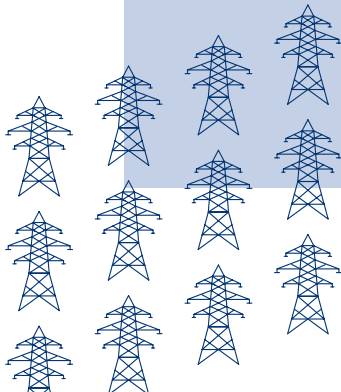


| Alignment Section                                                                          | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Section 2<br>(Alignment Section 3 to 6)<br><br>South of Beauly to south of Inverness | Concern was raised in relation to the tower graphics presented (reference to page 12 of the documentation) not being representative of the tower heights proposed at Dochgarroch, which are proposed to be considerably higher.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>The diagram shown on page 12 of the Alignment Consultation booklet is there to allow for a comparison against the different towers currently on the transmission network. Each route an OHL takes will have a different average height depending on the topography and therefore the standard tower height for each tower type is shown on this image. This has been noted on the diagram to highlight that the tower heights vary across the route.</p> <p>The Caledonian Canal tower requires a special tower that is expected to be approximately 97 m tall to ensure safe passage of boats within the canal. This clearance requirement is specified by Scottish Canals. At the time of the alignment consultation events in May and June 2024 the design of the special crossing tower was not yet complete, and we were unable to accurately represent this tower within the 3D model. In the next round of pre-application consultation events, the visualisations at the public events will have all the towers modelled into them, including the special crossing tower, which will allow members of the public to see the visual impact.</p> |
|                                                                                            | Concerns were raised relating to crossing the Scaniport area in Section 6 with high voltage cables and pylons, which is considered likely to be impactful to residential property and visually obtrusive to the landscape and to important views south towards Loch Ness. A suggestion was made that the Proposed Development is run to the north of Cullaird, albeit at the expense of woodland but this would minimise the impact on residential amenity and landscape. | <p>Taking the alignment to the north of Cullaird was considered at an earlier stage and is within the Alignment Stage Consultation Document (Alignment 6A). This document and the detailed consideration can be viewed <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>From a forestry perspective Alignment 6A passes through Ancient Woodland Inventory Category 2b Long Established Woodland of Plantation Origin (LEPO) in favourable condition, with numerous veteran broadleaved trees present throughout which would be difficult to avoid. As such it was considered that this option could not be taken forward despite potential visual and landscape benefits.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |



| Alignment Section                                                                          | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                      | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Section 2<br>(Alignment Section 3 to 6)<br><br>South of Beauly to south of Inverness | Concern was raised in relation to the Potential Alignment (6B) and the potential impact on nearby property at Scaniport.                                                                 | From a forestry perspective, the more northern Alignment 6A passes through an area of Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) Category 2b Long Established Woodland of Plantation Origin (LEPO), which forestry surveys found to be in favourable condition with numerous veteran broadleaved trees, and which it would not be possible to avoid on this alignment. Alignment 6B minimises impacts to native broadleaved woodland and is therefore considered more acceptable in terms of National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) Policy 6 regarding the protection of forestry, woodland and trees. The Potential Alignment 6B also allows for a straight crossing of the Caledonian Canal and River Ness which is preferred from an engineering perspective, and also enables optimum tower placement to minimise landscape and visual impacts to users of the Caledonian Canal. Feedback has also been received from a number of respondents about the importance of Cullaird Woods as a walking and mountain biking area, with concerns raised that the more northern Alignment 6A would impact on recreational users in this area. Whilst it is recognised that Alignment 6B may impact on the visual amenity of some residential receptors at Scaniport, on balance this alignment is considered to be the least constrained overall due to the reasons outlined above. Therefore, 6B will be taken forward as the Proposed Alignment. |
|                                                                                            | Concern was raised over the loss of a section of Torbreck Wood which is well used by residents, visitors to Inverness, and mountain bikers. A preference for Alignment 6A was suggested. | We are aware from previous feedback in this area that Torbreck and Cullaird woods are popular recreational areas. The Potential Alignment in this section is Alignment 6B, which avoids impacts to Torbreck and Cullaird Woods.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                                                                                            | Further comments highlighted that any changes to the potential alignment would impact Torbreck Wood.                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

| Alignment Section                                                                          | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Section 2<br>(Alignment Section 3 to 6)<br><br>South of Beauly to south of Inverness | Concern was received that the landscape around the South Loch Ness area is becoming very industrialised.                                                                                                                                               | The Potential Alignment passes to the north of Loch Ness. An assessment of landscape impacts will be included within the EIA Report which will include the existing infrastructure in the area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                                                                                            | Concerns were raised relating to close proximity of the alignment to properties, with a request that the Proposed Development be moved further from properties to reduce potential noise and visual impact on residential and tourist business nearby. | <p>When planning routes for overhead lines, we consider visual impacts and how this may affect the local scenery, visitor experience and communities.</p> <p>For each project we develop, we conduct a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. This is one element of the EIA Reports that forms part of our application to the Scottish Government for consent. In this assessment, we consider visual impact from centres of population, popular spots, like walking paths and tourist sites, and where possible reduce any potential negative visual impacts.</p> <p>With regards to noise impacts, a key objective in selecting the alignment for the Proposed Development has been to avoid proximity to as many residential properties as possible, which will reduce the potential for significant noise impacts. A construction and operational noise impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the EIA to identify any potential noise impacts on nearby sensitive receptors. Appropriate noise limits, both during construction and operation, will be agreed in consultation with local authorities and The Proposed Development will not be permitted to exceed these limits.</p> <p>Please also see Section 3.1 Common Themes and 'Project Wide' feedback in Table 3.3 Community Impact.</p> |
|                                                                                            | What environmental surveys and investigations are included as part of the consideration the proposal as land in this area hosts badgers, rare wild flowers, red squirrels, pine martens and woodcock.                                                  | The rationale to our survey approach to date has been to focus on areas of highest potential to support species of conservation concern and potential vulnerability to impacts associated with                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |



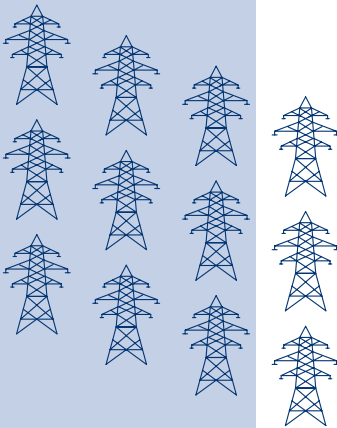
| Alignment Section                                                                           | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Section 2<br>(Alignment Section 3 to 6)<br><br>South of Beaully to south of Inverness |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>OHLs; whilst also considering habitat suitability for protected species across the study area. UKHab surveys have also taken place across the study area where landowner access has been forthcoming. This approach has been accepted by NatureScot.</p> <p>Additional and detailed protected species surveys will take place prior to construction due to the mobility of the species and potential for their distribution to change in the meantime. At that point appropriate mitigation will be implemented in line with NatureScot requirements.</p> <p>Please also refer to the Section 3.1 Common Themes for more information.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                                                                                             | <p>The Highland Council</p> <p>In alignment section 3, while Alignment 3A cutting across the fields and Phoinneas seems as though it may be more intrusive in the landscape than Alignment 3B, due to not aligning with the grain of the landform, it is appreciated that this route would have a lesser impact on the ancient woodland areas.</p> <p>In alignment section 4, the current alignment includes two towers in very close proximity to the A862 at Easter Moniack, with the potential for significant landscape and visual impacts for road users. Through further consultation with The Highland Council, it was suggested that SSEN Transmission should consider the feasibility of alternative options in this section, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moving towers slightly further away from the road to maintain existing roadside screening, and enable planting of additional screening (as the Potential Alignment would likely require</li></ul> | <p>The position of the alignment at Easter Moniack in alignment section 4 has been considered further and has been moved slightly south, to be more distant from the A862, to somewhat alleviate these concerns. The revised alignment will enable the retention of existing roadside screening and enable planting of additional screening (in agreement with the landowner). The Proposed Alignment presented in Figure 4.2 presents this revised alignment.</p> <p>At the crossing of the A82 in alignment section 5, the tower nearest the road has been moved slightly further away from the road, which also helps to avoid impacts to the sub-surface features of the Torvean Landforms geological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). We will consider opportunities for additional planting in this area to help screen views of the Proposed Development from the A82 roadside.</p> <p>Regarding forestry proposals at the Aird, our landscape architects will work closely with forestry specialists to ensure visual impacts are minimised as much as reasonably practicable through the forested areas of the Aird.</p> |

| Alignment Section                                                                           | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Section 2<br>(Alignment Section 3 to 6)<br><br>South of Beaully to south of Inverness | <p>removal of existing roadside trees).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consider feasibility of purchasing closest residential properties and yard area to south to enable a more substantial move away from roadside.</li><li>• Undergrounding of a short section of the 400kV OHL.</li><li>• Review if there are any alternative feasible alignment options which would avoid this pinch point.</li><li>• Consider whether there would be benefits of additional rationalisations of existing infrastructure to mitigate cumulative impacts/ wirescape in this specific area.</li></ul> <p>A82 and Caledonian Canal crossing (alignment sections 5 and 6):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Highland Council are of the opinion that all of the options would require highly prominent crossing towers in close proximity canal. The canal itself is a well-used recreational and historic resource and lies close to the corridor also. This means that the towers here have a very high and concentrated pool of visual of a high sensitivity.</li><li>• At the A82 crossing point, consider options to move the tower closest to the road further west (away from road).</li><li>• To help soften the visual approach to the tower next to the A82, consider planting within the field.</li><li>• Consider options to reduce the artificial nature of the OHL wayleave crossing The Aird, by 'softening' the edges. Also</li></ul> | <p>Further ZTV modelling of the Caledonian Canal crossing towers was undertaken and shared with The Highland Council, along with visualisations from the 3D model showing where indicative tower locations would be visible from. Through further consultation with The Highland Council it was agreed that the Potential Alignment was preferable over the alternative alignment (5F), as this avoids the requirement for a large angle tower in close proximity to the canal which would be visible for long distances along the canal and towpath.</p> <p>The use of directional drilling under the Caledonian Canal is not an option due to the presence of the Torvean Landforms SSSI at this location, which would be adversely affected.</p> |



| Alignment Section                                                                           | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Section 2<br>(Alignment Section 3 to 6)<br><br>South of Beaully to south of Inverness | consider whether there are opportunities to retain trees within the wayleave e.g. by increasing tower height to maintain clearances, where topography allows.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                                                                             | Further Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) modelling (both with and without the mapping of intervening managed woodland) was also sought for alignment sections 5 and 6 where the height of the proposed towers to cross the Caledonian Canal was of principal concern, with these towers likely to be highly prominent and none of the options presented appearing to adequately deal with this potential impact. Officers therefore query if the possibility of undergrounding, with the use of directional drilling, for this relatively short section of the overall line has been fully explored.                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                                                                             | <p>NatureScot</p> <p>Both alignment routes (5E and the combined alignment of 5A-D &amp; 5F-G) cross an area of the Torvean Landform SSSI characterised by smaller eskers, kames, kettle holes, and other fluvio-glacial outwash terraces. These are truncated by a significant bluff slope.</p> <p>Any earthworks in a site such as Torvean will be damaging. It is damage that cannot be restored, and once intricate features are disturbed, they are damaged/ lost permanently.</p> <p>Things that will need to be considered in regard to Torvean Landforms SSSI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Extent and depth of earthworks required to put the tower bases and track upgrades in and</li></ul> | <p>It is not possible to entirely avoid the Torvean Landforms SSSI due to the presence of other sensitive receptors in the area, however we are working closely with NatureScot to site towers in locations with the least impact on the features of the SSSI. Access to these towers would also use methods of least disturbance to ground conditions.</p> |

| Alignment Section                                                                           | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Section 2<br>(Alignment Section 3 to 6)<br><br>South of Beaully to south of Inverness | whether any changes could be made to make this less damaging.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Does the 50 x 50 m area have to be cleared of topsoil, could the 6 x 6 m foundations at the corners not just be put in? Why such a large area?</li><li>How much of the footprint is laid to hardstanding (seals off sediments, creates unnatural smooth flat surfaces amongst a landscape of low-lying, yet intricate kames and kettle holes)</li><li>What happens with spoil? Including for access track/ construction footprint.</li><li>Borrow pits for track upgrades?</li><li>The potential visual /spatial disconnection of landforms.</li></ul> <p>It is NatureScot's preference to explore routes that go around the Torvean Landforms SSSI given the possible level of irreversible damage on it.</p> <p>Some aspects may be able to be mitigated to reduce the extent and severity of the damage - e.g. possibility of temporary access tracks overlaid on geotextile so that the landforms and sediments beneath are not disturbed.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|                                                                                             | <p>Historic Environment Scotland (HES)</p> <p>Dun Mor, fort (SM2423) and Phionas Hill, enclosure (SM4729). The topographical separation as well as the presence of an existing powerline adjacent to Alignment 3A means that the impact on setting would not likely be significant. Further assessment of this initial</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>HES's preferred alignment options are noted, which are the same as the Potential Alignment.</p> <p>Further assessment on the noted heritage designations and assets including accompanying visualisations (as appropriate) will be provided as part of the cultural heritage assessment presented within the EIA Report.</p> |

| Alignment Section                                                                          | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Section 2<br>(Alignment Section 3 to 6)<br><br>South of Beauly to south of Inverness | <p>view will need to be informed by photomontages.</p> <p>Belladrum GDL (Potential Designation). This potential GDL does not currently have a defined boundary. The preferred alignment north of the Belladrum area is 3A, the furthest option from the possible designation.</p> <p>Reelig House GDL (Potential Designation). This potential GDL does not currently have a defined boundary. Both alignment options in Section 4 near Reelig pass close to an area north and east of Reelig House. Preferred Alignment 4A is slightly further east than Alignment 4B, so HES consider 4A likely to be the preferable alignment for this possible designation.</p> <p>HES state that the Proposed Development is in close vicinity to Caledonian Canal, Dochgarroch Lock – Muirton Locks (SM6499). There is a high potential for the OHL to have an adverse impact on the setting of the canal at the point where it crosses the canal; especially if towers are positioned immediately adjacent to the canal where they could interrupt and detract from views along the canal. Mitigation could involve positioning towers so that they are set back from the canal. In any future EIA Report we would expect to see photomontages showing the pylons when viewed along the canal from both directions.</p> <p>HES recommend further assessment is conducted on the following cultural heritage designations and assets including supporting photomontages/visualisations as specified in their response:</p> | <p>We will continue to engage with HES throughout the EIA design evolution process.</p> <p>We are aware of the scheduled monument referenced in paragraph 5.7.1 of the Consultation Document and note HES' preference of Alignment 6B over 6A.</p>  |

| Alignment Section                                                                          | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Our Response                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Section 2<br>(Alignment Section 3 to 6)<br><br>South of Beauly to south of Inverness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Phioneas Hill, enclosure (SM4729)</li><li>• Dochfour (GDL00137)</li><li>• Dochfour House (LB8028)</li><li>• Aldourie Castle (GDL00011)</li><li>• Aldourie Castle (LB535)</li><li>• Torbreck, stone circle (SM3098)</li><li>• Garn Glas, chambered cairn (SM2392)</li></ul> <p>HES note that paragraph 5.7.1 of the Alignment Consultation Report causes some confusion. The paragraph states 'from a cultural heritage assets perspective, Alignment 6A is favoured because it is the furthest away from listed buildings within 1km'. HES states that this fails to pick up that Alignment 6A would be within 250m of a scheduled monument with a sensitive setting".</p> |                                                                                                                |
|                                                                                            | <p>MBNL</p> <p>MBNL have advised that multiple emergency service network links are present within Alignment Section 5 and should be considered for tower placement.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>Adjustments have been made to the Proposed Alignment to accommodate emergency telecommunications links.</p> |



# Route Section 3 (Alignment Section 7) A9 and River Nairn crossing

| Alignment Section                                                           | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Section 3<br>(Alignment Section 7)<br><br>A9 and River Nairn crossing | The alignment near Culloden could impact on the heritage status of the Battlefield site and jeopardise any future ambitions for UNESCO status.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Potential for impacts on Culloden Battlefield is one of the primary concerns for us in developing an appropriate OHL alignment in this section. The proposed alignment has been selected and designed to minimise the impacts on the Battlefield site by running the Proposed Development in parallel to an existing line, with the new towers sitting behind the existing ones. The EIA Report will include a cultural heritage assessment which will consider potential effects and any necessary additional mitigation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                                                                             | The Highland Council<br><br>The Highland Council are concerned about the placement of towers in the vicinity of the A9 corridor to limit skyline and undue visibility of large structures very close to the road. The presence of the microwave communications tower was also noted as a potential source of additional cumulative effects.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | These comments are noted and will be taken on board when reviewing the position of towers in the vicinity of the A9.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                             | Historic Environment Scotland (HES)<br><br>HES state that Daviot Cottage, Mains of Daviot Farm, ring cairn and stone circle (SM3085) will be contained within two overhead lines, 60-100m on either side. This monument has a very sensitive setting referencing its surroundings, including the Nairn Valley, as well as a proximal relationship to the Nairn Valley. As such, routing of the 400kV overhead line through Alignment 7A would have a significant adverse impact on the integrity of the monument's setting; this may result in an objection.<br><br>Mitigation in the form of significant rerouting and/or undergrounding of either the proposed 400kV overhead line or potentially the existing 275kV overhead line | Further assessment on the noted heritage designations and assets including accompanying visualisations (as appropriate) will be provided as part of the cultural heritage assessment presented within the EIA Report.<br><br>In the vicinity of the ring cairn and stone circle the alignment has been moved slightly south to avoid the need to fell a small copse of trees to the east of the asset, and thus maintain an element of screening/break up the views at this location. Mitigation in the form of undergrounding the existing 275kV OHL (to lessen cumulative impact) is being considered by the design team to reduce the impact on the Daviot Cottage, Mains of Daviot Farm, ring cairn and stone circle.<br><br>We will continue to engage with HES throughout the EIA design evolution process. |

| Alignment Section                                                           | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Our Response |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Route Section 3<br>(Alignment Section 7)<br><br>A9 and River Nairn crossing | <p>(to lessen cumulative impact) would be the minimum required in order to lessen the prospect of an objection.</p> <p>In any future EIA Report HES would expect to see photomontages showing both the existing 275kV line and proposed 400kV pylons in outward views from the monument to the surrounding skylines, as well as in inward views that demonstrate the monument's deliberate positioning in its surroundings such as inward views from the west-south-west.</p> <p>The adverse impacts on the setting of adjacent Daviot Castle (SM5486) are likely to be less severe than those facing the ring cairn and stone circle, but are nevertheless significant, especially where pylons would be seen crossing the Nairn in outward views from the castle looking north-east down the valley. Mitigation that is likely to benefit the setting of Daviot Cottage, Mains of Daviot Farm, ring cairn and stone circle (SM3085) should not be at the detriment of increased impacts on the setting of Daviot Castle (SM5486). In any future EIA Report HES would expect to see photomontages showing the pylons when viewed from the castle.</p> <p>Leys Castle and Garden Terraces (LB8053) &amp; Leys Castle (GDL00264). If the proposed OHL has the potential for significant impacts, this should be illustrated using visualisations.</p> |              |



**Route Section 4  
(Alignment Section 8 to 11)  
South of Culloden  
to Ferress**



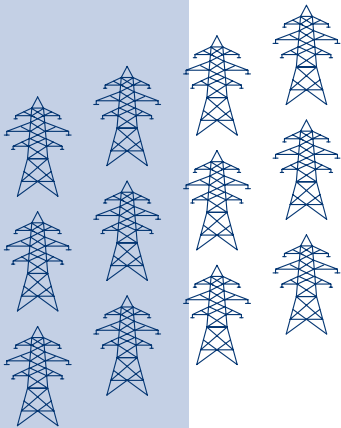
| Alignment Section                                                                  | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Section 4<br>(Alignment Section 8 to 11)<br><br>South of Culloden to Ferness | A request was made to move the alignment further north in section 8 to reduce impact on gaming estate activities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | The Proposed Alignment has been moved slightly north from the Potential Alignment 8C as presented at the consultation events, taking it into slightly lower ground, thus further reducing the potential for visual effects slightly. The alignment also avoids some areas of deeper peat identified through preliminary peat probing in this area and would also reduce impacts to existing grouse drives.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                                                                                    | A request was made to move the alignment further south in Section 9 to reduce impacts to an area of native woodland.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | The Proposed Alignment has been widened slightly in Section 9 to enable further consideration of this request once we have completed additional peat probing surveys along the suggested alignment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                                                                    | Concern was raised that the boundary of the Cairngorms National Park was not indicated and that the National Park also appears to have been given more status than the area surrounding Culloden Battlefield, where pylons are proposed, which is a conservation area and considered to be a national area of importance and war-graves. | <p>The need to avoid the Cairngorms National Park was established at the earlier Corridor Selection Stage for this project in 2022 through the application of the Holford Rules, which set out a hierarchical approach to routeing which advocates avoiding areas of highest amenity value (Holford Rule 1). The Cairngorms National Park was designated as a National Park by the Scottish Government in 2003 as an area of outstanding national importance and is therefore considered to be an area of highest amenity value. The boundary of the National Park can be seen on Figure 2.1 of the Alignment Stage Consultation Document illustrated in pale orange. It is outwith the study area for the Alignment Selection Stage and as such is not shown on the more detailed maps.</p> <p>The Culloden Muir Conservation Area was also identified as a cultural heritage constraint during the early stages of the route optioneering process, and at the Route Selection Stage the Proposed Route selected (Route 3B and 4B) avoided passing through the Conservation Area. At the Alignment Selection Stage, all alignment options</p> |

| Alignment Section                                                                  | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Section 4<br>(Alignment Section 8 to 11)<br><br>South of Culloden to Ferness |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | considered were located outside the Conservation Area, and the Potential Alignment 8C is located approximately 1 km to the south of the Conservation Area at its closest point. The potential for impacts to Culloden Muir Conservation Area will be further assessed within the cultural heritage assessment, to be undertaken as part of the EIA Report to support the section 37 application to Scottish Ministers.<br><br>Further information on our approach to the routing of OHLs is available <a href="#">here</a> . |
|                                                                                    | A landowner request was made to move an angle tower in Alignment Section 11 to the southwest to increase the distance from properties.                                                                                                                                                                               | Feedback was able to be accommodated to increase the separation between two properties and the Proposed Development. The Proposed Alignment will lie equidistant between two properties.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                                                                                    | A suggestion was received with preference for Alignment 11B to alleviate cumulative impacts and for the Proposed Development to be further from the cliff walk near Ardclach Bell Tower.                                                                                                                             | This response is noted. From a wider landscape and visual perspective and in terms of heritage impacts on the Ardclach Bell Tower, keeping the OHLs together at the crossing of the River Findhorn was considered to be the least impactful option rather than having the two OHLs slightly further apart, resulting in greater forestry loss and infrastructure covering a wider area. Further details on the Proposed Alignment can be found in Figure 4.2 /Appendix C.                                                    |
|                                                                                    | The Highland Council<br><br>Concerns were expressed about the effect of the Proposed Development on the characteristic pattern of mixed and broadleaved woodlands and small open space in the Rolling Farmland and Forest, Upland Moorland and Forest and the Narrow Wooded Valley Landscape Character Types (LCTs). | Potential effects of the Proposed Development on the LCTs listed will be assessed in detail as part of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment in the EIA Report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

| Alignment Section                                                                  | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Section 4<br>(Alignment Section 8 to 11)<br><br>South of Culloden to Ferness | <p>NatureScot</p> <p>Until detail of the desk and survey results on breeding capercaillie become available, NatureScot are unable to provide a definite view at this stage.</p> <p>From the detail available, woodland habitat losses in Alignment 10 and 11 will have to be considered in terms of the potential to impact on the capercaillie population of Darnaway and Lethen Forest SPA. Whilst these woodlands are approximately 3 to 7 km from the SPA, birds using woodlands in proximity to the SPA would be considered to be part of the SPA meta population. The capercaillie feature of the SPA is in unfavourable condition and monitoring suggests very low numbers of birds within and adjacent to the SPA. Woodlands in the area are managed favourably for capercaillie.</p> <p>There are wind farms in the area, Cairn Duhie, Clash Gour and Berry Burn II whose EIA Reports may also offer survey data.</p> <p>NatureScot advise that any compensatory planting requirements should consider species appropriate to support capercaillie, like Scot's pine, larch and even willow in suitable locations. Where new wayleaves are to be established and maintained, planting low scrub species may help to maintain connections between woodland by offering safe movement corridors. Where additional tree felling is required to take back to a wind firm edge, again planning the restock to be of benefit for capercaillie both in terms of species and planting layout could help.</p> | <p>We will continue to engage with NatureScot throughout the EIA design evolution process to mitigate impacts on capercaillie.</p> <p>An assessment on the potential effects of the Proposed Development on populations of capercaillie will be considered further within in the EIA Report.</p> <p>The compensatory planting suggestions to benefit capercaillie have been noted.</p> |

| Alignment Section                                                                  | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Section 4<br>(Alignment Section 8 to 11)<br><br>South of Culloden to Ferness | <p>Historic Environment Scotland</p> <p>Clava Cairns (SM90074). The route corridor is located around 1.9km to the south of the monument on elevated ground above the monument. Whilst the proposed overhead line would mostly be viewed against a backdrop of higher ground in outward views from the monument, any impact on the setting of the monument will need to be carefully assessed and impacts mitigated. In any future EIA Report we would expect to see photomontages showing the pylons when viewed from the cairns and their surroundings.</p> <p>Inventory Battle of Culloden (BTL6). The line and pylons would be especially prominent where they climb up the slopes from the west, cross the skyline and head east on the hillslopes facing the battlefield towards Saddle Hill. The preferred alignment, 8C, passes to the south of Saddle Hill, where the topography should help absorb the visual impact of some of the line. The other alignments are more prominently positioned to the north of Saddle Hill. Alignment 8C nevertheless has the potential for adverse impacts on the character of the battlefield landscape, especially to the west, where it crosses the skyline and passes close to Culloden on the hillslopes facing towards it. These impacts could this result in an objection from HES. These impacts on the character of the battlefield landscape will need to be carefully assessed and impacts mitigated. Use of reflective-proof insulators may assist in this, as well as lowering pylon heights and using the local topography to reduce their prominence. HES would expect to see photomontages showing the</p> | <p>Further assessment on the noted heritage designations and assets including accompanying visualisations (as appropriate) will be provided as part of the cultural heritage assessment presented within the EIA Report.</p> <p>We will continue to engage with HES throughout the EIA design evolution process to mitigate impacts where possible.</p> |

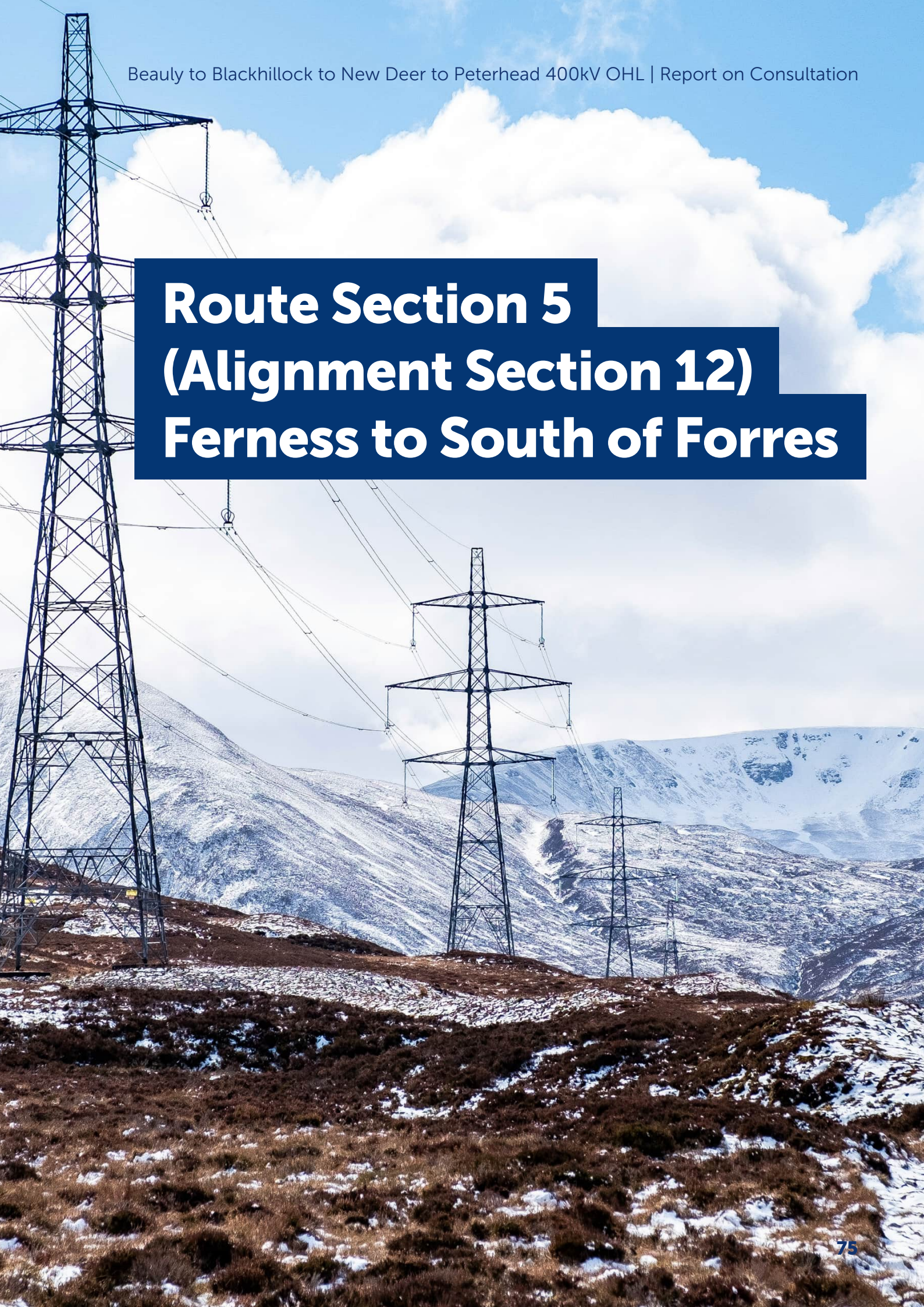


| Alignment Section                                                                  | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Our Response                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Section 4<br>(Alignment Section 8 to 11)<br><br>South of Culloden to Ferness | <p>pylons when viewed from key parts of the battlefield, such as from the southern edge of the battlefield, the core of the fighting, the roof of the visitor centre and from the Graves of the Clans.</p> <p>Easter Rattich, depopulated settlement 575m SSW of Ruallan (SM11876). The presence of the existing powerline so close to the monument means that the extent of change to the setting of the monument is not likely to be significant.</p> <p>HES recommend further assessment is conducted on the following cultural heritage designations and assets including supporting photomontages/visualisations as specified in their response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Culloden Moor Viaduct (LB1709)</li><li>Rehiran Farm House, cairn (SM11797)</li><li>Cawdor Castle (GDL00099)</li><li>Ardclach Bell Tower (LB551)</li><li>Glenferness House (LB560)</li><li>Dulsie Bridge (LB557)</li></ul> |  |
|                                                                                    | <p>National Trust for Scotland (NTS)</p> <p>Concerns were raised that the section around Culloden could disturb sensitive archaeological remains (including human remains) and also irreversibly degrade one of the most intact battlefield landscapes in Great Britain. There are concerns that the proposed pylons will break the skyline and create an industrial landscape.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                      |

| Alignment Section                                                                  | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Section 4<br>(Alignment Section 8 to 11)<br><br>South of Culloden to Ferness | <p>NTS state that the developer has not shown how the corridor will impact on cultural heritage sites and their sense of place in this area. NTS claim that there is no mention of a visual impact assessment or impact analysis that addresses how the construction and installation of the Proposed Development will impact on the conservation area or the archaeology.</p> <p>As it stands, NTS object to the proposed route and ask that an alternative route is pursued.</p> <p>NTS would like to see a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) that provides a comprehensive account of the effect the Proposed Development will have on Culloden Muir Conservation and Battlefields Inventory Area. The LVIA is suggested to include routing or underground sections of the line to avoid detrimental impact to the battlefield landscape. NTS note that Ofgem has been promoting the undergrounding of power lines.</p> | <p>We are also currently investigating other potential mitigation measures to further reduce the visibility of the line where feasible.</p> <p>The EIA Report will include a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, as well as a detailed Cultural Heritage assessment, that will identify potential effects and their impact on heritage sites and assets across the scheme, including around Culloden. Both construction and operational scenarios will be assessed, and these will be supported by photomontages and visualisations.</p> <p>More information relating to Mitigating Visual Impacts, which includes reference to undergrounding of cables, can be found in Section 3.1 Common Themes of this report.</p> |
|                                                                                    | <p>Strathnairn Community Council</p> <p>The Strathnairn Community Council have advised they will lodge an objection due to the adverse effect of the line on the Conservation Area of Culloden Battlefield and the SSSI area of Dalroy and Clava Landforms. As area is already crossed by two pylon lines, one crossing the Conservation Area and the other further south, the addition of a third, higher and more visible line of pylons is considered to be unacceptable. A suggestion has been made that the OHL should be laid underground however, if this is not an option, they request that the pylons be masked to blend into the background by painting them.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>Concerns received throughout the consultation period have been considered, we are aware of these concerns and will mitigate potential impacts where possible.</p> <p>The Culloden Muir Conservation Area was identified as a cultural heritage constraint during the early stages of the route optioneering process, and at the Route Selection Stage the Proposed Route selected (Route 3B and 4B) avoided passing through the Conservation Area. At the Alignment Selection Stage, all alignment options considered were located outside the Conservation Area, and the Potential Alignment 8C is located approximately 1 km to the south of the Conservation Area at its closest point. The potential for</p>         |



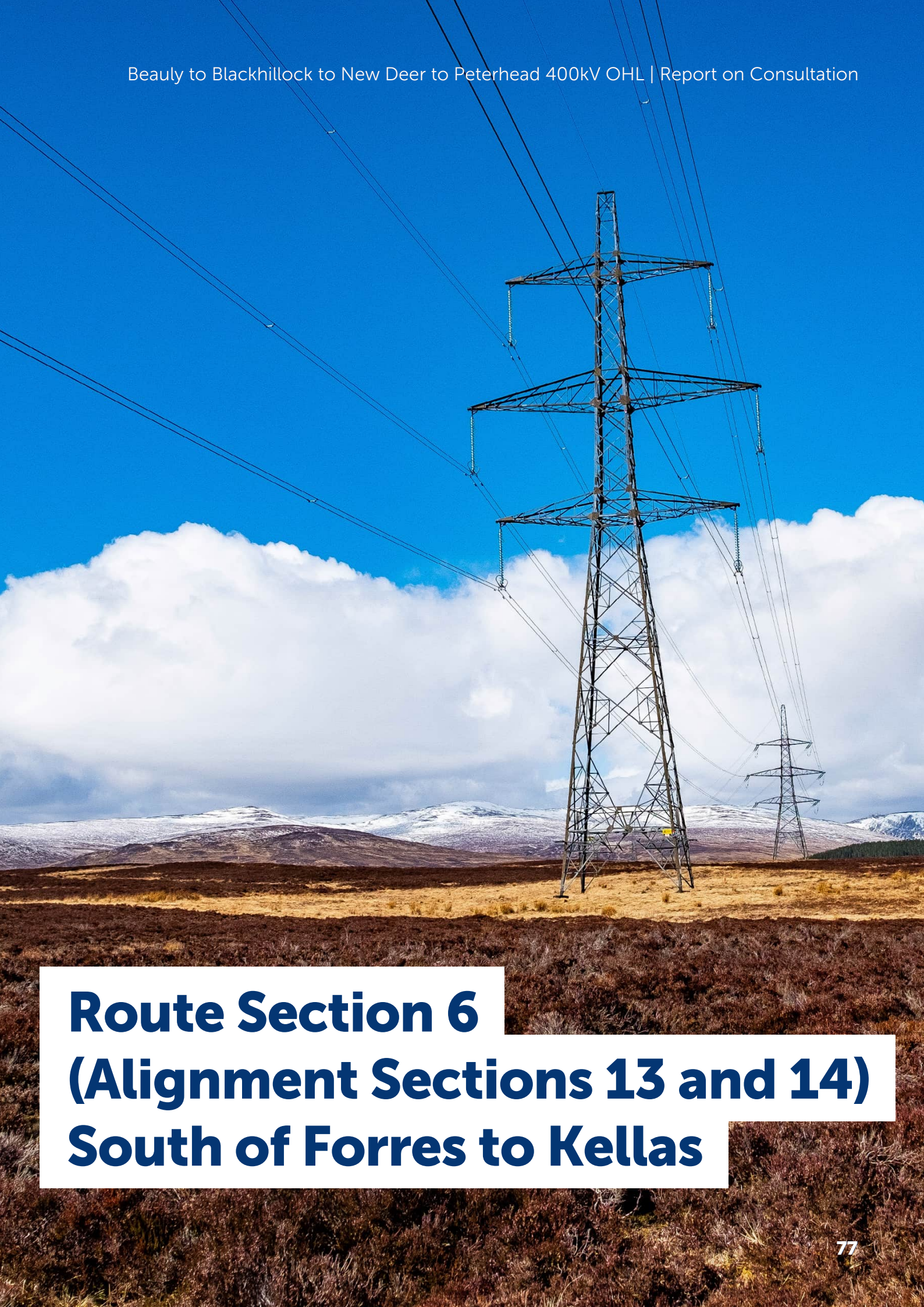
| Alignment Section                                                                  | Summary of Feedback | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Section 4<br>(Alignment Section 8 to 11)<br><br>South of Culloden to Ferness |                     | <p>impacts to Culloden Muir Conservation Area will be further assessed within the cultural heritage assessment, to be undertaken as part of the EIA Report to support the section 37 application to Scottish Ministers.</p> <p>Throughout the routeing process SSSIs have been avoided and in this case the potential alignment is located approximately 1km from the site and at a greater distance than other existing OHLs.</p> <p>More information relating to Mitigating Visual Impacts, which includes reference to undergrounding of cables, can be found in Section 3.1 Common Themes of this report.</p> |



# Route Section 5 (Alignment Section 12) Ferness to South of Forres

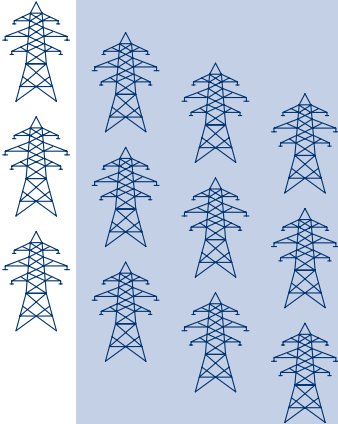


| Alignment Section                                                              | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Section 5<br>(Alignment Section 12)<br><br>Ferness to<br>South of Forres | Concern was received relating to the potential adverse impacts of historical sites such as Dunphail House and Castle.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | The potential for impacts on Dunphail House has been considered throughout the routing and design process and is one of the properties consulted upon with Historic Environment Scotland. The Proposed Alignment has been selected and designed to minimise the impacts on the house, with the result that there is limited to potentially no visibility of the towers according to the zone of theoretical visibility model. The EIA Report will include a cultural heritage assessment that provides more detail on the impacts to designated heritage assets that may be impacted by the Proposed Development. |
|                                                                                | A response was received strongly advocating for Alignment 12A, which closely follows the existing line, as a preferred alternative to minimise the impact on the environment, historical sites, and residential areas. Opposition to all other proposed alignment options was stated, citing concerns over their potential negative impacts.                                                                                 | We can confirm that Alignment 12A has been selected as the Proposed Alignment, as it is the least constrained option from both an environmental and engineering perspective and is also the lowest capital cost option.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                                                                                | <p>Historic Environment Scotland (HES)</p> <p>HES recommend further assessment is conducted on the following cultural heritage designations and assets including supporting photomontages/visualisations as specified in their response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relugas (GDL00325)</li><li>• Dunphail House (LB2171)</li><li>• Edinkillie House (LB2188)</li><li>• Lochindorb Castle (SM1231)</li></ul> | <p>Further assessment on the noted heritage designations and assets including accompanying visualisations (as appropriate) will be provided as part of the cultural heritage assessment presented within the EIA Report.</p> <p>We will continue to engage with HES throughout the EIA design evolution process.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |



# Route Section 6 (Alignment Sections 13 and 14) South of Forres to Kellas



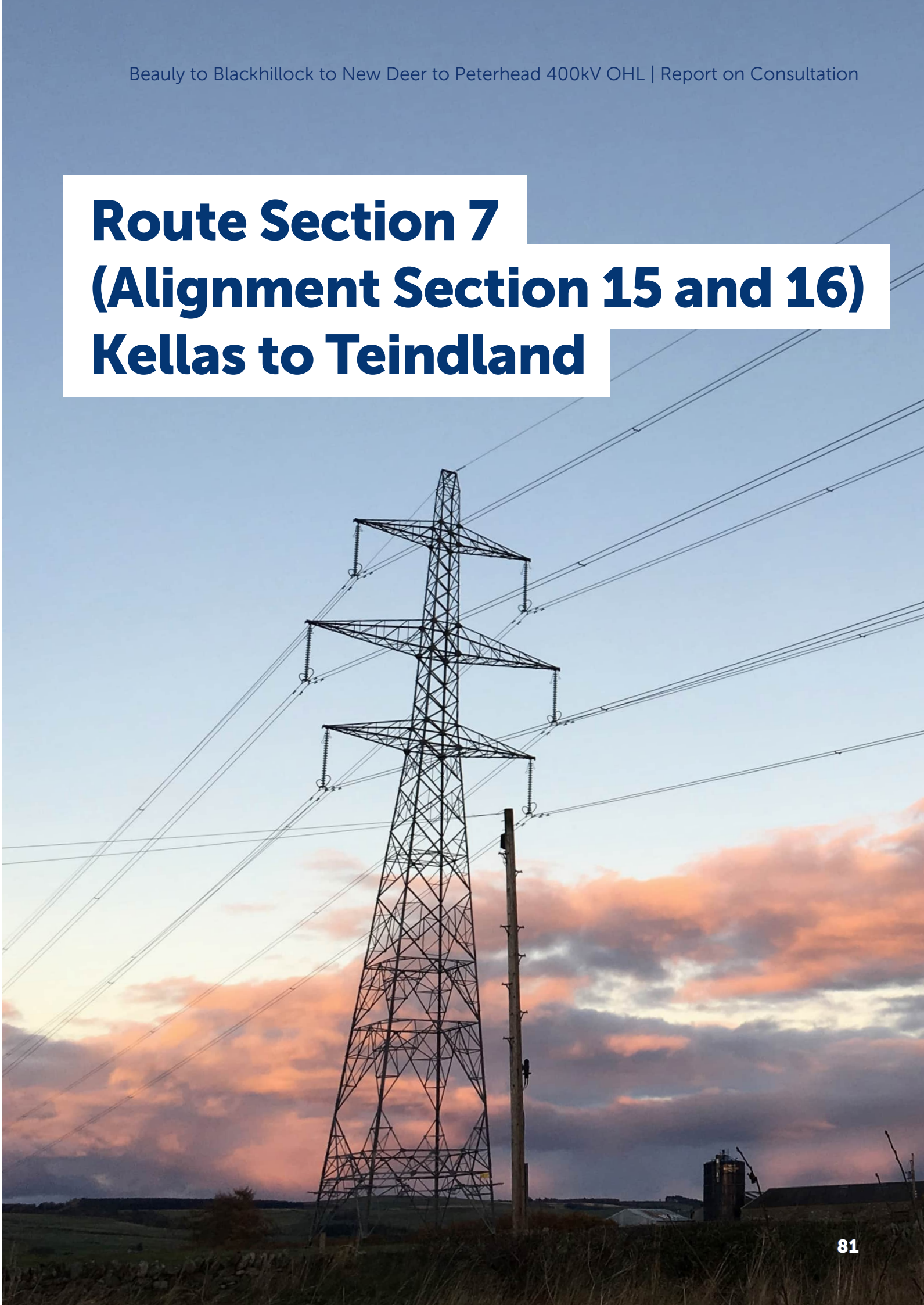
| Alignment Section                                                                                                                                                                                | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div>Route Section 6<br/>(Alignment Sections 13 and 14)</div> <div>South of Forres to Kellas</div> <div></div> | A request was made that the Proposed Development in Section 13 be moved further south to avoid impacting future development potential.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Assessments concluded that the requested change could be partially accommodated. The suggested alignment could not be fully accommodated due to the presence of forestry which would have been further impacted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <div>In Section 14 a number of landowner and utilities requests were received including:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A request to move the alignment to protect native Scots Pine and retain a tree belt vital to protecting a nearby bothy;</li><li>• A request to move the alignment to increase the distance between the Proposed Development and a residential property;</li><li>• A request to move the alignment to avoid oversailing wind farm access tracks; and</li><li>• A request to move the alignment to avoid line of sight for emergency telecoms masts.</li></ul> | Adjustments have been made to move the Proposed Alignment further from a residential property and an emergency telecommunications mast and to reduce the number of crossings of a main wind farm access route. The Proposed Alignment does not impact the native tree belt which includes the Scots pine mentioned. For more information on how this decision was arrived at, see Section 4 Summary of Key Decisions and Appendix C Deviations Appraisal. |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Specific concerns were raised about Alignment 14D's proximity to Rothes wind farm turbines with a preference for Alignment 14C due to its greater separation from the turbines and to enable potential future wind farm development.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Existing wind farm developments have been mapped and alignments have taken account of existing turbine positions and required off-sets. Any proposed wind farm developments currently within the consenting process have also been taken into account as part of the alignment selection process.                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                  | There was some confusion over the two alternative routes related to the planning application for Kellas Drum Wind Farm.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | To the south of Kellas in Moray is an Alternative Potential Alignment (14C). In this particular location the Potential Alignment (14D) passes through an area which is within the planning application boundary for the proposed Kellas Drum Wind Farm for which an application for consent has been submitted to the Scottish Government (application                                                                                                    |

| Alignment Section                                                                                  | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <div>Route Section 6<br/>(Alignment Sections 13 and 14)</div> <div>South of Forres to Kellas</div> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | reference ECU00005054). Should the wind farm application be refused, the Potential Alignment (14D) would be taken forward. If the wind farm application were to be consented, the Potential Alignment (14D) would not be able to proceed and the Alternative Potential Alignment (14C) would be taken forward, which passes to the north of the proposed wind farm. |
|                                                                                                    | <div>NatureScot</div> <div>Potential Alignment 14C crosses the southern end of Buinach and Glenlatterach SSSI over the Glenlatterach Reservoir dam. Spanning the SSSI at this location will be possible and given the topography, tree removal to establish and maintain a wayleave may not be necessary or could be minimal. The existing OHL, which crosses the SSSI further to the north is managed without impacting the woodland integrity.</div> <div>Glenlatterach SSSI has a very steep-sided gorge, and the soils can be unstable, with landslips in the recent past. Siting the towers and other works will need to consider potentially unstable soils in areas of steep slopes, to include affecting/ changing surface water flows.</div> <div>Lowland dry heath is unlikely to be affected by current alignment options.</div> | NatureScot's response has been noted and will be taken into further consideration during detailed design.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                                                                                                    | <div>Historic Environment Scotland</div> <div>HES recommend further assessment is conducted on the following cultural heritage designations and assets including supporting photomontages/visualisations as specified in their response:</div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <div>Further assessment on the noted heritage designations and assets including accompanying visualisations (as appropriate) will be provided as part of the cultural heritage assessment presented within the EIA Report.</div> <div>SSEN Transmission will continue to engage with HES throughout the EIA design evolution process.</div>                         |
|                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |



| Alignment Section                                                                  | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Section 6<br>(Alignment Sections 13 and 14)<br><br>South of Forres to Kellas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kellas House (LB2345)</li><li>• Upper Manbeen, Butter Well (SM5909)</li><li>• Upper Manbeen, symbol stone (SM1224)</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                                                                                    | <p>Scottish Water</p> <p>Glenlatterach reservoir supplies Glenlatterach Water Treatment Works (WTW) and it is also a sensitive site where care will need to be taken. While the Proposed Development is unlikely to impact the long-term yield of the system, the proximity to the reservoir is of concern and we are currently limited with resilience options at this site.</p> <p>It would be Scottish Water's preference to request the alternative route proposed in SSEN Alignment Maps and Considerations report of Alignment 14C and 15B. The route shapefile provided currently follows Alignment 14D and 15C, while the potential alternative alignments 14C and 15B would greatly reduce the risk to this source by remaining outside of the catchment. SSEN Transmission acknowledged that this alternative route would be adopted if the proposed Kellas Drum Wind Farm obtains planning consent.</p> | <p>Scottish Water's preference is noted.</p> <p>Should the southern alignment option be taken forwards (Alignment 14D/15C) this drinking water protected area will be taken into account for tower and access track design. Where necessary, additional mitigation will be agreed with Scottish Water to minimise potential impacts.</p> |

# Route Section 7 (Alignment Section 15 and 16) Kellas to Teindland



| Alignment Section                                                           | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Section 7<br>(Alignment Section 15 and 16)<br><br>Kellas to Teindland | Concerns were raised around proximity of the alignment in section 15 to the Highland Gliding Club.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Discussions have been ongoing with the Highland Gliding Club and it is understood that the club would be impacted by the Proposed Alignment however due to surrounding residential and topographical constraints any movement of the alignment in this area is very constrained. Further discussions will continue to take place through the detailed design stage.                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                             | It was highlighted that there is an extensive network of public walkways that are existing throughout the woodland affected by the Potential Alignment in Section 15 which extend from existing public parking along the historic Mannocho Way and through the woodland from Loch Buie to Brylloch Hill, Pikey Hill and south to Knockando. The concern was that these recreational pathways will be "hugely" impacted. | Recreation has been considered as part of the alignment selection process in terms of where people undertake recreational activities and avoidance of the most sensitive areas where possible. As part of the consenting process a Recreation and Tourism Assessment will be provided within the EIA Report. The assessment will include an outline Outdoor Access Management Plan to ensure access for recreation is maintained throughout construction, which may require the use of temporary diversions.<br><br>Also refer to 'Project Wide' Feedback on recreation in Table 3.3 above. |
|                                                                             | Moray Council<br><br>The corridor route passes close to the Blackhills House, the grounds of which is included on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL). Under NPF Policy 7 and the Moray Local Development Plan (MLDP) Policy EP11, development should ensure the character and reasons for the designation should not be compromised by development.                                                 | A landscape and visual impact assessment and assessment of cultural heritage will be included in the EIA Report which will capture the GDL designation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                                                                             | NatureScot<br><br>The alignment options avoid crossing Coleburn Pasture SSSI but are immediately adjacent. The SSSI is not easily discernible on-the-                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Potential impacts to Coleburn Pasture SSSI will be assessed within the EIA Report and mitigation put in place to prevent accident incursion into the SSSI or other potential adverse impact. Site-specific Environmental Management                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

| Alignment Section                                                           | Summary of Feedback                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Our Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route Section 7<br>(Alignment Section 15 and 16)<br><br>Kellas to Teindland | ground, so a plan needs to be in place to avoid accidental incursion onto the SSSI to avoid disturbing the habitats within it.<br><br>Gorse encroachment is one of the main ongoing threats to the lowland acid grassland, along with achieving optimal grazing levels.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Plans will accompany the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) to manage any potential risk.<br><br>The information on threats to the SSSI are noted.                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                             | Historic Environment Scotland (HES)<br><br>HES recommend further assessment is conducted on the following cultural heritage designations and assets including supporting photomontages/visualisations as specified in their response: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Blackhills House (GDL00409)</li><li>Bogton, stone circle 250m NW of (SM1215)</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Further assessment on the noted heritage designations and assets including accompanying visualisations (as appropriate) will be provided as part of the cultural heritage assessment presented within the EIA Report.<br><br>We will continue to engage with HES throughout the EIA design evolution process.           |
|                                                                             | Scottish Water<br><br>Glenlatterach reservoir supplies Glenlatterach Water Treatment Works (WTW) and it is also a sensitive site where care will need to be taken. While the Proposed Development is unlikely to impact the long-term yield of the system, the proximity to the reservoir is of concern and we are currently limited with resilience options at this site.<br><br>It would be Scottish Water's preference to request the alternative route proposed in SSSEN Alignment Maps and Considerations report of Alignment 14C and 15B. The route shapefile provided currently follows Alignment 14D and 15C, while the potential alternative Alignments 14C and 15B would greatly reduce the risk to this source by remaining outside of the catchment. SSSEN Transmission acknowledged that this alternative route would be adopted if the proposed Kellas Drum Wind Farm obtains planning consent. | Scottish Water's preference is noted.<br><br>Should the southern option be taken forwards (Alignment 14D/15C) this drinking water protected area will be taken into account for tower and access track design. Where necessary, additional mitigation will be agreed with Scottish Water to minimise potential impacts. |
|                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |