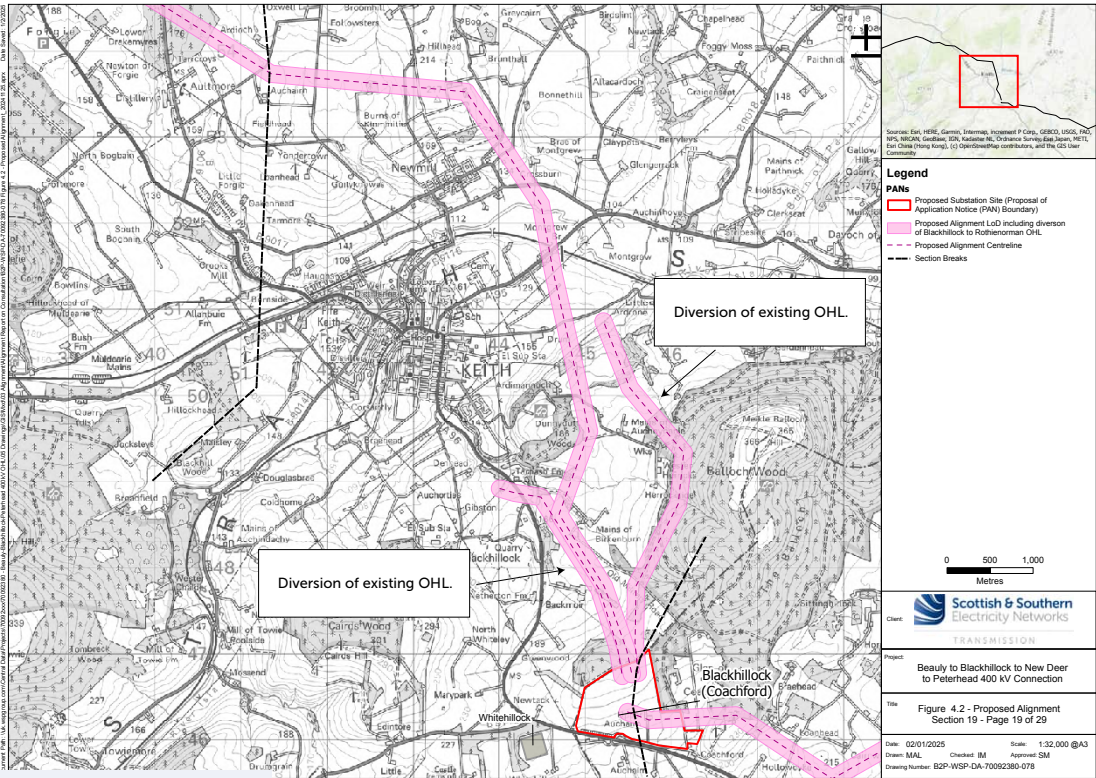
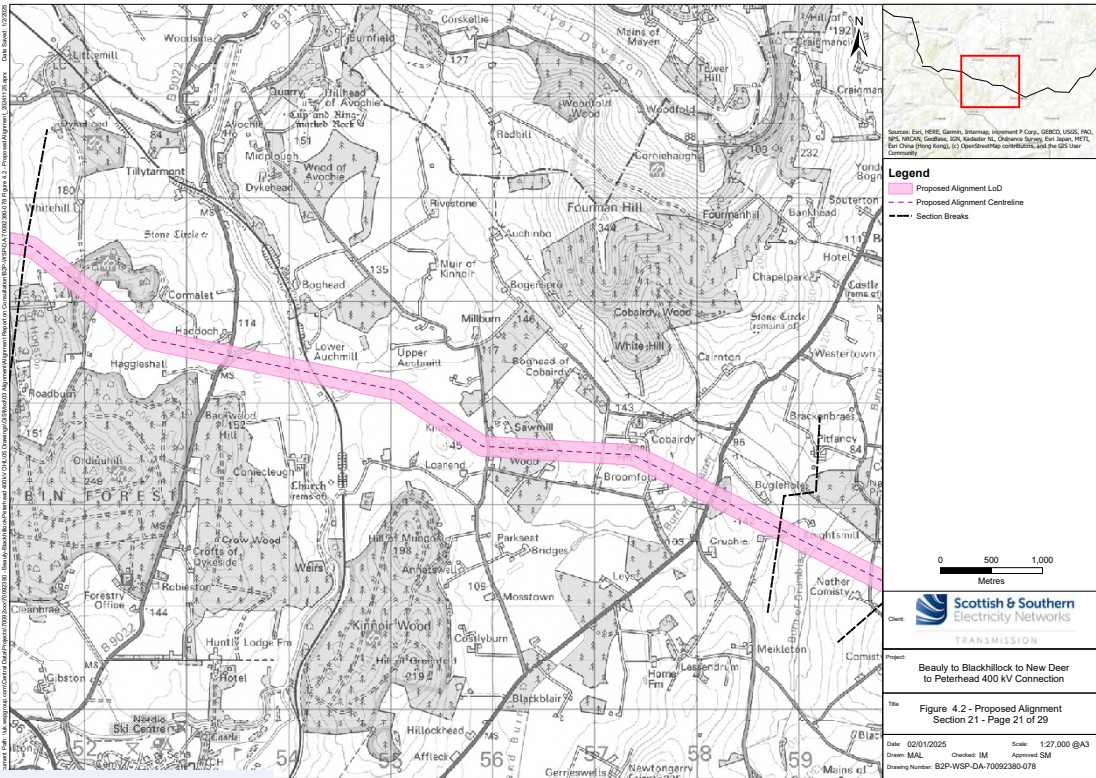
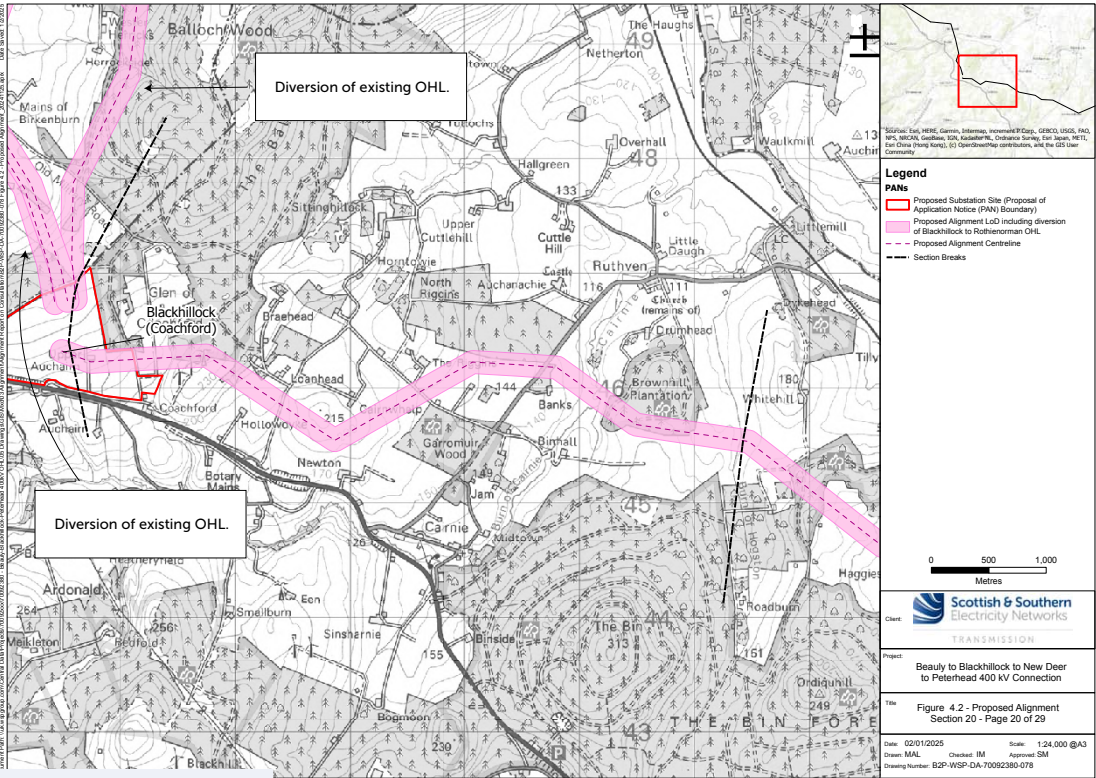




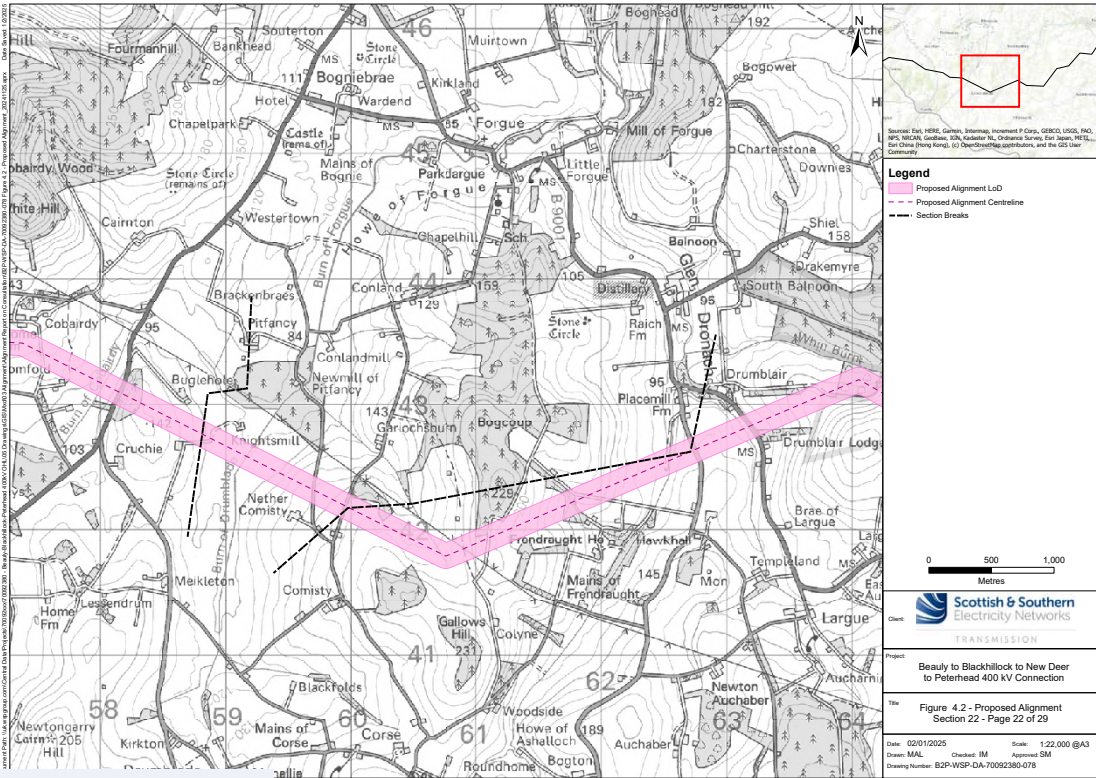
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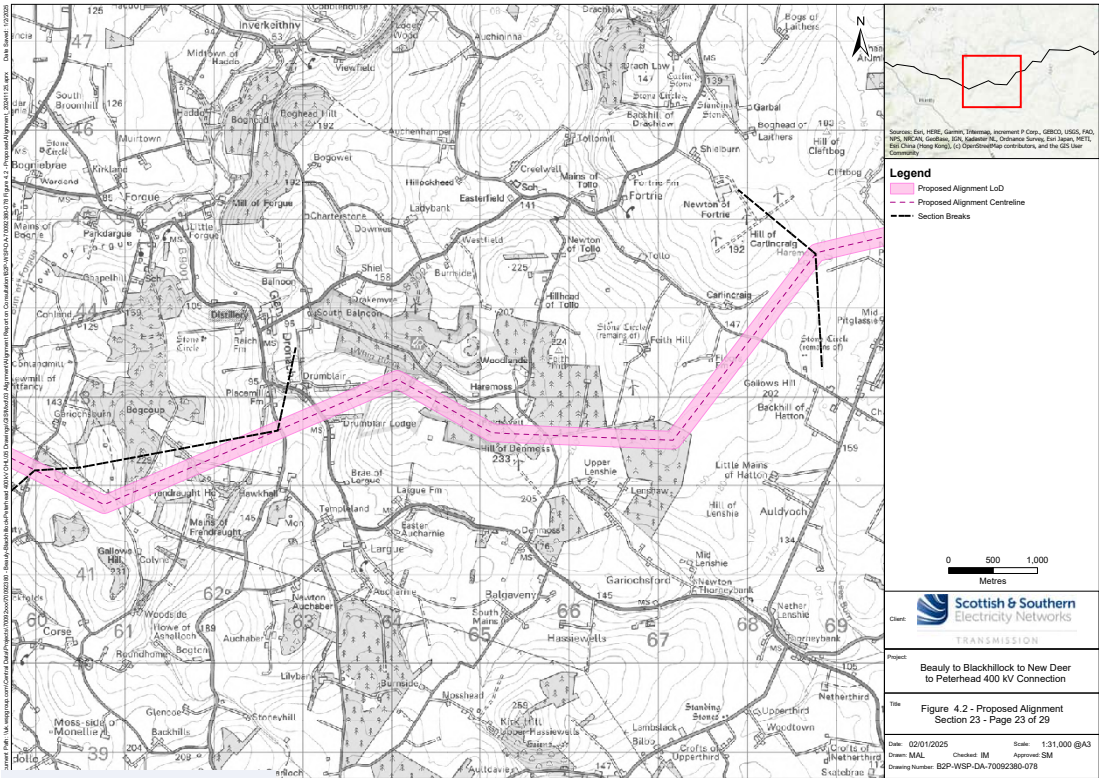
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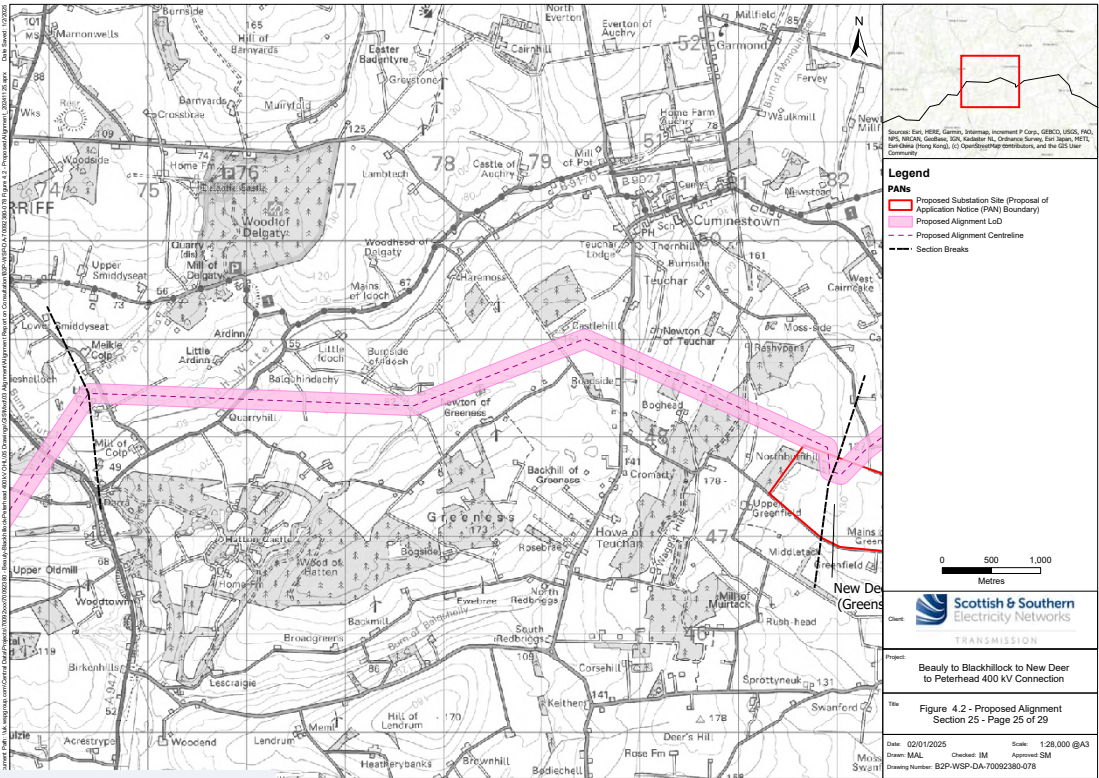
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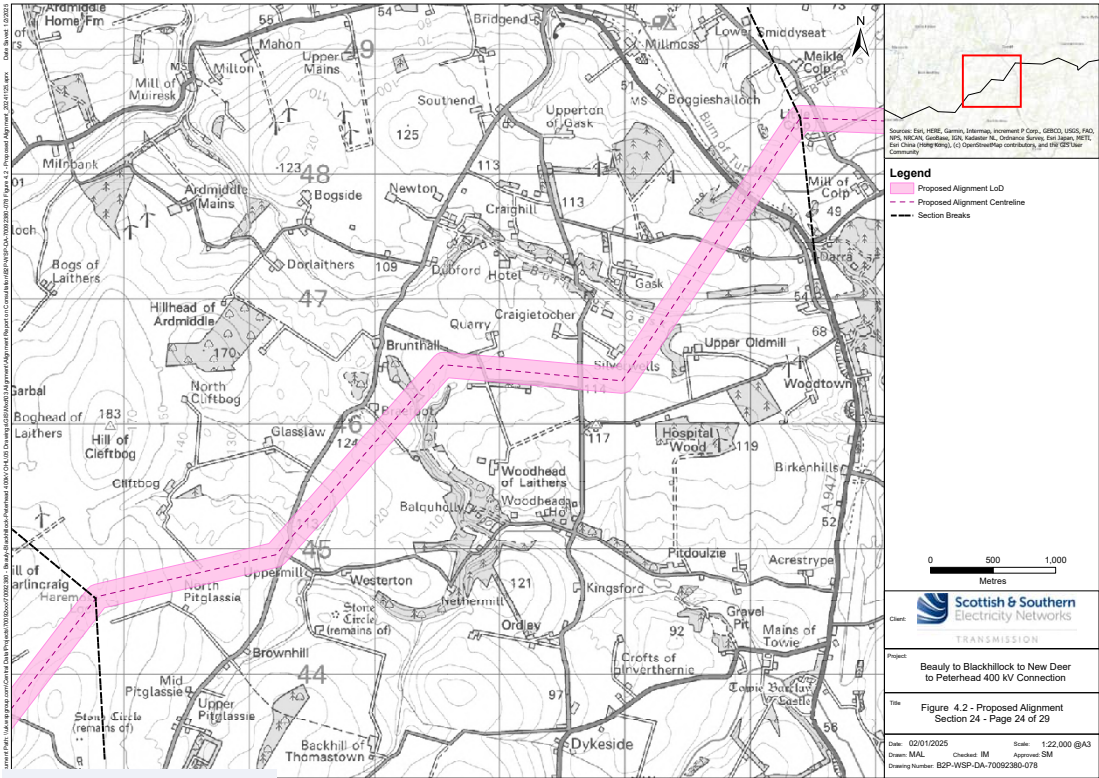
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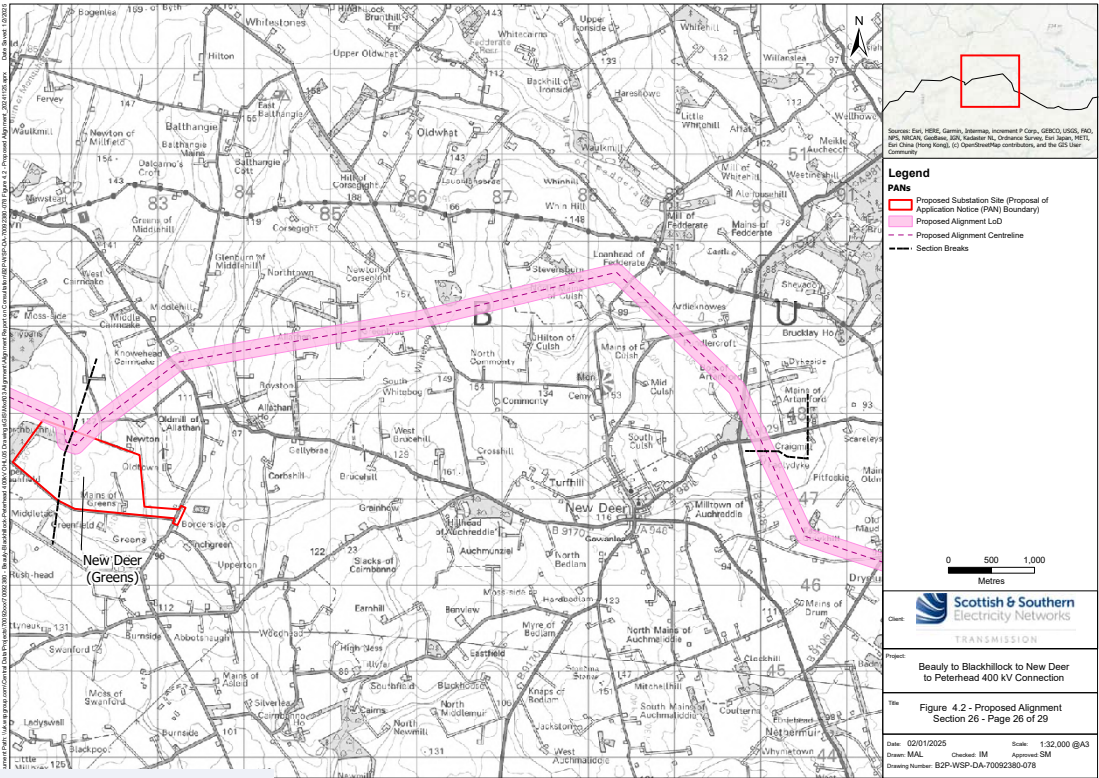
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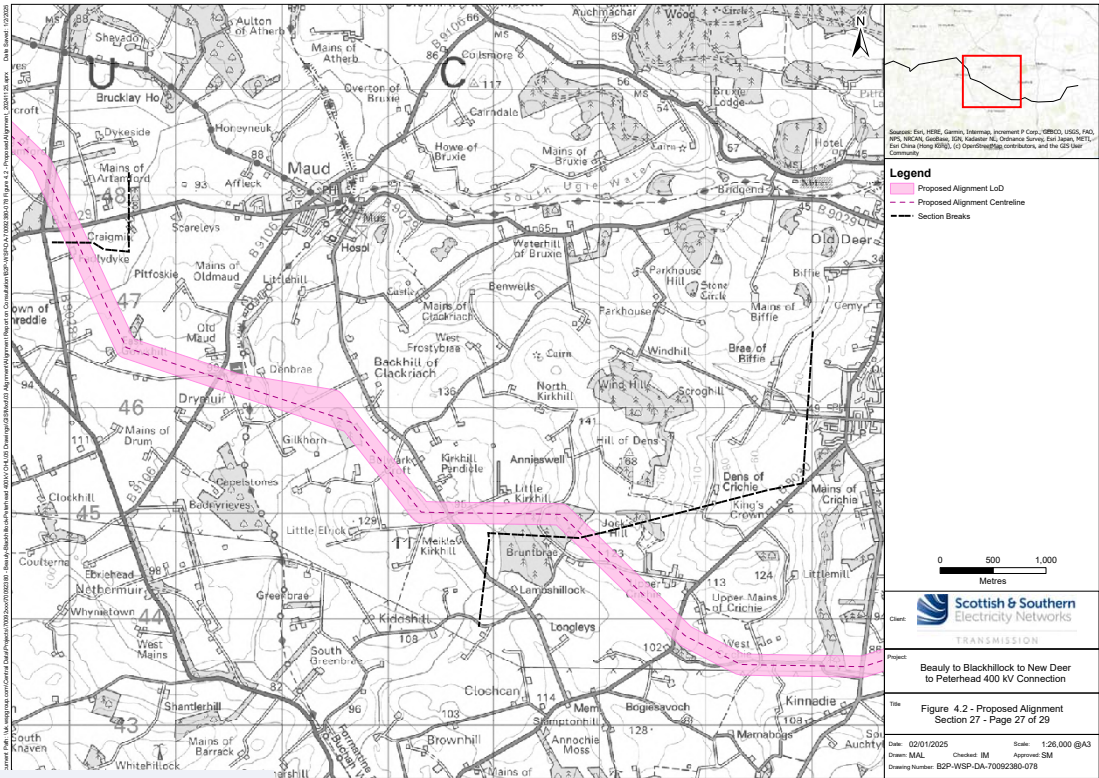
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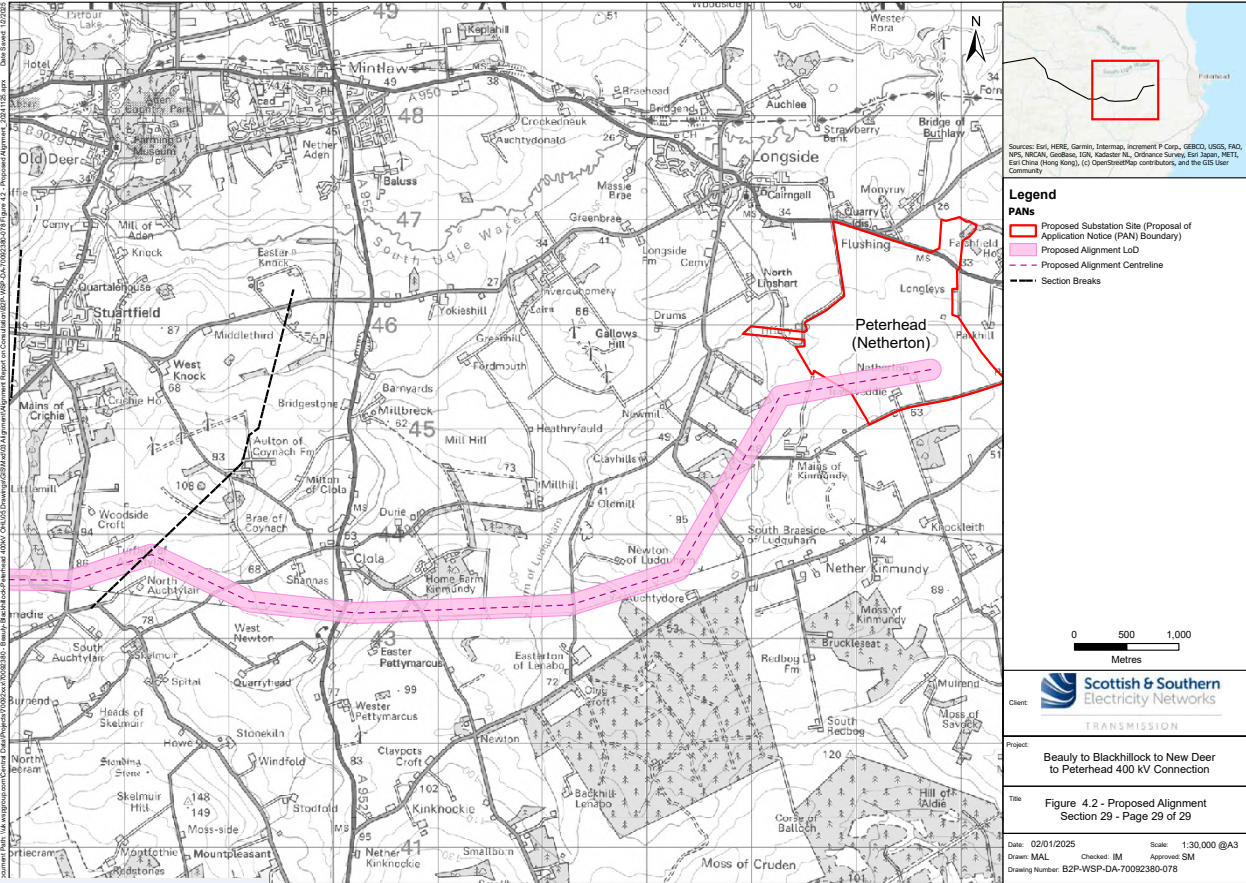
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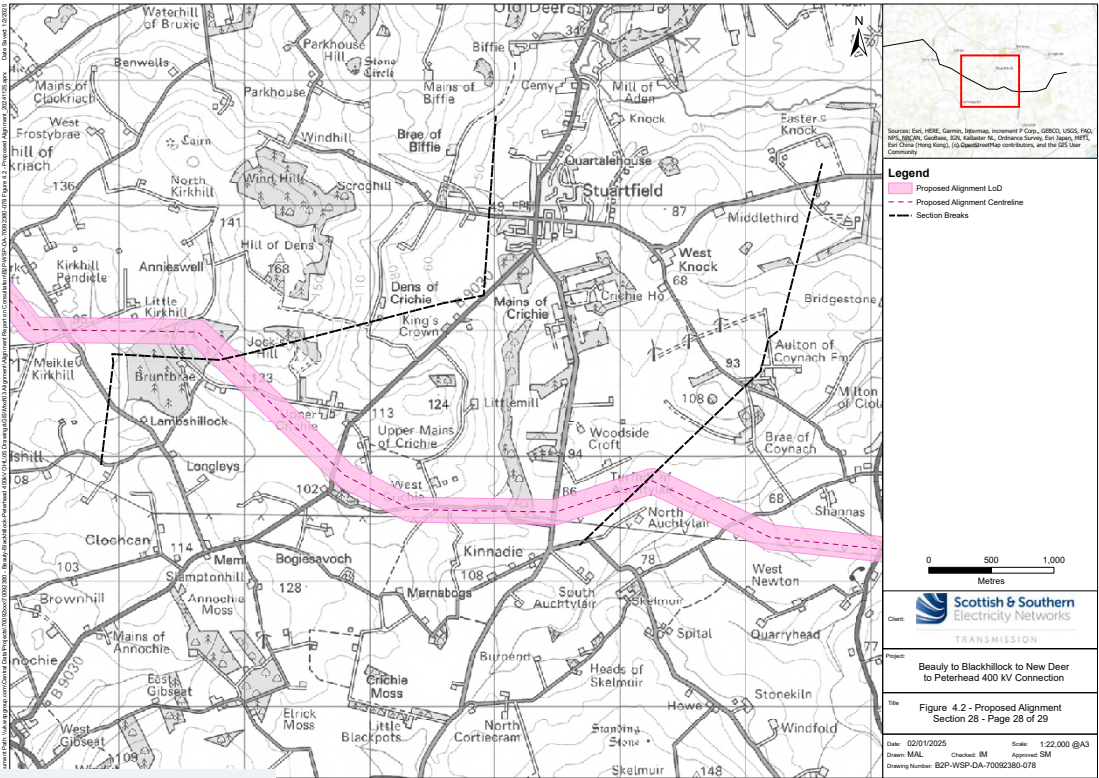
Alignment Section.26



Alignment Section.27



Alignment Section.29



Alignment Section.28

5. Next Steps

5.1. Ongoing Engagement

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

Early Engagement	Ongoing Detailed Engagement	Advanced Engagement	Ongoing Engagement
Project webpage live	Analysis of feedback received from consultation	Pre-consultation engagement	Pre-submission information sharing event
Early meetings offered to elected members	Proactive and responsive stakeholder follow up meetings	Further project consultation	Targeted engagement with those most affected
Early discussion with statutory consultees	Engage community working groups	Analysis of feedback received from consultation	Working group meetings
Initial Project Consultation	Publish FAQs, project updates and next steps	Follow up meetings	Ongoing project updates
	Publish a Report On Consultation	Publish FAQs, project updates and next steps	Post consent and construction
	Engage on the report on consultation e.g. Webinar	Publish a Report On Consultation	
		Engage on the report on consultation e.g. Webinar	



We are here

Since the consultation events in June 2024, environmental surveys and Ground Investigation Works (GI Works) have commenced in some areas along the route of The Proposed Development. This helps us to better understand, for example, the ecology, habitats, peat depths, location of private water supplies and specifically for GI Works, it allows us to understand the ground conditions giving us greater certainty when finalising the design including tower positions. Further information on the GI Works can be found on our project website by clicking [here](#) then clicking on 'project updates'.

In July 2024, a request for an EIA scoping opinion³ was made to The Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU), with an EIA Scoping Report provided to support this request. The ECU issued their scoping opinion in October 2024, confirming the required scope of the EIA Report. The EIA Scoping Report and the ECU's scoping opinion can be found [here](#).

Following the publication of the Report on Consultation, we, alongside our specialist consultants and contractors, will further develop the design to finalise the Proposed Alignment and tower positions. We will continue to consult with local communities and stakeholders in early 2025, where we will present the Proposed Alignment alongside indicative locations for access tracks which we plan to take forward to the Section 37 consent application that will be submitted to the ECU in 2025.

³The request for a Scoping Opinion is made to identify the scope of impacts to be addressed and the method of assessment to be applied in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report which is prepared and submitted with the Section 37 application for consent.

5.2. Feedback

If you have any further views at this stage, then please get in touch with the Community Liaison Manager at BBNP@sse.com

Community Liaison Manager

 Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3GH

Further information about the project is also available on the project website [here](#).

6. Glossary

Term	Definition
Alignment	A centre line of an overhead line OHL, along with location of key angle structures.
Amenity	The natural environment, cultural heritage, landscape and visual quality. Also includes the impact of SHE Transmission’s works on communities, such as the effects of noise and disturbance from construction activities.
Ancient Woodland	Defined in National Planning Framework (NPF) 4 as “land that has maintained continuous woodland habitat since at least 1750”.
Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI)	AWI is a provisional guide to the location of Ancient Woodland. It contains three main categories of woodland, all of which are likely to be of value for their biodiversity and cultural value. These include Ancient Woodland, Long-established woodlands of plantation origin (LEPO), and other woodlands.
Area of Search (Study Area)	A broad geographical area within which possible sites might be capable of identification within approximately 5km of the required connectivity point; usually determined by geographical features such as coastlines or hill/mountain ranges, or designation boundaries, such as National Park boundaries.
BBNP	Acronym used for Beaully to Blackhillock to New Deer to Peterhead 400kV Overhead Line transmission project.
Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is an approach to development that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was pre-development. It focuses on the change in the biodiversity value of a site, comparing the pre and post construction biodiversity values to ensure a positive impact overall.
Borrow Pit	A pit used to extract material, such as sand or gravel, for use as fill at another location.
Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)	A CEMP details how the Principal Contractor will manage construction in accordance with commitments and mitigation detailed in the EIA Report, statutory consents and authorisations, and industry best practice and guidance. Implementation of the CEMP will be managed on-site by a suitably qualified and experience Environmental Clerk of Works (EnvCoW), with support from other environmental professionals as required.

Term	Definition
Conductor	A metallic wire strung from support structure to support structure, to carry electric current.
Consultation	The dynamic process of dialogue between individuals or groups, based on a genuine exchange of views and, normally, with the objective of influencing decisions, policies or programmes of action.
Corridor	A linear area which allows a continuous connection between the defined connection points. The corridor may vary in width along its length; in unconstrained areas it may be many kilometres wide.
Energy Consents Unit (ECU)	In Scotland, applications for the installation of certain overhead electric lines and associated infrastructure in relation to energy infrastructure are made to the Scottish Ministers for determination. These cases are administered by the Energy Consents Unit.
Environmental Clerk of Works (EnvCoW)	An independent environmental or construction professional with direct responsibility for monitoring and reporting on compliance with planning consents, environmental permits, legislation and mitigation.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A formal process set down in The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 used to systematically identify, predict and assess the likely significant environmental impacts of a proposed project or development.
Engagement	The establishment of effective relationships with individuals or groups.
Electricity System Operator (ESO)	The ESO balances electricity supply and demand to ensure the electricity supply. From October 2024 the nationalised NESO National Energy System Operator replaced the ESO previously owned by National Grid Plc.
Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs)	The Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes lists those gardens or designed landscapes which are considered by a panel of experts to be of national importance.
GB Electricity System Operator	See ESO Electricity System Operator.
Habitat	Term most accurately meaning the place in which a species lives, but also used to describe plant communities or agglomerations of plant communities.

Term	Definition
Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)	A Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) is required for all plans deemed likely to have an adverse effect on a protected 'European Site'. These include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) which are designated by government and have a high level of protection as they're designated for habitats and species of European importance.
Holford Rules (as modified)	Principles developed by the late Lord Holford in 1959 which continue to be employed as the basis for routeing high voltage overhead lines and include additional notes on the siting of substations.
Kilovolt (kV)	One thousand volts.
Landscape Character Type (LCT)	A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in a landscape that differentiate the area from another.
Limits of Deviation (LOD)	The area either side of the proposed alignment within which micrositing of structures may take place in accordance with the conditions of the Section 37 consent.
Listed Building	Building included on the list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest and afforded statutory protection under the 'Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997' and other planning legislation. Classified categories A – C(s).
MBNL	Mobile Broadband Network Limited
Micrositing	The process of positioning individual structures to avoid localised environmental or technical constraints.
Mitigation	Term used to indicate avoidance, remediation or alleviation of adverse impacts.
National Energy System Operator (NESO)	The UK's 2023 Energy Act established an independent system planner and operator to help accelerate Great Britain's energytransition; creating the National Energy System Operator (NESO), replacing the Electricity System Operator (ESO).

Term	Definition
Offshore Integrated Link	Offshore cable connection between the onshore network and offshore network being developed as part of the Coordinated Offshore Network. This is being developed as a result of the Holistic Network Design (HND) publication in summer of 2022 produced by National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO) to facilitate greater co- ordination and efficiency for offshore windfarms. In the autumn of 2022 Ofgem published their Asset Classification findings which in turn meant SSENT were tasked with delivering large parts of the Coordinated Offshore Network.
Ofgem	The energy regulator for Great Britain.
Overhead line (OHL)	An electric line installed above ground, usually supported by lattice steel towers or wooden poles.
Pathway to 2030	Pathway to 2030 is a series of projects to increase capacity of the transmission network in northern Scotland. It is part of a national effort to upgrade power lines across Great Britain to connect and transport renewable electricity, especially from offshore wind farms. These projects contribute towards meeting climate goals and renewable targets, ensuring energy security and supporting Scottish and UK Government targets for a just transition to a net zero future.
Planning Application	Used in this context to describe an application for consent under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.
Plantation Woodland	Woodland of any age that obviously originated from intentional planting.
Potential Alignment	An alignment for the overhead line taken forward to stakeholder consultation following a comparative appraisal of alignment options.
Principal Contractor	A principal contractor is appointed by the client (in this case SSEN Transmission) to control the construction phase of any project involving more than one contractor.
Proposed Alignment	The Proposed Alignment is the alignment option which is taken forward to the consenting stage of the Proposed Development.
Proposed Development	The proposed Beaully to Blackhillock to New Deer to Peterhead 400kV overhead line (OHL) project.

Term	Definition
Red Line Boundary (RLB)	This area should include all land necessary to carry out The Proposed Development.
Refined Route	Between the route selection and alignment selection stages, providing an update to stakeholders on progress.
Report on Consultation (RoC)	The Report on Consultation is a publicly available document and is produced following the consultation on the preferred corridor, route or alignment, as appropriate. Its purpose is to record the stakeholder feedback received during the consultation process; explain how SHE Transmission have responded and how, if appropriate, it has informed the selection of the proposed corridor, route, or alignment, and where it has not, why not. It may not always be the case that a particular comment or request can be incorporated into the option selection or design.
Riparian Woodland	Natural home for plants and animals occurring in a thin strip of land bordering a stream or river.
Route	A linear area of approximately 1 km width (although this may be narrower/wider in specific locations in response to identified pinch points/constraints), which provides a continuous connection between defined connection points.
Routeing	The work undertaken which leads to the selection of a proposed alignment, capable of being taken forward into the consenting process under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.
Scheduled Monument	A monument which has been scheduled by the Scottish Ministers as being of national importance under the terms of the ‘Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979’.
Section 37 Application	An application for consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 to develop an overhead electricity line.
Semi-natural Woodland	Woodland that does not obviously originate from planting. The distribution of species will generally reflect the variations in the site and the soil. Planted trees must account for less than 30% of the canopy composition.
Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Designated area of national importance for natural heritage. The aim of the SSSI network is to maintain an adequate representation of all natural and semi-natural habitats and native species across Britain.

Term	Definition
Span	The section of overhead line between two structures.
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	An area designated under the EC Habitats Directive to ensure that rare, endangered or vulnerable habitats or species of community interest are either maintained at or restored to a favourable conservation status.
Special Landscape Area (SLA)	Landscapes designated by The Highland Council which are considered to be of regional/local importance for their scenic qualities.
Special Protection Area (SPA)	An area designated under the Wild Birds Directive (Directive74/409/EEC) to protect important bird habitats. Implemented under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
SSEN Transmission	Scottish and Southern Energy Networks (SSEN) Transmission is the trading name for Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission and is responsible for the electricity transmission network in the north of Scotland, maintaining and investing in the high voltage 132kV, 220kV, 275kV and 400kV electricity transmission network.
Stakeholders	Organisations and individuals who can affect or are affected by SHE Transmission works.
Study Area	The area within which the corridor, route and alignment study takes place.
Substation	A node on the network to allow safe control of the electricity network. This could include convergence of multiple circuits, transformation of voltage or other functions to maintain and operate the electricity network.
Substation Site Area	Site area identified as necessary to deliver all the substation infrastructure requirements e.g. platform, access tracks, temporary construction area, drainage including SUDS, landscaping.
Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)	Drainage solutions that provide an alternative to the direct channelling of surface water through networks of pipes and sewers to nearby watercourses.
The National Grid	The electricity transmission network in the Great Britain.

Term	Definition
UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP)	The UK BAP was published in 1994 after the Convention on Biological Diversity. It summarised the most threatened species and habitats in the UK and gave detailed plans for their recovery.
Underground Cable (UGC)	An electric wire installed underground.
Volts	The international unit of electric potential and electromotive force.
Wayleave	A voluntary agreement entered into between a landowner, upon whose land an overhead line is to be constructed, and SHE Transmission
Wild Land Area (WLA)	Those areas comprising the greatest and most extensive areas of wild characteristics within Scotland.
Works	Constructing new transmission infrastructure such as substations, overhead lines, underground cables; major refurbishment of these; the dismantling and removal of any parts of the system; and associated works, which may include formation of access tracks, bridge and road improvements, tree cutting, drainage etc.

7. Appendices

7.1. Appendix A – Statutory and non-Statutory Consultee Feedback

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
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.	Ministry of Defence (MOD)	Comments are noted and 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.
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, 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. It is possible, however, that the current alignment, particularly in sections 7, 23, & 24, could have significant adverse impacts on the settings of several Scheduled Monuments such that they might object. HES highlight that direct/physical impacts on scheduled monuments must be avoided in line with policy.	Historic Environment Scotland (HES)	HES' preferred alignment options are noted, which are the same as the Potential Alignment. The Potential Alignment has been chosen to minimise impacts on heritage assets. Further assessment on the noted heritage designations and assets including accompanying ZTVs, wireframe drawings and other visualisations as appropriate will be provided as part of the cultural heritage assessment presented within the EIA Report. We are aware of the scheduled monument referenced in paragraph

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
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 the Proposed Development. HES state that the line crosses close to Kiltarlity Old Parish Church (SM5570). They would prefer Alignment 1C as the Proposed Development 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. 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 illustrated using visualisations. Beaufort Castle (LB8068). Any important views from the north-facing elevation, for example,		5.7.1 of the Consultation Document and note HES' preference of alignment option 6B over 6A. In the vicinity of the ring cairn and stone circle in Section 7 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 overhead line (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. At Keith the Proposed Alignment, following this consultation, is to the east of Keith and therefore an assessment of Mill of Towie assessment would not be required. We will continue to engage with HES throughout the EIA design evolution process.

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
from principal rooms, should be established and assessed for potential impacts. This assessment may also require visualisations if the potential impacts are significant. 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. Dun Mor, fort (SM2423) and Phioneas Hill, enclosure (SM4729). The topographical separation as well as the presence of an existing powerline adjacent to the 3A alignment means that the impact on setting would not likely be significant. Further assessment of this initial view will need to be informed by photomontages. 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. 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 4B, so HES consider 4A likely to be the preferable alignment for this possible designation. HES state that the Proposed Development is in close vicinity to Caledonian Canal, Dochgarroch		

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
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. 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. 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. Mitigation in the form of significant rerouting and/ or undergrounding of either the proposed 400kV overhead line or potentially the existing 275kV overhead line (to lessen cumulative impact) would be the minimum required in order to lessen the prospect of an objection. In any		

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
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. 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. Leys Castle and Garden Terraces (LB8053) & Leys Castle (GDL00264). If the proposed OHL has the potential for significant impacts, this should be illustrated using visualisations. 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		

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
when viewed from the cairns and their surroundings. 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 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. 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.		

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Mill of Towie (LB2303). The proposed route for this section splits in two possible directions, east and west of Keith. The Mill of Towie is approximately 2km south of the western proposed route. HES recommend including this asset for assessment if a more western alignment is selected. Frendraught House (LB9449). HES consider that the southeast routes have the highest potential to impact the setting of Frendraught House. HES advise assessing the potential impacts of the alignments with consideration of important views to and from the house. Old Parish Church of Longside (LB9410) and Churchyard Gateway, Longside Parish Church (LB9412): Significant effects are unlikely. HES recommend further assessment is conducted on the following cultural heritage designations and assets including supporting photomontages/visualisations as specified in their response: • Phioneas Hill, enclosure (SM4729) • Dochfour (GDL00137) • Dochfour House (LB8028) • Aldourie Castle (GDL00011) • Aldourie Castle (LB535) • Torbreck, stone circle (SM3098) • Garn Glas, chambered cairn (SM2392) • Culloden Moor Viaduct (LB1709) • Rehiran Farm House, cairn (SM11797) • Cawdor Castle (GDL00099) • Ardclach Bell Tower (LB551) • Glenferness House (LB560) • Dulsie Bridge (LB557) • Relugas (GDL00325) • Dunphail House (LB2171) • Edinkillie House (LB2188) • Lochindorb Castle (SM1231) • Kellas House (LB2345)		

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
• Upper Manbeen, Butter Well (SM5909) • Upper Manbeen, symbol stone (SM1224) • Blackhills House (GDL00409) • Bogton, stone circle 250m NW of (SM1215) • Pittensair (LB15803) • Gordon Castle (GDL00198) • Arn Hill Stone Circle, Rothiemay Station (SM4). • Kinnoir Old Church, church 550m WSW of Corse of Kinnoir (SM5619). • Cairnton, Stone Circle 480m NE of (SM11). • Conzie Castle and Doocot, (SM5899). • Hare Stone, stone circle 480m NW of Feith Hill (SM338). • North Pitglassie, stone circle 1320m SW of (SM38). • West Outbuilding at Corse Croft, Kinnoir, Huntly (LB43681) • Stone circle, 365m WSW of Raich Farm (SM42) • Frendraught House (LB9449) • Milton Tower, Keith (SM5533) • Auchanachie Castle (LB3016) • West Outbuilding at Corse Croft, Kinnoir, Huntly (LB43681) • Frendraught House, (LB9449) • Cairnton, stone circle 480m NE of (SM11) • Yonder Bognie stone circle, 215m NNE of Wardend (SM56) • Bogcoup Woods recumbent stone circle (proposed scheduled monument) • Stone circle, 660m NW of Hillhead of Frendraught (SM13790) • Mains of Hatton, stone circle 575m NNW of (SM30) • Corrydown, stone circle 150m NE of (SM16) • Stone circle, 660m NW of Hillhead of Frendraught (SM13790) • Forglen (GDL00398) • Old Parish Church of St Congan (LB42163)		

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
• Towie Barclay Castle (LB16405) • Hatton Castle (GDL00399) • Hatton Castle (LB16431) • Delgatie Castle (LB16421) • Fedderate Castle (SM5951) • Clackriach Castle (SM5534) • Parkhouse Hill stone circle (Aikey Brae) (SM2) • Deer Abbey (SM90093)		
NatureScot provided feedback including the following: Both alignment routes (5E and the combined alignment of 5A-D & 5F-G) cross an area of the Torvean Landform SSSI characterised by smaller eskers, kames, kettle holes, and other fluvio-glacial outwash terraces. 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. Things that will need to be considered in regard to Torvean Landforms SSSI: • Extent and depth of earthworks required to put the tower bases and track upgrades in and whether any changes could be made to make this less damaging. • 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? • 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) • What happens with spoil? Including for access track/ construction footprint.	NatureScot	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. We will continue to engage with NatureScot throughout the EIA design evolution process to mitigate impacts on Capercaillie. An assessment on the potential effects of the Proposed Development on populations of Capercaillie will be considered further within in the EIA Report. The compensatory planting suggestions to benefit Capercaillie have been noted. Potential impacts to Coleburn Pasture SSSI will be assessed within the EIA Report and mitigation put in place to prevent

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
- Borrow pits for track upgrades? - The potential visual /spatial disconnection of landforms. It is NatureScot’s preference to explore routes that go around the Torvean Landforms SSSI given the possible level of irreversible damage on it. 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. Until detail of the desk and survey results on breeding capercaillie become available, NatureScot are unable to provide a definite view at this stage. 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 – 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. There are wind farms in the area, Cairn Duhie, Clash Gour and Berry Burn II whose EIA Reports may also offer survey data. NatureScot advise that any compensatory planting requirements		accident incursion into the SSSI or other potential adverse impact. Site-specific Environmental Management Plans will accompany the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) to manage any potential risk. The information on threats to the SSSI are noted. NatureScot’s assumption of the use of standard mitigation measures, with reference to GEMPs, SPPs and a CEMP is correct. Careful consideration will be given to tower placement and woodland removal, particularly in light of the unstable soils and friable rock mentioned. Geotechnical investigations will be carried out to ensure tower locations are appropriate. We note the risk from invasive non-native species. This will be considered in further detail within the Ecological Impact Assessment which will be presented in the EIA Report. Potential effects of the Proposed Development on designated sites and their qualifying features will be assessed in detail in the EIA Report and also in the shadow Habitats Regulations Appraisal

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
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. 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. 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. Lowland dry heath is unlikely to be affected by current alignment options. The alignment options avoid crossing Coleburn Pasture SSSI but are immediately adjacent. The SSSI is not easily discernible on-the-ground, so a plan needs to be in place to avoid accidental incursion onto the SSSI to avoid disturbing the habitats within it.		which will accompany the application. The alignment is outwith the boundary of the Mill Wood SSSI. It is anticipated at this stage that felling for the alignment would not be required as the woodland in this area would be spanned by the OHL due to the local topography. For all the noted designated sites, access tracks and tower positions will be designed to minimise the potential for impacts upon them. Impacts to the noted natural heritage designated sites have informed the optioneering process to date and will subsequently inform the EIA Report and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) processes. Based on studies to date, the areas which fall within and immediately surrounding the alignment are not understood to represent core foraging areas for geese associated with either Loch of Strathbeg or Ythan Estuary and Meikle Loch SPA/Ramsar.

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Gorse encroachment is one of the main ongoing threats to the lowland acid grassland, along with achieving optimal grazing levels. Atlantic salmon, freshwater pearl mussel, sea lamprey and otter are all present in the River Spey SAC/SSSI in this section. It is envisaged that standard mitigation measures will be implemented during the construction work, including compliance with both project wide and site-specific environmental management procedures, with reference to SSEN Transmission General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) and Species Protection Plans (SPPs) and a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) will be developed for the Proposed Development and adopted by the Principal Contractor during the construction phase. These measures should ensure that the aquatic environment is protected against pollution, excessive sediment run off and accidents. The two existing OHLs manage to span the river and SSSI/ SAC boundary, enabled by the topography. It is assumed that the 400 kV will be able to span the SSSI/SAC regardless of alignment option taken. There should therefore be no direct effects on the four species mentioned, and indirect effects avoided through the above measures. The steep east side of the river has very unstable soils and friable rock. Siting infrastructure away from the steep slopes is advisable. Wayleave felling on this slope could disturb the ground integrity leading to a greater risk of slope failures. NatureScot would recommend only carrying out essential clearance and managing tree growth as opposed to removal		

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
of whole trees. Tree roots will be helping to bind the soils. On the western side, there is risk of encountering terrestrial invasive non-native species. The OHL diversion alignment options indicate possible overlap with Mill Wood SSSI. The upland birch woodland is located within small valleys and could be easily spannable. The topography is also such that it may negate the need for wayleave felling, however, if this is not the case and felling is necessary within the SSSI, NatureScot can revisit their advice. NatureScot highlight Bin Hill Local Nature Conservation Site, west of Huntly. The Potential Alignment is located to the north of Mortlach Moss SSSI/SAC but does cross small watercourses, that in part, originate from the SSSI/ SAC. Careful design would need to avoid impacts that could alter drainage rates from the site. Alignment options in sections 20 and 21 are located south of Whitehill SSSI and cross the small watercourse that feeds into the SSSI, the Burn of Hogston. This burn supports the grassland and fen habitats with the SSSI, especially those in the valley bottom that are naturally damper (fen meadow and valley fen features). Careful siting of infrastructure would be needed to avoid an impact on the watercourse and drainage patterns upstream of the SSSI. It is envisaged that standard mitigation measures will be implemented during the construction work, including compliance with both project wide and site-specific environmental management procedures, with		

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
reference to SSEN Transmission General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) and Species Protection Plans (SPPs) and a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) will be developed for the Proposed Development and adopted by the Principal Contractor during the construction phase. These measures should ensure that local drainage patterns are unaffected. Alignment 20 and 21 cross the northern boundary of Strathbogie Wildcat Priority Area. Protected species survey work will inform whether there is likely to be any impact on this species. NatureScot do not anticipate any significant adverse effects on wildcat. This section is within 20 km of Special Protection Areas designated for wintering species of geese. - Loch of Strathbeg SPA – ornithological interests include non-breeding greylag geese, pink-footed geese and Svalbard barnacle geese. - Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA – ornithological interests include non-breeding pink-footed geese. NatureScot advise that the foraging range from their roosting sites within the SPAs is between 15 –20 km (possibly up to 25 km for barnacle geese). Although within the potential connectivity distances of these SPAs, the alignments are at the upper end of these distances.		
Concerns were raised by NTS that the section around Culloden could disturb sensitive archaeological remains (including human remains) and also irreversibly degrade	National Trust for Scotland (NTS)	We welcomed the opportunity to hold one of the consultation events from the visitor centre at Culloden and, as could be

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
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. 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. As it stands, NTS object to the proposed route and ask that an alternative route is pursued. 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.		seen during the event, the location of the Potential Alignment has been designed to entirely avoid the designated sites associated with the Culloden battlefield. The Potential Alignment would run parallel and behind an existing OHL to the south and towers would be paired to minimise visual impact. We are also currently investigating other potential mitigation measures to further reduce the visibility of the line where feasible. 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. 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.
Glenlatterach supplies Glenlatterach Water Treatment Works (WTW), and	Scottish Water	Scottish Water’s preference is noted.

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
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. It would be Water Resources' preference to request the alternative route proposed in SSEN Alignment Maps and Considerations report of 15B and 14C. The route shapefile provided currently follows 14D and 15C, while the potential alternative marked in their reports of 15B and 14C would greatly reduce the risk to this source by remaining outside of the catchment SSEN acknowledged that this alternative route would be adopted if the proposed Kellas Drum Wind Farm obtains planning consent. The Spey Boreholes, Dipple and the Ordiequish Collecting Chambers supply the Spey Scheme (Badentinan) Water Treatment Works (WTW) and ground water will need to be protected. In the route option that has been retained by SSEN, the power line towers would be located up-flow of, and very close to, Scottish Water abstraction points and the Ordiequish Infiltration Gallery. The construction phase of site work would come at a risk to Scottish Water assets. Scottish Water believe there is another route option which may reduce the risk and is something that could be further considered. Burn Of Davidstone and Shenwell Spring supply Hericks Water Treatment Works (WTW) and this is a particularly sensitive area so great care will need to be taken. The route passes downstream, but within <0.5km of the Birken Burn intake and		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. We have since engaged directly with Scottish Water regarding the drinking water abstractions along the River Spey and at Ordiequish to discuss design mitigation options. An alternative alignment option (Alignment 17D) was identified which moves the Proposed Development further from the Scottish Water abstraction points than the Potential Alignment 17B. Alignment 17D has been assessed in comparison to the Potential Alignment and discussed in more detail with Scottish Water. On balance, Alignment 17D has been selected as the Proposed Alignment, as it will minimise the potential for impacts on the public water supply. Alignment 17B, although considered to be preferable in landscape and visual terms, has unacceptable potential impacts to the Scottish Water drinking water supplies at Dipple.

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<1km from the Herricks Intake, both burns supplying Herricks WTW. This will be a low-risk development for water resources (quantity); however it is important that drainage is not directed out of the catchment and SW must be notified of any pollution incidents that could impact this catchment.		To mitigate the potential landscape and visual impacts in this section resulting from the need to prioritise the protection of the public water supply, options for undergrounding of one of the existing transmission OHLs in this area are being considered in more detail and will be presented as mitigation within the EIA Report. Changes to Section 18 were required as a direct consequence of the deviation of Section 17, to provide connection from the Section 17 into Section 18. More information is provided on this decision in the accompanying Alignment Deviations Appraisal in Appendix C. Noted. Drinking water protected areas and water supply abstractions are being considered and 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.
Transport Scotland have confirmed that there are no new comments at Alignment Stage. Previous comments can be found in the Route Report on Consultation.	Transport Scotland	Noted
Woodland Trust has significant concerns regarding the proposed	Woodland Trust	The alignment selection process has considered

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
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. Impact on Ancient/LEPO WoodlandA number of ancient woodlands are potentially impacted by the proposals. The following impacts are possible: • Direct loss of ancient/LEPO woodland, soils and habitat occurring within or adjacent to the new overhead line. • Encroachment on the root systems and rooting environment of trees within the ancient woodland adjacent to site boundary and associated works. • Where powerlines oversail ancient/LEPO woodlands, the creation of wayleaves typically results in loss or deterioration of woodland habitat below the powerlines. • Permanent fragmentation due to the removal of adjacent semi-natural habitats, to facilitate access to the transmission line for construction or maintenance. • Noise and dust pollution arising during construction work.		woodland and forestry with a view to minimising woodland removal and avoiding ancient woodland and veteran trees, where possible. A specific chapter on Forestry will be included within the EIA Report. Details on compensatory planting proposals will be provided. If required, a LTFP amendment and woodland creation proposal will be completed.

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
• Compaction or trampling of sensitive ancient woodland flora and soils. Impacts on Veteran Trees Three veteran trees, recorded in the Ancient Tree Inventory, have been identified close to the Proposed Development. The following impacts are possible: • Loss of veteran trees. • Deterioration of veteran trees as a result of new infrastructure encroaching on root protection areas. • Deterioration of veteran trees resulting from long-term tree management needs where they are oversailed by new lines. 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. Mitigation for Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees Potential mitigation approaches for the protection of Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees are outlined in the Woodland Trust's 'Planners' Manual'. Woodland Trust states that the Proposed 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/		

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
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).		
This environmental charity would have 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.	The Deveron, Bogie & Isla Rivers Charitable Trust & River Deveron District Salmon Fishery Board	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.
Network Rail have stated that any works over or adjacent to railway infrastructure will be subject to further discussion and agreement with Network Rail. Network Rail advise 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.	Network Rail	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.
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.	Airwave Services Limited	Noted.

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Moray Council emphasise that the use of alternative measures to overhead lines (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. 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. 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 & LDP policies. 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 ownership. This must include the submission of a Community Wealth Building Plan (CWBP). The corridor route passes close to the Blackhills House, the grounds of which is included on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes. Under NPF Policy 7 and MLDP Policy EP11, development should ensure the character and reasons for the designation should	Moray Council	A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment will be included within the EIA Report and where deemed essential, undergrounding of small sections of existing electricity network will be considered. A Private Water Supply Risk Assessment and assessment of drinking water supplies will be completed as part of the EIA Report. Throughout the routing 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. A socio-economic assessment will be produced to accompany the EIA Report. This will include information on how the Proposed Development will maximise net economic impact. A landscape and visual impact assessment and assessment of cultural heritage will be included in the EIA Report which will capture the GDL designation. Moray Council's comments have been noted and will be taken into account when positioning tower locations in Section 19.

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
not be compromised by development. Moray Council note that Alignment 19B appears to intersect part of the Council’s existing Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) to the East of Newmill. No structures should be constructed within 6 metres of any of the FAS boundaries.		
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 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. Firm, specific commitments in terms of existing overhead line 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. It is noted that the pattern of woodland and open space is quite distinctive in this local landscape of the Enclosed Farmland 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. 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 Highland Council	A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment will be included within the EIA Report and where deemed essential, undergrounding of small sections of existing electricity network will be considered. Biodiversity Net Gain and Compensatory planting proposals will be presented alongside the EIA Report with the s37 application. In relation to weighting, we do not feel that too much weight was given to individual properties. The proximity of the Proposed Development, 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 an L&V perspective including: Minimising impact on setting of historic assets & smaller areas of high amenity value (Holford Rule 2)

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the ancient woodland areas. The current alignment includes two towers in very close proximity to the A862 at Easter Moniack – potential significant landscape and visual impacts for road users. SSEN to consider feasibility of alternative options in this section, including: - Moving towers slightly further away from road to maintain existing roadside screening, and enable planting of additional screening (as current alignment would likely require removal of existing roadside trees). - Consider feasibility of purchasing closest residential properties and yard area to south to enable a more substantial move away from roadside. - Undergrounding of a short section of the 400kV OHL. Feasibility study required including further details of 400kV sealing end compound design/scale to demonstrate the issues with this. - Review if there are any alternative feasible alignment options which would avoid this pinch point. - Consider whether there would be benefits of additional rationalisations of existing infrastructure to mitigate cumulative impacts/wirescape in this specific area. A82 and Caledonian Canal crossing sections: - 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		- Avoiding loss of woodland and hedgerow (Holford Rule 5) - Containing infrastructure into a single corridor, but where divergence occurs, to maintain space between the OHLs for properties between (note on Holford Rule 6) - Minimising the number of angle towers (Holford rule 3). 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 OHL; maintaining setting around listed structures at Easter Moniack (Reelig Bridge & Reelig Gate Lodge); maintaining 170m buffer from properties; and minimising number of crossings of the A862. Position of towers adjacent to the A862 are being considered. 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 OHL as a straight line through woodland.

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corridor also. This means that the towers here have a very high and concentrated pool of visual of a high sensitivity. - General agreement that the current Potential Alignment (5E) is preferable over the alternative (5F), as this avoids the requirement for a large angle tower in close proximity to the canal which would be visible for long distances when travelling along the canal/towpath. - At A82 crossing point, consider options to move the tower closest to the road further west (away from road). This aligns with changes to tower positions currently being made to avoid Torvean Landforms SSSI features in consultation with NatureScot. - To help soften the visual approach to the tower next to the A82, consider planting within the field. - Consider options to reduce the artificial nature of the OHL wayleave crossing The Aird, by 'softening' the edges. Also 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		The A82 – position of towers in relation to the A82 is being reviewed to move further from roadside. Existing vegetation helps considerably screen and break up views of the OHL until in close proximity. 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. 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 Proposed Alignment presented in Figure 4.2 presents this revised alignment. At the crossing of the A82, the tower nearest the road has been moved slightly further away, however this is constrained by the sub-surface features of the Torvean Landforms geological Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Regarding forestry proposals at the Aird, our landscape architects will work closely with forestry specialists to ensure visual impacts are minimised as much as possible through the forested areas of the Aird.

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possibility of undergrounding, with the use of directional drilling, for this relatively short section of the overall line has been fully explored. 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. 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 LCTs.		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. These comments are noted and will be taken on board when reviewing the position of towers in the vicinity of the A9. 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.
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 with the proposed transmission line, it is considered that landscape mitigation and enhancement measures should form a key part of the proposals.	Aberdeenshire Council	A Landscape and Visual Impact assessment will be included within the EIA Report which will consider applicable mitigation and enhancement measures as appropriate.
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 routing comments were made: SEPA prefer any route that avoids large scale felling;	SEPA	SEPA's comments have been noted. With specific reference to the contamination mentioned, a Phase 1 desk study will be undertaken as part of the EIA and made available to SEPA.

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• areas of peat should be avoided and the NPF4 mitigation hierarchy followed; • information on potentially contaminated land sites was provided; • a number of private water supplies lie within the corridor route; • the future flood extent associated several of the watercourses along the proposed alignment will need careful consideration in terms of infrastructure location and access if this route is taken forward; • recommended watercourse buffer zones were provided for protection and geomorphic risk; and • 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. SEPA also identified watercourses suitable for riparian planting. They provided specific feedback in Section 29 proposed route passes through the 1km search area for Radioactive substances (Radium-226) associated with the historical use of the Former airfield at Longside (NK 03000 47500). If this remains the case a Phase 1 desk study will be required to be submitted to identify the potential for radioactive contamination within the cable route boundaries and establish whether any further detailed assessment is required.		

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Equestrian use should be included when planning 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.	British Horse Society	The traffic and transport assessment within the EIA Report will consider use of the roads by horse riders during construction and operation. Maintenance of access along the path network will also be considered within the recreation and tourism assessment.
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.	Met Office	Noted.
Ugie District Salmon Fisheries raised concern about impact on fishing activity in the area and had a number of queries: • What planning has been implemented to protect wild salmon and sea trout in the River Ugie and in the sea? • How will the operator ensure that the ecology and habitat will not be diminished during the construction and operational stages of the Proposed Development? • Are we proposing to do any electro fishing in the catchment before and after construction as part of standard mitigation?	Ugie District Salmon Fishery Board	Further assessment will be carried out to understand the potential for impacts on the aquatic and riparian habitats, and any mitigation required. Potential impacts during construction and operation will be assessed in detail as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment stage. Ecology (including aquatic ecology) will be protected 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 , although an outline CEMP will accompany the EIA. The CEMP will detail how the Principal Contractor will manage construction in accordance with

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		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 experience Environmental Clerk of Works (EnvCoW), with support from other environmental professionals as required. Once operational, in general an OHL requires very little maintenance, although regular inspections are undertaken of the line and towers to identify any deterioration of components so they may be replaced before potential failure.
BT provided information on radio communications links that could be impacted by the proposed OHL.	BT	We have noted all of the radio communications links locations and will ensure that towers are positioned to avoid impacting on these links.
MBNL requested a change to avoid interference with emergency telecoms masts. They have also advised that multiple emergency service network links are present within Section 5 and should be considered for tower placement.	MBNL	Adjustments have been made to accommodate emergency telecommunications links.
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.	Strathnairn Community Council	Concerns received throughout the consultation period have been considered, we are aware of these concerns and will mitigate potential impacts where possible.

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Comments go on to state that 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.		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 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. 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. 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.

7.2. Appendix B - Postcard Invites

Beaully to Blackhillock to New Deer to Peterhead 400kV OHL Project

Overhead line alignment consultation events

We are hosting a series of public events across the project route from 20 May until 20 June 2024. These events form part of the pre-application consultation process for the consent application that will be submitted under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.

To support the growth in renewable developments across the north of Scotland, investment in our network infrastructure is needed to connect this power and transport it to areas of demand. This includes a new 400kV overhead line between Fanellan near Beaully and Netherton near Peterhead connecting into new substations near Coachford near Blackhillock and Greens near New Deer.

We will be sharing our potential alignment for the overhead line, with alternative alignment options in some locations, presented through maps and visualisations.

Interested parties can attend our drop-in events to discuss our plans with the project team and share views. Feedback can be provided through printed forms available at the events, the online form available from the project webpage or in email to the Community Liaison Manager. The feedback period will be open until Friday 2 August 2024.

Any comments made to us as the Applicant are not representations to Scottish Ministers as the decision makers. There will be opportunity to make formal representations to Scottish Ministers via the Energy Consents Unit following the submission of the section 37 application.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Community Liaison Manager:

Ryan Davidson
1 Waterloo Street, Glasgow, G2 6AY
Tel: +44 7901 133 919
Email: ryan.davidson@sse.com

To find out more and register for project updates, visit the project website: ssen-transmission.co.uk/BBNP

@ssentransmission @SSETransmission

7.3. Appendix C – Deviations Appraisal

Alignment Deviations Appraisal

Project: Beaully to Blackhillock to New Deer to Peterhead 400 kV Connection

November 2024

REF: LT37 and LT359

The events will be held at the following locations:			
Monday 20 May, 3–7pm Maud Village Hall, Nethermuir Rd, Maud, Peterhead, AB42 4ND	Wednesday 29 May, 2–7pm Stewarts Hall, 15–17 Gordon St, Huntly, AB54 8AJ		
Tuesday 21 May, 2–7pm Cuminstown Community Hall, Main St, Cuminstown, Turrieff, AB53 5YJ	Thursday 30 May, 2–7pm Longmore Hall, Banff Road, Keith, AB55 5ET		
Wednesday 22 May, 2–7pm Longside Parish Church Hall, Inn Brae, Longside, AB42 4XN	Tuesday 4 June, 3–7pm Fornightly Hall, Lethen Rd, Fornightly, Nairn, IV12 5JB		
Thursday 23 May, 2–7pm New Deer Public Hall, Fordyce Terrace, New Deer, Aberdeenshire, AB53 6WE	Wednesday 5 June, 3–7pm Dallas Houldsworth Institute (Dallas Village Hall) Dallas, Moray, IV36 2RA		
Monday 27 May, 3–7pm Baden Powell Centre, Baden Powell Road, Turrieff, AB53 4FA	Thursday 6 June, 3–7pm Inchberry Hall, Fochabers, IV32 7QB	Tuesday 18 June, 3–7pm Kingsmill Hotel, Culcabock Rd, Inverness, IV2 3LP	Thursday 20 June, 2–7pm Kiltarlity Village Hall, Kiltarlity, Beaully, IV4 7HH
Tuesday 28 May, 2–7pm Cairnie Memorial Hall, Cairnie, AB54 4TQ	Tuesday 18 June, 10–1pm Culloden Visitor Centre, Culloden Battlefield, Inverness IV2 5EU	Wednesday 19 June, 2–7pm Phipps Hall, Station Rd, Beaully, IV4 7EH	

Please refer to the documents section on the [project webpage](#) to access this document.

7.4. Appendix D – Proposed Alignment

