Bingally 400kV Substation Community Liaison Group

Meeting 05: 27 October 2026 – Cannich Hall

AGENDA

1. Welcome, apologies and confirmation of minutes
2. Actions from last meeting
3. Bingally project and construction update
4. LT592 Fasnakyle–Bingally update
5. Four-week community lookahead and other community updates
6. Lead Contractor BAM update
7. Blasting noise and on-site peat management
8. Cannich car park / community questions / AOB



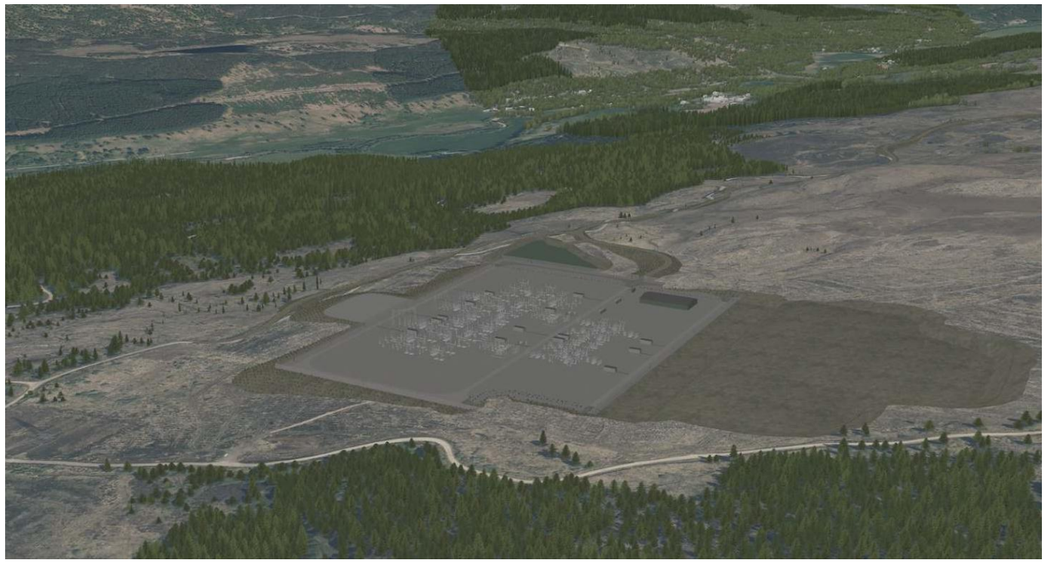
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Actions from Last Meeting

Number	Action / Update	Owner	Open/Closed	Update
1	Continue four-week community lookahead and advance notifications	SSEN T / BAM	closed	Will be an open agenda item going forward
2	Progress Cannich car park ownership, survey and assessment information	JMcK / JM / KG	Open	Update required, to discuss as a group
3	Confirm where blasting noise is assessed in the Environmental Appraisal and associated documents	Keith / James	Open	Agenda item
4	Provide fire and emergency planning update following Fire & Rescue engagement	BAM	Open	On Agenda (if arranged before meeting, otherwise will remain open)
5	Confirm delivery and traffic arrangements with The Highland Council	SSEN T / BAM	Open	Update required
6	Wind Speed results for site selection	SSEN T	Closed	Email sent to group
7	Confirm community preference for site cabin colour	CLG	Open	Decision required
8	Confirm arrangements for an accurate record of future CLG meetings	JMcK	Closed	We will proceed with voice recording unless any unforeseen issues arise
9	Update from meeting Balanain Primary Parent Council	SSEN T / BAM	Open	Agenda item covered by Heather (BAM)

Project Update – Irfan Ahmad (update from James Attridge in Irfan's absence)

- Positive Site Progress - Site/Tree Clearance within FLS area plus associated preparation works for Temp Compound Areas under PD rights agreement. (see next slide for pics).
- Last remaining Pre-commencement planning condition (CTMP) is outstanding which is subject to agreement with THC on Active Travel Improvement Plan & Structure Assessment report feedback.



Project Update – Irfan Ahmad (update from James Attridge in Irfan's absence)





Fasnakyle-Bingally Project update

James Attridge – Project Manager



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LT592 connects Fasnakyle into the new Bingally hub

The new 132kV link maintains Fasnakyle's network connection and supports the wider transmission upgrade.

8 km
total route

6.5 km
underground cable

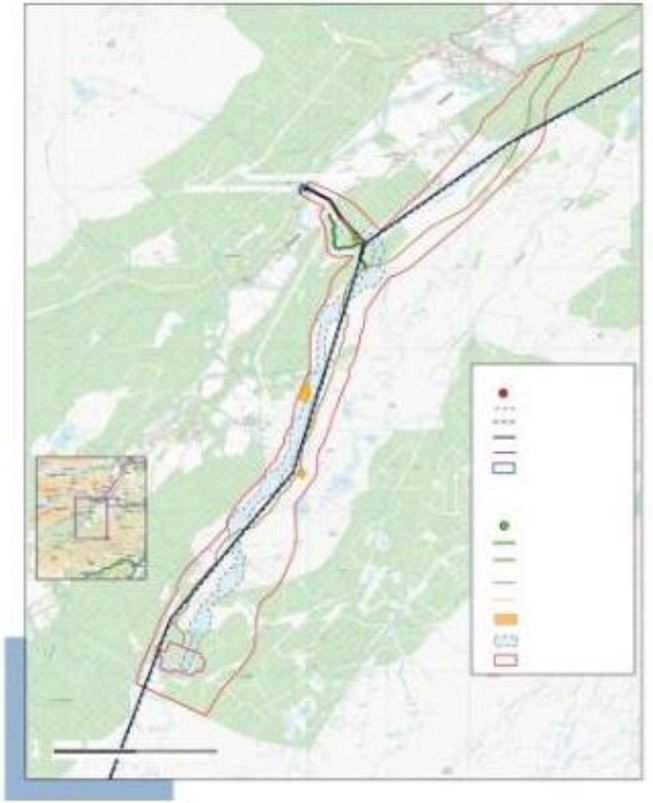
132kV
new connection

How the connection works

01 Reuse existing towers to cross the River Glass.

02 Add Tower 200R and a cable sealing end compound.

03 Continue underground to Bingally Substation.



Preferred development corridor

Source: SSEN Transmission, Final PAC booklet (Oct 2026)

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Why the Fasnakyle–Bingally connection is needed

LT592 provides the practical 132kV connection required as the surrounding transmission network moves to higher capacity.

01

Wider network upgrade

The Beauly–Denny circuit is being upgraded to operate at 400kV, increasing capacity across the Highlands.

02

Fasnakyle constraint

The existing site cannot accommodate 400kV equipment, so Fasnakyle will be reconfigured to operate at 132kV.

03

LT592 solution

The new link connects Fasnakyle to the nearest suitable 132kV point at Bingally and keeps renewable power moving.

LT592 maintains Fasnakyle's connection while enabling the wider network reinforcement.

Source: SSEN Transmission, Final PAC booklet (Oct 2026)

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What will be built between Fasnakyle and Bingally

A hybrid design reuses existing infrastructure, adds one short overhead section and places most of the route underground.

RIVER GLASS CROSSING	Reuse three existing towers already spanning the river.
NEW OVERHEAD SECTION	Install one new Tower 200R, approximately 31 metres tall.
CABLE TRANSITION	Build a cable sealing end compound, approximately 40m × 35m.
UNDERGROUND ROUTE	Install two 132kV cable circuits for approximately 6.5 km to Bingally.



Examples of cable sealing end infrastructure

Design outcome

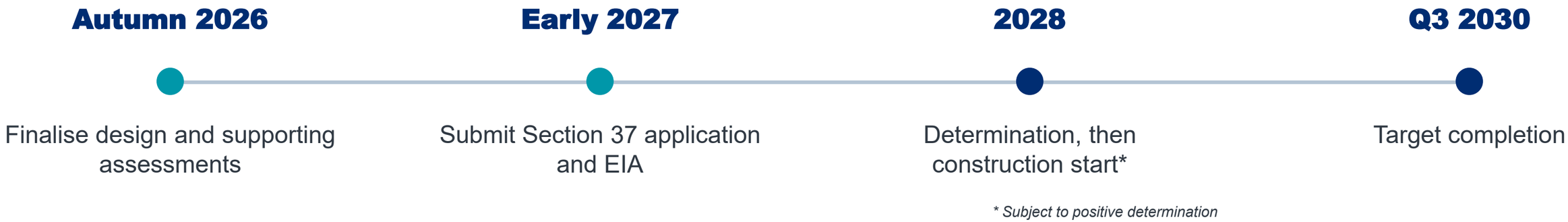
Most of the new connection will be underground, reducing the amount of additional overhead infrastructure.

Source: SSEN Transmission, Final PAC booklet (Oct 2026)

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A clear route from final design to delivery

The programme moves through consent and detailed preparation before construction begins, subject to determination.



** Subject to positive determination*

Next delivery priorities

1 Complete the design

Close out consultation inputs and final technical assessments.

2 Prepare for consent

Publish the application, environmental reports and plans.

3 Plan construction

Develop detailed methods, access and delivery arrangements.

Source: SSEN Transmission, Final PAC booklet (Oct 2026)

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Community Lookahead and communications



Heather MacGillvray - BAM

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4 Week Lookahead

- Movements we have in terms of deliveries over the next 4-6 weeks
- Any works happening, ie Tree felling, building compound etc ..
- Any abnormal loads?
- How is Traffic Management operating and any issues reported
- Any disruption expected? Any provisional dates?
- How will we communicate this?

bam

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- Any updates on Balnain and Cannich Primary Schools regarding STEM outreach
- Update regarding meeting with the Balnain Parent Council
- Update on the potential works to pathway etc that the Parent Council want to undertake
- Any other community activities in the area?

Project Update

Keith Gibson – Project Manager – BAM



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BAM Update

Works Ongoing to date

- Forestry clearance works across first 800m of site.
- Establishment of initial hard standings in preparation for initial welfare set up.
- Surface water management and silt mitigation measures set up.
- De-stumping and clearance works to northern compound area.

Works to be progress up to end of 2026

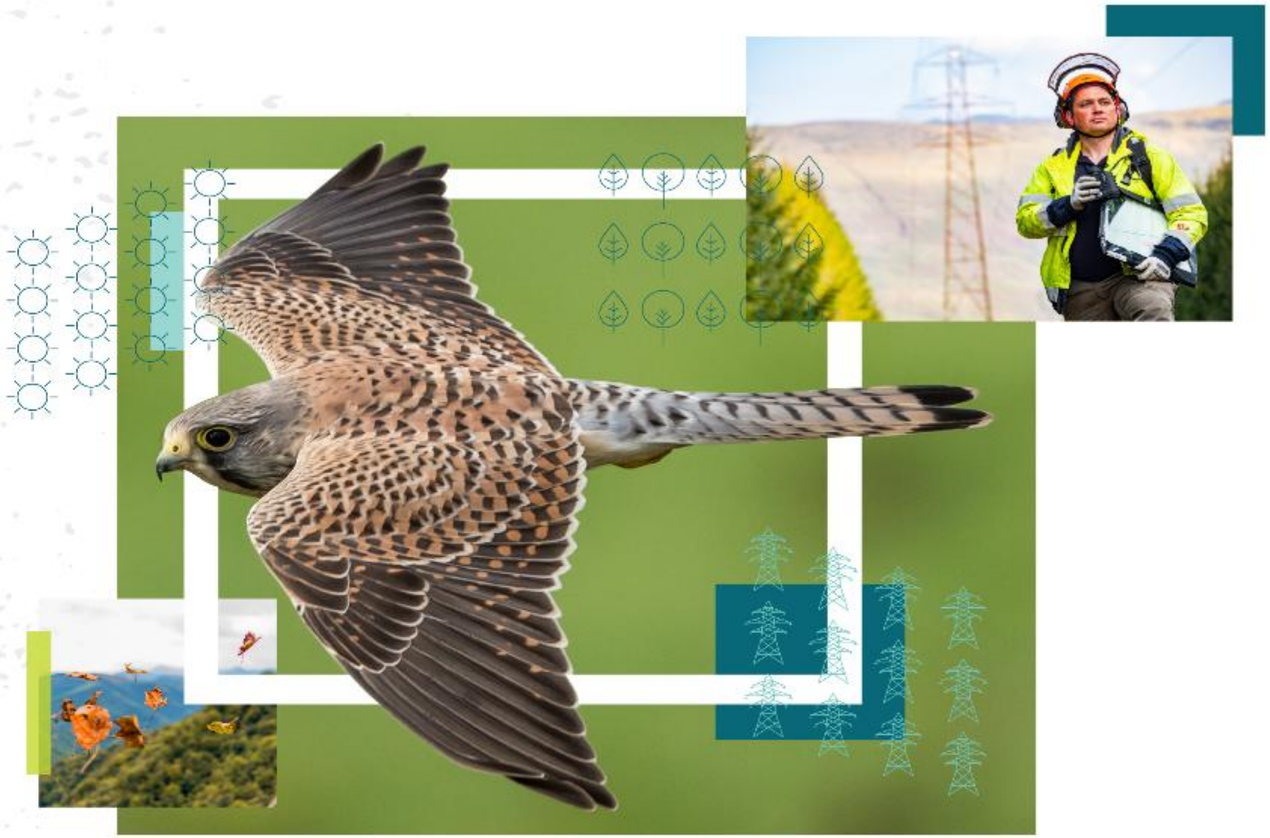
- Glen Affric Way footpath diversion to be established.
- A831 bellmouth construction to commence.
- Northern compound construction to progress.
- Forestry clearance works to progress through RSPB land area.
- Access track construction to commence.


Bingally - ASTI
19/10/2026
20 m
-178.6°
Captured with DroneDeploy


Bingally - AST
19/10/2026
10 m
-176.1°
Captured with DroneDeploy

James Elliott – Environment & Consents Manager

Peat Management (onsite restoration)



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Access Track Peat Management

- Due to length of access track (9.5km), a separate PMP was developed to cover this work.

- Peat will be generated by cutting along the proposed access track and forming the northern compound and laydown area near the start of the access track

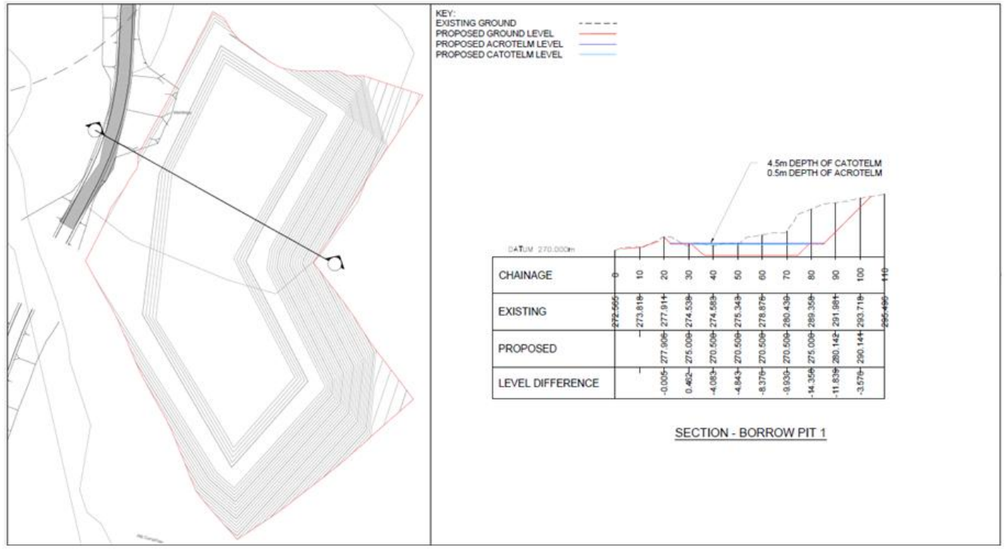
- There will be three borrow pits formed to obtain site won stone material and they will not be generating peat volumes. The excavated peat from the access track and compound will be relocated here.

- Excavations along the access track will produce an estimated 16,941m3 of catotelm peat and 37,544m3 of acrotelm peat.

- The acrotelmic peat is proposed to be placed to a depth of 0.5m above the relocated catotelmic peat within the borrow pits. The remainder will be laid for landscaping purposes, dressing to swales, cut-off ditches and road fill embankment slopes in areas as close as possible to the source.

- Based on groundwater monitoring results in the vicinity of Borrow Pits 1 and 3, it is considered that groundwater recharge of the peat will be sufficient (combined with typical levels of rainfall) to keep the restored peat from drying out.





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Substation Peat Management

- Initial PMP developed by AECOM for planning submission. Detailed PMP developed by Fairhurst for planning condition.SEPA provide feedback and accept document in August 2026.

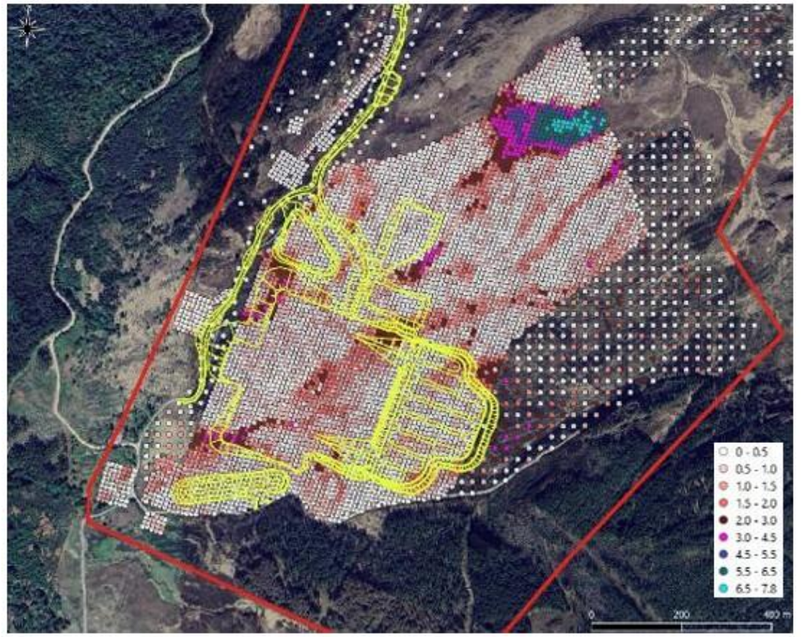
- Peat will be generated by platform construction, including extended handling area and peat cells, SuDS basin, welfare compounds and temporary settlement lagoons.

- The volume of acrotelm peat to be relocated is estimated to be 160,000m3. The volume of catolem peat is estimated to be 133,000m3.

- Permanent catotelmic peat relocation will be within the eight internal platform peat cells, the external peat cell in the south of the site and borrow pits within Access Track.

- The acrotelmic peat will be used as a surface reinstatement layer across the permanent catotelmic peat relocation areas. It will also be reused as dressing for swales, SuDS basin and shallow slopes. It is expected that acrotelmic peat could be placed on the fill slopes and SuDS basin slopes at a thickness of up to 0.5m.

- The cells and borrow pits will be monitored to ensure that they maintain saturated peat conditions, prevent oxidation, erosion and loss of stored peat and support establishment of peatland/wetland plant communities.



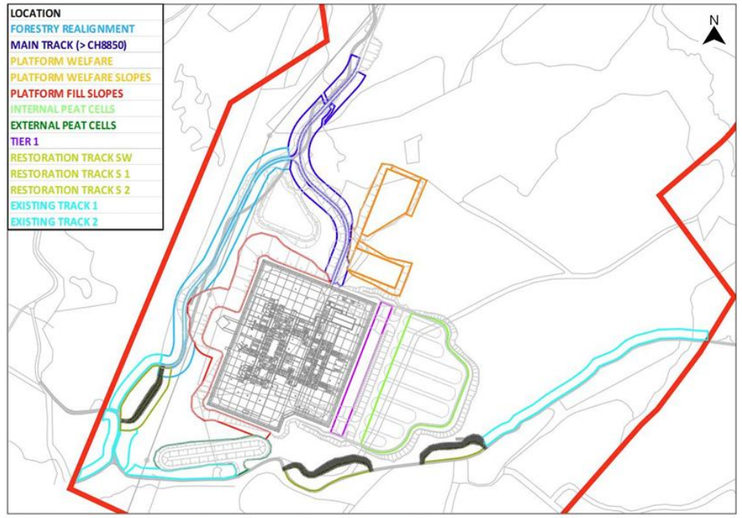


Figure 10: Outline areas for acrotelm relocation within substation.

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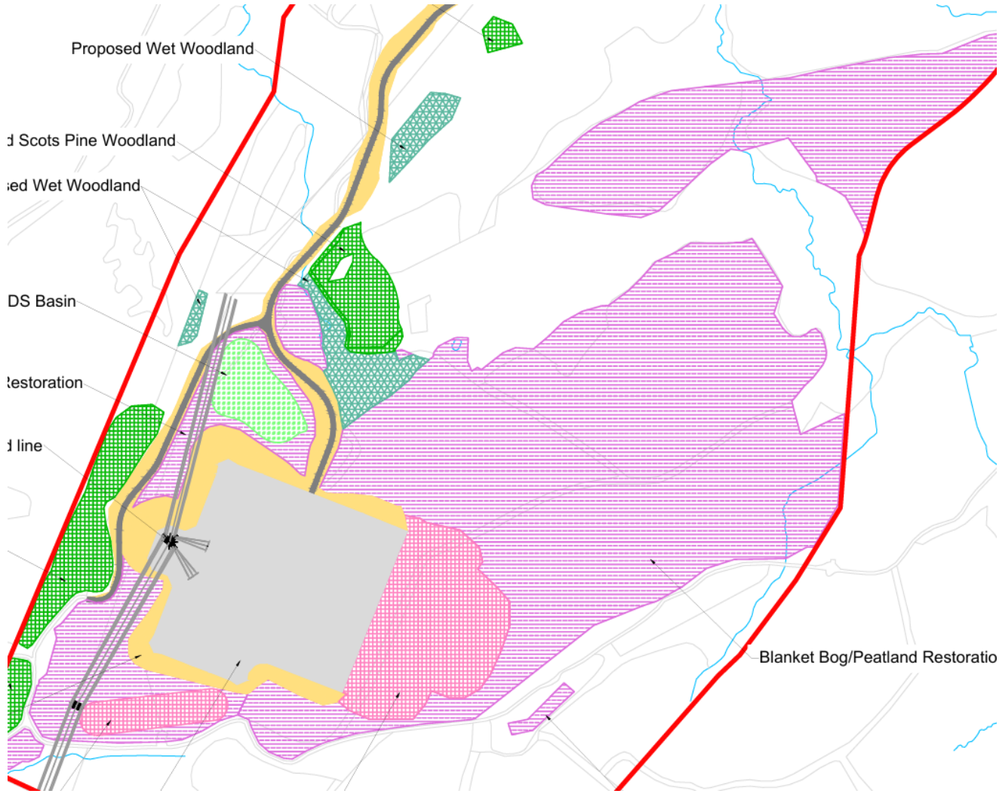
Wider Peat Restoration on Site

Peatland restoration is proposed along areas where earthworks will occur within the Site. This is proposed as a seed mix informed by site conditions and specialist ecologists.

Further ecological enhancement will include peatland restoration conducted in suitable locations around the platform, for 30 years (including a five year period of monitoring for vegetation establishment).

This wider area is being assessed for conversion from (currently felled) woodland to Peatland in line with Scottish Forestry's guidance on soil management options for afforested deep peatland (circa 2015).

Peatland habitats in this area have been badly disturbed by former forestry operations, leaving the land heavily ridged and drained. Good condition for blanket bog could be met through interventions using recognised best practice techniques, e.g. smoothing and / or drainage channel blocking (which would likely make use of excess peat won from the proposed substation platform area) to bring the water table at/near the bog surface all year, with ongoing maintenance of tree / scrub clearance.



Scientific Name	Common Name	Planting Method	Sowing Rate	Mix
SEEDED SPECIES				
Calluna vulgaris	Heather	Hydro-seeded	3 g/m2	20%
Empetrum nigrum	Crowberry			10%
Erica cinerea	Bell heather			10%
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved heath			10%
Eriophorum angustifolium	Common cottongrass			10%
Eriophorum vaginatum	Hare's-tail cottongrass			10%
Juncus squarrosus	Heath rush			10%
Vaccinium myrtillus	Bilberry			10%
Vaccinium vitis-idaea	Cowberry			10%

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Blasting Noise and Environmental Controls

Condition no.7 - Blasting
No development shall commence until a blasting method statement, prepared by a suitably qualified and competent person in accordance with PAN 50 Annex D: The Control of Blasting at Surface Mineral Workings, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. The method statement should include but is not limited to the following:

a) The best practicable measures to be taken to reduce the impact of air overpressure and vibration at sensitive properties;
b) The approximate number of blasts on a weekly or annual basis and the periods of the day when blasting will be carried out; and
c) The methods for providing the public with advance warning of blasting.

Ground vibrations as a result of the blasting operations shall not exceed a peak particle velocity of 6mms-1 in 95% of all blasts within any 6 month period. No individual blast shall exceed a peak particle velocity of 12mms-1 as measured at noise sensitive properties. The measurement shall be the maximum of three mutually perpendicular directions taken at ground surface at any vibration sensitive building. Thereafter to the development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Environmental Health, in their consultation response, confirm that Section 13 of the CEMP provides details regarding the proposed blasting activities, including the anticipated frequency of blasting and the predicted vibration levels at the nearest sensitive receptor (NSR). In addition, Appendix L contains the site-specific short-firing rules and associated blasting design control measures

Blasting Noise and Environmental Controls

Frequency of blasts

The table below details the approximate frequency of blasts and the anticipated start and end date associated with the relevant phase of the project.

Area	Frequency	Start date (approx.)	Finish date (approx.)
Northern compound	Once per week	September 2026	October 2026
Borrow pit 4	Once per week	January 2027	January 2027
Borrow pit 1	Once per week	February 2027	May 2027
Substation Platform	Once per week	July 2027	December 2027

Community liaison during the project will ensure local communities are provided with updates on key stages of the programme, as appropriate. The information will describe the nature, timing and duration of the works as well as a helpline number that can be used in the event of disturbance. Notification of the intention to blast on a particular day will be issued to the local community as early as possible, but no later than 24 hours before blasting, and will be communicated via the following channels:

- SSENT project update web page
- Community liaison group
- Letter drop to potential affected properties
- Email sent to our existing distribution list (which any individual can sign up to)

Cannich Car Park Ownership and Improvements



- Ownership map and SSE Renewables input
- Existing survey information
- Potential Fairhurst assessment
- Surfacing and drainage options
- Agreed next step, owner and target date

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Any other Business?

Wi-fi update especially with Winter approaching and CLG being held remotely?

Next meeting date is 1st December



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