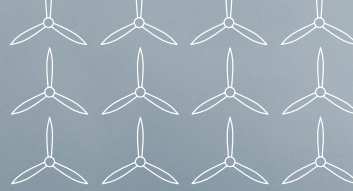




Scottish & Southern
Electricity Networks

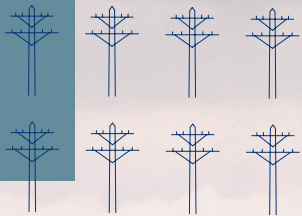
TRANSMISSION



Blarghour Wind Farm Connection

Overhead Line Routeing Consultation

March 2026



ssen-transmission.co.uk/blarghour

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The public consultation event will be taking place on:
Thursday 5 March, 2–7pm
Loch Fyne Hotel, Inveraray, PA32 8XT



Powering change together



The time has come to further enhance Scotland’s energy infrastructure, providing power for future generations as we move towards net zero.

The shift to a cleaner, more sustainable future is about more than climate change. It’s about ensuring future generations have the same opportunities to thrive as we have all had.

Countries around the world are investing in their energy infrastructure to support the demands of modern economies and meet net zero targets. The UK is leading the way in building a modern, sustainable energy system for the future.

We all have a part to play

When it comes to net zero, we have to be in it together. The UK and Scottish governments have ambitious net zero targets, and we’re playing our part in meeting them.

We work closely with the National Energy System Operator (NESO) (previously National Grid Electricity System Operator) to connect vast renewable energy resources—harnessed by solar, wind, hydro and marine generation—to areas of demand across the country. Scotland is playing a big role in meeting this demand, exporting two thirds of power generated in our network.

But there’s more to be done. By 2050, the north of Scotland is predicted to contribute over 50GW of low carbon energy to help deliver net zero. Today, our region has around 9GW of renewable generation connected to the network.

At SSEN Transmission, it is our role to build the energy system of the future.

We’re investing over £20 billion into our region’s energy infrastructure this decade, with the potential for this to increase to over £30 billion. This investment will deliver a network capable of meeting 20% of the UK’s Clean Power 2030 target and supporting up to 37,000 jobs, 17,500 of which will be here in Scotland.

Who we are

We’re responsible for maintaining and investing in the electricity transmission network in the north of Scotland. We’re part of SSE plc, one of the world’s leading energy companies with a rich heritage in Scotland that dates back more than 80 years. We are also closely regulated by the GB energy regulator Ofgem, who determines how much revenue we are allowed to earn for constructing, maintaining and renovating our transmission network.

What we do

We manage the electricity network across our region which covers a quarter of the UK’s land mass, crossing some of the country’s most challenging terrain. We connect renewable energy sources to our network in the north of Scotland and then transport it to where it needs to be. From underground/subsea cables and overhead lines to electricity substations, our network keeps your lights on all year round.

Working with you

We understand that the work we do can have an impact on communities. So we’re committed to minimising our impacts and maximising all the benefits that our developments can bring to your area. We’re regularly assessed by global sustainability consultancy AccountAbility for how we engage with communities. That means we provide all the information you need to know about our plans and how they will impact communities like yours. The way we consult is also a two-way street. We want to hear people’s views, concerns, or ideas and harness local knowledge so that our work benefits their communities: today and long into the future. You can share your views with us at: ssen-transmission.co.uk/talk-to-us/contact-us/



Scan the QR code with your smartphone to find out more about how these policies have been assessed and determined.

Project overview

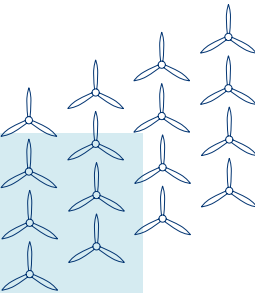
Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission) is proposing to construct and operate a 132kV overhead line (OHL) to connect the consented Blarghour wind farm to our new Creag Dhubh substation currently in construction.

Project background

Coriolis Energy and ESB are the developers for Blarghour wind farm. Originally consented as a 57.8MW development (EC00005267) comprising 17 turbines up to 136.5m in height, the wind farm has since been subject to a variation application (ECU00004754). The variation, approved in August 2024, allows for a revised layout of 14 turbines with increased tip heights of up to 180m, resulting in an increased installed capacity of 67.2MW.

The proposed development includes the construction and operation of a single circuit 132kV OHL, with downleads at either end to connect directly into Blarghour wind farm substation and Creag Dhubh substation.

A previous preferred route and preferred alignment for the proposed development was investigated between 2021 and 2023. The preferred alignment was presented at a public consultation event held in August 2023, following detailed environmental and technical assessment. Following the August 2023 consultation, detailed pre-construction ground investigation works for the Inveraray to Creag Dhubh substation 275kV OHL (ECU00003442) caused micro-siting amendments to the 275kV OHL alignment. The micro-siting resulted in a narrowing of the shared corridor for the proposed Blarghour wind farm connection and the Inveraray to Creag Dhubh 275kV OHL, and the ground investigation work triggered new technical constructability considerations and environmental constraints. As a result, the previously preferred alignment could not be progressed, and a process to identify new route options for the Blarghour wind farm connection was initiated. In Q4 2025, this process resulted in the identification of the proposed Route 3, which is now being formally consulted on, in line with our internal routing guidance procedures. Following consultation, further analysis will be conducted on Route 3 to identify alignment options.



Project overview

The proposed development will comprise the following:

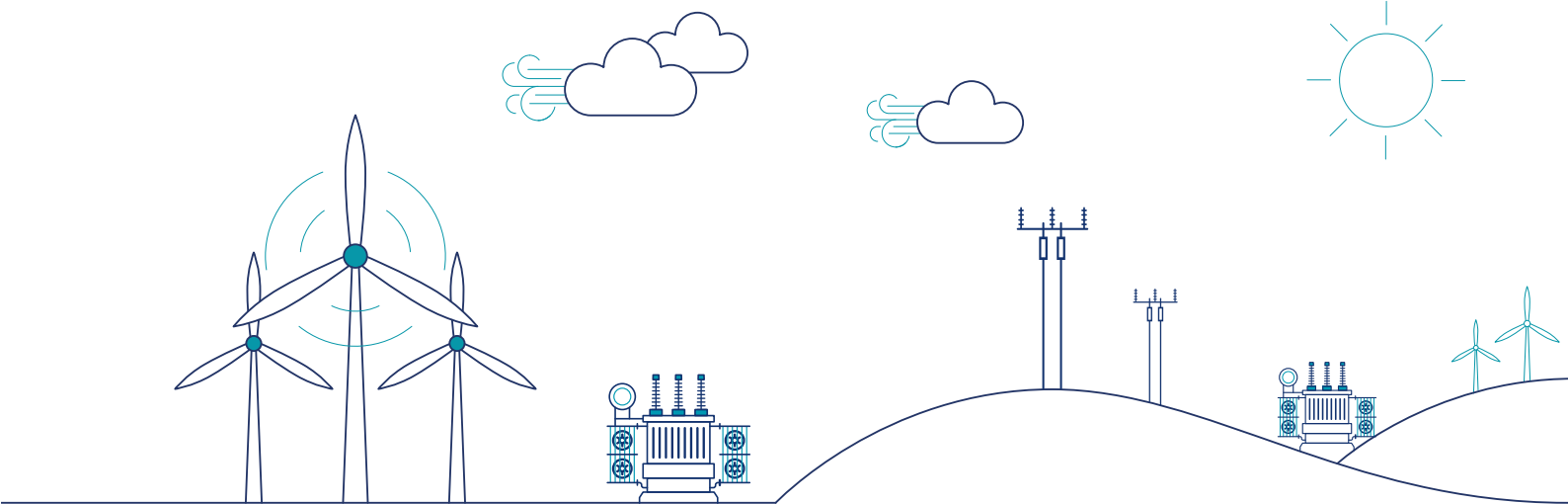
- Installation of 1 x 132kV line disconnector on the Creag Dhubh side of the transformer circuit breaker at Blarghour substation;
- Construction of approximately 12km of single circuit 132kV OHL, comprising a hybrid OHL of wood and steel trident poles. The selection of pole type will depend on terrain and environmental constraints along the potential route between Creag Dhubh and Blarghour substations;
- The low-profile trident H wood poles would have a nominal height of approximately 12-15m, averaging at 14m (including insulators and support). The OHL would be composed of a combination of suspension poles, angle/tension poles, failure containment poles and terminal poles;
- Woodland removal will be identified after the proposed alignment route has been identified, undertaken in consultation with stakeholders, and managed to ensure safe operation, environmental compliance, and minimal impact based on woodland type.
- Construction access strategy will be developed following alignment confirmation, prioritising use and upgrade of existing tracks, low-impact temporary solutions, and permanent access where justified, with approaches adapted to ground conditions and woodland sensitivity.

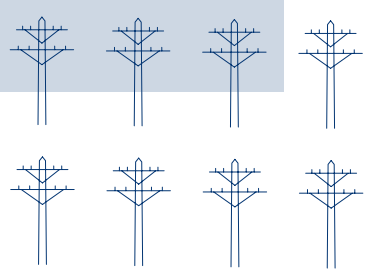
The proposed development will likely require Section 37 consent supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Submission of the application to the Energy Consents Unit of the Scottish Government is currently planned for November 2026.

Site location

The proposed development is situated approximately 4.7km to the north-east of Inveraray in Argyll and Bute.

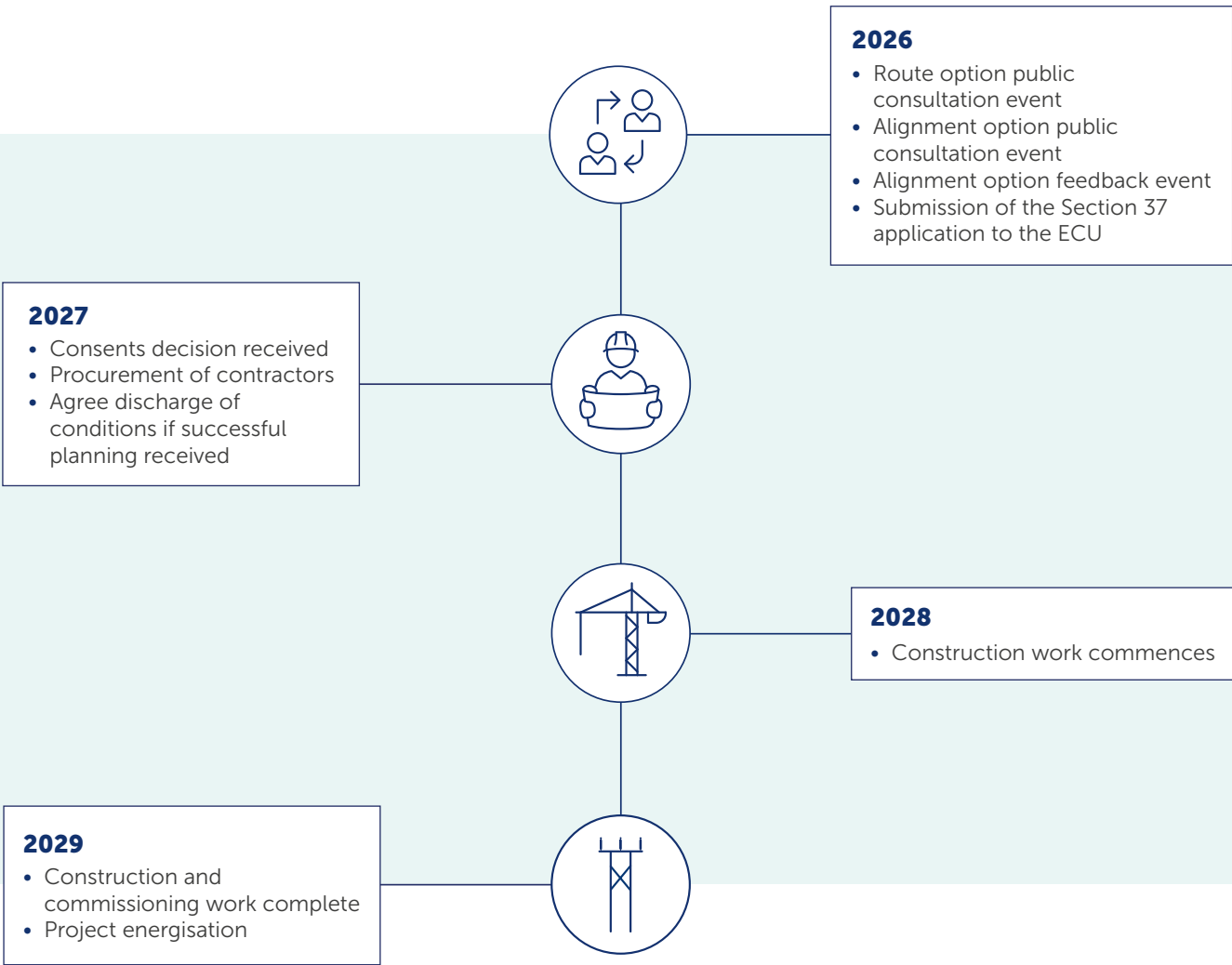
- The northern section of the new potential route is located at Creag Dhubh substation and lies within an area of commercial conifer forestry;
- The central section of the new potential route runs adjacent to and intersects the A819, skirting and overlapping the boundary of the Glen Etive and Glen Fyne Special Protection Area (SPA) that is designated for breeding golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*). The new potential route then traverses the River Aray and its smaller tributaries, crossing areas of rough grazing, commercial conifer forestry, broadleaved woodland, mixed woodland, standing water, and field margins;
- The southern section of the new potential route is located within Three Bridges Plantation, an area of commercial conifer forestry. Recent felling in the north-eastern part of the plantation has resulted in the removal of approximately 10% of the forestry; and,
- The far south western section of the new potential route is located within upland grazed moorland/heath, peatlands with blanket bog and wet heath below rocky outcrops and ridges before terminating at the Blarghour wind farm substation.





Project timeline

*dates are subject to change.



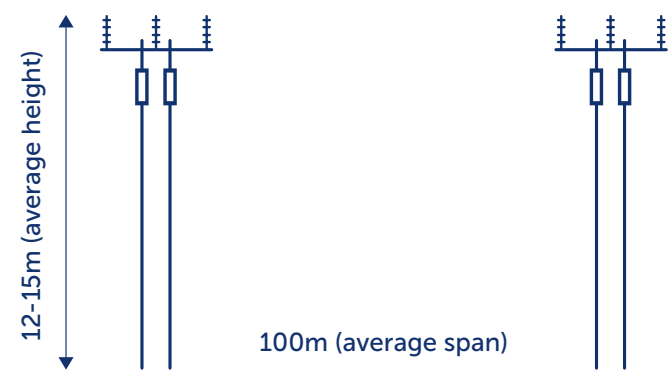
Technology choice

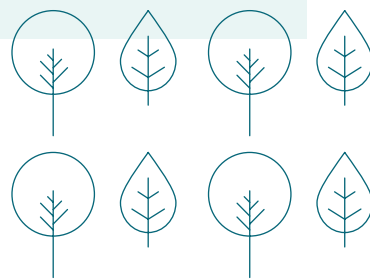
The proposed approximately 12km overhead line between Blarghour windfarm substation and Creag Dhubh substation will use trident wood pole structures operating at 132kV. This choice was made following a detailed review of alternatives, considering cost, constructability, availability, engineering feasibility, environmental impact, and public acceptability.

Wood pole trident structures are a proven and widely used technology. They are familiar to contractors and supported by established installation and maintenance practices, which makes them reliable and straightforward to deliver. Their lighter, modular design makes them easier to transport and install, particularly in areas with limited access, soft ground, or steep terrain. The use of existing forestry and windfarm tracks further reduces the need for new access roads or major civil works, limiting environmental disruption.

Alternative technologies were considered as part of the optioneering process. L7c steel lattice towers were discounted due to their greater height, weight, visual impact, and heavier foundation requirements. EaST steel trident poles were recognised as a robust option in some situations, but their heavier components, more complex erection process, and limited availability make them less suitable for widespread use. Trident wood pole structures were therefore selected as the most balanced option, providing a practical, cost-effective, and publicly acceptable solution.

From a visual and planning perspective, wood poles have a much lower impact than steel alternatives. Typical wood poles are 12 to 15 metres in height, compared with over 25 metres for steel lattice towers. This smaller size, combined with their natural timber appearance, means they blend more easily into rural and scenic landscapes. The design also includes fibre-optic cabling as standard, providing modern protection and control functions.



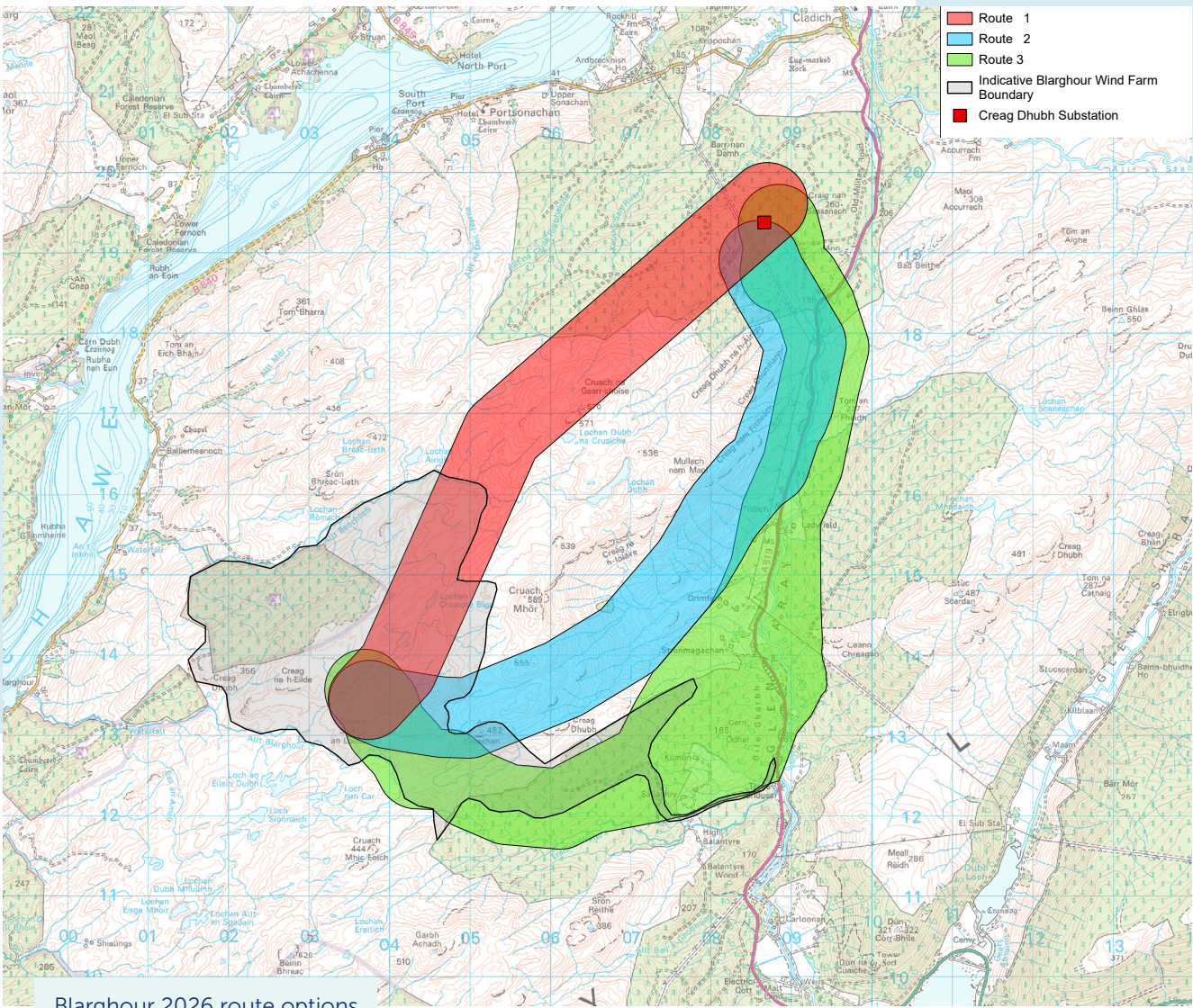


Routeing options

Three route options were identified for appraisal at the routeing stage. A desk-based review has been undertaken supplemented by prior knowledge and experience of the area from historic surveys.

Initially, two route options — Route 1 and Route 2 — were identified and assessed for suitability in 2022 and were reconsidered anew in 2025 as the project returned to the routeing stage. To address the limitations of Routes 1 and 2, a new Route 3 was introduced as an alternative.

The three route options can be seen on the route options figure below.



Blarghour 2026 route options

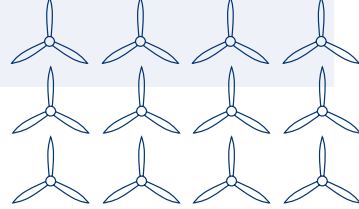
Three potential route options were identified for the Blarghour–Creag Dhubh overhead line connection. These were developed through desktop studies, site visits, and input from construction contractors, and were assessed using our internal routeing guidance methodology.

Route 1 follows a high-elevation ridge line heading northeast from the consented Blarghour wind farm substation for approximately 8km, following the Cruach Mhor ridge line to Creag Dhubh substation. Upon exiting the Blarghour wind farm substation, the route passes multiple existing turbines to the south of the consented wind farm. A route assessment was completed for Route 1 in 2025; however, this option was considered less feasible from an engineering perspective due to lack of available access and the abundance of existing, protected raptors.

Route 2 heads east from the proposed Blarghour wind farm substation for approximately 1km before pivoting to the north east towards Drimfern for approximately 3km. The route then continues north for approximately 5km, following a similar route to the existing Inveraray – Taynuilt OHL running alongside the A819, before terminating at Creag Dhubh substation.

Route 3 travels southeast from the proposed Blarghour wind farm substation for approximately 3km before turning north towards the A819 for approximately 3km. The route aligns closely with the A819, crossing the road at Tullich and continuing parallel to the A819 in a northerly direction for approximately 4km. It then crosses the A819 once more to the north west, near Old Military Road, before terminating at the Creag Dhubh substation after approximately 1km.





Route assessment

Route 1 – Key considerations

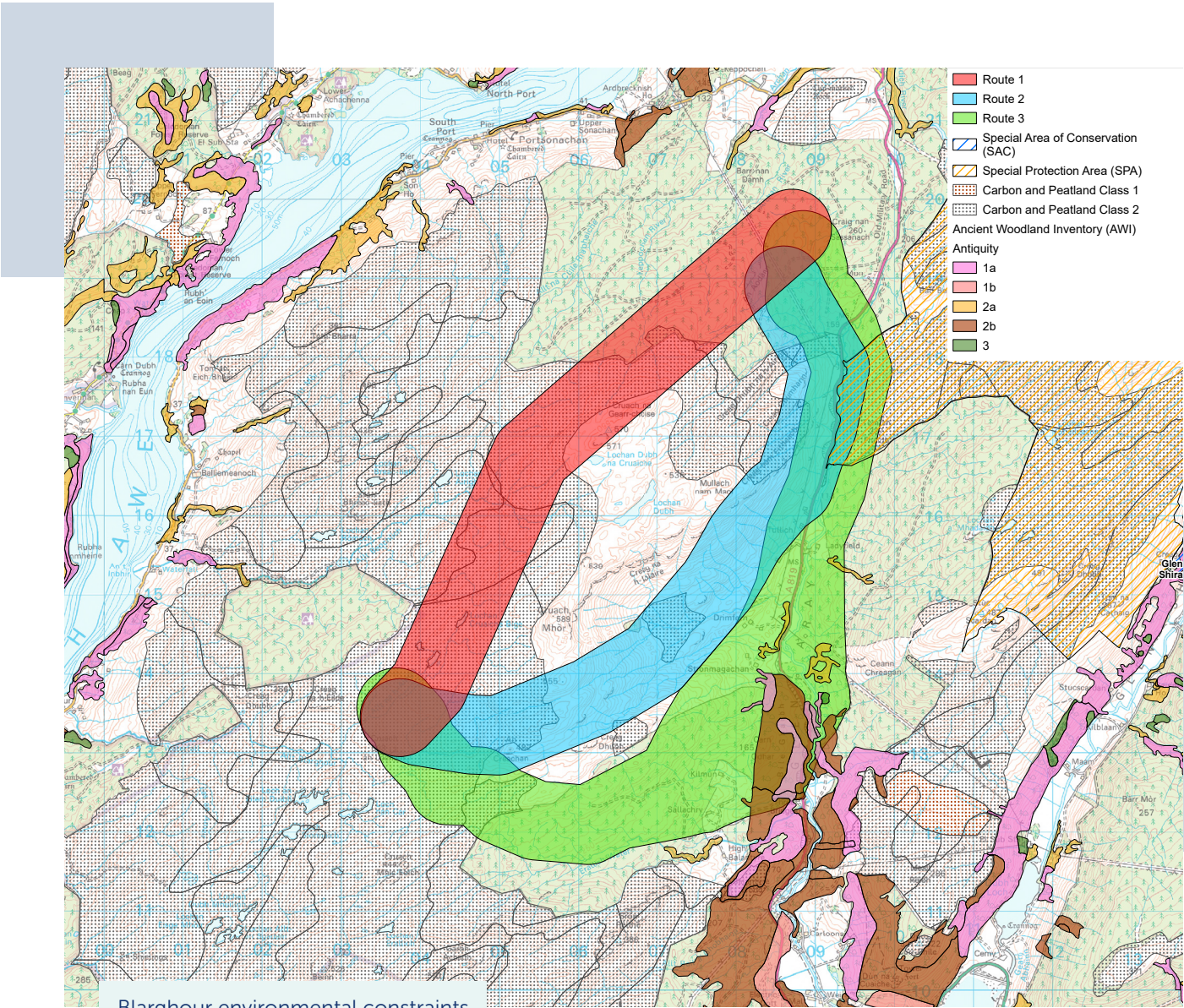
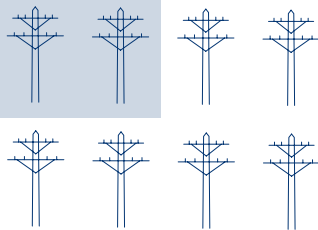
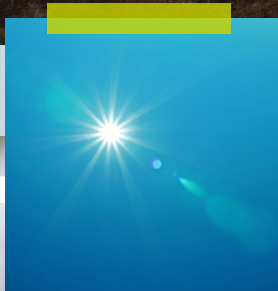
- Route 1 is the furthest from residential and cultural heritage receptors, but has a greater section of its length in the North Argyll Area of Panoramic Quality than Routes 2 and 3.
- The route is predominantly located in Class 2 peatland which is a deep peat and priority peatland habitat.
- Schedule 1 birds - particularly rare raptors - are known to be present or breeding along the Route 2 corridor.
- The nature and location of Route 1 means that it is not practically deliverable. The route traverses steep gradients, high value peatland, and lacks viable access infrastructure. As a result, the route has a material construction risk and unacceptable whole-life inspection and maintenance challenges.

Route 2 – Key considerations

- Route 2 is anticipated to have the greatest adverse impact of the three route options on rare raptors known to be breeding in the area.
- A high level assessment using a biodiversity metric rates Route 2 as the least favoured of the three route options.
- Route 2 has less environmental constraints overall than Routes 1 and 3.
- Route 2 has the steepest maximum gradient of the three routes which exceeds preferred conditions for the wood pole technology type. The route also presents an unacceptable health and safety risk to construction operatives due to working on steep and potentially unstable ground, and the risk of disturbance-induced peat or ground movement.

Route 3 – Key considerations

- Route 3 has the highest number of environmental constraints, particularly in relation to cultural heritage assets.
- Early survey data indicates that of the three route options, Route 3 is the least likely to lead to a loss of suitable hunting habitat for rare raptors breeding in the area.
- Of the three route options, Route 3 benefits from significantly improved access and generally shallower terrain. As a result, of the three routes, Route 3 is the most suitable for the chosen wood pole technology type and the only route assessed as having an acceptable level of construction risk.



Blarghour environmental constraints

After a comprehensive assessment, Route 3 has been confirmed as the most favoured route. Route 3 offers the best balance of practical delivery, environmental sensitivity, and long-term resilience. Summary comparison tables of all three routes is included in this consultation booklet. A Consultation Report including more detail on the route assessment, including illustrated environmental constraints figures for each of the route options, is available on the dedicated project website or in printed copies at the consultation event.



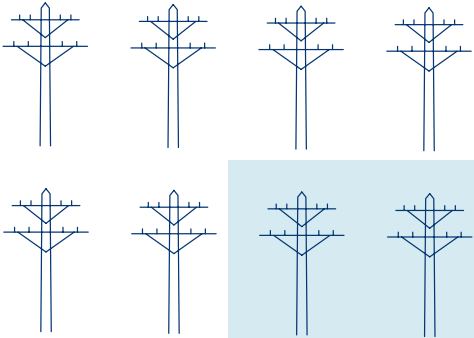
RAG assessment

Environment RAG rating of the three route options

	Category	Sub-topic	Route options		
			1	2	3
Natural heritage	Designations	International, European or National Designations	G	A	R
		Regional Designations	G	G	G
	Protected species	European protected species	G	G	G
		UK biodiversity action plan	G	G	G
	Habitats	Annex 1 habitats	R	A	A
		Groundwater dependant terrestrial ecosystems	A	A	A
		Biodiversity	G	R	G
	Hydrology/ Geology/ Hydrogeology	SG drinking water protected areas	A	A	A
		Aquifer providing regional/local resources	A	A	A
		Surface waters or aquifer providing water for agriculture or industrial use	A	A	A
	Ornithology	Schedule 1 birds	R	R	A
		Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC)	G	G	G
Cultural heritage	Designations	World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes, Inventory Battlefields	G	A	R
		Sites and monuments record entries	G	G	A
	Cultural heritage assets	Listed buildings, Non-Inventory GDL, Conservation areas	G	A	R
People	Proximity to dwellings	Residential properties and other sensitive receptors	G	G	A
Landscape and visual amenity	Designations	National of Regional Designations: National Parks, National Scenic Areas, Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscape (GDL) Wild Land Areas	A	A	A
	Landscape character	Character assessments	A	A	A
	Visual	Settlements and Residential Properties, key transportation and recreational routes utilised by tourists and visitors to an area, vantage points and tourist destinations from where views and landscape appreciation is important	G	A	A
Land use	Agriculture	Agriculture land classification	G	G	G
	Forestry	Commercial forestry	A	A	A
	Recreation	Public footpath	G	G	G
		Commercial sports	G	G	G
Planning	Policy	National/regional local planning policy	A	A	A
		Proposals	R	A	A

Engineering RAG rating of the three route options

Category	Sub-topic	Route options		
		1	2	3
Environmental design	Altitude	R	R	A
	Coastal	A	A	A
Topography	Terrain	G	G	G
	Waterbodies	G	G	R
	Slope	R	R	R
Ground conditions	Peat	R	R	R
	Rock	R	R	R
	Flooding	A	R	R
Access	Road networks	R	R	G
	Access tracks	R	R	G
existing infrastructure	Roads	G	G	G
	Clearance	G	G	R
Existing network	Connectivity	R	A	A
	Outages	R	R	R
Operational	Maintenance	R	R	A
	Flexibility	R	R	A
	Faults	R	R	A



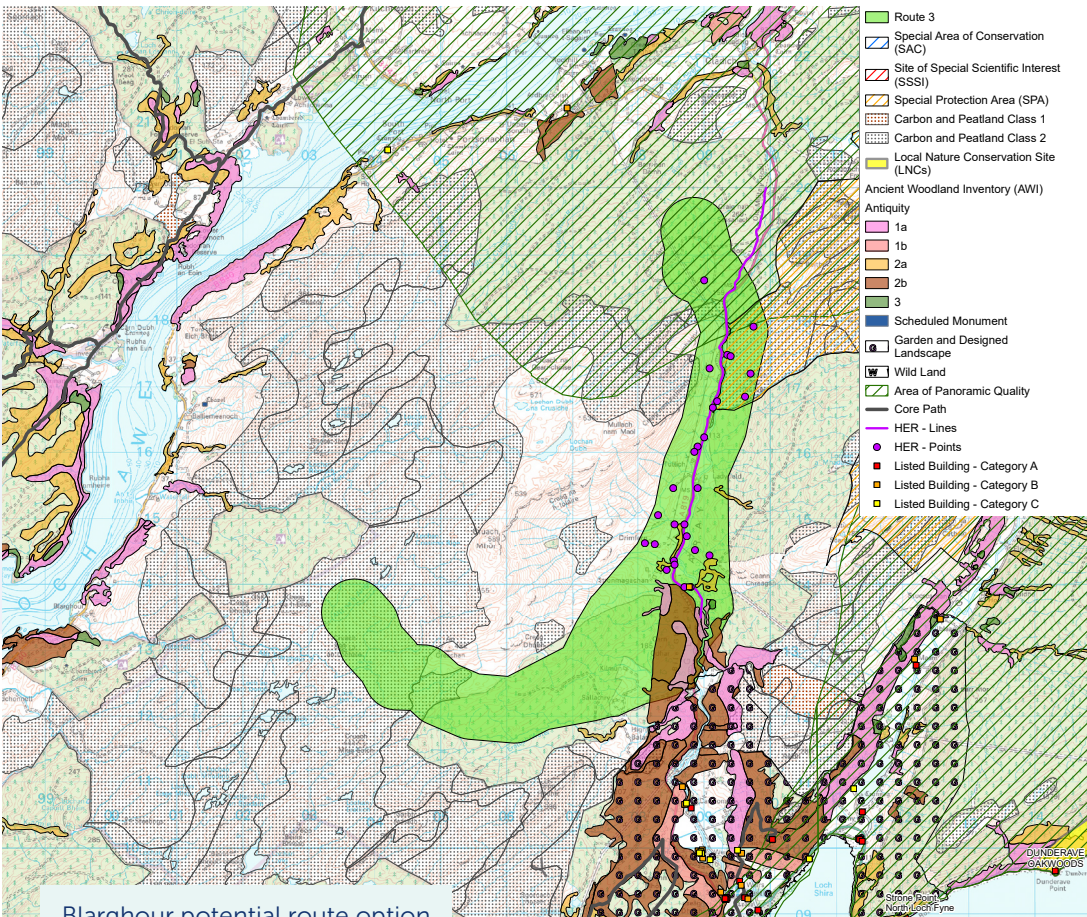
Potential route

The routing assessment concluded that Route 3 is the potential route, which is believed to offer the overall best balance of technical and environmental impact considerations identified through the initial assessments.

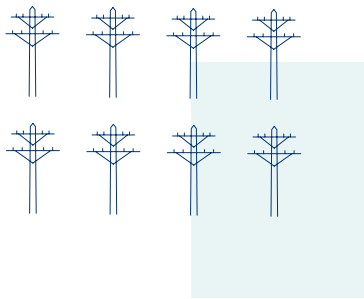
This is now subject to consultation with stakeholders, where local and previously unknown considerations may confirm, or alter, the initial preference. Once a proposed route is confirmed it will be taken forward to the alignment selection stage of project development.

Whilst a potential route has been identified, this appraisal has demonstrated that there is high likelihood for the development to be constrained given the presence of the Glen Etive and Glen Fyne Special Protection Area (SPA) and impacts to peatland habitats. Potential constraints around ancient woodland, Schedule 1 ornithological sensitivities, Scheduled Monuments and the potential visual impact for residents and recreational users of the area have also been identified. The potential for cumulative effects across a number of topic areas with other existing and proposed electrical infrastructure projects has been noted and will be a key consideration during the alignment selection stage of the project. As such, should Route 3 be taken forward to the alignment selection stage as the proposed route following consultation, mitigation measures would need to be considered and implemented in order to minimise the potential for likely significant environmental effects.

The Route 3 option is presented on the potential route option figure below.



Blarghour potential route option



Other projects in the area

Creag Dhubh - Inveraray 275kV OHL

We are constructing a new 275kV double circuit overhead line between Creag Dhubh substation and a tee point on the Inveraray – Crossaig circuit. The overhead line is proposed to be between 8-12km.

The existing 132kV overhead line between Creag Dhubh substation and Inveraray switching station will be dismantled. As a result, Inveraray switching station will be disconnected from the Kintyre circuit.

Construction works commenced in June 2025.

Creag Dhubh substation

This project consists of the construction of a new 275/132kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation at Creag Dhubh, with this connected from Creag Dhubh to the Scottish Power Transmission Dalmally – Windyhill 275kV OHL via 13.5km of proposed new 275kV double circuit steel tower OHL.

Construction works commenced in May 2024.

An Suidhe substation

The An Suidhe substation project comprises of the construction of a new 275kV substation and overhead line, which will connect into the recently completed 275kV overhead line between Inveraray and Crossaig.

The existing overhead line is capable of operation at 275kV, but is currently routed into the existing An Suidhe 132kV substation, therefore the overhead line requires realignment to connect into the new substation. Associated access, drainage, fencing and landscaping are included in the project plans.

Construction works commenced in January 2025.

Local renewable developments:

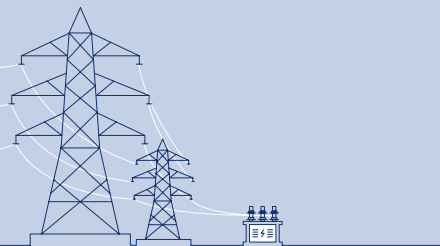
We know that local stakeholders are keen to understand the full extent of renewable developments being proposed in their local area.

Applications to connect to the transmission network in our licence area are made to National Grid ESO and undergo a lengthy process of assessment before we begin to develop a network connection for those developments.

We aim to be transparent about the renewable developments looking to connect to our network but are not permitted to disclose any details of these developments until they are in the public domain.

A list of projects that hold contracts for Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) with National Grid, the Electricity System Owner is available from their website: [Transmission Entry Capacity \(TEC\) register | ESO \(nationalgrideso.com\)](https://www.nationalgrideso.com)

Search Projects



Have your say

We value community and stakeholder feedback. Without this, we would be unable to progress projects and reach a balanced proposal.

The feedback period

We will accept feedback from now until **Thursday 2 April 2026**.

How to provide feedback:

Submit your feedback online by scanning the QR code on this page or via the form on our project webpage at: ssen-transmission.co.uk/blarghour

Email the feedback form to the Community Liaison Manager, or write to us enclosing the feedback form at the back of this booklet.

Our Community Liaison team

Each project has a dedicated Community Liaison Manager who works closely with community members to make sure they are well informed of our proposals and that their views, concerns, questions or suggestions are put to our project teams.

Throughout the life of our projects, you will hear from us regularly. We aim to establish strong working relationships by being accessible to key local stakeholders such as community councils, residents' associations and development trusts, and regularly engage with interested individuals.



To support everyone online, we provide accessibility and language options on our website through 'Recite Me'. The accessibility and language support options provided by 'Recite Me' include text-to-speech functionality, fully customisable styling features, reading aids, and a translation tool with over 100 languages, including 35 text-to-speech.

Please select "Accessibility" on our website to try out our inclusive toolbar."

What we're seeking views on

We want you to share your thoughts and opinions on our plans, where you think we can make improvements, concerns about the impact of our work and any changes or refinements we can make.

We'll be actively looking to mitigate the impacts of the site as much as possible over the coming months, but it would be helpful to understand what you believe we should be doing to help minimise these impacts and if there are any opportunities to deliver a local community benefit you would like us to consider.

We encourage all interested community members to fill in a feedback form when submitting feedback, however if you prefer, you can email us to provide your feedback or ask any questions.

Community Liaison Manager

Caitlin Marini



1 Waterloo St, Glasgow, G2 6AY



caitlin.marini@sse.com



07901 135 758

Additional information:



The best way to keep up to date is to sign up to project updates via the project webpage:

ssen-transmission.co.uk/blarghour

You can also follow us on social media:



@sentransmission



@SSETransmission

Your feedback

Thank you for taking the time to read this information booklet. In order to record your views and improve the effectiveness of our information sessions, please complete this short feedback form.

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS. (Please tick one box per question only)

Q1. Have we adequately explained the need for the connection of the Blarghour wind farm?

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

Unsure

Comments:

Q2. Do you feel sufficient information has been provided to enable you to understand what is being proposed and why?

☐

Yes

☐

No

☐

Unsure

Comments:



Q3. Are there any additional factors, or environmental features, that you consider important and should be brought to the attention of the project team?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Comments:

Q4. Do you have any other comments about the potential route (Route 3)?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Comments:

Q5. Is there anything you'd like to bring to our attention that you believe we may not have already considered during project development?

Comments:

Q6. What suggestions for social or environmental community benefit opportunities do you have that you would like us to consider or are there any local initiatives you would like us to support?

Comments:

Q7. Is there anything regarding the Blarghour wind farm connection project that you feel you require more information about? If so, please detail below.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Comments:



Q8. Do you have any other comments?

Comments:

Full name: **Email:**

Telephone: **Address:**

We would like to send you relevant communications via email such as invitations to stakeholder events, surveys, updates on projects, services and future developments from the Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks group listed below. If you are happy to receive email updates please opt in by ticking the box below. You can unsubscribe at any time by contacting us at stakeholder.admin@sse.com or by clicking on the unsubscribe link that will be at the end of each of our emails.



If you would like to be kept informed of progress on the project, please tick this box

Thank you for taking the time to complete this feedback form.

Please submit your completed form by one of the methods below:

Post: 1 Waterloo St, Glasgow, G2 6AY

Email: caitlin.marini@sse.com

Online: ssen-transmission.co.uk/blarghour

For information on how we collect and process your data please see our privacy notice available at today's event. This can also be obtained online at: ssen-transmission.co.uk/privacy

Comments forms and all the information from today's event will also be available to download from the project website.

We intend to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to assist our experienced teams in the analysis of your feedback, so we can categorise key points raised more quickly. You can learn more about how we're utilising AI at: ssen-transmission.co.uk/AIFAQ

Any information given on the feedback form can be used and published anonymously as part of Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks consultation report. By completing this feedback form you consent to Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks using feedback for this purpose.

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks is a trading name of: Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution Limited Registered in Scotland No. SC213459; Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc Registered in Scotland No. SC213461; Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution plc Registered in Scotland No. SC213460; (all having their Registered Offices at Inverlmond House 200 Dunkeld Road Perth PH1 3AQ); and Southern Electric Power Distribution plc Registered in England & Wales No. 04094290 having its Registered Office at Number One Forbury Place, 43 Forbury Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 3JH which are members of the SSE Group.