

Clash Gour Substation

Report on Consultation July 2025



CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	3
1.1	Introduction	3
1.2	Document Structure	3
2	THE CONSULTATION PROCESS	4
2.1	Introduction	4
2.2	Methods of Consultation	4
3	STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION RESPONSES	6
3.1	Public Consultation	6
3.2	Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultation	6
4	CHANGES TO PROJECT	7
4.1	Substation Site Location	7
4.2	Construction Traffic	7
5	CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS	8
5.1	Summary	8
5.2	Next steps	8

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Transmission is a wholly owned subsidiary of the SSE plc group of companies. SSEN Transmission owns and maintains the electricity transmission network across the north of Scotland and operating under a license held by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc, holds a license under the Electricity Act 1989 to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission.

SSEN Transmission is proposing to construct a 275 / 132 kilovolt (kV) transmission substation and connection to the existing 275 kV Overhead Line (OHL) network, at approximately 12 km south of the town of Forres, Moray. The proposed project is in line with SSEN Transmission's commitment and licence obligation to facilitate the connection of renewables generators to the grid through an economical, efficient and coordinated approach to transmission reinforcement.

Options for substation site selection were identified, providing feasible areas for the construction of the new substation. From these Site Options, a Preferred Site Option was identified that provides an optimum balance of environmental, technical and cost factors. The Preferred Site Option was consulted upon in June 2025, and this report documents the consultations which have been undertaken, a summary of consultation feedback, and how this feedback has influenced the Proposed option.

Following consultation, the Preferred Site Option will be referred to as the Proposed Development and will be taken forward for consent under the Town & Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended). Further public and stakeholder consultation will be undertaken to present the proposals ahead of submitting a planning application.

1.2 Document Structure

The remaining section of this Report on Consultation is structured as follows:

- Part 2: The Consultation Process – describes the framework for consultation and methods which have been employed.
- Part 3: Stakeholder Consultation Responses – outlines the responses and key comments from the members of the public, statutory consultees and other key stakeholders who responded through the consultation process.
- Part 4: Changes to Project – describes any changes that have been made to the project following the consultation feedback.
- Part 5: Conclusions and Next Steps – provides a summary of the conclusions reached and actions going forward.

2 The Consultation Process

2.1 Introduction

This section identifies the methods of consultation and the key dates when consultation took place.

2.2 Methods of Consultation

The consultation event was held on the 3rd of June 2025. The following methods were used to consult on the Preferred Site Options and Preferred Alignment, as set out below.

2.2.1 Consultation Document

The Clash Gour Substation Consultation Document – Site Selection (May 2025)¹ was produced detailing the selection process to identify the Preferred Site Option, taking account of environmental, technical, and economic factors. The Consultation Document was made available on the project website: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/clash-gour-wind-farm-connection/>.

The Clash Gour Substation Consultation Document – Site Selection (May 2025) was issued to Finderne Community Council directly. The Consultation Document included an invited to provide feedback to a series of questions asked within the Consultation Document on specific aspects of the project as follows:

- Has the requirement for the project been clearly explained?
- Based on the information provided do you have a Preferred Site Option for the Clash Gour substation?
- Are there any additional factors, or environmental features that you consider important and should be brought to the attention of the project team?

2.2.2 Public Consultation

Public consultation took the form of a face-to-face public engagement event. The purpose of the event was to provide information and to seek the views and comments of members of the public, local stakeholders, and statutory consultees. The event took place on Tuesday 3rd June 2025 (14:00 – 19:00) at Edenkillie Hall, Dunphail, Forress (IV36 2QW).

The consultation material was made available in booklet format at the event and online, allowing members of the public an opportunity to access and view the material until the feedback period closed on the 17th of June 2025. The consultation brochure and support material are available to view at this location: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/clash-gour-wind-farm-connection/>.

Consultation Advertisement

The consultation was advertised using several methods as shown in **Table 2-3**:

Table 2-3 Summary of public consultation promotion

Method	Recipients
Email to Stakeholders to advise of consultation	Local community councils, affected stakeholders, and Moray Councillors were emailed in advance of the Public Consultation Event

¹ SSEN Transmission (2022) Foyers Substation Upgrade Consultation Document – Site and Alignment Option Selection.

Method	Recipients
Mailed Invitations	Invitations were mailed to 622 residential addresses and 33 businesses, within a 9.5km radius of the proposed site, to notify of the consultation event and web page containing consultation materials.
Local Newspaper Publication	An advert was placed within the Local Newspaper publication "Press & Journal", detailing the public consultation event on the issues of May 20th & May 27th.

Emails were sent to local community councils, affected stakeholders and elected councillors, on the 27th of May 2025 to advise them of the date of the upcoming consultation and the different ways they and the public could engage with the team regarding the plans. All parties were invited to share notice of the event through their own channels. Banners were also placed on the press websites for the duration of the consultation.

2.2.3 Summary of the Engagement Events

Landowners, residents and local communities were made aware, through various consultation promotion methods of the Consultation event with the Consultation Brochure made available via the dedicated project website. Updates were issued via email to project website subscribers and local community councils.

The consultation period opened on Tuesday 3rd June 2025 and continued until Tuesday 17th June 2025. A feedback form was provided on the project webpage allowing users to answer questions and submit comments. All responses received during this time have been considered by the project team and are summarised within this report. Stakeholders were able to attend public face-to-face consultation on Tuesday 3rd June 2025 to view information about the project and complete the feedback form. A snapshot of the public engagement is presented in **Table 2-4** below.

Table 2-4 Engagement snapshot

Category	Number
Edinkillie Community Hall event attendees	13
Completed feedback forms	0

3 Stakeholder Consultation Responses

When developing options, the technical, environmental and economic constraints are considered alongside views expressed by stakeholders. Gathering views from a variety of stakeholders is vital to developing and shaping a solution that balances different views of stakeholders. To ensure transparency throughout the consultation process it is vital that the opportunity is provided to share feedback received from stakeholders on the Proposed Development.

This section of the report provides the responses from SSEN Transmission to the questions and themes emerging from the public consultation and the responses provided by statutory and non-statutory stakeholders.

During the event, the project team directed the members of the public to the feedback forms to encourage their comments to be recorded.

All comments were requested by Tuesday 17th June 2025.

3.1 Public Consultation

Table 3-1 below presents a summary of the comments received from the returned feedback forms which were relevant to the Project, and comments made by stakeholders at the in-person public consultation event.

Table 3-1 - Summary of feedback from the public consultation event

Summary of comment	SSEN Transmission consideration of comment
Concerned about road safety under the Divie Viaduct, where visibility is poor and the road narrow. Request to install a traffic mirror on the wall adjacent the viaduct.	As the project progresses and the design is refined, further Traffic and Transport assessments will be undertaken, which will include a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). Access is envisaged being provided to the Proposed Development via the A940 will be via the existing road network to the north for all vehicles and construction traffic including Supergrid Transformer delivery. No access will be permitted from the A940 via the existing road network to the south during construction.
Concern over the detailed design of the substation, at the preferred site option. Request to keep the site close to existing infrastructure and at a lower elevation.	SSEN Transmission will continue to engage with stakeholders throughout the design process. The project is currently at the site selection stage, with no detailed design confirmed at this point. Continued engagement and subsequent consultation events will be held at the detailed design phase, to ensure all concerns are considered.

3.2 Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultation

No consultation response was received within the consultation period.

4 Changes to Project

The stakeholder and public consultation have enabled SSEN Transmission to gather feedback on the Preferred Site Options and local knowledge to help inform potential design changes. Feedback from stakeholders has enabled SSEN Transmission to further understand the potential effects associated with the Preferred Options.

Following this engagement, SSEN Transmission has accounted for the feedback provided during the consultation period. The following sections present detail on the changes that have been made to achieve the Proposed Option.

4.1 Substation Site Location

Following the feedback provided during the consultation period, and further assessment, the preferred option has remained unchanged. SSEN Transmission will continue to engage with local stakeholders as the project progresses through to a detailed design phase.

4.2 Construction Traffic

Following the feedback provided by a local resident, during the public consultation event, SSEN Transmission will look to consider the avoidance site access via the Divie Viaduct Road, south of the Proposed Site Option. This, along with other traffic matters, will be considered within the CTMP. An Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan will accompany the planning application.

5 Conclusions and Next Steps

5.1 Summary

This Report on Consultation documents the consultation process which was undertaken for the project during 2025. The programme of consultation was designed to engage with stakeholders including statutory consultees, local communities, local landowners and individual residents in order to invite feedback on the project.

This report has described the key responses received and provides detail on the actions taken in response to the issues raised.

5.2 Next steps

The project will now be taken into the Environmental Impact Assessment stage. During this stage, the Proposed Site Option will be assessed from an environmental perspective, environmental impacts will be identified, and mitigation measures adopted to minimise environmental effects as far as is practicable.

Members of the public and other interested stakeholders will be invited to attend an information event at the next stage, which will present the proposals for which necessary consents and permissions under the Town & Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) Act, and Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 will be sought.

We will continue to engage with the local community, Community Councils, elected representatives, statutory and non-statutory stakeholders as the project progresses.

SSEN Transmission will host two further Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) events for the T&CP application after the Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) is submitted, in autumn 2025. SSEN Transmission intend to include details of the s37 OHL works within the PAC events.