

TRANSMISSION

Corshellach substation (Berryburn extension)

Public consultation

20 May 2025

ssen-transmission.co.uk/corshellach

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The consultation event will be taking place on: 20 May 2025, 3-7pm Edinkillie Hall, Dunphail, Forres, IV36 2QW

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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) 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 is 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 are investing over **£20 billion** into our region's energy infrastructure this decade, with the potential for this to increase to over **£30bn**. 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.



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

Corshellach substation (Berryburn extension)





Who we are

We are 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 guarter 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 are committed to minimising our impacts and maximising all the benefits that our developments can bring to your area. We are 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

Help shape our plans

We're committed to delivering a meaningful consultation process that actively seeks the views of everyone affected by our plans. That means making our plans clear and easily accessible, so that you can give us input throughout each stage of the development process.

Throughout the consultation period, we'll present our approach to developing the project, and when we come back out for our second Pre-Application Consultation event in June, we will highlight any changes made since we last consulted with you.

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 what you think of any changes and refinements we've made.

You can submit feedback at our events by speaking with our staff team, by email or letter, or on our dedicated project page using the feedback form tab.

By telling us what you think, you will help shape our proposals. We want to harness your local knowledge so that we spot any unforeseen challenges early and maximise the potential benefits and opportunities for vour communities.

Because, ultimately, we want you to work with us to ensure that the energy infrastructure we build will be the best it can possibly be.



Project overview

We're leading some exciting projects to power change in the UK and Scotland. To support the delivery of clean power targets set by the UK and Scottish Governments, and to power local communities, we need to upgrade our existing network. In some key areas, we need to develop entirely new infrastructure.

Corshellach substation (Berryburn extension)

The consultation is related to the development of a new substation which will extend the existing Berryburn substation. The project will involve the installation of a new 275kV/33kV grid transformer within a new compound, located on land adjacent to the existing Berryburn substation, on the Altyre Estate, located approximately 12km south of Forres. There are 2 embedded generators driving this project who are in contract with the National Energy System operator (NESO). To facilitate the connection between the existing overhead line tower and the new substation, new downleads will be required. These works would be carried out under separate consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.

- Other projects in the area

Clash Gour Connection

Connection for the 210MW Clash Gour Wind Farm development, which is located approximately 12km south of Forres in Moray, Scotland. SSEN Transmission will construct a new substation containing two 275/132kV transformers to facilitate the connection to the 275kV system.

Proposal includes two new 275kV towers close to the existing Knocknagael – Blackhillock 275kV double circuit tower line, to facilitate the installation of 275kV tapings. These structures will include down droppers connecting onto new 275kV switchgear located within the substation compound at the Clash Gour 275/132kV substation.

Beauly to Peterhead 400kV OHL

A 180km 400kV overhead line from a new substation at Fanellan, near Beauly connecting to the new Netherton Hub at Longside, near Peterhead via a new substation at Greens near New Deer. The project is part of the Pathway to 2023 developments.

Corshellach substation (Berryburn extension)



Project elements

- To facilitate the project, the main construction elements associated with the development are anticipated to include:
- Establishment of a construction compound.
- Establishment of suitable laydown areas.
- Construction of a new access track.
- Delivery of materials to site.
- Construction of extension including installation of new
- 275/33kV 120 MVA Grid Transformer and associated 33kV metering circuit breaker and ancillary items.
- Reinstatement of temporary access tracks and the
 - construction compound as necessary.
- Inspections and commissioning.



How we've selected the substation site

Our site selection process makes sure the design, consenting, construction and operation of our projects are undertaken in a manner, which on balance, causes the least disturbance to the environment and the local community, while ensuring the solution taken forward is economically and technically practical.

To do this we follow an internal process supported by third party environmental and technical experts. This has many key stages, each increasing in detail and definition and bringing technical, environmental, people, and cost considerations together to find a balanced outcome.

Why extend at Berryburn and not another location on the OHL connection?

as the preferred location for the Corshellach substation, two site options for the substation were identified by SSEN Transmission. The site options were selected following desk-based review undertaken in late 2023, considering the most notable cost, programme, environmental and technical constraints.

Site Option 1 comprises of two separate compounds with a new substation to the north and an extension of the existing substation to the east.

Site Option 2 consists of a single new substation to the north of the existing Berryburn 275/33kV substation.

Following the selection of the existing Berryburn substation Both options performed equally well from an environmental and cost perspective. From an engineering perspective, again the comparative analysis of substation site options has highlighted that both substation site options have the same engineering constraints with regards to connectivity. However, Site Option 1 is slightly more constrained in terms of connectivity with consideration of building separation and whole system requirements as Site Option 1 would sit near the existing Berryburn substation to the east, whereas Site Option 2 would sit adjacent to the existing building.

> The preferred substation site option overall was Site Option 2 which was taken forward for further design development.







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The Town and Country Planning Process

The legislation that enables the planning of projects like the Corshellach substation is the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

Engaging the right people

Local Planning Authorities determine the outcome of any applications made under the Town and Country Planning Act and establish the planning pathway our substation projects must take, including which consents are required. This involves confirming whether projects require Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) under the relevant legislation, and the scope of those assessments. Given the likely environmental effects of our project, it has been concluded that the proposals are not EIA development and therefore a full EIA is not required. Therefore, a voluntary environmental appraisal is being prepared to explain the environmental effects of our project and how they will be managed and minimised during its construction and during the operational stage of the project.

The environmental appraisal will be made publicly available as part of the planning application submission.

The 275/33kV Corshellach substation is classed as "National development" under the Town and County Planning process; therefore, pre-application consultation is required with the public and interested parties.

The pre-application process

A Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) was submitted to Moray Council on 17 April 2025. This is the first stage in the planning application process, and the beginning of a consultation period that must allow for at least 12 weeks between the start of the pre-application consultation and feedback, and submission of a planning application.

The plans we are consulting on at this event might change between now and the submission of a planning application. The red line boundary that has been submitted with the PAN boundary represents the maximum extent of the land potentially included in the application site, but this area may be reduced or rationalised as the development proposal becomes finalised. There is a requirement to hold at least two events to provide the opportunity for members of the public to comment on the proposals. This public event is the first event. A second event will be held in June 2025 at which feedback will be given on the views obtained at the first event. There will also be a short opportunity for comment after this second event and comments will be included in a Pre-application Consultation (PAC) Report.

Submitting a planning application

The planning application is due to be submitted to Moray Council in late summer 2025. A Pre-application Consultation Report will accompany the planning application providing details of the consultation undertaken and communicating how the consultation process has influenced the proposed development. Where comments are received that cannot be addressed in the final proposal, an explanation will also be given why this is the case.

Comments made through the pre-application consultation process are not formal representations to Moray Council. When the planning application is submitted there will be an opportunity to make formal representations to Moray Council.



Finding common ground with landowners

We recognise landowners and occupiers as key stakeholders in the development of our projects. At all levels, we will be transparent about our proposals and keep the conversation open and constructive when it comes to those affected and reaching effective compromise.

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From the outset of the project, our land team have been identifying and contacting landowners and occupiers who may be affected by our proposals. If you are a landowner who is affected by the proposals and have not yet had contact from us, please get in touch via the contact details for the dedicated project land managers found on the relevant webpages: **ssen-transmission.co.uk/corshellach**

We work with landowners and occupiers to mitigate the effects of our infrastructure on their properties and our team of Land Managers will be on hand to answer queries and address concerns throughout this process.

As part of this, we need to carry out various engineering and environmental surveys to inform what we design and how we build it. We will always seek consent from affected landowners and occupiers in advance for



these surveys. Once we have finalised the design, we will be required to secure the appropriate land rights from landowners and occupiers in order to secure planning consent.

Our land managers will endeavour to reach a voluntary agreement with landowners and occupiers, however, as a statutory undertaker, we might need to underpin voluntary discussions with an application to Scottish Ministers for a Necessary Wayleave or Compulsory Purchase Order.

Ultimately this is to ensure nationally significant infrastructure projects are delivered on time and in line with our licence obligations. We also have a duty to protect the interests of the UK bill payer. Statutory powers are not used lightly as we aim to work with landowners and occupiers to secure the necessary land rights voluntarily.

All potentially affected landowners and occupiers have the opportunity to provide feedback at our in-person consultation events and by submitting a feedback form. We would encourage all those with an interest to submit their views through this consultation.

Project timeline





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*Please note that dates are indicative and subject to change.

Development considerations

During the development process, we have many engineering, environmental and social considerations that we take account of when establishing a practical site for the development. Now that we have identified a proposed site, we are able to share further details regarding many of our development considerations.

Project Overview - Engineering

SSENT look to utilise an existing transmission substation for the connection of two embedded customers into an existing 275kV overhead line that currently spans from Blackhillock substation to Beauly substation along the North East of Scotland. Utilising this site removes the need for increased travel between sites for our Operational team whilst compacting the footprint required for our

infrastructure and reducing the visual impact on the surrounding landscape. The chosen location presents good ground conditions for construction and access and the project looks to access the site via the existing trunk road shared by local businesses, residents and wind farm developers.



Civil considerations

The project team have reviewed the current profile of the land and looked to optimise the balance of land cut and fill, whilst retaining ground stability. New drainage systems are being introduced as part of the project design to ensure surrounding land and access tracks are not affected by excess water during periods of harsh weather.

Substation design

The layout of the substation has been developed as an Air Insulated Substation (AIS) as the most suitable design for the project. The AIS will be outdoor and will consist of busbars and switchgear to marshal and monitor the control of electricity. The substation has been designed to accommodate 2 x embedded customer connections.

Control building

A control building shall be constructed within the perimeter of the new site, housing ancillary equipment required to control and monitor the substation which include control and protection panels along with low voltage AC and DC systems. The overall size of the building is determined by the equipment required for the single wind farm connection. The building shall be single story with an overall height of 6m.

Environmental considerations

The potential environmental impacts discussed below will be assessed as part of the Environmental Appraisal (EA) which will be submitted in support of the planning application to Moray Council. The EA Report will be available for members of the public to view and comment on as part of the planning application supporting information, following submission.

Landscape and visual

The appearance and character of the landscape is already influenced by infrastructure including the existing Berryburn substation and nearby overhead lines. There are no National Parks, National Scenic Areas or Wildland Areas in proximity to the Proposed Development, with the closest, Findhorn Valley and the Wooded Estates Special Landscape Area, lying approximately 2km away.

The site is located in Upland Moorland and Forestry Landscape Character Type (LCT 290). This is a simple large scale, gently undulating landscape which covers central and west Moray. More locally, the LCT is largely characterised by a mosaic of commercial forests, recently felled areas, grass moorlands and green pastures. Sparce, scattered settlements are mostly flanked by coniferous or native broadleaf forests and are situated within the valleys of near the few roads. The existing infrastructure strongly influence the character of the area comprising Logie Wind Farm which occupies the Hill of Glaschyle immediately to the north, the existing Berryburn substation site (which is located within the south area of the site), and an existing overhead line (OHL) and tower located within the site (which connects to the existing Berryburn substation).

The nearest properties to the Proposed Developed are located to the south of the site and include Little **Terrestrial ecology** Corshellach and Tomcork. Other nearby visual receptors No sites designated for nature conservation, areas include two recreational routes to the south of the site, of woodland included on the Ancient Woodland Inventory, Scottish Hill Track 227 (Grantown-on-Spey to Forres) and or local nature conservation sites will be affected by the the Heritage Path Lone Road route. A detailed landscape Proposed Development. No signs of protected species and visual appraisal will be carried out and submitted as were found during baseline surveys. If protected species part of the planning application to consider potential are identified during pre-construction surveys, adoption effects of the Proposed Development and how it would of the Applicant's detailed SPPs will reduce or eliminate be viewed within the surrounding area. A landscape any effects on protected species because of the Proposed mitigation plan will also be developed to minimise the Development. The final design will seek to reduce landscape and visual effects and to provide habitat creation permanent habitat loss and a Biodiversity Net Gain within the site (as far as practicable). The landscape and appraisal will be undertaken by the Applicant, who is visual appraisal will be undertaken for the construction committed to achieving a minimum of 10% gain through and during operation after approximately 10 years, once habitat enhancement. This will be achieved in combination landscape and habitat planting reinstatement measures with a landscape mitigation plan designed to visually are assumed to have established. The appraisal will also screen the Proposed Development. consider potential cumulative effects occurring because

of the addition of the Proposed Development to other proposed developments within the study area. This will include the proposed battery energy storage facility adjacent to the existing Berryburn substation.

The Proposed Development is not anticipated to have a notable effect on the landscape character within the study area. However, there may be a small number of visual effects on localised visual receptors within the area during both construction and operation.

Ornithology

The surrounding area, including the existing substation site area, provides suitable foraging and nesting habitat for birds of conservation concern. Waders, as well as raptors and owls are present in the area were identified within disturbance distance of the Proposed Development. Breeding ground nesting birds including curlew, snipe and skylark were identified within disturbance distance of the Proposed Development. Where possible, works will avoid the breeding birds season to avoid any disturbance to nesting birds. Where this is not possible, adoption of the Applicant's bird Species Protection Plans (SPPs), overseen by an Ecological Clerk of Works, will reduce or eliminate any effects on breeding birds.

Environmental considerations

Land use and recreation

The Proposed Development would be located on agricultural land, which is the dominant land use in the local area. Although there are no major tourist attractions in the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Development, the Grantown-on-Spey Scottish Hill Track: 227 and Dava Way Core Path (DA05) are approximately 1km to the west of the Proposed Development. Effects on land use and recreation are anticipated to be minimal, however there may be minor nuisance effects during the construction period for users of the nearby recreational routes because of construction activity, but this would be over a short period only.

Water environment and soils

The Proposed Development is not located in an area designated as Class 1 or Class 2 priority peatland. Geology mapping shows that the Proposed Development is underlain by Nethybridge Psammite Formation bedrock deposits which comprises psammites. The bedrock is overlain by Beinn An Uain Till Formation. No development constraints associated with the site's geology are anticipated.

A Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Impact Assessment will be prepared to support the planning application and inform the detailed design. Private water supplies (PWS) will be identified as part of the assessment. Where PWS are identified further investigation of potential impacts will be undertaken and appropriate protection/mitigation measures proposed if required.

Excavated soil would be stored adjacent to the proposed works during construction, and this would be used to restore and reinstate disturbed areas once works are complete. No significant effects on water environment and soils are likely.

Cultural heritage

Direct (physical) effects on cultural heritage assets are most likely to arise from ground-disturbing activities that occur during the construction works, which may damage and possibly destroy cultural heritage remains. Direct effects may also occur as result of above-ground disturbance: for example, because of vehicle movement over cultural heritage features, or storage of construction materials upon them. Direct effects on cultural heritage assets are normally adverse, permanent, and irreversible.

The majority of the Proposed Development is located within the area of the Moss of Faebuie hut circle and field system (NJ04NW0010), identified by the Historic Environment Record as an asset of 'Regional Value' and therefore of medium sensitivity. There is low to moderate potential for previously unrecorded archaeological remains to survive within the Proposed Development. Therefore, there is potential for direct construction impacts on identified and unrecorded heritage assets within the site. The potential for setting impacts on designated assets in the surrounding area will also be considered in the assessment.

Any mitigation measures to avoid, reduce, and offset the effects of the Proposed Development would be agreed with the Aberdeenshire Council Archaeological Service, acting on behalf of Moray Council. An agreed scope of work would be detailed in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), to be implemented prior to or during construction, as appropriate.



Woodland and forestry

The site does not lie within an area of Ancient Woodland. However, there is an area of felled commercial forestry to that bounds the northern part of the site that is located within the Proposed Development site. Any loss of woodland associated with the development of the site will be appropriately compensated for by equivalent or greater areas of new tree planting.

A Woodland Management Plan will be prepared to support the planning application.



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Traffic

The construction of the Proposed Development will require vehicles to deliver plant, machinery and works to the site. Access would use the existing local access from the A940 at Edinkellie to the west and Tomnamoon to the north. Repairs to these tracks would be required.

A Construction Traffic Management Plan will be developed for the management of any abnormal loads and vehicle movements to ensure the safety of all road users during the construction works.

Delivering a positive environmental legacy

On every project we deliver, we always need to consider how we impact the environment in that area. As we enhance the transmission network in the North of Scotland, we have a responsibility to design and build our projects to protect and enhance the environment. We will always look to minimise the potential impacts from our activities and achieve Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).

As the first developer to consult upon and implement an award-winning approach to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) on all new sites, we're committed to delivering a "greener grid", focusing on habitat restoration and creating biodiversity growth as we invest in our network. We are committed to delivering 10% Biodiversity Net Gain on all sites gaining consent going forward. This ensures that we don't just restore our natural habitats but actively improve them for the benefit of local communities, wildlife, flora and fauna.

During the development, construction and operation of our projects, we will leave the environment in a measurably better state than before development started, ensuring a positive environmental legacy at all our sites.

Example projects

Argyll Coast and Countryside Trust (ACT)

Argyll's rainforest is a unique and rare habitat of ancient and native woodland. This collaboration with ACT will help deliver our compensatory tree planting and BNG commitments in Argyll. It also aligns with ACT's woodland planting ambitions, supporting its charitable objectives including biodiversity gain, health and wellbeing, improvement for local people, outdoor learning opportunities and climate change workshops.

Thurso South substation and The Bumblebee Conservation Trust

We created approximately 10 hectares of bee-friendly habitat to support the pollination of the rare endemic great yellow bumblebee. This contributed to wider conservation efforts for this bee species. A collaboration with The Bumblebee Conservation Trust facilitated research on food availability for bumblebees, identifying the need for a diverse seed mix containing key flowering species to enhance early, main and late food supply to support the full lifecycle of bumblebees.

As this project progresses through the development process, we will actively seek ways to avoid and minimise impacts on biodiversity, through careful routeing and site design to avoid impacting areas of highest biodiversity value.

Where avoidance is not possible, we will offset this by introducing new habitats along with restoration efforts. These can be achieved within the boundary of the development site, or by providing support to local groups involved with habitat restoration or creation projects, within the locale of the development site.

If there are biodiversity improvement projects in your local area that we could get involved with, please get in touch with the project Community Liaison Manager.



Notes

Corshellach substation (Berryburn extension)

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 3 June 2025.

How to provide feedback:

- Submit your feedback online by scanning the QR code on this page or via the form on our project webpage: ssen-transmission.co.uk/corshellach
- Email the feedback form to our Community Liaison Manager, or write to us enclosing the feedback form at the back of this booklet.

What we're seeking views on

These events are the first of two statutory Pre-Application Consultation events ahead of our submission of a planning application later in 2025.

We are seeking your views on the proposals as well as any comments or concerns you may have around the development.

This includes any information or local knowledge on aspects of our proposals you think we should consider.

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

Rvan Davidson



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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."

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.

Additional information:



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

You can also follow us on social media:



(O) @ssentransmission (X) @SSETransmission

Your feedback

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

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Q1.	Do you feel suf you to underst Yes Comments:				
Q2.	Are you satisfie our preferred s				
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	Comments:				

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24 .	Do you have any particular concerns or queries on the proposed project?
	Comments:

Q5. Do you have any other comments (positive or negative) or concerns in relation to the need for the project, the transmission infrastructure requirements or about the preferred site?

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: SSEN Transmission, 1 Waterloo St, Glasgow G2 6AY Email: ryan.davidson@sse.com Online: ssen-transmission.co.uk/corshellach

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.

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