

**Errochty Grid Supply Point (GSP) LT321**  
**Report on Consultation**  
**September 2022**



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**CONTENTS**

1	INTRODUCTION .....	4
2	CONSULTATION PROCESS .....	4
2.1	Introduction.....	4
2.2	Methods of Consultation.....	4
2.3	Questions for Consideration by Consultees .....	7
3	CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND ACTIONS.....	7
3.1	Introduction.....	7
3.2	Public Consultation.....	8
4	CONCLUSIONS .....	8

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 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 as 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.
- 1.1.2 SSEN Transmission is proposing to construct a new Grid Supply Point (GSP) to be built near to the existing Errochty Switching Station, located adjacent to the River Tummel. There is insufficient space to meet modern safety and security of supply standards at the existing location beside Tummel Bridge Power Station, therefore the proposed solution is to construct a new GSP at the nearby Errochty Switching Station, to be called Errochty GSP. The corresponding increase in capacity on the local distribution network would allow restrictions on the quantity of renewable energy being exported from the local area to be lifted. The new GSP would connect renewable energy to the SSEN transmission network.
- 1.1.3 SSEN Transmission will be seeking planning permission for the installation of two new 132/33 kV transformers in the vicinity of the existing Errochty Switching Station, approximately 17 km to the west of the town of Pitlochry, hereafter referred to as the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.4 SSEN Transmission has a statutory duty under Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical electrical transmission system in its licensed areas. Where there is a requirement to extend, upgrade or reinforce its transmission network, SSEN Transmission's aim is to achieve an environmentally aware, technically feasible and economically viable solution which would cause the least disturbance to the environment and the people who use the area.

## 2 Consultation Process

### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 A site selection process was undertaken which sought to identify the Preferred Site which provided an optimum balance of environmental, technical and economic factors through a collaborative working approach between disciplines. In accordance with the SSEN Transmission guidelines a process of consultation on the Preferred Site was implemented. Information on the site selection process and the Preferred Site was the subject of the consultation material provided for both public and stakeholder consultation.
- 2.1.2 This section identifies the methods of consultation and the key dates when consultation took place.

### 2.2 Methods of Consultation

- 2.2.1 The following methods were used to consult on the Preferred Site, as set out below.

#### Public Consultations

- 2.2.2 Both person and virtual public consultations were undertaken across 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022. Following stakeholder feedback received at the consultation events on the initial plans, the proposals were further refined and returned to carry out a consultation in July 2022.

### Face-to-Face Events

2.2.3 Consultation on the project included three face-to-face public engagement events. The purpose of these events was to provide information and to seek the views and comments of members of the public, local stakeholders, and statutory consultees. These events took place as follows:

- 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022 (14:00 - 19:00) – Kynachan Hall, Tummel Bridge; and
- 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022 (14:00 – 19:00) – Kynachan Hall, Tummel Bridge.

2.2.4 The consultation material was made available in booklet format at the events and online, allowing members of the public an opportunity to access and view the material until the feedback period closed:

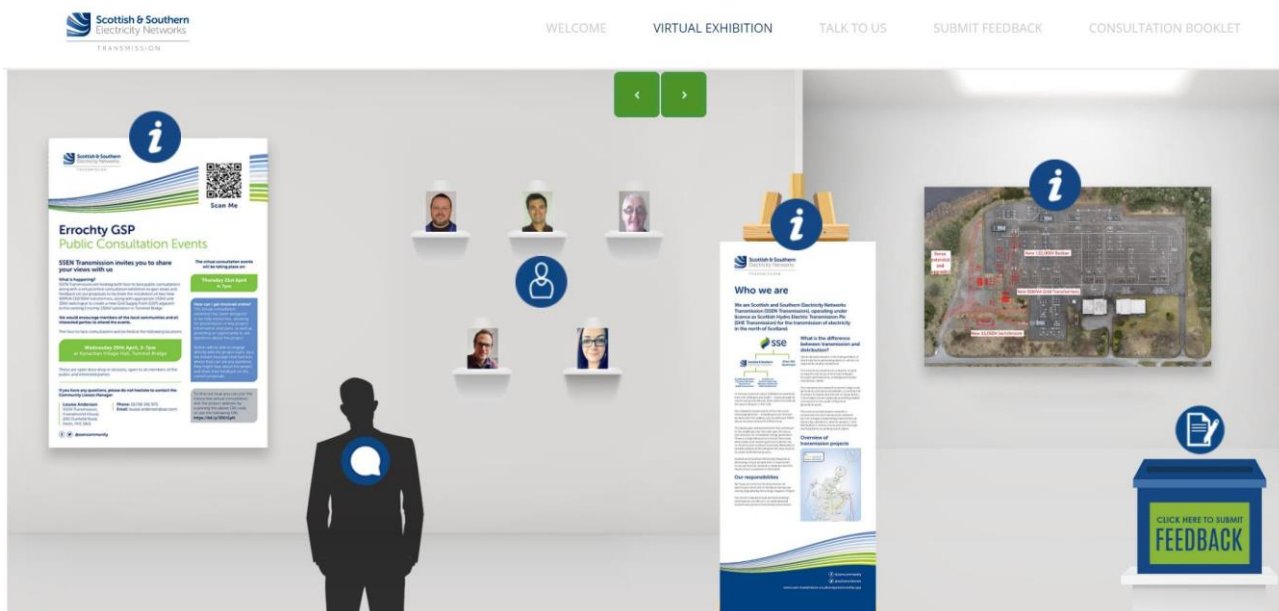
- 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 for April event; and
- 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2022 for July event.

### Virtual Consultation Events

2.2.5 Two virtual events were also held across the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022 (12:40:00 – 19:00) to provide consultees with the opportunity to ask questions about the Proposed Development to team members directly via a live chat function.

2.2.6 SSEN Transmission developed an online consultation tool which allowed stakeholders to visit a virtual consultation room and view the project information at their leisure. The virtual platform was designed to enable stakeholders to experience the full exhibition from home on a computer, tablet or mobile device. It was designed to look and feel like a face-to-face consultation in a community hall, with exhibition boards, maps, interactive videos as illustrated in **Plate 2-1** and the opportunity to share views on the proposals.

**Plate 2-1 Public engagement website landing page**



2.2.7 A live chat function was also available at advertised times to allow attendees to ask questions and get responses from the project team. The virtual platforms could be accessed from the project website where the consultation brochure was also available to view for those who preferred this format or if internet connection resulted in difficulty accessing the virtual room.

### Consultation Advertisement

2.2.8 The consultation was advertised using several methods as shown in **Table 2-1**:

**Table 2-1 Summary of public consultation promotion**

Method	Recipients
Email to Stakeholders to advise of consultation	Local community councils, affected stakeholders, elected councillors, Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) and Members of Parliament (MPs, Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU), SIC, NatureScot, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Historic Environment Scotland (HES).
Press Advert	The Courier; Pitlochry Life; The Atholl and Breadalbane Quair.
Social Media	SSEN Transmission's social media channels, Facebook and Twitter and the dedicated project webpage.

2.2.9 Emails were sent to local community councils, affected stakeholders, elected councillors, MSPs and MPs on the 4<sup>th</sup> April and 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 respectively to advise them of the dates 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. An advert promoting the consultation was placed in the Breadalbane Quair (March and July editions), Pitlochry Life (April and July editions), The Courier (w/c 11<sup>th</sup> April for five editions Monday to Friday and w/c 27<sup>th</sup> June for five editions Monday to Friday)

2.2.10 These adverts were circulated via the Errochty Website: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/errochty-gsp/>

### Summary of the Engagement Events

2.2.11 Landowners, residents and local communities were made aware, through various consultation promotion methods of the Consultation events with the Consultation Brochure made available via the dedicated project website (<https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/errochty-gsp/>). Updates were issued via email to project website subscribers, local community councils and ward councillors.

2.2.12 The consultation period opened on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 and continued for 12 weeks. A feedback form was provided on the project webpage allowing users to answer questions and submit comments. All responses received during this time were considered by the project team and are summarised within this report. Stakeholders were able to attend public face-to-face consultations on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> of April, and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> of July, 2022 to view information about the project and complete the feedback form. Live chat sessions were also held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022 at 14:00 – 19:30. A snapshot of the public and virtual engagement is presented in **Table 2-2** below.

**Table 2-2 Engagement snapshot**

Category	Number
Visits to SSEN virtual consultation website and average viewing time (mins)	3/0
20th of April face to face event	8
6th of July face to face event	13
Completed feedback forms	None

2.2.13 Hard copies of the consultation brochure and feedback form were available. A number of stakeholders emailed the SSEN Community Liaison manager to request additional information about the project. In addition, some consultees requested further meetings to discuss the Proposed Development. These queries were responded to by the relevant members of the project team.

## Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultation

### Consultation Document

2.2.14 The Errochty GSP Consultation Document (April 2022<sup>1</sup>) was produced detailing the selection process for the Preferred Site, taking account of environmental, technical, and economic factors.

## 2.3 Questions for Consideration by Consultees

2.3.1 **Table 2-3** details the statutory and non-statutory stakeholders that the Consultation Document was issued to.

**Table 2-3 List of statutory and non-statutory consultees**

Statutory Consultees	
Perth and Kinross Council	NatureScot
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Historic Environment Scotland
Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit	
Non-Statutory Consultees	
Cllr John Duff Cllr Xander McDade Cllr Mike Williamson Killiecrankie, Fincastle and Tummel Community Council	

2.3.2 Stakeholders were 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 and/or worst site location?
- Are there any additional factors, or environmental features that you consider important and should be brought to the attention of the project team?

## 3 Consultation Responses and Actions

### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Errochty GSP LT321 Consultation Document, April 2022

3.1.2 During each event, the Proposed Development team directed the members of the public to the feedback forms to encourage residents to provide their comments.

### **3.2 Public Consultation**

3.2.1 The consultation process has confirmed that:

- Perimeter palisade fence to be installed will be 2.4 metres high.
- Site construction traffic will follow the same route that has been used by Kinardochoy substation site construction traffic from the south of the site along the B846.

## **4 Conclusions**

4.1.1 This Report on Consultation documents the consultation process which has been undertaken for the project during 2022. The programme of consultation was designed to engage with stakeholders including statutory and non-statutory consultees, local communities, local landowners and individual residents in order to invite feedback on the Proposed Development.

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