

**Report on Consultation – Alignment Options**  
**Glendye Wind Farm Overhead Line Grid**  
**Connection**  
**February 2025**

**REF: LT468/469**



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## GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
Alignment	A centre line of an overhead line (OHL), along with the location of key angle structures.
Alignment Option	A distinct alignment option.
Alignment (proposed)	An alignment taken forward to consent application. It comprises a defined centre line for the overhead line and includes an indicative support structure (tower or pole) schedule, also specifying access arrangements and any associated construction facilities.
Alignment Variant	An alternative section of an alignment where there are different ways to avoid a localised constraint(s).
Amenity	The natural environment, cultural heritage, landscape and visual quality. Also includes the impact of SSEN Transmission's works on communities, such as the effects of noise and disturbance from construction activities.
Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI)	The Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) is a provisional guide to the location of Ancient Woodland. It contains three main categories of woodland, all of which are likely to be of value for their biodiversity and cultural value by virtue of their antiquity: Ancient Woodland (1a and 2a); Long-established woodlands of plantation origin (LEPO) (1b and 2b); and other woodlands on 'Roy' woodland sites (3).
ASH	ASH Design and Assessment Limited
Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)	Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is an approach to development that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was pre-development. It focuses on the change in the biodiversity value of a site, comparing the pre and post construction biodiversity values to ensure a positive impact overall.
BT	British Telecom
Conductor	A metallic wire strung from structure to structure, to carry electric current.
Consultation	The dynamic process of dialogue between individuals or groups, based on a genuine exchange of views and, normally, with the objective of influencing decisions, policies, or programmes of action.
Corridor	A linear area which allows a continuous connection between the defined connection points. The Corridor may vary in width along its length; in unconstrained areas it may be many kilometres wide.
DDSFB	Deeside District Salmon Fisheries Board
DNO Crossings	The crossing of low voltage distribution lines, also known as Distribution Network Operators (DNO) crossings.
Environmental Appraisal (EA)	When a Proposed Development is unlikely to give rise to significant environmental effects and is not considered an EIA development, it would not be subject to an EIA and the preparation of an EIA Report. In this circumstance, a voluntary Environmental Appraisal (EA) detailing the results of surveys, and any appropriate mitigation, can accompany a consent application.
ECoW	Ecological Clark of Works
ECU	Energy Consents Unit
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	Environmental Impact Assessment. A formal process codified by EU directive 2011/92/EU and subsequently amended by Directive 2014/52/EU. The national regulations are set out in The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. The EIA process is set out in

Term	Definition
	Regulation 4(1) of the regulations and includes the preparation of an EIA Report by the developer to systematically identify, predict, assess and report on the likely significant environmental effects of a proposed project or development.
FLS	Forestry and Land Scotland
Habitat	Term most accurately meaning the place in which a species lives, but also used to describe plant communities or agglomerations of plant communities.
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
HRA	Habitat Regulations Appraisal
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
Km	Kilometre
Kilovolt (kV)	One thousand volts
LEPO	Woodland of long-established plantation origin
Listed Building	Building included on the list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest and afforded statutory protection under the 'Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997' and other planning legislation. Classified categories A – C(s).
LSE	Likely significant effect
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
m	Metre
Micrositing	The process of positioning infrastructure to avoid localised environmental or technical constraints.
Mitigation	Term used to indicate avoidance, remediation, or alleviation of adverse impacts.
MOD	Ministry of Defence
MW	Mega Watts
NAT	National Air Traffic Control
NESRSG	North East Scotland Raptor Study Group
NPF	National Planning Framework
OC	Operational Corridor
Overhead line (OHL)	An electric line installed above ground, usually supported by lattice steel towers or wood / steel poles.
Plantation Woodland	Woodland of any age that obviously originated from planting.
Proposed Development	<p>A planned project that outlines specific changes, construction, or improvements to a particular site or area. This term is used to describe developments that are in the planning or approval stage, detailing the intended purpose, scale, design, and anticipated impact.</p> <p>Within this report the Glendye Wind Farm Overhead Line Grid Connection, a proposed new 132 kV overhead line (OHL) between the consented Glendye Wind Farm on-site substation and the existing Fetteresso substation, is referred to as the Proposed Development.</p>
PWS	Private Water Supply



Term	Definition
Route	A linear area of approximately 1 km width (although this may be narrower/wider in specific locations in response to identified pinch points / constraints), which provides a continuous connection between defined connection points.
Route (proposed)	A route taken forward following stakeholder consultation to the alignment selection stage of the routeing process.
Routeing	The work undertaken which leads to the selection of a proposed alignment, capable of being taken forward into the consenting process under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.
RSPB	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC	Special Area of Conservation. An area designated under the EC Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) to ensure that rare, endangered, or vulnerable habitats or species of community interest are either maintained at or restored to a favourable conservation status.
Scheduled Monument	A monument which has been scheduled by the Scottish Ministers as being of national importance under the terms of the 'Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979'.
Semi-natural Woodland	Woodland that does not obviously originate from planting. The distribution of species will generally reflect the variations in the site and the soil. Planted trees must account for less than 30% of the canopy composition.
SEPA	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Areas of national importance. The aim of the SSSI network is to maintain an adequate representation of all natural and semi-natural habitats and native species across Britain.
SLA	Special Landscape Area. Landscapes designated by Aberdeenshire Council considered to be of regional/local importance for their scenic qualities.
SPA	Special Protection Area. An area designated under the Wild Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC) to protect important bird habitats.
Span	The section of overhead line between two structures.
SSEN Transmission	Scottish Southern Electric Network Transmission operating under licence as Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc, who own, operate and develop the high voltage electricity transmission system in the north of Scotland and remote islands.
Stakeholders	Organisations and individuals who can affect or are affected by SSEN Transmission works.
The National Grid	The electricity transmission network in the Great Britain.
Underground Cable (UGC)	An electric cable installed below ground, protected by insulating layers and marked closer to the surface to prevent accidental damage through later earthworks.
UN	United Nations
Volts	The international unit of electric potential and electromotive force.
Wayleave	An agreement entered into between SSEN Transmission and a landowner upon whose land an overhead line is to be constructed.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Report on Consultation has been prepared by ASH design+assessment Limited on behalf of Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (herein referred to as 'SSEN Transmission'), operating under licence as Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc, who own, operate and develop the high voltage electricity transmission system in the north of Scotland and remote islands.

This document has been prepared to provide a summary of the responses received from key stakeholders during a consultation period held during October and November 2024. This consultation was in response to the alignment options and variants identified for a new 132 kV single circuit overhead line (OHL); the new OHL would connect the consented Glendye Wind Farm on-site substation to the National Grid at the existing Fetteresso substation.

The consented Glendye Wind Farm will be constructed on the Glen Dye and Fasque Estates, located approximately 5 km northwest from the village of Fettercairn, and approximately 12 km west from the village of Strachan. The wind farm is anticipated to generate in excess of 104 megawatts (MW) and will comprise of 26 turbines which require connection to the electricity transmission network by late 2028. It is proposed that this would be achieved via the construction and operation of a new 132 kV single circuit OHL.

In accordance with the Applicant's statutory duties, SSEN Transmission are developing the connection arrangement for the Glendye Wind Farm. A Section 37 application under the Electricity Act 1989 is anticipated to be submitted by the middle of 2025.

A programme of consultation was designed to engage with stakeholders, including statutory and non-statutory consultees, local communities, landowners and individual residents, in order to invite feedback on the alignment options and variants identified. As part of this consultation exercise, a Consultation Document<sup>1</sup> setting out an appraisal of the environmental, engineering and cost considerations of technically feasible and economically viable OHL alignment options and variants was issued to stakeholders. This was also available for download via the project website from 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024<sup>2</sup>.

In-person consultation events were also undertaken to seek the views of the local community. The consultation events were held on the following dates and locations:

- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – Drumlithie – Drumlithie Village Hall;
- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – Stonehaven – Stonehaven Town Hall;
- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – Strachan Village Hall; and
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024 - Auchenblae Village Hall.

This report describes the key responses received and provides detail on the actions proposed in response to the issues raised. The report concludes by identifying a proposed alignment to take forward to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and consenting stage of the project.

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<sup>1</sup> SSEN Transmission (October 2024) Glendye Wind Farm Overhead Line Grid Connection Alignment Options - Consultation Document

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/glendye-windfarm-connection>

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background and Purpose of Document

- 1.1.1 This Report on Consultation has been prepared by ASH design+assessment Limited ("ASH") on behalf of SSEN Transmission, who are proposing to construct a new 132 kV overhead line (OHL) between the consented Glendye Wind Farm on-site substation and the existing Fetteresso substation. The project is known as the Glendye Wind Farm Overhead Line Grid Connection and is referred to in this report as the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.2 In accordance with SSEN Transmission's guidance<sup>3</sup>, this report follows completion of a route selection study carried out for the Proposed Development between October 2023 and June 2024<sup>4</sup>. The route selection study identified a total of five route options (comprising three western route options and two eastern route options) subject to environmental and engineering appraisal, prior to seeking the views of statutory consultees and other stakeholders, including the local community.
- 1.1.3 This Report on Consultation documents the consultation process undertaken between October 2024 and November 2024, during the alignment selection stage of the Proposed Development. The programme of consultation was designed to engage with key stakeholders including statutory and non-statutory consultees, local communities, landowners and individual residents, to invite feedback on the alignment options and variants considered.
- 1.1.4 This report describes the key responses received and details the actions taken in response to the issues raised in determining a proposed alignment.

## 1.2 Objectives

- 1.2.1 The objectives of this report are:
- To document the consultation process between October 2024 and November 2024;
  - To summarise feedback received from stakeholders;
  - To document actions undertaken in response to feedback where relevant; and
  - To clearly set out how the proposed alignment has been informed by the consultation process.

## 1.3 Document Structure

- 1.3.1 This Report on Consultation is structured as follows:

Section 1: Introduction – setting out the purpose of the Report on Consultation;

Section 2: Project Overview – outlines the background to the Proposed Development and provides a description of the key elements;

Section 3: Alignment Selection Process and Consultation - which describes the alignment selection and consultation process undertaken;

Section 4: Consultation Responses from Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultees – summarises the responses from these bodies;

Section 5: Community Consultation Responses – summarises the responses, key comments and issues arising from the public through the consultation process;

Section 6: Proposed Alignment – describes how the comments and issues raised during consultation led to the confirmation of a proposed alignment; and

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<sup>3</sup> SSEN Transmission (September 2020) Procedures for Routeing Overhead Lines and Underground Cables of 132 kV and above

<sup>4</sup> SSEN Transmission (June 2024) Glendye Wind Farm Grid Connection: Report on Consultation (Route Options)

Section 7: Conclusions and Next Steps – provides a summary of the conclusions reached and actions going forward.

## 2. PROJECT OVERVIEW

### 2.1 The Need for the Project

- 2.1.1 The Glendye Wind Farm was granted consent by Scottish Ministers in October 2023. The wind farm will be constructed on the Glen Dye and Fasque Estate situated approximately 5 km northwest from the village of Fettercairn and approximately 12 km west from the village of Strachan. The wind farm is anticipated to generate in excess of 104 megawatts (MW) and will comprise 26 turbines which require connection to the electricity transmission network by late 2028.
- 2.1.2 SSEN Transmission has a statutory duty under Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical transmission system in its licenced areas. SSEN Transmission has obligations to offer non-discriminatory terms for connection to the transmission system.
- 2.1.3 SSEN Transmission are therefore required to provide a connection for the proposed wind farm. The proposed connection is in accordance with an agreement between SSEN Transmission, National Grid Electricity System Operator (as operator of the National Grid) and the wind farm developer.
- 2.1.4 The new connection would be routed between the consented Glendye Wind Farm on-site substation and the existing Fetteresso substation as shown in **Figure 1**.

### 2.2 Preferred Technology Solution

- 2.2.1 Use of steel trident poles is the preferred engineering solution for the OHL elements of the Proposed Development.
- 2.2.2 Two short sections of 132 kV underground cable (UGC) would be required as the Proposed Development leaves Glendye Wind Farm on-site-substation, as well as on the final approach to Fetteresso substation, given the presence of wind turbines and electrical infrastructure at these points. A terminal structure consisting of wooden poles would be required to facilitate the transition between OHL and UGC.
- 2.2.3 The steel trident poles would have a nominal height of approximately 13 m (including insulators and support). The proposed trident pole would support three conductors (wires) in a horizontal flat formation. The spacing between poles would vary depending on topography and altitude. The specific distances would be determined after a detailed line survey but would be approximately 100 m apart. Photographs showing typical steel trident poles are shown below in **Plate 2.1**.

**Plate 2.1: Example Steel Trident H Poles**



## **2.3 General Construction Activities**

2.3.1 To facilitate the connection, the main construction elements associated with the Proposed Development are anticipated to include:

- Establishment of one or more construction compounds;
- Establishment of suitable laydown areas for materials;
- Construction of stone tracks (both temporary and permanent) and other temporary access solutions as necessary;
- Delivery of structures and materials to site;
- Excavation and construction works associated with foundations, as necessary;
- Assembly and erection of trident poles;
- Stringing of conductors using hauling ropes and winches; and
- Inspections and commissioning.

## **2.4 Underground Cable**

2.4.1 It is anticipated that the installation of an UGC, required at either end of the connection, would involve the following tasks:

- Establishment of one or more construction compounds;
- Establishment of suitable laydown areas for materials;
- Establish a working corridor approximately 40 m wide;
- Installation of an access haul road and temporary bridges where/if required;
- Excavation of a trench up to 2 m in depth and 1 m wide, widening through benching and battering where stability and safety concerns arise;
- Clearing out all materials likely to damage cable ducts, e.g. clods, rocks, stones and organic debris, and employing pumps to remove any water;
- Installation of ducting within the trench, surrounded by engineered backfill in suitable layers for protection, with protection tile and warning tape placed above the cable line and reinstatement to sub-soil level;
- Excavation and formation of power cable joint bays with above ground electrical link pillars and associated demarcation;
- Transportation of and installation of power cable;
- Mobilisation of jointing containers and jointing of power cable;
- Reinstatement of joint bays and installation of fencing at link pillar locations; and
- Reinstatement of excavated surface layers in reverse order.

## 2.5 Other Considerations

### *Forestry Removal*

- 2.5.1 An Operational Corridor (OC) of approximately 72 m would be required through commercial forestry plantations to enable the safe operation and maintenance of the OHL (and UGC through forested areas). In areas of woodland, the width of the OC could vary depending on the type of woodland and species present.
- 2.5.2 Construction of the Proposed Development may require the removal of sections of forestry, although detailed design would seek to minimise the impact of any removal as far as practicable. This would be undertaken in consultation with affected landowners. The project would comply with the Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal Policy<sup>5</sup>.
- 2.5.3 Compensatory planting would comply with the UK Forestry Standard<sup>6</sup> sustainable approach to forestry and associated guidelines which may apply, or any such replacement standard applied or proposed by the consenting authority. Planting would be supported by an approved replanting plan that would identify the following:
- The location to which replanting should be undertaken;
  - Species of tree to be replanted;
  - Woodland design plans;
  - Timing to which replanting should be undertaken;
  - Maintenance of replanted areas;
  - Monitoring methods of the replanted areas; and
  - Reporting standards to be met by the plan.
- 2.5.4 After felling, any timber removed that is commercially viable would be sold and the remaining forest materials such as arisings / brash would be mulched on site in accordance with SEPA<sup>7</sup> guidance.

### *Access Strategy*

- 2.5.5 Vehicle access is required to each pole location during construction to allow excavation and creation of foundations and pole installation. Existing tracks would be used where possible. Preference will be given to lower impact access solutions including the use of low pressure tracked personnel vehicles and temporary track solutions in boggy/ soft ground areas, to reduce any damage to, and compaction of, the ground. These journeys would be kept to a minimum to minimise disruption to habitats along the route. However, both temporary and permanent stone tracks may be necessary in some areas, depending on existing access conditions, terrain and altitude.
- 2.5.6 For the short sections of UGC, a construction haul road would be required within the UGC construction corridor to facilitate its construction. Once installed, it is anticipated that the construction corridor would be reinstated, with an OC being maintained.

## 2.6 Programme

- 2.6.1 It is anticipated that construction of the Proposed Development would take place over an approximately 18-month period following the granting of consents, although detailed programming of the works would be the responsibility of the Contractor in agreement with SSEN Transmission.

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<sup>5</sup> Forestry Commission Scotland (2009) Control of Woodland Removal Policy available at: <https://www.forestry.gov.scot/publications/285-the-scottish-government-s-policy-on-control-of-woodland-removal> (last accessed 28/01/2025)

<sup>6</sup> The UK Forestry Standard (2023) available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uk-forestry-standard> (last accessed 16/01/2025)

<sup>7</sup> SEPA (2017) Management for forestry waste available at: [https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/28957/forestry\\_waste\\_guidance\\_note.pdf](https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/28957/forestry_waste_guidance_note.pdf) (last accessed 28/01/2025)

## **2.7 Biodiversity Net Gain**

- 2.7.1 SSEN Transmission have committed to delivering Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) on all our projects; as well as compensatory planting for any trees felled during the construction phase, where possible with native species. Where our projects are unable to completely avoid irreplaceable habitats (for example peatland or ancient woodland), we have also introduced a commitment to restore more habitat than we affect. 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.
- 2.7.2 As the Proposed Development 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 Proposed Development, or by providing support to groups involved with habitat restoration or creation projects, as near as possible to the Proposed Development.



### 3. ALIGNMENT SELECTION PROCESS AND CONSULTATION

#### 3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1 The approach to route and alignment selection is being informed by SSEN Transmission's guidance 'Procedures for Routeing Overhead Lines and Underground Cables of 132 kV and above'<sup>8</sup> which provides a framework to ensure environmental, technical and economic considerations are identified and appraised at each stage of the routeing process.
- 3.1.2 The guidance splits the routeing stage of a project into the following principal stages:
- Stage 0: Routeing strategy development;
  - Stage 1: Corridor Selection;
  - Stage 2: Route Selection;
  - Stage 3: Alignment Selection; and
  - Stage 4: EIA and consenting.
- 3.1.3 Each stage is an iterative process and involves an increasing level of detail and resolution, bringing environmental, technical and cost considerations together in a way which seeks to achieve the best balance at each stage. The stages carried out can vary depending on the type, nature and size of a project and consultation is carried out at each stage of the process as appropriate.
- 3.1.4 The Proposed Development is currently at Stage 3: Alignment Selection, the objective of which is to identify a proposed alignment to take forward to the EIA and consenting stages.

#### 3.2 The Consultation Process

##### *Route Selection Stage*

- 3.2.1 In accordance with SSEN Transmission's guidance<sup>8</sup>, a process of consultation on the preferred route has previously been undertaken, seeking comments from statutory and non-statutory consultees, and members of the public.
- 3.2.2 In February 2024, a route stage Consultation Document<sup>9</sup> was prepared to set out the Proposed Development need and to seek comments from stakeholders and members of the public on the route option studies undertaken.
- 3.2.3 In-person consultation events were undertaken to seek the views of the local community. Consultation events were held on the following dates and locations:
- Tuesday 20 February 2024 - Strachan - Strachan Village Hall;
  - Tuesday 20 February 2024 - Fettercairn - West Mearns Parish Church Hall;
  - Wednesday 21 February 2024 - Drumlithie - Public Hall; and
  - Thursday 28 March 2024 – Feughside - Strachan Village Hall.
- 3.2.4 Consultation events were advertised in the local press, SSEN Transmission's social media channels and the dedicated project website. A mail drop informing of the event was also carried out to 1,704 households within the local area ahead of the consultation events.

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<sup>8</sup> SSEN Transmission (2020). Procedures for Routeing Overhead Lines and Underground Cables of 132 kV and above, Revision 2.0.

<sup>9</sup> SSEN Transmission (February 2024) Glendye Wind Farm Grid Connection – Consultation Document (Route Options)

- 3.2.5 Comments received were documented in a Report on Consultation (June 2024)<sup>10</sup> which sets out the consultation process for the Proposed Development undertaken between February 2024 and April 2024, during the route option stage. The Report on Consultation also confirmed the proposed route to be taken forward for the consideration of alignment options.

#### *Alignment Selection Stage*

- 3.2.6 In accordance with SSEN Transmission's guidance<sup>8</sup>, a similar process of consultation on the alignment options and variants was also undertaken.

#### Consultation Document

- 3.2.7 The Alignment Stage Consultation Document (October 2024)<sup>1</sup> was produced detailing the identification and appraisal of a number of alignment options and variants, taking account of environmental, economic and technical factors. The Consultation Document was emailed to statutory consultees (listed in **Table 3.1** below) on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024 and made available for download from the project website<sup>11</sup>.
- 3.2.8 **Table 3.1** below details the stakeholders in receipt of the Consultation Document or otherwise informed of the website details:

**Table 3.1: List of Stakeholders in receipt of the Alignment Stage Consultation Document (October 2024)**

<b>Stakeholders</b>	
<b>Statutory Consultees</b>	
Energy Consents Unit (ECU)	Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
NatureScot	Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
Aberdeenshire Council	Feughside, Mearns & Stonehaven Community Councils
<b>Non-Statutory Consultees</b>	
Deeside District Salmon Fisheries Board	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Ministry of Defence (MOD)	National Gas
British Telecom (BT)	Network Rail
National Air Traffic Service (NATS) safeguarding	Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS)
Aberdeen Airport	Transport Scotland
Joint Radio Company	Scottish Water

- 3.2.9 Landowners were also made aware of the Alignment Stage Consultation Document<sup>1</sup> and local community councils and ward councillors were notified regarding the consultation events.
- 3.2.10 Feedback on the Alignment Stage Consultation Document was requested by 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024.

#### Public Consultation Events

In-person consultation events took place at the following times and locations:

- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – Drumlithie Village Hall;
- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – Stonehaven Town Hall;

<sup>10</sup> SSEN Transmisison (June 2024 ) Glendye Wind Farm Grid Connection: Report on Consultation (Route Options)

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/glendye-windfarm-connection/>

- Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 – Strachan Village Hall; and
- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024 - Auchenblae Village Hall.

3.2.11 Consultation events were advertised in the local press, SSEN Transmission's social media channels and the dedicated project website<sup>11</sup>.

3.2.12 Feedback was received via a series of different methods, including hardback copy feedback forms, emails, letters, notes from the consultation events and stakeholder meetings as summarised below in **Table 3.2**.

3.2.13 A total of 27 responses were received, comprising of 4 emails, 22 digital feedback forms and 1 letter.

### 3.3 Summary of Stakeholder Consultation during Routeing

3.3.1 In addition to the consultation events, various meetings were held with both statutory and non-statutory consultees during the route and alignment stage to discuss the Proposed Development proposals. In addition to meetings, the project Community Liaison Manager engaged with interested parties via emails and calls throughout the routing and alignment phases. A summary of stakeholder meetings undertaken as part of the consultation during routeing is provided in **Table 3.2** below.

**Table 3.2: Summary of Stakeholder meetings**

Date	Consultation Type	Stakeholder Group in attendance
28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	In person, Strachan	Feughside Community Council - community liaison meeting
15 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Virtual via Microsoft Teams	Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS)
29 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	In person, Cairn o' Mount, walkover of one route option	Feughside Community Council, representatives from 'Save Our Mearns' and interested local residents
2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2024	Virtual via Microsoft Teams	Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS)
8 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Virtual via Microsoft Teams	National Gas
26 <sup>th</sup> November 2024- 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Via Email Correspondence	The James Hutton Institute – Glensaugh Research Farm

## 4. CONSULTATION RESPONSES FROM STATUTORY AND NON-STATUTORY CONSULTEES

### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 **Table 4.1** below sets out a summary of the feedback received by statutory and non-statutory consultees following the consultation period (October and November 2024). A response to the feedback is also provided by SSEN Transmission, together with confirmation of the action to be taken, where relevant.

**Table 4.1: Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultee Feedback following Alignment Stage Consultation (October and November 2024)**

Stakeholder	Summary of Feedback	Response by SSEN Transmission
<b>Statutory</b>		
Aberdeenshire Council	Aberdeenshire Council have stated that if SSEN wish to receive detailed comments/feedback from Aberdeenshire Council, SSEN will need to submit the proposals to the Energy Transmission Infrastructure Pre-Application service.	SSEN Transmission will seek pre-application advice from the Council via the pre-application service.
SEPA	SEPA welcome engagement at an early stage but note they are unlikely to be able to provide any further detailed responses on this proposal until consulted by the Energy Consents Unit through a formal scoping opinion or application. SEPA provided their general scoping response to these types of applications.	SSEN Transmission are familiar with SEPA's standing advice and will refer to this as the Proposed Development progresses into the EIA stage of the project.
NatureScot	NatureScot note that the scale and nature of the proposal is such that its effects on natural heritage have potential to be significant. NatureScot recognise that the Proposed Development falls within the National Planning Framework (NPF4) List of national developments. However, where the Proposed Development is unable to avoid direct or indirect effects on protected areas, NatureScot are likely to object if these will adversely affect the integrity of protected areas.	Sites designated for their nature conservation have been considered during the routeing process and will continue to be considered and assessed as the Proposed Development progresses.
	NatureScot notes that the western section of the Proposed Development would be located within the catchment of the River Dee Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Construction, operation and maintenance activities have potential to impact the SAC species and supporting habitats. NatureScot request that a site-specific plan showing measures to support protection of the SAC is provided to support the application.	Sites designated for their nature conservation, including the River Dee SAC, have been considered during the appraisal of alignment options. The potential effects of the Proposed Development, including the identification of appropriate mitigation measures, will be considered further during the EIA stage of the project. As the Proposed Development is hydrologically connected to the River Dee SAC, a European designated site, a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) Screening report will be undertaken to inform the requirement for Appropriate Assessment.
	NatureScot advise that potential landscape and visual effects are unlikely to raise issues of national interest.	NatureScot's comments are noted. Potential landscape and visual effects have been considered during the route and alignment selection process and will continue to be considered during the EIA stages of the project.

Stakeholder	Summary of Feedback	Response by SSEN Transmission
	NatureScot refer to Scottish Governments draft planning guidance on biodiversity and note that for national developments, NPF4 requires applicants to demonstrate that biodiversity will be in a 'demonstrably better state'.	SSEN Transmission are committed to delivering a 10% biodiversity net gain on their projects (as mentioned in <b>Sub-Section 2.6</b> of this report).
	NatureScot note that there is potential connectivity to the Montrose Basin Special Protection Area (SPA), which is designated for wintering pink-foot and greylag geese. However, it is unlikely the OHL project will affect the SPA bird species.	NatureScot's advice on this is noted. As habitats within the route of the Proposed Development may support qualifying geese species of the Montrose Basin SPA, a HRA Screening report will be undertaken to assess the potential for likely significant effect (LSE). Where LSE on the SPA is identified and has potential to impact the conservation status of SPA populations, Appropriate Assessment will be undertaken.
	NatureScot note that the western alignment options traverse areas of Class 1 peatland, as identified using NatureScot's Carbon and Peatland Map (2016) <sup>12</sup> . As the alignment options cannot avoid impacting on carbon-rich soils and peatland, this will influence the level of survey work and assessment required to support a Section 37 application (and EIA).	This is noted. Impacts on peatlands and carbon rich soils will be a key consideration in the development of this project, supported by habitat and peat depth data and following the mitigation hierarchy. Survey work has been undertaken to determine peat depths and presence of peatland habitats. Opportunities for restoration and enhancement will be considered and delivered in line with SSEN Transmission's BNG commitments. A Stage 1 Peat Management Plan and Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment will be provided in support of future application for consent.
	NatureScot note that all alignment options would have the potential to be within the core range (6 km) of breeding raptors (specifically golden eagle ( <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> )). NatureScot advise that desk-based studies should inform the scope of survey work. RSPB and the North East Raptor Study Group should be contacted for up to date records.	Bird surveys are being undertaken to identify potential ornithological constraints, supporting a detailed desk study to establish an accurate baseline. Contact has been made with RSPB and the North East Raptor Study Group to obtain up to date records.
Historic Environment Scotland (HES)	HES welcome that their previous advice from the route stage has been considered, which highlighted the need to mitigate potential impacts on the setting of Cairn o'Mount Cairns (SM4968) Scheduled Monument.  HES welcome that visualisations have been produced to demonstrate the visibility of the OHL alignment options. These visualisations indicate that all alignment options would have an impact on the setting of the monument. However, Alignment Option 3 combined with Alignment Variant 3a have been developed to seek minimal impact and	SSEN Transmission are pleased to note HES's response and welcome HES's comments in relation to alignment preference. This has been considered in the identification of a proposed alignment.

<sup>12</sup> NatureScot (2016) The Carbon and Peatland Map available online at: <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/planning-and-development-advice/soils/carbon-and-peatland-2016-map> (last accessed 16/01/2025)

Stakeholder	Summary of Feedback	Response by SSEN Transmission
	have less of an impact on the setting of this scheduled monument, compared to other options.	
	HES also welcome that their previous advice regarding potential impacts to Category-A listed buildings in the vicinity of the Proposed Development has been considered. As such, HES have no further comments to make regarding the impacts from the alignment options on these assets.	HES comments are welcomed and have been noted.
<b>Non-Statutory</b>		
Network Rail	Network Rail noted that matters including any works over or adjacent to railway infrastructure should be discussed further with Network Rail.	This has been noted. Network Rail will continue to be kept informed of the Proposed Development, but none of the alignment options cross railway infrastructure.
National Gas	National Gas have no objection to the Proposed Development, subject to the relevant buffers, traffic crossing points, pre and post energising surveys, additional monitoring and protection surveys taking place, given proximity to a High Pressure Gas Pipeline.	SSEN Transmission held a meeting with National Gas in January 2025 to discuss the Proposed Development. The advice provided by National Gas at the meeting, and subsequently in their written response, has been noted and will be adhered to as the project progresses.
Ministry of Defence (MOD)	The MOD refer back to their letter of 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 and confirm that they have no concerns in principle with regard to the Proposed Development.	This has been noted.
Aberdeen Airport	Aberdeen Airport state that there won't be any aerodrome safeguarding impacts with regards to Aberdeen Airport. As such they have no comment to make and need not be consulted further.	This has been noted.
British Telecom (BT)	BT conclude that the Proposed Development would not cause interference to BT's current and presently planned radio network.	This has been noted.
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	RSPB expressed strong concerns regarding the cumulative impact of proposed and consented developments on breeding golden eagle. RSPB Scotland recommends that the Applicant's cumulative impact assessment captures loss of open ground due to commercial forestry plantations in addition to other operational, consented and proposed developments in the planning system. This is especially important due to the clear cumulative pressures faced by breeding golden eagles in this area. RPSB also recommend contacting the North East Scotland Raptor Study Group (NESRSG) to provide up-to-date information on golden eagle populations present in this area.	The potential for cumulative effects with other projects has been considered during the routeing stages of the project and will form part of the assessment work carried out during the EIA stage, informed by a detailed desk study and field surveys. The RSPB and the NESRSG have been contacted to obtain relevant records.

Stakeholder	Summary of Feedback	Response by SSEN Transmission
	RSPB welcomes the consideration of biodiversity enhancement as a requirement as set out in NPF4 and appreciate that SSEN have carried out extensive work to develop their own system of 'BNG assessment'. It is noted that further draft guidance is now available from the Scottish Government <sup>13</sup> .	Biodiversity enhancements will be considered in accordance with SSEN's BNG commitments, in line with NPF4 requirements and Scottish Government guidance.
Dee District Salmon Fisheries Board (DDSFB)	DDSFB state that Atlantic salmon species are now described by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) as an endangered species in Scotland. The River Dee SAC supports critically endangered populations of salmon, as do the Cowie and Carron Water networks. It cannot be assumed that there will be no impact from the Proposed Development from any of the alignment options. Dee DSFB note that they wish to be consulted by SSEN Transmission following alignment selection.	The presence of Atlantic salmon within watercourses in proximity to this project is acknowledged and further consideration of these potential constraints, and appropriate mitigation, will continue as the project progresses. SSEN Transmission will keep DDSFB informed of the Proposed Development as it moves forwards into the EIA stage.
	DDSFB state a preference for Alignment Option 3, (including Alignment Variants 3a and 3b) and Alignment Option 5 (including Alignment Variants 5a and 5b). DDSFB have no objections as long as consideration is given to the following potentially significant impacts during Proposed Development construction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased sediment loading and pollution by contaminants to adjacent watercourses.</li> <li>Fish habitat degradation or removal; and</li> <li>Altered hydrological pathways or flows.</li> </ul>	DDSFB's alignment preference and potential impacts of the Proposed Development are noted. The potential for impacts to the water environment will form a key consideration as the design progresses and the EIA Report will set out the results of an impact assessment on the water environment, as well as appropriate mitigation measures.
	DDSFB welcomes the opportunity to engage with SSEN Transmission's community benefit team to discuss matters such as native woodland creation and instream habitat restoration within these impacted catchments, to off-set any potential negative impacts caused by the Proposed Development upon existing habitats and species present.	This has been noted. SSEN Transmission will consider potential habitat enhancement measures within the vicinity of the Proposed Development, in line with the company's BNG commitments.
	DDSFB note that all forestry felling should conform with the Forest and Water initiative (2018) Guidelines <sup>14</sup> , and all measures should be made to minimise impacts of these activities.	Noted. Potential impacts of forestry activities would be considered as the Proposed Development progresses, and relevant information provided in support of a consent application.

<sup>13</sup> Scottish Government (2023) Biodiversity: draft planning guidance aimed at enhancing biodiversity, intended to assist in application of NPF4 Policy 3 available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-draft-planning-guidance-biodiversity/> (last accessed 16/01/2025)

<sup>14</sup> Confor: Forestry and Water Initiative (2018) available at: <https://www.confor.org.uk/resources/forestry-water-scotland/guidance-documents/> (last accessed 16/01/2025)



Stakeholder	Summary of Feedback	Response by SSEN Transmission
	DDSFB suggests that an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) is appointed for the development, whom Dee DSFB wish to liaise with and be included in any liaison group established.	An ECoW will be present on site as required during the construction phase of the Proposed Development. SSEN Transmission will maintain engagement with DDSFB as the project progresses.
	DDSFB note that there are biosecurity risks associated with construction and post construction monitoring activities which pose a threat to the River Dee (SAC). Dee DSFB request further information associated with the biosecurity measures proposed, to ascertain the risks associated with transmission of non-native species and the potential transmission of fish pathogens between the Dee and other catchments.	This will be considered as the Proposed Development progresses and will form part of the mitigation proposed to minimise the impact of the project.
	DDSFB note that decommissioning of the Proposed Development would also create a significant risk to the Dee SAC, and further consultation on any proposed decommissioning plan would be requested.	This has been noted.
<b>Community Councils</b>		
Feughside Community Council	Feughside Community Council and their response have been detailed further in <b>Table 5.1</b> and <b>Section 5</b> of this report, which discusses the community consultation responses in further detail.	SSEN Transmission note these comments and have further detailed their response to concerns outlined in <b>Section 5</b> of this report.
<b>Landowners</b>		
Landowners	Land use activities should be taken into account, with both current and future requirements given consideration.	<p>Further consultation has been undertaken with landowners to ensure comments received in relation to the OHL alignment are taken on board, where practicable. During these consultations, further micro-siting opportunities of alignment options were discussed to minimise impacts on the forest resource. Minor movements of the alignment have taken land use considerations and requirements into account, to minimise potential for impact.</p> <p>A further alignment variant was developed with the aim of minimising interaction with planned peatland restoration areas, as well as reducing impact to areas of forestry. This alignment variant is shown on <b>Figure 2 – Alignment Variant – Sensitive Habitats</b>.</p>

## 5. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION RESPONSES

### 5.1 Public Exhibition Responses

- 5.1.1 Feedback received from Feughside Community Council, the local community and general public in response to the public consultation events is presented below. As stated in **Section 3.2**, a total of 27 responses were received, comprising of 4 emails, 22 digital feedback forms and 1 letter.
- 5.1.2 Some of the key themes discussed during the consultation events related to technology types including the use of OHL and UGC, concerns around the landscape and visual effect of the Proposed Development, and the presence of protected species.
- 5.1.3 **Table 5.1** overleaf sets out feedback received from the Feughside Community Council, the local community and general public following the consultation period (October and November 2024), including comments received during the consultation events. Responses by SSEN Transmission are also included, setting out the action to be taken where relevant.

**Table 5.1: Public and Local Community Feedback by Topic**

Feedback Comments	Response by SSEN Transmission
<p><b>Environmental Impacts</b></p> <p>Several respondents raised concerns about the potential environmental impact of the project, particularly in relation to landscape and visual effects (including from the Cairn o'Mount viewpoint and Cairn o'Mount Cairns Scheduled Monument), impacts on protected species and their habitats, disturbance and cumulative effects with other projects.</p>	<p>SSEN Transmission ensure environmental factors are considered at every stage of a project, along with technical and economic aspects. The potential environmental constraints of each alignment option are outlined in the Alignment Stage Consultation Document<sup>1</sup> and existing survey data is being supplemented to further inform the selection of the preferred alignment. Visualisations of each alignment option were provided as part of the Alignment Stage Consultation Document<sup>1</sup> to illustrate the view from Cairn o'Mount Cairns Scheduled Monument. Further visualisations will be provided as part of the EIA Report.</p> <p>In addition, the Section 37 application will be accompanied by the EIA Report prepared by external environmental specialists. These assessments will consider impacts on a wide range of environmental topics (many of which have been highlighted in the stakeholder responses to this consultation) and have been identified through both screening<sup>15</sup> and (at the time of writing) ongoing scoping. This will identify measures that may be required to mitigate environmental impacts.</p>
<p><b>Undergrounding of the Proposed Development</b></p> <p>A number of comments were received querying why the Proposed Development could not be undergrounded. Cost was cited as being the main reason respondents believed the connection is not being undergrounded, with Feughside Community Council suggesting that no serious consideration has been given to undergrounding the connection on the basis of cost. Feughside Community Council also refer to assurances provided by the wind farm developer (Coriolis) that the connection would be by underground cable, with the community council also pointing to the Mid Hill Wind Farm connection being underground cable.</p>	<p>SSEN Transmission have considered environmental, technical and cost factors during the routeing process for this project.</p> <p>SSEN Transmission cannot take responsibility for assurances made by the wind farm developer Coriolis to underground the grid connection. It is SSEN Transmission's responsibility to provide the grid connection for the wind farm.</p> <p>The most appropriate solution for the operation and maintenance of the network is considered to be OHL over UGC wherever possible. For this project, a steel trident OHL is proposed (with a nominal height of approximately 13 m) for the majority of the connection, with short sections of UGC required at either end in order to overcome technical constraints in connecting with the substations.</p> <p>The environmental, technical, and operational constraints associated with undergrounding at high voltages, make the option extremely challenging to deliver in many areas of Scotland. Some of the challenges that contribute to this position include technical limitations, environmental impact, terrain concerns, infrastructure needs, operational needs and cost.</p> <p>Even if technically feasible, undergrounding over a significant length of or the entirety of a project would be unreasonable as it would be contrary to SSEN Transmission's licence obligations to be economic</p>

<sup>15</sup> ECU Reference ECU00005197 - SSEN Transmission (2024), *Glendye Wind Farm Overhead Line Grid Connection Works: Electricity Act (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 Screening Request*

Feedback Comments	Response by SSEN Transmission
	and efficient in respect of additional costs to the end consumer, with additional risk to the electricity transmission network in the event of cable failure and consequent outages.
<p><b>Landscape and Visual Impacts</b></p> <p>Some respondents cited the upland area to the west, including the crossing of the B974, as areas where undergrounding would be best undertaken to minimise landscape and visual effects, particularly as this is designated as a Special Landscape Area (SLA). The cultural and historic significance of this area, as well as its recreational use, was also noted as a reason the connection should be undergrounded here. Concerns were also noted about the cumulative effects on the landscape given other proposed developments in the area.</p>	<p>The landscape sensitivities and cultural significance of the western part of the Proposed Development have been considered during the routeing and alignment selection stages, and will continue to be assessed as the project progresses to the EIA. As noted in the Alignment Stage Consultation Document<sup>1</sup>, Alignment Option 2 and Alignment Variant 3a were identified as they are likely to be somewhat screened by topography in this area, passing at a slightly lower elevation. Visualisations were included within the Alignment Stage Consultation Document<sup>1</sup> and at consultation events, to illustrate the views of each alignment option and variant from the Cairn o'Mount Cairns Scheduled Monument, and crossing of the B974.</p> <p>The EIA Report will include a specific chapter for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) and will also consider the potential for wider cumulative impacts when viewed against the backdrop of other existing and planned infrastructure in the area. The EIA Report will include photomontages showing visual projections of the appearance of the OHL at each key viewpoint.</p> <p>The EIA will consider the cumulative impacts of the Proposed Development, arising in combination with other planned electricity transmission connections, and other planned developments where impacts are predicted. The findings of the cumulative assessment will be set out in the EIA Report.</p>
<p><b>Approach to Consultation</b></p> <p>Concerns were raised on the approach to consultation, whereby the community felt the consultation approach taken by SSEN did not meet their expectations and the communities' views were not taken into consideration. This was also noted in Feughside Community Council's response.</p>	<p>SSEN Transmission aims to develop all projects sensitively and to reduce impacts on communities as much as possible. Community feedback provides an essential insight into local issues that help to refine the OHL design. Following the comprehensive review of all feedback, we consider what opportunities there are to modify our project's design to reduce impacts as much as possible. We have taken this approach at all stages of the project, and we have presented in the previous report on consultation<sup>Error! Bookmark not defined.</sup> how we have responded to community feedback.</p> <p>SSEN Transmission will undertake a full EIA to objectively assess all potential significant environmental effects, and we will prepare an EIA Report to accompany the Section 37 application.</p> <p>SSEN Transmission are mindful of the uncertainty that our proposals may pose to communities that are impacted. Our project development process seeks to identify an alignment that provides an appropriate balance across a variety of considerations and interests. We aim to do this as swiftly as possible to minimise the duration of uncertainty for all potentially impacted communities. However, we are also committed to providing sufficient time and opportunity for all stakeholders to inform each stage of our project development process, so that views can be understood and wherever possible incorporated into design decisions. This is a balance which continues to be carefully and sensitively managed.</p>

Feedback Comments	Response by SSEN Transmission
<p><b>Private Water Supplies</b></p> <p>Some concerns were raised in relation to Private Water Supplies (PWS) located in proximity to the alignment options and variants.</p>	<p>To inform the alignment selection stage, as well as future stages of the project, SSEN Transmission have appointed specialist consultants to undertake PWS surveys within proximity of the alignment options.</p> <p>This includes a search of Local Authority records (for registered PWS) together with personal contact through mail questionnaires, or as part of landowner/local resident conversations. A risk assessment is then undertaken to identify those PWS that have the potential to be affected by the works.</p> <p>Should the results of this assessment indicate a risk to the PWS source or infrastructure, then mitigation shall be developed for inclusion in a site specific PWS Protection Plan that is discussed and agreed with the PWS owner. A report on potential PWS impacts and mitigation would also be included in the environmental assessments as part of the EIA Report which supports the consent application. In a small number of instances, where the works cannot be successfully micro-sited away from a PWS, we may be required to undertake a water quality testing programme prior to, during and after construction. This would be agreed with the PWS owner and SEPA.</p>

## 6. PROPOSED ALIGNMENT

### 6.1 Overview

- 6.1.1 SSEN Transmission has reviewed and considered the responses provided by stakeholders of the alignment options and variants set out within the Glendye Wind Farm Grid Connection Alignment Stage Consultation Document<sup>Error! Bookmark not defined.</sup>. Responses to each of the key points raised by stakeholders through the consultation process are included in **Sections 4 and 5** of this report.
- 6.1.2 The consultation process for the Proposed Development raised a number of comments seeking further clarification and justification for the use of OHL rather than UGC for parts of the connection. Comments also sought clarification on set requirements for further assessment, particularly in relation to landscape and visual, cultural heritage, peat, protected species and ornithological constraints. These points have been addressed in **Table 4.1** and **Table 5.1**.
- 6.1.3 Other topics of importance that arose from the consultation process included impact on forestry and peatlands.
- 6.1.4 SSEN Transmission has sought to consider these comments where practicable, in determining a proposed alignment for the connection.
- 6.1.5 Given the alignment options presented at consultation had potential to cross both forestry and peatland restoration areas, further stakeholder meetings were held with the aim of achieving a solution that minimises impacts on the forestry resource, as well as potential for impact to peatland restoration schemes. Subsequently, SSEN Transmission identified a new alignment variant (**Figure 2 Alignment Variant – Sensitive Habitats**) to address these constraints where practicable.
- 6.1.6 In respect of comments received in relation to the western part of the route, and views expressed in relation to landscape, visual, cultural heritage and recreational sensitivities, whilst it has not been deemed practicable to underground this section of the connection, the chosen alignment (Alignment Option 3 and Alignment Variant 3a) has been selected to minimise impacts where practicable, by making use of local topography. Specifically in relation to views from the Cairn o'Mount Cairns Scheduled Monument, Historic Environment Scotland agreed that this option would have the least impact.
- 6.1.7 A proposed alignment has therefore been identified that considers the comments received through consultation, in light of environmental, engineering and cost considerations. The proposed alignment is shown on **Figure 3**, and comprises **Alignment Option 3 (with the use of Alignment Variant 3a and 3b) in combination with Alignment Variant 5 (with some alterations), with the use of Alignment Variants 5a and 5b**. The proposed alignment also includes the variant to avoid sensitive habitats, as shown in Figure 2.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

### 7.1 Conclusions

- 7.1.1 This Report on Consultation documents the consultation process which has been undertaken for the Proposed Development between October and November 2024. The programme of consultation was designed to engage with stakeholders including statutory and non-statutory consultees, local communities, landowners and residents, to invite feedback on the alignment options and variants put forward, prior to confirmation of the proposed alignment.
- 7.1.2 SSEN Transmission has concluded that the proposed alignment, as shown in **Figure 3**, would be a combination of Alignment Option 3 (with Alignment Variant 3a and 3b) and Alignment Option 5 (with Alignment Variant 5a and 5b), with a new variant identified to reduce potential for impacts to sensitive habitats (areas of forestry and peatland restoration). The new variant moves the alignment approximately 800 m north in proximity to Goyle Hill, with the aim to avoid the peatland restoration schemes located at Goyle Hill and Gothie Hill (as discussed in **sub-section 6.1.5** of this report), and to minimise impacts on the forest resource.

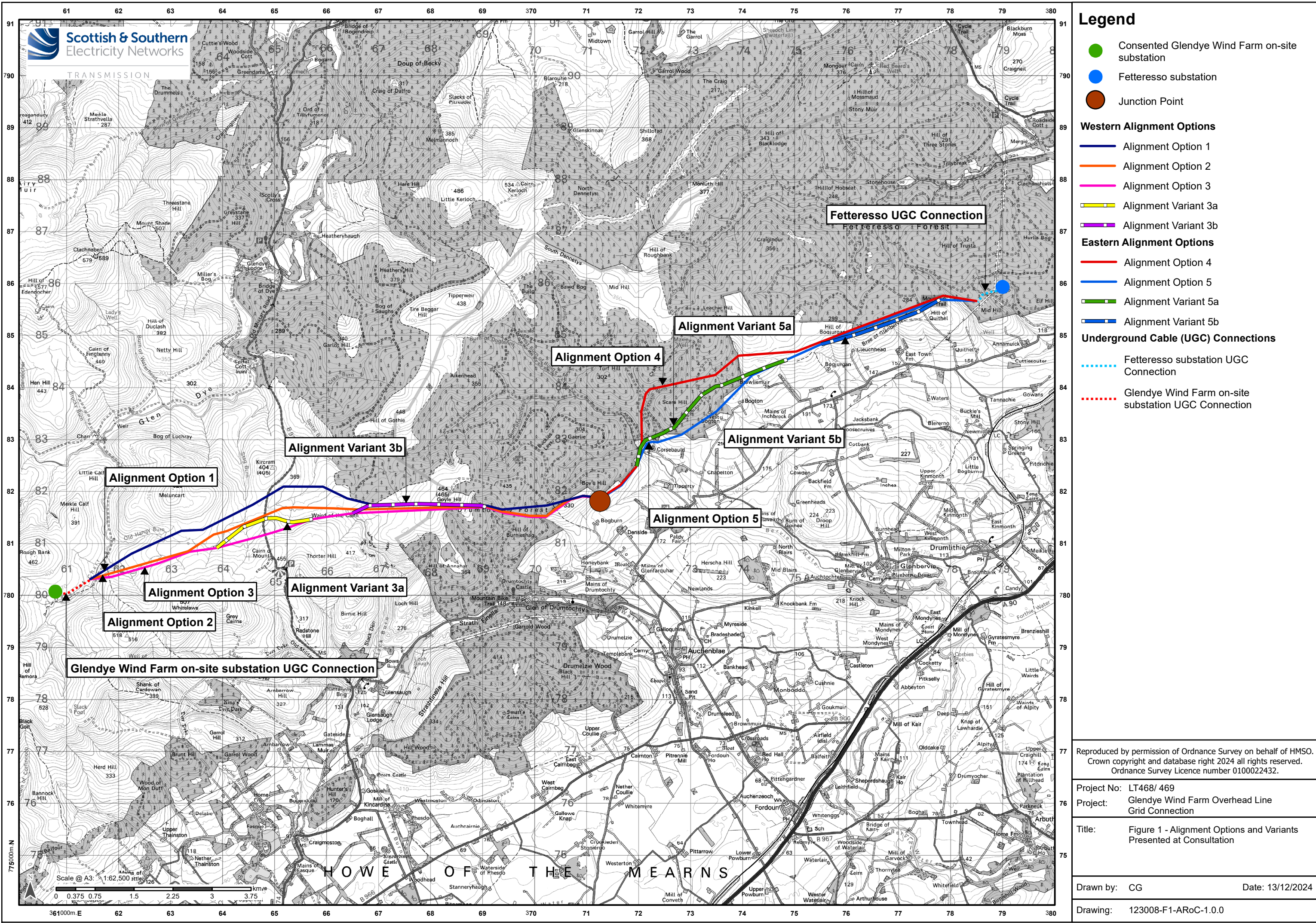
### 7.2 Next Steps

- 7.2.1 The Proposed Development will be taken into Stage 4 (EIA and consenting). Should further site and desk-based analysis at the EIA and Consenting stage identify a particular constraint, a further review of the Proposed Development alignment may be required.
- 7.2.2 All comments and considerations to date, as well as those resulting from any further meetings and liaison with stakeholders, will be taken forward into the EIA and consenting stage, through which assessments will be carried out for all relevant environmental aspects. This process will remain inclusive, seeking further consultation where appropriate.
- 7.2.3 On the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024, a screening report<sup>15</sup> for the Proposed Development acted as a formal request for Scottish Ministers to adopt a Screening Opinion under the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations), to determine whether the Glendye Wind Farm Overhead Line Grid Connection Project was, or was not, EIA development, in the context of the EIA Regulations.
- 7.2.4 On 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024 the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) determined that the Proposed Development would constitute EIA development and any forthcoming application for consent (under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989) would require to be accompanied by a full EIA report.
- 7.2.5 On the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024, a scoping report<sup>16</sup> was submitted to Scottish Ministers to support a formal request under Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations for a Scoping Opinion, to determine the information to be provided within the EIA Report. At the time of publication, scoping is on-going and the scoping response from Scottish Ministers has yet to be received.
- 7.2.6 A Section 37 application for the Proposed Development, including a full EIA Report, is anticipated to be submitted by the middle of 2025.

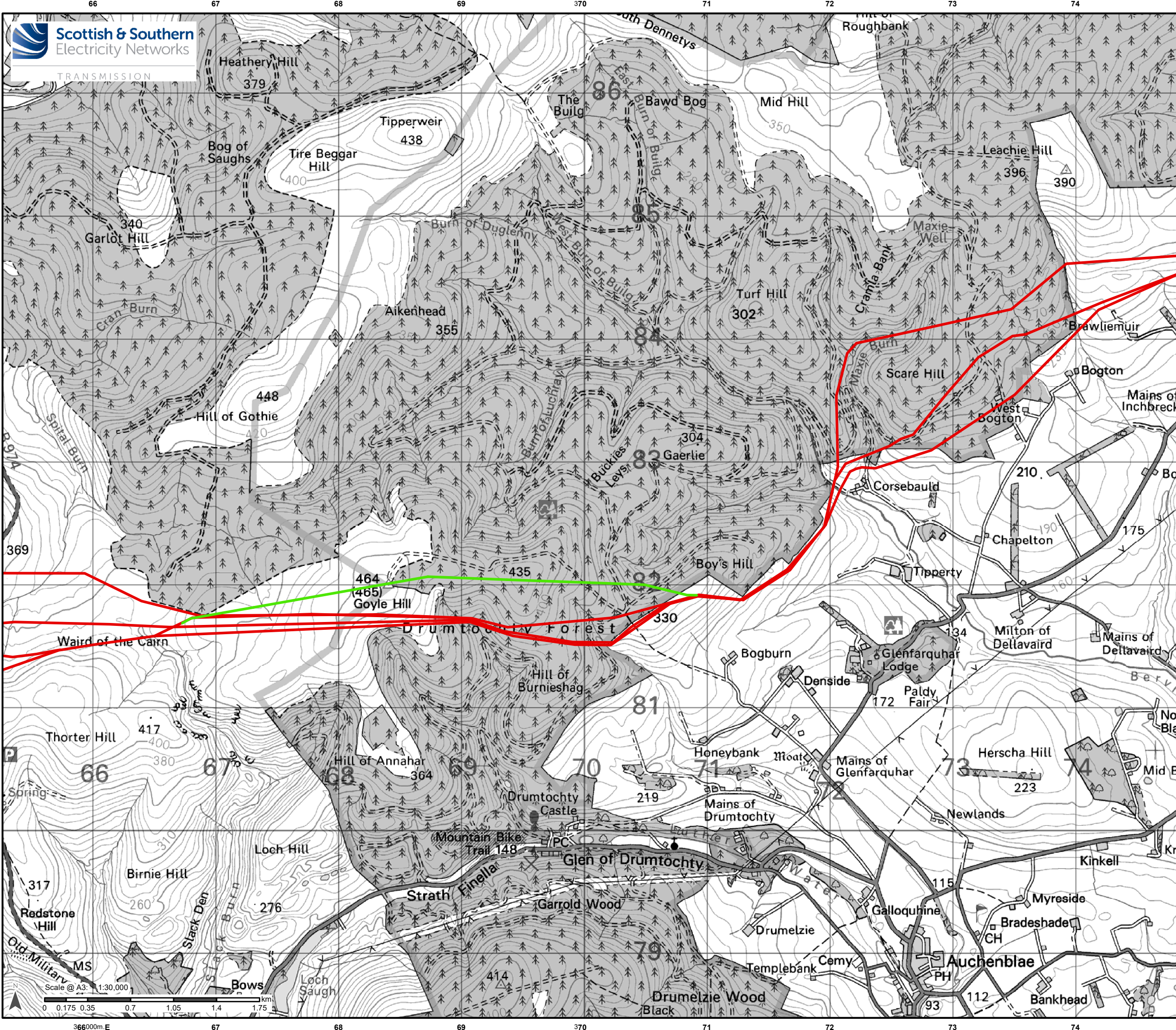
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<sup>16</sup> SSEN Transmission (November 2024) Glendye Wind Farm Overhead Line Grid Connection – Environmental Impact Assessment: Scoping Report











TRANSMISSION

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Project No: LT468/ 469  
Project: Glendye Wind Farm Overhead Line  
Grid Connection

Title: Figure 2 - Alignment Variant -  
Sensitive Habitats

Drawn by: CG  
Date: 17/02/2025

Drawing: 123008-F2-ARoC-1.0.0

**Legend**

- Consented Glendye Wind Farm on-site substation
- Fetteresso substation
- Avoidance of Sensitive Habitats
- Alignment Options and Variants



