

# **Glendye Wind Farm Overhead Line Grid Connection**

## **Gate Check Report**

**June 2025**



## CONTENTS

|           |                                         |           |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>1.</b> | <b>INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND</b>      | <b>3</b>  |
| 1.1       | Introduction                            | 3         |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT</b>         | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES</b>    | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>CONSULTATION</b>                     | <b>6</b>  |
| 4.1       | Scoping                                 | 6         |
| 4.2       | Key Scoping Issues                      | 6         |
| 4.3       | Landscape and Visual                    | 8         |
| 4.4       | Ecology                                 | 11        |
| 4.5       | Ornithology                             | 15        |
| 4.6       | Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology     | 18        |
| 4.7       | Cultural Heritage                       | 22        |
| 4.8       | Forestry                                | 23        |
| 4.9       | Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation | 25        |
| 4.10      | Traffic and Transport                   | 26        |
| 4.11      | Further Consultee Engagement            | 26        |
| 4.12      | Community Engagement                    | 27        |
| 4.13      | Community Councils                      | 28        |
| <b>5.</b> | <b>SUBMISSION INFORMATION</b>           | <b>29</b> |
| 5.1       | Submission                              | 29        |
| 5.2       | Advertisement                           | 29        |
| 5.3       | Public Viewing of EIA Report            | 29        |
| 5.4       | Consultee Lists                         | 29        |
| 5.5       | Conclusion                              | 30        |

## CONTENTS

### Figures

Figures 1 a-e: The Proposed Development

# 1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

## 1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Gate Check Report has been prepared by ASH design+assessment Limited ("ASH") on behalf of Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (herein referred to as "SSEN Transmission") operating under licence held by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (the Applicant), who own, operate, and develop the high voltage electricity transmission system in the north of Scotland and remote islands.
- 1.1.2 The Applicant submits this report in advance of an application to the Scottish Ministers under section 37 of The Electricity Act 1989, for consent to construct and operate approximately 19 km of new 132 kV overhead line (OHL), required to connect the consented Glendye Wind Farm<sup>1</sup> to the electricity transmission network at Fetteresso substation. The location of the project, referred to as the Glendye Wind Farm Overhead Line Grid Connection and hereafter interchangeably as 'the Proposed Development', is shown on **Figures 1a-e**.
- 1.1.3 The Applicant is also seeking deemed planning permission under section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) for certain elements of the Proposed Development, or ancillary development required to facilitate its construction and operation. These ancillary works would include the installation of temporary and permanent access tracks, upgrades to existing access tracks, temporary working areas and tree / vegetation clearance.
- 1.1.4 Certain elements of the Proposed Development would be undertaken utilising the Applicant's permitted development rights<sup>2</sup>. This includes two short sections of underground cable (UGC), which would comprise approximately 0.7 km of UGC on commencement of the grid connection from the consented Glendye Wind Farm on-site substation, and approximately 0.5 km of UGC on final approach to the existing Fetteresso substation.
- 1.1.5 Electricity transmission infrastructure (such as the Proposed Development) is recognised in Scotland's fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4) as a National Development<sup>3</sup> under 'ND3 Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure'. The Proposed Development forms a vital element in the delivery of network and grid infrastructure required to meet both the UK and Scottish Government's legally binding targets for net zero emissions and renewable energy electricity generation objectives.
- 1.1.6 The application for consent for the Proposed Development will be supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. A Scoping Report<sup>4</sup> setting out the proposed scope of the EIA Report was submitted to the Scottish Ministers during November 2024, with a request for a formal Scoping Opinion. A Scoping Opinion was subsequently issued by the Scottish Ministers on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.
- 1.1.7 The purpose of this Gate Check Report is to ensure that the application is in keeping with the Energy Consent Unit's (ECU's) good practice guidance<sup>5</sup>; namely to aid in management of the administrative requirements of the submission by outlining consultations with statutory and non-statutory consultees, engagement with the local community and how matters raised during the scoping process have been dealt with in the EIA Report. This allows further dialogue between the ECU, the Applicant and key consultees to seek feedback on departures from methodologies agreed at Scoping stage, the scope of assessment following any changes since Scoping stage or to highlight any other key matters prior to submission of the application.

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<sup>1</sup> Received consent from the Scottish Government in November 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Order 1992.

<sup>3</sup> Given that this development is of a scale that would have otherwise been classified as 'Major' by the Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009.

<sup>4</sup> Scoping Report – Glendye Wind Farm Overhead Line Grid Connection – November 2024, produced by SSEN Transmission

<sup>5</sup> Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (Energy Consents Unit, February 2022)

## 2. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 2.1.1 The Proposed Development is driven by the need to connect the consented Glendye Wind Farm<sup>1</sup> to the electricity transmission network at Fetteresso substation.
- 2.1.2 The Proposed Development would include the installation and operation of approximately 19 km of new double circuit 132 kV OHL supported by steel trident poles, for which section 37 consent under the 1989 Act would be sought.
- 2.1.3 Deemed planning permission under section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 is sought (as part of the application for section 37 consent under the 1989 Act) for the following works that would be required as part of the Proposed Development, or to facilitate its construction and operation:
- The formation of access tracks (permanent, temporary and upgrades to existing tracks) and the installation of culverts to facilitate access and ongoing maintenance where required;
  - Working areas around infrastructure (i.e. around individual poles) to facilitate construction;
  - Tree felling and vegetation clearance to facilitate construction and operation of the Proposed Development, to comply with the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations (ESQCR) 2002<sup>6</sup>; and
  - Temporary measures to protect water crossings (e.g. scaffolding and temporary bridges).
- 2.1.4 The following works would fall under the Applicant's permitted development rights:
- The construction of two single-circuit 132 kV UGC connections at either end of the OHL, to facilitate connection with Glendye Wind Farm on-site substation and Fetteresso substation.
- 2.1.5 Other associated works are required to facilitate construction of the Proposed Development, or would occur as a consequence of its construction and operation. These works, listed below, do not form part of the description of the Proposed Development and are therefore not included in the application for statutory consents. On that basis they are therefore not assessed in detail in this EIA Report. The associated works are:
- Borrow pits which would be required to source stone for the construction of access tracks. Separate planning applications for these works would be sought by the Principal Contractor; and
  - Temporary construction compounds which would be required to facilitate construction of the Proposed Development. The final location and design of temporary site compounds would be confirmed by the Principal Contractor and separate planning permissions would be sought as required.
- 2.1.6 All elements of the Proposed Development will be described further and set out in the EIA Report.

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<sup>6</sup> The Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations (2002), available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2002/2665/contents/made> [Accessed November 2024]

### 3. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

- 3.1.1 The Proposed Development has been subject to a route and alignment selection process, informed by SSEN Transmission's guidance<sup>7</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 route and alignment process has been documented as follows<sup>8</sup>:
- SSEN Transmission (February 2024) Glendye Wind Farm Connection - Consultation Document: Route Options;
  - SSEN Transmission (July 2024): Glendye Wind Farm Connection – Report on Consultation (Routeing);
  - SSEN Transmission (October 2024): Glendye Wind Farm Connection – Alignment Consultation Document; and
  - SSEN Transmission (February 2025): Glendye Wind Farm Connection – Alignment Stage Report on Consultation.
- 3.1.3 A summary of the alternatives considered during the route and alignment process, as well as further consideration of alternatives considered during the EIA process, will be set out within the EIA Report.

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<sup>7</sup> SSEN Transmission (March 2018), Procedures for Routeing Overhead Lines of 132kV and above (updated in September 2020)

<sup>8</sup> All documents are available on the SSEN Transmission website: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/glendye-windfarm-connection/>

## 4. CONSULTATION

### 4.1 Scoping

- 4.1.1 A Scoping Opinion was sought<sup>9</sup> from Scottish Ministers on the environmental information to be provided in the EIA Report. A Scoping Opinion was subsequently issued by the Scottish Ministers in February 2025. The responses, contained within the Scoping Opinion, were considered in detail during the EIA process. The scoping matrix will be included in the EIA Report.

### 4.2 Key Scoping Issues

- 4.2.1 The Scoping Opinion made reference to site specific issues of interest to the Scottish Ministers, to be considered and addressed in addition to those laid out in responses from consultees. The issues raised were as follows.

#### EIA Consultation and Scope

*“Scottish Ministers expect the EIA report which will accompany the application for the Proposed Development to consider in full all consultation responses attached [to the Scoping Opinion]. Scottish Ministers are satisfied with the scope of the EIA set out within the topics of the EIA report.”*

- 4.2.2 A Scoping Matrix will be appended to the EIA Report summarising all consultation comments received as part of EIA Scoping and where these are addressed within the EIA Report, where relevant.

#### Scoping Consultations

*“It is recommended by Scottish Ministers that decisions on bird surveys – species, methodology, vantage points, viewsheds and duration – site specific and cumulative – should be made following discussion between the Company and NatureScot. It is also recommended the most up to date records should be sought from RSPB and the North East Raptor Study Group.*

*Scottish Ministers recommend attention be given to the further confidential response and advice issued by RSPB on 7 February 2024 for the requirement of species protection.*

*It is recommended by Scottish Ministers that attention should be given to the advice provided by Aberdeenshire Council regarding protected species.”*

- 4.2.3 The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland and NatureScot consultation responses received are summarised within this section of the Gate Check Report and will be addressed throughout the EIA Report, where relevant. The RSPB and North East Raptor Study Group have been consulted to provide relevant data, although relevant data is yet to be provided.

#### Drinking Water and Scottish Water Assets

*“Scottish Water provided information and advised the Proposed Development falls within the Inchgarth River Dee catchment which supplies Mannofield Water Treatment Works. They state that although there should be low risk, water quality mitigation will be required. They further advise of live infrastructure in the proximity of the Proposed Development. Scottish Ministers request that the company contacts Scottish Water...and makes further enquiries to confirm whether there are any Scottish Water assets which may be affected by the development, and includes details in the EIA report of any relevant mitigation measures to be provided.*

*“Scottish Ministers request that the Company investigates the presence of any private water supplies which may be impacted by the development. The EIA report should include details of any supplies identified by this*

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<sup>9</sup> In November 2024 under The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017

*investigation, and if any supplies are identified, the Company should provide an assessment of the potential impacts, risks, and any mitigation which would be provided."*

- 4.2.4 A combination of desk studies and site survey work has been undertaken to ascertain the presence of any private water supplies which could be impacted by the Proposed Development. The Soils, Geology and Water chapter of the EIA Report will contain details of any assets and / or private water supplies identified, assess likely impacts and set out suitable mitigation measures, where required.

#### Aquatic Ecology

*"In addition to identifying the main watercourses and waterbodies within and downstream of the Proposed Development area, developers should identify and consider, at this early stage, any Special Areas of Conservation where fish are a qualifying feature and proposed felling operations particularly in acid sensitive areas.*

*"[Marine Science Scotland] also provide standing advice for overhead line development...which outlines what information, relating to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries, is expected in the EIA report. Use of the checklist provided, should ensure that the EIA report contains the required information; the absence of such information may necessitate requesting additional information which may delay the process. Developers are required to submit the completed checklist in advance of their application submission."*

- 4.2.5 Potential effects on fish, aquatic ecology and GWDTE's will be considered within the Ecology chapter of the EIA Report. As noted in the Scoping Report, available baseline data suggests that important ecological features are present, with potential to be impacted by the Proposed Development due to the habitat connectivity, proximity or presence within the vicinity of the Proposed Development. As such, ecological mitigation will be incorporated into a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), both as a result of the outcome of the EIA and in order to comply with relevant legislation. The implementation and audit of these measures will be overseen by an Environmental Clerk of Works (ECOW). SSEN Transmission's General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) (specifically Working In, or near Watercourses) will be adhered to throughout construction. The checklist referred to will be completed and provided to Marine Science Scotland.

#### Peat Landslide Risk

*"Scottish Ministers consider that where there is demonstrable requirement for peat landslide hazard and risk assessment (PLHRA), the assessment should be undertaken as part of the EIA process to provide Ministers with a clear understanding of whether the risks are acceptable and capable of being controlled by mitigation measures. The Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments: Best Practice Guide for Proposed Electricity Generation Developments (Second Edition)...should be followed in the preparation of the EIA report, which should contain such assessment and details of mitigation measures."*

- 4.2.6 A PLHRA will be prepared for the Proposed Development in accordance with the relevant guidance, and will form part of the EIA Report.

#### Visualisation Viewpoints

*"Scottish Ministers recommend that viewpoints to be assessed within the landscape and visual impact assessment should be in consultation with Aberdeenshire Council."*

- 4.2.7 Photomontage visualisations of the Proposed Development will be prepared to inform and support the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) and will be discussed further within the EIA Report. Viewpoint location selection has been based on guidance, professional judgement and comments received

from both Aberdeenshire Council and NatureScot in their scoping responses. The viewpoint locations that will be considered within the EIA Report are:

- VL1 - Cairn o'Mount (NO649807);
- VL2 - B974 (NO652823); and
- VL3 - Cleuchhead farm (NO764841).

#### Further Consultation and Design Alternatives

*"Ministers are aware that further engagement is required between parties regarding the refinement of the design of the Proposed Development regarding, among other things, surveys, management plans, peat, finalisation of viewpoints, cultural heritage, cumulative assessments and request that they are kept informed of relevant discussions."*

- 4.2.8 The EIA Report will set out the alternative options considered and will discuss the reasons for identifying a proposed alignment and design solution. Pre-application consultation has been carried out throughout project development, particularly during the route and alignment selections stages, and continuing through the EIA stage. Details of pre-application consultation will be included in the EIA Report.

#### Mitigation Measures

*"The Scottish Ministers are required to make a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the Proposed Development on the environment as identified in the environmental impact assessment. The mitigation measures suggested for any significant environmental impacts identified should be presented as a conclusion to each chapter. Applicants are also asked to provide a consolidated schedule of all mitigation measures proposed in the environmental assessment, provided in tabular form, where that mitigation is relied upon in relation to reported conclusions of likelihood or significance of impacts."*

- 4.2.9 Mitigation measures, where required, will be set out within each technical chapter and summarised in tabular form within a Schedule of Mitigation as part of the EIA Report.

### **4.3 Landscape and Visual**

- 4.3.1 The following comments were received from consultees during scoping on the landscape and visual impact assessment.

**Table 4.1: Scoping Responses**

| Consultee                    | Response                                                                                                                                                                                 | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Aberdeenshire Council</b> | Aberdeenshire Council have some concerns regarding potential setting impact on the Scheduled Cairn O'Mount cairns and would expect detailed visualisations to be provided in due course. | The potential setting effects from Cairn o'Mount cairns Scheduled Monument will be considered in the cultural heritage assessment. A visualisation will be included from this location. |
|                              | Aberdeenshire Council state that the Scoping Report sets out the approach to the LVIA assessment, and that this is generally satisfactory.                                               | This has been noted.                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                              | The LVIA should consider the potential disruptive visual and perceptual effects of                                                                                                       | The LVIA will include an assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on                                                                                                       |

| Consultee  | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|            | introducing any vertical structures to the open and simple rolling moorlands in the western part of the corridor, noting that there are similarities in landscape to Route Option 1a of the 2023 Route Options Appraisal of the Tealing to Kintore Transmission line, which was discounted.                                                                                                                                                                         | landscape designations, landscape character and visual amenity, including cumulative effects.                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|            | <p>Consideration should be given to extending the buried cable from the Glendye Wind Farm across the more sensitive open moorland in the western part of the route.</p> <p>The Council also request that full and robust consideration should be given to shorter/longer term effects (given any weathering of finishes) in the LVIA. The effects of construction compounds and access tracks should also be considered in the LVIA.</p>                            | <p>The Routeing Process and Alternatives chapter will provide a discussion on the reasonable alternatives that have been considered for the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The LVIA will consider the short and long-term effects of the Proposed Development, including ancillary development such as access tracks.</p> |
|            | <p>The Council acknowledges that the consented Glen Dye windfarm will incur significant adverse effects on the Special Landscape Areas (SLA)s covering the open hills in the western part of the site and further diminishment of the wild qualities of the area should be addressed.</p> <p>The LVIA should assess the effects of the proposal on the character and special qualities of the Clachnaben and Forest of Birse and the Braes of the Mearns SLA's.</p> | The LVIA will include an assessment of the special qualities of the Clachnaben and Forest of Birse and the Braes of the Mearns SLA's, including consideration of other existing or proposed infrastructure.                                                                                                             |
|            | The Council consider that the two viewpoints identified for visualisations of the proposal are insufficient given the sensitivity of the open hills on the western part of the route. An additional viewpoint should be selected from the B974, close to a point where the line would cross the road, with the visualisation showing views of the overhead line both to the east and west.                                                                          | Following this advice from Aberdeenshire Council, an additional viewpoint has been prepared from the B974 and will be included as supporting information to the LVIA. The viewpoint selected illustrates views of the OHL to both the east and west from the road.                                                      |
|            | There are a number of major consented and proposed developments in the vicinity of the proposed OHL which have been identified within the scoping report. Robust and clear analysis is needed in the cumulative LVIA to identify key effects associated with multiple large scale infrastructural projects.                                                                                                                                                         | Cumulative effects on landscape and visual receptors will be considered.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| NatureScot | NatureScot advise that the Proposed Development will not have a significant adverse impact on the Special Landscape Qualities of any National                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | The LVIA will include an assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on landscape designations, landscape                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

| Consultee                   | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                             | Scenic Areas or the Cairngorms National Park. NatureScot consider that the impacts of the proposal do not raise landscape and visual issues of national interest, but that this should not be interpreted as meaning there are no other significant effects that need to be considered when determining the application.                                                         | character and visual amenity, including cumulative effects.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                             | There are likely to be some significant localised effects from the western routes on Clachnaben and Forest of Birse SLA and the Braes of Mearns SLA.                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | The potential effects on the special qualities of these SLAs will be considered in the LVIA.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                             | There is the potential for localised significant impacts on the landscape character type (LCT) 29 Summits and Plateaux – Aberdeenshire, including the potential for cumulative effects with the existing OHL at Strath Finella and south of Fetteresso. It could also generate localised to wider significant effects on LCT 24 Coastal farmed ridges and hills – Aberdeenshire. | The potential effects on landscape character, including cumulative effects, will be considered in the LVIA.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                             | There is potential for significant visual effects on the B974 as the OHL crosses the more open section of this route, with the potential for significant effects on short sections of the B974 and views from the Cain o'Mount Summit and viewpoint. There is also potential for cumulative effects with the existing OHL at Strath Finella and Glendye wind farm.               | The LVIA will include an assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on landscape designations, landscape character and visual amenity, including cumulative effects. This includes route receptors and outdoor receptor locations. Visualisations have been prepared from the B974 and Cairn o'Mount cairns Scheduled Monument.<br><br>There would be no visibility from the Cairn o'Mount viewpoint itself due to topographic screening. |
| Feughside Community Council | The Community Council note their concerns about the impact an OHL could have on two SLA's, the scenically popular B974 which the proposed development is required to cross and landscape character, including cumulative effects. The Community Council note their position that undergrounding should be considered.                                                            | The LVIA will include an assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on landscape designations, landscape character and visual amenity, including cumulative effects. This includes route receptors and outdoor receptor locations.<br><br>The Routeing Process and Alternatives chapter will provide discussion on the reasonable alternatives that have been considered for this project, including discussion on undergrounding.        |

## 4.4 Ecology

4.4.1 The following comments were received from consultees during scoping on ecology.

**Table 4.2: Scoping Responses**

| Consultee               | Key Consultee Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Applicant Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NatureScot (15/01/2025) | The scale and nature of this proposal is such that its effects on the natural heritage have potential to be significant.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | The potential for effects on Nature Conservation Designations arising from the Proposed Development along with the corresponding mitigation measures will be outlined in the Ecology chapter of EIA Report.<br><br>The potential for effects on flora and fauna arising from the Proposed Development will also be discussed within the EIA Report, along with the corresponding mitigation measures.                                                      |
|                         | Due to the proximity of the underground cable (UGC) section and the majority of the western section of overhead line (OHL) to the River Dee catchment and SAC, measures will need to be taken, particularly in respect to handling of peat soils, to ensure that no pollution of local watercourses could result in SAC species and their supporting habitats being adversely impacted downstream. The Applicant will provide information to inform a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA). | A Shadow Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) has been undertaken and will be appended and discussed within the Ecology chapter of the EIA report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                         | The UGC and OHL passes through areas of class 1 peatland; therefore wherever possible the alignment, access tracks and other associated infrastructure should avoid sections of deep peat and protect priority peatland habitats.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Habitat and peat depth surveys have been undertaken to inform the design of the Proposed Development, to minimise interaction with areas of deep peat and to protect priority peatland habitats where possible.<br><br>The potential for effects on peat arising from the Proposed Development will be provided in the Geology, Hydrogeology and Hydrology chapter of the EIA Report, and the potential for effects on peatland habitats will be discussed |

| Consultee                                             | Key Consultee Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Applicant Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | within the Ecology chapter.<br>Mitigation measures will be outlined.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Aberdeenshire Council<br>(04/02/2025)                 | Protected and rare species including parsley fern, mountain-male fern and northern damselfly have been recorded within the vicinity of the proposed development. Consideration of these species should therefore be included within the EIA. The scoping report proposes scoping out species not recorded during initial surveys. Local knowledge should be incorporated into the decision to scope out any species.                                                                                                                                                           | Noted.<br><br>Detailed results of desk study sources, habitat survey results and protected species surveys results will be provided in the Ecology chapter and associated appendices of the EIA Report.<br><br>The results of the terrestrial ecology baseline surveys, including habitat and protected species surveys will be summarised within the Ecology chapter. Rare or protected species have been scoped out of the assessment where not identified in field surveys and where habitat suitability is limited. However, pre-construction surveys will be conducted to inform micro-siting and mitigation procedures concerning protected species. |
|                                                       | Wildcat have been identified as a potential issue at the Fetteresso substation and the council's natural heritage planner agrees with objectors that Wildcat should not be scoped out of assessment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | The potential for effects on wildcat arising from the Proposed Development is discussed in the Ecology chapter of the EIA report, with corresponding mitigation measures outlined.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|                                                       | Any biodiversity enhancements must be relevant to the local environment and support local biodiversity objectives. Details of enhancements and their location is required.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | A Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) appraisal will be carried out. This will outline habitat creation units required to achieve an overall enhancement of biodiversity in line with SSSEN Transmission's biodiversity targets.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Dee district salmon fishery board (DSFB) (22/01/2025) | The DSFB strongly disagree that drainage impact assessment; water quality monitoring; cumulative impacts and increased flood risk caused by the operation and maintenance of the proposed development should be scoped out as these have the potential to significantly impact salmonid populations within the area.<br><br>Consideration should be given to other indicator species such as aquatic invertebrate communities. Baseline surveys of these species could support water quality monitoring.<br><br>The DSFB are of the opinion that it cannot be assumed that the | The potential for effects on aquatic interests arising from the Proposed Development is discussed in the ecology chapter and relevant appendices of the EIA report, with corresponding mitigation measures outlined.<br><br>Mitigation and pollution / contamination prevention measures will be incorporated into the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), an Outline of which will be appended to the EIA report.<br><br>Watercourse crossings will be designed in accordance with best practice measures during the detailed design stage. The applicant will also                                                                        |

| Consultee | Key Consultee Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Applicant Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|           | <p>development will not impact endangered Atlantic salmon and other environmental features within the river Dee and tributaries and seek further consultation with the developer throughout the development.</p> <p>There is the potential for sediment and other pollution to enter the River Dee and surrounding watercourses as a result of the construction phase of the development. Strict adherence to SEPA's pollution prevention guidelines is required and CIRIA guidance on "The control of water pollution from construction sites (SP156)" should also be followed. Sediment and pollution control measures should always remain effective during and post construction and these must be checked and maintained on a regular basis.</p> <p>The construction phase of the proposed development has the potential to both directly and indirectly affect fish and aquatic invertebrates by causing damage to feeding and respiratory apparatus as a result of increased sediment loads; habitat loss; obstructing fish migration and transmission of pathogens and non-native species.</p> <p>Where possible, water crossings should be designed so that they do not impact the bed and banks of the watercourse and CIRIA guidance on "Culvert design and operation (C689)" should be followed. Temporary watercourse diversions and instream works within the Dee DFSB catchment, including Cowrie and Carron waters, should be consulted on with the Dee DSFB in advance.</p> <p>Appropriate consideration should be given to the design and construction of access tracks, borrow pits, hard standing and Site drainage to minimise impacts on watercourses and it is expected that Scottish Natural Heritage best practice guidelines on "Constructed Tracks in the</p> | <p>consult with Dee district salmon fishery board (DSFB) during this period.</p> <p>A Shadow Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) has been undertaken for the River Dee SAC. This will be appended to the EIA report and discussed within the ecology chapter.</p> <p>An Ecological Clerk of works (ECow) will be present during the construction phase of the Proposed Development.</p> |

| Consultee         | Key Consultee Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Applicant Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                   | <p>Scottish Uplands” (2013) are followed.</p> <p>The DSFB suggests that an Ecological Clerk of works (ECoW) should be present during the development. Furthermore, the DSFB wish to be provided with further information on the proposed biosecurity measures to assess the risk of pathogens and non-native species between the River Dee and other catchments.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| SEPA (21/01/2025) | A detailed Outline Peat Management Plan (PMP) must be provided.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | An Outline Peat Management Plan (PMP) and Peatland Condition Assessment (PCA) will be appended to the Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology Chapter of the EIA Report.                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                   | <p>Groundwater Dependant Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTEs) must be considered, being protected under the Water framework directive. A National Vegetation Classification (NVC) survey must be carried out and a set of drawings showing all GWDTEs within a 100m radius of all excavations shallower than 1m and within a 250m radius of excavations deeper than 1m must be provided. If the minimum buffers cannot be achieved, a detailed site-specific risk assessment is required in line with SEPA’s “Guidance On Assessing The Impacts Of Developments On Groundwater Dependant Terrestrial Ecosystems” (amended January 2025).</p> | <p>Comprehensive habitat surveys, including National Vegetation Classification (NVC) have been undertaken, the results of which will be provided in the Ecology chapter of the EIA Report. This will inform the assessment of potential GWDTEs to be discussed in the Geology, Hydrogeology and Hydrology chapter of the EIA Report.</p> |

## 4.5 Ornithology

4.5.1 The following comments were received from consultees during scoping on ornithology.

**Table 4.3: Scoping Responses**

| Consultee             | Key Consultee Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Application Action                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aberdeenshire Council | <p>The Aberdeenshire Council scoping response states in Sections 4 Ecology &amp; Nature Conservation and Section 5 Ornithology:</p> <p><i>“The following information has been provided in consultation with the Council’s Natural Heritage Team and the North East Scotland Biological Records Centre (NESBReC).</i></p> <p><i>In relation to ecology and ornithology the issues covered by the scoping report appear to be comprehensive and cover the required topics including ecology, carbon/peat, ornithology, forestry and hydrology. Local knowledge on the use of the area by birds should be incorporated before scoping out species not seen during the initial surveys. In addition to the issues covered in the scoping report the presence of species of regional and local significance should be considered in the assessment.</i></p> <p><i>The Natural Environment Team agree with the scoping assessment in respect to sites designated for local and regional importance.</i></p> <p><i>Raptors were highlighted as an important issue in the Glen Dye windfarm and will need to be considered in this proposal.</i></p> <p><i>The scoping report proposes the scoping out of species not recorded during initial surveys. Local knowledge of the use of these areas particularly birds which may use locations intermittently, should be incorporated into the decision to scope out any species.”</i></p> | Acknowledged.                                                                                                                                   |
| NatureScot            | <p>Pre-Baseline Survey consultation (dated Nov-2023):</p> <p><i>“The VP locations and VP coverage shown on the</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>All responses acknowledged.</p> <p>A data consultation exercise has been initiated with both the RSPB Scotland and the North East Raptor</p> |

| Consultee     | Key Consultee Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Application Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|               | <p><i>associated maps looks sufficient, as does the survey effort described as it follows the advice on survey methods set out in our guidance."</i></p> <p>NatureScot then proceed to provide direction to their further guidance on the assessment and mitigation of impacts of power lines and guyed meteorological masts on birds.</p> <p>Scoping Response:</p> <p><i>"We consider that the approach to gathering the baseline information and range of surveys undertaken is appropriate to inform the Applicant's Environmental Impact Assessment..."</i></p> <p>In addition, the scoping response states;</p> <p><i>"We agree the Applicant's decision on issues to scope out."</i></p> <p>Specifically, with reference to protected species and birds in the wider countryside, the NatureScot response continues;</p> <p><i>"There is potential for the UCG/OHL to be within core range (6 km) of breeding raptors (golden eagle). The Scoping Report does not suggest golden eagle have been noted in surveys to date. The Applicant should seek the most up to date records that the RSPB and the North East Raptor Study Group hold."</i></p> | <p>Study Group, however at the time of writing no data have been received.</p> <p>Acknowledgment is made of the further confidential response from the RSPB Scotland. Additional specific precautions are anticipated to be incorporated into the pre-construction stage as required and will be agreed, confidentially, with NatureScot, RSPB Scotland and FLS.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| RSPB Scotland | <p>Golden Eagle:</p> <p><i>"In addition to the species found during the surveys listed in the scoping report, we are aware of a golden eagle territory in proximity to the proposed route. We do not agree that this species should be scoped out as it was not recorded during the surveys. We recommend that an assessment should be carried out on the impacts on golden eagle and include the potential displacement and disturbance impacts as well as an assessment of the potential risk</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>Although golden eagle were not registered at the time the scoping request was submitted for consideration, a flight registration was subsequently made. These will be considered in full within the context of the Proposed Development and the potential for negative impacts and effects.</p> <p>A data consultation exercise has been initiated with both the RSPB Scotland and the North East Raptor Study Group, however at the time of writing no data have been received.</p> <p>Acknowledgment is made of the further confidential response from the</p> |

| Consultee | Key Consultee Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Application Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|           | <p><i>of collision and electrocution due to the proposed overhead line.</i></p> <p><i>We have strong concerns regarding the cumulative impact of proposed and consented developments on breeding golden eagle. RSPB Scotland objected to the now consented Glendye wind farm due to high collision rates for golden eagle, white-tailed eagle and red kite and a loss of range for golden eagle, which would have a significant impact on these populations. Unfortunately, although it was known that a grid connection would be required for the windfarm, details of this were not required at the S36 application stage for the windfarm. 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 development in the planning system, this is especially important due to the clear cumulative pressures faced by breeding golden eagles in this area.</i></p> <p><i>We recommend contacting the North East Scotland Raptor Study Group (NESRSG) to provide up-to-date information on the golden eagle pair present in this area. A data request can be made to RSPB Scotland via this link..."</i></p> <p>Other Species:</p> <p><i>"We recommend that Forest and Land Scotland are contacted for any relevant data that they may hold on Schedule 1 or Annex 1 species in the forested area. Baseline and survey data collected as part of the Hurlie 400 kV Substation Environmental Assessment should also be considered."</i></p> | <p>RSPB Scotland and the details relating to FLS records referred to therein.</p> <p>A comprehensive suite of mitigation measures will be included as part of the Proposed Development. Further specific precautions are anticipated to be incorporated into the pre-construction stage as required and will be agreed, confidentially, with NatureScot, RSPB Scotland and FLS.</p> |

## 4.6 Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology

4.6.1 The following comments were received from consultees during scoping on geology, hydrology and hydrogeology.

**Table 4.4: Scoping Responses**

| Consultee                                                             | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aberdeenshire Council (AC)<br>Screening Response<br>24 September 2024 | It is noted that part of the Proposed Route, approximately 8 km, would cross an area designated as Class 1 peatland. Class 1 is listed as nationally important carbon-rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat. Areas are likely to be of high conservation value. The construction of access tracks and tower construction could have potentially significant impacts on the peat.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | A detailed programme of peat depth probing and a site specific peatland condition survey has been undertaken and has been used to inform the project design.<br><br>Potential impacts on peat and proposed safeguards will be summarised in a geology, hydrology and hydrogeology chapter, including supporting PLHRA, Peat Management Plan (PMP) and peatland condition appendices.  |
| AC<br>Scoping Response<br>04 February 2025                            | The Council's Flood Risk and Coastal Protection Team have noted that flood risk is not quantifiable at this stage however is not a major concern. Drainage details will need to be provided, to demonstrate how surface water will be managed at locations of permanent structures. Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Impact Assessment (DIA) may still be required, depending on the location of permanent structures.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Noted. A screening of flood risk will be presented in a geology, hydrology and hydrogeology chapter,<br><br>Best practice would be adopted, including the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), to manage drainage and mitigate flood risk impacts.<br><br>A commitment is made to provide further information on drainage measures in the final CEMP at detailed design phase. |
|                                                                       | Additional comments have been provided by the Council's Contaminated Land Team who note that the site is in a historically poorly mapped area. Historically there are 3 quarries, and a limekiln recorded within the site boundary; there are likely to be more such land uses within the site boundary and, in common with other upland parts of the council area, places where shooting has taken place. Given the proposals are for an overhead line, the development is unlikely to encounter potentially contaminated land except via pylon placement or substations along the route. This Service would expect an EIA report for the site to acknowledge possible encounters with contaminated land during development and comment on procedures should that occur. | Noted.<br><br>A commitment is made at the detailed design stage of the project to undertake ground investigation and confirm ground conditions. The findings of which will be used to inform the design of all works that will result in ground disturbance and be used to identify measures to prevent pollution from areas of potential ground contamination in the final CEMP.     |

| Consultee                                         | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                   | SEPA have provided comment directly to the ECU and therefore their advice is not duplicated within this response.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Noted. See SEPA response below.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| NatureScot<br>Scoping Response<br>15 January 2025 | The underground cable section (UGC) and the majority of the western overhead line (OHL) are within the catchment of the River Dee and whilst they are, at their closest, still 2.5 km from the boundary of the River Dee Special Area of Conservation (SAC), measures will need to be taken, particularly in respect to handling peat soils, to ensure that no pollution of local watercourses could result in SAC species and their supporting habitats being adversely impacted downstream. We acknowledge that SSEN and their contractors have an adopted approach to construction management that includes a suite of best practice Species Protection Plans (SPPs) and General Environmental Management Plans (GEMPs) that sit within the project's Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and when implemented can afford a very high level of protection against disturbance and harm to sensitive species and habitats. The Applicant will provide information to inform a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA). | Potential impacts on the water environment, including potential impacts on watercourses which drain to the River Dee SAC will be discussed in a geology, hydrology and hydrogeology chapter. Relevant good practice which will be incorporated into the project specific CEMP will also be presented.<br><br>Assessment of the direct and indirect impacts on the River Dee SAC will also be considered in an ecology chapter. |
|                                                   | The western section of UGC and OHL includes large areas of Class 1 peatland as identified on NatureScot's Carbon and Peatland map 2016. Our online guidance sets out the level of information that should be made available when the project is submitted as an application.<br><br>Wherever possible the alignment, access tracks and other associated works should avoid deeper sections of peat and protect priority peatland habitats.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | A detailed programme of peat depth probing and a site specific peatland condition survey has been undertaken and has been used to inform the project design.<br><br>Potential impacts on peat and proposed safeguards will be summarised in a geology, hydrology and hydrogeology chapter, and supporting appendices.                                                                                                          |
| SEPA<br>Scoping Response<br>21 January 2025       | To avoid delay and potential objection the EIA submission must contain a series of scale drawings of sensitivities, for example peat depth, peat condition, Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE), proximity to watercourses, overlain with proposed development. This is necessary to ensure the EIA process has informed the layout of the development to firstly avoid, then reduce and then mitigate significant impacts on the environment. We request that the issues covered in Appendix 1 of the scoping response, be addressed to our satisfaction in the EIA process. This provides details on our information requirements and the form in which they must be submitted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Appropriately scaled figures will be provided.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

| Consultee                                                                | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                          | A detailed flood risk assessment – In general we agree this can be scoped out and we would refer you to our Standing Advice on Flood Risk for more information relevant to this type of development. However, if landraising is proposed on site then we will expect further detailed information to establish whether compensatory storage will be required to ensure the development complies with NPF4 Policy 22. Additional information will be needed if landraising is proposed within SEPAs recommended watercourse buffers or SEPA Future Flood Mapping extents. As stated above an update to our surface water maps (the new official title will be SEPA Surface Water and Small Watercourse Maps) will go online sometime in early 2025. | It is confirmed that a 20m buffer from permanent infrastructure to watercourses has been applied where technically possible.<br><br>A flood risk screening assessment will be presented in a geology, hydrology and hydrogeology chapter.                                              |
|                                                                          | Baseline water quality monitoring – Notwithstanding the possible requirement for water quality monitoring in association with any private water supply monitoring required, we are in agreement this can be scoped out.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Confirmatory water quality monitoring is proposed which would be agreed with consultees during the detailed design stage of the project and be contained within the final CEMP.<br><br>Principles for water monitoring are discussed in a geology, hydrology and hydrogeology chapter. |
|                                                                          | A Geomorphological assessment of watercourse crossings – We highlight we have identified potential geomorphic risk on the following watercourses which lie within the proposed route corridor: Water of Charr and Spittal Burn.<br><br>We agree with the scoping out of a geomorphological assessment of watercourse crossings if no development including watercourses occurs within 10 m buffer either side of these watercourses. Should the placement of a watercourse crossing, or other construction element, occur within these buffers a detailed geomorphological assessment maybe required.                                                                                                                                              | It is confirmed that no development, except for proposed watercourse crossings, is proposed within 20m of the Water of Charr or Spittal Burn.                                                                                                                                          |
| Dee District Salmon Fishery Board<br>Scoping Response<br>22 January 2025 | River Dee Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The SAC is protected for its internationally important populations of salmon, brook, river and sea lamprey, eels and trout. Tributaries within the western extent of the Proposed Development are hydrologically connected to the River Dee SAC and therefore direct and indirect impacts to the SAC should be considered, including impacts on water quality. As the Proposed Development is hydrologically connected to the River Dee SAC, we welcome the recognition that a                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Potential impacts on the water environment, including potential impacts on watercourses which drain to the River Dee SAC will be considered in a geology, hydrology and hydrogeology chapter.<br><br>Assessment of the direct and indirect impacts on the River Dee SAC will also be   |

| Consultee                                                           | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                     | Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA)<br>Screening report will be undertaken to inform the requirement for a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | presented in the ecology chapter.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                                                                     | We would strongly disagree with the following elements which are scoped out in the Hydrology, Geology and Hydrogeology section; Drainage Impact Assessment (DIA); Water quality monitoring; Cumulative impacts; Increased flood risk caused by blockages to flow in watercourses during operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development. We feel that there is potential for these to have significant impacts upon our salmonid populations present within the development and those hydraulically connected to it.                                 | Confirmatory water quality monitoring is proposed which would be agreed with consultees during the detailed design stage of the project and specified in the final project CEMP.<br><br>It is confirmed that watercourse crossings would be sized to pass the 200-yr event plus an allowance for climate change. A schedule of watercourse crossings will be presented in the EIA Report.<br><br>Principles, design standards and best practice measures for the management and control of drainage that would be adopted by the Principal Contractor will be set out within a geology, hydrology and hydrogeology chapter. |
| Feughside Community Council<br>Scoping Response<br>18 February 2025 | The majority of the area is peat bog designated by SNH as Grade 1. The peat is important as a carbon sink and as a water store to limit flooding down the valley. We note the comments in NatureScot's letter of 31/5/22 regarding the Peatland Restoration and Habitats Enhancement Clarification. If the development is approved, we will wish to make sure this is properly funded with robust independent monitoring and reporting.                                                                                                                    | Potential impacts on peat and proposed safeguards summarised in a geology, hydrology and hydrogeology chapter, and discussed in full in a PLHRA, PMP and peat condition appendix.<br><br>A Habitat Management Plan would be developed to deliver habitat enhancement measures in line with SSSEN's BNG commitments, as well as to compensate for direct and indirect impacts on peatland.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Scottish Water<br>Scoping Response<br>09 February 2025              | The OHL route, proposed bridges or culverts and temporary access tracks all fall within the Inchgarth River Dee catchment which supplies Mannofield Water Treatment Works. Scottish Water abstractions are designated as Drinking Water Protected Areas (DWPA) under Article 7 of the Water Framework Directive.<br><br>Given the location within the catchment the activity should be low risk, however water quality mitigations will be required, and it would be appreciated if we could get a timeline for when work is expected to start and finish. | Noted.<br><br>Details of the DWPA is presented in a geology, hydrology and hydrogeology chapter, and committed measures to safeguard water quality to the water treatment works will be provided.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

| Consultee | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Comment                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|           | Scottish Water records indicate that there is live infrastructure in the proximity of your development area that may impact on existing Scottish Water assets. The applicant must identify any potential conflicts with Scottish Water assets and contact our Asset Impact Team via our Customer Portal for an appraisal of the proposals. | Noted.<br><br>Potential impacts on the water environment, including Scottish Water assets will be presented in a geology, hydrology and hydrogeology chapter. |

#### 4.7 Cultural Heritage

4.7.1 The following comments were received from consultees during scoping on cultural heritage.

**Table 4.5: Scoping Responses**

| Consultee                    | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Aberdeenshire Council</b> | Advised that they agreed with the issues proposed to be scoped out.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | The issues that have been scoped out of the assessment will be set out in a cultural heritage chapter.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                              | Noted that they have some concerns regarding potential setting impact on the scheduled Cairn o' Mount cairns and advised that they would expect detailed visualisations to be provided.                                                                                                              | A visualisation will be provided from Cairn o' Mount cairns (SM4968).<br><br>Assessment of the impact of the Proposed Development on the setting of Cairn o' Mount (SM4968) will be set out a cultural heritage chapter.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                              | Noted that the criteria for assessing the impact of the Proposed Development on cultural heritage assets should apply to all categories of listed buildings regardless of their designation and advised that a minimum search area of 5 km from the site boundary should be used for the assessment. | The bare-earth ZTV indicates that theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development is generally limited in the wider landscape.<br><br>Details will be provided on the built heritage assets (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) recorded within the wider 5 km area. The majority of these lie within the urban centres of Auchenblae and Drumlithie over 3 km away from the Proposed Development.<br><br>The Proposed Development comprises steel trident poles with a nominal height of 13 m. Given the scale of the development at 3 km away, the Proposed Development would barely be distinguishable within the wider landscape that surrounds the built heritage assets and would not significantly affect their settings. The impact of the Proposed Development on built heritage assets beyond 1.5 km is therefore not discussed further in the assessment. |
|                              | Requested that the assessment should include a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and photomontage visualisations for any assets identified within the assessment which could be                                                                                                                   | The methodology and scope of the assessment will be set out in the cultural heritage chapter. The assessment has been informed by a bare-earth ZTV produced for the Proposed Development.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

| Consultee                                  | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                            | impacted as a result of the proposed works.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | A visualisation will be provided from Cairn o' Mount, cairns (SM4968).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Historic Environment Scotland (HES)</b> | Advised that they were generally, content with the proposed scope of the EIA report and welcomed that the assessment will be undertaken in line with the EIA Handbook and the Managing Change guidance series.                                                                                                                                                                                                 | The methodology and scope of the assessment will be set out in a cultural heritage chapter.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                            | Confirmed that there are no assets within HES's remit located on the Proposed Development Site.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Noted                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                                            | <p>Advised that there are three scheduled monuments within 1.5 km of the proposed route, and potential impacts on their settings from the Proposed Development should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cairn o' Mount, cairns (SM4968);</li> <li>• Cowie Line, pillbox and earthworks (SM6437); and</li> <li>• Clochanshiels, cairns, houses and field systems (SM4857).</li> </ul> | <p>Following finalisation of the design of the Proposed Development, both Cowie Line, pillbox and earthworks (SM6437) and Clochanshiels, cairns, houses and field systems (SM4857) now lie outwith the 1.5 km Outer Study Area.</p> <p>The bare-earth ZTV indicates that there is no predicted visibility of the Proposed Development from these Scheduled Monuments or their immediate surrounding landscape, and the Proposed Development would have no effect on the Scheduled Monuments or their settings. They are therefore not assessed further.</p> <p>Assessment of the impact of the Proposed Development on the setting of Cairn o' Mount, cairns (SM4968) will be set out in a cultural heritage chapter.</p> |

## 4.8 Forestry

4.8.1 The following comments were received from consultees during scoping on forestry.

**Table 4.6: Scoping Responses**

| Consultee                                          | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Comment                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Scottish Forestry<br>20 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 | <p>The first consideration for all woodland removal decisions should be whether the underlying purpose of the proposals can reasonably be met without resorting to woodland removal. Scottish Government's Policy on Control of Woodland Removal (CoWRP) clearly sets out a strong presumption in favour of protecting Scotland's woodland resources.</p> <p>Woodland removal should be allowed only where it would achieve significant and clearly defined additional public benefits.</p> <p>The following criteria for determining the acceptability of woodland removal should be considered relevant to this application –</p> <p><b><i>Woodland removal with a need for compensatory planting</i></b></p> <p><b><i>Design approaches that reduce the scale of felling required and/or converting the</i></b></p> | The Scottish Government's CoWRP and implementation guidance will be referenced and followed in the mitigation section of the forestry chapter. |

| Consultee | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Comment                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|           | <p><i>type of woodland to another type (such as from tall conifer plantation to low-height, slow growing woodland), must be considered from the earliest stages, rather than removing the woodland completely. The purpose of any required CP is to secure, through new woodland on site (replanting) or off site (on appropriate sites elsewhere), at least the equivalent woodland-related net public benefit embodied in the woodland to be removed.</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|           | <p>National Planning Framework 4 - Policy 6 Forestry, Woodlands and trees identifies the following themes that should be considered relevant to this application –</p> <p>c) Development proposals involving woodland removal will only be supported where they will achieve significant and clearly defined additional public benefits in accordance with relevant Scottish Government policy on woodland removal. Where woodland is removed, compensatory planting will most likely be expected to be delivered.</p> <p>d) Development proposals on sites which include an area of existing woodland or land identified in the Forestry and Woodland Strategy as being suitable for woodland creation will only be supported where the enhancement and improvement of woodlands and the planting of new trees on the site (in accordance with the Forestry and Woodland Strategy) are integrated into the design.</p> | <p>Felling for the OHL is an essential part of the renewable energy strategy.</p>                                                                                                                             |
|           | <p>Any additional felling which is not part of the planning application will require permission from Scottish Forestry under the Forestry and Land Management (Scotland) Act 2018 (the Act). For areas covered by an approved Long Term Forest Plan (LTFP), the request for additional felling (and subsequent restocking) areas needs to be presented in the form of LTFP amendment.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>No additional felling is anticipated for the Proposed Development, other than what will be outlined in the forestry chapter.</p>                                                                           |
|           | <p>The applicant should note that any compensatory planting required as a result of the proposed development, may also need to be considered under The Forestry (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 and should follow the process for preparing a woodland creation proposal, as set out in our guidance booklet: Woodland Creation Application Guidance.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>The applicant recognises the requirements of compensatory planting, and further detail will be provided. Detailed compensatory planting and location are to be provided by the Applicant post consent.</p> |

| Consultee                                              | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Comment                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aberdeenshire Council<br>4 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 | Forestry issues appear to be adequately covered and the requirement for compensatory planting is addressed. Details of the location and nature of any compensatory planting will be required. This should be included at the application stage. | Detailed compensatory planting and location are to be provided by the Applicant post consent. |

#### 4.9 Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation

4.9.1 The following comments were received from consultees during scoping on socio-economics, tourism and recreation.

**Table 4.7: Scoping Responses**

| Consultee                    | Consultation Type                                 | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Aberdeenshire Council</b> | Scoping Opinion<br>28 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 | The Council agrees with the proposal that assessment in the EIA Report will consider the implications of any effects identified for the tourism sector in the local area and wider region. These issues are likely to be of interest to the local communities. Aberdeenshire Council's Economic Development Team are working on their "Charter for Energy Development in Aberdeenshire". This draft guidance is likely to be adopted in the coming months and sets out the community wealth building expectations and principles to ensure alignment with policies 11 and 25 contained within NPF4 for energy development in Aberdeenshire. | Presentations of a socio-economic and tourism baseline position and stated impact in terms of economic (jobs, turnover and Gross Value Added (GVA)) and social impacts, and the wider community impacts will be provided in a socio-economic chapter of the EIA Report. The Charter for Energy Development in Aberdeenshire (19 <sup>th</sup> March 2025) has been reviewed as part of this assessment. |

#### 4.10 Traffic and Transport

4.10.1 The following comments were received from consultees during scoping on traffic and transport.

**Table 4.8: Scoping Responses**

| Consultee                                                   | Summary of Consultation Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Response to Consultee                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Transport Scotland (17<sup>th</sup> January 2025)</b>    | Content with the proposed methodology and approach. Requests that an impact review on the A90 is undertaken.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Noted on the approach. The A90 has been included in the assessment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Aberdeenshire Council (4<sup>th</sup> February 2025)</b> | Construction parking details are requested.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Construction parking details will be detailed in the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP), provided post-determination. No on-street parking on public roads will be permitted.                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Aberdeenshire Council (4<sup>th</sup> February 2025)</b> | Details should be provided of the following; vehicle types and frequency of the access and egress, junction dimensions, drainage, gradients, materials, swept path analysis, visibility splays, and proposed construction traffic routes.<br><br>The internal construction traffic route should be detailed from the public road including the turning and passing provisions. | Vehicle estimates for the construction phase and their routing have been provided in the Transport Assessment.<br><br>Where required, junction upgrades will be detailed by the Applicant and are provided in the Transport Assessment.<br><br>The internal layout will be illustrated within the transport assessment. |
| <b>Aberdeenshire Council (4<sup>th</sup> February 2025)</b> | Details of how the construction traffic interaction with the existing public roads will be managed, passing provision, visibility windows, road widening, and any associated improvements should be provided. An appraisal of the roads along the delivery route will also be required                                                                                         | Vehicle estimates for the construction phase and their routing will be provided in the transport assessment.<br><br>Descriptions of the road network used for construction access will be provided within the transport assessment.                                                                                     |

#### 4.11 Further Consultee Engagement

4.11.1 Stakeholder consultation has been ongoing since the early design stages of the project and has continued throughout the Scoping and EIA process. In addition to consultation events, various meetings were held with both statutory and non-statutory consultees during the route and alignment stage to discuss the Proposed Development. In addition to meetings, the project Community Liaison Manager engaged with interested parties

via emails and calls throughout the routeing and alignment stages. A summary of stakeholder meetings undertaken as part of the consultation during routeing is provided in **Table 4.9** below.

**Table 4.9: 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                                               |

#### 4.12 Community Engagement

4.12.1 In parallel with the statutory consultation process, consultation with the local community has been undertaken to inform and keep the local community up to date with the Proposed Development throughout the evolution of the project. An overview of public engagement during the routeing and alignment selection stages is given below.

##### Route Selection Stage

4.12.2 In February 2024 a series of public consultation events were held at the following locations:

- Tuesday 20 February - Strachan - Strachan Village Hall;
- Tuesday 20 February - Fettercairn - West Mearns Parish Church Hall;
- Wednesday 21 February - Drumlithie - Public Hall; and
- Thursday 28 March – Feughside - Strachan Village Hall.

4.12.3 The aim of these public exhibitions was to present the appraisal of the rationalised route options proposed for the Proposed Development. This was followed by the issue of the Route Options Consultation Document<sup>10</sup>, published in February 2024, which described the route options appraisal undertaken and the alternatives considered during the selection of route options for the Proposed Development.

4.12.4 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.

4.12.5 The event provided an opportunity for members of the public to view information about the Glendye Grid Connection Project and ask questions to the project team and provide feedback.

<sup>10</sup> SSEN Transmission (February 2024). Glendye Wind Farm Grid Connection - Consultation Document (Route Options)

#### Alignment Selection Stage

4.12.6 During the alignment selection stage, 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, an Alignment Options Consultation Document<sup>11</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 4th October 2024.

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

- Monday 7th October 2024 – Drumlithie – Drumlithie Village Hall;
- Tuesday 8th October 2024 – Stonehaven – Stonehaven Town Hall;
- Wednesday 9th October 2024 – Strachan Village Hall;
- Thursday 10th October 2024 - Auchenblae Village Hall;
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 – Drumlithie Village Hall; and
- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – Strachan Village Hall.

4.12.8 Consultation events were advertised in the local press, SSEN Transmission's social media channels and the dedicated project website.

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

4.12.10 The event once again provided an opportunity for members of the public to view information about the Glendye Wind Farm Overhead Line Grid Connection project and ask questions to the project team and provide feedback.

#### **4.13 Community Councils**

4.13.1 Throughout the evolution of the Proposed Development, SSEN Transmission has maintained dialogue with all community councils in the vicinity of the Glendye Wind Farm Overhead Line Grid Connection project and has sought to keep members up to date on project progress and any upcoming consultation events.

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<sup>11</sup> SSEN Transmission (October 2024) Glendye Wind Farm Overhead Line Grid Connection Alignment Options - Consultation Document

## 5. SUBMISSION INFORMATION

### 5.1 Submission

5.1.1 It is the intention to submit a Section 37 application for the Proposed Development in September 2025.

### 5.2 Advertisement

5.2.1 In accordance with the Electricity (Applications for Consent) Regulations 1990, and Regulation 14 of the EIA Regulations, the application will be advertised in the Edinburgh Gazette, a national newspaper and a local newspaper (to be agreed in consultation with ECU).

5.2.2 In agreement with the ECU, the advert will describe the application, state where copies of the EIA Report are located, state a date by which any persons can make representations to the Scottish Ministers in relation to the application, and the address to where representations are to be sent.

### 5.3 Public Viewing of EIA Report

5.3.1 In accordance with Regulation 18 of the EIA Regulations, copies of the EIA Report will be available to view on the dedicated project website at: Glendye Wind Farm Connection - SSEN Transmission (ssen-transmission.co.uk). Hard copies of the EIA Report will also be available to view at locations to be agreed with the ECU.

### 5.4 Consultee Lists

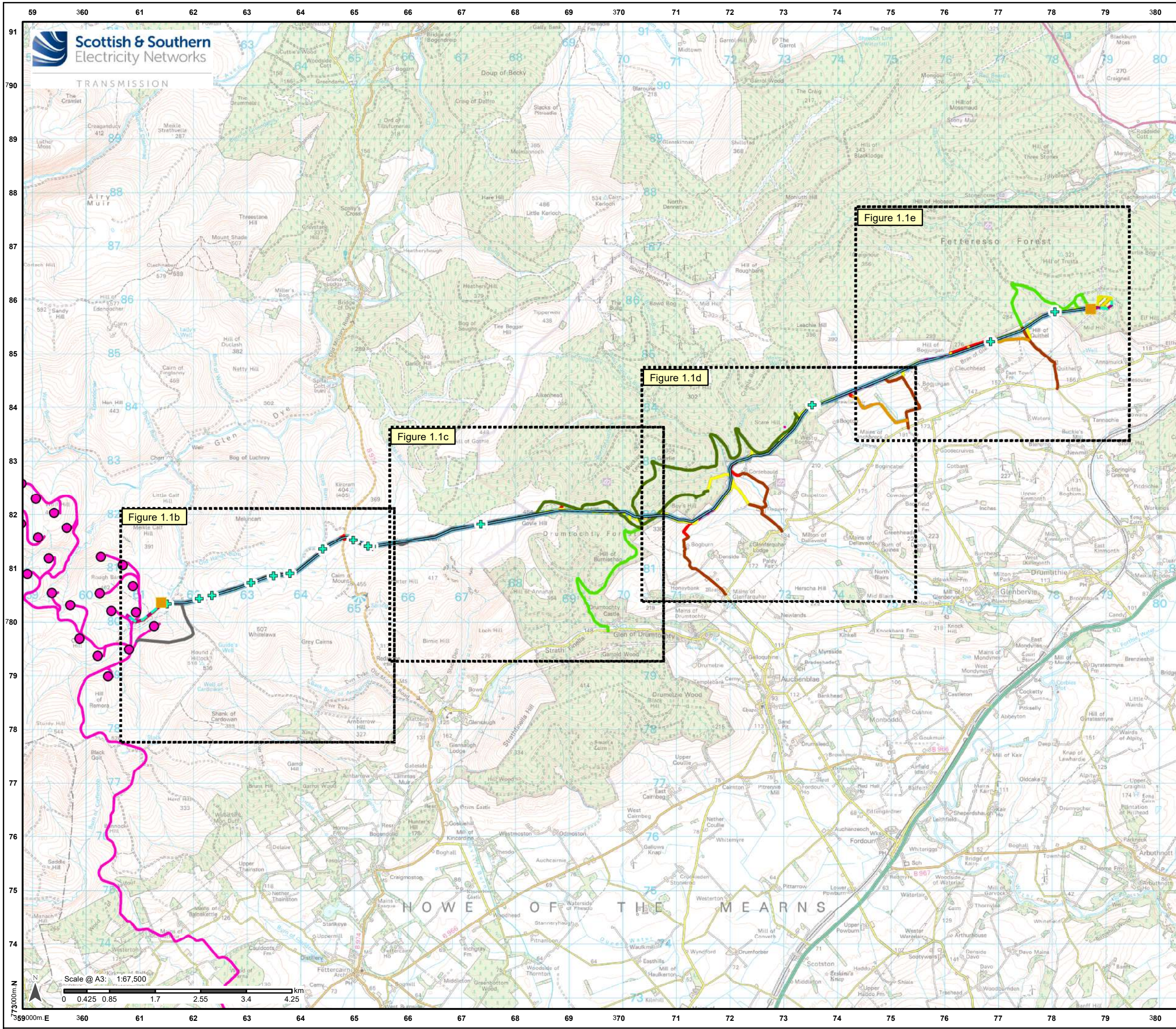
5.4.1 The list of consultees to be sent a copy of the submitted EIA Report will be agreed with the ECU. It is anticipated to include those consultees consulted during the scoping process, and any other stakeholders the Applicant or ECU are aware of with a potential interest in the project or its potential effects, as noted below in **Table 5.1**.

**Table 5.1: Consultees to be Issued the EIA Report**

| Statutory Consultees                |                                                        |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Energy Consents Unit                | Scottish Environment Protection Agency                 |
| Aberdeenshire Council               | NatureScot                                             |
| Historic Environment Scotland       | Transport Scotland                                     |
| Scottish Forestry                   | Marine Directorate – Science Evidence Data and Digital |
| Non-Statutory Consultees            |                                                        |
| British Telecommunications plc      | National Air Traffic Society                           |
| Civil Aviation Authority - Airspace | Deeside District Salmon Fishery Board                  |
| The British Horse Society Scotland  | Royal Society for the Protection of Birds              |
| Fisheries Management Scotland       | Scottish Wild Land Group                               |
| Ministry of Defence                 | Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays)   |
| Joint Radio Company                 | Scottish Water                                         |
| Network Rail                        | North East Raptor Study Group                          |
| Community Councils and Local Groups |                                                        |
| Mearns Community Council            | Feughside Community Council                            |

## **5.5 Conclusion**

- 5.5.1 The Applicant welcomes any comments that the ECU or any of the statutory consultees may have in relation to this Gate Check Report.



# Legend

## S.37 Overhead Line (OHL) Works

- Proposed OHL Alignment
- Proposed CSE Hardstanding Area

## Ancillary Development

- Proposed Permanent Tracks
- Proposed Temporary Trackway Panels
- Proposed Temporary New Stone Tracks
- Existing Forest Tracks to be Upgraded
- Existing Field Tracks to be Upgraded
- Proposed ATV Routes
- Existing Forest Tracks
- Existing Field Tracks
- Proposed Permanent Bridges or Culverts

## Limit of Deviation

- Proposed OHL and Access Track Limit of Deviation (LoD)

## Permitted Development

- Indicative 132kV Underground Cable Alignment

## Existing and Consented Development

- Existing Fetteresso substation
- Consented Glendye 132 kV substation
- Glendye Wind Farm Turbines
- Glendye Wind Farm Access

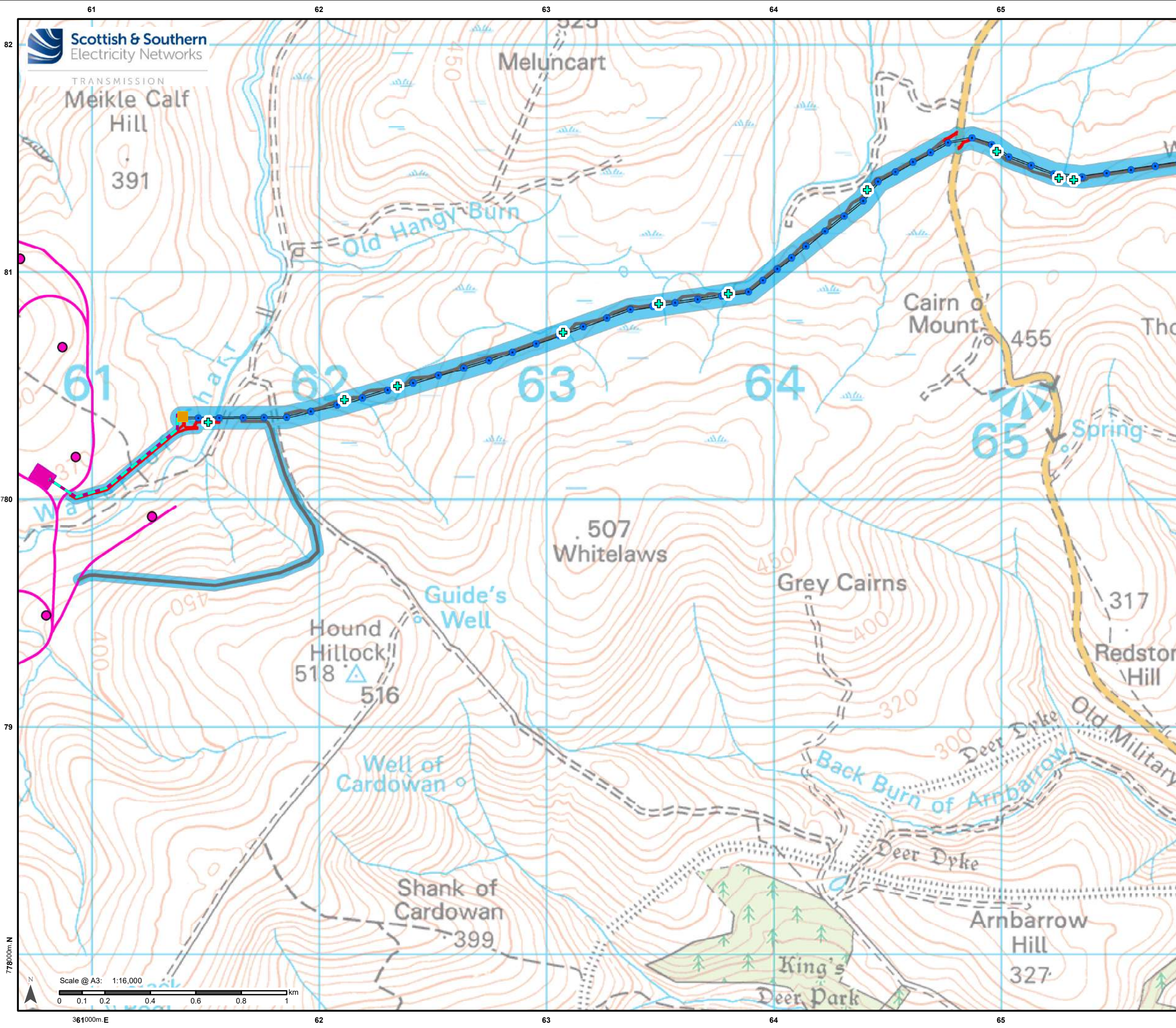
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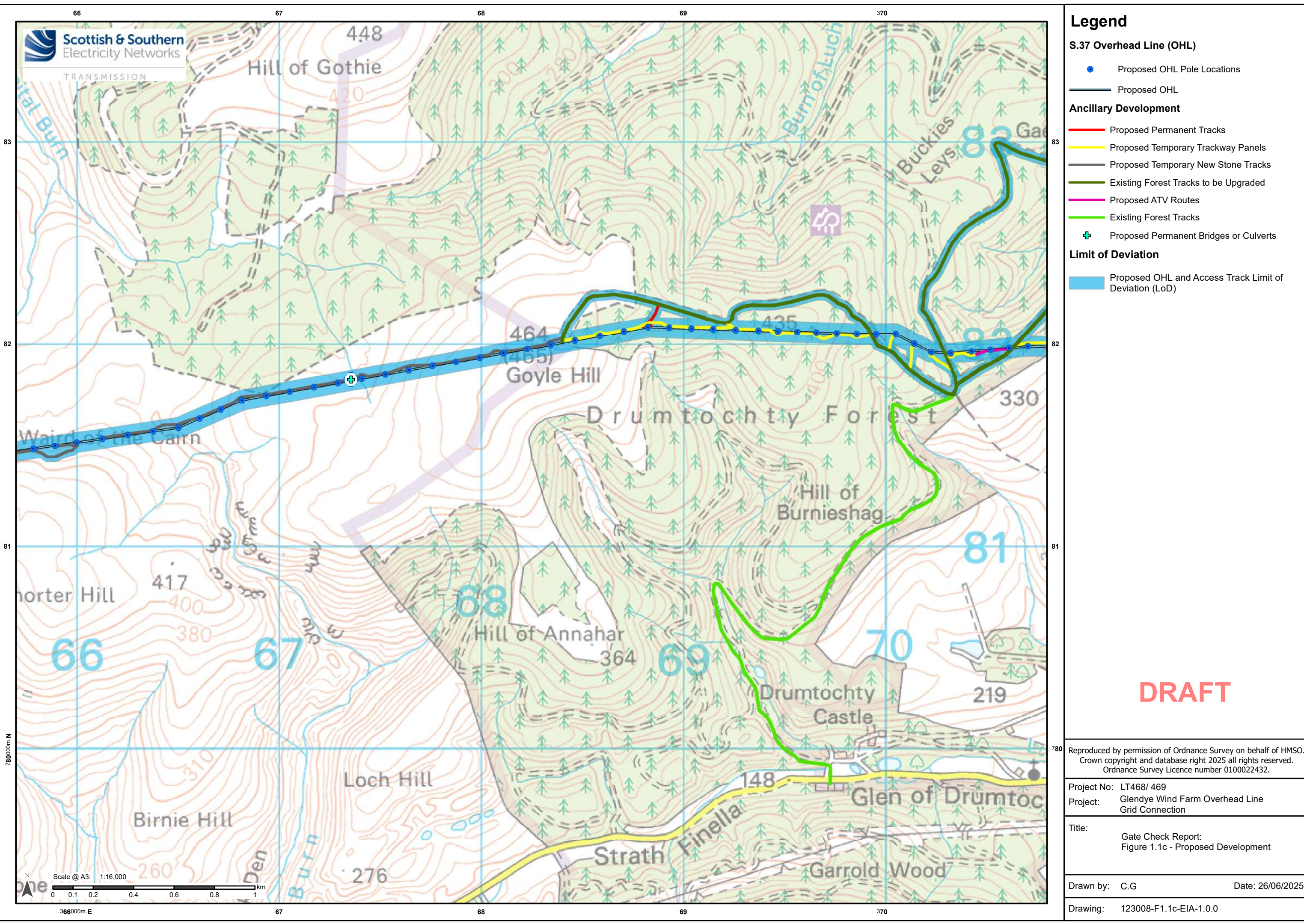
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Project: Glendye Wind Farm Overhead Line  
Grid Connection

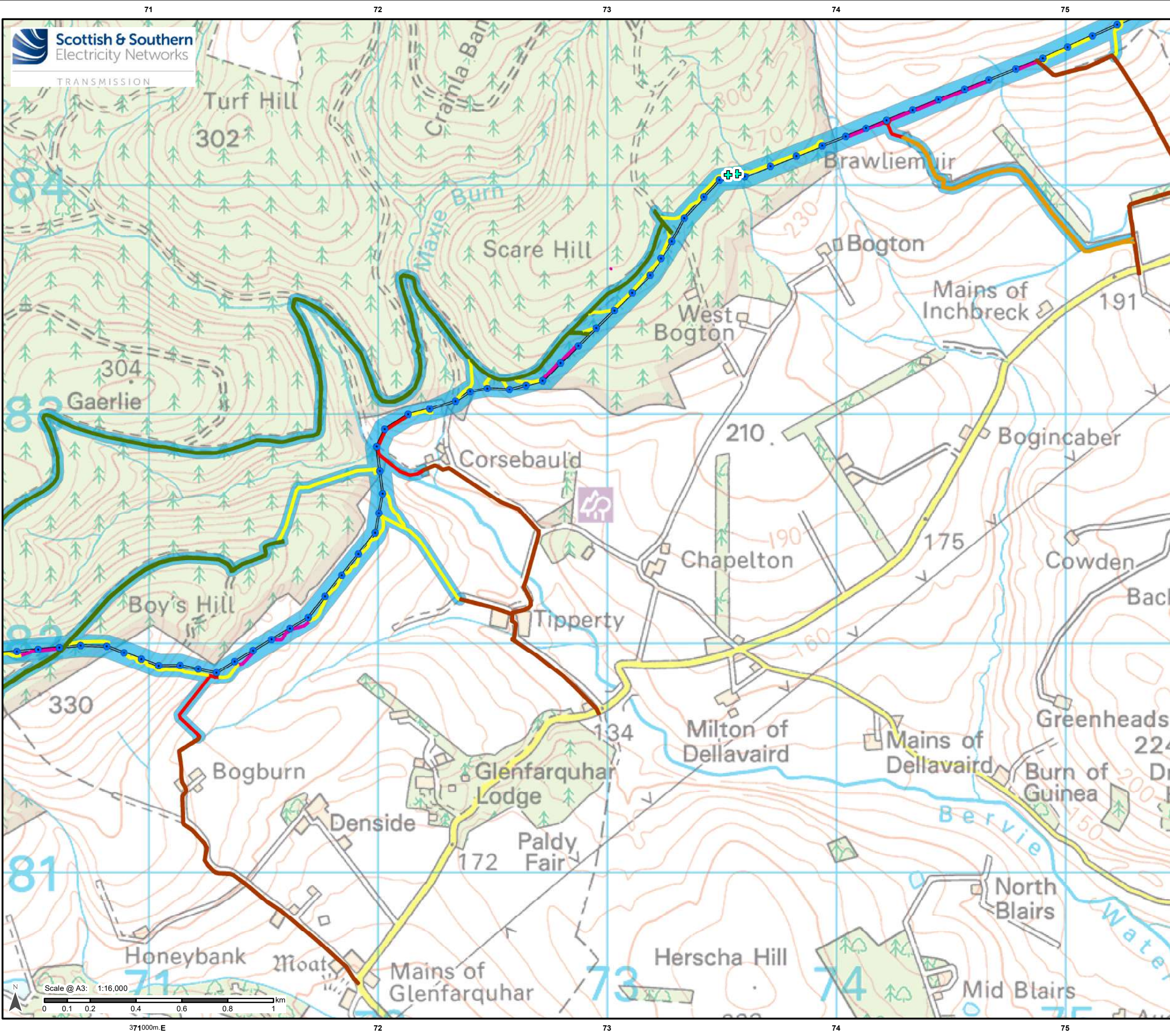
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Gate Check Report:  
Figure 1.1a - The Proposed Development

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### Legend

#### S.37 Overhead Line (OHL) Works

- Proposed OHL Pole Locations
- Proposed OHL Alignment

#### Ancillary Development

- Proposed Permanent Tracks
- Proposed Temporary Trackway Panels
- Existing Forest Tracks to be Upgraded
- Existing Field Tracks to be Upgraded
- Proposed ATV Routes
- Existing Field Tracks
- Proposed Permanent Bridges or Culverts

#### Limit of Deviation

- Proposed OHL and Access Track Limit of Deviation (LoD)

# DRAFT

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

Title: Gate Check Report:  
Figure 1.1d - The Proposed Development

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