

# Inveraray to Crossaig Reinforcement Project

Project Newsletter

October 2021



**Scottish & Southern**  
Electricity Networks

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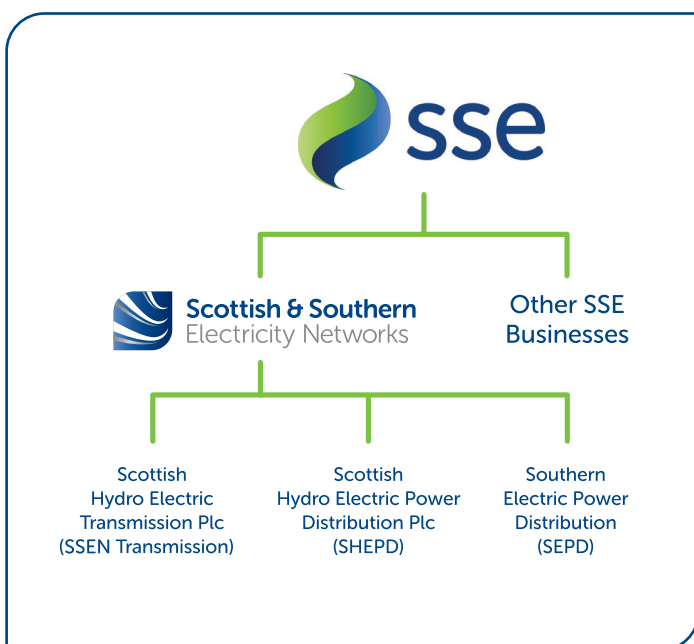
TRANSMISSION

# Welcome to our newsletter

## Who are SSEN Transmission?

We own, operate and develop the high voltage electricity transmission network in the north of Scotland. The network consists of underground and subsea cables, overhead lines on wooden poles and steel towers, and electricity substations, extending over a quarter of the UK's land mass crossing some of its most challenging terrain.

We power the communities we serve by providing a safe and reliable supply of electricity, taking the electricity from generators and transporting it at high voltages over long distances through the transmission network for onwards distribution to homes and businesses in villages, towns and cities.



## What is the difference between Transmission and Distribution?

Electricity Transmission is the transportation of electricity from generating plants to where it is required at centres of demand. The Electricity Transmission network, or grid, transports electricity at very high voltages through overhead lines (OHL), underground cables (UCG) and subsea cables. Our transmission network connects large scale generation, primarily renewables, to central and southern Scotland and the rest of Great Britain. It also helps secure supply by providing reliable connection to the wider network of generation plans.

The Electricity Distribution network is connected into the Transmission network but the voltage is lowered by transformers at electricity substations, and the power is then distributed to homes and businesses through overhead lines or underground cables.

## About this newsletter

As we start constructing the second phase of the Inveraray to Crossaig project, we have created a newsletter to keep you updated on the current and upcoming work we will be undertaking. We will continue to provide these updates as the project progresses throughout construction. This edition provides background to the phase one and two projects and the progress so far.

## Keeping in touch

We will be sharing regular updates on the project website, where you can also register for updates and find contact details to get in touch our team.

[www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/inveraray-crossaig/](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/inveraray-crossaig/)

## Upgrading the network in Argyll and Bute

The Inveraray to Crossaig Project is replacing the existing overhead transmission line which was built in the 1950's, following a long service, it is now coming to the end of its operational life. The line has experienced a higher-than-normal level of faults and in March 2013 following a severe storm several towers in Kintyre collapsed, interrupting the energy supply to thousands of customers. The construction of a replacement line is essential to ensure the security to the supply of electricity to the communities across the region. Once complete, the Inveraray to Crossaig Project will provide vital reinforcement to the existing transmission network in Argyll and Kintyre, improving network performance and providing access to the electricity network for new renewable generation developers, playing a key role in the

transition to net zero emissions. The new overhead line will operate initially at 132kV, as the existing line does, with the capacity to increase to 275kV to accommodate the continuing growth of renewable generation connection to our network. The new line will run between Inveraray switching station and Crossaig substation, connecting to the existing substations at An Suidhe, Crarae and Port Ann. The existing line will be decommissioned and removed upon completion of the new line.

The project is being constructed in two phases; Phase 1 is 39km long from Inveraray to Port Ann and is nearing completion, and Phase 2 which extends 45km from Port Ann to Crossaig and is currently in the enabling stage.

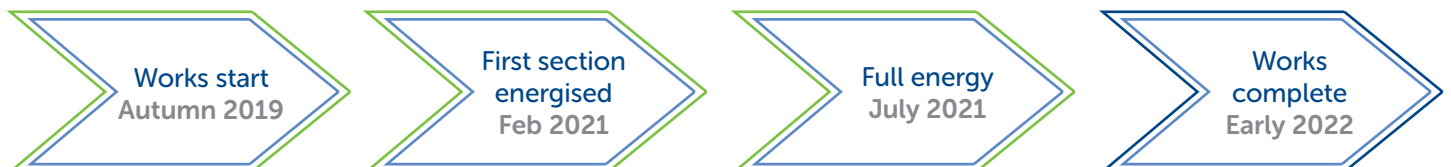
### Phase 1 - Inveraray to Port Ann

Construction of Phase 1 started in Autumn 2019 and following many months of hard work and some very challenging weather conditions this critical line is now fully energised and main construction works are coming to an end. Phase 1 has delivered:

- 39km new overhead line between Inveraray and a tee-off point west of Lochgilphead
- 129 new towers
- 98km of new build and upgraded access track
- Employment for over 250 people, including local contractors, many of whom have required local accommodation
- A major boost to local and national economies
- Removal of 149 existing towers

Decommissioning of the old line is progressing well, and over half of the redundant overhead line towers have been dismantled and recovered for recycling. Reinstatement and decommissioning works are expected to be fully complete by early 2022.

### Project timeline

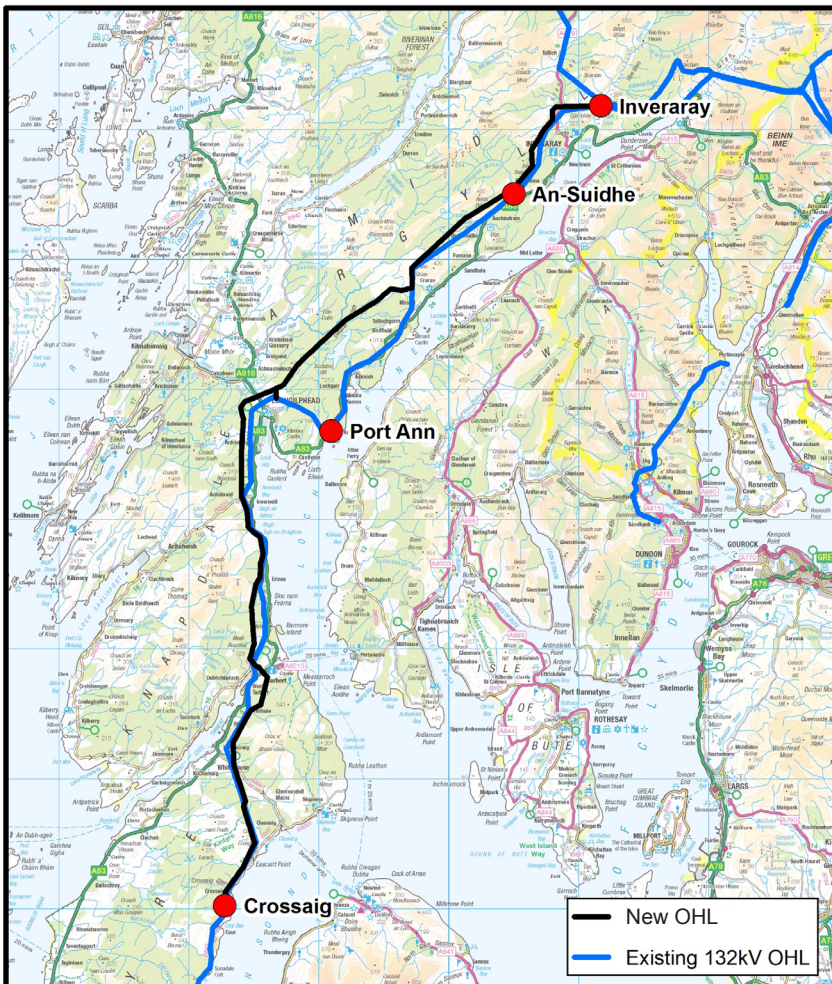


## Phase 2 - Port Ann to Crossaig

Phase 2 will deliver the southern half of the overall project and once complete will include:

- 45km new overhead line between Lochgilphead and Crossaig Substation
- 149 new towers
- Removal of 380Ha of forestry
- 108km of access track upgraded or constructed
- Anticipate 200-250 people employed
- Compensatory Planting

The route of the new overhead line and the existing overhead line are shown below for both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Project. The new line follows roughly the same path as the existing line however, to ensure the continuity of supply the new line must be built and operating before the old line is removed.



Works start  
May 2021



Full energy  
Summer 2023



Works complete  
Early 2024

## What's next?

We are currently busy with enabling works ahead of construction starting in Autumn 2021. The enabling work includes forestry clearance which is being undertaken by our contractors Scottish Woodlands and the installation of bellmouths which will be the entry points for our access tracks. Forestry works are scheduled to be complete by October 2021. We have started installing access tracks at several locations and following this, construction of the new towers will commence.

## Fulfilling our critical role in Argyll and Bute throughout the pandemic

Due to the critical nature of the work being carried out to ensure the security of supply to the communities that the Inveraray to Crossaig overhead line serves, following a pause of work when lockdown was implemented in March 2020, work on phase 1 of the project recommenced.

Throughout this time, the safety of our people, contractors and the communities in which we are working remained the key priority. Working closely with the Scottish Government, we have implemented robust safety procedures in place on site, which remain under constant review. These robust practices will be taken forward into phase 2 of the project and will be implemented in line with Government and industry guidance. We will continue to review and update our policies in response to the changes in guidance.

## How can I keep up to date with project developments?

We will keep the community updated by sharing quarterly Newsletters. These, along with any other updates, will be published on the Inveraray – Crossaig Project webpage:

<https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/inveraray-crossaig/>

If you would like to receive subsequent issues of this Newsletter in printed format, please request this from the Community Liaison Manager. A digital copy of the Newsletter will be sent to all individuals who have registered for updates on the project webpage.

As a responsible developer it is important that we work closely with the communities in which we work. Our Community Liaison Team will be the interface between the local community and our onsite project teams. If you have any questions about the project, please contact Caitlin via email or phone:

**Caitlin Quinn**  
Community Liaison Manager  
**Mob:** 07557478864  
**Email:** caitlin.quinn@sse.com

**Grace Campbell**  
Land Manager  
**Tel:** 07586 281 466  
**Email:** grace.campbell@sse.com

## Community Liaison Group

A Community Liaison Group has been established that brings together representation from the project team, Community Councils and local Councillors. This is an open forum to share updates on progress, celebrate success and to discuss key issues and potential impacts of our construction works. Minutes from the meetings will be available on the project website. If you have a question which you would like raised at a meeting, please contact your Community Council representative or the Community Liaison Manager.



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