

GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
400 kV	400 kilovolt (400,000 volt) operating voltage electrical circuit.
AC	Alternating Current. An electric current that periodically reverses its direction and changes its magnitude continuously with time (in contrast to DC) and the form in which electric power is delivered to residences and businesses.
ACAS	Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS) has the role of locating, evaluating, safeguarding, and interpreting all archaeological sites within four council areas (Aberdeenshire Council, Moray Council, Angus Council and Aberdeen City Council). This information is held in the Historic Environment Record (HER, formerly known as the Sites and Monuments Record), which is publicly accessible online.
Access Strategy	Method for provision of access to facilitate construction activities, including the nature, indicative location and extent of temporary access tracks, permanent access tracks and road improvements.
ACoW	Archaeological Clerk of Works. Independent person(s) employed for the purpose of overseeing and managing archaeological matters on a development site and advising on the mitigation of impacts on the archaeological resource.
AGL	Above Ground Level. A height measurement with respect to the underlying ground surface.
AIL	Abnormal Indivisible Load. Loads/vehicles which exceed the maximum vehicle weight, axle weight or dimensions which are set out in the <i>Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986</i> as amended.
AIS Substation	An Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) Substation is constructed with switchgear which relies on open air components, which can require large clearance areas for operation and safety, which takes up a larger area of land than Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS).
ALARP	As Low As Reasonably Practicable. A risk management principle that aims to minimise risks to the lowest level that is reasonably practicable.
Alignment	A centre line of an OHL along with the location of key angle structures.
Alternative Alignment	A section of an Alignment where there are different ways to avoid or minimise interaction with localised constraints.
Ambient Noise Level	The all encompassing noise level measured in $L_{Aeq,T}$. The Ambient Noise Level incorporates background sounds as well as the industrial source noise under consideration.
Amenity	Can refer to the natural environment, cultural heritage, or landscape and visual quality. Also includes the impact of SSEN Transmission's works on communities, such as the effects of noise and disturbance from construction activities.
AMIOA	Associate Member of the Institute of Acoustics
AMP	Access Management Plan. A document which includes measures for the management of existing public access during the construction and operation of the Proposed Development.
Ancient Woodland	As defined by The Scottish Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI). Ancient Woodland (categories 1a and 2a) is interpreted as semi-natural woodland from maps of 1750 (1a) or 1860 (2a) and continuously wooded to the present day. If planted with non-native species during the 20th century they are sometimes referred to as Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS).
Angle Tower	Support structure (tower) which allows a change in direction of the OHL.
Annex I (as listed on the European Community (EC) Habitats Directive)	Annex I to the EC Habitats Directive lists the types of habitats and the animal and plant species whose conservation requires the designation of special areas of conservation. Some are defined as 'priority' habitats or species in danger of disappearing and for which there are specific rules.
Applicant	Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc operating and known as Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission), who own, operate

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	and develop the high voltage electricity transmission system in the north of Scotland and remote islands.
Associated Works	Other works likely to be required to facilitate construction of the Proposed Development, or would occur as a result of its construction and operation, such as borrow pits and quarries to source stone for access tracks, temporary construction compounds, and modification of the existing electricity distribution network to accommodate crossings of the proposed OHL. These works do not form part of the Proposed Development and are not assessed in detail in the EIAR.
ASTI	Accelerated Strategic Transmission Infrastructure. A new regulatory framework for Transmission Operators (including SSEN Transmission) to obtain regulatory approval of the economic case for delivery and funding of qualifying infrastructure projects required to deliver the UK Government's ambition to connect up to 50GW of offshore wind generation to the network by 2030.
ATI	Ancient Tree Inventory. A record of ancient, veteran and notable trees in the UK.
ATV	All Terrain Vehicle
Background Noise Level	The noise level in the absence of the industrial source noise under consideration, measured in LA90.
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
Baseline Conditions	The physical, chemical, biological and cultural setting in which the Proposed Development is to be located, and where local impacts (both beneficial and adverse) might be expected to occur.
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey. The BBS is the main scheme for monitoring the population changes of the UK's common and widespread breeding birds.
Bellmouth	Widened areas of access tracks at the junction of the track with the public road to facilitate turning of heavy vehicles into and out of the track.
BEP	Biodiversity Enhancement Plan
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
BFD	Bird Flight Diverter
BGN	Background noise (BGN) is the noise level in the absence of the industrial noise source under consideration.
BGS	British Geological Survey
BHSS	British Horse Society Scotland
The Birds Directive	The Birds Directive is the short name for Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conservation of wild birds. This Directive requires the classification of European sites known as Special Protection Areas for species on Annex I but also provides legal protection for all wild bird, their nests, eggs and habitats within the European community.
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is an approach to development that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was pre-development. It focuses on the change in the biodiversity value of a site, comparing the pre and post construction biodiversity values to ensure a positive impact overall.
BoCC	Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) is compiled by a coalition of the UK's leading bird conservation and monitoring organisations to review the status of regularly occurring birds in the UK. Bird species that breed or overwinter in the UK have been assessed against a set of objective criteria and placed on the Green, Amber or Red lists to indicate an increasing level of conservation concern
Broadleaved Woodland	Broadleaved woodland is characterised by trees which do not have needles. Their leaves are broad and vary in shape, and most of them are deciduous. Broadleaved woodlands have 10% or less conifer in the canopy.
BSPP	Bird Species Protection Plan. A document outlining the protection and mitigation measures required to protect nesting and roosting bird species which may be present.

Term	Definition
BST	British Summer Time
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology. UK bird conservation/monitoring organisation.
BU	Biodiversity Units
Business Case	The Business Case describes the technical and/or economic need or driver behind the transmission infrastructure project.
c. and ca.	The abbreviations for the Latin word circa, which means "about" or "around," are c. and ca., both followed by a full stop. These abbreviations are used specifically to indicate an approximate date, time, or measure, such as "c. 1982" or "ca. 1020".
CCA	Climate Change Assessment
CDM Regulations	The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015
CEA	Cumulative Effects Assessment
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan. A document which defines specific methods for environmental survey, monitoring and management throughout construction of a project.
Centre Line	The linear connection between the central point of each support structure along the length of the overhead line.
CES	Consents and Environment Specification. It prescribes environmental management principles which Principal Contractors are required to meet under the terms of the Principal Contracts for construction of the Proposed Development.
CIEEM	Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management
CIFA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
CIHT	Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation
CILT	Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport
Circuit	Overhead line or underground cable consisting of multiple conductors, to carry electric current.
CIRIA	Construction Industry Research and Information Association
CIWEM	Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management
Class 1 and Class 2 Peatland	Class 1 – Nationally important carbon-rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat. Areas likely to be of high conservation value. Class 2 – Nationally important carbon-rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat. Areas of potentially high conservation value and restoration potential.
CLVIA	Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
Communities	Those stakeholders (organisations and individuals including residents) with a particular remit or interest in the local area affected by the works.
Competent Authority	A 'competent authority' is the authority with the power or duty to determine whether or not a proposal can proceed. In the context of this Environmental Impact Assessment Report and under <i>the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017</i> ("the EIA Regulations"), the Scottish Ministers are the competent authority and have the relevant powers and duties under the EIA Regulations.
Conductor	A metallic wire strung between each OHL support structure to carry electric current.
Coniferous Woodland	Woodland that has 10% or less broadleaved trees in the canopy.
Consultation	The dynamic process of dialogue between individuals or groups, based on a genuine exchange of views and, normally, with the objective of influencing decisions, policies or programmes of action.

Term	Definition
Consultation Bodies	Defined as meaning the planning authority, NatureScot, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Historic Environment Scotland (HES) as per The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017
Contaminated Land	Land contaminated by harmful substances including Unexploded Ordnance (UXO).
Corridor	A linear area which allows a continuous connection between the defined connection points. The corridor may vary in width along its length; in unconstrained areas it may be many kilometres wide. A corridor should also take into account any pinch points along its length where subsequent design development for the OHL may be subject to fundamental restrictions which may limit the eventual viability of a project or gaining consent.
CNIA	Construction Noise Impact Assessment. The basic principle of any noise impact assessment is to assess the change in the acoustic environment that will be brought about by the proposed development. The assessment of construction noise complies with best practice (BS5228), Code of Practice for Noise and Vibration Control on Construction and Open Sites.
CNMP	Construction Noise Management Plan. A document which outlines noise management measures to mitigate adverse impacts associated with construction.
CRoW	Catalogue of Rights of Way (set out by Scotways)
CSE Compound / CSEC	Cable Sealing End Compound. The Cable Sealing End compound is required to facilitate transition from underground cable to overhead line (and vice versa).
CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan. A document which outlines traffic management measures to mitigate adverse impacts associated with construction related traffic.
CVIA	Construction Vibration Impact Assessment
dB (decibel)	A unit of the noise level derived from the logarithm of the ratio between the value of a quantity and a reference value and the scale on which sound pressure level is expressed. Sound pressure level is defined as 20 times the logarithm of the ratio between the root-mean-square pressure of the sound field and a reference pressure (2×10^{-5} Pa).
dB(A)	A-weighted decibel. This is a measure of the overall level of sound across the audible spectrum with a frequency weighting (i.e. 'A' weighting) to compensate for the varying sensitivity of the human ear to sound at different frequencies.
DC	Direct current. An electric current that flows in one constant direction, unlike alternating current (AC) which reverses its direction.
Double circuit	A double circuit transmission line comprises of two independent circuits each made up of three sets of conductors (cables).
DRD	Design Requirements Document. A document that describes the basis of the system design and specifies the technical requirements for the transmission infrastructure project.
DTM	Digital Terrain Model. A digital representation of the physical surface of the Earth, excluding surface features like buildings and trees.
DWPA	Drinking Water Protected Area. The water in ditches, streams, lochs and possibly groundwater in these areas is protected and likely to be taken to water treatment works, where it is treated and provided to the public as drinking water.
EclA	Ecological Impact Assessment. An Assessment of the likely significant ecological effects of a project.
EcoW	Ecological/Environmental Clerk of Works. An independent consultant responsible for ensuring the developer is compliant with all ecological legislation, policy and best practice during the construction phase.
ECU	Energy Consents Unit. The department of the Scottish Government responsible for processing applications for consent under the <i>Electricity Act 1989</i> on behalf of Scottish Ministers.

Term	Definition
Effect	The change in condition of an environmental receptor (beneficial or adverse) arising as a result of a change brought about by the construction or operation of the Proposed Development.
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment. A formal process codified by EU directive 2011/92/EU and subsequently amended by Directive 2014/52/EU. The national regulations are set out in <i>The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017</i> as amended. The EIA process is set out in regulation 4(1) of the regulations and includes the preparation of an EIA Report (EIAR) by the developer to systematically identify, predict, assess and report on the likely significant environmental impacts of a proposed project or development.
EIAR	Environmental Impact Assessment Report
Embedded Mitigation	Measures to avoid or reduce environmental impacts which are developed as an inherent part of the design of a project (eg reducing the height of a tower) or from adoption of specific design parameters (eg compliance with specific buffer distance from an environmental receptor).
EMF	Electric and Magnetic Fields. Overhead Lines are used to carry high voltage electricity across long distances and are a source of Electric and Magnetic Fields. Electric Fields are created by the presence of electric charges and are measured in volts per meter (V/m). Magnetic fields are created by charges (electrons) moving in a conductor, such as a wire.
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
Engagement	The establishment of effective relationships with individuals or groups.
EPRI	Electrical Power Research Institute
EPS	European Protected Species. Animals and plants which are protected under the Habitats Regulations 1994 (as amended in Scotland). Animals are listed on Schedule 2 – European protected species of animals. Plants are listed on Schedule 4 – European protected species of plants.
EPZ	Equi-Potential Zone. A work zone in which the worker is protected from electric shock from differences in electric potential between objects in the work area.
ESO	NESO replaced the Electricity System Operator (ESO) in October 2024 which was previously the National Grid for Great Britain. National Grid is the National Electricity System Operator for Great Britain. The NESO balances electricity supply and demand to ensure the electricity supply.
ESQC	The Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity (ESQC) Regulations 2002 specify safety standards aimed at protecting the general public and consumers from danger. In addition, the Regulations specify power quality and supply continuity requirements to ensure an efficient and economic electricity supply service for consumers.
European Designated Site	An area of land subject to protection through European legislation, including Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA).
FA	Flight Activity Survey (in the context of ornithology).
Free-field Level	A sound field determined at a point away from reflective surfaces other than the ground with no significant contributions due to sound from other reflective surfaces. Generally as measured outside and away from buildings.
GDL	Garden and Designed Landscape. As listed on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes held by Historic Environment Scotland (HES). These are considered by a panel of experts to be of national importance.
GEMP	General Environmental Management Plans. A series of standardised construction environmental management plans produced by SSEN Transmission.
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GI	Ground Investigation
GIS	Geographical Information System. Software that is used to create, manage, analyse, and map all types of data.

Term	Definition
GIS Substation	A Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) Substation is constructed with switchgear with gaseous reliant components which allows operation and safety clearances to be reduced compared to an AIS substation.
GLVIA3	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition
GMT	Greenwich Mean Time
GPP	Guidance for Pollution Prevention. A set of guidelines based on relevant legislation to reflect current good practice in preventing the pollution of surface waters and groundwaters. These supersede Pollution Prevention Guidance Notes (PPGs), although some PPGs are still relevant.
Grantor	An individual or organisation owning or having a right in land.
GW	Gigawatt. A measure of power, 1 GW = 1,000,000,000 W
GWDTE	Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystem. Wetlands which critically depend on groundwater flows. They are safeguarded by the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and are sensitive to hydrological and ecological changes.
ha	Hectare. A unit of measurement primarily used for land, measuring 10,000 square metres.
Habitat	Term most accurately meaning the place in which a species lives, but also used to describe plant communities or agglomerations of plant communities.
The Habitats Directive	The Habitats Directive is the short name for European Union Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. The Directive led to the establishing of European sites and setting out how they should be protected, it also extends to other topics such as European protected species.
Heat Map	A graphical or map-based output from a digital analysis of physical, technical and/or environmental constraints. Uses different colours to illustrate the relative degree of constraints.
HEPS	Historic Environment Policy for Scotland
HER	Historic Environment Record. Sources of, and signposts to, information relating to landscapes, buildings, monuments, sites, places, areas and archaeological finds spanning more than 700,000 years. Based in mainly local authorities, they are used for planning and development control but also fulfil an educational role.
HES	Historic Environment Scotland. The lead public body established to investigate, care for and promote Scotland's historic environment.
HGV	Heavy Goods Vehicle. All goods vehicles > 3.5 tonnes gross maximum weight.
HND	Holistic Network Design. A single, integrated coordinated plan that sets out the onshore and offshore electricity transmission infrastructure required across GB, to deliver the UK Government's 2030 targets.
Holford Rules (as modified)	Principles used to inform the routing of OHL and siting of substations.
HRA	Habitats Regulations Appraisal. Appraisal to determine whether the Proposed Development is likely to have a significant effect on a European designated site, to address the requirements of Regulation 63 of the <i>Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017</i> .
IBA	Important Bird Area. Areas are designated by Birdlife as places of international significance for the conservation of birds and other biodiversity. They are a non-statutory, international designation.
ICNIRP	International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection
IEMA	The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment.
Impact	Physical constructions or activities that may change or disturb the surrounding environment (eg erection of an OHL tower may impact the landscape resource).
INNS	Invasive Non-Native Species

Term	Definition
Inter Developments	Reasonably foreseeable future developments. Inter Developments which are other SSEN Transmission developments as well as other third-party developments which fall into one of the following categories: - project proposals of National Importance within 3 km of the Proposed Development; or - local development proposals within 2 km and where an EIA is required; and where: - undetermined planning/consent applications or scoping requests have been submitted; or - consents have been granted but construction has not yet commenced at the time of preparation of this EIAR. A full list of the Inter Developments can be found in Volume 2, Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects
Intra Developments	Reasonably foreseeable future developments. Intra (Associated) Developments for the Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL are: - the new Proposed 400 kV substation called Emmock, near Tealing; and - the new Proposed 400 kV substation called Hurlie, in Fetteresso Forest.
IET	Institution of Engineering and Technology
IOA	Institute of Acoustics
IROPI	Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest. A term used in the context of a HRA. Should a plan or project adversely affect a European designated site, and having established there are no feasible alternative solutions, the 'competent authority' must be able to identify 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' that justify the plan or project despite the environmental damage it will cause.
ISO	International Organisation for Standardisation
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Kilometres (km)	One thousand metres.
Kilovolt (kV)	One thousand volts.
LA	Local Authorities
$L_{Aeq,T}$	A-weighted equivalent continuous sound level. L_{Aeq} is defined as the notional steady sound level which, over a stated period of time (T), would contain the same amount of acoustical energy as the A-weighted fluctuating sound measured over that period.
L_{A10} & L_{A90}	Sound level just exceeded for 10% or 90% of the measurement period and calculated by statistical analysis. If a non-steady noise is to be described it is necessary to know both its level and the degree of fluctuation. The L_n indices are used for this purpose, and the term refers to the level exceeded for n% of the time of the measurement. Hence L_{A10} is the A-weighted level exceeded for 10% of the time and as such can be regarded as the 'average maximum level'. Similarly, L_{A90} is the 'average minimum level' and is often used to describe the background noise. It is common practice to use the L_{A10} index to describe traffic noise.
Land-take	The term 'land-take' refers to the physical area of land that is 'taken' by a proposed development and other facilities that necessarily go along with it such as access routes. Land-take is permanent and irreversible, and the land use changes from its original use to that of the development for the duration of its operation.
LCA	Land Capability Classification. The LCA classification is used to rank land on the basis of its potential productivity and cropping flexibility
LCT	Landscape Character Type. A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in a landscape that differentiate the area from another.
LDP	Local Development Plan. The planning system in Scotland is plan-led and all local authorities must have a Local Development Plan for their area. The Local Development Plan sets the framework for development management decisions on planning applications within the local authority area.

Term	Definition
LEPO	Long-established Woodlands of Plantation Origin. A type of woodland included in the Ancient Woodland Inventory which signify areas which have been continuously wooded since 1750 or 1860 but are considered to have been planted. They may however have developed semi-natural characteristics which may be as rich as semi-natural ancient woodlands.
Level of Impact	The outcome of a comparative appraisal of the combination of effects within a specific topic along a specific corridor option after a consideration of the potential for mitigation, using professional judgement based on experience.
LGV	Light Goods Vehicle. All commercial vehicles < 3.5 tonnes gross maximum weight.
LI	Landscape Institute
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging. A remote sensing technology that uses pulsed laser light to measure distances and create precise 3D maps of an environment.
Listed Building	Building included on the list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest and afforded statutory protection under the <i>Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997</i> and other planning legislation. Classified in three categories A, B and C(s).
LLA	Local Landscape Areas are designated by local planning authorities for sites which are considered to be of regional/local importance for their scenic qualities. Local Development Plans (LDPs) typically show the location of LLAs and associated policy. Also sometimes referred to as Special Landscape Areas (SLA), for example by Aberdeenshire Council.
LNCS	Local Nature Conservation Site. A non-statutory designation given by local authorities to areas of locally important nature. LNCS are intended to safeguard biodiversity and geodiversity of at least local importance.
LNR	Local Nature Reserve. An area which is protected by the local authority because of its special natural interest and / or educational value. This designation may underpin national or international designations.
LOD	Limit of Deviation. An area which defines the practical limits within which micro-siting of the OHL infrastructure and access tracks, can occur within the terms of the Section 37 Application for Consent. The purpose of Limit of Deviation is to allow flexibility within a Section 37 Application consent for the final micro-siting of individual towers/poles or access tracks to respond to localised ground conditions, topography, engineering, and environmental constraints. There is a Horizontal (HLOD) and Vertical (VLOD) LOD for the Proposed Development, which is defined in Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description.
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LSE	Likely Significant Effect. In the context of an HRA, is the initial stage of an HRA screening process to determine if a plan or project could negatively impact a European protected site.
LUC	Land Use Consultants Ltd
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. Often presented as a chapter within the EIAR to systematically identify, predict, assess and report on the likely significant landscape and visual impacts of a proposed development.
m	Metres
mAOD	Metres above ordnance datum.
MCA	Multi-Criteria Analysis. A method of remotely mapping habitats at large scale using a variety of datasets and data weightings to assign habitat types.
MD-SEDD	Marine Directorate – Science Evidence Data and Digital
Micro-siting	The process of positioning individual structures (such as OHL towers) to avoid localised environmental or technical constraints.
Mitigation	Term used to indicate avoidance, remediation or alleviation of adverse environmental impacts (see also Embedded Mitigation definition).

Term	Definition
MOD	Ministry of Defence
MP	Member of Parliament
Mph	Miles per hour. Measurement unit of speed on British roads.
MRTPI	Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute
MSP	Member of Scottish Parliament
National Nature Reserve	Areas of natural heritage that are nationally important.
Native Woodland	Woodland recorded on the Native Woodland Survey of Scotland (NWSS). The NWSS identified and mapped the location, extent, type and condition of all of Scotland's native woodlands. Launched in 2014, it was the first authoritative inventory of Scotland's native woods and created a baseline for future monitoring of change.
NATS	National Air Traffic Services
NatureScot	Scotland's nature conservation agency (formerly Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)).
NBN	The National Biodiversity Network. A collaborative venture in the UK, which is committed to making biodiversity information available through the internet via the NBN Atlas - the data search website of the NBN.
NCI	Nature Conservation Importance. The sensitivity of species populations and habitats is assessed with reference to their importance in terms of biodiversity conservation value.
NCN	National Cycle Network. Designated National Cycle Routes within the UK.
Necessary Wayleave	A wayleave granted by The Scottish Ministers under Schedule 4 to the Electricity Act 1989 on behalf of a landowner if it is deemed expedient that such a wayleave should be granted, but only sought in circumstances where that landowner will not grant a Wayleave voluntarily.
NERSG	North East Scotland Raptor Study Group
NESBiP	North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership
NESBReC	North-East Scotland Biological Records Centre
NESO	The National Energy System Operator (NESO) is an independent organisation which balances electricity supply and demand to ensure the electricity supply. NESO replaced the Electricity System Operator (ESO) in October 2024 which was previously the National Grid for Great Britain.
NETS SQSS	National Electricity Transmission System Security and Quality of Supply Standard
NGET	National Grid Electricity Transmission
NHZ	Natural Heritage Zone. Biogeographical regions used by NatureScot to define populations and associated development effects.
NIDL	Non-Inventory Designed Landscape
NNR	National Nature Reserves. Areas of natural heritage where public access is encouraged and which usually host nationally or internationally important habitats and species.
NOA	Network Options Assessment. The National Grid's Network Options Assessment provides their recommendation for which network reinforcement projects should receive investment, and when.
NPF4	National Planning Framework 4. The national spatial strategy for Scotland which sets out spatial principles, regional priorities, national developments and national planning policy, published in February 2023.
NR	Noise Rating (NR) curves were developed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) to determine the acceptable indoor environment for hearing preservation, speech communication and annoyance.

Term	Definition
NRHE	The National Record of the Historic Environment. A comprehensive archive that contains records relating to Scotland's historic environment, including archaeological, architectural, and historic sites.
NSA	National Scenic Area. A national level designation applied to those landscapes considered to be of exceptional scenic value.
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects
NSR	Noise Sensitive Receptor. Any building where the presence of noise could significantly impact the occupants' well-being, activities, or health. These receptors typically include places such as residences, schools, hospitals, offices and other commercial properties.
NTS	Non-Technical Summary. A document providing a non-technical summary of the EIA Report setting out, in lay terms, the significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development.
NVC	National Vegetation Classification. A detailed botanical survey to identify and classify potential habitats of conservation concern.
OAMP	Outdoor Access Management Plan
OC	Operational Corridor. The area either side of the OHL which needs to remain clear of trees for operational safety.
Offshore Integrated Link	Offshore cable connection between the onshore network and offshore network being developed as part of the Coordinated Offshore Network. This is being developed as a result of the Holistic Network Design (HND) publication in summer of 2022 produced by National Grid Electricity System Operator (NGESO) to facilitate greater co-ordination and efficiency for offshore windfarms. In the autumn of 2022 Ofgem published their Asset Classification findings which in turn meant SSENT were tasked with delivering large parts of the Coordinated Offshore Network.
Ofgem	The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets. The energy regulator for Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales).
OHL	Overhead line. An electric line installed above ground, usually supported by lattice steel towers.
OIA	Ornithological Impact Assessment. An Assessment of the likely Significant ornithological effects of a project.
OPGW	Optical Ground Wire. A type of cable that is used in OHLs combining the functions of grounding and communications.
OS	Ordnance Survey (OS). Great Britain's national mapping agency.
PAC	Pre Application Consultation
PAL	Prime Agricultural Land. Land that is categorised as Class 1, 2 and 3.1 in the Land Capability for Agriculture (LCA) classification. The LCA classification is used to rank land on the basis of its potential productivity and cropping flexibility. - Class 1 land is capable of producing a wide range of crops with no or very minor physical limitations affecting agricultural use. - Class 2 land is capable of producing a wide range of crops, with minor physical limitations affecting agricultural use. - Class 3.1 is land capable of producing a moderate range of crops. Classes 1 to 3.1 are considered PAL and are of a higher sensitivity to development than areas of land with lower agricultural classifications due to its relative scarcity as a resource. Classes 3.2 to 7 are not considered PAL.
PAN	Planning Advice Note. Scottish Government's planning guidance documents.
Pathway to 2023 HND	Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design by the ESO
PiC	Properties in Care. A collection of monuments, which define significant aspects of Scotland's history, brought into care for their long-term preservation and public benefit

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	through the <i>Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</i> . They are managed by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) on behalf of Scottish Ministers.
PIEMA	Practitioner member of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
Perceptual effects	Non-physical effects that influence the appreciation, understanding and experience of landscape qualities such as scale, enclosure, diversity, form and pattern.
Physical effects	Effects as a result of physical alterations to the landscape fabric.
Planning Application	An application for planning permission under the <i>Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997</i> , as amended. It should be noted that consent under Section 37 of the <i>Electricity Act 1989</i> usually carries with it a direction from the Scottish Ministers under section 57 of the <i>Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997</i> that planning permission be deemed granted.
Planning Brief	A document that provides a high-level overview of the need and design basis for a transmission infrastructure project. Precedes the Business Case and Design Requirements Document.
Plantation Woodland	Woodland of any age that obviously originated from planting.
Potential Alignment	The Potential Alignment refers to the Alignment (see: Alignment) option which the Applicant identified (following appraisal) as having the best balance of technical and environmental constraints. The Potential Alignment was taken forward to consultation and the Applicant subsequently selected the Proposed Alignment (see: Proposed Alignment).
PPG	Pollution Prevention Guidelines. A set of guidelines based on relevant legislation to reflect current good practice in preventing the pollution of surface waters and groundwaters. Most but not all of these have been superseded by GPPs.
Preferred Option (Preferred Corridor or Preferred Route)	The Preferred Option at the Corridor (see: Corridor) stage and Routeing (see: Route) stage represent the options which the Applicant identified as the best balance of technical and environmental constraints from the initial appraisal. The Preferred Options were then subject to consultation with stakeholders, where local and previously unknown considerations were considered in confirming or altering the initial option preference and subsequently selecting a Proposed Option (see: Proposed Option).
PRI	Public Road Improvement
Proposed Alignment	Taking account of the findings of the appraisals and consultation feedback received on the Potential Alignment (see: Potential Alignment), the Proposed Alignment was selected and taken forward as the design for the Proposed Development (see: Proposed Development).
Proposed Option (Proposed Corridor or Proposed Route)	Following the consideration of consultation feedback on the Preferred Corridor and Preferred Route (see: Preferred Option), and once confirmed, the Proposed Options were taken forward to the next stage of project development.
Proposed Development	The Proposed Development is taken to be the description of: the location of the development; the physical characteristics of the OHL, based on the Proposed Alignment and Limit of Deviation (LOD), including an indicative support structure (tower) schedule, also specifying access arrangements and any associated construction activities and land-use requirements. The Proposed Development also comprises a description of the main characteristics of the operational development and an estimate of residues and emissions associated with both the construction and operational phases (as set out in Schedule 4 of the EIA regulations). The Proposed Development was subject to EIA in support of the Section 37 application.
Proposed Route	A route taken forward following stakeholder consultation to the alignment selection stage of the overhead line routeing process.
PRoW	Public Right of Way
Public Body	Defined in terms of Regulation 12(4)(b) of the EIA Regulations as meaning “ <i>any other public body which the Scottish Ministers consider is likely to have an interest in the proposed development by reason of that body’s specific environmental responsibilities or local and regional competencies</i> ”.

Term	Definition
PWS	Private Water Supplies
RAG Rating	A Red, Amber, Green rating provided to allow for a comparison between different options being appraised.
Ramsar Site	Wetlands of international importance that have been designated to reflect their representative, rare or unique wetland types or for their importance in conserving biological diversity.
Red Line Boundary / RLB	Red-line boundary. Development boundary extent which should include all land necessary to carry out the Proposed Development.
Residual Noise Level	The Ambient Noise Level in the absence of the industrial source noise under consideration, measured in $L_{Aeq,T}$.
RoC	Report on Consultation. A report issued by the Applicant which documents the consultation responses received at each stage received as part of the consultation process for the Proposed Development and to show how the next stage has been informed by this process.
Route	A linear area of approximately 1 km width (although this may be narrower/wider in specific locations in response to identified pinch points / constraints), which provides a continuous connection between defined connection points.
Routeing	The work undertaken which leads to the selection of a proposed route and then a proposed alignment, capable of being taken forward into the consenting process under Section 37 of the <i>Electricity Act 1989</i> .
RoW	Right of Way
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. A charity for the conservation of birds and other wildlife. They manage reserves, fundraise and conduct and / or support research.
RVAA	Residential Visual Amenity Assessment. An assessment which describes the extent to which changes in views experienced by residents at the closest residential properties to the proposed Kintore to Tealing 400 kV overhead line, will affect the 'living conditions' at those properties.
SAC	Special Area of Conservation. Designated under Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (known as The Habitats Directive), to ensure that rare, endangered or vulnerable habitats or species of community interest are either maintained at or restored to a favourable conservation status.
Schedule 1 Species	Birds listed on Schedule 1/A1/1A of the <i>Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981</i> , for which it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly disturb at, on or near an 'active' nest. The following are included in the schedules: Schedule 1 – birds protected by special penalties; Schedule 1A – birds that may not be intentionally or recklessly harassed at any time; and Schedule A1 – birds whose habitually used nests may not be intentionally or recklessly taken, damaged, destroyed or otherwise interfered with when not in use.
Scheduled Monument (SM)	A monument which has been scheduled by the Scottish Ministers as being of national importance under the terms of the <i>Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</i> .
Scoping Opinion	An opinion adopted by the Scottish Ministers as to the scope and level of detail of information to be provided in the EIAR.
Section 37 Application	An application for development consent under section 37 of the <i>Electricity Act 1989</i> .
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency. Scotland's environment regulator and national flood forecasting, flood warning and strategic flood risk management authority.
Shadow HRA	A Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment (Shadow HRA) is a document or process that provides information to the competent authority to inform their official Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) process. It helps assess the potential impact of a project on protected sites, like SSSI or SAC, and ensures that projects do not negatively affect their integrity.

Term	Definition
SLA	Special Landscape Area. Areas are designated by local planning authorities for sites which are considered to be of regional/local importance for their scenic qualities. Local Development Plans (LDPs) typically show the location of SLAs and associated policy.
SLVIA	Seascape/landscape and visual assessment
SMR	Sites and Monuments Records
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage, now NatureScot.
SOAEL	Significant observable adverse effect level
SPA	Special Protection Area. Designated under Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds (the Birds Directive) to protect important bird habitats.
Span	The section of OHL between two structures.
Specific Noise Level	The noise level measured in $L_{Aeq,T}$ attributed to the industrial noise source under consideration alone.
SPEN	Scottish Power Energy Networks
SPP	Species Protection Plan. Developed by the Applicant to document general procedures, legislation and requirements for ensuring protection to a variety of species.
Spraint	Otters produce droppings known as 'spraints', which are left in prominent places along riverbanks, on rocks or under bridges to mark out their territories.
SSEN Transmission	Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission (SSEN Transmission) plc is a wholly owned subsidiary of the SSE plc group of companies. Operating and known as Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission) it owns and maintains the electricity transmission network across the north of Scotland and remote islands. It holds a licence under the <i>Electricity Act 1989</i> to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission.
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest. Areas of national importance designated by NatureScot under the <i>Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004</i> . The aim of the SSSI network is to maintain an adequate representation of all natural and semi-natural habitats and native species across Britain.
Stakeholders	Organisations and individuals who can affect or are affected by SSEN Transmission works.
Study Area	A defined area for the consideration of environmental effects (including direct, indirect and cumulative) on each relevant factor listed under Regulation 4(3) of the EIA regulations. Specific study areas are defined as applicable in Volume 2, Technical Chapters.
Substation	A node on the network to allow safe control of the electricity network. This could include convergence of multiple circuits, transformation of voltage or other functions to maintain and operate the electricity network.
Substation Site Area	Site area identified as necessary to deliver all the substation infrastructure requirements eg platform, access tracks, temporary construction area, drainage including SUDS, landscaping.
Suspension Tower	Support structure (tower) used on straight sections of the OHL.
SWT	Scottish Wildlife Trust
Terminal Structure	A structure (tower or pole) required where the line terminates either at a substation or at the beginning and end of an underground cable section.
The National Grid	The electricity transmission network in Great Britain.
Tower Schedule	A list specifying details of proposed structures (or poles), containing information such as tower type, height, location and span length.
UGC	Underground Cable. An electric cable installed below ground, protected by insulating layers and marked closer to the surface to prevent accidental damage through later earthworks.

Term	Definition
UK BAP	The UK Biodiversity Action Plan. The Plan was published in 1994 after the Convention on Biological Diversity. It summarised the most threatened species and habitats in the UK and gave detailed plans for their recovery.
UKCP18	UK Climate Change Predictions (most recently 2018).
UKHab	UK Habitat Survey. The UK Habitat Classification is a unified and comprehensive approach to classifying habitats, designed to provide a simple and robust approach to survey and monitoring.
Vertical LOD	The maximum additional vertical distance by which a tower can be varied from the design height above ground level.
Volts	The international unit of electric potential and electromotive force.
VP (in the context of ornithology)	Vantage Point. A vantage point (VP) survey is an ornithological assessment method used to study the flight activity and distribution of birds, in the context of this Environmental Impact Assessment, to identify where the Proposed Development might affect birds flight paths or pose collision risks.
VP (in the context of LVIA)	Viewpoint. The Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVIA) and Cultural Heritage Assessment involved capturing photographs from carefully chosen, representative locations (from VPs - viewpoints) to assess the potential impact of a proposed development on landscape/views and cultural heritage assets.
VRA	Visual Receptor Area. For the purposes of the visual assessment (Volume 5, Appendix 9.2: Visual Assessment), visual receptors (eg residents, road users, recreational users etc) have been grouped into geographical areas across the study area which are referred to as 'visual receptor areas' (VRAs).
Watercourse Buffer	Permanent and temporary infrastructure (including construction areas) should be set back from water features by an appropriate buffer to protect the water environment. SEPA's recommended riparian corridor buffers are used in the assessment presented in Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils.
Wayleave	A voluntary agreement entered into between a landowner, upon whose land an OHL is to be constructed, and SSEN Transmission. SSEN Transmission may also make an application for a 'Necessary Wayleave' to Scottish Ministers where voluntary agreement cannot be reached.
WCA	<i>The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)</i> . Domestic legislation that gives rise to designated sites, regulates the management of invasive species and provides protections for species of national conservation importance.
WeBS	Wetland Bird Survey. The counting of the UK's wetland birds coordinated by BTO to provide input into monitoring data.
WHNCV	Woodland of High Nature Conservation Value
WLA	Wild Land Area, as classified by NatureScot.
Woodland	Woodland is defined as vegetation dominated by trees more than 5 m high when mature, forming a distinct, although sometimes open, canopy with cover of 20% or greater of the area.
Works	Constructing new transmission infrastructure such as substations, OHLs, underground cables; major refurbishment of these; the dismantling and removal of any parts of the system; and associated works, which may include formation of access tracks, bridge and road improvements, tree cutting, drainage etc.
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation. Planning document required by Planning Authorities which outlines the proposed archaeological works need to satisfy planning conditions and specifies the scope of work to understand the extent, character, and significance of archaeological remains within a planning application area.
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility. The computer-generated theoretical visibility of an object in the landscape.