

Volume 5: Appendix 6.4 – Gate Check 1 Report

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GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

Term	Definition
400 kV	400 kilovolt (400,000 volt) operating voltage electrical circuit
AADCC	Aberlemno and District Community Council
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 (formerly known as the Sites and Monuments Record), which is publicly accessible online.
AC	Angus Council
ACC	Aberdeen City Council
ADC	Aberdeenshire Council
AIA	Aberdeen International Airport
Alignment	A centre line of an overhead line, along with location of key angle structures.
Amenity	The natural environment, cultural heritage, landscape and visual quality. Also includes the impact of SSEN Transmission's works on communities, such as the effects of noise and disturbance from construction activities.
Ancient Woodland	As defined by The Scottish Ancient Woodland Inventory. 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 overhead line.
Annex I (as listed on the <i>EC Habitats Directive</i>)	Annex I to the <i>EC Habitats Directive</i> 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.
Area of Search (Study Area)	A broad geographical area within which possible sites might be capable of identification within approximately 5 km of the required connectivity point; usually determined by geographical features such as coastlines or hill/mountain ranges, or designation boundaries, such as National Park boundaries.
ASTI	Accelerated Strategic Transmission Infrastructure (ASTI) is a regulatory framework. This framework will inform the assessment, fund and incentivise the accelerated delivery of the large, strategic onshore transmission projects required to deliver the UK Government's ambition to connect up to 50 GW of offshore wind generation to the network by 2030 ¹ .
ATI	Ancient Tree Inventory
AWI	The Scottish Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) is a provisional guide to the location of Ancient Woodland. It contains three main categories of woodland, all of which are likely to be of value for their biodiversity and cultural value. These include Ancient Woodland, long-established woodlands of plantation origin (LEPO), and other woodlands.
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.
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,

¹ Ofgem (2023). Decision to modify the special license conditions in the electricity transmission licenses: Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment.

Term	Definition
	comparing the pre and post construction biodiversity values to ensure a beneficial impact overall.
BoCC	Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) provides the status of all regularly occurring birds in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. The current version is <i>BoCC 5</i> , published December 2021. Birds of highest conservation concern will appear on the Red List.
BT	British Telecoms
CAA	Civil Aviation Authority
CDDCC	Crathes Drumoak Durris Community Council
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) – 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	Crown Estate Scotland
Circuit	Overhead line or underground cable consisting of multiple conductors, to carry electric current.
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.
CNPA	Cairngorms National Park Authority
Commercial Forestry	Plantation woodlands typically dominated by conifer species and managed predominantly for timber extraction.
Communities	Those stakeholders (organisations and individuals including residents) with a particular remit or interest in the local area affected by the works.
Conductor	A metallic wire strung between each overhead line (OHL) support structure to carry electric current.
Consultation	The dynamic process of dialogue between individuals or groups, based on a genuine exchange of views and, normally, with the objective of influencing decisions, policies or programmes of action.
Consultation Bodies	<i>The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017</i> (“the <i>EIA Regulations</i> ”), defined as meaning the planning authority, NatureScot, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Historic Environment Scotland (HES).
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.
Double circuit	A double circuit transmission line comprises of two independent circuits each made up of three sets of conductors (cables).
DWPA	Drinking Water Protected Areas (DWPA) – 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.

Term	Definition
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
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 <i>EU Directive 2011/92/EU</i> , and subsequently amended by <i>Directive 2014/52/EU</i> . 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 <i>Regulation 4(1)</i> of the <i>Regulations</i> 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 (e.g. reducing the height of a tower) or from adoption of specific design parameters (e.g. compliance with specific buffer distance from an environmental receptor).
EMF	Electric and magnetic fields
Engagement	The establishment of effective relationships with individuals or groups.
FLS	Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) is the Scottish Government agency responsible for managing Scotland's national forests and land.
FRA	Flood Risk Assessment
GDL	Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL) – 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 (GEMPs) – A series of standardised construction environmental management plans produced by SSEN Transmission.
GWDTE	Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystem (GWDTE) – Wetlands which critically depend on groundwater flows. They are safeguarded by the <i>Water Framework Directive (WFD)</i> and are sensitive to hydrological and ecological changes.
Habitat	Term most accurately meaning the place in which a species lives, but also used to describe plant communities or agglomerations of plant communities.
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
Holford Rules (as modified)	Principles used to inform the routing of an OHL.
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 <i>Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017</i> .
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
ICC	Inveresk Community Council
ICNIRP	International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection
IFP	Instrument Flight Procedure
Impact	Physical constructions or activities that may change or disturb the surrounding environment (e.g. erection of an overhead line tower may impact the landscape resource).
JRC	Joint Radio Company

Term	Definition
Kilovolt (kV)	One thousand volts.
LCT	Landscape Character Type (LCT) is a distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in a landscape that differentiate the area from another.
LEPO	Long-Established Woodlands of Plantation Origin (LEPO) – NatureScot category of the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI). Many of these plantation sites have developed semi-natural characteristics, especially the oldest ones, which may be as rich as Ancient Woodland.
LIDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
Listed Building	Building included on the list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest and afforded statutory protection under <i>the 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 (LLAs) 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 Reserves are areas of natural heritage that are locally important. They are selected and designated by local authorities.
LOD	Limits of Deviation (LOD) comprise 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 consent. The purpose of Limits of Deviation is to allow flexibility within a Section 37 consent for the final micro-siting of individual towers/poles or access tracks to respond to localised ground conditions, topography, engineering, and environmental constraints.
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.
MCC	Mearns Community Council
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).
MOD	Ministry of Defence
NATS	National Air Traffic Society
NCN	National Cycle Network
Necessary Wayleave	A wayleave granted by The Scottish Ministers under Schedule 4 to the <i>Electricity Act 1989</i> 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.
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.

Term	Definition
NNR	National Nature Reserves (NNRs) are areas of natural heritage where public access is encouraged and which usually host nationally or internationally important habitats and species.
NPF4	National Planning Framework 4
NR	Network Rail
NS	NatureScot
NSA	National Scenic Area (NSA) – A national level designation applied to those landscapes considered to be of exceptional scenic value.
NSR	Noise Sensitive Receptors (NSR) are defined as receptors which are potentially sensitive to noise and vibration. Examples include dwellings, hospitals, schools, community facilities.
OC	Operational Corridor. The area either side of the OHL which needs to remain clear of trees for operational safety.
OHL	Overhead line – An electric line installed above ground, usually supported by lattice steel towers.
OLS	Obstacle Limitation Surfaces
Pathway to 2030 HND	Pathway to 2030 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.
PCN	Potato Cyst Nematode
Planning application	An application for planning permission under the <i>Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997</i> , as amended by the <i>Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006</i> . 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
PLHRA	Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessment
Preferred Option	The option which the Applicant has identified as the best balance of technical and environmental impact considerations identified through initial appraisal. This is then subject to consultation with stakeholders, where local and previously unknown considerations may confirm or alter the initial preference.
PRI	Public road improvements
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 Limits 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 to the <i>EIA Regulations</i>).
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 through the <i>Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</i> . They are managed by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) on behalf of Scottish Ministers.
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.
RoC	Report on Consultation

Term	Definition
Route	A linear area of approximately 1 km width (although this may be narrower/wider in specific locations in response to identified pinch points / constraints), which provides a continuous connection between defined connection points.
RSPB	Royal Society for Protection of Birds
RVAA	Residential Visual Amenity Assessment
SAC	Special Area of Conservation – Designated under <i>Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora</i> (known as <i>The Habitats Directive</i>), to ensure that rare, endangered or vulnerable habitats or species of community interest are either maintained at or restored to a favourable conservation status.
SBL	Scottish Biodiversity List
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	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	Due to the length of the project, it has been necessary to split the route into 'sections' to more easily describe, identify and assess the Proposed Development. There are six sections.
Section 37 Application	An application for development consent under Section 37 of the <i>Electricity Act 1989</i> .
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SF	Scottish Forestry
SHE Transmission	Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission
SPA	Special Protection Area – Designated under <i>Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of Wild Birds</i> (the <i>Birds Directive</i>) to protect important bird habitats.
Span	The section of OHL between two structures.
SPP	Species Protection Plan (SPP) – Developed by the Applicant to document general procedures, legislation and requirements for ensuring protection to a variety of species.
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.

Term	Definition
Study Area	A defined study area for the consideration of effects (including direct, indirect and cumulative) on each relevant factor listed under <i>Regulation 4(3)</i> of the <i>EIA Regulations</i> .
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.
Suspension Tower	Support structure (tower) used on straight sections of the OHL.
SW	Scottish Water
TBHS	The British Horse Society
TCA	The Coal Authority
TCC	Tealing Community Council
TMO	The MET Office
TS	Transport Scotland
Volts	The international unit of electric potential and electromotive force.
VRA	Visual Receptor Areas
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.
Woodland	Woodland is defined as vegetation dominated by trees more than 5 m high when mature, forming a distinct, although sometimes open, canopy.
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.
WT	Woodland Trust
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility - the computer-generated theoretical visibility of an object in the landscape.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Gate Check 1 Report has been prepared by Land Use Consultants Ltd (LUC) on behalf of Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN Transmission), operating under licence held by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc. (SHE Transmission). SSEN Transmission, hereafter referred to as 'the Applicant', submits this report in advance of an application to the Scottish Ministers under Section 37 of *The Electricity Act 1989* (the *Electricity Act*) for consent to construct and operate a 400 kV overhead line (OHL) between a proposed substation near Tealing, Angus (Emmock substation) and the existing substation in Kintore, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. The OHL would also connect to a proposed new substation known as Hurlie, located in Fetteresso Forest, near Stonehaven in Aberdeenshire.
- 1.1.2 The project is referred to as the Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL (and hereafter as 'the Proposed Development'). The location of the Proposed Development is shown on **Figures 1.1a-f: Location Plan and Overview**.
- 1.1.3 The application for consent for the Proposed Development will be supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). A Scoping Report² setting out the proposed scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was submitted to the Scottish Ministers on 5 September 2024 with a request for a formal Scoping Opinion. A Scoping Opinion³ was subsequently issued by the Scottish Ministers on 19 December 2024.
- 1.1.4 The purpose of this Gate Check 1 Report is to satisfy the requirements of the gate checking procedures for Applications under Section 37 of the *Electricity Act*, namely, to outline consultations with statutory and non-statutory consultees, engagement with the local community and how matters raised during the scoping process have been addressed in the EIAR⁴.
- 1.1.5 It is currently anticipated that the submission of the EIAR and Section 37 application will be made in April 2025. The Energy Consents Unit (ECU) will be informed of any changes to this, however, prior to submission, it is proposed that further consultation is undertaken with the ECU through the Gate Check Stage 2 procedure.

1.2 Background to the Proposed Development

- 1.2.1 The Applicant has a statutory duty under Schedule 9 of the *Electricity Act* to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical electrical transmission system in its licence area. Where there is a requirement to extend, upgrade or reinforce its transmission network, the Applicant's aim is to provide an environmentally aware, technically feasible and economically viable solution which would cause the least disturbance to the environment and to people who use it.

In July 2022, the National Energy System Operator (NESO⁵) published the *Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design (Pathway to 2030 HND)*⁶, setting out the blueprint for the onshore and offshore electricity transmission network infrastructure required to enable the forecasted growth in renewable electricity across Great Britain, including the UK and Scottish Government's 2030 offshore wind targets of 50 GW and 11 GW respectively.

- 1.2.2 For the north of Scotland, there is a need for a significant and strategic increase in the capacity of the onshore electricity transmission infrastructure to deliver 2030 targets and a pathway to net zero. Identified elements of the network reinforcement to deliver this capacity require accelerated development and delivery to meet 2030 connection

² SSEN Transmission (September 2024). Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report. Available at: <https://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx?cr=ECU00005225&T=11>

³ Energy Consents Unit (December 2024). Scoping Opinion on behalf of Scottish Ministers under the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. Available at: <https://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx?cr=ECU00005225>

⁴ Scottish Government (1989). *Electricity Act 1989* - sections 36 and 37: applications guidance. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/good-practice-guidance-applications-under-sections-36-37-electricity-act-1989/pages/5/>

⁵ The ESO was replaced by the National Energy System Operator in 2024.

⁶ NESO (July 2022). Pathway to 2030: A holistic network design to support offshore wind deployment for net zero. Available at: <https://www.neso.energy/future-energy/the-pathway-2030-holistic-network-design>.

dates and the East Coast 400 kV Phase 2 requires to be progressed accordingly. The need for these reinforcements has been further underlined within the recent *British Energy Security Strategy*⁷. This sets out the UK Government's plans to accelerate homegrown power to support increased UK energy independence.

- 1.2.3 The extensive studies completed to inform the NESO's *Pathway to 2030 HND* confirmed the requirement to increase the power transfer capacity of the onshore corridor from Tealing to Kintore. This requires a 400 kV connection between these sites to enable the significant power transfer capability needed to take power from onshore and large scale offshore renewable generation which is proposed to connect at onshore locations on the East Coast of Scotland before then being transported to areas of demand.
- 1.2.4 The Applicant is proposing to establish a new 400 kV OHL between Tealing and Kintore (the Proposed Development). This also requires the following:
- A new 400 kV substation to be constructed at Tealing (approximately 5 km to the north of Dundee, the proposed Emmock substation, planning reference 24/00699/FULN⁸); and
 - A new 400 kV substation to be constructed at Fetteresso Forest (approximately 7 km west of Stonehaven, the proposed Hurlie substation, planning reference APP/2024/1951⁹).
- 1.2.5 These substations are required to enable future connections to the electricity transmission network and export routes to areas of demand. The proposed Emmock and Hurlie substations are subject to separate applications for planning consent.
- 1.2.6 In addition, two existing 275 kV OHLs require upgrades. These upgrades are to enable operation at 400 kV and to allow them to be connected to the proposed new Emmock 400 kV substation and are subject to separate applications for consent:
- The Alyth to Tealing OHL (ECU reference number ECU00005167)¹⁰; and
 - Tealing to Westfield OHL (ECU reference number ECU00005168)¹¹.
- 1.2.7 A Screening Report¹² was also produced to address tie-ins and tie-backs between the Emmock and Tealing substations and the Proposed Development (ECU reference number ECU00005204).
- 1.2.8 These proposals have been determined as critical to enable the delivery of the UK and Scottish Government's renewable energy targets.

⁷ UK Government (April 2022). *British Energy Security Strategy*. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-energy-security-strategy/british-energy-security-strategy>.

⁸ SSEN Transmission (November 2024) Emmock Substation Planning Application 24/00699/FULN. Available at: <https://planning.angus.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=SN6VOFCFMUA00>

⁹ SSEN Transmission (December 2024) Hurlie Substation Planning Application APP/2024/1951. Available at: <https://upa.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=SNUVKWCAJ2G00>

¹⁰ SSEN Transmission (June 2024) Alyth to Tealing OHL 400kV Upgrade (Reconductoring) Planning Application. Available at: <https://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx?cr=ECU00005167>

¹¹ SSEN Transmission (July 2024) Tealing to Westfield OHL 400kV Upgrade (Reconductoring) Project Planning Application. Available at: <https://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx?cr=ECU00005168>

¹² SSEN Transmission (August 2024) LT455 Proposed Emmock and Tealing Overhead Line Tie-ins – Screening Request. Available at: <https://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx?cr=ECU00005204>

2. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

2.1 The Proposed Development

2.1.1 The Proposed Development comprises the construction of approximately 106 km of 400 kV double circuit OHL, supported by steel towers between the existing Kintore Substation in the north via the proposed 400 kV Hurlie substation in Fetteresso Forest, to the proposed 400 kV Emmock substation, near Tealing, in the south.

2.1.2 To facilitate both the construction and maintenance of the Proposed Development, the following elements or works would also be required:

- the upgrade of existing, or creation of new, bellmouths at public road access points;
- the formation of access tracks (permanent and temporary) and upgrades to existing access tracks;
- public road improvements (PRI) to facilitate construction traffic travelling along existing public roads. These works could include upgrades such as road widening, installation of temporary or permanent passing places, new or upgraded road junctions, and upgrades to or replacement of existing bridges;
- temporary working areas and laydown areas around infrastructure to facilitate construction: at the base of each tower to facilitate construction of tower foundations and at locations between towers to facilitate conductor stringing;
- establishment of temporary measures to protect road, water and gas pipeline crossings (e.g. scaffolding);
- 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*¹³;
- permanent realignment of existing transmission OHLs¹⁴ to make space for the Proposed Development (at Wester Durriss and Kintore substations);
- a cable sealing end compound will be required near Kintore Substation for the underground cable (UGC) replacing the existing 132 kV OHL (the installation of the UGC would be undertaken under permitted development rights);
- a crossing of the existing 132 kV OHL south of Echt using a 'diamond arrangement'¹⁵;
- establish temporary diversions of existing OHLs where necessary to enable undergrounding or realignment; and
- dismantling and removal of redundant infrastructure and removal of temporary works and site reinstatement including replanting where required.

2.1.3 A detailed description of the Proposed Development including a list of temporary diversions, realignments and crossings will be provided as part of the EIAR (**Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description**).

2.1.4 Given the length of the Proposed Development, the EIAR commonly refers to six sections that have been defined and used during the route and alignment selection stages. These sections are as follows:

- Section A – Emmock 400 kV substation to Forfar;
- Section B – Forfar to Brechin;
- Section C – Brechin to Laurencekirk;
- Section D – Laurencekirk to Hurlie 400 kV substation;
- Section E – Hurlie 400 kV substation to River Dee; and
- Section F – North of the River Dee to Kintore Substation.

¹³ The Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations (2002). Available at:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2002/2665/contents/made>

¹⁴ The existing OHL at Fetteresso forest is currently being upgraded to 400kV. These works are expected to be completed by 2027 in advance of the TKUP OHL construction and commissioning

¹⁵ SSEN Transmission (May 2024) Pathway to 2030 – Tower Crossing Considerations. Available [online]: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/globalassets/projects/2030-projects/2030-project-documents/pathway-to-2030---tower-crossings---may-24.pdf>

3. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

- 3.1.1 The Proposed Development has undergone a corridor, route and alignment selection process, informed by SSEN Transmission's *Routeing Guidance*¹⁶, which provides a framework to ensure environmental factors, technical elements and economic considerations are identified and appraised at each stage of the selection process.
- 3.1.2 The corridor, route and alignment selection process has been documented as follows:
- Consultation Document – Corridor Selection May 2023¹⁷;
 - Consultation Document – Route Selection May 2023¹⁸;
 - Report on Consultation – Corridor and Route Selection November 2023¹⁹;
 - Consultation Document – New Route Selection February 2024²⁰;
 - Report on Consultation – New Route Selection August 2024²¹;
 - Consultation Document – Alignment Selection September 2024²²; and
 - Report on Consultation – Alignment Selection January 2025 – due to be published²³.
- 3.1.3 A summary of the alternatives considered during the route and alignment selection process will be set out within the EIA (Volume 1, Chapter 4: The Routeing Process and Alternatives).

¹⁶ SSEN Transmission (September 2023) Procedures for Routeing Overhead Lines and Underground Cables of 132kV and above Ref: PR-NET-ENV-501

¹⁷ SSEN Transmission (May 2023). Consultation Document – Corridor Selection. Project: Kintore-Fiddes-Tealing 400 kV Overhead Line Connection. REF: LT455. Available at: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/globalassets/projects/east-coast-phase-2-may-2023-docs/ohl-consultation-doc/consultation-document-corridor-selection---kintore-fiddes-tealing-400kv-ohl-connection-090523.pdf>

¹⁸ SSEN Transmission (May 2023). Consultation Document – Route Selection. Project: Kintore-Fiddes-Tealing 400 kV Overhead Line Connection. REF: LT455. Available at: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/globalassets/projects/east-coast-phase-2-may-2023-docs/ohl-consultation-doc/consultation-document---route-selection-may-2023.pdf>

¹⁹ SSEN Transmission (November 2023). Report on Consultation. Kintore to Tealing 400 kV Overhead Line. Available at: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/globalassets/projects/rocs/okup-ohl/report-on-consultation---kintore-to-tealing-400kv-ohl.pdf>

²⁰ SSEN Transmission (February 2024). Consultation Document – New Route Selection. Kintore to Tealing 400 kV Overhead Line. REF: LT455. <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/globalassets/projects/kintore---tealing-400kv-ohl-downloads/march-2024-consultation-docs/kintore-to-tealing-consultation-document-new-route-selection-february-2024.pdf>

²¹ SSEN Transmission (August 2024). Report on Consultation. Kintore to Tealing 400 kV Overhead Line. Available at: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/globalassets/projects/rocs/okup-ohl-august-24/report-on-consultation-august-2024.pdf>

²² SSEN Transmission (September 2024). Consultation Document – Alignment Selection. Kintore to Tealing 400 kV Overhead Line. Available at: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/globalassets/projects/kintore---tealing-400kv-ohl-downloads/september-2024-consultation-docs/september-october-2024-alignment-consultation-document.pdf>

²³ SSEN Transmission (January 2025). Report on Consultation. Kintore to Tealing 400 kV Overhead Line. The Report on Consultation is being written concurrently with this Gate Check 1 Report and will be uploaded to the document section of the project website when available: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/kintore-tealing-400kv-ohl-connection/>.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 Scoping

- 4.1.1 A Request for a Scoping Opinion was submitted to Scottish Ministers on 5 September 2024 on the environmental information to be provided in the EIAR.
- 4.1.2 A Scoping Opinion was issued by the Scottish Ministers dated 19 December 2024. The responses contained within the Scoping Opinion have been considered in detail during the EIA process. **Appendix 1: Scoping Matrix** of this Gate Check 1 report includes a matrix detailing the issues that were raised within the Scoping Opinion and how and where they will be addressed in the EIAR. An updated version of this scoping matrix will also be included within the EIAR as **Volume 5, Appendix 6.4: Consultation Matrix** which will also provide a summary of further consultee engagement and a summary of any responses to this Gate Check 1 Report.

4.2 Key Scoping Issues

- 4.2.1 The Scoping Opinion made reference to 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

*“3.4 Scottish Ministers expect the EIA report which will accompany the application for the Proposed Development to consider in full all consultation responses attached in **Annex A and Annex B**. 3.5 Scottish Ministers are satisfied with the scope of the EIA set out at Chapter 16 of the scoping report.”*

- 4.2.2 The above statement has been noted and is subject to the points detailed in **Sections 3.5 to 3.28** of the Scoping Opinion. The EIAR will include a summary of all consultation comments received as part of the Scoping process and where these are addressed within the EIAR, where relevant, as part of **Volume 5, Appendix 6.4: Consultation Matrix**.

Drinking Water and Scottish Water Assets

- 4.2.3 *“3.7 Scottish Water provided information on whether there are any drinking water protected areas or Scottish Water assets on which the development could have any significant effect. Scottish Ministers request that the company contacts Scottish Water (via EIA@scottishwater.co.uk) and makes further enquires to confirm whether there 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”.*
- 4.2.4 *“3.8 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 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.”*
- 4.2.5 Comprehensive desk studies, site surveys and questionnaires have been carried out to identify any presence of private water supplies. Through consultation with Scottish Water, it was advised that *“The route is likely to be of low risk to water quality”* and the location of Scottish Water assets has been checked to ensure they will not be impacted. Scottish Water will also be contacted three months in advance of any works commencing on-site, as requested by them. **Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils** of the EIAR will outline any potentially impacted private water supplies and set out suitable mitigation measures as needed.

Aquatic Ecology

- 4.2.6 *“3.9 Marine Directorate – Science Evidence Data and Digital (MD-SEDD) provide generic scoping guidelines for overhead line development which outline how fish populations can be impacted during the construction, operation and decommissioning of a wind farm or overhead line development and informs developers as to what should be considered, in relation to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries, during the EIA process.”*

- 4.2.7 “3.10 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 areas of Special Areas of Conservation where fish are a qualifying feature and proposed felling operations particularly in acid sensitive areas.”
- 4.2.8 “3.11 MD-SEDD also provide standing advice for overhead line development (which has been appended at Annex B) which outlines what information, relating to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries, is expected in the EIA report. Use of the checklist, provided in Annex 1 of the standing advice, 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.”
- 4.2.9 Potential effects on fish and aquatic ecology are scoped out of **Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology** of the EIAR with the exception of freshwater pearl mussel (*margaritifera margaritifera*). The MD-SEDD checklist will be completed and submitted via the ECU prior to the Section 37 application along with full justification for exclusion of certain requirements listed within the checklist. The survey methodology for freshwater pearl mussel has been agreed through consultation with NatureScot and this species is scoped into the assessment in recognition of the Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), their sensitivity at specific locations and the less mobile nature of this species. However, best practice mitigation in the form of SEN Transmission’s General Environmental Management Plans and Species Protection Plans (GEMPs and SPPs) would be implemented to protect the water environment and the conservation status of other aquatic ecological features, including fish. Therefore, scoping in these receptors would not identify any additional mitigation. With the mitigation in place, it is considered that there is no likely impact pathway that could significantly affect the conservation status of other aquatic ecological features.

Peat Landslide Risk

- 4.2.10 “3.12 Scottish Ministers consider that where there is a 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), published at <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/04/8868>, should be followed in the preparation of the EIA report, which should contain such an assessment and details of mitigation measures. Where a PLHRA is not required clear justification for not carrying out such a risk assessment is required.”
- 4.2.11 The requirement for a PLHRA remains under review. If required, a PLHRA will be included as an appendix to **Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils** of the EIAR or justification for not carrying out the assessment will be given. As per **Section 4.2.42** of this report, the Applicant will provide the ECU with an update on the requirement to include or justification to exclude a PLHRA from the EIAR when this position is clear upon the completion of peat surveys.

Visualisation Viewpoints

- 4.2.12 “3.13 The scoping report identified viewpoints at Table 5.1 to be assessed within the landscape and visual impact assessment. See Guidance note on options for this section.”
- 4.2.13 Representative photomontage viewpoint visualisations of the Proposed Development have been selected and consulted on with the relevant local authorities. Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA), where required, will be carried out and the results will be included in the EIAR as part of **Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity**.

Lighting and Air Traffic

- 4.2.14 “3.14 The Scottish Ministers note in the Scoping Report the Company states there is no requirement for the OHL towers to be lit at night. The Scottish Ministers would however recommend that when the Company undertakes further consultation on this issue then it considers the proximity to flight paths, local air traffic, and landscape impact. The Scottish Ministers advise using low-intensity, directional lights wherever feasible to reduce environmental

disturbance, while ensuring compliance with [Civil Aviation Authority] CAA and [Ministry of Defence] MOD standards. It is important to evaluate the need for obstruction lighting on tall structures. It is noted that the Company's consultation to date with relevant stakeholders has identified that there are no significant concerns in relation to technical safeguarding for national en-route air traffic control. However, consultation will be continued through the EIA and pre-application process with aviation organisations to ensure that the proposals are designed, constructed and operate to avoid adverse impacts."

- 4.2.15 SSEN Transmission will continue to consult with Aberdeen International Airport (AIA), Dundee Airport, National Air Traffic Society (NATS) and the Ministry of Defence regarding the Proposed Development. Lighting requirements will be assessed further and if the need for obstruction lighting is identified then this will be included within the EIAR within **Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description** and any potential impacts assessed within **Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity**.

Ornithology

- 4.2.16 *"3.15 It is recommended by the Scottish Ministers that decisions on bird surveys – species, methodology, vantage points, viewsheds & duration - site specific & cumulative – should be made following discussion between the Company, RSPB and NatureScot."*
- 4.2.17 NatureScot and Royal Society of the Protection of Birds (RSPB) have been consulted throughout the design phases of the Proposed Development and will continue to be consulted upon regarding ornithological matters.

Borrow Pits

- 4.2.18 *"3.16 As detailed in Section 2.8.5 materials will be obtained from on-site borrow pits or imported from local quarries. The EIA Report should include detailed information regarding their location, size, and nature. And also include details of the proposed depth of the excavation compared to the actual topography and water table, proposed drainage and settlement traps, turf and overburden removal and storage for reinstatement, and details of the proposed restoration profile. The impact of such facilities (including dust, blasting and impact on water) should be appraised as part of the overall impact of the working. The Construction Traffic Management Plan should evaluate and include potential cumulative impacts associated with the Proposed Development and other consented developments in the area to ensure cumulative impacts and borrow pit use to source local materials are considered, and also that the sharing of borrow pit locations are properly considered in order to reduce traffic."*
- 4.2.19 Consent for borrow pits, should they be required, would be sought by the principal contractor for the Proposed Development separately from the Section 37 Application. Further information, where available, will be presented in **Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description** of the EIAR on the assumed sources of track construction materials to inform the assessment of traffic and transport impacts of the Proposed Development's construction. The EIA will assume that all materials required for construction would be imported as a 'worst case' scenario for assessment purposes.

Rail Networks

- 4.2.20 *"3.17 The Scottish Ministers recommend that potential impacts of construction and completed development on safe and efficient operation of the railway are assessed. This includes conducting a Traffic Assessment and providing details of proposed construction and engineering works near the railway, as detailed in Network Rail's Scoping response."*
- 4.2.21 The proximity of the Proposed Development to existing railways has been considered as part of the design development and the Proposed Development does not interact with any existing railways. The public roads which may need to be used to access the Site, may cross existing rail infrastructure. In this case, the suitability of using these roads for construction traffic would be assessed and if deemed unsuitable, then an alternative route to the Site would be identified. Further information will be contained within **Volume 2, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport** of the EIAR which will include a Traffic Assessment for proposed construction and engineering works.

Socio-Economics

- 4.2.22 “3.18 With regards to Socio-Economics, the Scottish Ministers note that Socio-Economics will be scoped out of the EIA, however the Company have confirmed it will provide a stand-alone Socio-Economics report. The Scottish Ministers would therefore recommend that in the stand-alone report the Proposed Development should be appropriately and fully assessed on both a national and local scale, with consideration of the relevant Planning Authority Development Plans. The Scottish Ministers also request the submitted report estimates who may be affected by the Proposed Development, in all or in part, which may require individual households to be identified, local communities or a wider socio-economic grouping such as tourists and tourist related businesses, recreational groups, attractions and events. The Socio Economic report should also include relevant economic information connected with the Proposed Development, including the potential number of jobs, and economic activity associated with the procurement, construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. This should set out the impact on the regional and local economy, not just the national economy. Any mitigation proposed should also address impacts on the regional and local economy.”
- 4.2.23 A socio-economic report will be submitted as part of the Section 37 application submission as a separate document to the EIAR and will consider the information requested by Scottish Ministers.

Cumulative Assessment

- 4.2.24 “3.19 Regarding cumulative assessment, it is recommended by the Scottish Ministers that in order to assess the full environmental impact of the Development, the Company include within the cumulative impact assessment, OHL and substation infrastructure that is associated with SSEN Transmission [Accelerated Strategic Transmission Infrastructure] ASTI projects.”
- 4.2.25 The associated SSEN Transmission Developments which will be included within the cumulative assessment in each Technical Chapter of the EIAR are specified below:
- Emmock substation;
 - tie-in of (existing, upgraded) Alyth to Tealing OHL to Emmock substation;
 - tie-in of (existing, upgraded) Tealing to Westfield OHL to Emmock substation;
 - tie-back OHL connections between Emmock substation and Tealing Substation; and
 - Hurlie substation.
- 4.2.26 In addition to the above associated SSEN Transmission Developments, a full schedule of other SSEN Transmission and Third-Party Developments will be provided in **Volume 2, Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects**.

Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

- 4.2.27 “3.21 The assessment on archaeology and cultural heritage impacts should be carried out in line with relevant legislation and standards as detailed in Section 6 of the scoping report, and should also include the recommendations by HES, Angus Council, and Aberdeenshire Council within their own consultation responses.”
- 4.2.28 Cultural Heritage impacts will be included in **Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage** of the EIAR, taking recommendations by statutory consultees into consideration. SSEN Transmission have had ongoing consultation with the statutory consultees in relation to cultural heritage impacts during design development and in selecting viewpoint locations for the assessment of effects on setting.

Noise and Vibration

- 4.2.29 “3.22 It is recommended by the Scottish Ministers that an assessment be undertaken and included within the EIAR to predict noise levels internally at noise sensitive receptors during the operation phase.”
- 4.2.30 **Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration** of the EIAR will include findings from a noise assessment, including internal noise levels during operation at sensitive receptors.

EMF Exposure

- 4.2.31 “3.23 The Proposed Development must be designed in compliance with the [International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection] ICNIRP Guidelines, and also the UK Government’s Code of Practice entitled “Power Lines: Demonstrating compliance with EMF public exposure guidelines” which implements the policy to comply with the ICNIRP guidelines. The Company’s approach to design also takes into account their statutory requirements in relation to the minimum height of overhead lines and ground clearance, and the position, insulation, and protection of OHLs to ensure compliance with the Electrical Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002. The Scottish Ministers note that a separate human health and population impact assessment Chapter will not be presented in the EIA, however welcome the Company’s commitment to provide a separate report alongside the EIA demonstrating the compliance of the electricity transmission systems for the Proposed Development with the UK guidelines on EMF exposure.”
- 4.2.32 Information demonstrating the project-specific compliance of the electricity transmission systems for the Proposed Development with the UK guidelines on electric and magnetic fields (EMF) exposure will be provided in a report separate to the EIA as part of the Section 37 application.

Forestry

- 4.2.33 “3.24 The inclusion of a specific Forestry Chapter within the EIA is welcomed. The Scottish Ministers recommend this Chapter should commit to compensatory planting, however it is understood that detailed information on compensatory planting sites may not be fully known at this stage and are therefore not required to be included in the EIA. It is also recognised that other offsite planting and biodiversity measures are not able to be included within the EIA with certainty as these are subject to landowner agreement.”

Information on compensatory planting, other offsite planting and biodiversity measures will be included within **Volume 2, Chapter 8: Forestry** and **Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology** of the EIA or appendices associated with these Chapters where available, however detailed information will need to be provided at a later stage, after completion of the EIA due to the need to obtain landowner agreements.

Traffic and Transport

- 4.2.34 “3.25 The Scottish Ministers consider the assessment scope and methodology of the Traffic and Transport Chapter to be acceptable. It is noted that consultation responses, together with feedback awaited from the relevant local authority roads departments, will be addressed in the Chapter. The traffic and transport assessment to be presented in the EIA will also take account of any further relevant guidance and standards advised by the local roads and planning authorities. It is recognised that detailed specifics of Public Road Improvement Works will not be available at the time of the EIA, however it is expected the Company will be able to include within the EIA descriptions of the works supported by maps showing indicative locations.”
- 4.2.35 A detailed Traffic and Transport Assessment will be included as an appendix to **Volume 2, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport** of the EIA. Construction details will also be included, as required. **Volume 2, Chapter 3: Project Description** will include descriptions of the works, including public road improvements, supported by maps showing indicative locations.

Hazards Assessment

- 4.2.36 “3.26 The Scottish Ministers request that the Company should carry out the necessary assessments to confirm if any part of the Proposed Development is within the consultation zone of any of the following:
- a licenced explosives site;
 - gas (or any other) pipeline;
 - existing overhead electric lines;
 - underground cables;
 - water pipes; or

- *telecommunications links.*”

4.2.37 “3.27 Scottish Ministers also request the Company to assess if any flammable, toxic or explosive chemicals detailed in The Town and Country Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Scotland) Regulations 2015 would be stored on site in quantities such that a Hazardous Substances Consent would be required under Section 2 of the Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Scotland) Act 1997.”

4.2.38 The necessary hazard assessments have been undertaken as part of the design development during the routeing and alignment selection stages and any constraints of this nature identified have been avoided as far as possible within the design of the Proposed Development. If constraints of this nature have been identified and have not been possible to avoid, then appropriate engineering mitigation solutions have been developed to avoid effects. A detailed description of the Proposed Development including a list of temporary diversions and realignments of existing OHLs will be provided as part of the EIAR (**Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description**).

4.2.39 The assessment of impacts upon Major Accidents and Disasters has been scoped out of the assessment within the EIAR with the agreement of the Scottish Ministers and therefore SSEN Transmission will provide a suitable hazards assessment outwith the EIA process, with Hazardous Substances Consent being sought where necessary.

Design Refinement

4.2.40 “3.28 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, radio links, finalisation of viewpoints, cultural heritage, cumulative assessments and request that they are kept informed of relevant discussions.”

4.2.41 Consultees will continue to be kept informed of the design of the Proposed Development with guidance being sought to allow refinement to take place. The outcome of additional consultation and engagement with stakeholders has been included within **Appendix 1: Scoping Matrix** and **Section 4.4: Stakeholders and Community Councils** of this Gate Check 1 report. The EIAR will include a comprehensive outline of all engagements that have taken place outside of the Scoping process.

Mitigation Measures

4.2.42 “4.1 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.”

4.2.43 Mitigation measures, where required, will be set out within each Technical Chapter of the EIAR and consolidated in tabular format within **Volume 2, Chapter 17: Schedule of Mitigation** as part of the EIAR.

4.3 Community Engagement

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

May 2023 Consultation

4.3.1 In May 2023, due to the accelerated delivery programme that is required to achieve the UK and Scottish Government 2030 targets, a combined Corridor and Route consultation for the Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL Proposed Development was undertaken. Feedback was sought from all interested parties on the Preferred Corridor and Preferred Route for the Proposed Development.

4.3.2 In-person public consultation events were held on the dates and at the locations detailed below:

- Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene, 2 May 2023, 14:00 – 19:00;
- Ogston Suite, Ardoe House Hotel, Aberdeen, 3 May 2023, 14:00 – 19:00;
- Dickson Hall, Laurencekirk, 4 May 2023, 14:00 – 19:00;
- Brechin City Hall, Brechin, 9 May 2023, 14:00 – 19:00;
- Westmuir Hall, Kirriemuir, 10 May 2023, 14:00 – 19:00; and
- Tealing Village Hall, Tealing, 11 May 2023, 14:00 – 19:00.

4.3.3 A virtual consultation event was held on 17 May 2023 from 16:00 – 18:00. The virtual consultation event, attended by 75 people, provided an opportunity for members of the public to view information about the Proposed Development, ask questions via a live chat function and provide feedback.

4.3.4 The Corridor Consultation Document and the Route Selection Consultation Document from the May 2023 Consultation events can be found on the project website at the following link: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/kintore-fiddes-tealing-400kv-ohl-connection/>

4.3.5 During the May 2023 OHL Consultation, SSEN Transmission also consulted on proposals for two new 400 kV substations, one at Fiddes in Aberdeenshire and the other near Tealing in Angus. Consultation Documents for these Proposed Developments can be found at the following links:

- New Fiddes 400 kV substation: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/fiddes-400kv-substation/>
- New Tealing 400 kV substation: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/tealing-400kv-substation/>

4.3.6 Following the consultation in May 2023, three separate Report on Consultation (RoC) documents were produced for the new proposed Kintore to Tealing 400 kV OHL²⁴; the new proposed 400 kV Fiddes substation²⁵; and the new proposed 400 kV Tealing substation²⁶. The RoCs provide a summary of the consultation process and events, the key feedback received from consultees and stakeholders and SSEN Transmission's response to the information received.

4.3.7 The consultation events were advertised by SSEN Transmission in *The Angus County Press*, *The Courier*, and *The Press and Journal*, via social media channels and the dedicated Proposed Development webpage. Community Councillors and Local Elected Members were emailed in advance with information and a poster they could share within their local area. A maildrop consisting of a postcard advertisement was also sent to 11,276 homes and businesses within communities potentially impacted by the proposals.

March 2024 Consultation

4.3.8 Further consultation events were held in March 2024 where the proposed substation locations changed from Tealing and Fiddes to Emmock and Hurlie. The change in substation location for Fiddes was an outcome of consultation feedback following the May 2023 events. The new substation proposed at Hurlie, necessitated new OHL routes to be brought to public consultation as well.

4.3.9 In-person public consultation events were held on the dates and at the locations detailed below:

- Memus Community Hall, Memus, 5 March 2024, 14:00 – 19:00;
- Reid Hall, Forfar, 6 March 2024, 14:00 – 19:00;

²⁴ SSEN Transmission (November 2023). Report on Consultation. Kintore to Tealing 400 kV Overhead Line. Available at: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/globalassets/projects/rocs/okup-ohl/report-on-consultation---kintore-to-tealing-400kv-ohl.pdf>

²⁵ SSEN Transmission (December 2023). Report on Consultation – Fiddes 400kV Substation. Available at: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/hurlie-400kv-substation/>

²⁶ SSEN Transmission (December 2023). Report on Consultation – Tealing 400kV Substation. Available at: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/emmock-400kv-substation/>

- Tealing Village Hall, Inveraldie, Tealing, 7 March 2024, 14:00 – 19:00;
- Brechin City Hall, Brechin, 12 March 2024, 14:00 – 19:00;
- Echt Hall, Westhill, 13 March 2024, 14:00 – 19:00;
- Dickson Memorial Hall, Laurencekirk, 14 March 2024, 14:00 – 19:00;
- Drumlithie Village Hall, Drumlithie, 19 March 2024, 14:00 – 19:00;
- Drumoak, Durris & Crathes Bowling Club, Drumoak, 20 March 2024, 14:00 – 19:00; and
- Auchenblae Village Hall, Auchenblae, 21 March 2024, 14:00 – 19:00.

4.3.10 The New Route Selection Consultation Document from the March 2024 Consultation events can be found on the Proposed Development website at the following link: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/kintore-fiddes-tealing-400kv-ohl-connection/>

4.3.11 The consultation events were advertised by SSEN Transmission in *The Angus County Press*, *The Courier*, and *The Press and Journal*, via social media channels and the dedicated Proposed Development webpage. Community Councillors and Local Elected Members were emailed in advance with information and a poster they could share within their local area and a mail drop consisting of a letter and a postcard insert was sent to 188,557 homes and businesses within communities potentially impacted by the proposals.

4.3.12 Following the consultation in March 2024, a Report on Consultation (RoC)²⁷ was produced. The RoC provides a summary of the consultation process and events, the key feedback received from consultees and stakeholders and SSEN Transmission's response to the information received.

September to October 2024 Consultation

4.3.13 In September and October 2024, feedback was sought from all interested parties on the Proposed Alignment for the Proposed Development.

4.3.14 In-person public consultation events were held on the dates and at the locations detailed below:

- Tealing Village Hall, Tealing, 23 September 2024, 13:30 – 18.30;
- Wallace Suite, Forfar, 24 September 2024, 14:00 – 19:00;
- Memus Community Hall, Forfar, 25 September 2024, 14:00 – 19:00;
- Brechin City Hall, Brechin, 26 September 2024, 14:00 – 19:00;
- Menmuir Hall, Brechin, 30 September 2024, 14:00 – 19:00;
- Kintore Public Hall, Kintore, 1 October 2024, 13:30 – 18.30;
- Etch Hall, Westhill, 2 October 2024, 14:00 – 19:00;
- Drumoak, Durris & Crathes Bowling Club, Drumoak, 3 October 2024, 14:00 – 19:00;
- Drumlithie Village Hall, Drumlithie, 7 October 2024, 14:00 – 19:00;
- Stonehaven Town Hall, Stonehaven, 8 October 2024, 14:00 – 19:00;
- Dickson Memorial Hall, Laurencekirk, 9 October 2024, 14:00 – 19:00; and
- Durris Kirkton Hall, Banchory, 10 October 2024, 14:00 – 19:00.

4.3.15 The Alignment Consultation Document along with Alignment Consultation Section leaflets, maps and booklet from the September to October Consultation events can be found on the Proposed Development website at the following link: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/kintore-fiddes-tealing-400kv-ohl-connection/>

4.3.16 Following the consultation in September and October 2024, a Report on Consultation (RoC) is being prepared concurrently with this Gate Check 1 report and will be published in due course. The RoC will provide a summary of

²⁷ SSEN Transmission (August 2024) Report on Consultation August 2024. Available at: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/kintore-tealing-400kv-ohl-connection/>

the consultation process and events, the key feedback received from consultees and stakeholders and SSEN Transmission's response to the information received. The RoC will be available to view on the Proposed Development website at the following link: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/kintore-fiddes-tealing-400kv-ohl-connection/>

4.4 Stakeholders and Community Councils

- 4.4.1 SSEN Transmission have maintained dialogue with all stakeholders and Community Councils along the proposed OHL route during each stage of the Proposed Development. They have sought to keep stakeholders and members up to date on the progress of the Proposed Development as well as alerting them to any upcoming consultation events.
- 4.4.2 In the weeks before, during, and after the consultation events, various meetings were held with other stakeholders such as landowners, statutory and non-statutory consultees, Councillors, and Community Councils to discuss the project proposals, including:
- SSEN Transmission 1st Stakeholder Meeting, 5 December 2022;
 - SSEN Transmission 1st Stakeholder Meeting, 14 December 2022;
 - SSEN Transmission 2nd Stakeholder Meeting, 18 January 2023;
 - SSEN Transmission 3rd Stakeholder Meeting, 28 March 2023;
 - Meeting. NatureScot - Ornithology Survey Methods, 12 January 2023;
 - Meeting. Historic Environment Scotland (HES), 16 March 2023;
 - Meeting. NatureScot – Ornithology and Ecology Survey Methods, 21 March 2023;
 - Meeting. HES – Routeing consultation, 18 August 2023;
 - Pre-Consultation Microsoft Teams Meeting for Local Ward Councillors Local Ward Councillors, 39 invited and seven attended, 19 April 2023;
 - Pre-consultation Webinar for Community Councils Local Community Councils, 27 invited and two attended, 25 April 2023;
 - Community Council requested in person public meeting. Arbutnott Community Council and community members, 13 June 2023;
 - Community Council requested in person public meeting. Crathes, Drumoak and Durris Community Council and community members, 14 June 2023;
 - Community Council requested in person meeting. Royal Burgh of Forfar, Aberlemno and District and Kirriemuir Landward East Community Councils, 19 June 2023;
 - Community Council requested in person public meeting. Glamis and Area Community Council and community members. 19 June 2023;
 - Community Council requested in person public meeting. Culter Community Council and community members, 18 July 2022;
 - SSEN Transmission 4th Stakeholder Meeting, 7 September 2023;
 - Call with Project Manager Royal Burgh of Forfar Community Council, 20 September 2023;
 - SSEN Transmission 5th Stakeholder Meeting, 8 November 2023;
 - Meeting with HES, 17 November 2023;
 - [REDACTED]
 - Community Council requested in-person public meeting. Crathes, Drumoak and Durris Community Council and community members, 23 January 2024;
 - Community Council requested in-person public meeting. Crathes, Drumoak and Durris Community Council and community members, 15 February 2024;

5. SUBMISSION INFORMATION

5.1 Submission

5.1.1 It is the intention to submit a Section 37 application for the Proposed Development in April 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 Section 37 application will be advertised in the national newspaper, the *Edinburgh Gazette*, as well as local newspapers (to be agreed at a later date in consultation with the ECU, as part of the Gate Check 2 procedure).

5.2.2 In agreement with the ECU, the advert will contain details of the application, where hard copies of the EIAR will be available for the public's viewing, state a deadline 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 EIAR

5.3.1 The EIAR prepared to support the Section 37 application for the Proposed Development will be made readily available in hard copy format for public viewing at the below proposed locations:

- Forfar Library, 50-56 W High St, Forfar DD8 1BA;
- Brechin Library, 10 St Ninians Square, Brechin DD9 7AD;
- Kintore Library, Kintore Primary School, Castle Walk, Kintore, Inverurie AB51 0RU; and
- Mearns Community Library, Laurencekirk, Aberdeen Rd, Laurencekirk AB30 1ZJ.

5.3.2 Any additional public viewing locations identified will be agreed with the ECU at a later stage.

5.3.3 Further copies will be available from SSEN Transmission at a charge, indicated in the advertisement.

5.3.4 The EIAR will also be available on SSEN Transmission's website: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/kintore-tealing-400kv-ohl-connection/> and the ECU website: <https://www.energyconsents.scot/>.

5.4 Consultee Lists

5.4.1 The list of consultees to be sent a copy of the submitted EIAR will be agreed with the ECU. It is anticipated to include those consultees consulted during the scoping process, as noted in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Consultees to be Issued the EIAR

Statutory Consultees	
Aberdeenshire Council	NatureScot North
Aberdeen City Council	Network Rail
Angus Council	Scottish Forestry – Perth and Argyll
Defence Infrastructure Organisation	Scottish Water
Dundee City Council	SEPA North
Historic Environment Scotland	Transport Scotland
NatureScot Central	Energy Consents Unit
Non-Statutory Consultees	
Aberdeen International Airport	National Grid (Electricity)
Aberdeen and District Soarers	National Gas Transmission

Aberdeen Hang-gliding and Paragliding Club (AHPC)	NATS Safeguarding
British Horse Society	Nuclear Safety Directorate (HSE)
British Telecoms (BT)	River Dee Trust (Fisheries Trust Scotland)
Cairngorms National Park Authority	RSPB Scotland
Civil Aviation Authority - Airspace	Scottish Canoe Association
Coal Authority	Scottish Environment Link
Crown Estate Scotland	Scottish Gas Networks
Dee DSFB (Salmon Fisheries Board)	Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays)
Dee Catchment Partnership	Scottish Wild Land Group (SWLG)
Dundee Airport	Scottish Wildlife Trust
Esk DSFB (Salmon Fisheries Board)	SUSTRans Scotland
Fisheries Management Scotland	Tay DSFB (Salmon Fisheries Board)
Helo Colter Helipad	Tay Foundation (Fisheries Trust Scotland)
John Muir Trust	The Esk Rivers & Fisheries Trust (Fisheries Trust Scotland)
Joint Radio Company	The MET Office
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	The River South Esk Catchment Partnership
Mountaineering Scotland	Visit Scotland
National Farmers Union	Woodland Trust
National Trust Scotland	
Community Councils and Local Groups	
Aberlemno and District Community Council	Glamis Community Council
Arbuthnott Community Council	Inveresk Community Council
Auchterhouse Community Council	Kemnay Community Council
Brechin Community Council	Kintore Community Council
Catterline, Kinneff and Dunnottar Community Council	Kirriemuir Landward East Community Council
Cluny, Midmar & Monymusk Community Council	Mearns Community Council
Crathes, Drumoak & Durriss Community Council	Saint Cyrus Community Council
Culter Community Council	Stonehaven & District Community Council
Echt & Skene Community Council	Strathmartine Community Council
Elrick Community Council	Tealing Community Council
Feughside Community Council	

APPENDIX 1: SCOPING MATRIX

Table 2: Scoping Matrix

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
1	Aberdeenshire Council (ADC) ADC01	Consideration of Underground Lines	ADC request that the advantages of undergrounding the line are set out in full (both environmental and technical) within the EIAR.	Annex A pages 1-21	Volume 5, Appendix 4.1: Alternative Technology Options and Design Solutions	Alternative technology options and design solutions will be laid out within Volume 5, Appendix 4.1: Alternative Technology Options and Design Solutions to Volume 1, Chapter 4: The Routeing Process and Alternatives.
2	ADC02	Landscape and Visual – Route Options	<p>ADC state that Option 1b between Tealing and Fiddes is likely to be less constrained than Options 1a and 1c. However, the Braes of Mearns Special Landscape Area is a principal constraint due to policy woodlands around Fettercairn, the setting of this settlement and nearby designed landscapes key concerns, and views from well-known viewpoints within and outside the Special Landscape Area.</p> <p>ADC advise that options for crossing the Dee Valley on the route section are constrained by the proximity of settlements and environmental designations associated with the River Dee and Loch Skene.</p> <p>ADC highlight that Route Option 2a is most constrained environmentally, including in terms of potential landscape and visual sensitivities. The preferred Route 2b includes the eastern part of the Dee Valley Special Landscape Area - careful routeing is needed to minimise effects on this designated landscape.</p>	Annex A pages 1-21	Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity Volume 4, Visualisations	<p>It is noted that this response covers both the routeing as part of scoping and also addresses the subsequent alignment options which were presented at consultation during the review period for scoping.</p> <p>The alignment options discussed are within the Preferred Route and so within the same landscape study area. Routeing took into consideration effects on the Dee Valley and Braes of Mearns Special Landscape Areas and the alignment options were then developed further, still taking the Special Landscape Areas into account.</p> <p>Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity will consider effects on the Dee Valley and Braes of Mearns Special Landscape Areas and the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) will include several viewpoints (VPs) within or looking towards the Special Landscape Areas.</p>

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
			Route 2c includes the major settlements of Peterculter and Westhill.			
3	ADC03	Ecology Mitigation – Route Options	ADC recommended mitigation in the form of planting trees, woodlands and hedgerows within Route Options 1b and 2b to help screen the proposal from roads and residential properties. These measures would additionally enhance biodiversity and landscape character.	Annex A pages 1-21	Volume 2, Chapter 8: Forestry Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology	Information on compensatory planting, offsite planting, landscape planting within the operational corridor and biodiversity measures will be included within Volume 2, Chapter 8: Forestry, Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity and Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology of the EIAR or appendices associated with these Chapters where available, however detailed information will need to be provided at a later stage to take account of landowner agreements which will be clarified and confirmed in the relevant Chapter of the EIAR if required.
4	ADC04	Forestry	ADC note that Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) do not appear on any constraints map and need to be considered. TPOs at Luthermuir, Durris and Drumoak are close to the proposed route and should be noted in the case of further route changes.	Annex A pages 1-21	N/A	TPOs have been considered as part of the Proposed Development design and are avoided by the Proposed Development.
5	ADC05	Cultural Heritage	ADC state that the scope is acceptable. Compensatory planting should be included in the Cultural Heritage Assessment. Clearly demonstrate how landscape prevents any impact on the setting of Castle Fraser.	Annex A pages 1-21	Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage	<p>It has been noted that HES generally do not recommend that forestry is used as screening mitigation (Please refer to entry No. 24 of this table below, Consultee reference HES01).</p> <p>Please refer to entry No. 3 of this table above regarding provision of information on compensatory planting.</p> <p>A cultural heritage assessment of any compensatory planting proposals will be undertaken as required when the land for compensatory planting has been identified and agreed.</p> <p>At its closest Castle Fraser Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL) (GDL 91) lies circa 2.2 km from the Proposed Development.</p>

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
						<p>A draft Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for the Potential Alignment indicates that there would be no predicted visibility of the Proposed Development from Category A Listed Castle Fraser (LB 2924), which is sited towards the centre of the GDL. The draft ZTV suggests that some limited visibility of the Proposed Development may be visible from higher slopes within the northwest of the GDL, however, visibility of the Proposed Development would be mostly screened by intervening topography (at Braeneil, Lumphanan Hill, and Lauchintilly Wood) and by woodland policies.</p> <p>The Proposed Development would not be visible in key views from the principal (north and south) elevations of Castle Fraser (LB 2924), nor would the Proposed Development be visible in key views to the Castle, including from the tree lined avenue to the north of the Castle. Key views from the northern edge of the GDL looking across the River Don and to the Bennachie Hills would be unaffected.</p> <p>The key aspects of the Castle's setting are the parkland and woodland policies in which it stands, its relationship with other listed buildings and designed features within the GDL, and views to and from the principal elevations from within the GDL. Given the separation distance it is unlikely that the Proposed Development would compromise the setting of Category A Listed Castle Fraser or its associated GDL.</p> <p>The potential impact of the Proposed Development on the setting of Castle Fraser will be fully addressed in the EIAR in Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage.</p>

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
6	ADC06	Ecology	ADC ask for consideration of North East Scotland Biodiversity Partnership (NESBiP) Locally Important Species to be included in paragraphs 7.2.3 and 7.3.1. The EIA should include consideration of data from North East Scotland Biological Records Centre (NESBReC) and assess (i.e. include in 7.7) any potentially significant effects. Table 7.1, key habitats appears incomplete e.g. Acid grass land and upland birch are both present on Local Nature Conservation Sites (LNCS) within the route corridor.	Annex A pages 1-21	Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology	In relation to the NESBiP Locally Important Species for consideration, water shrew has been included in desk study considerations. It has been noted some of the additional habitats recommended should be considered including upland birchwood and acid grassland. Acid grassland is included in the Scottish Biodiversity List (SBL) where it occurs in the enclosed lowlands. Both of these receptors will be included in the EIA assessment if/where identified that they are present and could be impacted. A full data request has been received from NSBReC (July 2024).
7	ADC07	Ornithology	ADC state that the scope of Ornithological surveys seems to be acceptable.	Annex A pages 1-21	N/A	This has been noted.
8	ADC08	Hydrology	ADC would expect the EIAR to include a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA).	Annex A pages 1-21	Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils	Site-specific FRA reports are not required for the Proposed Development, as flood risk areas have been avoided in design development.
9	ADC09	Traffic and Transport	ADC would expect the EIAR to include full details of construction traffic to each site from the adjoining trunk road network. Full details of how the construction traffic interaction with the existing public roads will be managed should be provided. Parking requirements should be detailed. Engage with Roads Development via the Planning Service.	Annex A pages 1-21	Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description Volume 2, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport	Construction traffic will be detailed within Volume 2, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport of the EIAR and a Construction Traffic Management Plan will be implemented as part of the Proposed Development through the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which will be presented in Outline as part of Volume 5, Chapter 3: Appendix 3.5: Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan . With regards to the details on Public Road Improvement works, the ECU (in section 3.25 of the Scoping Opinion) acknowledge that <i>"It is recognised that detailed specifics of Public Road Improvement Works will not be available"</i>

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
						<i>at the time of the EIAR, however it is expected the Company will be able to include within the EIAR descriptions of the works supported by maps showing indicative locations.</i> The EIAR will contain descriptions of the Public Road Improvement Works required and maps will be provided showing indicative locations as part of Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description .
10	ADC10	Noise	ADC state that there does not appear to be any proposal to predict noise levels internally at noise sensitive receptors. It was advised previously that an indoor noise criteria of NR25 daytime and NR20 night-time at noise sensitive premises would need to be applied. If the final noise impact assessment excludes this, this will likely mean this service will have to object to the proposal on the grounds of insufficient information. The indoor noise criterion would also need to consider the cumulative impact	Annex A pages 1-21	Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration	An internal noise assessment during operation will be included as part of Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration of the EIAR.
11	ADC11	Population and Human Health	ADC state that the scope is accepted but concerns remain regarding electric and magnetic fields, therefore clear rationale is required.	Annex A pages 1-21	N/A	SSEN Transmission develop, build, and operate their infrastructure to meet all health and safety legislation and guidance set by relevant bodies including the UK Government, Scottish Government, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Ofgem – including that associated with Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF). In respect of EMFs, SSEN strictly follow the guidance as set by the UK Government, which in turn is informed by international guidance. SSEN Transmission will provide an EMF compliance Report separate to the EIAR but as part of the Section 37 application.

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
12	ADC12	Scoped out topics	ADC agree that Air Quality, Climate Change, Major Accidents are to be scoped out with clear rationale included.	Annex A pages 1-21	N/A	This has been noted.
13	Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS) ACAS01	Cultural Heritage	ACAS suggest that the additional visual assets are considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glack Cairn (SM 12120) • Lang Stane, Auquhollie (SM 983) • Droop Hill Cairns (SM 4778) 	N/A – Opinion provided as part of landscape and visual consultation.	Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage Volume 4, Visualisations	<p>During separate consultations with HES and ACAS further cultural heritage viewpoints have also been identified for inclusion in the assessment, detailed within Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Droop Hill (SM 4778); • Glack Cairns (SM 12120); • Glamis Castle (LB 11701 / GDL 189); • Glenbervie House (GDL 194); • Careston Castle (LB 4656); and • Barmekin Hillfort (SM 57). <p>Visualisations for the third asset suggested (Nether Auquhollie, Inscribed Stone (the Lang Stane) (SM 983)) will not be included. Following refinement of the design of the project, the asset is now approximately 3 km away from the Proposed Development and is considered unlikely to have a significant adverse impact on its setting.</p>
14	Aberdeen City Council (ACC) ACC01	Landscape and Visual	ACC note that the proposed line does not enter the Council area. LVIA viewpoints should be produced from within the City looking westwards towards the line - near to the River Dee and Little Eddieston.	N/A – provided as part of separate landscape and visual consultation.	Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity Volume 4, Visualisations	The LVIA will include an additional viewpoint at Little Eddieston (VP33) to represent open views from the western extent of the Aberdeen City Council area and views experienced by residents and road users in this area. This viewpoint will be included within Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the EIAR.
15	Angus Council (AC) AC01	Landscape and Visual	AC have concerns that significant effects may occur beyond the modest 3 km wide offset and should be increased to 5 km on either side. Exploring route options through an iterative LVIA process is	Annex A pages 22-39	Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity	Based on previous experience assessing the landscape and visual impacts of OHLs, it is considered that the 3 km LVIA study area proposed is proportionate to the scale of the OHL development and will cover the area

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
			welcomed. AC raised that the numbering in the proposed viewpoints list does not match the location of viewpoints. AC provide a list of additional viewpoints which should be considered.		Volume 4, Visualisations	where likely significant effects are anticipated to occur. ant viewpoints up to 5 km from the project where there is, in the assessor's professional opinion, the potential for significant visual effects to arise beyond the 3 km study area. Local Landscape Areas will be included within the LVIA alongside an explanation as to the basis for selecting specific viewpoints in Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the EIAR. The viewpoint list has been agreed with Angus Council.
16	AC02	Scope of EIAR and Consideration of Alternatives	AC are largely satisfied with the scope of the EIAR. It is important that the EIAR sets out a description of the reasonable alternatives.	Annex A pages 22-39	Volume 1, Chapter 4: The Routeing Process and Alternatives	Volume 1, Chapter 4: The Routeing Process and Alternatives of the EIAR will outline the design process through the corridor, routeing and alignment selection stages and also describe the alternatives considered in determining a proposed alignment.
17	AC03	Recreational Receptors	AC's Countryside Access Officer requests that consideration be given to additional recreational receptors in Volume 2, Chapter 7: Land Use .	Annex A pages 22-39	Volume 2, Chapter 7: Land Use	Public Rights of Way and Heritage Path information was obtained from Scotways in February 2024. Due to Copyright reasons, it has not been possible for this information to be reproduced digitally within documentation to date, however the Applicant is exploring how this data can be submitted within the EIAR. Recreation and tourism assessment has been scoped out of the EIAR, however, the location of such receptors will be described within Volume 2, Chapter 7: Land Use . Other recreational receptors including core paths and National Cycle Network (NCN) routes, rivers used for recreational fishing and key land uses associated with tourism will also be described in Volume 2, Chapter 7: Land Use and an Outline Access Management Plan will be provided as Volume 5, Appendix 7.1: Draft Outdoor Access Management Plan , outlining the mitigation proposals which will

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
						ensure no significant effects will occur for recreational receptors.
18	AC04	Local Landscape Areas	AC state that the Scoping Report indicates (at 5.6.7) that the Local Landscape Areas in Angus have yet to be formally adopted. These were approved by AC on 16 April 2024 and are no longer subject to change, so should be scoped in.	Annex A pages 22-39	Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity	This has been noted and the Local Landscape Areas will be included within Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the EIAR.
19	AC05	Landscape and Visual	The Landscape and Visual advisor at AC commented that the proposed 170 m general threshold for the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) may not capture all significant impacts on housing.	Annex A pages 22-39	Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity	<p>The EIAR will include a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) within Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the EIAR where appropriate and the rationale for this will be clearly articulated where this is the case.</p> <p>Since the scoping report was published, the approach to RVAA has developed and is no longer based on a distance threshold. Within the LVIA, residential visual amenity will be considered as part of the visual assessment whereby visual receptors, including residents at properties, are grouped by geographical area within the study area, and called visual receptor areas (VRAs). The assessment will take a case-by-case approach to consider individual or groups of residential properties within each VRA to determine the potential for the residential amenity threshold to be breached by the presence of the Proposed Development. This approach has been agreed with Angus Council during a meeting held with them on 18/12/2024.</p> <p>The Landscape Institute RVAA Guidance notes in para. 4.7 that “<i>when assessing effects of overhead transmission lines, generally only those properties within 100-150m of the finalized route are potentially considered for inclusion in a RVAA</i>”.</p>

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
20	AC06	Cultural Heritage	The Archaeology Service at AC agrees with the proposed scope, methodology and matters to be scoped out and mitigation.	Annex A pages 22-39	N/A	This has been noted.
21	AC07	Ecology and Ornithology	The Environment Service at AC are satisfied with the Ecology and Ornithology methodology.	Annex A pages 22-39	N/A	This has been noted.
22	AC08	Traffic and Transport	The Roads Service at AC are satisfied with the Traffic and Transport methodology.	Annex A pages 22-39	N/A	This has been noted.
23	AC09	Noise	The Environmental Health Service at AC are generally satisfied but suggest it is not clear that an assessment of internal noise levels within sensitive receptors during the operational phase will be undertaken, and requests that this requirement is identified in the scoping response.	Annex A pages 22-39	Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration	An internal noise assessment during operation at sensitive receptors will be included within Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration of the EIAR.
24	Historic Environment Scotland (HES) HES01	Cultural Heritage - visualisations	<p>HES are generally content with the proposed study areas but advise including the following Inventory Garden and Designed Landscapes (GDL):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brechin Castle (GDL00070) • Fasque House (GDL00178) • Edzell Castle (GDL00169) <p>The additional visualisations are also suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glamis Castle (LB11701): roofwalk at the Castle may provide views along the Glamis Castle Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape's (GDL00189) northeast avenue towards the proposed OHL route. 	Annex A pages 40-54	Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage Volume 4, Visualisations	<p>The three Garden and Designed Landscapes listed by HES will be included in the assessment within Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage.</p> <p>During separate consultations with HES and ACAS further cultural heritage viewpoints have also been identified for inclusion in the assessment, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Droop Hill (SM 4778); • Glack Cairns (SM 12120); • Glamis Castle (LB 11701 / GDL 189); • Glenbervie House (GDL 194); • Careston Castle (LB 4656); and • Barmekin Hillfort (SM 57). <p>Consideration will be given to views towards these assets and this will be included within the EIAR.</p>

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glenbervie House (GDL00194): suggest a wireframe visualisation is produced from its western edge. Careston Castle (LB4656): suggest a wireline visualisation is produced looking towards the castle's principal elevation with the OHL behind. <p>HES generally do not recommend that forestry is used as screening mitigation. Wireframes and photomontages suggested do not take into consideration views towards assets. These should be included or an explanation provided.</p>			
25	HES02	Cultural Heritage	<p>HES refer to the HES EIA Handbook ²⁸for best practice advise on assessing cultural heritage impacts. HES recommend a wider search area of cultural heritage assets and that an appropriately detailed ZTV should be used to identify potential setting impacts.</p>	Annex A pages 40-54	Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage	<p>The EIA handbook will be used to guide the assessment on cultural heritage impacts. Additional consultation with HES in October 2024 advised that the following Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs): Brechin Castle (GDL 70), Fasque House (GDL 178) and Edzell Castle (GDL 169), which lie partly or just outside the 3 km study area should be included in the EIA. These designated heritage assets will be included in the assessment. All additional consultation undertaken with HES will be detailed within Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage of the EIAR.</p>
26	HES03	Cultural Heritage	<p>HES provide Cultural Heritage considerations mentioned within the route:</p> <p>Section A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balkemback Cottages, stone circle, Arniefoul, cairn, Carlunie Hill, cairn; 	Annex A pages 40-54	Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage	<p>These assets have been noted and will be considered within Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage of the EIAR (where relevant following the design evolution of the Proposed Development). Please refer to entry No. 5 of this table above regarding Castle Fraser.</p>

²⁸ Historic Environment Scotland (May 2018) Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=6ed33b65-9df1-4a2f-acbb-a8e800a592c0>

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
			<p>Nether Arniefoul unenclosed settlement, Kirkton, homestead moat</p> <p>Section B:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Battledykes, Roman camp and Battledykes, cairn; Law of Baldoukie, Baldoukie soutterains; Vayne Castle; Vayne, standing stone; Law of Windsor, cairn; Ballinshoe Castle • Careston Castle <p>Section C:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mill of Balrownie; group of monuments around West Water; Stracathro, Roman fort and camp <p>Section D:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Droop Hill, cairns <p>Section E:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nether Auquhollie, inscribed stone <p>Section F:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tillyorn, moated homestead; New Wester Echt, stone circle; South Leylodge Steading, stone circle. <p>A list of SMs outwith the route; Category A listed buildings and GDLs is also provided:</p> <p>Section A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glamis Castle • Section B: • Kirkton of Tealing, Kintrockat House, Brechin Castle • Section C: • Edzell Castle, Stracathro House, Balbengo Castle, Fasque House • Section D: 			

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phesdo House, Glenbervie House • Section E/F: • Crathes Castle, Park House, Drum Castle, Echt Parish Church, Dunecht House, Castle Fraser 			
27	NatureScot (NS) NS01	Landscape and Visual	NS state the Proposed Development is unlikely to raise issues of national interest in relation to landscape and visual matters.	Annex A pages 55-66	Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity	This has been noted.
28	NS02	Collision Risk Modelling (CRM)	NS are happy with the proposed approach to Collision Risk Modelling. They welcome the consideration of the post-construction Beaulieu-Denny monitoring. NS welcome the fieldwork carried out thus far. They generally do not advise on CRM methods. NS advise the best approach would be line marking in any high-risk areas.	Annex A pages 55-66	Volume 2, Chapter 12: Ornithology	Line marking of conductors has been included within the design of the Proposed Development as embedded mitigation where required and will be detailed within Volume 2, Chapter 12: Ornithology of the EIAR. Further consultation is being undertaken with NS on the mitigation proposed.
29	NS03	Fresh Water Pearl Mussel	<p>NS state there is evidence of Fresh Water Pearl Mussel close to all of crossings/grid refs on the River South Esk and tributaries, close to one of the grid refs (NO8098) at Park/Drumoak on the River Dee. NS state that it is unlikely that the OHL will need to avoid the rivers and access to the channels themselves, but a survey is likely to be required. NS are content with proposed survey approach.</p> <p>NS expect that surveys are undertaken to inform construction and any further works where Fresh Water Pearl Mussel or their habitat could be adversely affected by silt-laden runoff (via towers/access tracks).</p>	Annex A pages 55-66	Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology	<p>Surveys have been completed following methodology agreed with NS through separate consultation in May 2024.</p> <p>Fresh Water Pearl Mussel will be considered in the EIAR and a Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) will be included as an appendix to Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology of the EIAR.</p>

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
			Surveys should be undertaken with a minimum of 100m upstream and 500m downstream and in line with advice: https://www.nature.scot/doc/standing-advice-planning-consultations-freshwater-pearl-mussels ²⁹			
30	NS04	Bat Survey Methods	<p>NS are content with the method proposed and are considered to be proportionate. NS expect all surveys to be in accordance with updated BCT Guidelines (4th Edition)³⁰. Where bespoke approaches are required, explanation, justification and limitations should be provided.</p> <p>NS request that there is consideration of radio tracking where large numbers of trees would be affected.</p> <p>Fieldwork done in 2023 and 2024 will remain valid to inform the EIAR and approval decisions and likely be relevant to support licence applications in 2025.</p> <p>Post-consent, additional bat survey work and pre-construction surveys will be required to inform licensing requirements.</p> <p>The EIAR needs to include bat species that are likely to be affected, the magnitude of impact and impacts to local populations and distributions, and if rare/exceptional roosts are likely to be affected.</p> <p>If potential roosting habitat will be lost, the EIAR need to include what the bat activity levels suggest the value of that</p>	Annex A pages 55-66	Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology	<p>Surveys have been completed following methodology agreed with NS through separate consultation In May 2024.</p> <p>Effects on bats will be considered in Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology of the EIAR</p>

²⁹ NatureScot (August 2024) Standing advice for planning consultations - Freshwater Pearl Mussels. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/standing-advice-planning-consultations-freshwater-pearl-mussels>

³⁰ Bat Conservation Trust (March 2024) Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines 4th edition. Available at: <https://www.bats.org.uk/resources/guidance-for-professionals/bat-surveys-for-professional-ecologists-good-practice-guidelines-4th-edition>

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
			<p>resource to be. Rare species will require more detail.</p> <p>Mitigation and enhancement should be incorporated, including opportunities to retain, create and sensitively manage hedge habitats through wayleave maintenance with a phased approach.</p> <p>Creation of woodland edges and low shrub planting / shrub retention within the wayleave will provide habitats.</p> <p>NS advised that licensing takes a minimum of 6 weeks to process individual licences and more complex applications take longer.</p>			
31	NS05	Scope of EIAR	<p>NS agree with topics scoped in/out. They refer applicants to standing advice and guidance documents³¹, Guidance on Assessment and mitigation of impacts of power lines and guyed meteorological masts on birds³² and Opportunities for biodiversity enhancement³³. NS are aware that the OHL may have an impact on protected areas but are working with SSEN Transmission to try to avoid significant adverse effects.</p>	Annex A pages 55-66	Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology Volume 2, Chapter 12: Ornithology	This has been noted. SSEN Transmission continue to have ongoing discussions with NS. Impacts on protected areas will be also covered within the HRA and SSSI assessment.
32	NS06	Ecology and Ornithology	<p>NS ask that additional items to be scoped into the EIAR including:</p>	N/A additional email correspondence from	Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology	Further discussion with NS is taking place to identify whether it would be proportionate to include the items requested for inclusion. Where it is concluded that the additional items should be scoped into the EIAR they be

³¹ NatureScot (November 2024) Planning and development: standing advice and guidance documents. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/planning-and-development-advice/planning-and-development-standing-advice-and-guidance-documents>

³² NatureScot (2016) Guidance - Assessment and mitigation of impacts of power lines and guyed meteorological masts on birds. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/guidance-assessment-and-mitigation-impacts-power-lines-and-guyed-meteorological-masts-birds>

³³ NatureScot (September 2024) Planning and Development: Enhancing biodiversity. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/planning-and-development/planning-and-development-advice/planning-and-development-enhancing-biodiversity>

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impacts on protected and notable species as a result of disturbance during construction; Aquatic ecological features (with the exception of freshwater pearl mussel) and brown hare (<i>lepus europaeus</i>), amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates during construction; Operational impacts on designated sites, habitats of conservation concern, and protected and notable species; Electrocution on designated features/Schedule 1 birds and BoCC. 	NatureScot 23/12/24.	Volume 2, Chapter 12: Ornithology	included Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology and Volume 2, Chapter 12: Ornithology as relevant.
33	Network Rail (NR) NR01	Traffic and Transport – Rail lines	NR suggests a traffic assessment should be included in the EIAR including preferred construction traffic routes. Details of proposed construction works in vicinity of railway lines (including location, design and construction of buried cable) should also be included.	Annex A pages 109-110	Volume 2, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport	A traffic assessment will be included as an appendix to Volume 2, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport of the EIAR. Construction details in the vicinity of railway lines will be included as required.

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34	Scottish Forestry (SF) SF01	Woodland Management and Tree Felling	Policies, guidance and data sources ^{34 35 36 37 38 39 40} were provided by SF. SF state that the EIAR should include a stand-alone Chapter on 'Woodland management and tree felling'.	Annex A pages 123-125	Volume 2, Chapter 8: Forestry	The EIAR will include a standalone Chapter on Forestry. A series of woodland reports will be included as appendices to the Chapter. Information on management felling will also be included within the Volume 2, Chapter 8: Forestry of the EIAR where possible but will not form part of the assessment.
35	Scottish Water (SW) SW01	Drinking water quality	SW state that they have no objection. The Proposed Development falls partly within two drinking water catchments where a SW abstraction is located. The route is likely to be of low risk to water quality. Request that SW are contacted 3 months in advance of any works commencing on-site at protectdwsources@scottishwater.co.uk .	Annex A pages 111-114	Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils	This has been noted and Scottish Water will be contracted 3 months in advance of any works commencing.

³⁴ Forestry Commission Scotland (February 2009) The Scottish Government's *Policy on Control of Woodland Removal*. Available at: <https://www.forestry.gov.scot/publications/285-the-scottish-government-s-policy-on-control-of-woodland-removal/viewdocument/285>

³⁵ The Forestry Commission (2023) The UK Forestry Standard; The governments' approach to sustainable forestry. Available at: <https://www.forestry.gov.scot/publications/1522-the-uk-forestry-standard-the-governments-approach-to-sustainable-forestry-5th-edition/viewdocument/1522>

³⁶ Scottish Government (December 2022) Biodiversity strategy to 2045: tackling the nature emergency – draft. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-biodiversity-strategy-2045-tackling-nature-emergency-scotland/pages/5/>

³⁷ Scottish Forestry (2019) Forestry Strategy. Available at: <https://www.forestry.gov.scot/forestry-strategy>

³⁸ Scottish Forestry (n.d) Woodland Creation. Available at: <https://www.forestry.gov.scot/support-regulations/woodland-creation>

³⁹ Scottish Forestry (n.d) Woodland Removal. Available at: <https://www.forestry.gov.scot/support-regulations/control-of-woodland-removal>

⁴⁰ Scottish Forestry (n.d) Scottish Forestry Open Data. Available at: <https://open-data-scottishforestry.hub.arcgis.com/>

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
36	Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) SEPA01	Guidance	Regulatory advice and guidance was provided by SEPA ^{41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55}	Annex A pages 67-75	Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils	This advice has been noted.
37	SEPA02	Hydrology Buffers	SEPA advise that 50 m buffer guidance has always been given for windfarm developments. The recommended riparian corridors can be followed for these transmission works.	Annex A pages 67-75	Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils	SSEN Transmission have endeavoured to achieve a 50 m buffer wherever possible and considered the recommended riparian corridors during the design of the Proposed Development. For any instances where the minimum recommended riparian corridor distances cannot be achieved, details will be

⁴¹ SEPA (n.d) Water run-off from construction sites. Available at: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/water/pollution-control/water-run-off-from-construction-sites/>

⁴² NetRegs (n.d) Guidance for Pollution Prevention (GPP) documents. Available at: <https://www.netregs.org.uk/environmental-topics/guidance-for-pollution-prevention-gpp-documents/>

⁴³ Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (April 2014) Use of Trees Cleared to Facilitate Development on Afforested Land. Available at:

https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/143799/use_of_trees_cleared_to_facilitate_development_on_afforested_land_sepa_snh_fcs_guidance_-_april_2014.pdf

⁴⁴ Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (August 2006) IS IT A WASTE: Understanding the definition of waste. Available at: https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/154077/is_it_waste.pdf

⁴⁵ Peatland Action (June 2024) Peatland ACTION - Technical Compendium. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/peatland-action-technical-compendium>

⁴⁶ NatureScot (November 2023) Advising on peatland, carbon-rich soils and priority peatland habitats in development management. Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/advising-peatland-carbon-rich-soils-and-priority-peatland-habitats-development-management>

⁴⁷ Scottish Renewables (2019) Good Practice during Wind Farm Construction. Available at:

https://www.scottishrenewables.com/assets/000/000/453/guidance__good_practice_during_wind_farm_construction_original.pdf?1579640559

⁴⁸ SEPA (n.d) Regulations. Available at: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/>

⁴⁹ SEPA (July 2024) Flood Risk Standing Advice for Planning Authorities. Available at:

<https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sepa.org.uk%2Fmedia%2Fhbghpr1p%2Fflood-risk-standing-advice.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>

⁵⁰ SEPA (September 2017) Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Development Proposals on Groundwater Abstractions and Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems. Available [online]:

<https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/144266/lups-gu31-guidance-on-assessing-the-impacts-of-development-proposals-on-groundwater-abstractions.pdf>

⁵¹ SEPA (November 2010) Engineering in the water environment: good practice guide: River Crossings. Available at: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/151036/wat-sg-25.pdf>

⁵² SEPA (n.p) Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR) Flood Risk Standing Advice for Engineering, Discharge and Impoundment Activities. Available at: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/94134/car-flood-risk-standing-advice-for-engineering-discharge-and-impoundment-activities.pdf>

⁵³ SEPA (June 2022) Technical Flood Risk Guidance for Stakeholders. Available at: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/162602/ss-nfr-p-002-technical-flood-risk-guidance-for-stakeholders.pdf>

⁵⁴ Scottish Government (2017) Guidance on Developments on Peatland. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2018/12/peatland-survey-guidance/documents/peatland-survey-guidance-2017/peatland-survey-guidance-2017/govscot%3Adocument/Guidance%2Bon%2Bdevelopments%2Bon%2Bpeatland%2B-%2Bpeatland%2Bsurvey%2B-%2B2017.pdf>

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
						provided in Volume 5, Appendix 13.1: Watercourse Crossing and Buffer Encroachment Assessment .
38	SEPA03	Drainage Ditches	SEPA stated they would permit temporary access tracks running alongside drainage ditches depending on-site specific circumstances and whether the access tracks were floated. Ten metres is the recommendation in most circumstances – relaxation for drains rather than natural watercourses maybe acceptable.	Annex A pages 67-75	Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils	This has been noted. For any instances where the minimum recommended riparian corridor distances cannot be achieved, details will be provided in Volume 5, Appendix 13.1: Watercourse Crossing and Buffer Encroachment Assessment .
39	SEPA04	Watercourse Crossings	SEPA did not provide a comment on the proposed approach to watercourse crossings however SEPA will undertake internal consultation on each watercourse crossing proposed if SEPA guidance is not followed.	Annex A pages 67-75	Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils	A watercourse crossing schedule will be prepared and submitted as Volume 5, Appendix 13.1: Watercourse Crossing and Buffer Encroachment Assessment of the EIAR. Any further consultation will be sought if deemed necessary.
40	SEPA05	Peat Surveys and Assessment	SEPA confirm detailed peat probing will only be required within the micro-siting limits of excavations for the towers and any associated infrastructure if Phase 1 peat surveys indicate the possibility of peat in that location.	Annex A pages 67-75	Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils	This has been noted. The location of peat has been considered as part of the design development. Peat probing has been undertaken where required for the Proposed Development and the results will be submitted as Volume 5, Appendix 13.3: Peat Depth Survey Report of the EIAR.
41	SEPA06	Contaminated Land Investigations	SEPA require more information as the project design develops. They state that there are a number of former airfields within the Proposed Development corridor which may lead to the requirement for additional contaminated land investigations if any excavations are proposed within 1 km radius of these sites.	Annex A pages 67-75	Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description	A desk study is being undertaken for contaminated land across the Site, the results will be included in the EIAR as required. It has been noted that the Scottish Wetland Inventory GIS layer should inform the EIAR and surveys. Standing advice regarding peatland and Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTEs) has been provided.

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
			<p>SEPA highlight the database, The Scottish Wetland Inventory⁵⁶ GIS layer, that should inform the EIAR and possible future surveys.</p> <p>Detailed general scoping requirements were provided within appendix 1 of the SEPA scoping response.</p>			
42	Transport Scotland (TS) TS01	Traffic and Transport	<p>TS state that the study area and thresholds of the proposed Traffic and Transport Chapter are acceptable. TS ask that “estimated” data from the DfT site is not used. If abnormal loads are envisaged then a full Abnormal Loads Assessment report should be provided.</p>	Annex A pages 126-128	Volume 2, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport	This has been noted.
43	Aberlemno and District Community Council (AADCC) AADCC01	Landscape and Visual	<p>AADCC state that views from outwith the narrowly defined corridor should be considered e.g. hill forts on Finavon and Caterthuns. The impact on designed landscapes and locally important sites should also be included.</p>	Annex A pages 77-78	Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage Volume 4, Visualisations	<p>Effects on landscape and visual receptors in the Angus Glens will be considered within the LVIA.</p> <p>A Clear explanation as to the reasons for selecting specific viewpoints and a summary of the consultation undertaken on proposed viewpoints will be included in the LVIA and Cultural Heritage Chapters of the EIAR (Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity, and Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage respectively). A viewpoint from Finavon Fort (SM 139) and the Caterthun Hillforts (SM 90069) will be included in Volume 4, Visualisations of the EIAR.</p>
44	AADCC02	Ecology	<p>AADCC state there is a need to identify species in the area and address potential disruption to breeding/feeding/routes.</p>	Annex A pages 77-78	Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology Volume 2, Chapter 12: Ornithology	<p>Baseline ecology and ornithology surveys have been undertaken across the Proposed Development. The effects on ecological receptors agreed with NS will be included within Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology and Chapter 12: Ornithology of the EIAR. The</p>

⁵⁶ Scottish Government (June 2024) Scottish Wetland Inventory. Available at: https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/f7ab5d9c-034f-43e0-8f34-b027b6ca0e6a/scottish_wetland_inventory

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
						EIAR will identify opportunities for biodiversity enhancement.
45	AADCC03	Hydrology	AADCC expect the EIAR to include how flooding would be addressed, potential scouring and impacts on watercourses (including those only evident in times of extreme weather).	Annex A pages 77-78	Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils	Site-specific technical Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) reports have not been required for the Proposed Development, as flood risk areas have been avoided in design development.
46	AADCC04	Socio-economics	The potential impact on agriculture, tourism, property prices and effects on local outdoor groups needs to be addressed. The EIA needs to identify and quantify opportunities for local contracts, training and employment from the Proposed Development.	Annex A pages 77-78	N/A	A socio-economic report will be submitted as part of the Section 37 application as a separate document to the EIAR.
47	AADCC05	Human Health	AADCC state that there is a need to include a range of independent health studies demonstrating recent findings.	Annex A pages 77-78	N/A	An assessment of health effects was carried out and presented in the Scoping Report. No significant adverse effects on health outcomes were predicted and therefore this issue was scoped out of the EIAR. Please refer to entry No. 11 of this table above in relation to EMF. A separate EMF Compliance Report will be submitted with the Section 37 application.
48	AADCC06	Traffic and Transport	AADCC expect that transport routes and the transport and traffic impacts over the life of the Proposed Development are to be included in the EIAR.	Annex A pages 77-78	Volume 2, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport	Construction effects on Traffic and Transport will be included within Volume 2, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport of the EIAR. No significant effects are predicted due to low traffic generation during the operational phase; therefore these effects are scoped out of the assessment.
49	Crathes Drumoak Durris Community Council (CDDCC) CDDCC01	Landscape Designations	CDDCC state that Dee Valley is a Special Landscape Area and as a result, should be included in the EIAR.	Annex A pages 87-92	Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity	This has been noted, the Dee Valley Special Landscape Area will be included within Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the EIAR.

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
50	CDDCC02	Atlantic Salmon	CDDCC state that there are ecological concerns as Atlantic Salmon (<i>salmo salar</i>) are sensitive to EMF.	Annex A pages 87-92	Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology	The Applicant has commissioned a study into EMF effects on fish, including Atlantic Salmon. The outcome of this report will be detailed within the EIAR as an Annex to Volume 5, Appendix 12.3: Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) .
51	CDDCC03	Landscape and Visual	CDDCC provided additional viewpoint suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 57.071424, -2.380588 • 57.114286, -2.38919 • 57.071251, -2.381294 • Newhall, 57.094239, -2.378729 • Mickle Eddieston, 57.113283, -2.338989 • Drum hill, 57.090674, -2.348301 • ANNEX A Page 88 • Mains of Drum, 57.079107, -2.324358 • Deeside Line crossing, 57.081820, -2.331406 • 57.08995° N, 2.35471° W (Kirsty Bailey) • Rosehall Cottage 57.0846943, -2.3326236 • 3 West Park Steading AB31 5AD. GPS 76430 97074 • Broomfield Cottage, East: 377066 North: 800467 	Annex A pages 87-92	Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity Volume 4, Visualisations	<p>The viewpoints requested are from private properties or located in close proximity to existing proposed viewpoints. SSEN Transmission do not propose to include any of the additional viewpoints suggested. The viewpoints selected for inclusion in the Landscape and Cultural Heritage assessments have been agreed in consultation with the relevant statutory consultees including Angus Council, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, HES and ACAS.</p> <p>Whilst the main LVIA study area is 3 km from the OHL, more distant viewpoints up to 5 km will be considered in the assessment, where appropriate. However, significant effects are considered unlikely beyond 3 km.</p> <p>Since the scoping report was published, the approach to RVAA has developed and is no longer based on a distance threshold. Within the LVIA, residential visual amenity will be considered as part of the visual assessment whereby visual receptors, including residents at properties, are grouped by geographical area within the study area, and called VRAs. The assessment will take a case-by-case approach to consider individual or groups of residential properties within each VRA to determine the potential for the residential amenity threshold to be breached by the presence of the Proposed Development. This approach has been agreed with Angus</p>

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upper Corskie, Dunecht, AB32 7ES Google grid: 57.179360, -2.424834 18 James Gregory Road 57.08557, -2.34563. Viewpoint on south of Dee Valley 57°02'33.2"N 2°17'20.0"W Upper Park West OS map grid ref 769 978 Myriewell House, Echt AB32 6UN. 57°08'42.4"N 2°25'12.5"W Lochside Drumoak. 57.0767654, -2.3800940 Upper Park. 57.0701039, -2.3864079 Stirlings NO 77529 98693. East 377529 North 798692 Barrowsgate Cottage and House 57° 5'13.91"N 2°21'42.69"W Corskie Park. 57.174429, -2.420716 Dunecht Primary School 57.173894, -2.418624 School Playing Field 57.174562, -2.418366 			<p>Council during a meeting held with them on 18 December 2024.</p> <p>The Landscape Institute RVAA ⁵⁷ guidance notes in paragraph 4.7 state that <i>“when assessing effects of overhead transmission lines, generally only those properties within 100 – 150 m of the finalized route are potentially considered for inclusion in a RVAA”</i>.</p>

⁵⁷ Landscape Institute (March 2019) Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA). Available at: <https://landscapewpstorage01.blob.core.windows.net/www-landscapeinstitute-org/2019/03/tgn-02-2019-rvaa.pdf>

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
			CDDCC state that the visual impact should be assessed up to 5 km given pylons can be up to 70 m high. Properties greater than 170 m being scoped out should change to be 500 m due to height of pylons.			
52	CDDCC04	Light Pollution	CDDCC mention that the area is important for viewing the aurora borealis.	Annex A pages 87-92	N/A	Nighttime effects of the Proposed Development would not be assessed unless there was lighting. It is not currently anticipated that the OHL will not require any lighting. However, discussions are ongoing between SSEN Transmission and aviation consultees. If a need for lighting is identified as a result of these discussions, further assessment will be undertaken as required.
53	CDDCC05	Water Tables and Drainage	CDDCC state that water tables and drainage will be affected by construction.	Annex A pages 87-92	Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils	Construction effects on hydrology are included within Volume 2, Chapter 13: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils of the EIAR. An Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan will also be provided as an appendix to Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description of the EIAR.
54	CDDCC06	Noise	CDDCC state that noise will disturb peace at archaeological sites, Heavy machinery will cause noise, ground disturbance and CO2 pollution. Construction hours are excessive and should be limited to 5 days/week, 10 hrs/day.	Annex A pages 87-92	Volume 2, Chapter 15: Noise and Vibration	Construction related noise effects on cultural heritage assets will be assessed in the relevant Chapters of the EIAR. An Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan will also be provided as an appendix to Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description of the EIAR which will include the requirement for a Construction Noise Management Plan and Construction Traffic Management Plan. Working hours are currently anticipated to be between 07.00 to 19.00 during British Summer Time (BST) and 07.00 to 18.00 during Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), seven days a week. Special measures and

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
						arrangements would be made for works in proximity to sensitive receptors. Working hour assumptions will be set out within the EIAR and confirmed with the respective local planning authority. Adherence to working hours within these periods would help to avoid disturbance to receptors during more sensitive periods (eg early morning and evening). A Construction Traffic Management Plan will also include measures which will avoid and reduce adverse effects to amenity during construction (eg from construction vehicles movements, idling vehicles etc.
55	CDDCC07	Telecommunications	CDDCC voice concerns that the area already has issues with signal coverage and BT require further information.	Annex A pages 87-92	N/A	SSEN Transmission will continue consultation with the relevant telecommunications consultees as part of the assessment work in relation to the Proposed Development.
56	CDDCC08	Socio-economics	CDDCC state that socio-economics is a major concern for local communities.	Annex A pages 87-92	N/A	A socio-economic report will be submitted as part of the Section 37 application submission as a separate document to the EIAR.
57	CDDCC09	Cumulative Effects	CDDCC would expect contributory impacts of the same project should be included in cumulative impact assessment regardless of the stage of construction, otherwise the overall visual and other impacts cannot be properly assessed. Simply because a phase of a project is in a different stage of development does not negate its impact.	Annex A pages 87-92	Volume 2, Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects	<p>Effects in relation to existing developments or developments which are currently undergoing construction are not considered cumulatively as they form part of the current baseline.</p> <p>The associated SSEN Transmission Developments which will be included within the cumulative assessment of the EIAR as part of each technical Chapter are specified below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emmock substation; • Tie-in of (existing, upgraded) Alyth to Tealing OHL to Emmock substation; • Tie-in of (existing, upgraded) Tealing to Westfield OHL to Emmock substation; • Tie-back OHL connections between Emmock substation and Tealing Substation; and

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hurlie substation. In addition to the above associated SSEN Transmission Developments, a full schedule of other SSEN Transmission and Third Party Developments will be provided in Volume 2, Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects .
58	CDDCC10	Human Health	CDDCC would expect mental health to be covered in the EIAR as National Planning Framework (NPF4) requires developments to improve health. They state that statements on health (including EMF exposure) contradict published scientific evidence.	Annex A pages 87-92	N/A	SSEN Transmission are mindful of the uncertainty created by the consultation and consenting phases of their projects. For this reason SSEN Transmission strive to balance the need for certainty and a swift process whilst still providing sufficient opportunity for stakeholders to feed into the consultation processes during the design phases of the Proposed Development. SSEN Transmission seek to identify options that provide an appropriate balance across a variety of considerations and interests. They take the route and alignment identification processes very seriously and follow their required process thoroughly and make every attempt to inform communities of their plans, options being considered, and decisions made at each stage to ensure they ultimately settle on the overall most appropriate proposed alignment for the Proposed Development. Please also refer to entry No. 11 of this table above in relation to EMF which states that a separate EMF Compliance Report will be submitted with the Section 37 application.
59	CDDCC11	Carbon Footprint	CDDCC would expect CO2 generated for the entire project needs to be compared with that of continuing to use fossil fuels from already existing infrastructure impact assessment, regardless of the stage of construction and alternative low-carbon solutions.	Annex A pages 87-92	Volume 2, Chapter 17: Schedule of Mitigation	It is not within the scope of the EIAR to include greenhouse gas calculations, however additional information on climate change mitigation will be included as required within Volume 2, Chapter 17: Schedule of Mitigation .

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
60	Inveresk Community Council (ICC) ICC01	Landscape and Visual	<p>ICC suggest that the additional viewpoints should be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caterthun Iron Age Hillforts • Lochty & Lochty Cottage • Montboy Cottages • Careston & Waterstone • Inchbare • Fern to Tigerton (C30) & Tigerton to Edzel 	Annex A pages 101-101	<p>Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity</p> <p>Volume 2, Chapter 10: Cultural Heritage</p> <p>Volume 4, Visualisations</p>	<p>Comments on additional viewpoints are noted, however, Lochty and Montboy are residential properties.</p> <p>Since the scoping report was published, the approach to RVAA has developed and is no longer based on a distance threshold. Within the LVIA, residential visual amenity will be considered as part of the visual assessment whereby visual receptors, including residents at properties, are grouped by geographical area within the study area, and called VRAs. The assessment will take a case-by-case approach to consider individual or groups of residential properties within each VRA to determine the potential for the residential amenity threshold to be breached by the presence of the Proposed Development. This approach has been agreed with Angus Council during a meeting held with them on 18 December 2024.</p> <p>Further consultation with the statutory consultees on viewpoints has led to the consideration of an additional VP in the Careston/Lochty area.</p> <p>Views from Inchbare are considered to be represented by VP19 and from the Fern-Tigerton to Edzell road by VP16.</p> <p>A viewpoint will be provided from the Caterthun Hillforts (VP18) as part of Volume 4, Visualisations.</p>
61	ICC02	Badger Sett, Pine Marten and Scottish Wild Cat	<p>ICC note that in Section B, alignment 4c and 4e contain badger (<i>meles meles</i>) sett in rewilded woods near Lochty Farm/Coe. ICC expect for there to be a comprehensive assessment of wildlife in the EIAR. They note that Angus is a stronghold for several highly protected species, including Pine Martens (<i>martes</i></p>	Annex A pages 101-101	<p>Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology</p>	<p>NS has been consulted with respect to the scope of survey and assessment for ecology (and ornithology).</p> <p>Habitat survey and specific site surveys for protected species (where required) have been completed following the methodology agreed with NS through separate consultation.</p>

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
			<i>martes</i>) and Scottish Wild Cats (<i>felis silvestris</i>).			An assessment of ecology will be presented in Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology of the EIAR and the supporting appendices, however due to the nature of some of the information to be presented and to comply with legislation, only NS will receive certain confidential data in Confidential Appendices which will not be available in the public domain. Please also refer to entry No. 32 of this table above regarding ongoing discussion with NS on EIAR scope.
62	ICC03	Human Health	ICC state that an assessment should be made regarding physical and mental health (in particular EMF impacts on children). It is felt that the number of dwellings (over 25) within about 100 m of the OHL in Option 4a in Section B has been underestimated.	Annex A pages 101-101	N/A	Please refer to entry No. 58 of this table above in relation to mental health. The OS base maps that have been used are the latest available from Ordnance Survey, dated July 2024. SSEN Transmission do not rely on OS base maps to identify properties and SSEN Transmission use the most up to date versions of AddressBase data, which they overlay on their GIS systems. SSEN Transmission also collect Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) data to provide up to date aerial imagery to ensure they are including all properties. SSEN Transmission land teams are liaising directly with landowners.
63	ICC04	Biosecurity	ICC voice that there is significant concern among the farming community that EMF generated by the cables may render GPS-based technologies inoperable, or severely limited (especially drones). Sprayers cannot be used under high voltage OHLs which are needed to grow potatoes. ICC state there is very little mention of Biosecurity. There are concern over Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) and Clubroot. ICC state that protocols are	Annex A pages 101-101	Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description	SSEN Transmission appreciate the concerns raised and are aware of the presence of PCN across the Site of the Proposed Development. Biosecurity protocols have been implemented during the baseline data collection. Soil sampling for both PCN and clubroot is carried out before and after both ground investigation works and construction works. SSEN Transmission have a biosecurity (General Environmental Management Plan) GEMP (TG-NET-ENV-521) which will form part of the applied mitigation as part of the

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
			insufficient and not being adhered to by vehicles.			<p>EIAR. The GEMP will be presented as an appendix to the Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description of the EIAR.</p> <p>For health effects in relation to EMF please refer to entry No. 11 of this table above.</p> <p>SSEN Transmission will continue to engage with landowners and tenant farmers to understand their businesses and how they use their land.</p> <p>There is no evidence that EMF from the OHL will interfere with the operation of GPS-based technologies.</p>
64	ICC05	Carbon-footprint	ICC ask that greenhouse gases created by the manufacture and installation of the Proposed Development should be calculated and included within the EIAR.	Annex A pages 101-101	Volume 2, Chapter 17: Schedule of Mitigation	<p>It is not within the scope of the EIAR to include greenhouse gas calculations, as it is not predicted that there would be significant environmental effects on the climate during any stage of construction or maintenance of the Proposed Development. However additional information on climate change mitigation will be included as required within Volume 2, Chapter 17: Schedule of Mitigation.</p>
65	Mearns Community Council (MCC) MCC01	Landscape and Visual	<p>MCC state that the following viewpoints should be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 56°52'48"N 2°25'29"W • 56°53'29"N 2°27'02"W • 56°53'29"N 2°27'02"W • 56°50'07"N 2°30'49"W • 56°53'17"N 2°24'55"W • 56°51'36"N 2°28'56"W • 56°56'25"N 2°21'30"W • 56°53'31"N 2°27'03"W • 56°49'07"N 2°34'39"W • 56°48'57"N 2°33'26"W 	Annex A pages 106-107	Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity Volume 4, Visualisations	<p>All viewpoints requested are from private properties or located in close proximity to existing and agreed proposed viewpoints. As such, SSEN Transmission do not propose to include these additional viewpoints suggested within Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity or Volume 4, Visualisations of the EIAR. The viewpoints selected for inclusion in the Landscape and Cultural Heritage assessments have been agreed in consultation with the relevant statutory consultees including Angus Council, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, HES and ACAS. Please also refer to entry No. 51 in this table above.</p>

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 56°51'14"N 2°29'26"W 56°52'07"N 2°28'38"W 			
66	MCC02	Agriculture	MCC state that there is a real and present threat of PCN that is being ignored and will destroy the existing agricultural environment and economy.		Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description	<p>SSEN Transmission appreciate the concerns raised and are aware of the presence of PCN across the Site of the Proposed Development. Biosecurity protocols have been implemented during the baseline data collection. Soil sampling for both PCN and clubroot is carried out before and after both ground investigation works and construction works.</p> <p>SSEN Transmission have a biosecurity GEMP (TG-NET-ENV-521) which will form part of the applied mitigation as part of the EIAR. The GEMP will be presented as an appendix to Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description of the EIAR.</p>
67	Tealing Community Council (TCC) TCC01	Landscape and Visual	<p>TCC provided a list of additional requested viewpoints they expect to be included in the EIAR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A90 layby Parkford The outlook from near little Brechin, Piperton and Brathinch Lochty Lochty Cottages Montboy Cottages Gardener's Cottage Campsite, near Noranside Careston Castle Tourism business near Careston Castle Waterstone, near Careston Castle Taigh Gleusta, near Tannadice B957 Balnuith Alpacas Tealing 	Annex A pages 115-118	Volume 2, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual Amenity Volume 4, Visualisations	<p>Several of the viewpoints suggested are from individual properties/businesses. The LVIA VPs selected are in publicly accessible locations and represent a range of receptors. Since the scoping report was published, the approach to RVAA has developed and is no longer based on a distance threshold. Within the LVIA, residential visual amenity will be considered as part of the visual assessment whereby visual receptors, including residents at properties, are grouped by geographical area within the study area, and called VRAs. The assessment will take a case-by-case approach to consider individual or groups of residential properties within each VRA to determine the potential for the residential amenity threshold to be breached by the presence of the Proposed Development. This approach has been agreed with Angus Council during a meeting held with them on 18 December 2024.</p>

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hilton of Fern Agri Teach Centre Aberlemno layby Law of Windsor Inchbare Fern to Tigerton Road A90 From Glami Junction heading North to Mearns North Quilkoe Edzell Road (behind Tigerton) Craigowl Hill Coldstream, Hillside of Prieston, Tealing 			<p>Other suggestions include VPs which are more relevant to cultural heritage. In all these cases, a CH VP has already been identified at the location which will be presented in as part of Volume 4, Visualisations of the EIAR, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Careston Castle (LB 4656), which will be Viewpoint 14 in the EIAR; and Law of Windsor, Cairn (SM 3375), which will be Viewpoint 13 in the EIAR. <p>A few suggestions relate to additional viewpoints very close to existing viewpoints already selected and it is not considered that another VP is necessary in such close proximity. The viewpoints selected for inclusion in the Landscape and Cultural Heritage assessments have been agreed in consultation with the relevant statutory consultees including Angus Council, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeenshire Council, HES and ACAS. Please also refer to entry No. 51 and No.65 in this table above.</p>
68	Aberdeen International Airport (AIA) AIA01	Aviation	AIA note that the proposed site is located partially within the obstacle limitation surfaces and instrument flight procedure surfaces safeguarding zones for Aberdeen International Airport and as such aviation impacts should be considered as part of the EIAR.	Annex A page 76	N/A	<p>This has been noted. An Aviation Risk Assessment has been carried out and it was found that the Proposed Development is clear of the Obstacle Limitation Surfaces (OLS) and greater than five nautical miles laterally clear of the closest Instrument Flight Procedure (IFP). No significant impact is therefore predicted upon the operations of Aberdeen International Airport.</p> <p>SSEN Transmission will continue to consult with AIA, as aviation effects have been scoped out of the EIAR, this will be completed separately.</p>
69	The British Horse Society (TBHS)	Traffic and Transport	TBHS advise that the EIAR and Access Management Plan should state that core paths may be used by a variety of non-	Annex A pages 79-80	Volume 2, Chapter 14:	This has been noted and will be included in Volume 2, Chapter 14: Traffic and

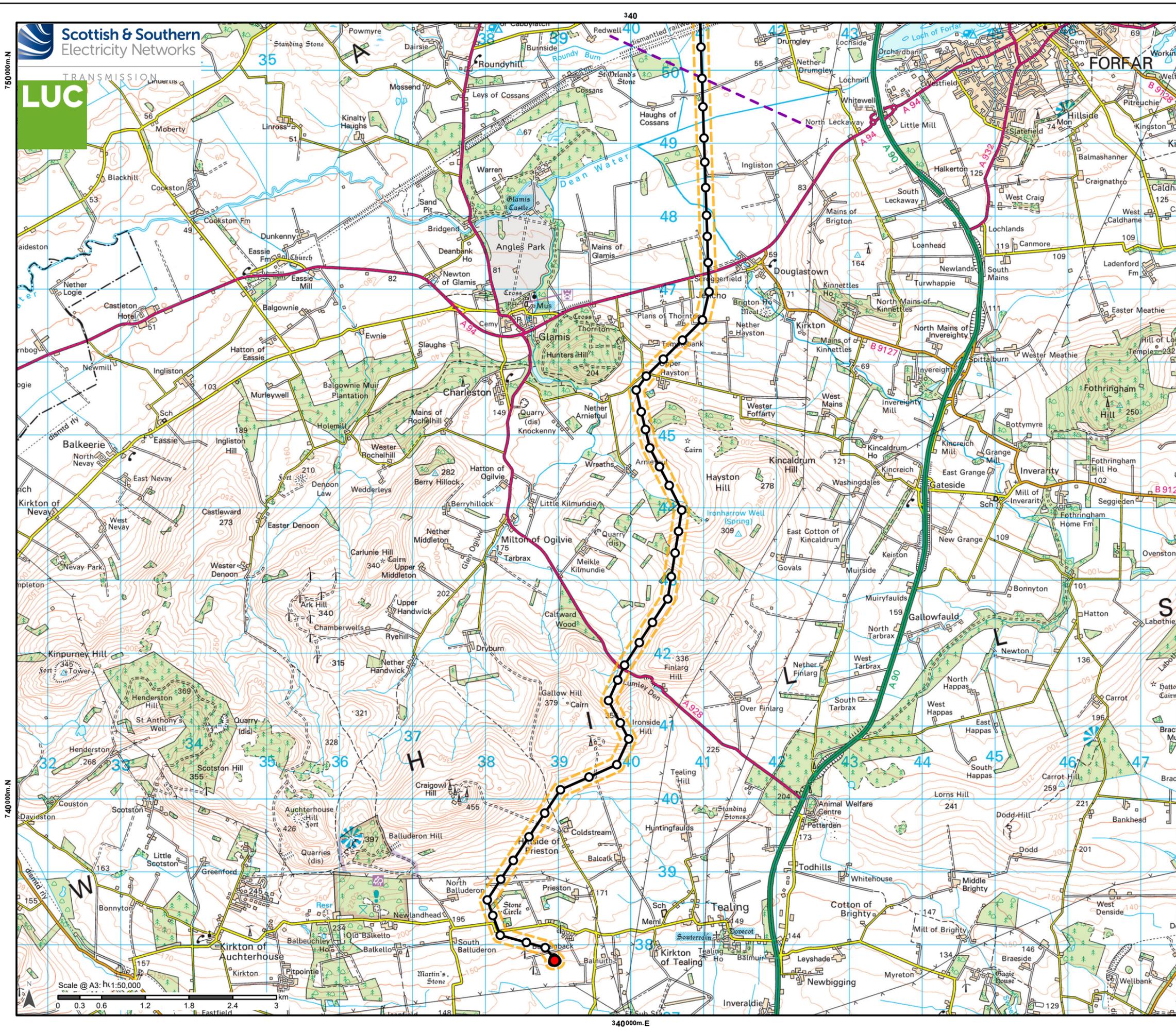
No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
	TBHSS01		motorised users, including horse-riders and detail how this will be managed during and after construction.		Traffic and Transport	Transport and implemented within the Access Management Plan.
70	British Telecoms (BT) BT01	Telecommunications	BT request confirmation of the height and co-ordinates of any new structures. BT stated that the Proposed Development should not cause interference to BT's current and presently planned radio network. However, BT noted that some of the tower positions are very close to BT links, therefore if they do change, BT have requested to be informed so they can re-assess.	Annex A pages 82-85	N/A	Infrastructure locations and design details have been provided to BT and any changes will be communicated.
71	Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) CNPA01	National Parks	CNPA stated they have no comment on the Proposed Development.	Annex A page 86	N/A	This has been noted.
72	The Coal Authority (TCA) TCA01	Coal	TCA makes no comment on this Proposed Development as it not located within the defined coalfield.	Annex A page 119	N/A	This has been noted.
73	Crown Estate Scotland (CES) CES01	Land Use	CES makes no comment on this Proposed Development.		N/A	This has been noted.
74	Joint Radio Company (JRC) JRC01	Telecommunications	Joint Radio Company (JRC) has identified that numerous towers have the potential to cause interference with fixed links and point to multipoint links operated by the local Distribution Network Operator (DNO). They advise that final tower positions are agreed upon and confirmed to no longer pose an obstruction. JRC requires precise grid	Annex A pages 102-105	N/A	SSEN Transmission has engaged with JRC to identify the potential towers of concern. Where required, towers have been micrositied outside of the areas of concern. JRC have confirmed no impact on their comms network from the proposed tower locations and SSEN Transmission will continue to work with JRC to manage/minimise any construction activities that may impact their network.

No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
			references for the final tower locations and advise to seek re-coordination before submitting a final planning application.			
75	National Air Traffic Society (NATS) NATS01	Aviation	NATS considers that Aviation does not need to be scoped in. They are confident that none of planned works come in close proximity to NATS installations but would like to be sent shapefiles for further comment.	Annex A page 108	N/A	This has been noted, aviation has been scoped out of the EIAR, however, SSEN Transmission will continue to consult with NATS and provide additional information as required.
76	The MET Office (TMO) TMO01	Meteorology	TMO makes no comment on this Proposed Development as it is not inside any of the consultation zones	Annex A page 120	N/A	This has been noted.
77	Ministry of Defence (MOD) MOD1	Aviation	The Ministry of Defence (MOD) mention that the Proposed Development falls within Low Flying Area 14 (LFA 14), an area within which military aircraft may conduct low level flying. They state there is a potential to introduce a physical obstruction. MOD will require that a condition is added to any consent issued requiring sufficient data is submitted to ensure that structures can be accurately charted to allow deconfliction. MOD has concerns, and should be consulted at all future stages for this Proposed Development to complete a full detailed safeguarding assessment.	Annex A pages 98-99	N/A	This has been noted, SSEN Transmission will continue to consult with the MOD on the proposals and provide the information as required for further assessment by the MOD. As aviation effects have been scoped out of the EIAR, this will be completed separately.
78	Woodland Trust (WT) WT01	Forestry	WT recommend an Arboriculture Impact Assessment is undertaken ahead of the full planning application. WT state that the Applicant should review the Ancient Tree Inventory (ATI) ⁵⁸ in addition to	Annex A pages 121-122	Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology	After reviewing the ATI, two notable trees have been identified (ID 98042 & 113081) which will be taken into consideration within Volume 2, Chapter 11: Ecology .

⁵⁸ Woodland Trust (n.d) Ancient Tree Inventory. Available at: <https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

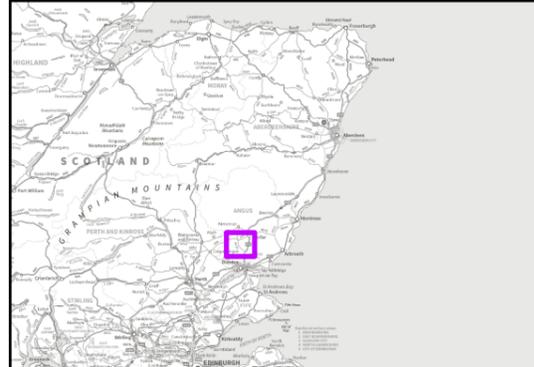
No.	Consultee	Subject	Summary	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIAR Reference	Comments
			identifying other ancient or veteran trees that may not be recorded on the ATI (live database).			

FIGURES 1.1A-F: LOCATION PLAN AND OVERVIEW



- Alignment**
- Proposed Alignment
 - Indicative Tower Location
 - - - Indicative Limits of Deviation (LoD)*
 - - - Section boundary
- Substation**
- Emmock substation Planning Application (Angus Council Reference 24/00699/FULN)

*Further information on the LoD will be provided at the pre-application consultation stage and will be finalised for the section 37 application.



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Project No: LT455
Project: Kintore to Tealing 400kV Overhead Line

Title:
Overview of the Proposed Development - Section A

Drawn by: CW Date: 24/01/2025
Drawing: 1.1A

