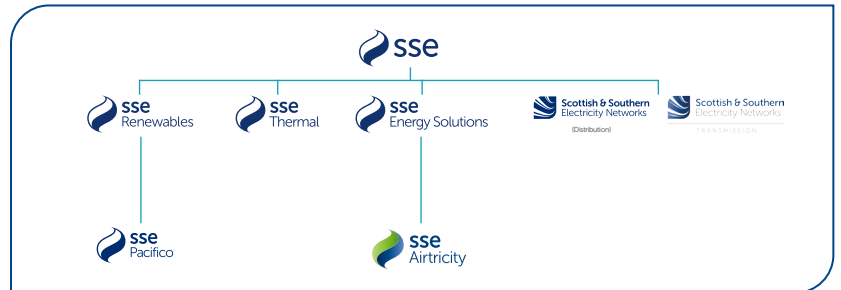




## Who we are

We are SSEN Transmission, the trading name for Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission. We are responsible for the electricity transmission network in the north of Scotland, maintaining and investing in the high voltage 132kV, 220kV, 275kV and 400kV electricity transmission network.



Our network consists of underground and subsea cables, overhead lines on wooden poles or steel towers, and electricity substations. It extends over a quarter of the UK's land mass, crossing some of its most challenging terrain.

Our first priority is to provide a safe and reliable supply of electricity to our communities. We do this by taking the electricity from generators and transporting it at high voltages over long distances through our transmission network for onwards distribution to homes and businesses in villages, towns and cities.

Our operating area is home to vast renewable energy resources and this is being harnessed by wind, hydro and marine generation. Working closely with National Grid, the GB transmission System Operator, we also enable these electricity generators to connect to the transmission system by providing their connections and allowing the electricity generated by them to be transported to areas of demand across the country.

## Lairg II Wind Farm Connection Project

As the Transmission Owner for the North of Scotland, ensuring requesting generation developments can connect to our network is one of our primary responsibilities alongside providing a safe and reliable supply of electricity to our communities.

We require to connect the new 50MW Lairg II Wind Farm into our existing 132 kilovolt (kV) overhead line, located approximately 2km to the south-east of the village of Lairg.

### The project elements include:

- The installation of approx. 500m of 132 kilovolt (kV) underground cable from the consented Lairg II Wind Farm substation.
- The installation of a Cable Sealing End Compound connecting the underground cable into the existing 132kV overhead line (OHL).
- The installation of a fibre optic cable alongside the proposed 132kV underground cable then running south along the existing access track for 3.5km to connect into the existing overhead line with a canister.
- A temporary stone access track parallel to the underground cable and a temporary laydown area next to the sealing end compound.

### Project timeline



#### June 2023

Section 37 and planning applications submitted



#### March 2024

Planning permission anticipated



#### August 2024

Section 37 permission anticipated



#### February 2025

Works commence on site



#### October 2026

Wind farm connection completed



## Project considerations

As a responsible developer, our objective is to undertake the route selection process for the wind farm connection factoring in environmental, engineering, and cost constraints.

### Engineering Considerations

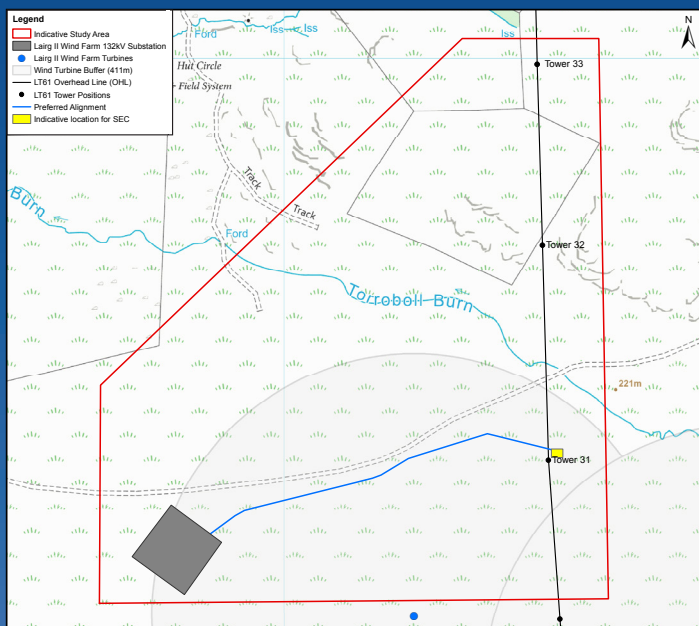
- A number of engineering options were assessed to facilitate the connection of the wind farm, including an overhead line option. Following a technical review, use of an overhead line in this location was considered unfeasible due to the close proximity to the proposed Lairg II Wind Farm turbines. This would result in increased wear and maintenance problems and, therefore, an underground cable option was considered most preferable.

### Environmental Considerations

- Environmental, archaeological, ornithological, and hydrological surveys have been undertaken to identify the key ecological and environmental constraints and sensitivities on site, focusing on heritage, landscape and ecological implications.
- Areas of blanket bog, an irreplaceable habitat, and wet heath, an Annex 1 habitat, were identified across the search area and works are progressing to minimise temporary impacts to sensitive habitats during construction. Works will follow SSEN Transmission's Species Protection Plans, as well as industry standard pollution prevention measures to help minimize impacts to local wildlife habitats.
- Designated sites and their qualifying features have also been accounted for during the site selection process and will be respected during the planning of construction works.

### Planning and Consents

- The construction of the underground cable is classed as Permitted Development, meaning a formal planning application is not required, however, we are committed to undertaking a voluntary environmental appraisal ensuring the development is undertaken with the least impact on the surrounding environment. A Town and Country planning application will be submitted for the temporary access track, and this will likely encompass the underground cable route as it is immediately adjacent. The cable sealing end compound will require a Section 37 application and an associated Environmental Impact Assessment screening request has been submitted to the Energy Consents Unit.




If you have any questions or require further information regarding the SSEN Transmission's Lairg II Wind Farm Connection Project, please do not hesitate to contact the project Community Liaison Manager:



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Keep up to date: information regarding this project will be made available via the project webpage and social media channels:

[ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/lairg-ii-wind-farm-connection/](https://ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/lairg-ii-wind-farm-connection/)