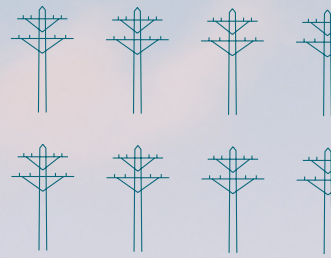




Scottish & Southern
Electricity Networks

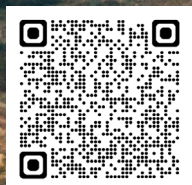
TRANSMISSION



Muaitheabhal (Uisenis) Wind Farm Connection

Pre-application consultation

October 2025



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



Contents

Powering change together	03	Selecting an alignment	12
Pathway to 2030	04	Meeting our obligations	14
Project need and overview	06	3D visualisations	16
The consenting process	07	Our access strategy	19
Help shape our plans	08	Project timeline	20
The story so far	09	Addressing Feedback	23
Selected alignment overview map	10	Have your say	26
Route options	11	Your feedback	27

The consultation events will be taking place on:

Wednesday 22 October 2025, 3–7pm
Kinloch Historical Society Community Hub, Balallan, HS2 9PN

Thursday 23 October 2025, 3–7pm
The Resource Centre, Kershader, HS2 9QA



Powering change together



The time has come to further enhance Scotland’s energy infrastructure, providing power for future generations as we move towards net zero.

The shift to a cleaner, more sustainable future is about more than climate change. It’s about ensuring future generations have the same opportunities to thrive as we have all had.

Countries around the world are investing in their energy infrastructure to support the demands of modern economies and meet net zero targets. The UK is leading the way in building a modern, sustainable energy system for the future.

We all have a part to play

When it comes to net zero, we have to be in it together. The UK and Scottish governments have ambitious net zero targets, and we’re playing our part in meeting them.

We work closely with the National Energy System Operator (NESO) to connect vast renewable energy resources—harnessed by solar, wind, hydro and marine generation—to areas of demand across the country. Scotland is playing a big role in meeting this demand, exporting two thirds of power generated in our network.

But there’s more to be done. By 2050, the north of Scotland is predicted to contribute over 50GW of low carbon energy to help deliver net zero. Today, our region has around 9GW of renewable generation connected to the network.

At SSEN Transmission, it is our role to build the energy system of the future.

We’re investing over £20 billion into our region’s energy infrastructure this decade, with the potential for this to increase to over £30 billion. This investment will deliver a network capable of meeting 20% of the UK’s Clean Power 2030 target and supporting up to 37,000 jobs, 17,500 of which will be here in Scotland.



More information about the policies and documents driving the need for the energy system for the future can be found here:

Who we are

We’re responsible for maintaining and investing in the electricity transmission network in the north of Scotland. We’re part of SSE plc, one of the world’s leading energy companies with a rich heritage in Scotland that dates back more than 80 years. We are also closely regulated by the GB energy regulator Ofgem, who determines how much revenue we are allowed to earn for constructing, maintaining and renovating our transmission network.

What we do

We manage the electricity network across our region which covers a quarter of the UK’s land mass, crossing some of the country’s most challenging terrain. We connect renewable energy sources to our network in the north of Scotland and then transport it to where it needs to be. From underground and subsea cables and overhead lines to electricity substations, our network keeps your lights on all year round.

Working with you

We understand that the work we do can have an impact on our host communities. So we’re committed to minimising our impacts and maximising all the benefits that our developments can bring to your area. We’re regularly assessed by global sustainability consultancy AccountAbility for how we engage with communities. That means we provide all the information you need to know about our plans and how they will impact communities like yours. We want to hear people’s views, concerns, or ideas and harness local knowledge so that our work benefits their communities: today and long into the future. You can share your views with us at: ssen-transmission.co.uk/talk-to-us/contact-us/

The Pathway to 2030

Building the energy system of the future will require delivery of significant infrastructure over the next few years. In partnership with the UK and Scottish governments, we’re committed to meeting our obligation of connecting new, renewable energy to where it’s needed by 2030.

Achieving Net Zero

By 2030, both the UK and Scottish governments are targeting a big expansion in offshore wind generation of 50GW and 11GW respectively. The Scottish Government has also set ambitious targets for an additional 12GW of onshore wind by 2030.

Across Great Britain, including the north of Scotland, there needs to be a significant increase in the capacity of the onshore electricity transmission infrastructure to deliver these 2030 targets and a pathway to net zero.

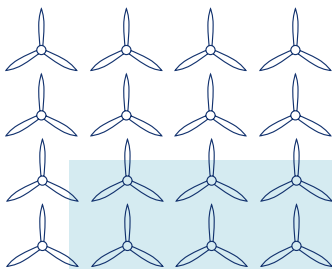
Securing our energy future

And it’s not just about net zero. It’s also about building a homegrown energy system, so that geopolitical turmoil around the world doesn’t severely impact the UK and push up energy prices.

The UK Government’s British Energy Security Strategy further underlines the need for this infrastructure, setting out plans to accelerate homegrown power for greater energy independence. The strategy aims to reduce the UK’s dependence on and price exposure to global gas wholesale markets through the deployment of homegrown low carbon electricity generation supported by robust electricity network infrastructure.

Meeting our 2030 targets

In July 2022, National Grid, the Electricity System Operator (ESO), published the Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design (HND). This set out the blueprint for the onshore and offshore transmission infrastructure that’s required to support the forecasted growth in the UK’s renewable electricity. It’s an ambitious plan that will help the UK achieve net zero.



Greater security

This investment will play a critical role in improving network reliability and security of supply for homes and businesses across the Western Isles, reducing reliance on the back-up diesel-powered electricity generation station at Battery Point in Stornoway.

It will also support national efforts to deliver greater energy independence and energy security, reducing the country’s dependence on volatile global wholesale energy markets.

Future network investment requirements

Our 2030 targets are the first step on the transition to net zero. The UK Government has a target to decarbonise our electricity system by 2035 and fully decarbonise our economy by becoming net zero by 2050, with the Scottish Government committing to net zero five years earlier, by 2045.

To achieve these targets, further investment in new low carbon electricity generation and the enabling electricity transmission network infrastructure will be required.

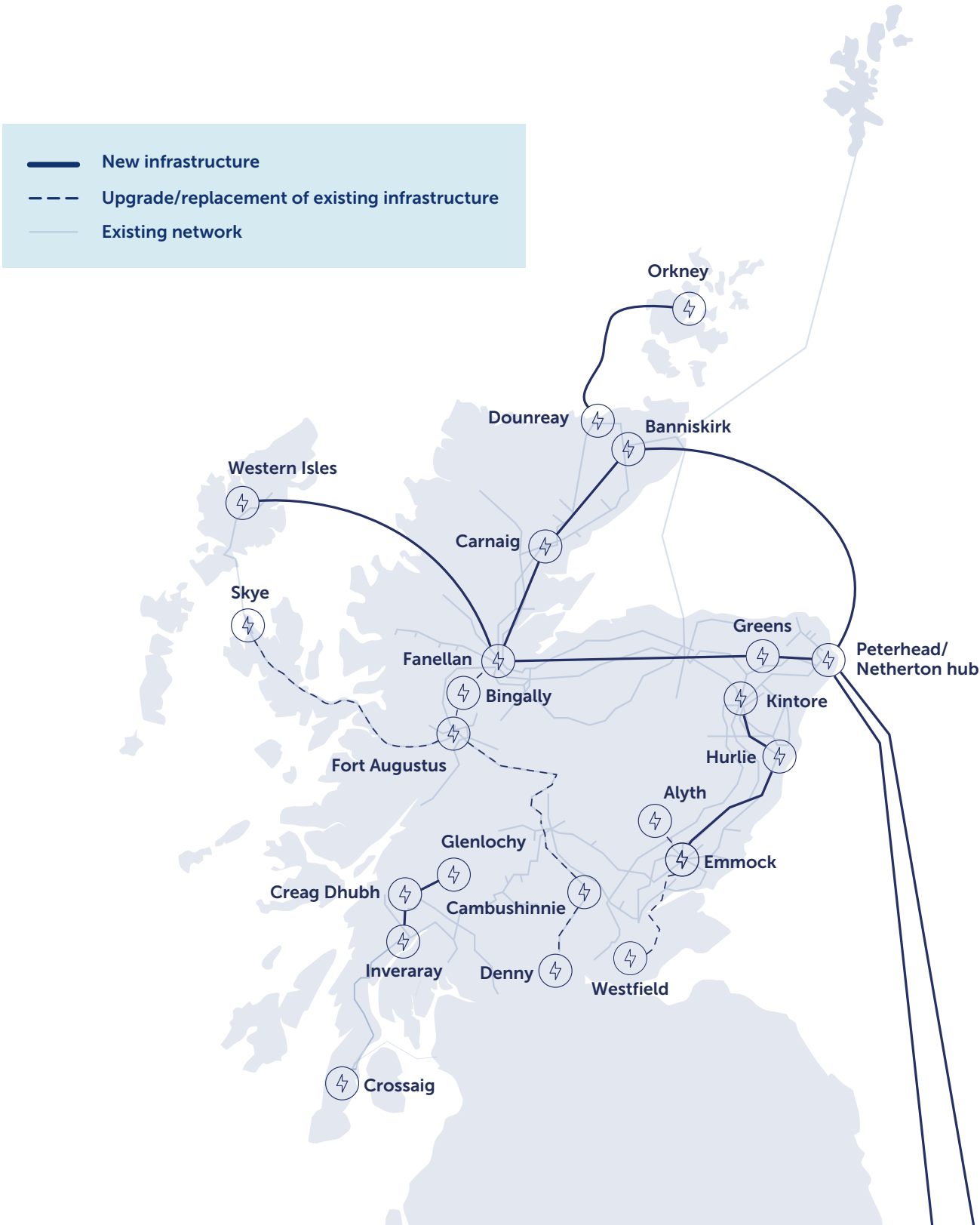
Delivering a community benefit fund

We recognise the vital role local communities will play in hosting this critical infrastructure and are committed to delivering ambitious and transformational community benefit schemes that have the potential to changes lives and create a sustainable and positive legacy. We recently set out plans for our first ever Community Benefit Fund, and in September this year we will release initial funds which will be accessible to communities where in flight projects are taking place. A community benefit fund panel is currently being appointed and will be responsible for awarding funding to projects that deliver on three identified themes of:

- People focusing on skill training and employability
- Place emphasising the community and culture in the North of Scotland
- Alleviating fuel poverty

Maximising social and economic opportunities

We are committed to maximising the significant local economic opportunities and benefits these investments will unlock. Over and above a wide range of opportunities for the local supply chain, benefits may vary from project to project based on the type of works and local requirements during the construction process. We are working closely with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Western Isles renewable developers to explore collective opportunities to have a lasting legacy through maximising social and economic opportunities. We are committed to build on the learnings and local benefits from other projects, such as our ongoing Shetland HVDC link project.



Project need and overview

As the transmission licence holder in the north of Scotland, we have a duty under Section 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 to facilitate competition in the generation and supply of electricity. We have obligations to offer non-discriminatory terms for connection to the transmission system, both for new generation and for new sources of electricity demand.

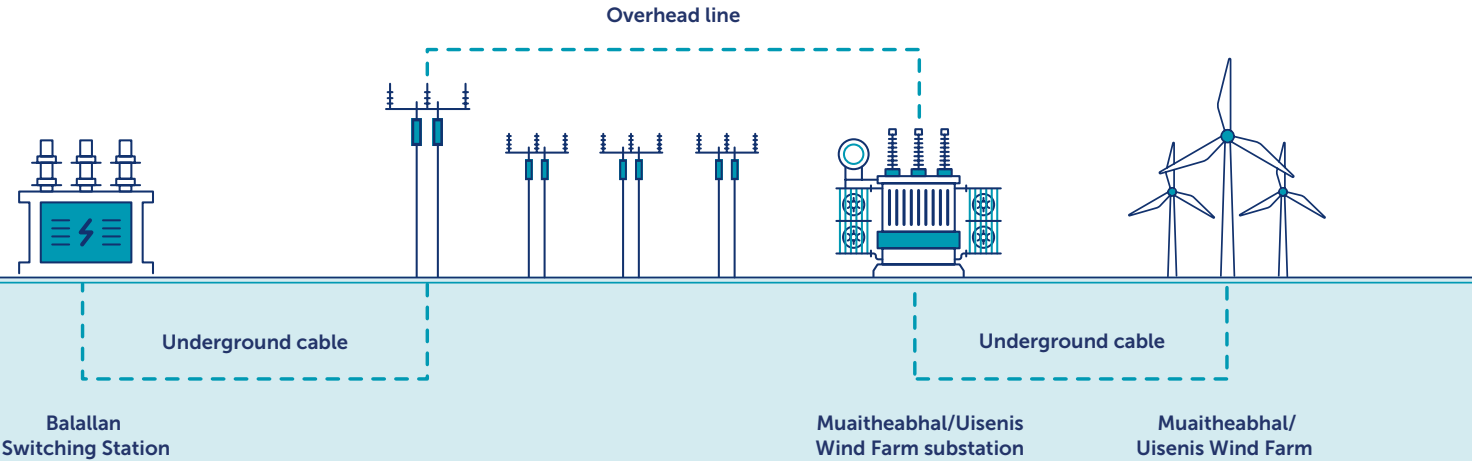
To comply with our obligations as set out above, we are required to connect the Muaitheabhal (Uisenis) Wind Farm to the transmission network. To facilitate this connection, we propose to construct a new 132kV Overhead Line (OHL) from the planned Muaitheabhal (Uisenis) substation at the wind farm development, to the new Balallan Switching Station.

Under our Network Operator’s Licence this connection should be efficient, coordinated and economic, whilst having the least possible impact on the environment.

The proposal involves a single circuit 132kV steel trident pole (OHL) arrangement, as shown in the image below.

This OHL will span approximately 8.5km between the proposed Muaitheabhal Wind Farm Substation and a new cable sealing end structure, located roughly 0.5km East of the new Balallan Switching Station. From the cable sealing end structure, the connection will transition to a 0.5km section of 132kV underground cable, extending to the proposed Balallan Switching Station. Several new permanent and temporary access tracks will be required to facilitate these works. We are currently working on this access strategy and plan to share with you during future consultations.

The average height of the trident pole is 13 meters, with an average span of approximately 100 meters. Traffic management will be required during construction and consultation will be undertaken on this in due course.



The consenting process

The legislation governing the consenting of overhead line (OHL) projects in Scotland is the Electricity Act 1989. Applications for consent to construct and operate new overhead lines are made under Section 37 of this Act and are referred to as “Section 37 Consents”.

The Section 37 application will be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report, as well as standalone reports such as a planning statement, and detailed design drawings. A Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report will also be provided, and this will provide details of the public and stakeholder consultation undertaken, a summary of the feedback received, and our response to that feedback.

We plan to submit our Section 37 application to the Scottish Government’s Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in Winter 2025.

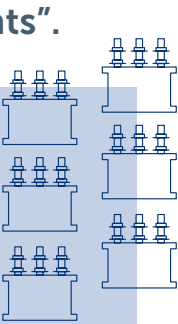
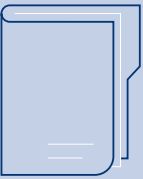
Once an application for consent has been submitted, all documents relating to the submission will be made publicly available on the ECU portal and our own website. Printed copies will also be available at publicly accessible locations. There will be an opportunity for the public to make formal representations to the ECU before a recommendation is made by them to the Scottish Ministers for a decision.

Please note that feedback provided as part of this alignment consultation event are not formal representations to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU). Once an application for consent has been submitted, there will be an opportunity for the public to make formal representations to the ECU before it takes a decision.

We will update stakeholders once the application for consent has been submitted and we will also publish newspaper advertisements to inform local communities and the general public of the applications being made to Scottish Ministers.



Read more about the Section 37 process here



Determining a Section 37 application and communicating outcomes

Section 37 applications are determined on a case-by-case basis by the Scottish Ministers.

We anticipate to receiving a decision on the consent application within 12 months from the application date, however timescales may vary.

When a decision is made, the ECU will send us a decision notice, copying in the local planning authorities and other consultation bodies. The decision notice is a record of the reasons for the decision and, if consent is granted, it contains the conditions that must be satisfied in order to implement the consent.

The ECU and local planning authority will publish the decision notice via their own channels, and we must publicise the outcome on our website, in the Edinburgh Gazette, and in a local newspaper. We’ll also communicate the decision by mainstream media and other various means, including email updates to Elected Members and those signed up to project updates, social media, and press releases.

Help shape our plans

The work we have planned is significant and has the potential to deliver massive benefits in your community, Scotland, and beyond. Yet we know that achieving our goals will require a lot of work that will impact your lives. That’s why we want to work with you every step of the way throughout the planning and delivery stages of these essential and ambitious works.

We’re committed to delivering a meaningful consultation process that actively seeks the views of everyone affected by our plans. That means making our plans clear and easily accessible, so that you can give us input throughout each stage of the development process.

Throughout the consultation, we’ll present our approach to developing the project, including changes made since we last consulted with you. We will also provide some visualisations and maps to show you where everything will be located.

We want you to share your thoughts and opinions on our plans, where you think we can make improvements, concerns about the impact of our work and what you think of any changes and refinements we’ve made. By telling us what you think, you will help shape our proposals. We want to harness your local knowledge so that we spot any unforeseen challenges early and maximise the potential benefits and opportunities for your communities.

Because, ultimately, we want you to work with us to ensure that the energy infrastructure we build will be the best it can possibly be.

Who we are consulting with

As well as communities, we are keen to hear feedback from a broad range of other stakeholders including but not limited to landowners, businesses, non-statutory consultees and statutory consultees including local authorities, NatureScot, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and Local Fisheries Trusts & Boards.



The story so far



Autumn 2023

We first introduced this project in October 2023, sharing our selected route corridor for the overhead line.



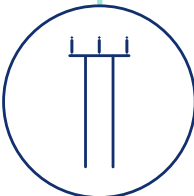
2024 & Early 2025

Stakeholder feedback considered, detailed environmental surveys and ground investigations undertaken to further refine the OHL route.



Summer 2025

We presented our refined alignment proposal to community stakeholders and the wider public through our PAC events in August 2025.



Autumn 2025

Proposed alignment identified, this is to be taken forward for public consultation and section 37 application.



Scan the QR code to access the Scottish Government’s Best Practice Guidance

Why we’re here today?

We are now entering into the final design of the development for our Muaitheabhal (Uisenis) Wind Farm Connection OHL project. We have identified the Proposed Alignment we are taking forward to further develop and hope to submit this as part of an application for consent. The Proposed Alignment has been refined from the various options that we have investigated during the development of the project.

We are implementing the Scottish Government’s Best Practice Guidance for pre-application consultation with stakeholders who may be affected by our development proposals. The pre-application consultation comprises three consultation events that should be held in advance of applying for Section 37 consent.

We held a public consultation on the design of the proposed refined alignment in August 2025, following on from feedback received at our corridor and route assessment consultation in October 2023.

Following this event, we considered stakeholder feedback, completed further surveys and review of our appraisals, and identified the Proposed Alignment, which is the alignment we intend to take forward to a Section 37 application.

The purpose of this event is to present the proposal intended to form the submission to Scottish ministers.

We will provide 3D visualisations and maps to show what the proposed overhead line will look like and where it will be located.

It should be noted that our alignment proposals presented at this consultation are the result of extensive engagement and project design, as such, there is limited scope to make significant changes to the proposals at this stage.

Selected Alignment overview map



Route options

132kV single circuit overhead line

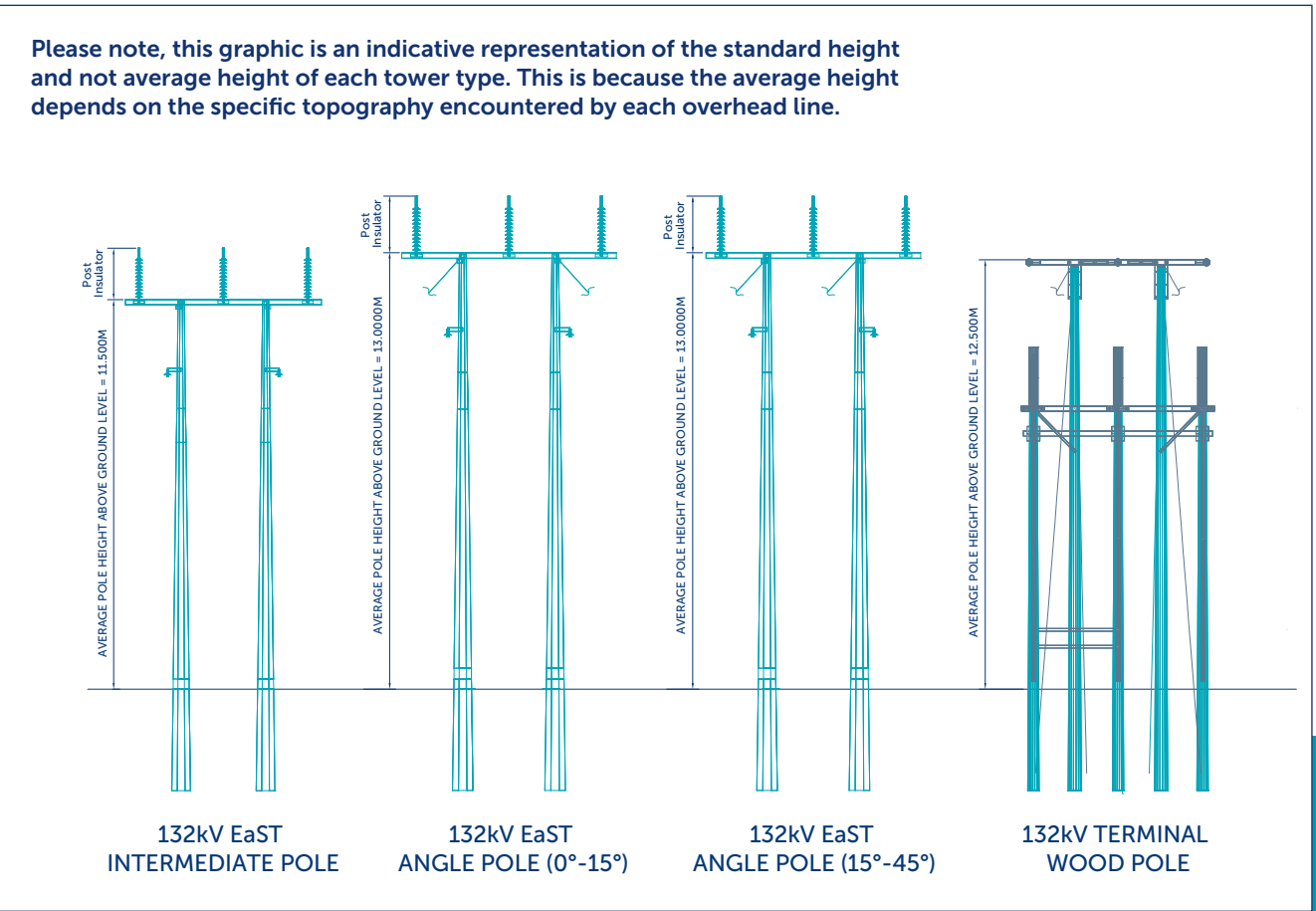
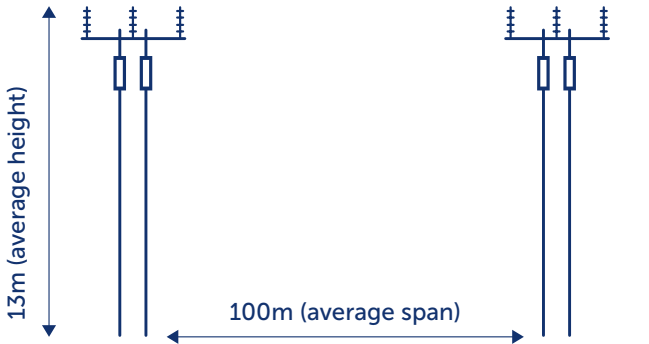
The required technology for the new 132kV connection between the proposed Muaithabhal Wind Farm 132kV Substation and the proposed 132kV Balallan Switching Station has been determined to be a new single circuit 132kV HVAC (High Voltage Alternating Current) overhead line.

The overhead line will consist of Earthed Steel Trident (EaST) supports, with nominal heights of approx. 13m. Each support will comprise two steel poles and a linking steel crossarm, which will support three UPAS conductors and an under slung high strength earth wire. Stay wires are attached at 45° gradient (unless other gradients are justified) to all angle supports, and also to the intermediate supports where necessary.

The span between the structures is approx. 100m on average. The pole height and the distance between them are subject to deviations depending on several factors, such as altitude, climatic conditions and topography.

A short section of 132kV underground cable (UGC) will be required as the proposed connection approaches Balallan Switching Station, given the presence of the Pairc Land Raiders Cairn, a prominent memorial integral to local history, in close proximity to the connection.

A terminal structure consisting of wooden poles will be required to facilitate the transition between OHL and UGC



Selecting an alignment

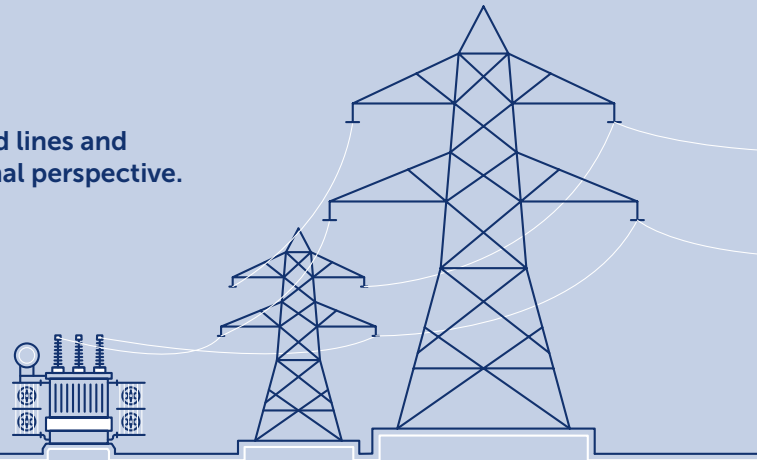
The consideration of alignment options and design solutions brings together work by four main disciplines:

Engineering Team

Who identify engineering constraints and where overhead lines and cables can be installed from a construction and operational perspective.

Key considerations include:

- Infrastructure crossings
- Environmental design
- Ground conditions
- Accessibility
- Proximity to existing infrastructure and properties



Communities Team

Who work with communities and make sure that their feedback during the consultation process is closely considered during project refinement.

Key considerations include:

- Community engagement
- Consultation responses review
- Recreational areas and areas of local interest



Land Team

Who engage with landowners to identify key land use constraints.

Key considerations include:

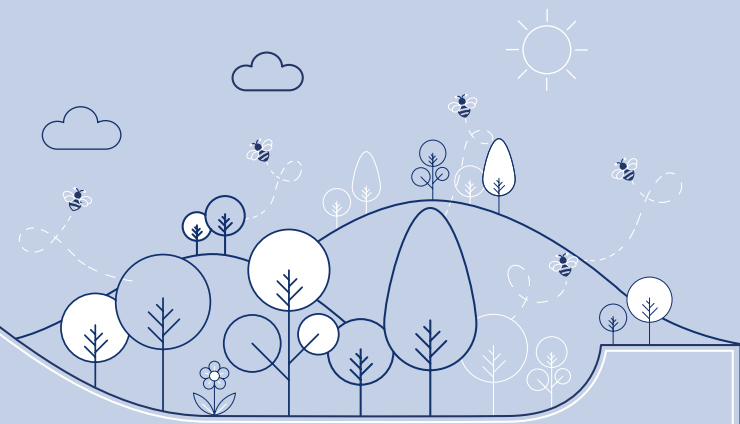
- Landowner engagement
- Mitigating effects of infrastructure on land and properties
- Reaching land agreements

Environmental Team

Who identify key environmental, community and social constraints along the routes which the new infrastructure could impact upon.

Key considerations include:

- Engagement with statutory consultees and planning authorities
- Results of specialist environmental surveys including archaeology, ornithology, ecology, geology and hydrology
- International environmental designations including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs - designated for habitats), Special Protected Areas (SPAs - designated for bird species), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Ramsar sites (wetlands of international importance identified under the terms of the Ramsar Convention) and World Heritage Sites
- National designations including Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, National Scenic areas, National Nature Reserves, Gardens and Designed Landscapes
- Regional environmental sensitivities including Wild Land Areas and Special Landscape Areas
- Local environmental aspects including visual amenity, local and RSPB nature reserves, recreation uses



Striking a balance

When selecting an alignment, we need to carefully balance key considerations relating to engineering, environment, cost and social aspects, in each section of the overhead line route. We then consider the likely effect and level of impact of each consideration, which will vary from section to section.

This can be based on how populated the area is, the outcomes of environmental and engineering surveys, the presence of peat, the local water environment, if there is existing infrastructure we need to avoid, if the effects on land and property can be mitigated and if a constructable alignment can be identified.

Ultimately, we need to balance a range of factors and present the solution we consider most viable, to then put forward for consultation. We consulted on our preferred route in October 2023 and have now confirmed the alignment option we were taking forward as the Proposed Alignment.

Meeting our obligations

Our Transmission Operators licence requires us to provide best value for customers and GB consumers.

As a natural monopoly, SSEN Transmission are closely regulated by the GB energy regulator Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (OFGEM), who determine how much revenue we are allowed to earn for constructing, maintaining and renovating our transmission network.

These costs are shared between all those using the transmission system, including generation developers and electricity consumers.

We therefore work to strict price controls which means the following environmental, engineering and economic considerations form a key part of our routing process.

Environmental assessments

Desk-based assessments using available mapping and GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data, together with initial site walkovers by specialists, have been undertaken to gather baseline information. This is crucial to enable us to understand the key environmental constraints and sensitivities within the connection corridor.

This work has been carried out during 2024 & 2025 and has helped to identify key environmental issues including landscape and visual amenity, sensitive habitats, protected ecology and ornithology, forestry, hydrology, hydrogeology, recreation and cultural heritage.

Following confirmation of a potential route and alignment, further detailed studies and assessment work will be undertaken to support the consenting process in 2025-2027.

Consenting

Before a project progresses to consent application stage (under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989), a Screening Opinion is requested from the Scottish Ministers (through the Energy Consents Unit) to clarify whether the project falls within the thresholds of The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. If the project meets or exceeds certain criteria, then it is deemed to be an EIA Development and any application for consent must be accompanied by a formal EIA Report. If it is not deemed to be an EIA Development, SSEN Transmission will provide equivalent environmental information through a voluntary Environmental Appraisal (EA) Report.



Engineering and economic considerations

In addition to the suite of environmental assessments undertaken, the following engineering and economic considerations form a key part of our routing process:

- Construction costs and buildability (largely affected by ground conditions, such as peat/rock/flooding/contaminated land, etc).
- Operations and maintenance requirements.
- Outage requirements and network constraints.
- Vicinity to other electrical OHL and underground structures.
- Vicinity to any other utility, overhead or underground.
- Proximity to wind turbines and wind farm infrastructure.
- Communications masts and infrastructure.
- Urban development.
- Forestry and biodiversity.
- Technology costs and design parameters.
- Site accessibility.
- Route length.

Why choose Overhead Line (OHL) rather than Underground Cable (UGC)?

The reasoning for OHL rather than underground cable for Muaithabhal (Uisenis) Wind Farm Connection can be explained by the following 4 points:



Ground Conditions and Technical Feasibility

The ground conditions along the route present significant challenges for underground cable installation. These include:

- Extensive peat deposits: Peat is highly compressible and unsuitable for directly supporting underground cables, necessitating substantial excavation and replacement with engineered backfill. This process would lead to increased environmental disturbance and longer construction durations.
- Shallow bedrock: The presence of shallow rock formations would require extensive trenching or controlled rock blasting to accommodate cable ducts, adding to construction complexity, cost, and environmental impact.



Environmental Impact and Planning Considerations

- The excavation of peat and bedrock for underground cables would result in substantial disruption to the natural landscape, with a greater risk of long-term environmental impact compared to overhead line construction.
- SEPA and local environmental bodies generally seek to minimise peat disturbance to protect sensitive habitats and carbon stores. Underground cable construction may require large-scale peat excavation and disposal, which may face planning objections and regulatory challenges.



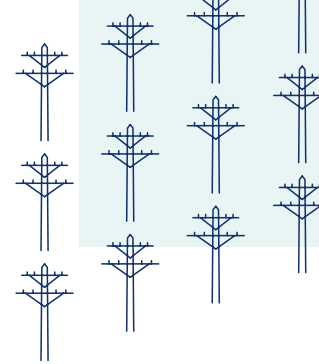
Construction Programme and Deliverability

- Installing an underground cable would require extensive civil engineering works, including deep trench excavation, backfilling, and thermal backfill placement to manage heat dissipation. This significantly increases the construction programme compared to an overhead line.
- The required time for excavation, backfilling, and reinstatement of disturbed ground would prolong the construction schedule, delaying project completion and the associated benefits of network reinforcement.



Cost Considerations

- The cost differential between OHL and UGC is significant. Industry benchmarks indicate that underground cable installation is typically five to ten times more expensive than overhead transmission lines per unit length.
- Additional costs associated with underground cable installation in challenging terrain include specialist excavation, rock breaking, de-watering, and engineered backfill materials, all of which drive costs substantially higher.



3D visualisations

We understand that local stakeholders need to be able to visualise what the development may look like in their area. We have commissioned 3D visualisations which model the proposed overhead line into the local landscape to help understand the proposals in terms of the visual impact, distance and height.

The following are some images taken from the 3D model created for the Muaithabhal (Uisenis) Wind Farm Connection OHL project from different vantage points.



To find the 3D flythrough video, scan the QR code or visit the following URL: ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/muaithabhal-wind-farm-connection/



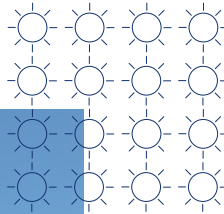
Overhead Line view looking towards Eishken

To get a better sense of the proposals in full, visualisations which include flythrough video are available to view from the project webpage and our consultants, 3D Webtech, will be assisting us at our consultation events with copies of the model that attendees can interact with during the events.

The 3D model has been developed using indicative trident pole locations, identified by our contractor following walkover surveys of the alignments. The exact location and design of each individual tower may change. If that happens, we'll update our model and videos and share these on our webpage and with you at the next series of consultation events.

Photomontages

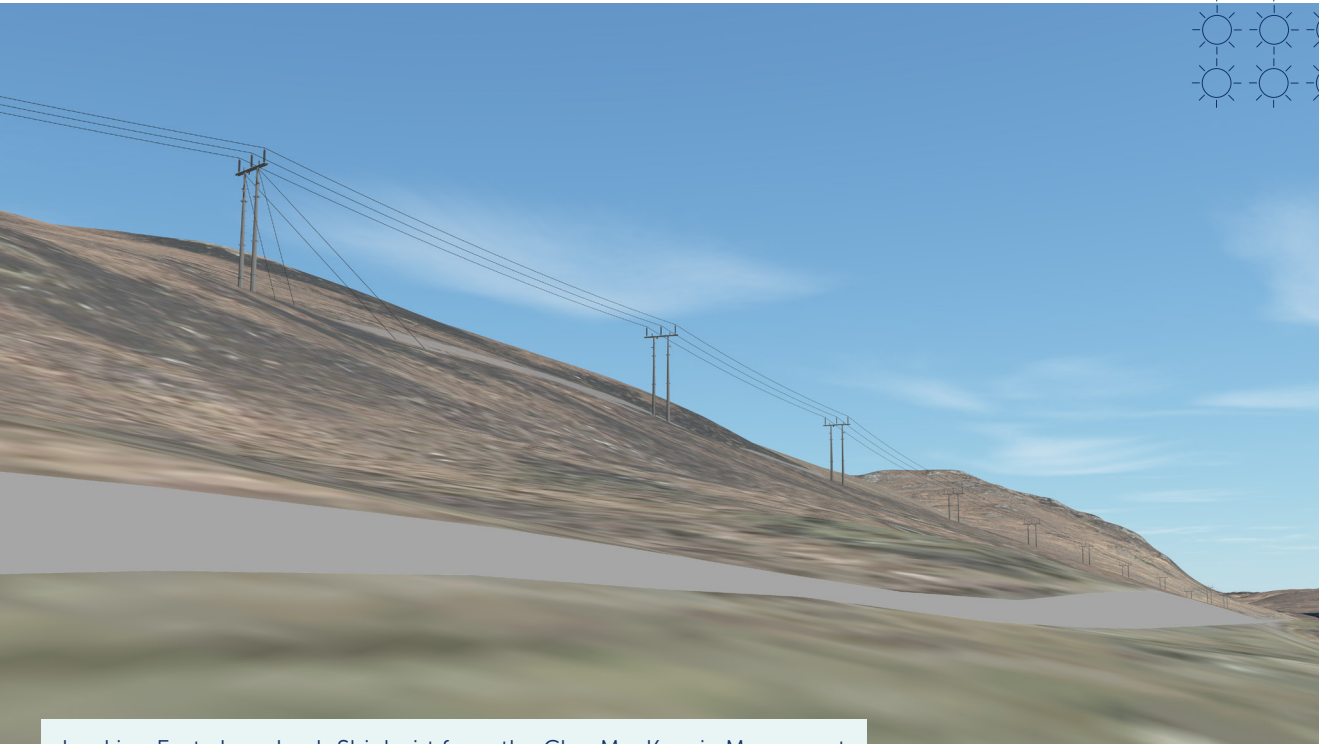
Photomontage visualisations will also be produced as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Once the EIA is completed, we'll ensure these photomontages are available to view on the dedicated project website: ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/muaithabhal-wind-farm-connection/



A859 travelling to Harris at Eishken Road End junction



A859 travelling to Stornoway at Eishken Road End junction



Looking East along Loch Shiphoirt from the Clan MacKenzie Monument



Looking West along Loch Shiphoirt

Our access strategy

Constructing and maintaining our overhead line

We are currently developing our access strategy, which considers access requirements for construction and maintenance of the overhead line. Access requirements have also informed the Proposed Alignment selection process, as a key engineering consideration. We are now determining the proposed access routes for each pole location to establish which existing access tracks need to be upgraded alongside locations for the installation of new temporary or permanent access tracks.

A detailed traffic and transport assessment will form part of the EIA, which assesses potential impacts of construction traffic and the capacity of local roads to accommodate this traffic. A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will be agreed with the local authorities prior to works commencing.

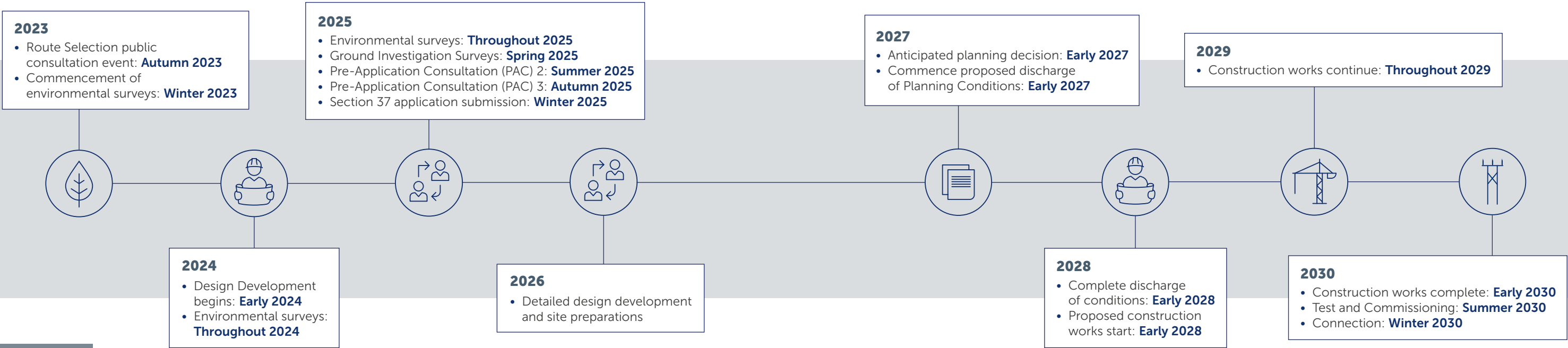
We have commissioned an experienced OHL contractor, enabling construction access considerations to be at the forefront of this stage in the design process.

Maps and further information on our access strategy will be provided in the EIA as part of the application for Section 37 consent.

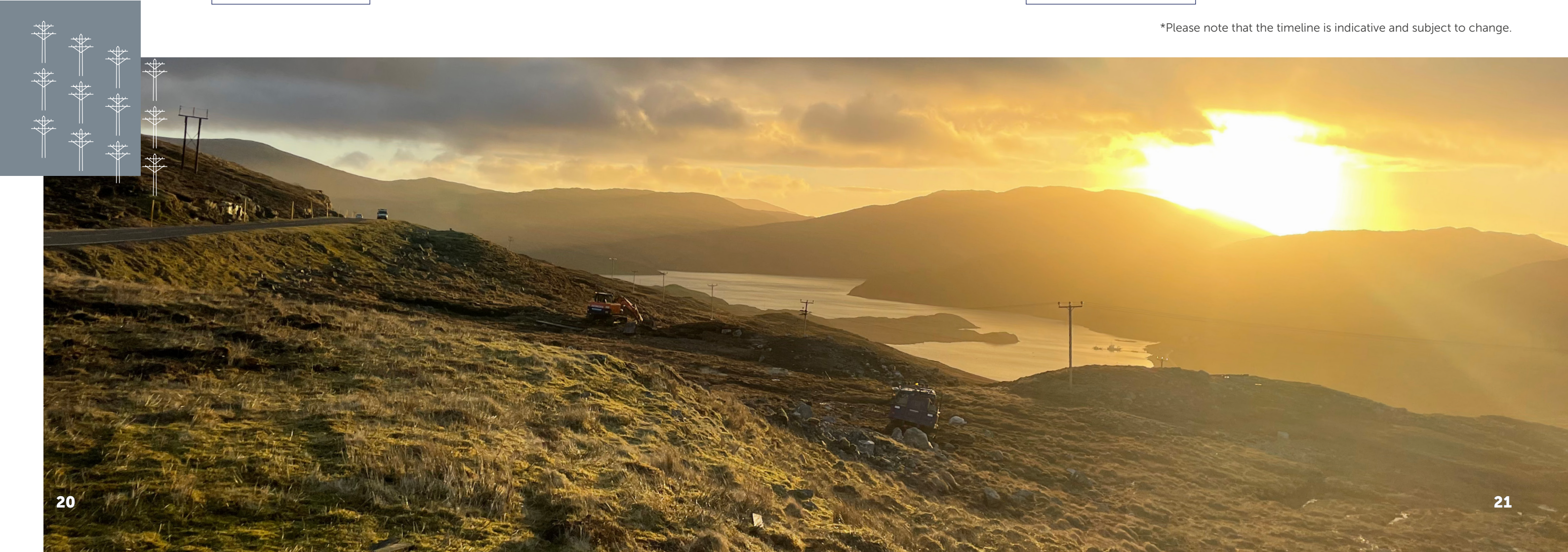
The table below explains the different types of tracks that are typically considered and what they are required for.

Type of access	What does it mean?
Existing tracks and bellmouths	Proposed construction site access would be taken via the existing public road network and would make use of existing tracks as far as practicable, upgraded as required. Existing bellmouths would be utilised where possible, subject to improvements. New bellmouths will however still be required at several locations.
Stone tracks	Typically, new temporary stone tracks are likely to be required to access each pole location, as well as the requirement for in-line access between poles. Stone tracks are designed to suit the heavy plant loads required for construction, and to suit the varied ground conditions along the route. On completion of construction, unless required for operational access, the stone tracks would be removed and the original material reinstated. Where access is difficult due to steep terrain, alternative methods would be proposed such as using smaller items of plant, specialist tracked plant, and in some cases using helicopters for moving materials.
Access tracks	Where operational access is required, this would likely range from All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) routes with no formal track, to stone road suitable for 4x4 and wagon access. The selection of the type of track required (whether it be temporary or permanent, existing upgraded tracks or new tracks) will consider the proximity to a public road, environmental impacts, structure type, required vehicle use, and potential maintenance activities, including vehicles required in future to a given location (taking health and safety requirements into account). General access track details will be included in the EIA stage of the project and presented to illustrate where each access type will be deployed, and the rationale for that selection.
Public road improvements	Public road improvements (PRI) will be required in some locations 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. Further information on PRI works will be provided in the EIA as part of the application for Section 37 consent.

Project timeline



*Please note that the timeline is indicative and subject to change.



Additional works required as part of the construction of the new overhead line include:

- Upgrade of existing and creation of new access tracks, described in more detail on the next page;
- Vegetation clearance and management; Working areas around the proposed tower locations to facilitate construction;
- At some tower locations, the formation of flat areas from which the conductors (wires) will be pulled through during construction. These areas will contain earthed metal working surfaces referred to as Equipotential Zones (EPZs);
- Other measures required during construction, such as measures to protect roads and water crossings during construction (e.g. scaffolding);
- Temporary construction compounds will also be required at locations along the overhead line route. The final location and design of temporary site compounds will be confirmed by our Contractor and separate planning consents will be sought as required.

Limits of Deviation

The Limits of Deviation (LoD) comprise an area which defines the practical limits within which micro siting of the overhead line infrastructure and access tracks can be sited and construction can be undertaken within the terms of the Section 37 consent. The location of the proposed tower positions, access tracks and associated temporary and permanent infrastructure (as illustrated on the maps provided) has been determined based on environmental and technical considerations, including engineering analysis of ground conditions and suitability based on desk studies and site walkover surveys. Investigation of sub-surface and geotechnical conditions at the proposed tower locations has not yet been completed. It is therefore possible that individual tower locations, working areas and access tracks may be subject to minor changes in position post determination of the S37 application and completion of geotechnical investigations (referred to as micro siting).

To strike a balance between providing certainty of the location of the proposed development and any environmental impacts, and the need for some flexibility over individual tower locations, the horizontal and vertical LoD need to be defined within which the proposed development will be constructed. No towers or working areas would be located outside the proposed LoD. As we develop our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and undertake more detailed design work, we are working to identify the exact LoD required for the project, based on site-specific environmental constraints and engineering considerations. At this time, we have allowed for a horizontal LoD of up to 50m on either side of the alignment centreline, extending to 200m around angle Pole positions, where larger temporary working areas will be required. A vertical LoD set at an average of 12m (height) above ground level is likely to be sought for the proposed pole heights, to ensure that minimum statutory ground clearances can be maintained once further engineering design work has been completed.

Addressing feedback

Consulting on the alignment

In August 2025, we launched our Alignment Consultation, seeking comment on the preferred alignment for the new 132kV overhead line connection proposed to connect the Muaitheabhal (Uisenis) Wind Farm to the transmission network.

We sought comments from statutory authorities, key stakeholders, elected representatives, the public and landowners on the alignment selection process undertaken and the Potential Alignment options and variants. Comments received then informed further consideration of the Potential Alignment with a view to confirming a **Proposed Alignment** to be taken forward to consent application.

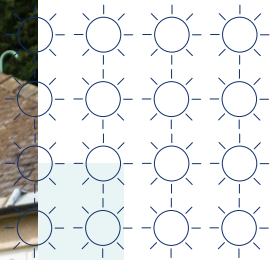
Feedback

When we consulted in August 2025, we held events in two locations in the proximity of the alignment on the 27th–28th August. A total of **50** attendees we rerecorded.

During the 10-week feedback period, which closed on 2nd October 2025, **1** response was received. This feedback was then analysed by the project team to determine where changes could be considered.

We took on verbal feedback from community members and key stakeholders at the aforementioned events. Which included feedback on impacts the project may have on bird species, peatlands and locally important monuments near to the route proposed. We ensured we routed the alignment as far as practicable away from these areas and considered similar feedback throughout the route.

We have included a summary of key feedback about our alignment received from communities, landowners and statutory stakeholders, alongside our response to this feedback in the following table.



Feedback	Response
Impacts on Nature Conservation	Impacts to the water environment will be minimised and mitigated through design and further mitigation, to reduce the potential for impact to watercourses (particularly during construction of the Proposed Alignment) will be identified as part of the EIA.
Impacts on Peatlands Consultees highlighted the presence of Nationally Important peatlands in sections of the Proposed Alignment, with potential for impact to carbon-rich soils and peatlands.	Impacts on peatlands and carbon rich soils will be a key consideration in the development of the Proposed Alignment, informed by habitat and peat depth data and following the mitigation hierarchy. Opportunities for peatland restoration and enhancement will be considered and delivered in line with SSEN Transmission's BNG commitments. A Stage 1 Peat Management Plan and Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment will be provided in support of future application for consent.
Impacts on Birds Potential impacts to various bird species have been highlighted by consultees.	Bird surveys supported by collation of historical and recent records have been undertaken to establish an accurate baseline and identify ornithological constraints. It is considered that impacts on bird species will be limited and where there is the potential for impacts this will be addressed through mitigation by design. Further mitigation to reduce the potential for impact to bird species, particularly during the breeding season, will be identified as part of the EIA.
Impacts on landscape and views	When planning routes for overhead lines and substations, we consider visual impacts and how this may affect the local scenery, visitor experience and communities. For each project we develop, we conduct a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. This is one element of the EIA Report that forms part of our application to the local authorities and Scottish Government. In this assessment, we consider visual impact from centres of population, popular spots, like walking paths and tourist sites, and where possible reduce any potential negative visual impacts. Visualisations of each alignment option were provided as part of the Alignment Stage. Further visualisations will be provided as part of the EIA Report. Potential landscape and visual impacts have been considered during the routeing and alignment selection processes and will continue to be considered during the EIA. Opportunity for further refinement to limit impacts to views will be available through the Limit of Deviation (LoD) which will be established as part of the EIA. The LoD will comprise an area which defines the practical limits within which micro-siting of the OHL infrastructure and access tracks can be achieved.

Feedback	Response
Impacts on Clan Mackenzie Monument?	Visualisations have demonstrated that all Proposed Alignment Options have potential to impact on the setting of the monument. The Proposed Alignment has been developed to seek minimal impact where possible, with selection of an option of least impact.
Impacts on Private Water Supplies (PWS)	A report on potential PWS impacts and mitigation would be included in the environmental assessments as part of the EIA Report which supports the consent application. In a small number of instances, where the works cannot be successfully micro-sited away from a PWS, we may be required to undertake a water quality testing programme prior to, during and after construction. This would be agreed with the PWS owner and SEPA.
Undergrounding of the Proposed Alignment	The environmental, technical, and operational constraints associated with undergrounding make the option extremely challenging to deliver in many areas of Scotland. Some of the challenges that contribute to this position include technical limitations, environmental impact, terrain concerns, infrastructure needs, operational needs and cost. Even if technically feasible, undergrounding over a significant length of or the entirety of a project would be unreasonable as it would be contrary to SSEN Transmission's licence obligations to be economic and efficient in respect of additional costs to the end consumer, with additional risk to the electricity transmission network in the event of cable failure and consequent outages.



Have your say

We value community and stakeholder feedback. Without this, we would be unable to progress projects and reach a balanced proposal.

The feedback period

We will be seeking final comments and feedback from members of the public, statutory consultees and other key stakeholders regarding our proposals until **6 November 2025**.

How to provide feedback:

Submit your comments and feedback by completing and returning the feedback form at the back of this booklet which is also online via the project webpage, emailing or writing to your Community Liaison Manager.

Our Community Liaison team

Each project has a dedicated Community Liaison Manager who works closely with community members to make sure they are well informed of our proposals and that their views, concerns, questions or suggestions are put to our project teams.

Throughout the life of our projects, you will hear from us regularly. We aim to establish strong working relationships by being accessible to key local stakeholders such as community councils, residents' associations and development trusts, and regularly engage with interested individuals.



To support everyone online, we provide accessibility and language options on our website through 'Recite Me'. The accessibility and language support options provided by 'Recite Me' include text-to-speech functionality, fully customisable styling features, reading aids, and a translation tool with over 100 languages, including 35 text-to-speech.

Please select "Accessibility" on our website to try out our inclusive toolbar."

You can also follow us on social media:



What we're seeking views on

During our last public event in **August 2025**, we wanted to know your thoughts on our selected Overhead Line route and if you agreed with the one we'd identified as best.

Now that we have moved forward and selected our Proposed Alignment, we want you to share your thoughts and opinions and let us know where you think we can make improvements. We also want you to let us know any concerns you might have about the impact of our work, including during the construction period.

It would be helpful to understand what you believe we should be doing to help minimise the impact of the development. We would also ask you to identify any opportunities for local community benefit or environmental enhancement we may be able to deliver alongside this project.

We encourage all interested community members to fill in a feedback form when submitting feedback, however if you prefer, you can email us to provide your feedback or ask any questions.

Community Liaison Manager

Kevin Morrison

Battery Point Power Station,
Stornoway, HS1 2RT

kevin.morrison@sse.com

07586 237 814

Additional information:



The best way to keep up to date is to sign up to project updates via the project webpage:
ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/muaitheabhal-wind-farm-connection/

Your feedback

Thank you for taking the time to read this consultation booklet. In order to record your views and improve the effectiveness of our consultation, please complete this short feedback form.

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS. (Please tick one box per question only)

Q1. Did you attend our events in Balallan or Kershader in person, or did you look at the consultation materials online?

☐ In person ☐ Online ☐ Neither

Q2. Do you agree with the proposed alignment being proposed?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Comments:

Q3. If consent is granted, we will continue to provide updates as the project develops and at key milestones. We continuously seek to identify the best methods of communication based on community needs. Please tell us how you would prefer to receive project updates so that we can consider this for future improvements:

Comments:

Q4. Our Community Benefit Fund will provide an opportunity for local groups and organisations to apply for community funding. Do you have any suggestions for local community benefits or local initiatives, such as volunteering, that we could support to leave a positive legacy in your area?

Comments:

Q5. We are committed to achieving biodiversity net gain as part of our proposals. Do you have any suggestions for nature projects that we could consider to leave a positive nature legacy in your area?

Comments:

Full name: **Email:**

Telephone: **Address:**

We would like to send you relevant communications via email such as invitations to stakeholder events, surveys, updates on projects, services and future developments from the Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks group listed below. If you are happy to receive email updates please opt in by ticking the box below. You can unsubscribe at any time by contacting us at stakeholder.admin@sse.com or by clicking on the unsubscribe link that will be at the end of each of our emails.



If you would like to be kept informed of progress on the project, please tick this box

Thank you for taking the time to complete this feedback form.

Please submit your completed form by one of the methods below:

Post: Battery Point Power Station, Stornoway, HS1 2RT

Email: kevin.morrison@sse.com

Online: ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/muaitheabhal-wind-farm-connection/

For information on how we collect and process your data please see our privacy notice available at today's event. This can also be obtained online at: ssen-transmission.co.uk/privacy

Comments forms and all the information from today's event will also be available to download from the project website.

We intend to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to assist our experienced teams in the analysis of your feedback, so we can categorise key points raised more quickly. You can learn more about how we're utilising AI at: ssen-transmission.co.uk/AIFAQ

Any information given on the feedback form can be used and published anonymously as part of Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks consultation report. By completing this feedback form you consent to Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks using feedback for this purpose.

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