

Pre-Application Consultation Report
Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line
Connection to New Deer and Peterhead -
Tie-in Connection
July 2026



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this Report

- 1.1.1 Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (the Applicant) who, operating and known as Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission), own, operate and develop the high voltage electricity transmission system in the north of Scotland and remote islands. SSEN Transmission holds a license under the Electricity Act 1989 to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical system of electricity transmission.
- 1.1.2 The Applicant is seeking consent under Section 37 to the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended) to construct and operate the Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line (OHL) Connection to New Deer and Peterhead: Tie-In (the 'Proposed Development'). The Proposed Development comprises a permanent diversion, referred to as a 'Tie-In', of the existing New Deer to Peterhead 400 kV OHL into a new 400 kV Alternating Current (AC) substation, consented separately as part of the Netherton Hub.
- 1.1.3 There is no statutory requirement to undertake formal pre-application consultation (PAC) for applications made under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989, however, for all Section 37 applications that require Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) recommends, through its Good Practice Guidance¹, a voluntary approach to PAC that generally aligns with the compulsory process prescribed for national and major development applications under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. This project is non-EIA, but SSEN Transmission has opted to follow the good practice guidance by creating a PAC Report.
- 1.1.4 SSEN Transmission typically follows a staged approach to routeing: Route Selection, Alignment Selection and then the consenting process. The routing stage was omitted for this project due to the short lengths of the Proposed Development, and begun community consultation at the alignment stage. The purpose of this document is to describe the PAC process SSEN Transmission has undertaken for the Alignment Development, with reference to the content requirements of PAC Reports as described in Table 1 of Section 3.2 of the ECU Good Practice Guidance² and provided below in Table 1.1. In doing so, we demonstrate that SSEN Transmission has met the expectations of the Guidance in carrying out meaningful engagement at the earliest possible stage with communities and groups potentially affected by development proposals.
- 1.1.5 The requirements of PAC Reports are listed in Table 1.1 below, along with commentary of where in this Report confirmation of that information can be found.

Table 1.1 PAC Report Requirements Table

<i>PAC Report requirement</i>	<i>Location of information in this Report</i>
Dates on which and places where public events were held;	Section 3.2.3
A description of any additional steps taken by the applicant to consult with members of the public regarding the development;	n/a
A description of any materials sent to consultees and materials provided to those attending public events;	Section 3

¹ See Section 3.2 of Scottish Government: [Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989](#). (updated July 2022)

² See Section 3.2 of Scottish Government: [Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989](#). (updated July 2022)

<i>PAC Report requirement</i>	<i>Location of information in this Report</i>
Copies of any visual presentation shown or displayed at a public event, and photographs of any display boards or models at public events;	Appendix 1, 2 and 4
Confirmation as to whether consultees and attendees at public events were informed that pre-application consultation does not remove the right or the potential need to comment on the final application once it is made to the Scottish Ministers;	Section 3.2.17
A summary of the written responses to consultations and views raised at public events, including an indication of the number of written responses received and the number of persons who attended the public events;	Sections 4.2 and 5.2
An explanation of how the applicant took account of views raised during the pre-application consultation process;	
An explanation of how members of the public were given feedback on the applicant's consideration of the views raised during the pre-application consultation process.	

1.2 Structure of this Report

1.2.1 The PAC Report is comprised of six parts:

1. *Introduction*: sets out the purpose of the Pre-Application Consultation Report;
2. *Proposed Development*: outlines the background to the project and provides a description of the key elements;
3. *The Consultation Process*: describes the framework for consultation and methods which have been employed;
4. *Pre-application consultation PAC 1: Consultation Responses, Key Issues and How the Project Responded* – describes how the comments and issues raised during PAC 1 events were addressed by the project;
5. *Pre application consultation PAC 2: Consultation Responses, Key Issues and How the Project Responded* – describes how the comments and issues raised during PAC 2 events were addressed by the project; and
6. *Conclusions*– provides a summary of the conclusions reached.

1.2.2 Appendices are attached to provide evidence of consultation carried out.

2. ALIGNMENT DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Project Background

2.1.1 The Applicant is applying for consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (S37) for the Alignment Development, as shown in Figure 1 below. Please also refer to the detailed proposal maps included in the S37 application.

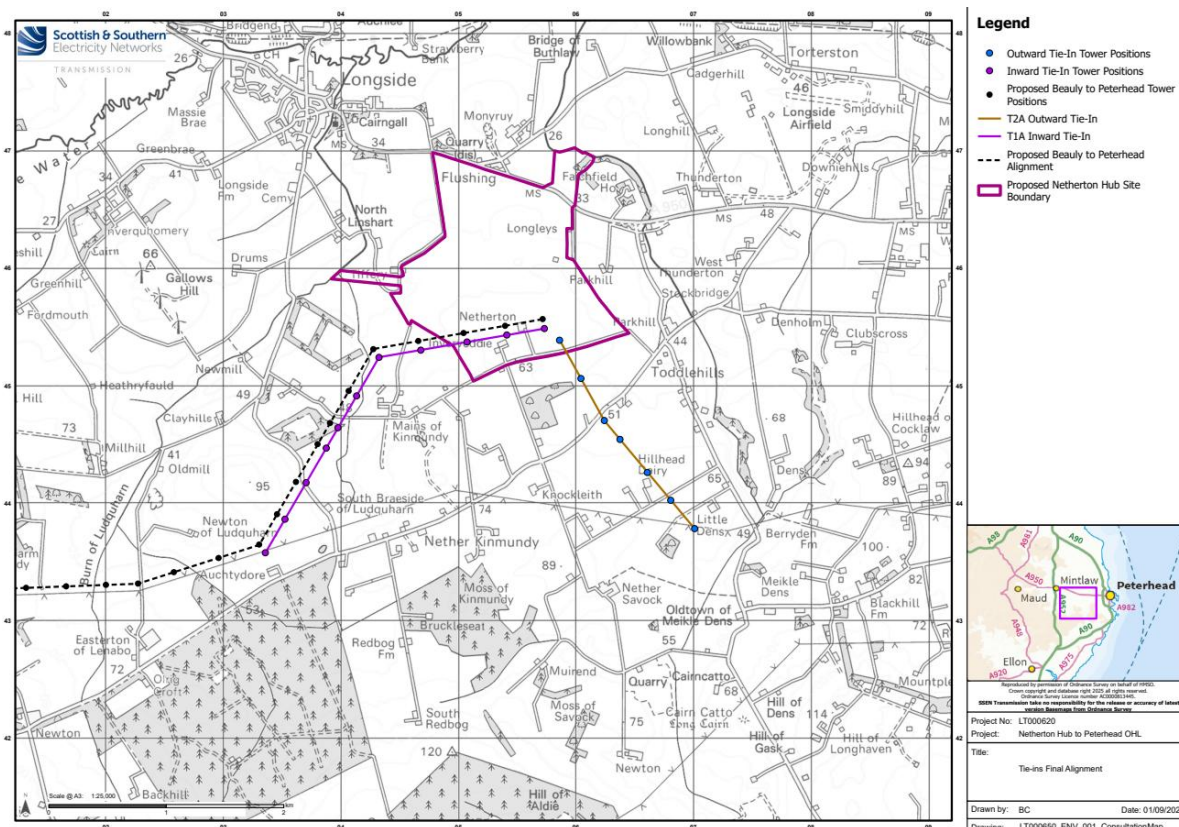


Figure 1 The Proposed Development

2.1.2 The Alignment Development falls within the administrative area of Aberdeenshire Council.

2.2 Background to Alignment Development

2.2.1 The Netherton Hub is a strategic development proposed for a site located near Longside to the west of Peterhead. The tie-in connection of the existing New Deer-Peterhead 400kV overhead line into the Hub is required to connect the proposed 400kV AC substation within the Hub to the existing network. This will maximise the transfer capability between Netherton Hub and the rest of our transmission network.

2.2.2 The Proposed Development comprises a permanent diversion, referred to as a 'Tie-In', of the existing New Deer to Peterhead 400 kV OHL into a new 400 kV AC substation proposed separately as part of the Netherton Hub. The Tie-In is split into an 'In' leg, stemming from the existing New Deer – Peterhead OHL to the Hub substation, and an 'Out' leg, connecting the substation back out to the existing OHL.

2.2.3 The components include:

1. Re-routing the existing New Deer-Peterhead 400kV double circuit overhead line between Nether Kinmundy and Little Dens into Netherton Hub, to connect with the proposed 400kV substation. This will involve installing two sections of new overhead lines of approximately 2km ('Out'-leg) and 3.4 km ('In'-leg) in length between the existing New Deer – Peterhead line and the Netherton Hub.

2. Installing two temporary overhead line circuits to facilitate the transfer from the existing New Deer – Peterhead 400kV overhead line to the proposed diverted lines.
3. Removing around 3.7km of redundant overhead line towers along the existing New Deer – Peterhead overhead line between Nether Kinmundy and Little Dens.

2.3 SSEN Transmission Route Selection Process

- 2.3.1 The approach to the route selection was informed by SSEN Transmission's guidance 'Procedures for Routeing Overhead Lines and Underground Cables of 132 kV and above', hereafter referred to as the 'Routeing Guidance'. The Routeing Guidance sets out SSEN Transmission's approach to selecting a route for an overhead line or underground cable development, refer to EIAR Volume 1, Chapter 4, Section 4.5 for further details on the routeing process. This document helps SSEN Transmission to meet its obligations under Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989, which requires transmission license holders:
- to have a regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interests; and
 - to do what they reasonably can to mitigate any effect that the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects.
- 2.3.2 The Routeing Guidance aims to balance environmental, technical and economic considerations throughout the route options process.
- 2.3.3 The guidance splits a project into the following stages:
- Pre-Routeing Activities: Selection of proposed connection option;
 - Stage 0: Routeing strategy development;
 - Stage 1: Corridor Selection;
 - Stage 2: Route Selection; and
 - Stage 3: Alignment Selection.
- 2.3.4 The stages that are carried out can vary depending on the type, nature and size of a project and consultation is carried out at each stage of the process as appropriate. Due to the relatively short lengths of the proposed tie-in and the existing and planned overhead line infrastructure in the area, the Route stage was omitted for this project. The approach and rationale for this was communicated to stakeholders.
- 2.3.5 The following consultation was undertaken as part of the project development process for the Alignment Development:
- Alignment Consultation PAC 1 (Routeing Guidance Stage 3)
 - Alignment Consultation PAC 2

3. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1 This section describes the methods employed during the consultation process and provides information on meetings and events held with stakeholders in order to obtain feedback and help inform the project development.
- 3.1.2 The Scottish Government's Good Practice Guidance states the expectation *that applicants "hold at least two public consultation events prior to submitting the application. The final public event taking place at least 14 days after the first public event. The public events are to give members of the public the opportunity to make comments to the applicant as regards the proposed development. At the final public event, the applicant should provide feedback to members of the public in respect of comments received by the applicant regarding the proposed development."*
- 3.1.3 In this report, the two PAC events are described, respectively, as PAC 1 and PAC 2 consultation.
- 3.1.4 The consultation events discussed within this PAC Report displayed information and allowed feedback relative to the Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line (OHL) Connection to New Deer and Peterhead Tie-In project. At the same event (PAC1) consultation was also undertaken in relation to a separate project to rebuild and remove of a section of the existing New Deer-Peterhead 400kV overhead line between the proposed Netherton Hub and the existing Peterhead 400kV substation in Boddam; and information was shared on the Eastern Green Link 3 underground cable alignment between Netherton Hub and Sandford Bay, and also the Beaully-Blackhillock-New Deer-Peterhead 400kV Overhead Line Project. This approach was taken given the similar nature of the proposed developments, their relative proximity and their presence within the same local authority area. To avoid confusion, project-specific information was produced in respect of each prospective project, and there was clear separation of project information at each event, and the nature and purpose of the consultation or information provision was clearly made.

3.2 Pre application Consultation - PAC 1

- 3.2.1 The purpose of the PAC 1 consultation events was to present alignment options for the inward and outward tie in, in addition to a potential alignment, and seek feedback on all options presented.
- 3.2.2 To support initial PAC 1 consultation events, a Consultation Booklet was prepared and published in March 2025 and uploaded to the project website. The Consultation Booklet provided project context and project details and sought comments from stakeholders on the alignment development (See Appendix 1).
- 3.2.3 The PAC 1 consultation events took place at the following venues and dates/times.

Venue	Date and time
Buchan Braes Hotel, Boddam, Peterhead, AB42 3AR	Wednesday 5 March, 10–12.30pm
Longside Parish Church Hall, Inn Brae, Longside AB42 4XN	Wednesday 5 March, 3–7pm

- 3.2.4 At the entrance of each venue, project team staff were stationed to welcome and note attendee numbers. Attendees were also invited to have their names and contact details recorded so that the project team could provide email updates on project information and upcoming events.

- 3.2.5 The printed Consultation Booklets were also available at all consultation events, and information boards and large-format maps were available for attendees to learn more about the project at that stage of development.
- 3.2.6 A 3D interactive model of the alignment options depicting the overhead line infrastructure was also available at the PAC 1 events. The 3D model allowed attendees to view the location of the proposed OHL in relation to their property or from a viewpoint they specified, to give an indication of how the alignment would look and to assist in their consultation feedback.
- 3.2.7 Members from multiple disciplines within the project team were available to answer questions and attendees were invited to provide feedback to a set of questions via an online feedback form and a printed consultation feedback form at the rear of the consultation booklet. In addition, feedback was invited via email.
- 3.2.8 A corresponding Consultation Document was available online.
- 3.2.9 The feedback period in relation to the PAC 1 events was open for 6 weeks after the first event until 16 April 2025.

Stakeholder engagement

- 3.2.10 Engagement with the following statutory and non-statutory stakeholders was undertaken during the pre-application consultation stage. Stakeholders were provided with the Consultation Documents and invited to ask questions and make comments as well as submit written feedback or attend separate meetings with members of the project team if required.

Statutory Consultees
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
Historic Environmental Scotland (HES)
NATS Safeguarding
Ministry of Defence (MOD)
Non-Statutory Consultees
Aberdeenshire Council
AGS Airports
NatureScot

Online and virtual consultation

- 3.2.11 The project website (www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/netherton-400kv-OHL-tie-in) contained links to all published materials and the feedback form as well as project updates, responses to FAQs, and notifications of upcoming consultation events.

Publicity

- 3.2.12 Pre application consultation events were advertised in The Buchan Observer (on 25 February and 4 March 2025) and the Press and Journal (20 and 28 of February 2025) (refer to copies of the adverts in Appendix 3).
- 3.2.13 Dates and venues of consultation events were also publicised on the project website, alongside a link to the online consultation portal. In addition, SSEN Transmission's social media channels were also used to advertise the consultation events.
- 3.2.14 A postcard informing of the event was sent out to 3608 properties (See Appendix 3).

- 3.2.15 Furthermore, email notification was issued to existing local mailing lists, as well as relevant Aberdeenshire Councillors and MPs/MSPs.

Advice on making comments to the Applicant

- 3.2.16 Consultees were made aware that providing comments through the pre-application process would be to SSEN Transmission, and that an opportunity to provide formal representations to the ECU would be available once the Section 37 application was submitted and before Scottish Ministers make a decision on the application. Examples of where this has been advised can be found in the PAC 1 booklet (p27) and the PAC1 postcard (Appendix 3).

3.3 Pre application Consultation – PAC 2

- 3.3.1 The purpose of the PAC 2 consultation event was to present the final proposed overhead line alignment for the Tie-In project that would be submitted for Section 37 consent, along with information relating to tower locations and access arrangements. Responses to feedback received to date were also shared as part of that consultation. Stakeholders were invited to provide further feedback on the proposed alignment.
- 3.3.2 To support the PAC 2 consultation events, a second Consultation Booklet was prepared and published in September 2025 and uploaded to the project website. The PAC 2 Consultation Booklet provided project context and project details, summarising the feedback received from PAC 1 events, and sought final comments from stakeholders and members of the public on the alignment development (See Appendix 2).
- 3.3.3 The consultation events took place at the following venues and dates/times.

<i>Venue</i>	<i>Date and time</i>
Longside Parish Church Hall, Inn Brae, Longside, AB42 4XN	Wednesday 10 September 2025, 3–7pm

- 3.3.4 At the entrance to the venue, project team staff were stationed to greet attendees and note numbers. Attendees were also invited to have their names and contact details recorded so that the project team could provide email updates on project updates and upcoming events.
- 3.3.5 The printed Consultation Booklets were also available at the consultation event, and information boards and large format maps were available for attendees to learn more about the project at that stage of development. A revised 3D model depicting updates following the PAC 1 events was produced and available at the event, alongside flythrough videos. Members from multiple disciplines within the project team were available to answer questions and attendees were invited to provide feedback to a set of defined questions via an online feedback form and printed consultation feedback form at the rear of the consultation booklet. In addition, feedback was sought via email or by post to the Community Liaison Manager.
- 3.3.6 As mentioned above, the main purpose of the PAC 2 event was to present feedback on views obtained in response to the earlier round of consultation and provide the opportunity to receive further feedback. The feedback period was open for 4 weeks after the first event on 10 September 2025 until 8 October 2025. In addition, Longside Community Council was notified of the event and were welcomed to discuss any matters ahead of the PAC 2 events.

Stakeholder engagement

- 3.3.7 Engagement with the following statutory and non-statutory stakeholders was undertaken during the pre-application consultation stage. Stakeholders were provided with the Consultation Documents and invited to ask

questions and make comments as well as submit written feedback or attend separate meetings with members of the project team if required.

Statutory Consultees
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
Historic Environmental Scotland (HES)
NATS Safeguarding
Ministry of Defence (MOD)
Non-Statutory Consultees
Aberdeenshire Council
AGS Airports
NatureScot

Online and virtual consultation

- 3.3.8 The project website (www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/netherton-400kv-OHL-tie-in) contained links to all published materials and the feedback form as well as project updates and responses to FAQs.
- 3.3.9 During the consultation and subsequent feedback period, an online exhibition room was hosted on a virtual platform designed to look and feel like a consultation in a community hall, featuring the same information boards that were presented at the in-person events. The feedback form was provided on the portal, and all interested members of the public were invited to complete this.

Publicity

- 3.3.10 Pre application consultation events were advertised in Buchan Observer on 2 and 9 September 2025, and the Press and Journal on 5 and 8 September 2025.
- 3.3.11 Date and venue of the consultation event were also publicised on the project website, alongside a link to the online consultation portal. In addition, SSEN Transmission's social media channels were used to advertise the consultation events.
- 3.3.12 A postcard informing of the event was also sent out to 3907 properties (See Appendix 3).
- 3.3.13 Furthermore, email notification was issued to existing local mailing lists, as well as relevant Aberdeenshire Councillors and MPs/MSPs.

Advice on making comments to the Applicant

- 3.3.14 Consultees were made aware that making a comment through the pre-application process was to the Applicant, and that an opportunity to provide feedback to the decision-maker would be available once the application was submitted. Examples of where this has been advised can be found in p31 of the PAC 2 booklet (in Appendix 2), and the PAC 2 postcard (in Appendix 3).

4. PRE APPLICATION CONSULTATION PAC 1 RESPONSES, KEY ISSUES AND HOW THE PROJECT RESPONDED

4.1 Overview

- 4.1.1 This section summarises the pre application consultation PAC 1 responses, and how the project responded to them.
- 4.1.2 Table 4.1 sets out the consultation events and shows the number of attendees at each event. In total there were 158 attendees across both venues. A total of 9 responses were received from the community. A total of 7 responses was received from statutory and non-statutory consultees. These were received via the feedback form, or written responses received in the project inbox or by mail.

Table 4.1 PAC 1 consultation event details and number of attendees

<i>Venue</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Number of attendees</i>
Buchan Braes Hotel, Boddam, Peterhead, AB42 3AR	Wednesday 5 March, 10–12.30pm	158 in total
Longside Parish Church Hall, Inn Brae, Longside AB42 4XN	Wednesday 5 March, 3–7pm	

4.2 Pre application Consultation PAC 1 Responses

- 4.2.1 Key themes from the feedback from the local community following the PAC 1 consultation period were identified and set out below.

Theme	Response
Impacts to the local wildlife habitats around Ludquharn and Longside	A number of ecology surveys have been undertaken in the area between July and November 2025 and in June 2026 to understand any potential impacts on wildlife and identify appropriate mitigation measures. Construction and operational impacts, including on wildlife and habitats, have been assessed in the Environmental Appraisal Report (EAR). A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), prepared and implemented by the Principal Contractor, will guide environmental management during construction. The CEMP will align with commitments in the EAR, statutory consents, and industry best practices, with oversight from a qualified Environmental Clerk of Works (EnvCoW) and support from other professionals.
Property Value	SSEN Transmission understand that there are concerns about the potential impact of its proposed developments on properties within the vicinity of its proposed overhead line alignments and substations sites. It will look to mitigate impacts on residential properties as far as possible. These impacts (noise, visual amenity, cultural heritage) have been assessed in the Environmental Appraisal Report and mitigation measures will be implemented to reduce these impacts. Concerns in relation to impacts on property continue to be noted; however, as a regulated business, SSEN Transmission is obliged to follow a statutory legal framework under the Electricity Act 1989 and Land Compensation Act 1961. If you are entitled to compensation under the legal framework, SSEN Transmission will assess any claim on a case-by-case basis under the direction of this legal framework. If this is the case, SSEN Transmission will recommend that the residents engage a professional adviser and will generally meet reasonably incurred professional fees in these circumstances. SSEN Transmission will not meet fees incurred in objecting to its proposed developments.

Theme	Response
Community benefit fund	The purpose of community benefit funds is to support and deliver local projects and initiatives that benefit the community where our new infrastructure is located. Our community benefit funds follow the latest UK Government guidance.
The approach taken to select the potential alignment was unclear	Section 3 of this RoC explains the key stages when selecting an overhead line route: corridor, route, and alignment. The corridor and route stages were bypassed by this project, which is common practice when a project is of relatively short distance as it is not possible to establish multiple corridor or route options. The alignment options are influenced by engineering and environmental factors as well as cost.
Cumulative impacts and a fragmented approach to project development.	The cumulative impact of the development with other known energy infrastructure development in the area will be assessed as part of the Environmental Appraisal (EA) process. Cumulative assessment will have regard to any known proposed infrastructure in the search area. Any connection projects that are progressed at a later stage would need to similarly take cognisance of other known infrastructure in their assessment of cumulative impact whether existing or proposed. SSEN Transmission can only refer to known infrastructure proposals in undertaking such an assessment. Ofgem's approval of the need for strategic electricity transmission reinforcement confirmed that specific projects identified by the Electricity System Operator through the Holistic Network Design (HND) would be taken forward as part of the Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment (ASTI) framework. The HND fully anticipated that the projects identified would need to be delivered through the progression of specific designs for each reinforcement by the Transmission Owners (TO's) appointed through the regulatory process, with these specific options to be designed and consulted on individually. Further to this, we have combined our consultation events with other local developments when possible. This has included holding joint consultation events with Eastern Green Link 3, Beaulieu to Peterhead 400 kV overhead line and with the associated rebuild aspect of the Proposed Development
Traffic management	A detailed traffic and transport assessment forms part of the Environmental Appraisal, 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.
Landscape and Visual impacts	The Section 37 application for the Proposed Development includes a limit of deviation, which defines the maximum extent within which the Proposed Development can be built. This allows for tower 'micrositing' to minimise, where possible, the visual impacts on properties. The EAR has included an appraisal of noise and landscape & visual amenity impacts to understand how these may affect residential properties close to route T1A. Where impacts have been identified, measures to mitigate these impacts have been proposed and will be implemented during the relevant phase of works.
Noise pollution	When developing overhead lines and substations, SSEN Transmission ensures a focus on minimising noise impact. Detailed noise assessments are conducted as part of the environmental appraisal process, and include current noise levels,

Theme	Response
	potential new noise as a result of SSEN Transmission infrastructure, and mitigation measures where required, to ensure noise is within acceptable levels.
Why can't the outward connection (T2A) follow an eastward route out of the Netherton Hub rather than to the south of the hub.	Based on the proposed 400kV substation design, the overhead line must tie into the south side of the site. The east side of the site has further infrastructure within it along with screening bunds. The existing New Deer to Peterhead 400kV OHL is also situated to the south of the proposed 400kV substation. Therefore, the most optimal connection point is to the south
Why is a double row of pylons required?	There is a requirement for a 400kV double circuit connection between Beaully and Peterhead via the proposed new substation sites. This means that there is a requirement for a new 400kV double circuit overhead line between Greens substation and Longside 400kV substation (Beaully to Peterhead) and then between Longside 400kV substation and the existing Peterhead 400kV substation (Tie-Ins and Rebuild). To minimise the number of overhead lines going into Peterhead this requirement can be delivered by diverting the existing New Deer to Peterhead overhead line in and out of Longside creating this final part of the connection. After consideration of the alignment options, having the proposed Beaully to Peterhead OHL running in parallel with the tie-in into Longside is considered preferable from a visual and landscape perspective as it follows a natural valley and allows for the towers to pass through the lower terrain within the landscape in unison.
Prime agricultural land	The EAR provides an appraisal of land use, specifically in relation to the land take of agricultural land. Where applicable, mitigation measures have been proposed.

5. PRE APPLICATION CONSULTATION PAC 2 RESPONSES, KEY ISSUES AND HOW THE PROJECT RESPONDED

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 This section summarises the pre application consultation PAC 2 responses, and how the project responded to them.

5.1.2 Table 5.1 sets out the consultation events and shows the number of attendees at the event, in total there were 53 attendees. A total of 2 responses were received. These were received in the form of the feedback form, or written responses received in the project inbox or by mail.

Table 5.1 PAC 2 consultation event details and number of attendees

<i>Venue</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Number of attendees</i>
Longside Parish Church Hall, Inn Brae, Longside AB42 4XN	Wednesday 10 September, 3–7pm	53

5.2 Pre application Consultation PAC 2 Responses

5.2.1 Feedback from the local community following the PAC 2 consultation period is set out below.

Theme	Response
Suitability of local roads near Toddlehills for construction traffic.	The Principal Contractor will assess potential impact of construction traffic and the capacity of local roads to accommodate this traffic. A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will then be prepared and agreed with the local authorities prior to works commencing.
Landscape and visual impacts	The Section 37 application for the Proposed Development includes a limit of deviation, which defines the maximum extent within which the Proposed Development can be built. This allows for tower ‘micrositing’ to minimise, where possible, the visual impacts on properties. The EAR has included an appraisal of noise and landscape & visual amenity impacts to understand how these may affect residential properties close to route T1A. Where impacts have been identified, measures to mitigate these impacts have been proposed and will be implemented during the relevant phase of works.
Community benefit fund	The purpose of community benefit funds is to support and deliver local projects and initiatives that benefit the community where our new infrastructure is located. Our community benefit funds follow the latest UK Government guidance.
Property value	SSEN Transmission understands that there are concerns about the potential impact of its proposed developments on properties within the vicinity of its proposed overhead line alignments and substations sites. It will look to mitigate impacts on residential properties as far as possible. These impacts (noise, visual amenity, cultural heritage) have been assessed in the Environmental Appraisal Report and mitigation measures will be implemented to reduce these impacts. Concerns in relation to impacts on property continue to be noted; however, as a regulated business, SSEN Transmission is obliged to follow a statutory legal

Theme	Response
	framework under the Electricity Act 1989 and Land Compensation Act 1961. If local residents are entitled to compensation under the legal framework, SSEN Transmission will assess any claim on a case-by-case basis under the direction of this legal framework. If this is the case, SSEN Transmission will recommend that the residents engage a professional adviser and will generally meet reasonably incurred professional fees in these circumstances. SSEN Transmission will not meet fees incurred in objecting to its proposed developments.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 This PAC Report documents the consultation undertaken with statutory and non-statutory consultees as well as the public across the two consultation event stages (PAC 1 and PAC 2) of the Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line (OHL) Connection to New Deer and Peterhead: Tie-In project, now submitted to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit as part of an application under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.
- 6.1.2 Pre-application consultation was planned with reference to the expectations of pre-application consultation described in the Scottish Government's Good Practice Guidance.
- 6.1.3 PAC 1 consultations were carried out at 2 locations in March 2025 following extensive publicity in local press, social media, direct email communications, mailouts, and the project website. A feedback period was then open for 6 weeks, following which, feedback was collated and analysed in the lead up to PAC 2 consultation events, which took place in September 2025.
- 6.1.4 Information in respect of both events was published by the project team and made available at the events themselves and online via the project website, including two consultation booklets, information banners, large format plans and maps, 3D visualisations, and information leaflets on various topics.
- 6.1.5 The consultation was designed to facilitate engagement with the local community, community councils and statutory authorities to invite feedback on the proposals, and latterly to provide summaries of feedback with a response from SSEN Transmission. A feedback period of 4 weeks was open following PAC 2 consultations, to capture any additional feedback.
- 6.1.6 The approach to public consultation has ensured that stakeholders and consultees have been given the opportunity to comment on the proposals and understand how feedback has been taken on. This has enabled locally important issues and concerns to be identified and subsequently considered in the preparation of the Section 37 application.

APPENDIX 1 – PAC 1 BOOKLET

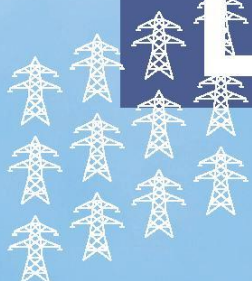


TRANSMISSION

Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

Tie-in Connection
Alignment selection stage

March 2025



ssen-transmission.co.uk/netherton-400kV-OHL-tie-in

Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

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The consultation events will be taking place on:

Wednesday 5 March 2025, 10am-1230pm,
Buchan Braes Hotel, Boddam, Peterhead AB42 3AR

Wednesday 5 March 2025, 3pm-7pm,
Longside Parish Church Hall, Inn Brae, Longside AB42 4XN



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Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

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, improve energy security 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 National Energy System Operator 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.



Find out more

Scan the QR code with your smartphone to find out more about how these policies have been assessed and determined.

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 transmission network across our region which covers a quarter of the UK's landmass, 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, overhead lines (OHL) 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 communities. So we're committed to minimising our impacts and maximising all the benefits that our local 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

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Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

The Pathway to 2030

Building the energy system for 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 an expansion in offshore wind generation of 50GW and 110GW 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, the National Energy System Operator (NEMO) 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.

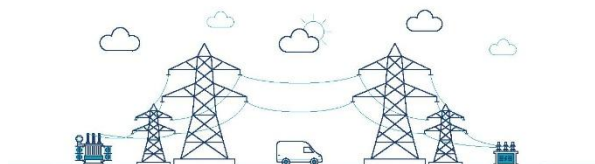
What does this mean for the north-east of Scotland?

The north and north-east of Scotland will play a key role in meeting these goals. The expansion in offshore renewable generation requires a significant increase in the capacity of our onshore electricity transmission infrastructure.

The HND confirmed the need to reinforce onshore connections between Boddam and Peterhead, Boddam and Cairnness, and an offshore cable between Spittal and Peterhead. From Peterhead, the power will be transported to demand centres in England via subsea cable.

A strategic hub near Peterhead, called Netherton Hub, is proposed to collocate both AC and DC transmission infrastructure and strengthen the network by connecting these new onshore and offshore projects.

The proposed tie-in project is necessary to make the connection between the Netherton Hub and the existing network.



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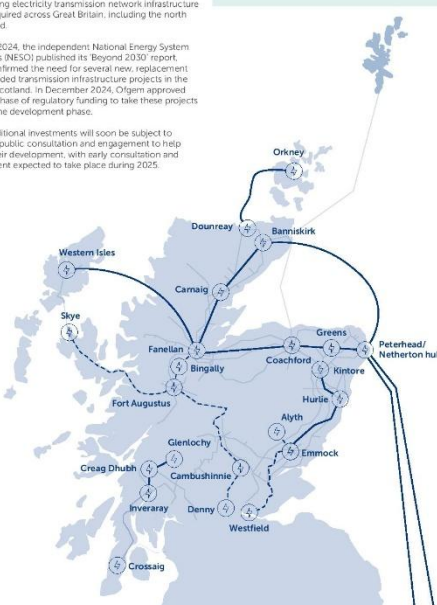
Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

Future network investment requirements

To deliver energy security and net zero, further additional investment in new low carbon electricity generation and the enabling electricity transmission network infrastructure will be required across Great Britain, including the north of Scotland.

In March 2024, the independent National Energy System Operator (NEMO) published its Beyond 2030 report, which confirmed the need for several new, replacement and upgraded transmission infrastructure projects in the north of Scotland. In December 2024, Ofgem approved the next phase of regulatory funding to take these projects through the development phase.

These additional investments will soon be subject to extensive public consultation and engagement to help inform their development, with early consultation and engagement expected to take place during 2025.



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Project overview

Project requirements

We're leading on the delivery of critical infrastructure projects to power change in the UK and Scotland. To support the delivery of 2030 offshore wind targets set by the UK and Scottish governments, and to power local communities, we need to upgrade our existing network. In some key areas, we need to develop entirely new infrastructure.

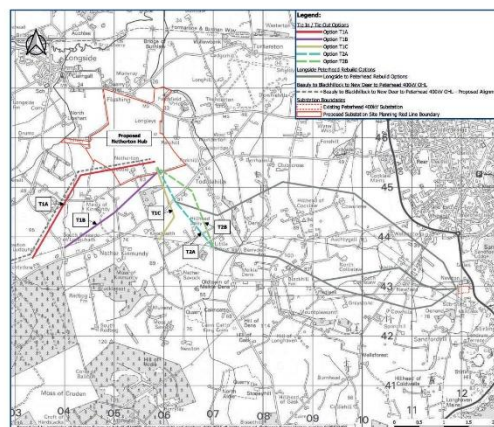
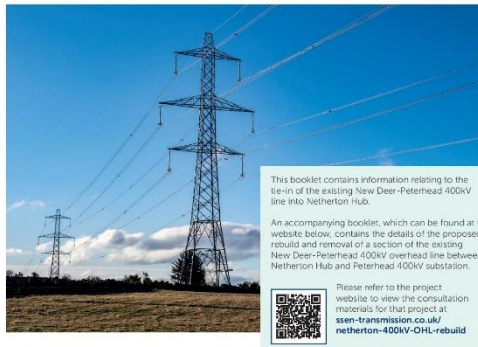
The Netherton Hub is a strategic development proposed for a site located near Longside to the west of Peterhead.

The tie-in connection of the existing New Deer-Peterhead 400kV overhead line into the hub is required to connect the proposed substation to the existing network. This will maximise the transfer capability between Netherton Hub and the rest of our transmission network.

Project elements

The project comprises a permanent re-routing, known as a tie-in, of the existing New Deer-Peterhead 400kV overhead line into a new 400kV AC substation to be located within the proposed Netherton Hub. The components include:

- Re-routing the existing New Deer-Peterhead 400kV double circuit overhead line between Nether Kinnmundy and Little Dens into Netherton Hub, to connect with the proposed 400kV substation. This will involve installing two sections of new overhead lines of approximately 1.6 to 3.4km in length between the existing New Deer-Peterhead line and the Netherton Hub.
- Installing two temporary overhead line circuits to facilitate the transfer from the existing New Deer-Peterhead 400kV overhead line to the proposed diverted lines.
- Removing around 4km of redundant overhead line towers along the existing New Deer-Peterhead overhead line between Nether Kinnmundy and Little Dens.



Map showing the tie-in alignments options (coloured lines). An accompanying booklet contains the details of the proposed rebuild project (shown as grey lines).

Larger maps can be found at the project website at www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/netherton-400kV-OHL-tie-in

More information on Netherton Hub can be found at www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/netherton-hub/



Overhead line key stages

For new overhead line projects, our process typically follows a number of stages, each iterative and increasing in detail, bringing cost, technical, environmental and social considerations together in a way that seeks the best balance.

The key stages are:

Stage 1: Strategic options assessment/routing strategy

This stage is to establish the need for the project and to select the preferred strategic option to deliver it.

Stage 2: Corridor selection

Corridor selection seeks to identify possible corridors within which to locate a new overhead line. Corridors may be 3km wide or more. For this project, the Corridor stage was omitted due to the relatively short distances involved.

Stage 3: Route selection

Route selection stage seeks to find a suitable route within the corridor which balances physical, social, environmental, engineering and cost constraint. Routes are typically up to 1km in width. Due to the relatively short lengths of the proposed tie-in and the existing and planned overhead line infrastructure in the area, the Route stage was omitted for this project.

Stage 4: Alignment selection

Alignment selection stage seeks to identify potential alignments within the preferred route and start to define the access strategy which will be adopted in terms of, for example, the nature and extent of temporary and/or permanent access tracks and possible road improvements. The alignment options will be influenced by engineering and cost factors as well as by local constraints, such as residential properties, their aspect, and amenity, ground suitability, habitats, and cultural heritage features and setting.

Stage 5: Final alignment

The final stage is the identification of a proposed overhead line alignment that is capable of being granted consent by Scottish Ministers under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989. A further pre-application consultation event will be held to present the final proposed alignment that has been refined in response to stakeholder feedback and assessment.



We are here

What happens next?

We are currently at Alignment Selection (Stage 4). Following engagement with the public, statutory bodies and landowners, we will finalise a proposed alignment to be taken forward to a final pre-application consultation stage, followed by formal environmental assessments and consent application.

Why we're here today

We are currently at the alignment selection stage of project development. We have developed these alignments by carrying out studies and assessments through engagement with landowners and wider stakeholders.

During this consultation we will present the potential alignment option. We welcome your feedback on all alignment options and will review all feedback received to inform the final design of the project.



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 such as local authorities, Energy Consents Unit (ECU), NatureScot, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and Scottish Forestry.

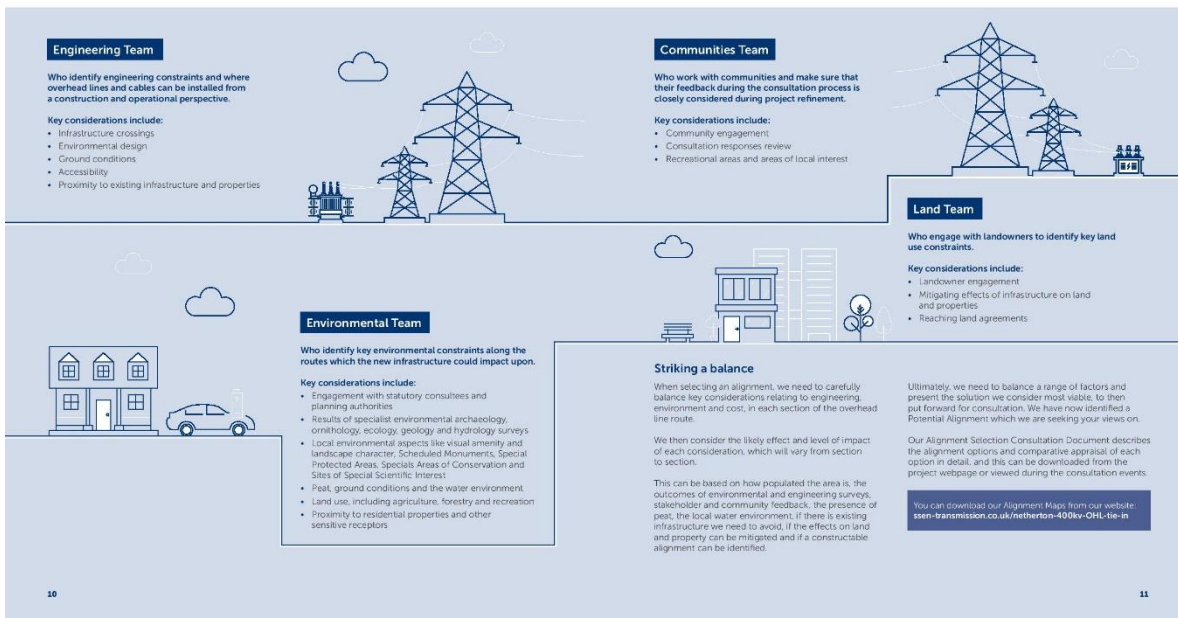


Scan the QR code or visit www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/netherton-400kV-OHL-tie-in to find the feedback form.



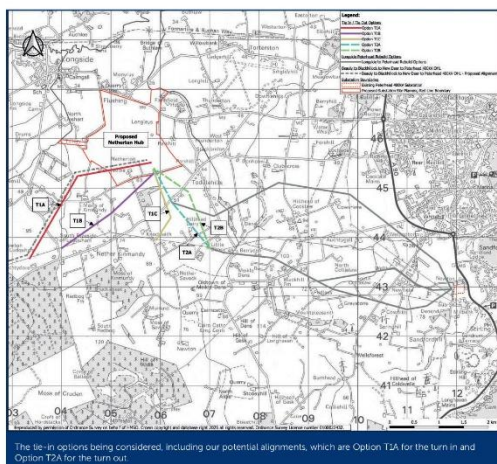
Selecting an alignment

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



The alignment options

This map shows the tie-in alignment options that we are considering as part of this proposal. Of the options shown, our potential alignments are Option T1A and Option T2A shown below.



The tie-in element of the overhead line was split into two sections to effectively assess the environmental and engineering constraints for each section.

'Inward' alignment options:

Three options have been identified as possible alignments for the inward section of the tie-in to Netherton Hub, ranging from 1.6km to 3.4km in length:

Option T1A

Option T1A diverts the existing overhead line approximately 3.4km to connect into the Netherton Hub from the west. This option follows the same path as the proposed Beauty to Peterhead 400kV overhead line.

Option T1B

Option T1B diverts the existing overhead line approximately 2.5km northeast, connecting into the south of Netherton Hub.

Option T1C

Option T1C diverts the existing overhead line approximately 1.6km north, connecting in the south of Netherton Hub.

'Outward' alignment options:

Two options (T2A and T2B) have been identified for the outward section of the tie-in to the south of Netherton Hub. Both options are approximately 2km in length.

Our potential alignments:

Our current potential alignments are T1A, to follow the Beauty-Peterhead overhead line, and T2A.

Should these be progressed as the final design, the existing overhead line will be removed from tower 55 to tower 76 once the new overhead lines are constructed.



Consult our maps

You can find a large scale version of our map on our project website at ssen-transmission.co.uk/netherton-400kv-ohl-tie-in or by scanning the QR code. Copies will be available at the consultation to take away with you.



Key environmental considerations

Constraints between the existing Peterhead-New Deer 400kV overhead line and the Netherton Hub site include a number of residential receptors, however the alignment options presented have sought to achieve 170m separation from residences wherever possible.

Buchan Ness to Collection Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) is located between approx. 5.5 – 9.0km southeast of the alignments, however the bird species associated with that designation are reliant upon the coastal habitat within and connected to the SPA, rather than the inland arable land which characterises these alignment options.

Similarly, Buchan Ness to Collection Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is located approx. 5.5 – 9.0km from the alignments and is designated for vegetated sea cliffs which are not connected functionally linked to the habitat along the Alignment options.

Loch of Strathbeg SPA and Ramsar (approx. 12.2km north of the Alignments), and Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch SPA and Ramsar (approx. 12.8km south of the Alignments) qualifying interests include pink-footed goose.

The arable farmland within and surrounding the Alignment Options potentially provides suitable foraging habitat and is within the foraging range, therefore there is potential for effects through disturbance and displacement during construction and collision risk during operation.

No designated Ancient Woodland would be affected by any of the alignment options.

Badger and Otter are known to be active in the area, whilst various buildings and trees could offer roosting potential for bats. Potential effects may be mitigated and are unlikely to be significant.

Habitats are broadly similar across all Alignment Options and appear to comprise mainly modified or arable land. Coniferous woodland appears to be present in all 'in' legs. There are no areas of overlapping Class 1 or Class 2 peatland visible from the Carbon and Peatland 2016 Map.

There are unlikely to be any Annex I habitats within the Alignment Options.

There is limited presence of cultural heritage features in the vicinity. There are no World Heritage Sites, Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDL) or Inventory Battlefields within the study areas.

It is recognised that there is potential for unknown archaeological remains to exist within each alignment option.

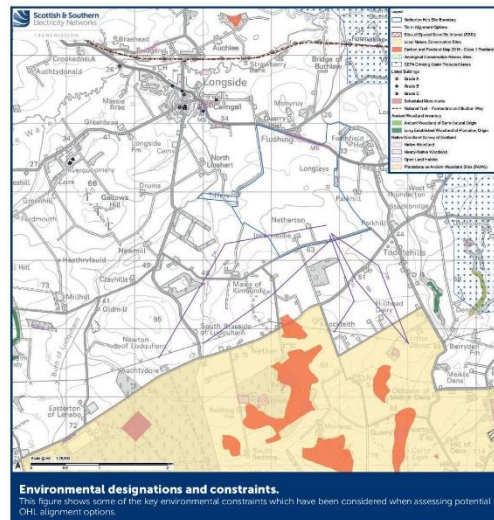
All options were considered to have low potential for significant effects on Cultural Heritage Designations. There are no Conservation Areas, or Non-Inventories Gardens and Designed Landscapes within the study areas for any Alignment Option. There is the potential for impacts through changes within the setting of Listed Buildings, but these impacts are not likely to lead to significant effects due to distance, and intervening buildings and vegetation.

The proposed alignments lie in excess of 10km from any national landscape designations or wild land areas. All of alignment options, when combined with the Beaulieu to Peterhead OHL, have the potential to compromise the landscape character of the LCT17 Coastal Agricultural Plain - Aberdeenshire at a local level in the vicinity of the Netherton Hub.

The consideration of the cumulative visual effects of this tie-in, along with the proposed rebuild of the Peterhead-New Deer OHL between Netherton and Peterhead and the proposed new Beaulieu to Peterhead OHL will be very important in establishing the most appropriate alignment option.

Alignments Options pass through Land Capability for Agriculture (LCA) of Class 3.1 and Class 3.2.

There is very limited potential for any of the options to impact upon commercial forestry and none are considered to be constrained by recreational land uses.



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Potential alignment

Our potential alignment for the tie-in between the existing New Deer-Peterhead OHL and Netherton Hub comprises alignment options T1A and T2A.

Evaluation of 'inward' alignment options: T1A, T1B and T1C

Alignment T1A is the overall environmental preference, primarily on landscape and visual grounds.

Alignment T1C is the engineering preference as it is least constrained, though there are advantages to Alignment T2A as it would present an opportunity to parallel with the proposed Beaulieu to Peterhead 400kV overhead line, which may provide both visual and access benefits.

Alignment T1C is also preferred from a Capital cost perspective, on the basis that it represents the most direct alignment into the substation. Alignment T1A as the longest of the three options has the highest associated costs, owing to additional construction requirements, making this the least preferred option when considering cost in isolation.

Differences between the options from an engineering perspective are marginal. While the economic appraisal clearly distinguishes a preference for T1C, all three options are relatively short. The differences from a cost perspective are therefore also considered to be marginal.

As such, greatest weight is given to the outcomes of the environmental appraisal and, on balance, Alignment T1A is considered to be the overall Preferred Alignment for the 'inward' option due to better alignment with the Habitats Rules and lower potential for cumulative visual impacts. Option T1A would run in close parallel with the Beaulieu to Peterhead 400kV overhead line connection into Netherton Hub.

This allows for the creation of a distinct infrastructure corridor entering Netherton Hub from the west, and also has the benefit of removing the largest number of towers from the existing New Deer-Peterhead 400kV overhead line to the south, located on higher ground.

Other tie-in options would have a potentially greater visual impact by creating a more clustered wirescape in the area to the south of Netherton Hub, with less potential for tower removal along the existing line.

Evaluation of 'outward' alignment options: T2A and T2B

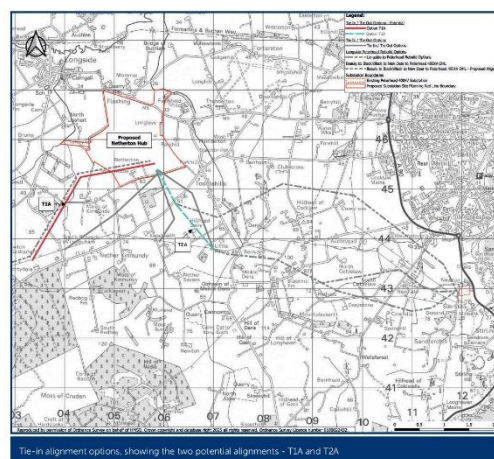
As the two 'outward' alignment options are both relatively short and close to each other, they are broadly similar in degree of environmental constraints. Largely on landscape and visual grounds, and to a lesser degree on the basis of the hydrogeology and cultural heritage appraisals, Alignment T2A is the overall environmental preference. This is due to the creation of a more distinct arrangement of OHLs into infrastructure corridors and reduced associated potential for adverse landscape and visual impacts. T2A is also slightly less constrained by Private Water Supplies and avoids any Sites and Monument Record entries.

Option T2B maintains 170m separation from all residential buildings, whereas Option T2A strays within 170m of an existing property and is also within 100m of another property which appears to be abandoned farm sheds. Minor adjustment to alignment T2A may be possible to ensure improved separation.

While alignment T2B maintains separation from residential properties, it runs parallel with a road to the east that is lined with a large number of properties at Toddlershill, whereas T2A observes further separation from these. Alignment option T2B is considered less suitable based on interface with communication masts, urban development and distribution network crossings. On balance, Alignment T2A is less constrained in technical terms, and thus is the overall engineering preference.

From a Capital cost perspective, both alignments have similar costs. As alignment T2B is the slightly longer of the two options and therefore has a marginally higher associated construction cost. Alignment T2A is the proposed option from a capital costs perspective. To summarise, the environmental, engineering and economic appraisals have all identified Alignment T2A as the overall preference.

Given that the two 'outward' alignment options are similar in terms of length and location, constraints are broadly similar. However, certain key considerations, particularly in relation to landscape and visual constraints and some technical aspects, result in Alignment T2A being identified as the proposed option.



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Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

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'.

Depending on the outcome of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening with the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU), the Section 37 application will be accompanied by either an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report or a voluntary Environmental Appraisal, 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 ECU in August 2025.

Once an application for consent has been submitted, all documents relating to the submission will be made publicly available and 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.

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.

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 receive a decision on the consent application within 12 months from the application date, however timescales may vary.

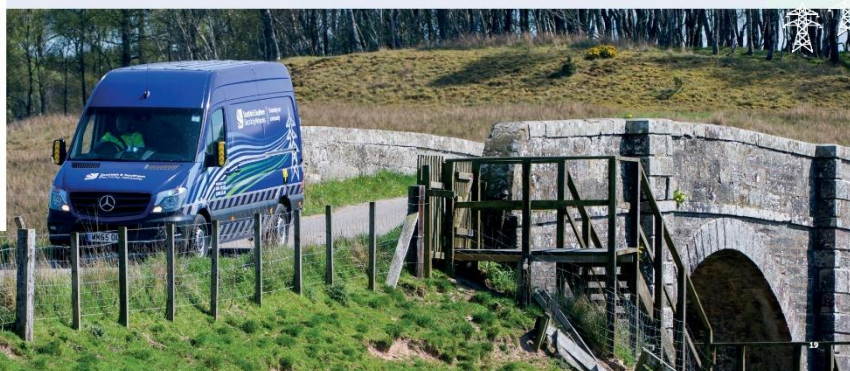
When a decision is made, the ECU will send us a decision notice, copying in the local planning authority and other consultation bodies. The decision notice is a record of the reasons for the decision and, if consent is granted, it contains the conditions that must be satisfied in order to implement the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



Read more about the Section 37 process here:



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Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

About the overhead line

The existing circuit between New Deer and Peterhead is a 400kV overhead line that was previously upgraded from 275kV in 2021/2022. Due to the close proximity between this existing line and the proposed 400kV substation within Netherton Hub, the tie-ins to the site will also be constructed as a 400kV HVAC (High Voltage Alternating Current) overhead line.

The overhead line would consist of steel lattice towers which would support six conductor bundles on six crossarms, and an earth wire between the peaks for lightning protection.

The 'inward' tie-in to Netherton from New Deer would use the same LBL(c) towers as the existing line. These towers are expected to have an average height of approximately 57m.

The 'outward' tie-in from Netherton Hub would use the ASTI SSE400 tower design due to the requirement to support larger conductors to facilitate greater power transfer. These towers are expected to have an average height of approximately 57m.

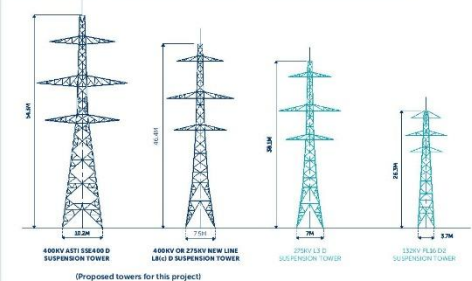
The average distance between the towers is expected to be 320-350m for both the turn in and turn out.

Tower height and the distance between them will vary dependent on several factors such as altitude, climatic conditions and topography.

This is similar to the existing line that goes between New Deer and Peterhead. This line has 91 towers with an average height of 47m and average span length of 330m.



Please note, this graphic is an indicative representation of the standard height and not average height of each tower type. This is because the average height depends on the specific topography encountered by each overhead line.



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Managing construction impacts

We are committed to minimising the impact of construction through avoiding potential issues by designing them out, undertaking thorough environmental assessments and working closely with the local community.

Our focus includes mitigating effects, for example to people, biodiversity, water, soil, and traffic disturbances.

A Construction Environment Management Plan will be set up to ensure mitigation is put in place and its effectiveness is monitored throughout the construction phase.

During construction, expected short-term impacts may include noise and traffic disruptions.

Before starting, we'll have a plan to manage these, including organising deliveries and travel to avoid busy times and sensitive areas. We'll work closely with community groups and contractors to ensure adherence to mitigation measures.

The challenges of undergrounding at 400kV

The environmental, technical, and operational constraints associated with undergrounding at 400kV make it extremely challenging to deliver in many areas of Scotland. For underground cables at this capacity, longer than 1-2km, additional substation infrastructure would also be needed, enlarging the project's footprint.

Underground cables at 400kV are estimated to be between 5 and 10 times more expensive than overhead lines, and since these costs are reflected in consumer bills, it's a factor that needs to be considered.

To deliver the necessary capacity, up to 30 parallel cables will be required. To achieve the required spacing, a trench of over 40m wide would need to be excavated, typically between 1m and 7m deep. During construction, a working corridor of over 70m wide is required for cable installation.

This can result in significant land use constraints, typically more so than overhead line construction activities, particularly for farming operations.

Why can't the development be placed offshore?

In its assessment of what is required to meet 2030 targets, the National Energy System Operator (NESO), concluded there is a need for both onshore and offshore projects.

Overhead lines can carry roughly three times more power than subsea cables, making them more efficient and cost effective for energy bill payers, whilst technical challenges and constraints limit the use of only offshore solutions.

Moreover, onshore energy infrastructure helps support local electricity needs and improves the network's reliability across northern Scotland.

Visit our Frequently Asked Questions page to find out more about our engineering and technology considerations including more details regarding underground and offshore cables.



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About the overhead line

Accessing the overhead lines

The construction of a new overhead line (OHL) is a major undertaking presenting significant construction challenges not just in terms of scale but also remoteness, terrain and seasonal weather conditions.

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

Existing tracks and bellmouths

In general, proposed construction site access would be taken via the existing public road network and would make use of existing forest and estate tracks as far as practicable, upgraded as required.

Existing bellmouths would be utilised where possible, subject to improvements. New bellmouths may be required.

Access tracks

Where operational access is required, this would likely range from All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) routes with no formal track, to a stone road suitable for 4x4 and wagon access.

The selection of the type of track required will consider the proximity to a public road, environmental impacts, structure type and potential maintenance activated vehicles required in future to a given location (taking legal health and safety requirements into account).

General access track details will be included in the environmental assessment stage of the project and presented to illustrate where each access type will be deployed, and the rationale for that selection.

Stone tracks

Typically, new temporary stone tracks are likely to be required to access each steel tower location, as well as the requirement for in-line access between towers. Stone tracks are designed to suit the heavy plant loads required for construction works for steel towers, 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 to tower positions 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.

Temporary trackways

Temporary trackways are an alternative method of providing access, dependent on ground conditions. Although there may be localised areas where trackways may be suitable, it is not considered an appropriate solution for the construction of steel lattice towers on this project in its entirety, due to the length of time they are required to be in place and the weight and size of construction plant that would be required to track over them. Stone tracks generally afford greater reliability and stability compared to trackway solutions. Similarly, the extensive use of wide tracked excavators and other plant without prior ground preparation are unlikely to be a viable solution for this project in its entirety, although they may be used for certain tasks during construction.

More details on our access strategy will be presented at our second consultation event.

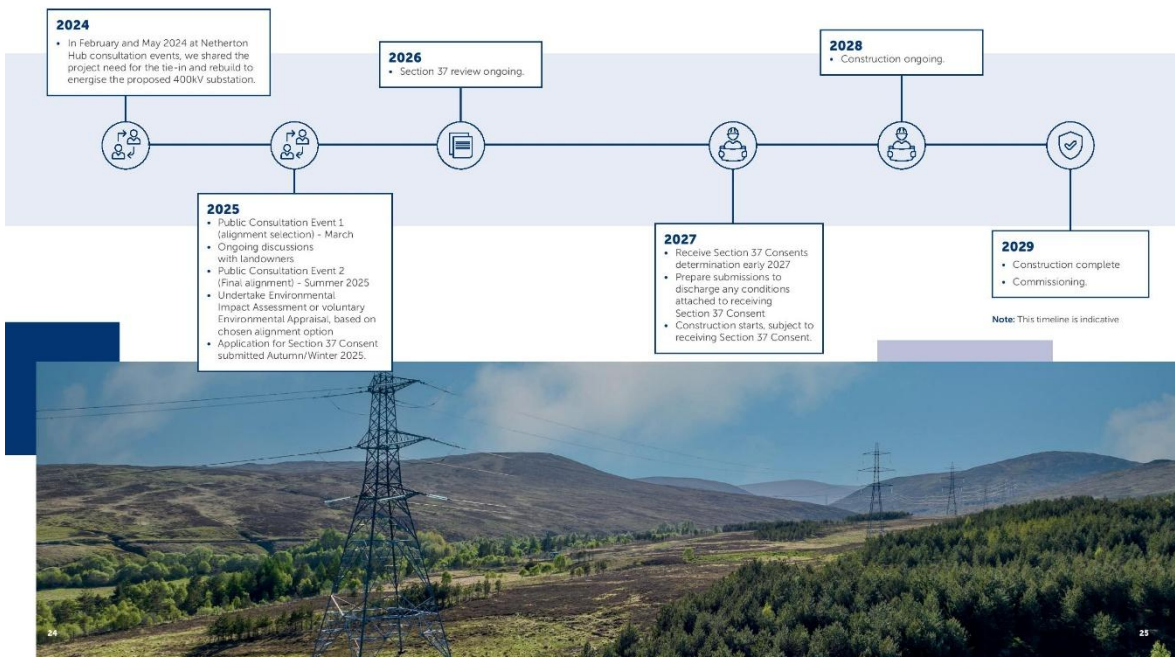


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Project timeline



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Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

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 accept feedback from now until 16 April 2025.

How to provide feedback

Submit your feedback by:

- Scanning the QR code on this page or via the form on our project webpage at ssen-transmission.co.uk/netherton-400kV-OHL-tie-in
- Emailing the feedback form to the Community Liaison Manager; or
- Write to us enclosing the feedback form in this booklet.

We are pleased to present our alignment options and we believe the proposed alignment strikes a balance between the various different considerations that we must take into account.

We intend to hold at least two pre-application consultation events prior to submitting the application.

This is the first of two events. At the next public event, we will provide feedback to members of the public in respect of comments that they have made in relation to the proposals in this document.



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."

What we're seeking views on

Now that we have presented our alignment options and potential alignment, we want you to share your opinions on our plans, your suggestions for how we could make improvements, and any concerns about the impact of our work. If you live adjacent to the potential alignment, we want to work with you to discuss potential impacts and mitigation. 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. Ultimately, we want to work with you to ensure that the energy infrastructure we build will be the best it can possibly be.

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.

Community Liaison Manager

Gillian Doig

SSen Transmission
200 Dunfield Road,
Perrin, PH1 3GH
gillian.doig@ssen.com
07879 288 666

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/netherton-400kV-OHL-tie-in

You can also follow us on social media

@ssentransmission

@SSenTransmission

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Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

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, or submit your feedback via the online form on our project website. Please note that comments on this form are not formal representations to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU). Once an application for consent has been submitted, all documents relating to the submission will be made publicly available and there will be an opportunity for the public to make formal representations to the ECU before it takes a decision.

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

Q1. Is there a specific tie-in alignment that your comment relates to (please refer to the maps in the consultation booklet if required)? Please indicate the name of the tie-in alignment or the closest settlement.

Inward tie-ins: ☐ T1A ☐ T1B ☐ T1C

Outward tie-ins: ☐ T2A ☐ T2B Closest settlement:

Q2. Has the approach taken to select the Potential Alignment been clearly explained?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Comments:

Q3. Are there any factors, or environmental features, that you believe we may not have already considered during the Potential Alignment selection process?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Comments:

Q4. Do you have any specific concerns in relation to the Potential Alignment? If so, is there anything we could do to mitigate the impact of this?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Comments:

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Q5. Is there anything you'd like to bring to our attention regarding the Potential Alignment that you believe we may not have already considered such as environmental designations, water courses, local recreational areas, etc.?

Comments:

Q6. Do you feel, on balance, that the Potential Alignment selected is the most appropriate for further consideration at the at the environmental assessment stage?

Comments:

Q7. 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:

Full name: Telephone:

Email:

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: FAO Gillian Doig - SSEN Transmission, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3GH **Email:** gillian.doig@sse.com

Online: ssen-transmission.co.uk/netherton-400kV-OHL-tie-in

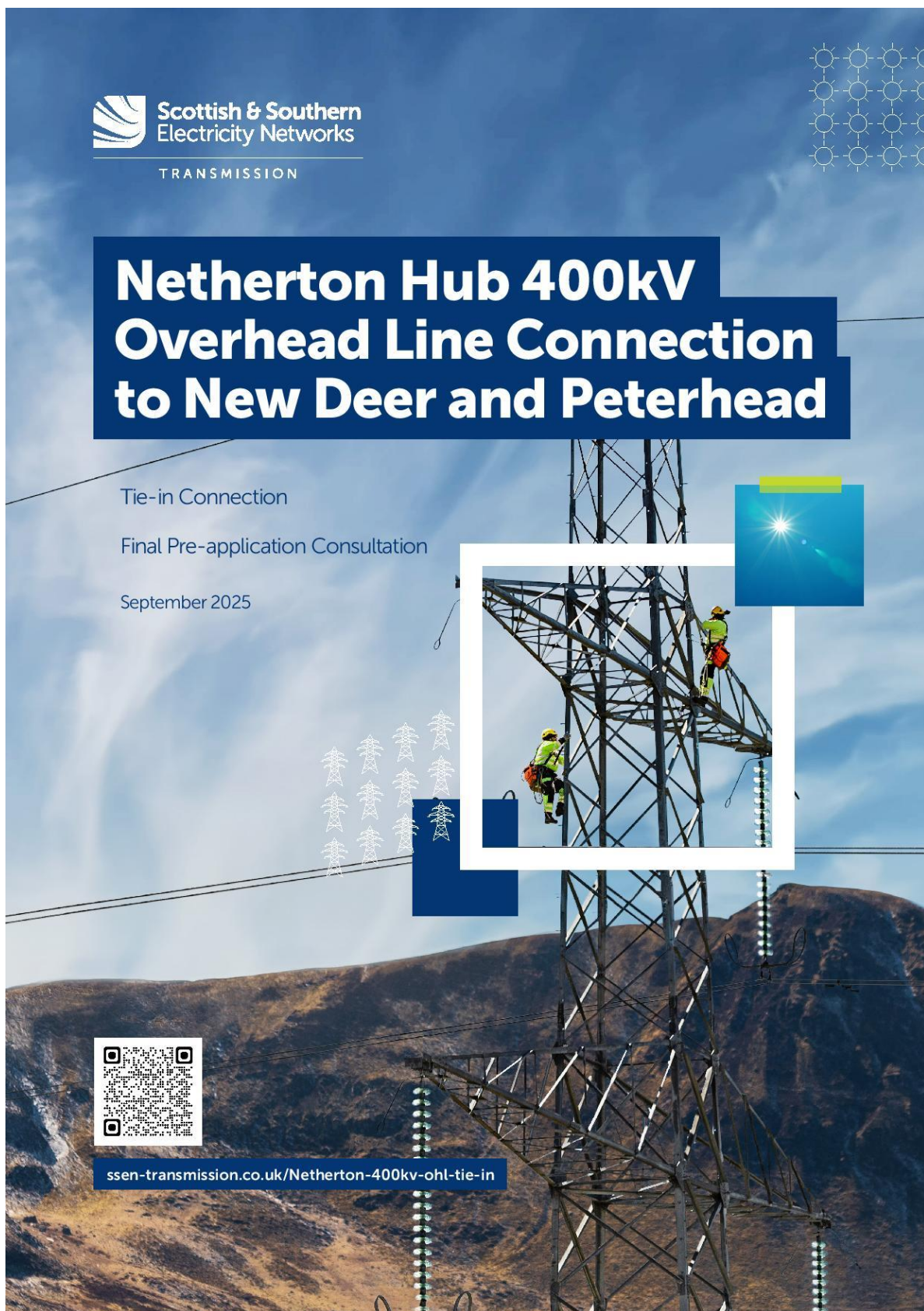
For information on how we collect and process your data please see our privacy notice available at today's event. This can also be obtained online at: ssen-transmission.co.uk/privacy

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.

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks is a trading name of: Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution Limited Registered in Scotland No. SC213459; Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc Registered in Scotland No. SC213461; Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution plc Registered in Scotland No. SC213460; (all having their Registered Offices at Inverlmond House 200 Dunkeld Road Perth PH1 3AQ); and Southern Electric Power Distribution plc Registered in England & Wales No. 04094290 having its Registered Office at Number One Forbury Place, 43 Forbury Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 3JH which are members of the SSE Group.

APPENDIX 2 – PAC 2 BOOKLET



Scottish & Southern
Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

Tie-in Connection

Final Pre-application Consultation

September 2025



ssen-transmission.co.uk/Netherton-400kv-ohl-tie-in

Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

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The consultation event will take place on:

Wednesday 10 September, 3–7pm
Longside Parish Church Hall, Inn Brae, Longside, AB42 4XN



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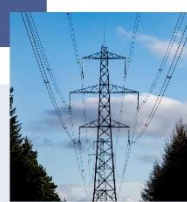
Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

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 (NEMO) 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 SEN 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: sen-transmission.co.uk/talk-to-us/contact-us/

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Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

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 15GW 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, the National Energy System Operator (NEMO), 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.

What does this mean for the north-east of Scotland?

The north and north-east of Scotland will play a key role in meeting these goals. The expansion in offshore renewable generation requires a significant increase in the capacity of our onshore electricity transmission infrastructure. The HND confirmed the need to reinforce onshore connections between Beaulieu and Peterhead. Beaulieu and Caithness, and an offshore cable between Spittal and Peterhead. From Peterhead, the power will be transported to demand centres in England via subsea cable. A strategic hub near Peterhead, called Netherton Hub, is proposed to collocate both AC and DC transmission infrastructure and strengthen the network by connecting these new onshore and offshore projects. The proposed tie-in project is necessary to make the connection between the Netherton Hub and the existing network.

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Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

Future network investment requirements

To deliver energy security and net zero, further additional investment in new low carbon electricity generation and the enabling electricity transmission network infrastructure will be required across Great Britain, including the north of Scotland.

In March 2024, the independent National Energy System Operator's (NEMO) published its 'Beyond 2030' report, which confirmed the need for several new, replacement, and upgraded transmission infrastructure projects in the

north of Scotland. In December 2024, Ofgem approved the next phase of regulatory funding to take these projects through the development phase.

These additional investments will soon be subject to extensive public consultation and engagement to help inform their development, with early consultation and engagement expected to take place during 2025.



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Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

Project overview

We're leading on the delivery of critical infrastructure projects to power change in the UK and Scotland. To support the delivery of 2030 offshore wind targets set by the UK and Scottish governments, and to power local communities, we need to upgrade our existing network. In some key areas, we need to develop entirely new infrastructure.

Project requirements

The Netherton Hub is a strategic development proposed for a site located near Longside to the west of Peterhead. The tie-in connection of the existing New Deer – Peterhead 400kV overhead line into the Hub is required to connect the proposed 400kV AC substation to the existing network. This will maximise the transfer capability between Netherton Hub and the rest of our transmission network.

Today's event

Following our consultation in March 2025 where we shared our potential alignments, we are now presenting the final proposed overhead line alignment for the tie-in project that we will submit for Section 37 consent, along with new information relating to tower locations and access arrangements. We are also sharing our responses to feedback received to date.

Update on the Rebuild project

During our last consultation event in March, we shared details of an accompanying project for a proposed rebuild and removal of a section of the existing New Deer – Peterhead 400kV overhead line between Netherton Hub and Peterhead 400kV substation. We are still completing necessary surveys and studies in response to feedback received before progressing to the next stage with this project. Information about the rebuild project can be found at: ssen-transmission.co.uk/Netherton-400kv-ohl-rebuild

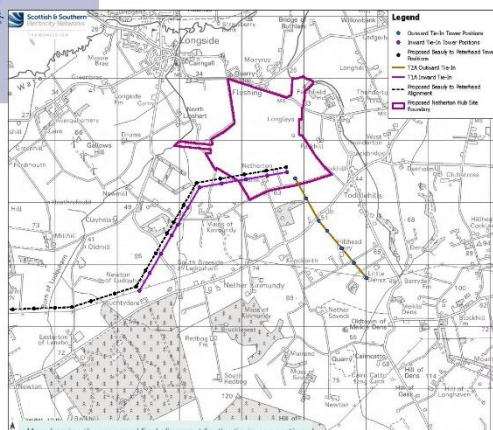
Project elements

The project comprises a permanent re-routing, known as a tie-in, of the existing New Deer – Peterhead 400kV overhead line into a new 400kV AC substation to be located within the proposed Netherton Hub. The components include:

- Re-routing the existing New Deer – Peterhead 400kV double circuit overhead line between Nether Kinnmundy and Little Dens into Netherton Hub, to connect with the proposed 400kV substation. This will involve installing two sections of new overhead lines of approximately 2km (T2A) and 3.4 km (T1A) in length between the existing New Deer – Peterhead line and the Netherton Hub. Refer to the map which, has the lines labelled as T1A and T2A.
- Installing two temporary overhead line circuits to facilitate the transfer from the existing New Deer – Peterhead 400kV overhead line to the proposed diverted lines.
- Removing around 3.7km of redundant overhead line towers along the existing New Deer – Peterhead overhead line between Nether Kinnmundy and Little Dens.



Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead



Map showing the proposed final alignment for the tie-in connection

A larger version of this map can be found at the project webpage at: ssen-transmission.co.uk/Netherton-400kv-ohl-tie-in

More information about Netherton Hub can be found at ssen-transmission.co.uk/netherton-hub



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Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

Overhead line key stages

For new overhead line projects, our process typically follows a number of stages, each iterative and increasing in detail, bringing cost, technical, environmental and social considerations together in a way that seeks the best balance.

The key stages are:



Stage 1: Strategic options assessment/routing strategy

This stage is to establish the need for the project and to select the preferred strategic option to deliver it.



Stage 2: Corridor selection

Corridor selection seeks to identify possible corridors within which to locate a new overhead line. Corridors may be 2km wide or more. For this project, the Corridor stage was omitted due to the relatively short distances involved.



Stage 3: Route selection

Route selection stage seeks to find a suitable route within the corridor which balances physical, social, environmental, engineering and cost constraints. Routes are typically up to 3km in width. Due to the relatively short lengths of the proposed tie-in and the existing and planned overhead line infrastructure in the area, the Route stage was omitted for this project.



Stage 4: Alignment selection

Alignment selection stage seeks to identify potential alignments within the preferred route and start to define the access strategy which will be adopted in terms of, for example, the nature and extent of temporary and/or permanent access tracks and possible road improvements. The alignment options will be influenced by engineering and cost factors as well as by local constraints, such as residential properties, their aspect and amenity, ground suitability, habitats, and cultural heritage features and setting.



Stage 5: Final alignment

The final stage is the identification of a proposed overhead line alignment that is capable of being granted consent by Scottish Ministers under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.

◀ We are here



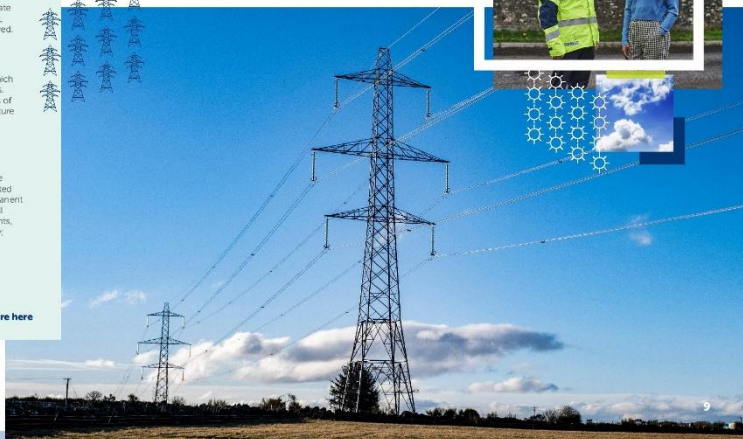
Why we're here today

We are at the final alignment selection stage of project development, and we are sharing the Proposed Alignment that we are taking forward to develop and submit as part of our application for consent.

We have reached this position by carrying out studies and assessments through engagement with landowners and wider stakeholders. Our March 2025 consultation events were attended by 158 people, and we received 7 pieces of feedback relating to the tie-in alignment, which covered several themes which we have addressed on page 25.

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 two consultation events that should be held in advance of applying for Section 37 consent.

During this consultation we will present updated 3D visualisations and maps to show what the proposed overhead line will look like and where it will be located. We will also share updated tower locations and proposed access arrangements. While there is limited scope to make material changes at this stage, we do welcome any further comments on our final alignment prior to the submission of our Section 37 application.

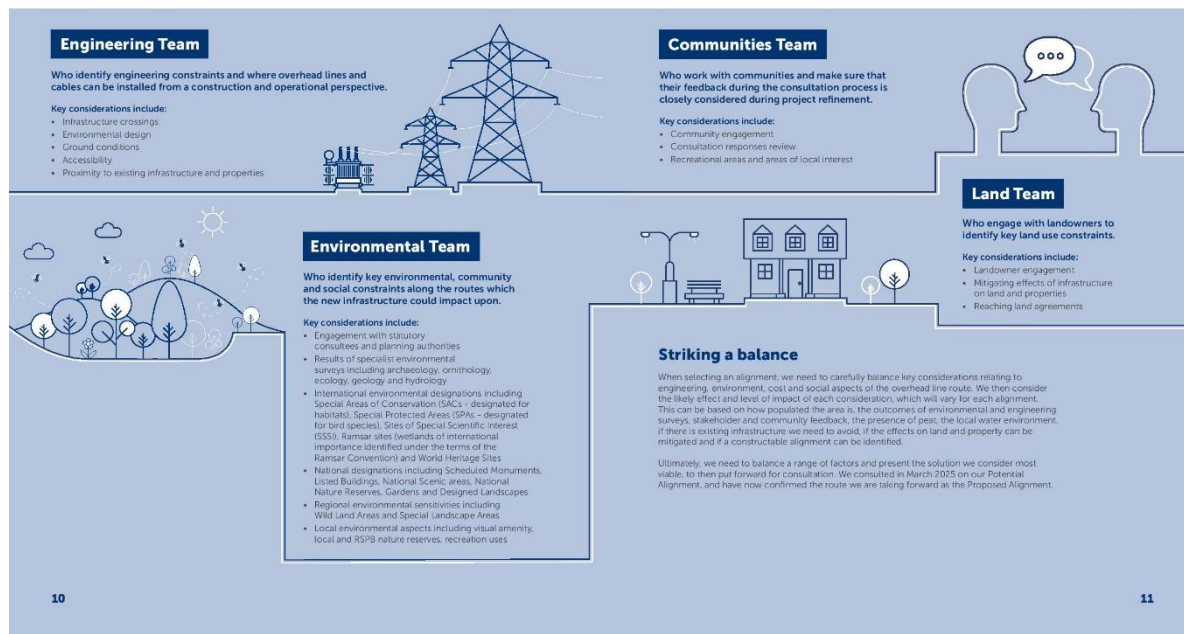


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Selecting an alignment

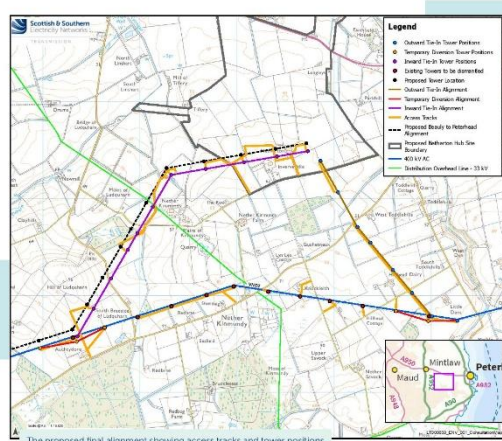
The consideration of alignment options and design solutions brings together work by four main disciplines:



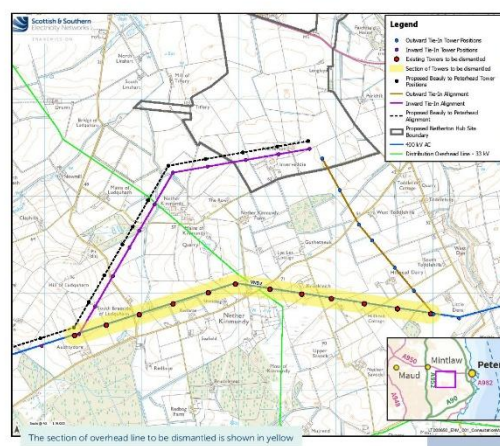
Proposed alignment

This map shows the proposed final alignment showing access tracks and tower positions.

The final alignment proposes to divert the existing overhead line approximately 3.4km to connect into the Netherton Hub from the west. This inward section follows the same path as the proposed Beauty to Peterhead 400kV overhead line. The outward section of the tie-in extends from the Netherton Hub to the south and is approximately 2km in length.



The existing New Deer – Peterhead 400kV overhead line will be removed from tower 65 to tower 76 once the new overhead lines are constructed.



Consult our maps: You can find a large-scale version of our map on our project website at: sen-transmission.co.uk/Netherton-400kV-OHL-tie-in

About the overhead line

The existing circuit between New Deer and Peterhead is a 400kV overhead line that was previously upgraded from 275kV in 2021/2022. Due to the close proximity between this existing line and the proposed 400kV substation within Netherton Hub, the tie-in to the site will also be constructed as a 400kV HVAC (High Voltage Alternating Current) overhead line.

The overhead line would consist of steel lattice towers which would support six conductor bundles on six cross arms and an earth wire between the peaks for lightning protection. The 'inward' tie-in to Netherton from the west would use the same L8C1 towers as the existing line. These towers are expected to have an average height of approximately 55m.

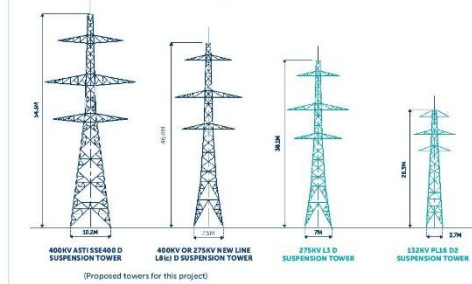
The 'outward' tie-in from Netherton Hub would use the AST1 SSE400 tower design due to the requirement to support larger conductors to facilitate greater power transfer. These towers are expected to have an average height of approximately 55m.

The average distance between the towers is expected to be 320–350m for both the inward and outward sections. Tower height and the distance between them will vary dependant on several factors such as altitude, climatic conditions and topography.

This is similar to the existing line that goes between New Deer and Peterhead. This existing line has 91 towers with an average height of 47m and average span length of 330m.



Please note, this graphic is an indicative representation of the standard height and not average height of each tower type. This is because the average height depends on the specific topography encountered by each overhead line.



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Additional considerations

Permanent removal of part of the existing New Deer to Peterhead 400kV overhead line

Following construction of the proposed 400kV overhead line tie-in, a section of the existing 400kV overhead line between New Deer substation and Peterhead substation from tower 65 to tower 76 will be dismantled and removed. Tower removal is typically completed by cutting the tower legs and felling the tower in a controlled manner. Access to tower locations for dismantling works will be taken using either temporary trackway panels or all-terrain vehicles. Temporary stone access tracks may be required in some places to facilitate crane access to aid in the dismantling. The operational corridor associated with the existing overhead line route will be returned to the landowner following reinstatement.

Operational corridor

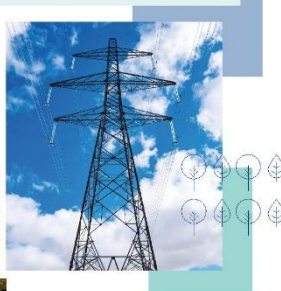
The development of the Proposed Alignment has sought to avoid and minimise impacts on woodlands and forestry where possible. Where the proposed overhead line alignment passes through areas of woodland and commercial forestry, an Operational Corridor is identified to ensure the safe operation of the overhead line. Trees are removed within the Operational Corridor to facilitate construction and ensure continued safe operation of the overhead line. The operational corridor width will typically be 45m either side of the overhead line centreline, but this may vary depending on the types of woodland/forestry and local topography. This may be reduced where the OHL passes through broadleaved woodland subject to site specific checks. The required Operational Corridor through each area of woodland will be confirmed within our Section 37 consent application, following completion of ongoing woodland assessments. The construction of the project will result in a loss of woodland area. In accordance with the Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal Policy, we are committed to providing appropriate compensatory planting for any net loss of woodland. The extent, location and composition of compensatory planting will be agreed with Scottish Forestry.



Supporting development

Additional works that will also be required as part of the construction of the new overhead line include the following:

- Upgrade of existing and creation of new access tracks;
- Vegetation clearance and management;
- Temporary working areas around the proposed tower locations to facilitate construction;
- At some tower locations, the formation of temporary 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 temporary measures required during construction, such as measures to protect road, railway 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.



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The challenges with undergrounding at 400kV

The environmental, technical, and operational constraints associated with undergrounding at 400kV make it extremely challenging to deliver in many areas of Scotland. For underground cables at this capacity, longer than 1–2km, additional substation infrastructure would also be needed, enlarging the project's footprint.

Underground cables at 400kV are estimated to be between 5 and 10 times more expensive than overhead lines, and since these costs are reflected in consumer bills, it's a factor that needs to be considered. To deliver the necessary capacity, up to 30 parallel cables will be required. To achieve the required spacing, a trench of over 40m wide would need to be excavated, typically between 1m and 7m deep. During construction, a working corridor of over 70m wide is required for cable installation. This can result in significant land use constraints, typically more so than overhead line construction activities, particularly for farming operations.

BETWEEN 5–10x
More expensive than overhead lines

UP TO 30
Parallel cables required

Trench of OVER 40M WIDE AND 1–7M DEEP
would need to be excavated

OVER 70M WIDE
working corridor, which can result in significant land use constraints

Why can't the development be placed offshore?

In its assessment of what is required to meet 2030 targets, the National Energy System Operator (NESO), concluded there is a need for both onshore and offshore projects.

Overhead lines can carry roughly three times more power than subsea cables, making them more efficient and cost effective for energy bill payers, whilst technical challenges and constraints limit the use of only offshore solutions.

Moreover, onshore energy infrastructure helps support local electricity needs and improves the network's reliability across northern Scotland.

Visit our Frequently Asked Questions page to find out more about our engineering and technology considerations including more details regarding underground and offshore cables.
sen-transmission.co.uk/2030faqs

Managing construction impacts

We are committed to minimising the impact of construction through avoiding potential issues by designing them out, undertaking thorough environmental assessments and working closely with the local community.

Our focus includes mitigating effects, for example to people, biodiversity, water, soil, and traffic disturbances. A Construction Environment Management Plan will be set up to ensure mitigation is put in place and its effectiveness is monitored throughout the construction phase.

During construction, expected short-term impacts may include noise and traffic disruptions. Before starting, we'll have a plan to manage these, including organising deliveries and travel to avoid busy times and sensitive areas.

We'll work closely with community groups and contractors to ensure adherence to mitigation measures.

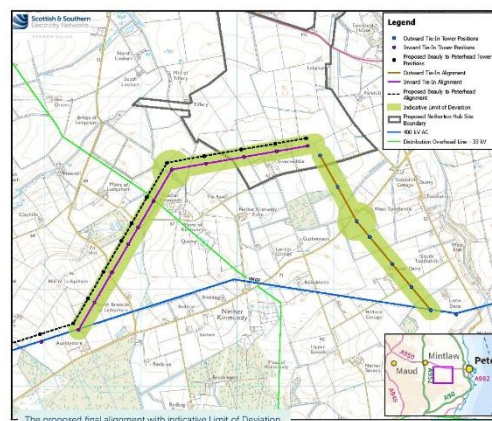


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The limits of deviation

The Limits of Deviation (LoD) comprise an area which defines the practical limits within which crosscutting 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 on the basis of 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 'misrouting'). 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 Appraisal (EA) 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 100m either side of the alignment centreline, extending up to 200m around angle tower positions to allow for misrouting of the larger temporary working areas required. A vertical LoD of 49m is likely to be sought for the proposed tower heights, to ensure that minimum statutory ground clearances can be maintained once further engineering design work has been completed.



The proposed final alignment with indicative Limit of Deviation

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Our access strategy

Construction 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 have now determined our proposed access routes for each tower location and established which of these are planned to be upgraded to existing access or new temporary or permanent access tracks. These proposals are available to view at our consultation events. A detailed traffic and transport assessment will form part of the Environmental Appraisal, 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.

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

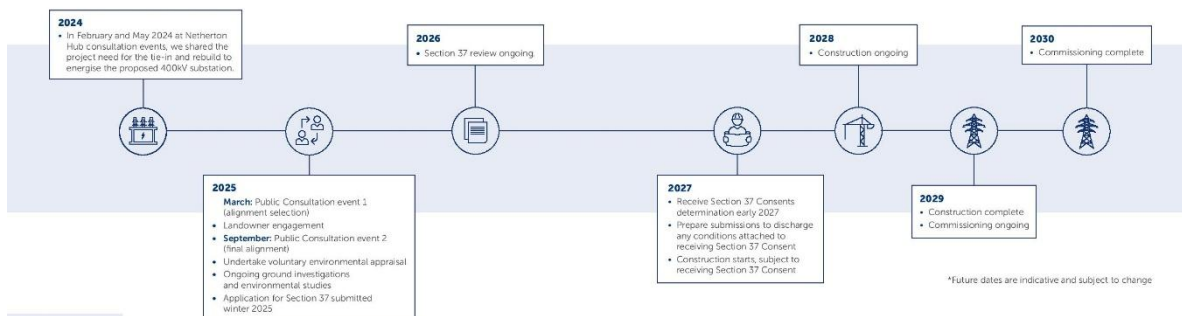


Type of access	What does it mean?
Construction Access	During construction, stone tracks would typically be used to gain access to each of the tower locations. This would normally be temporary except in locations where it is considered that it needs to be retained to maintain safe access for future operations and maintenance. There are different types of construction access tracks, these include cut tracks, surface tracks and floated roads. Each provide different benefits depending on the ground conditions in the area. A typical access track would be of a minimum 4m in width however this could be wider in areas where heavy plant require access.
Statutory inspection and general maintenance access	When designing the overhead lines, we need to consider how our operational teams will get back to the locations in the future to carry out routine inspections and maintenance. Operational access would normally consist of an off-road 4x4 vehicle with a trailer being able to reach each tower. If we consider it not possible for a 4x4 to be capable of doing this, we would need to consider alternative access either by identifying a route where temporary track mats can be installed as and when required or through construction of a permanent track. In open fields with fair ground conditions and generally accessible terrain no additional permanent access would normally be required.
Demolition access	At times we may need to consider access for future safe removal of an overhead line. This doesn't mean having access to every location to be able to dismantle the towers, but it should consider how we may take the access and what additional roads, paneling would be required if we were to do so.
Heavy Maintenance Access	This covers if any future refurbishment or modifications would be required for the line. For this we have to consider what locations heavy plant would need to be able to access and have plans on how they would get to these locations. Typically, the main focus here is access to the angle towers. At angle towers this is where the overhead line conductors get pulled onto the towers so additional access and space is needed in these locations during construction to carry this out. Where these locations cannot be easily accessed, we would look to retain permanent access so that if a conductor needed replaced in the future this could be carried out safely whilst minimising the time frames required to perform the maintenance.
Helicopters	During the wiring (stringing) of the new overhead line, helicopters may be used to fly out a pilot bond through wheels attached to the insulator on each arm of the tower. This allows for the conductor to be attached to the bond and then winched in to place from drums. This process can also be done manually by passing the pilot wire through wheels attached to the insulators and pulling it between towers using a tractor. It is not currently intended to use helicopters for construction of the steel lattice towers themselves.

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Project timeline



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Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

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 a voluntary Environmental Appraisal, 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 December 2025.

Once an application for consent has been submitted, all documents relating to the submission will be made

publicly available and 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 final pre-application consultation event are not formal representations to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU).

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.

Determining a Section 37 application and communicating outcomes

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

When a decision is made, the ECU will send us a decision notice, copying in the local planning authority 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.



Read more about the Section 37 process
here: ssen-transmission.co.uk/s37-process



Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

Addressing feedback

Consulting on the alignment

In March 2025, we launched our Alignment Consultation, seeking comment on the Potential Alignment options identified for the new proposed Netherton Hub overhead line tie-in.

We sought comments from statutory authorities, key stakeholders, elected representatives, the public and landowners on the alignment selection process undertaken and the Potential Alignment and alternative alignments.

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 on the Potential Alignment in March 2025, a total of 158 attendees attended. During the following feedback period, we received 7 pieces of feedback relating to the tie-in alignment, covering several themes which we have addressed in the following table. This feedback was then reviewed by the project team to inform our final decision.



The following table summarises the feedback received, and our response.

Feedback/Theme	Response
Impacts to the local wildlife habitats around Ludquham and Longside	There are ongoing ecology surveys in the area to understand any potential impacts on wildlife and possible in order to identify mitigations. We appreciate residents' cooperation in permitting access to carry out these surveys.
Property Value	Construction and operational impacts will be thoroughly assessed in the Environmental Appraisal (EA) Report stage. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), prepared and implemented by the Principal Contractor, will guide environmental management during construction. The CEMP will align with commitments in the EA Report, statutory consents, and industry best practices, with oversight from a qualified Environmental Clerk of Works (EnvCoW) and support from other professionals.
Community Benefit Fund	We understand that there are concerns about the potential impact of our proposed developments on properties within the vicinity of our proposed overhead line alignments and substations sites. We will look to mitigate impacts on residential properties as far as possible and these impacts will be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessments that will accompany our applications for consent. Extensive surveys will be carried out at identified receptors, including selected residential properties so that we are able to model potential impacts on the wider area. Concerns in relation to impacts on property continue to be noted by our team however, as a regulated business, SSEN Transmission is obliged to follow a statutory legal framework under the Electricity Act 1989 and Land Compensation Act 1961. If you are entitled to compensation under the legal framework we will assess any claim on a case-by-case basis under the direction of this legal framework. If this is the case, we will recommend that you engage a professional adviser and we will generally meet reasonably incurred professional fees in these circumstances. However, for the avoidance of doubt, we should advise that we will not meet fees incurred in objecting to our proposed developments.
	Some expressed a preference that any community benefit fund should be used for compensation payments instead. However, the purpose of the funds are to support and deliver local projects and initiatives that benefit the community where our new infrastructure is located. Our community benefit funds follow the latest UK Government guidance.

Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

Feedback/Theme	Response
The approach taken to select the potential alignment was unclear.	The 'Overhead line key stages' chapter in this booklet explains the key stages when selecting an overhead line route: corridor, route, and alignment. The corridor and route stages were bypassed by this project due to the relatively short distance of overhead line required. The alignment options are influenced by engineering and cost factors as well as by local constraints, such as residential properties, their aspect, and amenity, ground suitability, habitats, and cultural heritage features and setting.
Cumulative impacts and a fragmented approach to project development.	The cumulative impact of the development with other known energy infrastructure development in the area will be assessed as part of the Environmental Appraisal (EA) process. Cumulative assessment will have regard to any known proposed infrastructure in the search area. Any connection projects that are progressed at a later stage would need to similarly take cognisance of other known infrastructure in their assessment of cumulative impact whether existing or proposed. SSFN Transmission can only refer to known infrastructure proposals in undertaking such an assessment. Ogema's approval of the need for strategic electricity transmission reinforcement confirmed that specific projects identified by the Electricity System Operator through the Holistic Network Design (HND) would be taken forward as part of the Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment (ASTI) framework. The HND fully anticipated that the projects identified would need to be delivered through the progression of specific designs for each reinforcement by the Transmission Owners (TO's) appointed through the regulatory process, with these specific options to be designed and consulted on individually. Further to this, we have combined our consultation events with other local developments when possible. This has included holding joint consultation events with Eastern Green Link 3, Beaulieu to Peterhead 400kV overhead line and with the associated rebuild aspect of this project.
Traffic Management	A detailed traffic and transport assessment will form part of the Environmental Appraisal, 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.

Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

Feedback/Theme	Response
Landscape and Visual impacts	To get a better sense of the proposals in full, a visualisation portal including flythrough video is also available to view from the project webpage and our consultants, 3D Webtech, will be assisting us at our consultation event with copies of the model that attendees can interact with during the event. Within our Section 37 application will be our limit of deviation which will define the maximum extent with which our development can be built. This will allow for tower 'micrositing' to minimise, where possible, the visual impacts on properties.
Noise Pollution	When developing overhead lines and substations, we focus on having a minimal noise impact. Detailed noise assessments are conducted as part of our environmental assessments, and include current noise levels, potential new noise as a result of our infrastructure, and mitigation measures where required, to ensure noise is within acceptable levels.
Why can't the outward connection (T2A) follow an eastward route out of the Netherton Hub rather than to the south of the hub?	Based on the proposed 400kV substation design, the overhead line must tie into the south side of the site. The east side of the site has further infrastructure within it along with screening bunds. The existing New Deer to Peterhead 400kV OHL is also situated to the south of the proposed 400kV substation therefore the most optimal connection point is to the south.
Why is a double row of pylons required?	There is a requirement for a 400kV double circuit connection between Beaulieu and Peterhead via the proposed new substation sites. This means that there is a requirement for a new 400kV double circuit overhead line between Greens substation and Longside 400kV substation (Beaulieu to Peterhead) and then between Longside 400kV substation and the existing Peterhead 400kV substation (Tie-ins and Rebuild).



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Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

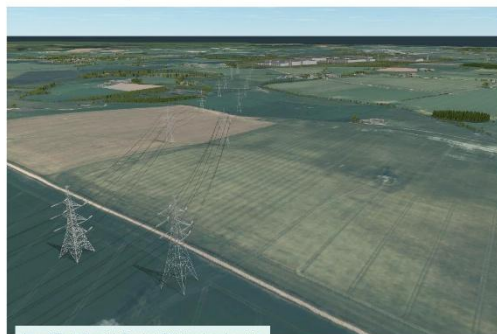
3D visualisations

We understand that local stakeholders need to be able to visualise what the development may look like in their local area. We've provided 3D visualisations which model the potential alignment into the local landscape to help understanding of the proposals in terms of the visual impact, distance and height.

The following are some images taken from a 3D model created from a range of different viewpoints.



To find the 3D flythrough video, scan the QR code or visit the following URL: ssfn-transmission.co.uk/netherton-400kv-ohl-tie-in



Inward Tie-in alongside Beaulieu to Peterhead overhead line.

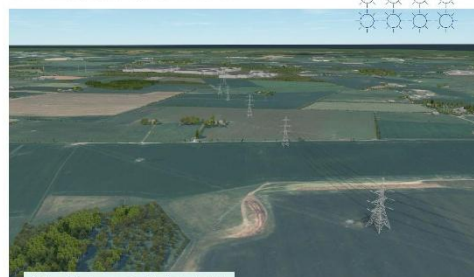
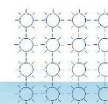
To get a better sense of the proposals in full, a visualisation portal including flythrough video is also available to view from the project webpage and our consultants, 3D Webtech, will be assisting us at our consultation events with copies of the model that attendees can interact with during the event.

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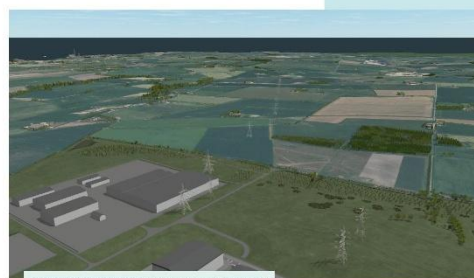
Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

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.



Outward Tie-in connecting into Netherton Hub



Connections at Netherton hub facing towards Peterhead.

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Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

Have your say

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

This is the second and final event providing the opportunity for members of the public to respond to the proposed alignment and consider our responses to the feedback we have received from our previous consultation events.

We intend to submit our application for consent in **December 2025**. Prior to this, you can submit your final formal comments to us before our feedback period closes. Once we submit our application for consent, members of the public can make formal representations directly to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit before it takes a decision.

The feedback period

We will accept feedback from now until **8 October 2025**.

How to provide feedback

Submit your feedback by:

- Scanning the QR code on this page or via the form on our project webpage: ssen-transmission.co.uk/Netherton-400kv-ohl-tie-in
- Emailing the feedback form to our Community Liaison Manager, or
- Write to us enclosing the feedback form in this booklet.

Recite me

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.*

What we're seeking views on

Now that we have selected our proposed alignment, we want to know if you have any further comments in relation to how we have responded to feedback and how you'd like us to best engage with you in the future, prior to the submission of our Section 37 application.

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.

Community Liaison Manager

Gillian Doig

SSEN Transmission, Cranleigh House,
200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3GH

gillian.doig@ssen.com

07879 288 666



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/Netherton-400kv-ohl-tie-in

You can also follow us on social media:

[@ssentransmission](https://www.instagram.com/ssentransmission) [@SSENTransmission](https://twitter.com/SSENTransmission)

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Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

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, or submit your feedback via the online form on our project website.

Please note that comments on this form are not formal representations to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU). Once an application for consent has been submitted, all documents relating to the submission will be made publicly available and there will be an opportunity for the public to make formal representations to the ECU before it takes a decision.

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

Q1. If there is a specific section of the overhead line alignment that your comment relates to, then please indicate or provide the name of the closest settlement.

☐ Inward tie-in ☐ Outward tie-in

Closest settlement:

Q2. Do you have any final comments regarding the alignment being proposed, or concerns relating to the construction phase of the project?

Comments:

Q3. 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:

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Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead

Q4. 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: FAO Gillian Doig - SSEN Transmission, Grampian house, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3GH

Email: gillian.doig@sse.com **Online:** ssen-transmission.co.uk/Netherton-400kv-ohl-tie-in

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.

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks is a trading name of: Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution Limited Registered in Scotland No. SC213459; Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc Registered in Scotland No. SC213461; Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution plc Registered in Scotland No. SC213460; (all having their Registered Offices at Inverlmond House 200 Dunkeld Road Perth PH1 3AQ); and Southern Electric Power Distribution plc Registered in England & Wales No. 04094290 having its Registered Office at Number One Forbury Place, 43 Forbury Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 3JH which are members of the SSE Group.

APPENDIX 3 – ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION

Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead, Eastern Green Link 3 cable

Consultation and community information event

We are holding a consultation event for a proposed overhead line tie-in connection of the existing New Deer-Peterhead 400kV line into Netherton Hub. We will also consult on the rebuild and removal of a section of the existing New Deer-Peterhead 400kV overhead line between the proposed Netherton Hub and the existing Peterhead 400kV substation in Boddam. At the same event, information will be shared on the latest Eastern Green Link 3 underground cable alignment between Netherton Hub and Sandford Bay.

The Netherton Hub is a strategic development proposed for a site near Longside to the west of Peterhead. The overhead line tie-in project is required to connect the proposed 400kV substation within the Hub to the existing transmission network. The rebuild project will increase the capacity of the existing overhead line to enable the connection of offshore wind generation. Netherton Hub also contains the Eastern Green Link 3 converter station which the underground cable will connect with.

At the events, we will consult on alignment options for the overhead line tie-in and rebuild. **The feedback period for these will be open until 16 April 2025.** We will also share information on the EGL3 underground cable.

Representatives from the Beaulay-Blackhillock-New Deer-Peterhead 400kV Overhead Line Project will also attend the Longside event.



TRANSMISSION




You are invited to attend our drop-in events:

Wednesday 5 March, 10–12.30pm Buchan Braes Hotel, Boddam, Peterhead, AB42 3AR	Wednesday 5 March, 3–7pm Longside Parish Church Hall, Inn Brae, Longside AB42 4XN
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Please contact our Community Liaison Manager if you have any questions:

Gillian Doig 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3GH Tel: 07879 288 666 Email: gillian.doig@sse.com	Find out more and register for project updates at: www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/netherton-400kv-ohl-tie-in www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/netherton-400kv-ohl-rebuild www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/eastern-green-link-3
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 @ssentransmission
 @SSETransmission

Figure 3 Press and Journal PAC1 advert

Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead, and Eastern Green Link 3 cable

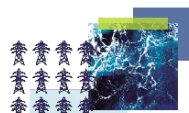
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At the events, we will consult on alignment options for the overhead line tie-in and rebuild. **The feedback period for these will be open until 16 April 2025.** We will also share information on the EGL3 underground cable.

Representatives from the Beauty-Blackhillock-New Deer-Peterhead 400kV Overhead Line Project will also attend the Longside event.



You are invited to attend our drop-in events:

Wednesday 5 March, 10–12.30pm
Buchan Braes Hotel, Boddam, Peterhead, AB42 3AR

Wednesday 5 March, 3–7pm
Longside Parish Church Hall, Inn Brae, Longside AB42 4XN

Please contact our Community Liaison Manager if you have any questions:

Gillian Doig Tel: 07879 288 666
200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3GH Email: gillian.doig@sse.com

Find out more, register for project updates, visit the project website at:

www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/netherton-400kv-ohl-tie-in

www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/netherton-400kv-ohl-rebuild

www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/eastern-green-link-3

@ssentransmission

@SSETransmission

Figure 4 Buchan Observer PAC 1 advert

Netherton Hub 400kV overhead line connection to New Deer and Peterhead

Tie-in project

Pre-application consultation event

We are holding our final consultation event for a proposed overhead line tie-in connection of the existing New Deer–Peterhead 400kV line into Netherton Hub.

The overhead line tie-in project is required to connect the proposed 400kV substation within the Hub to the existing transmission network.

This event concludes the pre-application consultation process for the consent application for the tie-in that will be submitted under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.

The feedback period closes on 8 October 2025.

Please note: Any comments made to us as the Applicant are not representations to Scottish Ministers as the decision maker. There will be opportunity to make formal representations to Scottish Ministers via the Energy Consents Unit following the submission of the Section 37 application.

During our March consultation event, we shared details of an accompanying proposal to rebuild and remove the line between Netherton Hub and Peterhead. We have not yet progressed plans for the rebuild element, and it does not form part of this consultation event.

You are invited to attend our drop-in consultation event:

Wednesday 10 September, 3–7pm
Longside Parish Church Hall, Inn Brae,
Longside AB42 4XN



If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our Community Liaison Manager:

Gillian Doig
200 Dunkeld Road,
Perth PH1 3GH

Tel: +44 7879 288 666
Email: nethertonengagement@sse.com



To find out more, visit the project website by scanning the QR code, or use the following URL: ssen-transmission.co.uk/netherton-400kv-ohl-tie-in

@sentransmission @SSETransmission

Figure 5 Buchan Observer PAC 2 advert

Netherton Hub 400kV overhead line connection to New Deer and Peterhead

Tie-in project

Pre-application consultation event

We are holding our final consultation event for a proposed overhead line tie-in connection of the existing New Deer–Peterhead 400kV line into Netherton Hub.

The overhead line tie-in project is required to connect the proposed 400kV substation within the Hub to the existing transmission network.

This event concludes the pre-application consultation process for the consent application for the tie-in that will be submitted under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.

The feedback period closes on 8 October 2025.

Please note: Any comments made to us as the Applicant are not representations to Scottish Ministers as the decision maker. There will be opportunity to make formal representations to Scottish Ministers via the Energy Consents Unit following the submission of the Section 37 application.

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You are invited to attend our drop-in consultation event:

Wednesday 10 September, 3–7pm
Longside Parish Church Hall, Inn Brae, Longside AB42 4XN



If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our Community Liaison Manager:

Gillian Doig
200 Dunkeld Road, Perth PH1 3GH
Tel: +44 7879 288 666
Mail: nethertonengagement@sse.com



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@sentransmission

To find out more, visit the project website by scanning the QR code, or use the following URL: ssen-transmission.co.uk/netherton-400kv-ohl-tie-in

Figure 6 PAC 2 Press and Journal advert

Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection to New Deer and Peterhead, and EGL3 cable

Consultation and community information event

We are holding a consultation event for a proposed overhead line tie-in connection of the existing New Deer-Peterhead 400kV line into Netherton Hub. We will also consult on the rebuild and removal of a section of the existing New Deer-Peterhead 400kV overhead line between the proposed Netherton Hub and the existing Peterhead 400kV substation in Boddam. At the same event, information will be shared on the latest Eastern Green Link 3 underground cable alignment between Netherton Hub and Sandford Bay.

The Netherton Hub is a strategic development proposed for a site near Longside to the west of Peterhead. The overhead line tie-in project is required to connect the proposed 400kV substation within the Hub to the existing transmission network. The rebuild project will increase the capacity of the existing overhead line to enable the connection of offshore wind generation. Netherton Hub also contains the Eastern Green Link 3 converter station which the underground cable will connect with.

At the events, we will consult on alignment options for the overhead line tie-in and rebuild. **The feedback period for these will be open until 16 April 2025.** We will also share information on the EGL3 underground cable.

Representatives from the Beaulay-Blackhillock-New Deer-Peterhead 400kV Overhead Line Project will also attend the Longside event.



You are invited to attend our drop-in events:

Wednesday 5 March, 10–12.30pm
Buchan Braes Hotel, Boddam, Peterhead, AB42 3AR

Wednesday 5 March, 3–7pm
Longside Parish Church Hall, Inn Brae, Longside AB42 4XN
More information overleaf.

Please note: Any comments made to us about the overhead line components are not formal representations to Scottish Ministers as the decision makers. There will be an opportunity to make formal representations to Scottish Ministers via the Energy Consents Unit following the submission of our Section 37 applications. In addition, the Eastern Green Link 3 land cable project is classed as Permitted Development and is not part of the statutory consultation process.

Account Postage GB
AC07678701264



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Please contact our Community Liaison Manager if you have any questions:

Gillian Doig Tel: 07879 288 666
200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3GH Email: gillian.doig@sse.com

Find out more and register for project updates at:

www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/netherton-400kv-ohl-tie-in
www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/netherton-400kv-ohl-rebuild
www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/eastern-green-link-3

 @ssentransmission  @SSETransmission

Figure 7 PAC1 postcard

Netherton Hub 400kV overhead line connection to New Deer and Peterhead

Tie-in project

Pre-application consultation event

We are holding our final consultation event for a proposed overhead line tie-in connection of the existing New Deer–Peterhead 400kV line into Netherton Hub.

The overhead line tie-in project is required to connect the proposed 400kV substation within the Hub to the existing transmission network.

This event concludes the pre-application consultation process for the consent application for the tie-in that will be submitted under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.

The feedback period closes on 8 October 2025.

Please note: Any comments made to us as the Applicant are not representations to Scottish Ministers as the decision maker. There will be opportunity to make formal representations to Scottish Ministers via the Energy Consents Unit following the submission of the Section 37 application.

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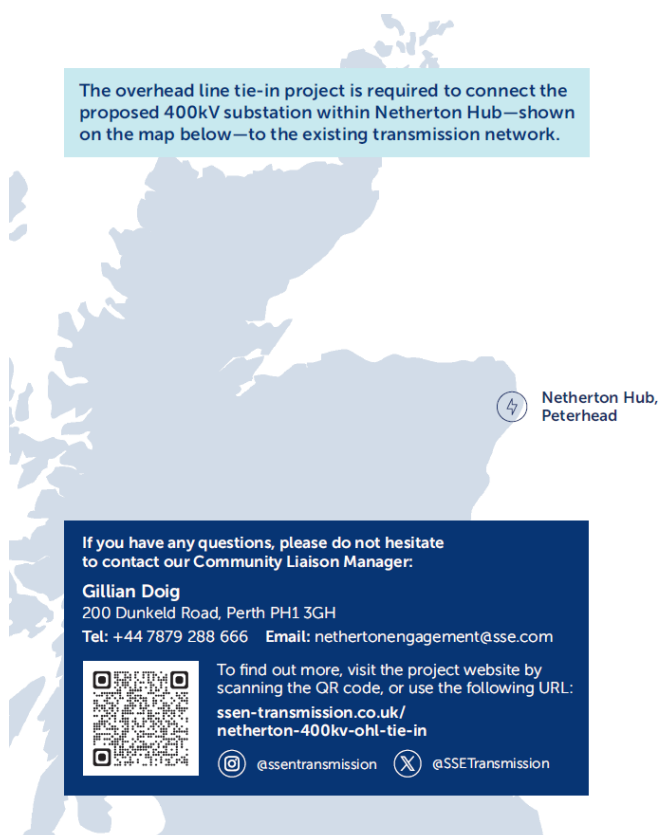


You are invited to attend our drop-in consultation event:

Wednesday 10 September, 3–7pm
Longside Parish Church Hall, Inn Brae,
Longside AB42 4XN

More information overleaf.

The overhead line tie-in project is required to connect the proposed 400kV substation within Netherton Hub—shown on the map below—to the existing transmission network.



Account Postage GB
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Figure 8 PAC2 postcard

APPENDIX 4 – EVENT IMAGES



