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| Document reference | Nov 2023 |
| Revision | 1 |
| Function | Major Projects |

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Meeting | Beauly Community Liaison Group |
| Date | 21 st November 2023 |
| Time & Venue | 7pm @ Lovat Hotel & Teams |

Beauly CLG Attendees and Apologies:

| Attendees | Representation |
|--------------------|---|
| CLlr David Fraser | CLlr and Chair of Beauly CLG |
| John Stewart | Kilmorack Community Council |
| Andy Fraser | Kilmorack Community Council |
| Bill Fraser | Co-opt into Kilmorack Community Council |
| John Graham | Kilmorack Community Council |
| Mary Graham | Kilmorack Community Council |
| Cameron Kemp | Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Council |
| Seona Fraser | Beauly Community Council |
| Jim Stewart | Beauly Community Council |
| Paul Stirling | Strathglass Community Council |
| Humphrey Clarke | Strathglass Community Council |
| Donna Peacock | Kiltarlity Community Council |
| Mairi Fraser | Kiltarlity community Council |
| Lee Wilson | SSEN Transmission |
| Kelly Scott | SSEN Transmission |
| Simon Hall | SSEN Transmission |
| John Douglas | SSEN Transmission |
| Simon Johnstone | SSEN Transmission |
| Rob Slaughter | SSEN Transmission (Teams) |
| Megan Ellis | SSEN Transmission |
| Stuart MacPherson | SSEN Transmission |
| Sally Cooper | SSEN Transmission |
| Claire Goddard | SSEN Transmission (Teams) |
| Alice Byrne | SSEN Transmission (Teams) |
| Adam Porter | SSEN Transmission (Teams) |
| Davidjon MacDonald | SSEN Transmission (Teams) |

Note of abbreviations.

GIS – Gas Insulated switchgear DC - Direct Current AC – Alternating Current

AIS – Air Insulated switchgear

CLG – Community Liaison Group

SSEN T – SSEN Transmission

OHL – overhead lines

GI – Ground investigation

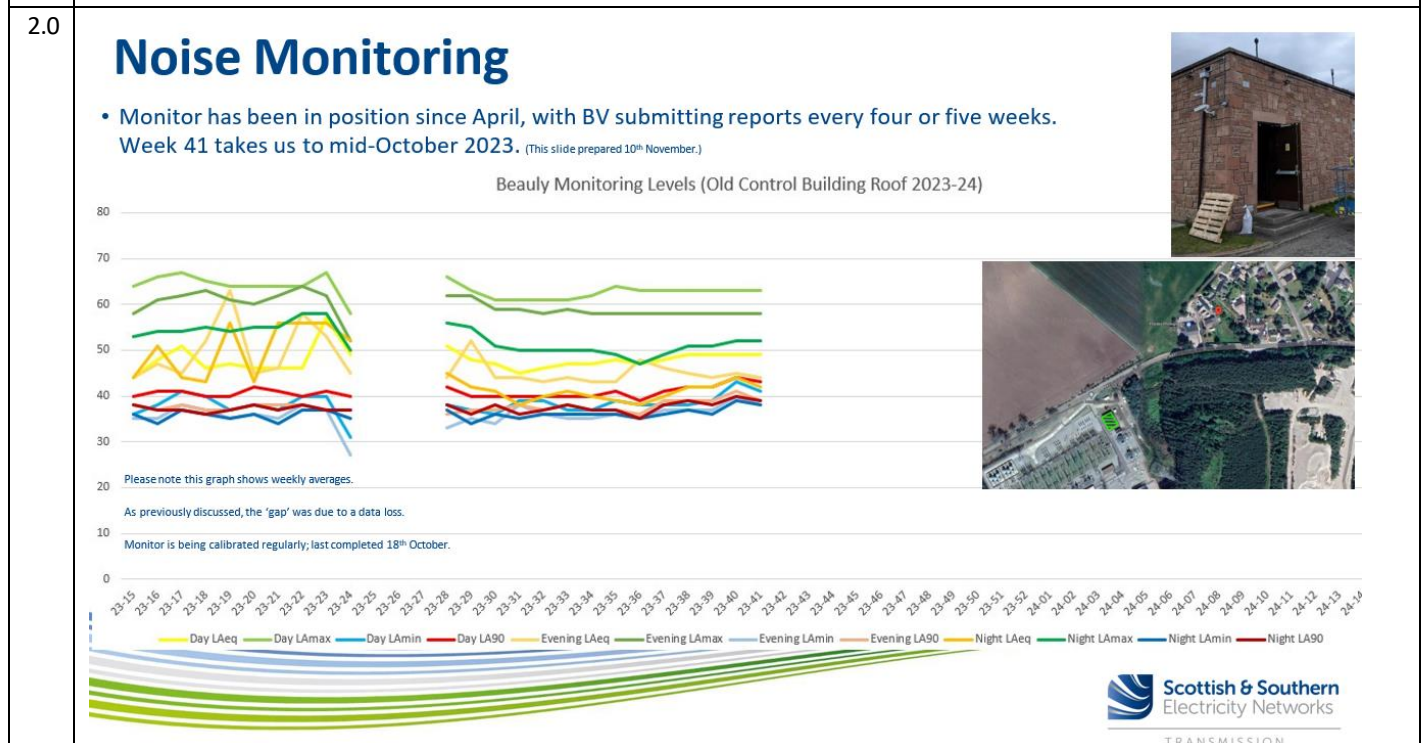
SO – System Operator

| 1.0 | Introductions and agenda | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|--|----------------|---------|--------|--------|-------|--------|---|--|----|---------|---|-----------------------------------|---------|------|---|-------------------------------------|---------|--------|---|----------------|----|------|---|------------------------------|----------------|---------|---|--|---------|---------|
| 1.1 | <h2 style="color: #0056b3;">Outstanding and Ongoing Actions</h2> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #a6c9ec;"> <th>Number</th> <th>Action</th> <th>Owner</th> <th>Update</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr style="background-color: #f1c232;"> <td>1</td> <td>Noise monitoring and graphs at Wester Balblair</td> <td>RS</td> <td>Ongoing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>THC Fire Management Working Group</td> <td>CLlr DF</td> <td>Open</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>THC stance on removal of PI trigger</td> <td>CLlr DF</td> <td>Closed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Requested Maps</td> <td>SC</td> <td>Open</td> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #f1c232;"> <td>5</td> <td>CLG meetings to be effective</td> <td>SSEN T and CLG</td> <td>Ongoing</td> </tr> <tr style="background-color: #f1c232;"> <td>6</td> <td>THC Environmental Health to ensure community involvement in noise review</td> <td>CLlr DF</td> <td>Ongoing</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | | Number | Action | Owner | Update | 1 | Noise monitoring and graphs at Wester Balblair | RS | Ongoing | 2 | THC Fire Management Working Group | CLlr DF | Open | 3 | THC stance on removal of PI trigger | CLlr DF | Closed | 4 | Requested Maps | SC | Open | 5 | CLG meetings to be effective | SSEN T and CLG | Ongoing | 6 | THC Environmental Health to ensure community involvement in noise review | CLlr DF | Ongoing |
| Number | Action | Owner | Update | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Noise monitoring and graphs at Wester Balblair | RS | Ongoing | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | THC Fire Management Working Group | CLlr DF | Open | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | THC stance on removal of PI trigger | CLlr DF | Closed | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Requested Maps | SC | Open | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | CLG meetings to be effective | SSEN T and CLG | Ongoing | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | THC Environmental Health to ensure community involvement in noise review | CLlr DF | Ongoing | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |



3

1.2 **Outstanding Action 2** - Cllrs Fraser and Ballance are on the Working Group and will update the Group accordingly
Outstanding Action 3 - Cllr Fraser is not aware of any changes to procedures, The Highland Council (THC) have not made any stance. Trigger option still currently stands for Section 37 objection.
Outstanding Action 4 – Digital copy of maps shared with the CLG members
Outstanding Action 5 & 6 - Ongoing



TRANSMISSION

2.1

Noise Monitoring

- BV noted that there has been a general increase (2 - 4dB) in the period up to week 41, as compared with the previous period(s).
- At least part of this seems to be skewed by short periods of birdsong relatively close to the microphone, showing up as spikes in levels of 2,500Hz and 10,000Hz frequencies.
- Generally speaking, the pattern of the noise data this period was similar to past periods i.e. typically diurnal.
- There were however more deviations from this pattern than in previous periods. Using data from the weather station located with the microphone, BV note that regular rainfall was recorded every week this period, with occasional heavy downpours; this includes the impacts of Storm Agnes in late September. Rainfall will show up in the noise data as the rain impacts on the ground and foliage, as well as greater noise from passing road traffic.
- BV also noted that prevailing winds for the period were from the South and West, which would tend to carry noise from the substation towards both the microphone and Wester Balblair.
- Analysing the 100Hz frequency characteristic of substations, BV noted that this broadly remained steady (day and night) around 50dB(A) as in previous periods. This is more easily masked by other noises during daytime periods than at night.
- BV therefore concluded that increases were due to “amplified weather patterns rather than any substantial increase in noise levels from the substation equipment or additional activities within its perimeter”.
- What has community experience of noise levels been since last CLG?



2.2

SSEN T informed that the noise monitoring equipment at Wester Balblair is calibrated regularly, last date was 15th October.

-The CLG informed they hear weather associated noise, when windows are closed at night it is less and they confirmed the noise is not as constant as previously and there is nothing exceptional to report in terms of noise which has been noticed.

-The Chair requested to see graphs showing a close up of the recent period and the long-range analysis since April. SSEN T explained that the graphs are updated when the reports are received from Bureau Veritas, so the Noise Update at the next CLG meeting shows all the data available at that time.

Action – to show more noise analysis at the next meeting.

3.

Beauly 132kV Redevelopment Project



3.1

Beauly 132kV Redevelopment Project

Progress

- GIS Building - "Wind & Water Tight"
- Internal M&E Fit-out approximately 80% complete
- Bulk earthworks complete, drainage & ducting ongoing

Look Ahead (3 month main activities)

- M&E fitout to GIS building to be completed.
- Delivery & Installation of GIS Equipment
- Take 1st Outage to install temporary diversion inside existing 132kV Substation
- Foundation & civil works commencing in existing 132kV substation



3.2

Beauly 132kV Redevelopment Project Considerate Constructors Scheme



SCORING

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Respect the Community | Excellent - 15 / 15 |
| Care for the Environment | Excellent - 14 / 15 |
| Value their Workforce | Excellent - 15 / 15 |
| Total Report Score | Excellent - 44 / 45 |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The companies compliant in regards to the requirements of the scheme. The site is remote but nevertheless good attention was paid to ensuring that nearby dwellings are protected from noise and dust nuisance. School outreach program is in place. Environmental awareness is high both in site procedures and waste disposal. The use of vegetable-based oil products is to be commended. Similarly the companies path to nett zero is clearly displayed on site and to the public. Safety, welfare, and occupational health are all well supported on site with mental health first aider is and EDI champions clearly identified within the project team. Thank you to Peter and his team for their time on site and I look forward to the next visit in the New Year.



Beauly 132kV Redevelopment Project Community Engagement

Beauly Primary School

Further engagement with the Beauly Primary School, SSEN Transmission with Muir of Ord Industrial Supplies have shared the cost of providing a new storage container to the school for the children's "Loose Parts" play area.



The CLG have asked for further information about what was required to achieve the score from the Considerate Constructors Scheme.

The following link explains the Scheme, its` categories and requirements for each [Considerate Constructors Scheme \(ccscheme.org.uk\)](https://ccscheme.org.uk)

The information and photos below were included in last months presentation. (This is the most recent community engagement which has taken place and other engagement has taken place prior to this).

These positive activities and engagement all contributed to achieving the excellent score for the Considerate Constructors Scheme.

The photos below shows some of the Team running a session with pupils at Muirtown Primary School, teaching them about electricity and its dangers.

-Our site Ecologist ran a session of `Spot the Animals` and discussed the ones encountered during construction and taught them about their habitats. These included bats, badgers, red kites, water voles, field mice and hares. This created great discussion.

-The project team and Contractor Bam Nuttall collectively raised £550 for the Highland Hospice from a Golf Day held in August.

-The project team and Contractor also built a play area and sit pit enclosure over the Summer for the Nursery at Beauly Primary School.

-SSEN T also provided a Summer placement for an engineering student, who was tasked with measuring up and producing a drawing for the enclosure.





3.5 A member of the CLG has requested a tour of Wester Balblair substation

Action for SC to arrange

4.0 **West of Beaully – Asset Replacement Projects
(including VISTA Glen Strathfarrar)**

Asset Replacement Projects:

- Consultation Events held on 23rd - 25th October 2023
- Aigas proposed site now located at [contractors](#) yard
- Kilmorack proposed site located further up the hill
- One further feedback public event for Kilmorack will take place early 2024
- Ongoing environmental surveys at all sites
- Ongoing noise monitoring for closest residential properties

VISTA:

- Project information shared at the recent consultation events
- 4km of new 132kV underground cable replacing existing overhead line within Glen Strathfarrar National Scenic Area (NSA)
- Primary objective of VISTA is to use the Ofgem funding to deliver the maximum benefit for nationally designated landscapes in the north of Scotland transmission network.
- See Killin VISTA as example:
[VISTA - Killin - SSEN Transmission \(ssen-transmission.co.uk\)](http://ssen-transmission.co.uk)



4.1 -Re the VISTA project the CLG asked when the letters of support are required, SSEN T informed that the CLG will be asked to circulate a letter – this will be first quarter 2024.

-Re the Aigas Asset Replacement project, the CLG asked why the proposed Aigas substation will not be within a building like Kilmorack. SSEN T explained that this is very much to lack of available space at the Aigas site. Its a heavily constrained site due to steep slopes on either side and a building doubles up the access roads required to the site To adhere to modern standards there are also required safety clearances which is why the footprints for these substations are larger than the current substations. The proposed Kilmorack substation is housed because it is more visually intrusive and is less constrained than Aigas.

-The CLG expressed concerns about noise and vibration impacts at Aigas. SSEN T assured that all projects are designed based on the results of noise analysis/monitoring, this takes place ahead of construction to establish base lines and informs any need for noise mitigation as part of the initial desings. SSEN T confirmed that all transformers are situated on anti-vibration pads.

-The CLG asked about any planned road improvements as there will heavy traffic using the road and expressed concerns around heavy traffic in the vicintiy of the school and on the school run. SSEN T explained that the plan is to use the existing access road up to the quarry. When the planning application is submitted SSEN T will submit a draft traffic management plan which will show routes to site and will recommend and suggest public road improvements, including passing places etc. The Highland Council (THC) will respond on whether the proposals are satisfactory. In addition, clauses can be included, such as ensuring there are no HGV deliveries at peak

times to avoid the school run times.

With regards to the proposed Kilmorack substation the CLG stated the single track road to site is in poor condition . The Chair summarised that as part of the Planning process the `applicant` submits their application and THC traffic engineer, planner and environment will all assess the plan to ensure it meets requirements, this will then be enforced and included in the planning permission documents.

-The CLG stressed that the project team need to speak with those local residents on private water supply as this information is not mapped.

Action to ensure the project team are fully aware.

5.0

Pathway to 2030 Update

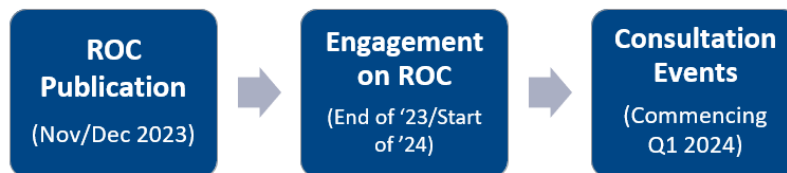
Following feedback requesting a more joined up approach to engaging on Pathway to 2030 projects, the business has been endeavouring to better align programmes to allow engagement and updates to happen simultaneously where possible

Reports on Consultation (ROCs):

- We have committed to publish our ROCs for the majority of Pathway to 2030 projects by **early Dec 2023 (Spittal – Beaully, Beaully – Peterhead, Tealing – Kintore** and each of the relevant substations associated to these projects). We will also be considering how we engage on these reports to make them more accessible (webinars, summary docs etc)

Next Consultations:

- We are also currently working on aligning a programme for our overhead line alignment consultations and initial Pre-Application consultations for substations to commence for Q1 2024

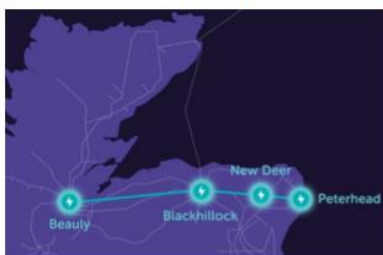


5.1

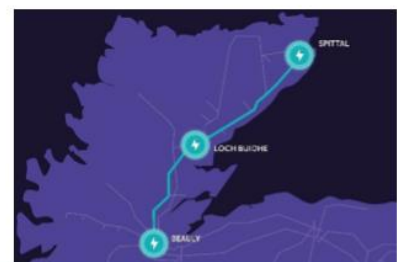
SSEN T informed the CLG that the Report on Consultation will be published week of 27th November, this is aligned with the other Pathway to 2030 projects apart from Fasnakyle which will be published early 2024. These will be shared with Councillors, community councils and other stakeholders and further engagement such as webinars, briefings are planned on the back of this.

6.0

Beaully – Blackhillock – New Deer - Peterhead 400kV



Spittal– Loch Buidhe – Beaully 400kV



Progress Updates and Next Steps :

- ROCs due to published next week
- Meetings offered to Community Council's as a brief on the ROC decisions – wider stakeholder webinar planned
- Consultation will take place Q1 2024
- Speaking to project teams re workshop possibilities ahead of consultation



7.0 Beauly – Denny 400kV Substations - Fasnakyle

Progress Updates and Next Steps :

- Feedback period for Fasnakyle substation closed. 67 attended the consultation event in person and 15 people provided feedback forms. The main themes of feedback were regarding the site selection process, site location, noise, lighting, access and AIS v GIS technology.
- Project team have reviewed the feedback received from the local community during the consultation period and acknowledge the requests of the local community and recognise a greater level of detail could have been provided to help better understand our site selection process. The outcome of this is that **the team will update and reissue the consultation document** to address these concerns and provide the community with a more comprehensive rationale behind our shortlisting process.
- Drafting of Report on Consultation ongoing. Due to published once all feedback from key stakeholders received.
- Environmental, archaeological and engineering surveys (e.g., Ground Investigation) are ongoing following analysis of feedback.
- Fasnakyle visit with Strathglass CC at proposed substation site scheduled for 22/11/23.



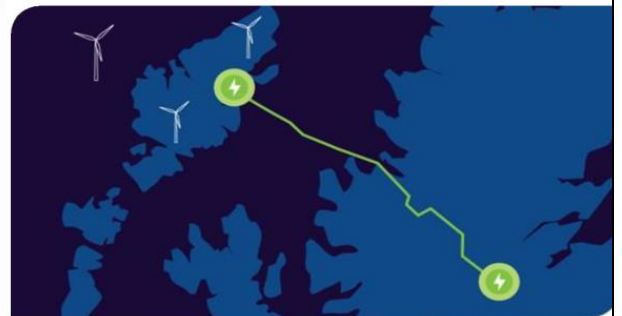
TRANSMISSION

- 7.1 The Fasnakyle Report on Consultation is expected to be published early 2024, it will recognise omission of the NSA on the consultation document which will be reissued.
- The CLG expressed their dissatisfaction of receiving the Ground Investigation notification too late, the digger with wide tracks together with a police escort was required, the CLG explained that people had to be asked to move their cars and the notification was received after this so they had no prior warning of this.
- The CLG informed that they will be sharing their agreement with forestry with SSEN T.
- SSEN T stressed that the ground investigation works at Site 9 is to understand the ground conditions and should not be thought of as the definite site to be progressed.

8.0 Connecting the Western Isles - Underground Cable Route

Project Overview

- 1.8GW HVDC subsea cable link between the Western Isles and the mainland.
- Circa 4km of underground HVDC cable from Arnish Point landfall to the HVDC Converter Station on the Isle of Lewis
- Circa 77km of underground HVDC cable from Dundonnell to the mainland HVDC Converter Station:
 - Circa two thirds of route (western and central sections) follows A832 and A835 corridors
 - Circa one third of route (eastern section) follows existing underground and overhead lines
- Underground cable installed under our permitted development rights



Activities and Next Steps:

- Complete surveys and undertake GI works (Q1 2024), finalise route alignment
- Undertake public engagement events at key points on cable route (first half of 2024)
- Energisation 2030



Typical Off-road Installation



Typical Installation in Road



TRANSMISSION

- 8.1 The CLG were informed that 1.8GW direct current (DC) operates at 525kV of alternating current (AC). Overhead lines (OHL) transport alternating current (AC) not direct current (DC) which is transported by cable in the SSEN T network. The trench depth for the cable will be approx 1.2-1.4 metres, heat is generated from the cables so special backfill is used around the cables to prevent them overheating. There are 2 cables, one is positive the other negative, these are installed in ducts which are jointed every 750m-1km apart, a third cable is fibre for communications which lies below these 2 cables. Earthing link boxes are located every 4km -5km which assist in any required fault finding.

Community Experience since last meeting and Issues Arising?

SSEN Transmission:

1. An open invitation remains to the CLG to meet with senior members of Transmission to discuss these projects in more detail. Inverness or Perth as a venue?
2. Invitation to site visit to Fanellan

Community:



Date of next CLG Meeting – Tuesday 27th February, venue to be confirmed as the Lovat Hotel might be closed

Actions and Updates

| Number | Action | Owner | Update |
|--------|---|-------|--------|
| 1. | Noise Monitoring Analysis – Wester Balblair | RS | Open |
| 2. | Site visit - Wester Balblair Substation | SC | Open |
| 3. | Aigas – Asset Replacement project, Engineering and PM to be aware of properties with private water supply | SC/LW | Open |
| 4. | Maps shared with CLG | SC | Closed |
| 5. | Fanellan Site Visit Invitation | SC | Open |

