

Coupar Angus 2 132kV Substation

Report on Consultation

August 2026

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Introduction

Purpose of this document

The purpose of this Report on Consultation (RoC) is to document the consultation responses received as part of the site selection consultation process for the proposed new 132 kilovolt (kV) substation and associated infrastructure (the 'Proposed Development') at Coupar Angus, Perth and Kinross.

This report details the consultation process undertaken so far, including details of consultation methods and advertising, those consulted and/or contributing to the process and it also documents the feedback received, including objections, concerns, questions and statements of support. It sets out clearly how stakeholder feedback has influenced decisions made regarding the option taken forward.

Project Overview

SSEN Transmission holds a licence under the Electricity Act 1989 for the transmission of electricity in the north of Scotland and has a statutory duty under Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical electrical transmission system in its licence area. Where there is a requirement to extend, upgrade or reinforce its transmission network, SSEN Transmission's aim is to provide an environmentally aware, technically feasible and economically viable solution which would cause the least disturbance to the environment and to people who use it.

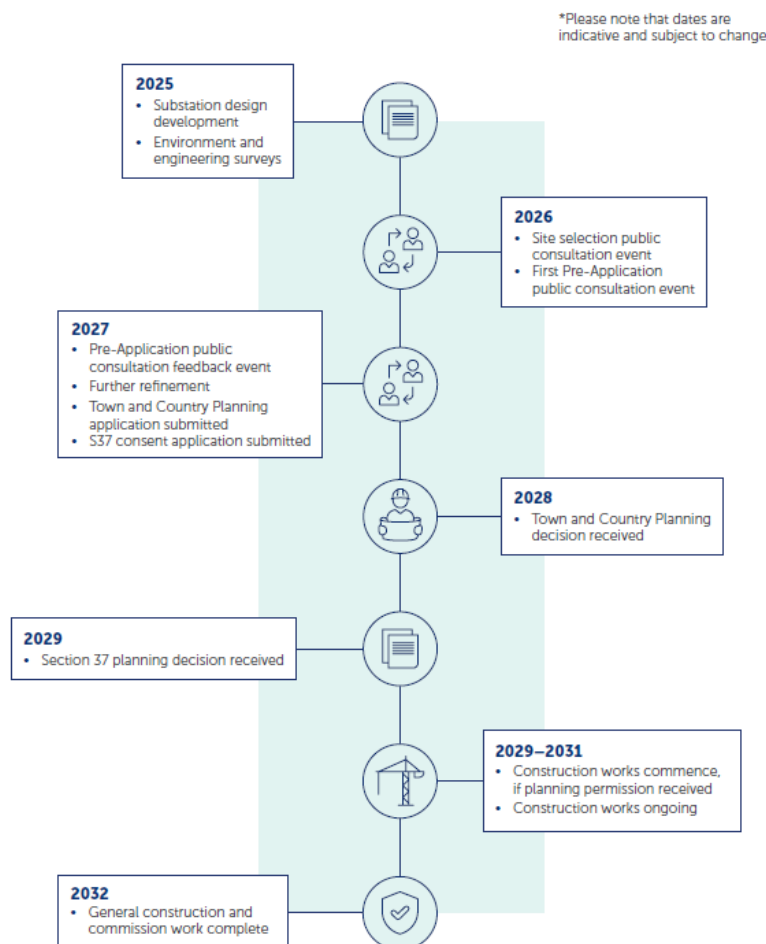
Several new generation connections have been proposed on Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution's (SHEPD) 33kV network in the Coupar Angus area. The existing Coupar Angus Grid Supply Point (GSP) is unable to accept these new connections as all available 33kV connections have been allocated and further development of this site is not feasible given the flooding issues experienced at the substation. A new Coupar Angus 2 132/33kV GSP substation has been proposed to facilitate these connections along with space provision for additional 132kV connections.

Implementing the Proposed Development of a new substation in the vicinity of the existing Coupar Angus GSP will comprise the following:

- 132kV single busbar plus space provision for future double busbar upgrade.
- Two 120 MVA rated Grid Transformers (GTs).
- Current indicative platform size for an Air Insulated Switchgear Substation (AIS) is approximately 162 x 228 m (excluding earthworks). These are taken to comprise a working 'worst case scenario for site selection'. Earthworks would be required to develop the level platform.
- Overhead line (OHL) tie-ins from the new substation to the existing Clunie-Coupar Angus overhead line.
- Upgrade existing or provide new access tracks, temporary construction compounds and construction laydown areas.

Project Timeline

The project timeline is set out below and may change as the project continues to develop.



What we were consulting on

As a stakeholder-led business, we understand the importance of involving communities and key stakeholders throughout each stage of our development process. Relevant and insightful stakeholder feedback collected during consultations is critical to ensuring that our decision making is informed, and stakeholder concerns are taken into consideration at each stage of the project's development.

We were seeking feedback on the Coupar Angus 2 132kV Substation site selection which was present in the March 2026 Site Selection Consultation Document¹. The Consultation Document described the site selection process and discussed the assessment of potential sites, which took into account technology options and environmental, engineering and cost considerations.

¹ <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/globalassets/projects/new-coupar-angus-132kv-substation/march-events/lt539-coupar-angus-substation-site-selection-consultation-document-v1.0-with-appendix.pdf>

The Consultation Process

Who we consulted with

Our consultation process sought to capture the views of anyone who had an interest in our proposals, and we invited comments from all. During our engagements we aimed to ensure that we captured the views of:

- Statutory consultees (Perth and Kinross Council, NatureScot, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Historic Environment Scotland (HES))
- Non-statutory consultees
- Community members and local organisations, including local elected members
- Landowners and occupiers

Consultation feedback period

The public consultation period was open from 10 March 2026 until 21 May 2026. Statutory consultees were invited to provide feedback on the consultation booklet prepared for the project between 30 April 26 and 06 June 26. Where possible, affected landowners were contacted ahead of the consultation period opening to the public to discuss land related considerations or concerns.

The advertising process

The site selection consultation event was advertised extensively using the following methods:

- Adverts in The Courier newspaper on 9, 11, 13, 16, 18, 20 and 23 March 2026
- The date and venue of the site selection consultation event was also publicised on the project website. In addition, SSEN Transmission's Facebook social media channel was also used to advertise the event.
- Councillors and Community Councils were emailed in advance with information and a poster they could share within their local area.
- An A5 postcard informing of the event was also sent out to 9,318 homes and businesses within communities potentially impacted by our proposals on 11 March 2026
- No email notification was issued at the point the newspaper adverts, letters and other consultation materials were published, as this was the first stage of consultation for the project and there were no stakeholders signed up to the project website distribution list at that time. The consultation was therefore promoted through a range of other channels, including newspaper advertising, direct letters/postcards to local homes and businesses, the project webpage, social media and direct contact with elected members and community councils. Following the public consultation event, we were able to build a project distribution list from those who attended, registered an interest or asked to receive

future updates. Emails were then issued to thank attendees for taking the time to meet with the project team and to confirm the feedback closure date. A further follow-up email was also sent when the feedback period was extended. This means we now have a more established distribution list in place, which will help support direct email updates for future stages of consultation and engagement. .

The adverts referenced above have been included in **Appendix A**.

Stakeholder participation

A consultation event was held on 24 March 2026, where local stakeholders could meet with the project team to discuss the proposals in more detail. This is detailed in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Consultation Events

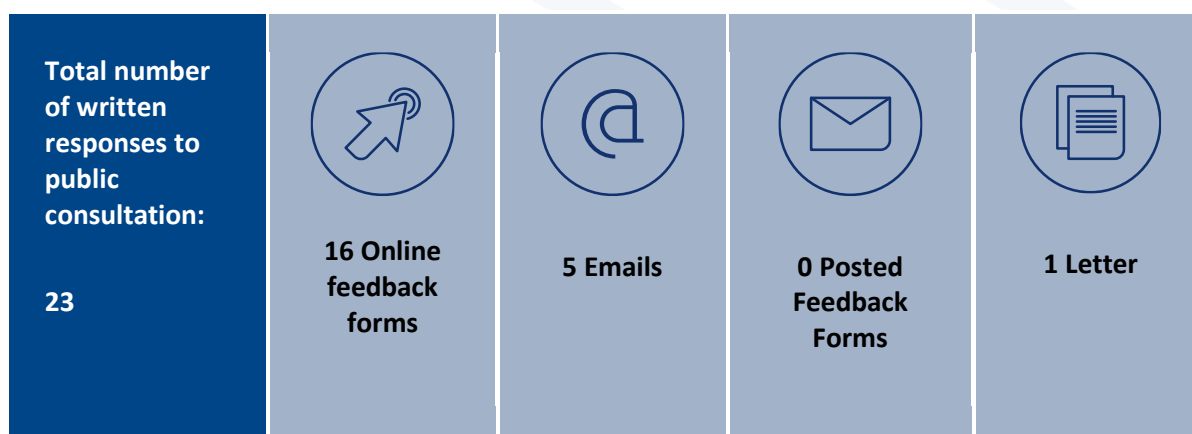
Date	Event	Recorded attendance
24 March 2026	Coupar Angus 2 Site Selection Public Consultation Event <i>Red House Hotel, Station Road Coupar Angus, PH13 9AL</i>	91

Attendance figures are based on those who had registered attendance at a consultation event. For busier events, the number of attendees can often be considerably higher than recorded.

Feedback volume

Feedback from our stakeholders was welcomed via a range of methods. This included online or hard copy feedback forms, email or letters, notes from the consultation events or stakeholder meetings or from any relevant telephone conversations.

Responses to public consultation



Statutory Stakeholder Consultation

Four statutory bodies were contacted by SSEN Transmission and requested to provide feedback on the proposals. Four responses were received, with a summary of each alongside our feedback listed in **Table 4** of the 'Specific Project Related Feedback' section of this report. Full copies of the feedback from statutory consultees are provided in **Appendix B**.

Consultation Feedback and Our Response

Introduction

This section of the report provides the responses from SSEN Transmission to the questions and themes emerging from the public consultation and the responses provided by statutory and non-statutory stakeholders. During the event, the project team directed members of the public to the feedback forms to encourage residents to provide their comments. A follow up email was sent to remind attendees and interested parties to encourage them to provide feedback before the end of the feedback period.

Feedback was analysed by the project teams, supported by Information Analysts, to produce relevant data and key themes outlined in the table below.

Consultation responses have been grouped by the following project themes, 'community impact' (**Table 2**) 'environmental impact' (**Table 3**), and 'economic impact' (**Table 4**).

Table 2: Community Impact

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Comments about insufficient or inconsistent information provided on the project: – Some residents were not aware of the project before the flyer was distributed. – The maps used were out of date. – Conflicting information about the size of the substation from staff at the event compared to booklet. – Mail drop should be clearer that project affects not only the town of Coupar Angus. – More clarity about the size of the actual development vs the site would have been appreciated.	Community, organisations & officials	- Project awareness – The advertisement of the consultation event, and the event itself, represented the first step in raising awareness and starting engagement on the project, so for the vast majority of residents this will be the first time they have heard about the project. - Map Date -The mapping used is the latest licensed version of OS mapping available. - Substation size - During the first stage of the site selection process, a larger overall footprint for the site was anticipated. As part of the design development, this footprint was reduced to its current dimensions of 228 m x 162 m. The consultation leaflet published ahead of the event, and on which the consultation information boards were based, quoted the site extents as 260 m x 190 m. Due to design development happening alongside site selection, the change happened between the production of the consultation materials and the event itself, which it is acknowledged will have caused confusion. The exact extents of the substation will be determined through further design development, with a red line boundary identified to support a future planning application. - Mail drop information on affected areas – There was limited space on the leaflet delivered to residents for figures/maps etc. which set out all of the study area and potential impacts. This information was detailed in subsequent consultation materials, and at the event itself. - Site/area size information - The consultation materials highlighted that the areas under consideration were significantly larger than the

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
There has been a lack of transparency and information about the other proposed renewable energy projects referenced to be coming to the area.	Community, organisations & officials	required footprint for the proposed new substation, along with the rationale behind this approach. Subsequent consultation for the project will focus on a red line planning boundary which will be developed for the Proposed Site The project was triggered as a contractual obligation to provide the necessary transmission connection capacity for SHEPD, linked to developments that have passed necessary readiness assessments to receive an offer of connection into the Transmission network. This work was undertaken by the National Energy System Operator (NESO) through a process called Connections Reform. This process was still ongoing during our site selection process, so it was not yet known/confirmed exactly which developments would receive these offers. Attendees at the consultation event were directed to the NESO website for information on developers and their status in the Connections Reform process.
Concerns about cumulative impacts in the area: – That this would enable more future projects in the area. – Already poultry farm and proposed solar farm in the area – how is the potential industrialisation of the area being controlled?	Community, organisations & officials	Whilst the new GSP is in response to provide contractually obligated connection capacity to the transmission network, there will be additional capacity for future developments. Any further third-party development, however, would still be subject to its own planning process, environmental assessments and environmental obligations, as well obtaining a connection agreement via NESO. A cumulative impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the Environmental Assessment supporting the proposed development and any future consent application.
General objections to the project as a whole, either in Area 3 or Area 5 due to proximity to residential areas, too many developments already in the area, wildlife at the sites.	Community, organisations & officials	As part of a future planning application for the Proposed Development, detailed ecological, habitat and wildlife surveys will be undertaken and impacts assessed and mitigated as part of any Environmental Assessment (including EIA, should screening determine this is required). Assessments will also include noise and visual impacts

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Questions about the need for the project: – Request to understand the specifics about the projects / drivers for the GSP. – Justification for the 5km search area – could the substation not be placed somewhere else?	Community, organisations & officials	associated with construction and operation, with mitigation measures developed to minimise any impacts. - Project drivers - The project was triggered as a contractual obligation to provide the necessary transmission connection capacity for SHEPD, linked to developments receiving Gate 2 offers through the Connections Reform process. This process was still ongoing during our site selection process, so it was not yet known/confirmed exactly which developments would receive these offers. Attendees at the consultation event were directed to the NESO website for information on developers and their status in the Connections Reform process. - Area of search – We adopt a search area consisting of a 5 km radius as a standard approach on projects, with some flexibility for geographical features and terrain. As the additional capacity is required for developments who could have potentially connected into the existing Coupar Angus GSP if its expansion was not constrained by flooding issues, this is considered as the point of connection under consideration. Limiting the search area to 5 km around existing infrastructure minimises the amount of new or diverted OHLs required to connect into the transmission network.
Concerns about fire risk.	Community, organisations & officials	Safety is our number one priority, and all our plant and equipment is designed to recognised international safety and reliability standards. In order to minimise the risk of substation fires, continued inspection of equipment is carried out, in an effort to identify and replace any equipment that is in a condition that could pose a safety concern or a fire risk. The following preventative actions are taken at our sites to limit the risk of fire spreading:

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		• A risk assessment is carried out to identify fire hazards and items at risk from fire. • Risk reduction is then implemented considering physical separation of fire hazards from items at risk, the use of fire barriers, and fire suppression systems where appropriate. • Buildings are fitted with fire alarms which are regularly tested, and the buildings themselves are designed to minimise fire spread. • Annual full fire risk assessments are carried out across all sites. - Fire Risk Assessments and Fire Emergency Plans are also held at all substation sites and outlined to any visitors
The existing Coupar Angus substation is not well screened and is very visible from Coupar Angus town.	Community, organisations & officials	As part of the design development ahead of a future planning application, measures to reduce any visual impacts of the new substation will be developed in consultation with the local community. These will be presented for feedback at Pre-Application Consultation events, with comments and improvements incorporated for subsequent events.
Some support expressed for the project – understanding it is required in order to move towards net zero. Willingness of local landowners to work with SSEN Transmission.	Community, organisations & officials	We will continue to work with the local community, stakeholders, and affected landowners to highlight the positive drivers and impacts of the proposed new substation.

Table 3: Environmental Impact

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) provided feedback on the project on 08 July 2026 which is summarised below:	Perth and Kinross Council	The Applicant acknowledges the comment raised on the site selection process and welcomes the response from PKC.

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
In terms of the site selection process for the new substation, the Council is in agreement that, out of the initial twelve selected sites, Area 3 and Area 5 are the most preferred options. Furthermore, it is the opinion of the Council that the rationale for the new substation has been clearly explained and is fully understood, and that the methodology used in the site selection process is both appropriate and robust. In light of this, the Council is in agreement that Area 3 is, overall, the best option. However, PKC Tree Officer has raised concerns regarding the potential access road at Caddam Road (C436) and the requirement to have it widened in order to accommodate construction traffic. The Tree Officer's concerns centre around the 20 mature oak trees that border the road. This aside, there have not been any concerns raised regarding the choice of Area 3. Historic Environment Scotland (HES) provided feedback on the project on 20 May 2026 which is summarised below: HES advises that SSEN request an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening opinion from the planning authority, as the Proposed Development may meet the criteria and thresholds in Schedule 2 of the EIA (Scotland) Regulations 2017. Potential impacts on several designated assets have been identified. Comments on these impacts and advice on supporting information to accompany applications for consent are provided. HES understands that 1 km boundary was applied to identify assets which may be affected and is unclear on why this choice was made. Advises referring to Managing Change: Setting guidance to identify assets. Also recommends using a bare-earth Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to support initial assessment. Assessments should not rely on forestry or vegetation to screen visual impacts given potential for clearance, felling and windblow. Sites do not need to be visually prominent to have a setting.	Historic Environment Scotland	With regard to the Tree Officer's concerns about the oak trees it is understood that access plans are not yet fully developed. Subsequent project design stage will consider project access requirements and the need to widen Caddam Road. Arboriculture survey would likely be required to assess trees and identify root protection areas. SSEN Transmission will continue discussions with the relevant consenting authorities regarding the appropriate environmental assessment and consenting strategy for the Proposed Development. The Applicant acknowledges the comments raised by HES. Regarding the Study Area adopted for setting impacts. The Applicant notes that the work undertaken for the Site Selection Report focused on high level constraints and as such a 1 km Study Area was used as this was considered sufficient for that exercise. While a 1 km Study Area will be used to inform the baseline for the Cultural Heritage chapter of the Environmental Assessment a 'Wider Study Area' of 2 km will be used to examine possible impacts resulting through changes to the setting of assets. This process will also use a ZTV provided by the Landscape and Visual team once a more detailed design has been established.

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Scheduled Monuments Currently not enough information to determine site preference in relation to scheduled monuments. Recommends assessment undertaken to assess potential impact on scheduled monuments and has identified the following assets which may experience setting impacts due to the development. Note that this list is not definitive. Area 3 • SM4774 Hills of Bendochy, burial mound • SM1629 Coupar Angus, Abbey gatehouse • SM5772 Coupar Angus Abbey, abbey precinct Area 5 • SM7162 Nether Gothens, enclosure S of • SM7167 Carsie Mains, pit-circle & mortuary enclosure 400m NNE of • SM7169 Upper Gothens, enclosure 350m ESE of • SM7189 Burnbank, barrows, enclosures & unenclosed settlement SW of • SM7168 Broadmyre, pit-enclosure 130m SSW of • SM1602 The Cleaven Dyke, cursus & bank barrow • SM7282 Herald Hill, long barrow 700m NE of Hallhole • SM7155 Hallhole, ring-ditch 600m NNE of • SM7023 Hallhole, enclosures and trackways NNE of • SM6952 Coin Hill, unenclosed settlement W of Hallhole • SM6933 Hallhole, square barrow and pit alignment 600m E of • SM6949 Hallhole, barrow 600m ESE of • SM4233 Black Hill, Roman signal station • SM7302 Stormont Loch, crannog Category A-listed Buildings and Inventory Garden and Designed Landscapes		Currently it is assumed that Area 3 will be progressed. While Coupar Angus Abbey precinct (SM5772) and associated gatehouse (SM1629) are both approximately 650 m east of the Area 3 boundary, significant negative effects resulting from changes to the setting of these assets is not expected. This is largely due to the urban spread of Coupar Angus that blocks views between the assets and the Site. Furthermore, while the original setting of the abbey would have been largely rural in nature, the remains of the abbey now sit within the southern limits of the settlement of Coupar Angus. The substation would be located to the west of the settlement, and as such it would not change the character of the landscape around the abbey remains. Likewise, while the burial mound at the Hill of Bendocly is located approximately 680 m northeast of Area 3, significant negative effects on the asset are not expected. While the tree covered mound is a prominent feature in its immediate surroundings, the distance between the asset and Area 3 means that the Proposed Development will not alter the appearance/prominence of the asset. Furthermore, the asset does not appear to have been designed to be intervisible with any contemporary assets within Area 3 or south of Area 3, and therefore the Proposed Development would not block or interrupt any intervisibility between assets that may have been important. The assessment will continue to consider the potential impacts on these assets, as well as other designated assets in the area as the design develops. The Applicant will also continue to consult with HES to agree any viewpoint photography or visualisations that might be required to inform the assessment.

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
There is potential for setting impacts to multiple category A-listed buildings and inventory garden and designed landscapes for Area 3 and Area 5. These include: • Hallyburton House (LB51605) • Marlee House (LB13742) • Meikleour (GDL00279) • Keithick House (LB6170) This is not an exhaustive list and a ZTV and initial setting assessment will be required to identify others beyond a 1 km radius. While not possible to confirm at this moment, the submitted information suggests Area 3 is likely to be less impactful for category A-listed buildings and inventory gardens and designed landscapes. Information on any management plans for existing screening should be considered as part of future, more detailed submissions. This will help clarify whether the screening and vegetation referred to can be considered viable mitigation for potential setting impacts to, for example, Keithick House (LB6170).		
Feedback from NatureScot on the project was provided on 02 June 2026 is summarised below: Area 3 and Area 5 Within potential connectivity distance of foraging geese. The agricultural land use around Coupar Angus does offer foraging opportunities but there are extensive foraging opportunities in this area, and the work will impact on relatively few fields over a short duration. Although any power lines may have longer-term impacts.	NatureScot	NatureScot's comments are acknowledged and addressed below: Wintering goose surveys will be conducted from September 2026 to March 2027 to assess field use. Based on findings, avian flight diverters on OHLs will be considered, and measures to minimise disturbance during construction will be implemented. River Tay SAC and its protected interests will be considered within the Habitat Regulations Appraisal (HRA)

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Might be worth considering bird line – markers hung from the overhead lines as a counter measure for geese having to forage in alternative locations as result of the proposed sub-station development. See NatureScot guidance on bird impacts on powerlines². River Tay Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (relates to Area 3 and Area 5) <u>Protected interests</u> (interests where a potential for impact exists listed only): Atlantic salmon, Brook lamprey, River lamprey, Sea lamprey, Otter <u>NatureScot advice at pre-application stage</u> Good working practices essential to protect the SAC. All environmental management plans must detail working next to the River Tay (including River Isla and Lunan Burn). Site-specific plans for each location recommended. Please refer to NatureScot Guidance for the River Tay SAC³. While not listed as a feature, Freshwater Pearl Mussel is a protected species and connected to the River Isla. Surveys required if likely to be an impact on river catchment⁴. Hare Myre, Monk Myre and Stormont Loch SSSI (relates to Area 5) <u>Protected interests</u>: Greylag goose (non-breeding). Open water transition fen, Vascular plant assemblage, Quaternary of Scotland		and any Environmental Assessment. A desk-based assessment will determine if freshwater pearl mussel surveys are necessary. If required, protection measures will be implemented, and necessary licenses will be obtained. Pollution prevention measures will be implemented to protect the fen and plant assemblages. Only Area 3 is being taken forward. The Hare Myre, Monk Myre and Stormont Loch SSSI (Area 5) will not be considered further except in relation to geese. No other impact pathways to the SSSI (e.g., hydrological or ecological) are relevant to the assessment. If any indirect pathway to the SSSI is identified during detailed design the SSSI will be brought back into scope and assessed accordingly and pollution prevention and hydrological controls will be implemented across all works. Surveys for otter and beaver have been completed following appropriate guidance. Findings will be incorporated into the assessment.

² [Guidance - Assessment and mitigation of impacts of power lines and guyed meteorological masts on birds | NatureScot](#)

³ [Guidance for the River Tay SAC | NatureScot](#)

⁴ [Freshwater pearl mussels and licensing | NatureScot](#)

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
<u>NatureScot advice at pre-application stage</u> Within potential connectivity distance of foraging over wintering Greylag geese. Loss of foraging fields and pasture depending on the final location of the substation. Pollution prevention plans will be essential to protect the open water transition fen and rare vascular plant assemblage which are susceptible to changes in nutrients of the water catchment and groundwater springs which feed the lochs. Although not recorded as a feature of the SSSIs, there are known beaver and otter in the area and they are using the watercourses. We recommend following NatureScot's Standing advice for planning consultations^{5,6}.		
The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) provided feedback on the project on 2 June 2026 which is summarised below: SEPA does not accept UKHab surveys in relation to Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE). A UKHab survey can be carried out initially but a separate National Vegetation Classification (NVC) survey must be carried out to assess the wetland habitats present. P.23 of the [consultation] document states that no dedicated NVC survey has been carried out and habitat surveys were carried out of the optimal botanical season. Dedicated NVC surveys are required to confirm the classification. Once this has been confirmed, our ecologists will be in a better position to comment on the proposals. The updated Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Developments on Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial	Scottish Environment Protection Agency	SEPA's comments are acknowledged and addressed below: A targeted NVC survey was carried out on 28 May by an experienced botanist. This NVC survey focused specifically on notable wetland areas and forms the basis of the GWDTE assessment. This assessment will be undertaken in accordance with 'Guidance on Assessing the Impacts of Developments on Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (2024)', with informed mitigation provided if GWDTEs are identified.

⁵ [Standing advice for planning consultations - Beavers | NatureScot](#)

⁶ [Standing advice for planning consultations - Otters | NatureScot](#)

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
Ecosystems (2024)⁷ should be used in your assessment of the site options. If GWDTE are present, mitigation must be provided to ensure that the groundwater flows to them are maintained, if avoidance is not possible. Groundwater flows to any wetlands within the development site may be adversely impacted by excavation and construction works. There is no peat showing as present at either site according to the Soil map of Scotland or the Land Cover Map 2024 and the report states this was also confirmed by field survey. Summary of the issues we would expect to see addressed in any future planning application is attached (Appendix X).		
Several concerns and questions were raised relating to flooding: – The bottom of Area 3 (near A94) is prone to flooding. – Not all of Area 1 (existing substation) floods and certain parts would be useable. – Landowner at Area 1 says this site does not flood and would support substation to be sited there. – Opinions that ground could be raised at Area 1 to stop flooding challenges. – Area 5 prone to flooding in parts including between two bridges – impassable once a year.	Community, organisations & officials	- Area 3 flooding – The flood risk zone in Area 3 was identified as a constraint during site selection, however it was determined that this zone could be avoided through micro-siting of the Proposed Development. We also propose to use an elevated platform to further mitigate the risk of flooding. Flood risk modelling will be undertaken as part of the design development of the site in preparation for the planning application. - Area 1 flooding – Based on the observed and predicted flooding issues at the existing GSP, it was not considered technically feasible to implement the new GSP, or expand the existing one, in this area to the required scope. Where the flood risk is lower in Area 1, the tie in to the existing overhead line would not be technically feasible due to the angle of diversions needed. There is also a significant fire risk associated with any overhead line tie-in in proximity to the battery storage facility. - Area 5 flooding – whilst available flood risk data does not show significant risk on the A984 near Area 5, the multiple anecdotal reports of flooding

⁷ [Assessing the Impacts of Developments on Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems](#)

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		causing this road to be impassible in recent years was considered from an Operations perspective during the site selection process, with Area 3 preferred due to it having multiple points of access from the wider road network.
Several concerns that both sites are located on prime agricultural land. Why can the substation not be sited on derelict land? In a world of rising food insecurity good farmland should be protected.	Community, organisations & officials	As outlined in consultation materials, much of the search area (a 5 km radius from the existing Coupar Angus GSP) consists of agricultural land, particularly near to the existing 132kV OHL the new substation will connect to. Some areas were identified to specifically avoid the loss of agricultural land; however, these were discounted in the early stages of the site selection process due to being technically infeasible and located a significant distance from the existing OHL. A significant diversion of the existing OHL would cause impacts significantly beyond the footprint of the new substation, whereas locating in adjacent to the existing OHL minimises the overall spatial impact of the development.
Multiple accounts of wildlife at Area 5 including beaver, otter, buzzard, red squirrel and kite.	Community, organisations & officials	At the time of the initial consultation event and associated published information, there were still ecology and wildlife surveys ongoing for both sites. These surveys have since been completed and identified significant ecological constraints at Area 5. This resulted in a Red rating for Area 5 for Ecology, whereas Area 3 received an amber rating. Overall, there is a strong preference for Area 3 over Area 5 in terms of ecological/wildlife constraints.
Some residents expressed a preference for Area 3 because of existing development in the area. Area 3 would be a preference provided screening and access considered. However other residents against Area 3 because of its proximity to housing and the potential cumulative impacts with existing and Proposed Development.	Community, organisations & officials	We welcome the positive feedback on Area 3, and it has contributed to its selection as the preferred site to be taken forward. We also recognise the concerns about the potential impact of the development in Area 3. As part of the design development ahead of a future planning application, measures to reduce any visual impacts of the new substation will be developed in consultation with the local community. These will be presented for feedback at

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
		Pre-Application Consultation events, with comments and improvements incorporated for subsequent events.
Some residents strongly against Area 5 due to wildlife, topography, unsuitability of the A984 for access. However others expressed a preference for Area 5 as it is less visible than Area 3.	Community, organisations & officials	Feedback from multiple residents and stakeholders suggested significant ecological/environmental constraints at Area 5. These were validated through additional surveys undertaken after the consultation event in March. The findings from the surveys, along with feedback from the public on the presence of wildlife and the flooding issues on the A984, were key determining factors for choosing Area 3 as the preferred site over Area 5. As part of the design development ahead of a future planning application, measures to reduce any visual impacts of the new substation will be developed in consultation with the local community
Some residents against either site due to wildlife, location on farmland and potential visual impacts. Feel it should be placed nearer the developments looking to connect or on derelict land.	Community, organisations & officials	Impacts upon land, wildlife, views and other environmental factors will be determined and mitigated as part of any Environmental Assessment for the development. Whilst the developments receiving a Gate 2 offer through Connections Reform (i.e. the developments the new GSP will provide connections for), were not confirmed at the time of the consultation, the geographic spread of the developments under consideration was significant, and it was not considered feasible to locate the new substation near to all of these. Areas on non-agricultural land were considered as part of initial site selection, however all of these were found to be technically infeasible, primarily due to the long distances between the existing overhead line and the identified areas introducing technical constraints and environmental impacts over a large area.
Several concerns about traffic in the area: History of accidents at Meikleour crossroads near Area 5 – have SSEN looked into potential traffic impacts here?	Community, organisations & officials	Area 3 has been selected over Area 5 as the preferred site to take forward. As part of design development in preparation for the planning application, we will be

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
- Concerns that we would be adding traffic to this area and exacerbating an existing problem. - Access to Area 5 is difficult due to road traffic on A984. - A984 has an old bridge not suitable for heavy lorries. - Roads in Coupar Angus not suitable for lorries – will there be upgrades to the road and if so why was this not included in the booklet?		developing an access strategy both for construction, transformer delivery, and for during operation. This will include design drawings for all alterations to the public road network required to accommodate the abnormal loads associated with transformer delivery, or any other part of construction.
Comment that ecological survey data should have been shared at the consultation event.	Community, organisations & officials	Non-confidential ecological data will be included in any Environmental Assessment submitted as part of the planning application.
Concerns that ecological surveys were conducted out of peak season.	Community, organisations & officials	All ecological surveys have been conducted in line with seasonal/frequency requirements under species/habitat specific survey methodology guidance and best practice.
Concerns about electric and magnetic fields (EMF). SSEN should provide more information around research and potential impacts on local residents.	Community, organisations & officials	Information about EMF and our projects can be found here - https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/globalassets/projects/2030-projects/2030-project-documents/electric-and-magnetic-fields-emf.pdf
Questions raised about expected hum/noise levels from the new substation.	Community, organisations & officials	As part of design development and preparation for the planning application, noise assessments will be undertaken and mitigation measures proposed in consultation with the local community and nearby residents and business owners.

Table 4: Economic Impact

Summary of feedback	Contributing Stakeholder Group	Our Response
General query about community benefits residents of Coupar Angus should expect	Community, organisations & officials	We want communities connected to our transmission network to share in the benefits of the clean energy transition. Our Regional Community Benefit Fund supports ambitious, strategic projects that create lasting change for communities across the north of Scotland. It forms part of our long-term investment in the network and our commitment to leave a positive legacy. the Regional Fund backs community projects that: • Create long-term impact • Benefit more than one community, or can be replicated elsewhere • Strengthen communities socially, culturally and economically More information about Regional and other Community Benefits funds can be found here - https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/information-centre/community-benefit-funding/
What employment options are available locally from this project?	Community, organisations & officials	We expect the projects to deliver local benefits, including direct and indirect job opportunities, alongside supply chain opportunities for local businesses. We will set out more details of these opportunities closer to the time of construction starting, subject to the project gaining necessary approvals. This will include 'Meet the Buyer' events to introduce local businesses to the opportunities presented through our main supply chain partners.
Request for affordable electric car charging ports in the area.	Community, organisations & officials	The request for electric car charging points would not be relevant for SSEN Transmission, and would be better suited to SSEN Distribution

Summary of Key Decisions

This section summarises the key decisions and considerations for the site selection and future of the project in response to feedback received during the consultation period.

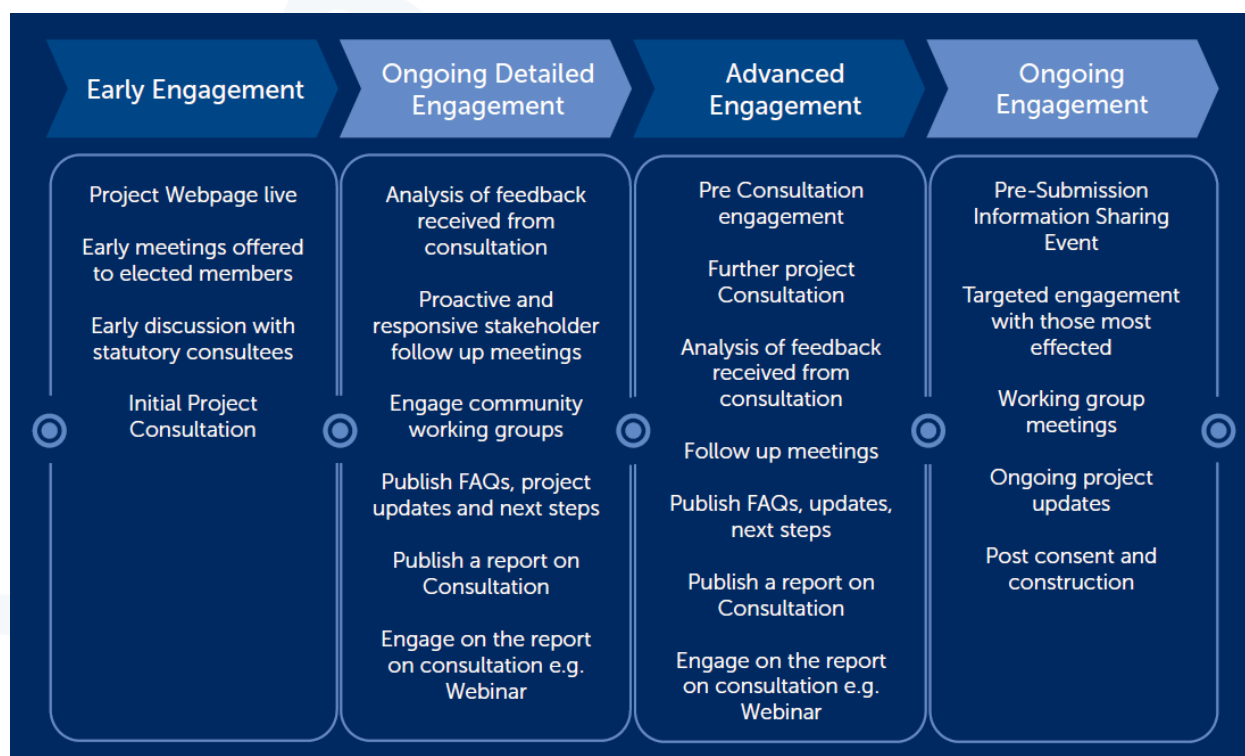
Key decisions:

- Area 3 (Keithick Estate) is selected as the proposed site to progress for the next stage
- Concerns from the public and stakeholders over ecological constraints at Area 5 have been validated through investigative surveys, and were a key determining factor in the preference for Area 3.
- The presence of mature oak trees on Caddam Road will be taken into consideration and the access strategy for construction, transformer delivery, and operations will be developed to avoid impacts on trees where feasible, including consideration of alternative temporary construction access routes

Next Steps

Ongoing Engagement

The period of consultation described in this report is part of an ongoing engagement process that spans to full development cycle for the project, where feedback is sought at different stages and engagement with stakeholders is continuous as we refine our proposals.



Upcoming engagement includes further rounds of public consultation events to cover both the substation and OHL elements of the Proposed Development. Details of the events will be agreed and publicised in line with requirements of the Town and Country Planning application and the Section 37 application processes. As with the first round of consultation events in March 2026 (see **Table 1**), a variety of feedback mechanisms will be in place to encourage as wide a range of responses as possible, including online or hard copy feedback forms, email or letters, or notes from the consultation events. The consultation periods will be confirmed in all documentation/advertisement for the events.

There will also be ongoing consultation with statutory and non-statutory consultees, and-SSEN Transmission will continue discussions with the relevant consenting authorities regarding the appropriate environmental assessment and consenting strategy for the Proposed Development.

If required, the EIA Screening Request will describe the Proposed Development and whether it falls within the remit of the EIA Regulations, whether it is likely to have a significant effect on the environment and therefore whether it requires an EIA. The Screening Opinion will provide confirmation of this and the need to progress to undertake the Scoping Request process and will outline areas that the Statutory Consultees advise are covered by a Voluntary

Environmental Assessment (if deemed non-EIA) which will accompany the Planning Application.

Feedback

If you have any further feedback at this stage, please contact the Community Liaison Manager at louise.anderson@sse.com or at the mailing address below:

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SSEN Transmission

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Glossary

Term	Definition
Alignment	A centre line of an overhead line OHL, along with location of key angle structures.
Conductor	A metallic wire strung from structure to structure, to carry electric current.
Consultation	The dynamic process of dialogue between individuals or groups, based on a genuine exchange of views and, normally, with the objective of influencing decisions, policies or programmes of action.
Corridor	A linear area which allows a continuous connection between the defined connection points. The corridor may vary in width along its length; in unconstrained areas it may be many kilometres wide.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A formal process set down in The Electricity Works (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 2000 (as amended in 2008) used to systematically identify, predict and assess the likely significant environmental impacts of a proposed project or development.
Engagement	The establishment of effective relationships with individuals or groups.
Electricity System Operator (ESO)	National Grid is the Electricity System Operator (ESO) for Great Britain. The ESO balances electricity supply and demand to ensure the electricity supply.
Gardens and Designed Landscapes (GDLs)	The Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes lists those gardens or designed landscapes which are considered by a panel of experts to be of national importance.
Habitat	Term most accurately meaning the place in which a species lives, but also used to describe plant communities or agglomerations of plant communities.
Kilovolt (kV)	One thousand volts.
Mitigation	Term used to indicate avoidance, remediation or alleviation of adverse impacts.
Overhead line (OHL)	An electric line installed above ground, usually supported by lattice steel towers or poles.
Ramsar site	A Ramsar site is a wetland site which is designated to be of international importance, under the Ramsar Convention
Route	A linear area of approximately 1 km width (although this may be narrower/wider in specific locations in response to identified pinch points / constraints), which provides a continuous connection between defined connection points.
Scheduled Monument	A monument which has been scheduled by the Scottish Ministers as being of national importance under the terms of the 'Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979'.

Section 37	An application for development consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989
Span	The section of overhead line between two structures.
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	An area designated under the EC Habitats Directive to ensure that rare, endangered or vulnerable habitats or species of community interest are either maintained at or restored to a favourable conservation status.
Special Protection Area (SPA)	An area designated under the Wild Birds Directive (Directive 74/409/EEC) to protect important bird habitats. Implemented under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
Stakeholders	Organisations and individuals who can affect or are affected by SHE Transmission works.
Substation	A node on the network to allow safe control of the electricity network. This could include convergence of multiple circuits, transformation of voltage or other functions to maintain and operate the electricity network.
The National Grid	The electricity transmission network in the Great Britain.
Volts	The international unit of electric potential and electromotive force.
Works	Constructing new transmission infrastructure such as substations, overhead lines, underground cables; major refurbishment of these; the dismantling and removal of any parts of the system; and associated works, which may include formation of access tracks, bridge and road improvements, tree cutting, drainage etc.

Appendix A – Consultation Promotional Materials

Appendix B – Statutory Consultees Feedback