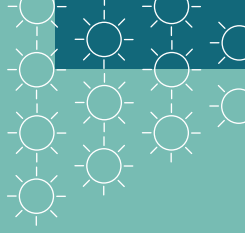




Scottish & Southern
Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION



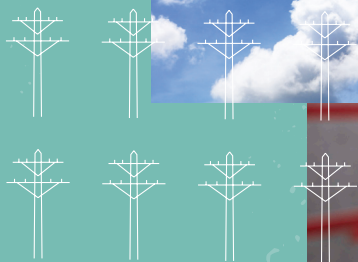
Ourack Wind Farm Connection

Pre-Application Consultation
and Routeing Consultation

November 2026



ssen-transmission.co.uk/ourack-wind-farm-connection

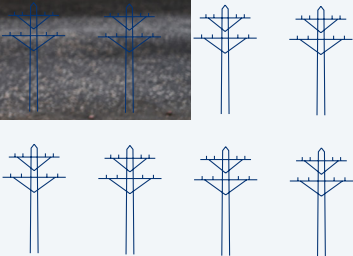


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The consultation event will be taking place on:

Tuesday 10 November, 2–7pm
Edinkillie Hall, Dunphail, Forres, IV36 2QW



Powering change together



If we want to deliver on clean power and energy security targets and provide power for future generations, upgrades to Scotland’s electricity transmission infrastructure are needed.

The shift to a cleaner, more sustainable future is about more than tackling the impact of climate change, it’s about ensuring that future generations can thrive.

Countries around the world are investing in their energy infrastructure to support increasing electricity demands and to deliver on clean power targets and the UK is leading the way in building a modern, sustainable energy system for the future.

We all have a part to play

The UK and Scottish governments have set ambitious energy security and clean power targets, and we all have a part to play in delivering them.

At SSEN Transmission, we work closely with the National Energy System Operator (NESO) to connect vast renewable energy resources - like solar, wind, hydro and marine generation — to areas of demand across the country. Scotland will play a particularly big role in meeting increasing electricity demand.

But there is more to be done. By 2050, the north of Scotland is expected to contribute more than 50GW of low carbon power to the GB energy system. Today, the region has around 11GW of renewable generation connected to the network.

At SSEN Transmission, it is our role to build the energy system of the future. To do that, we are planning to invest around **£29 billion** in the coming years to upgrade the electricity transmission network in the north of Scotland. It’s an investment that will unlock cleaner, more secure energy for homes and businesses now, and for generations to come. **By 2050, annual electricity demand is expected to at least double** - our investment will support the connection of more clean power to meet that demand to the GB electricity network, supporting up to **17,500 jobs in Scotland**, with more than **8,000** of those in the north of Scotland, along the way.

Who we are

We are responsible for maintaining and investing in the electricity transmission network in the north of Scotland. We are 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/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 communities and we are committed to minimising our impacts and maximising all the benefits that our developments can bring to your area. To do that we provide all the information you need to know about our plans and how they will impact communities like yours. The way we consult is also a two-way street and we want to hear people’s views, concerns, or ideas – and harness local knowledge – so that our work benefits communities today and long into the future. You can share your views with us at: ssen-transmission.co.uk/talk-to-us/contact-us/

Project overview

About the project

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

Scottish Ministers have granted consent for Vattenfall's Ourack wind farm near Grantown-on-Spey in the Scottish Highlands. The developer has submitted a connection request for their proposed 17 turbine, 100MW scheme.

Route selection consultation

At this stage in the development phase of the project we are looking to explain and consult stakeholders on the potential route of the connection. Following stakeholder engagement with the public, statutory bodies and landowners, we will finalise a proposed route taken forward to Alignment selection for formal environmental assessment, further local engagement/consultation and consent application.

A Corridor was identified within which the identification and appraisal of route options could be completed. The Corridor was developed to encompass a range of feasible route options between the two connection points at the proposed Clash Gour Substation (SSEN Transmission) and Ourack Wind Farm Substation. No other corridor options were identified due to the distance and geography between the identified connection points between the PSH scheme and the proposed Loch Lundie substation, which constrain any alternative corridor options.

Project elements

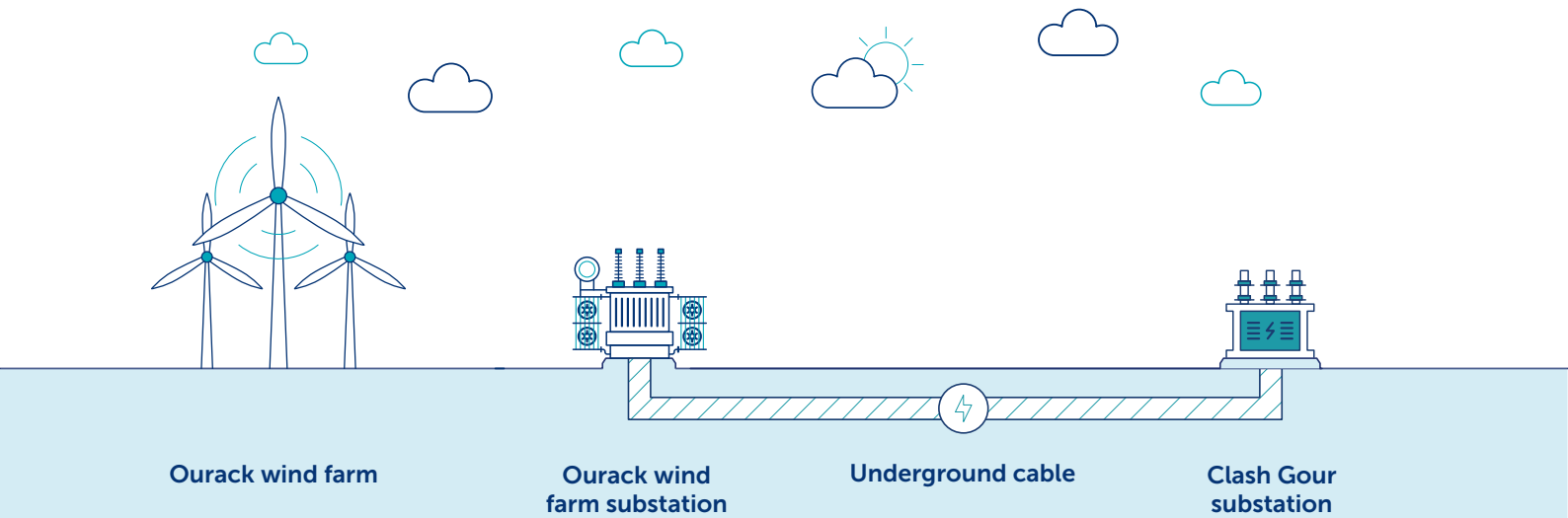
The project will require a new 33/132kV connection between the new Ourack Wind Farm Substation, near Grantown on Spey and the proposed Clash Gour Substation on the Altyre Estate near Forres. The connection could use underground cable for the full route or a combination of overhead line and underground cable.

The works will include:

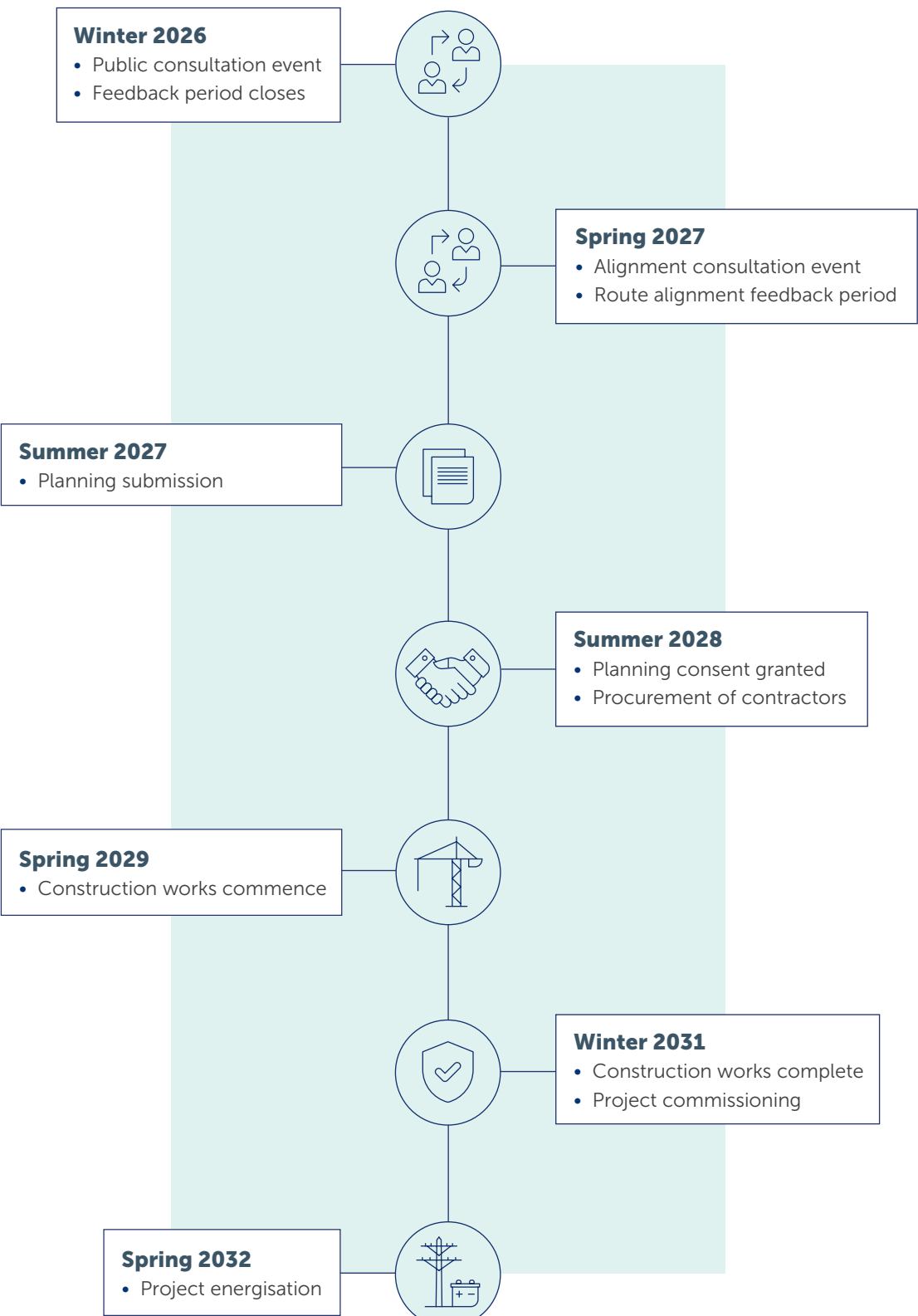
- A new 120MVA 132/33kV transformer at the indoor Ourack substation.
- A new 132kV busbar feeder bay and associated protection and control equipment at Clash Gour substation.
- Approximately 9km of new 132kV single-circuit underground cable connection.
- Suitable laydown areas for materials and delivery of structures and materials.
- Trenches and cable laying for underground sections.
- Temporary access tracks, compounds and other ancillary works.

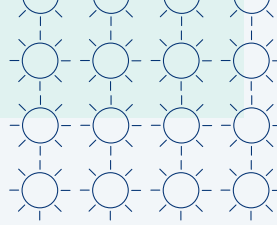
We will be working closely with other projects in the area identifying where access and construction infrastructure could be shared.

Diagram not to scale, for illustration purposes only



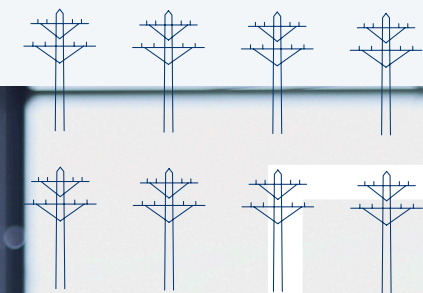
Project timeline





Technology choice

The current technology preference for the connection is a full underground cable solution. This preference is based on a combination of technical, environmental, and spatial considerations, and currently offers the most balanced approach. However, it is important to note that further investigation is still required, and depending on the outcomes, a hybrid overhead line/underground cable option may still need to be considered.

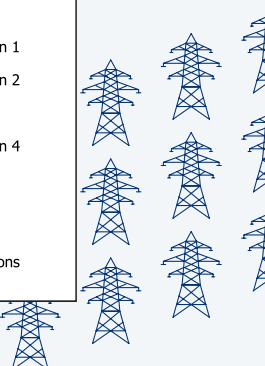
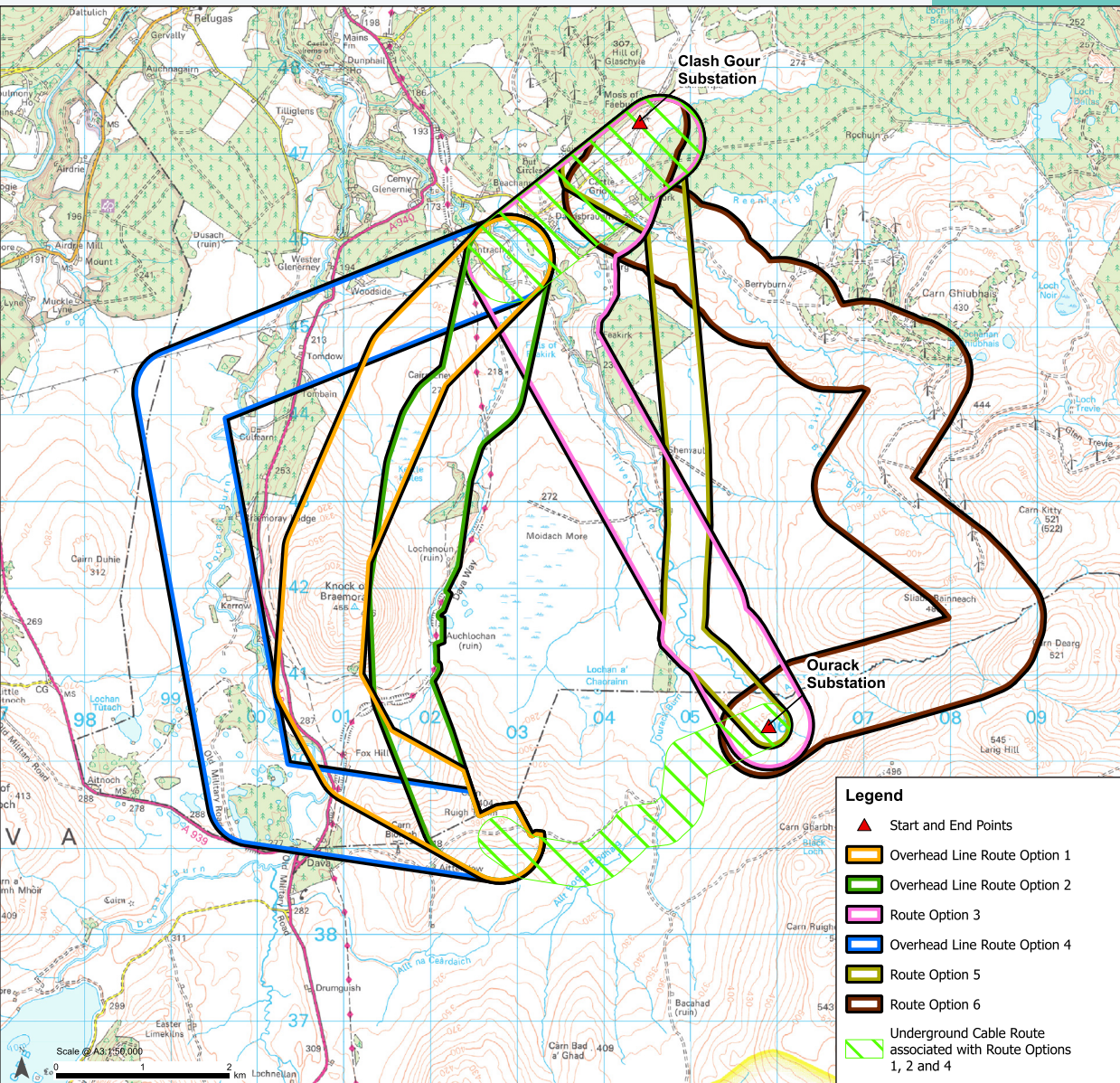


Routeing options

Route Options were identified as part of a desk-based review considering the most notable constraints. Considerations have included a review of the steps outlined in the Holford Rules and SHE Transmission plc's Routeing Guidance. Route Options are mostly 1km wide but were reduced in width in more constrained areas.

The initial identified Route Options were refined by a project team including an experienced Landscape Consultant and OHL Engineer to take into account topography, land cover and the Holford Rules, in order to maximise the potential for multiple alignment options within the identified routes, and refinement thereafter.

A total of eight route options, four of which are hybrid OHL/ UGC (options 1, 2, 4 and 3a), one route is only OHL (no 5) and three options are exclusively UGC (3b, 6 and 7).



Route assessment

Combined OHL / UGC routes

Route Option 1

This route extends via a 3.9km long UGC from the Ourack substation, in a southwesterly direction (avoiding the Moidach More Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)) until it transitions into the sealing end tower into OHL. The OHL section trends northwestwards, over the western side of the Knock of Braemoray and to the east of the A940, before trending back eastwards, to the northern sealing end, where it then continues as UGC in a northeast direction for 1.5km, into the Clash Gour Substation. The total route length is 15.4km.

Route Option 2

This route extends via a 3.9km long UGC from the Ourack substation, in a southwesterly direction (avoiding the Moidach More SSSI) until it transitions into the sealing end tower into OHL. The OHL section trends northwestwards, over the eastern side of the Knock of Braemoray before trending back northeastwards, to the northern sealing end, where it then continues as UGC in a northeast direction for 2.2km, into the Clash Gour Substation. The total route length is 14.4km.

Route Option 3a

This route extends via OHL from the Ourack Substation in the south, trending in a northwesterly direction for 6.2km, directly to the northern sealing end, where it then continues as UGC in a northeast direction for 2.2km, into the Clash Gour Substation. The total route length is 9km long.

Route Option 4

This route extends via a 3.9km long UGC from the Ourack substation, in a southwesterly direction (avoiding the Moidach More SSSI) until it transitions into the sealing end tower into OHL. The OHL section trends westwards, across the A940 before trending northwards, along the western side of the A940, for 4.9km. The OHL then turns eastwards, crossing the A940 again, to reach the northern sealing end, where it then continues as UGC in a northeast direction for 2.2km, into the Clash Gour Substation. The total route length is 18.6km.

OHL route

Route Option 5

This Route Option extends via OHL along the entirety of its alignment and is 7.2km long and 500m wide. It starts from the Ourack substation in the south and heads in a northwesterly direction before turning northwards, to avoid Moidach More SSSI, continuing north until it reaches the Clash Gour Substation.

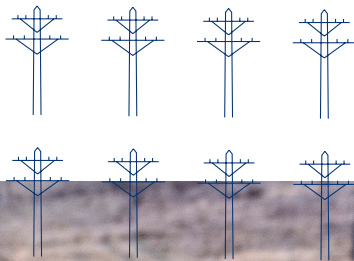
UGC routes

Route Option 3b

This route is the same as Route Option 3a above; however, the entire length of the route option is UGC. The total route length is 9km long.

Route Option 6

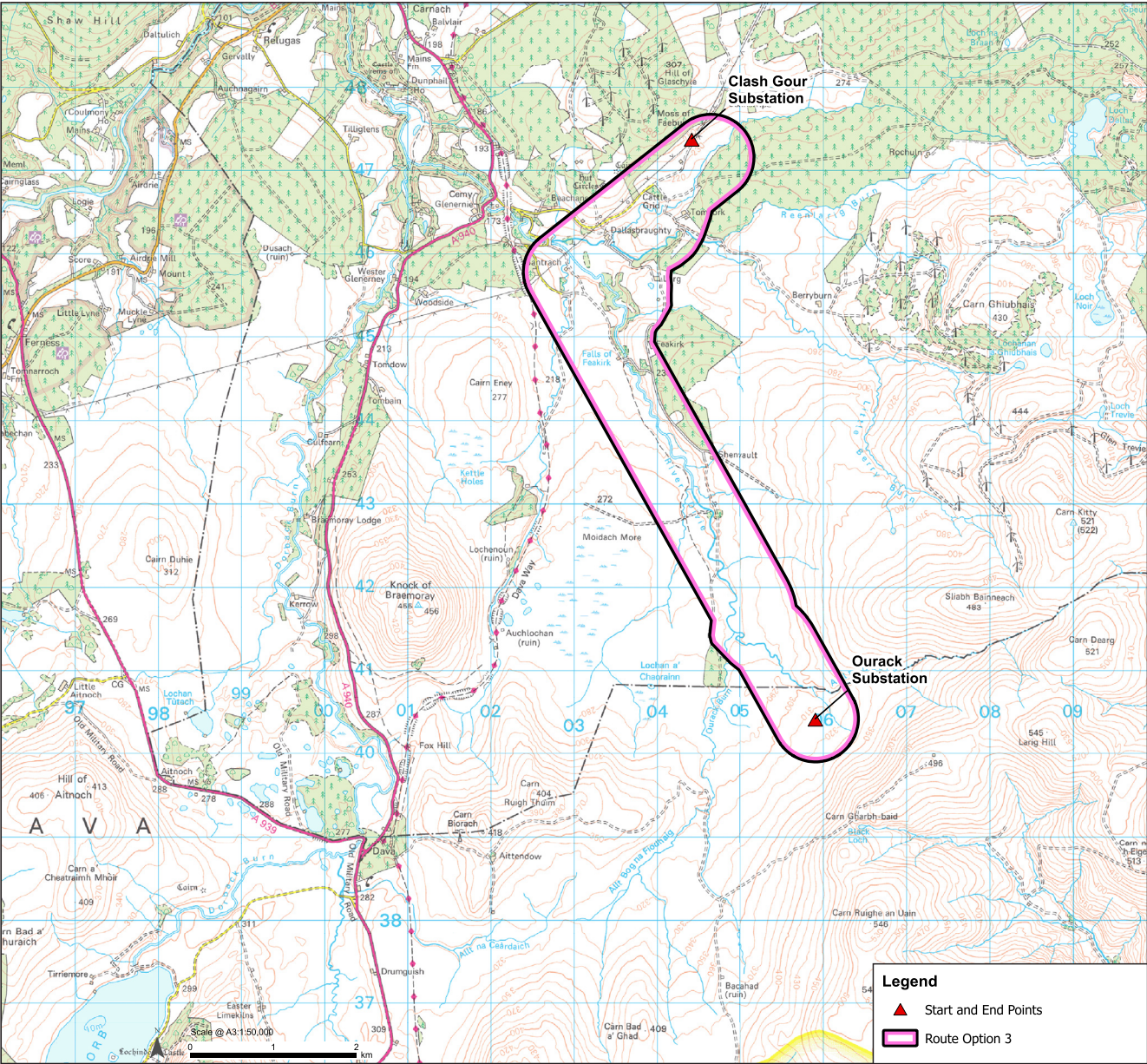
This Route Option extends via UGC along the entirety of its alignment, and it is 12.5km long. It starts from the Ourack substation in the south and heads in a southeasterly direction before turning northwards, continuing north until it reaches the Clash Gour Substation.



	Category	Sub-topic	Route Options	
			3b	6
Environmental	Natural Heritage	Designations	H	M
		Protected species	H	H
		Habitats	H	H
		Biodiversity net gain (bng)	H	H
		Ornithology	M	L
		Geology, hydrology, and hydrogeology	M	M
	Cultural Heritage	Designations	M	M
		Cultural heritage assets	L	L
	People	Proximity to dwellings	L	L
	Landscape and Visual	Designations	M	M
		Landscape character	L	L
		Visual	L	L
	Land Use	Agriculture	M	M
		Forestry	M	M
		Recreation	M	L
Planning	Policy	M	M	
	Proposals	M	M	
Engineering	Infrastructure	Major crossing	M	M
		Road crossing	L	L
	Topography	Elevation	L	L
		Atmospheric pollution	L	L
		Contaminated land	M	M
		Flooding	M	M
	Ground Conditions	Terrain	L	M
		Rock	M	M
		Peatland	H	H
	Construction/ Maintenance	Access	M	M
		Angle towers		
		Angles of deviation	M	M
		Cable haul road	M	M
	Proximity	Clearance distance		
		Wind farms	L	H
		Communication masts	L	L
		Urban environments		
		Metallic pipelines		
Design	Reactive compenstation (HVAC circuits only)			
Other	Joint bays and link box chanbers	M	M	
	Route lengths	L	H	
Cost	Capital	H	H	
	Operational	L	L	
Overall Score			63	65

Potential route

The routing assessment concluded that Route Option 3b (Underground Cable) is the potential route considered to offer the best overall balance of technical and environmental impacts identified through the initial assessments. This is subject to stakeholder consultation, where local or previously unknown considerations may confirm or alter the initial preference.

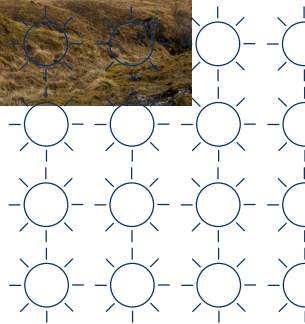


The appraisal identified a high likelihood of constraints from natural heritage, including Moidach More SAC and SSSI and protected species. Careful design at alignment stage could allow designated areas to be avoided. Mitigation would need to minimise likely significant environmental effects, including consideration of underground sections in the most constrained locations where technically viable.

Finding common ground with landowners

We recognise that landowners and occupiers as key stakeholders in the development of our projects and are committed to consultation and engagement with all parties likely to have an interest in our proposals.

At all levels, we will be transparent about our proposals and keep the conversation open and constructive when it comes to those affected and reaching effective compromise. From the outset of the project, our land team have been identifying and contacting landowners and occupiers who may be affected by our proposals. If you are a landowner who is affected by the proposals and have not yet had contact from us, please get in touch via the contact details for the dedicated project land managers found on the relevant project webpages.



Other projects in the area

Clash Gour Wind Farm Connection

It is intended that this wind farm will connect into our proposed Clash Gour Substation located on the Altyre Estate. For more information on the Clash Gour project, please visit the project webpage or reach out to the Community Liaison Manager who's details are provided at the end of this booklet.

ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/clash-gour-wind-farm-connection

Beauly – Peterhead 400kV Overhead Line (BBNP)

This project spans a significant length of the northeast of Scotland and will involve the construction of a new 400kV overhead line (OHL) between new proposed substations near Beauly, New Deer and Peterhead. The connection will be delivered via an overhead line of steel lattice towers (commonly referred to as pylons) likely to average around 57m in height, with the overhead line spanning a total length of approx. 185km.

ssen-transmission.co.uk/BBNP

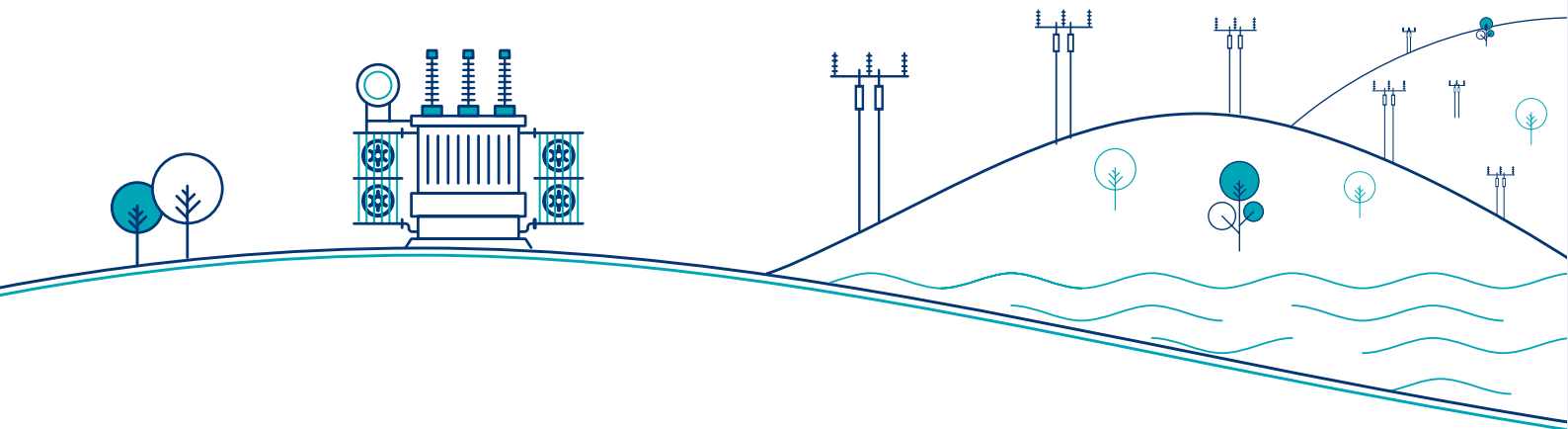
Corshellach Substation

This project is an extension of the existing Berryburn substation and will formally be known as Corshellach Substation. The project will involve the installation of a new 275kV/33kV grid transformer within a new compound, located on land adjacent to the existing Berryburn substation, on the Altyre Estate, located approximately 12km south of Forres. There are 2 embedded generators driving this project who are in contract with the National Energy System operator (NESO). To facilitate the connection between the existing overhead line tower and the new substation, new downleads will be required. These works would be carried out under separate consent under Section 37.

ssen-transmission.co.uk/corshellach

Local renewable developments

We know that local stakeholders are keen to understand the full extent of renewable developments being proposed in their local area. Applications to connect to the transmission network in our licence area are made to National Grid ESO and undergo a lengthy process of assessment before we begin to develop a network connection for those developments. We aim to be transparent about the renewable developments looking to connect to our network but are not permitted to disclose any details of these developments until they are in the public domain. A list of projects that hold contracts for Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) with National Grid, the Electricity System Owner is available from their website: nationalgrideso.com



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 **10 December**.

How to provide feedback:

Submit your feedback online by:

- Scanning the QR code on this page or via the form on our project webpage at: ssen-transmission.co.uk/ourack-wind-farm-connection
- Email the feedback form to our Community Liaison Manager or;
- Write to us enclosing the feedback form in this booklet.

What we're seeking views on

Now that we have presented a Potential Alignment, we want you to share your thoughts and opinions on our plans, where you think we can make improvements, concerns about the impact of our work and what you think of any changes and refinements we've made. We particularly want to hear from you if you live close to the Potential Alignment.

We are actively looking to avoid and mitigate the impacts of the overhead line and underground cable as much as possible over the coming months. It would be helpful to understand what you believe we should be doing to help minimise these impacts and if there are any opportunities to deliver local community benefits you would like us to consider.

We encourage all interested community members to fill in a feedback form when submitting feedback, however if you prefer, you can email us to provide your feedback or ask any questions. Comments made to the applicant during this consultation are not representations to the Scottish Ministers and if the applicant submits a section 37 application there will be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the Scottish Ministers.

Our Community Liaison team

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

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



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

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

Community Liaison Manager

Gordon Gilfillan

 SSN Transmission, 10 Henderson Road, Inverness, IV1 1SN

 gordon.gilfillan@sse.com

 07389 754 548

You can also follow us on social media:

 @assentransmission  SSENTransmission

 SSEN Transmission

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/ourack-wind-farm-connection

Your feedback

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

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

Q1. Has the need for the project been clearly explained?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Comments:

Q2. Have you any comments regarding the location of the potential route?

Comments:

Q3. Are there any additional factors or environmental features that you would like to bring to the attention of the project team?

Comments:



Q4. Is there anything specific you would like to raise in relation to the project which will impact on the development process to deliver this essential connection project to support Government clean energy targets?

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: SSEN Transmission, 10 Henderson Road, Inverness, IV1 1SN

Email: gordon.gilfillan@sse.com

Online: ssen-transmission.co.uk/ourack-wind-farm-connection

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

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

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

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

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