



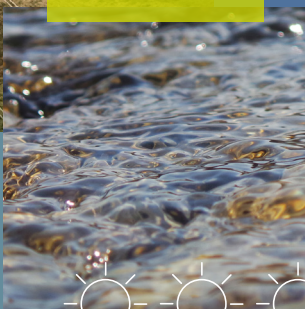
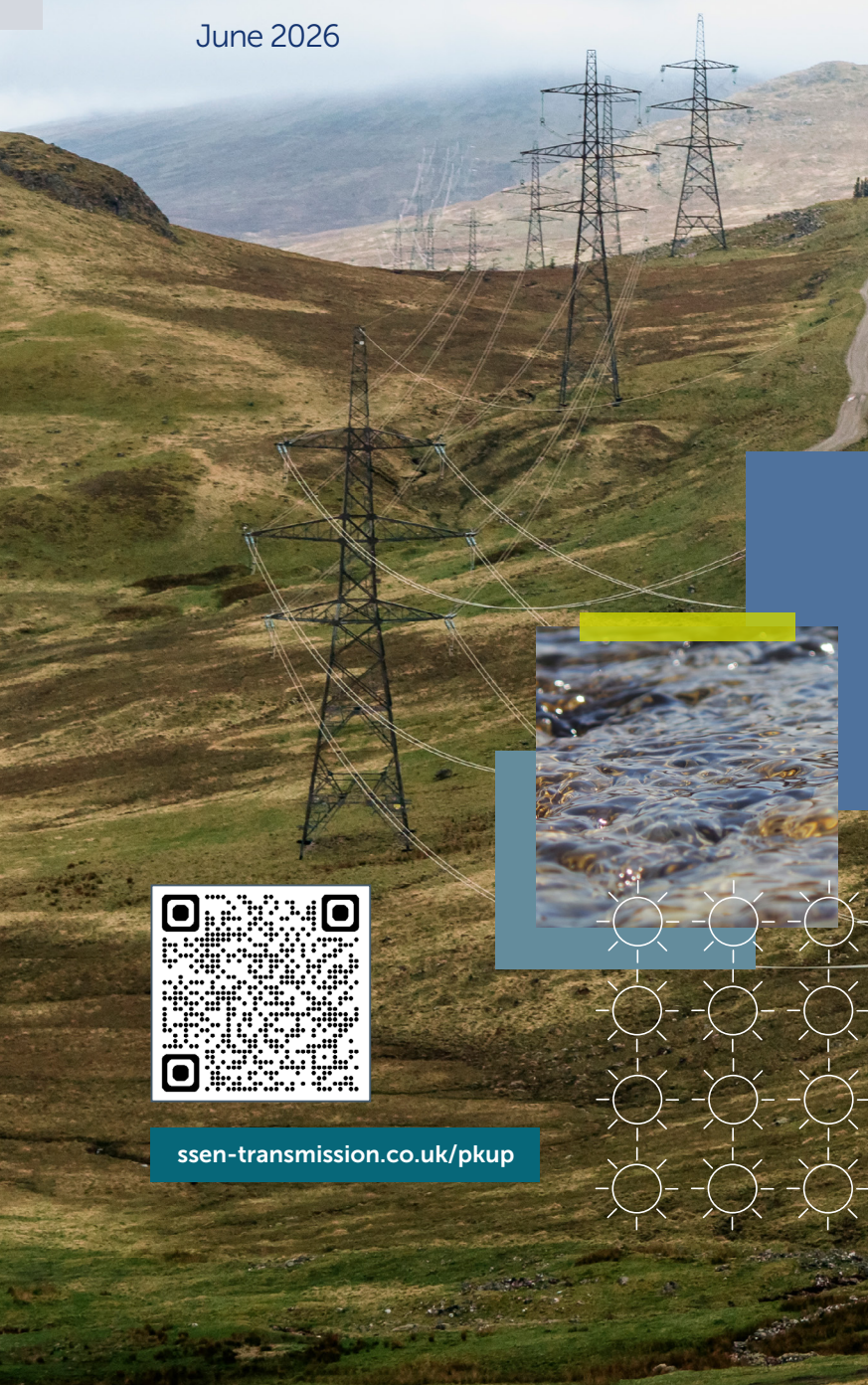
Scottish & Southern
Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

Peterhead to Persley to Kintore Overhead Line Reconductoring

Pre-Application Consultation Event

June 2026



ssen-transmission.co.uk/pkup



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The events will be taking place on:

Monday 8 June, 2–7pm

Buchan Braes Hotel, Boddam, Peterhead, AB42 3AR

Tuesday 9 June, 2–7pm

Ellon Parish Church, 4 Station Rd, Ellon, AB41 9AE

Wednesday 10 June, 2–7pm

Kintore Public Hall, 12 School Rd, Kintore, Inverurie, AB51 0UX

Thursday 11 June, 2–7pm

The Axis Centre, 9 School Rd, Newmachar, AB21 0WB



Why we are here today

We are here to introduce our Peterhead to Persley to Kintore overhead reconductoring project and our plans to upgrade the existing line from 275 kilovolts (kV) to 400kV.

We will explain:

- what the project involves
- why the upgrade is needed
- our proposed timeline
- how environmental, technical, and community factors have been considered

We will also outline our **consultation process** and how you can **share your views** before we submit our application for section 37 consent.



Powering change together



If we want to deliver on clean power and energy security targets and provide power for future generations, upgrade to Scotland's electricity transmission infrastructure is 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

As the transmission network owner for the north of Scotland, we are responsible for the maintenance of the existing transmission network and ensuring that the current network can facilitate connection requests from developers when necessary.

We are proposing to upgrade the existing overhead line (OHL) from Peterhead to Persley to Kintore.

The project scope is split into two sections:

- reconductoring and re-insulating 51km of the 275kV OHL from Peterhead to Kintore, preparing it for operation at 400kV.
- reconductoring and re-insulating a 12km section from the Persley Tee Point to Persley, continuing to operate at 275kV.

Initially, the OHL will continue to operate at 275kV until substation works are complete in late 2032, at which point 400kV operation between Peterhead and Kintore will commence, and the OHL from Persley Tee Point to Persley will be downgraded to 132kV.

There may be requirement for foundation and tower upgrades to ensure compliance with current standards.

Reconductoring **replaces the existing wires on the overhead line with new ones.** New, stronger wires ensures that the line can safely carry more electricity in future.

Re-insulating **replaces the components that hold up and separate the wires from the towers.** New insulators are needed as the proposed upgraded line will carry more power, which requires longer, stronger insulator sets.

Project need

1. The existing overhead line conductors need replaced

The 275kV overhead line between Peterhead, Persley and Kintore was installed in the 1970s. As the conductors and fittings are approaching end of life, there is need for us to replace these with a new conductor and fittings. This is the primary driver for the upgrade.

2. National energy planning confirms the need for more capacity

The NESO 'Beyond 2030' report identifies the reconductoring and uprating of this route as a required project to support the next phase of Scotland's transmission network. This will require the line to be uprated from 275kV to 400kV in the future.

The upgrade is part of wider reinforcement across the north east to ensure the system can handle significant increases in electricity demand and renewable generation expected over the next decade.

3. Supports the transition to net zero and clean power targets

Upgrading the line from 275kV to 400kV will help support the UK Government's target of achieving clean power by 2050, by enabling more renewable electricity to be transported across the system. It increases the capacity of the network to move low carbon electricity from where it's generated to where it's needed.

4. Delivers a more efficient and resilient network

Operating at 400kV increases the capacity and efficiency of the line without needing entirely new overhead line routes. The new conductors and insulators also improve reliability and reduce losses. This supports our requirement to maintain an efficient, co-ordinated, and economical network.

Project location



The existing Peterhead to Persley to Kintore Overhead Line

A tee point is a junction on an overhead line where a single OHL splits into two directions – in the shape of the letter “T”. For this project, this is where the main Peterhead–Kintore overhead line branches off toward Persley substation, located north of the River Don (see map).



Beyond 2030: Powering Scotland's future

Investing in the next generation of transmission infrastructure.

In March 2024, the independent National Energy System Operator (NESO) published its 'Beyond 2030' report, which included the next phase of ScotWind "offshore wind projects" and confirmed the need for several new, replacement and upgraded transmission infrastructure projects in the north of Scotland.

These projects are essential to:

- Enable additional ScotWind (offshore wind farm) connections.
- Support the deployment of homegrown, low-carbon electricity.
- Strengthen the UK's energy security and progress toward net zero.

Investing in communities

The Beyond 2030 projects represent a potential investment of over £5 billion in the north of Scotland by 2035. We recognise the importance of ensuring that this investment delivers tangible benefits for local communities, including:

- Job creation and skills development, particularly in rural and coastal areas.
- Community benefit funds linked to major infrastructure projects.
- Opportunities for local suppliers and contractors to participate in delivery.
- Environmental stewardship, including mitigation of visual and ecological impacts.

March 2024

NESO published transitional Centralised Strategic Network Plan (tCSNP2) (Beyond 2030)

December 2024

Ofgem approves early stage development funding

July 2025

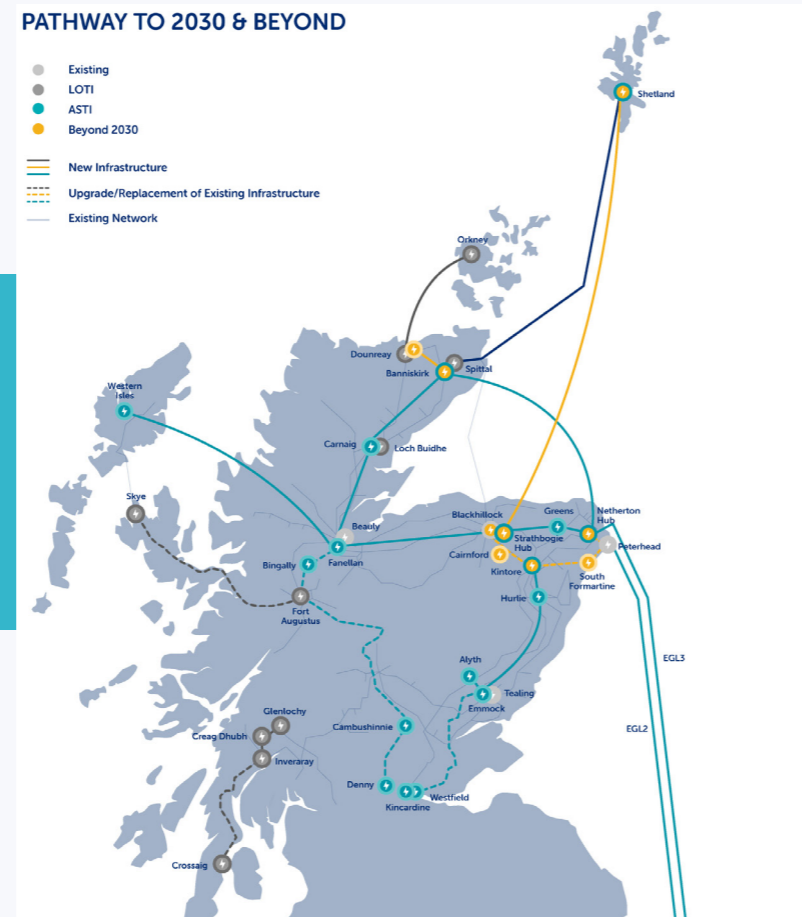
Ofgem publishes Clean Power 2030

2026

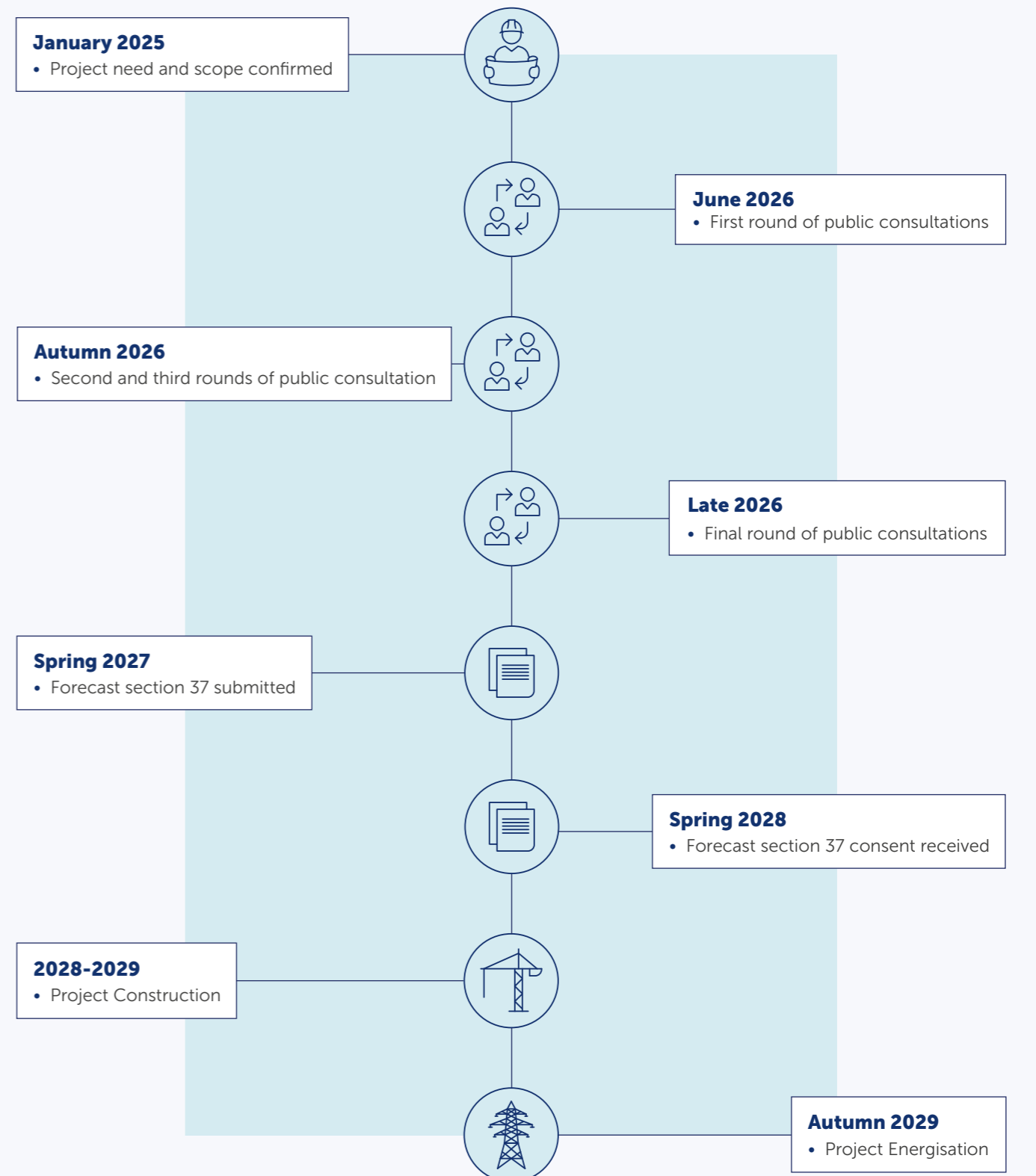
Further Ofgem decisions expected to support Clean Power 2030

PATHWAY TO 2030 & BEYOND

- Existing
- LOTI
- ASTI
- Beyond 2030
- New Infrastructure
- Upgrade/Replacement of Existing Infrastructure
- Existing Network



Project timeline



You can read the NESO Beyond 2030 report here

Engineering considerations

The engineering works outlined below are a key part of the overall project development timeline and are designed to ensure safety, reliability, and increased capacity of the transmission line.

Conductor replacement

The existing Twin Zebra ACSR conductors, in service since 1978, will be replaced. Triple bundle Upas AAAC will be installed between Peterhead and Kintore, and Twin Rubus AAAC between Persley Tee and Persley substation.

Insulator replacement

275kV insulators will be upgraded to 400kV units between Peterhead and Kintore and replaced like-for-like between Persley Tee and Persley substation. The new 400kV insulators are longer with more discs, enabling greater power transfer.

Foundation/tower upgrades

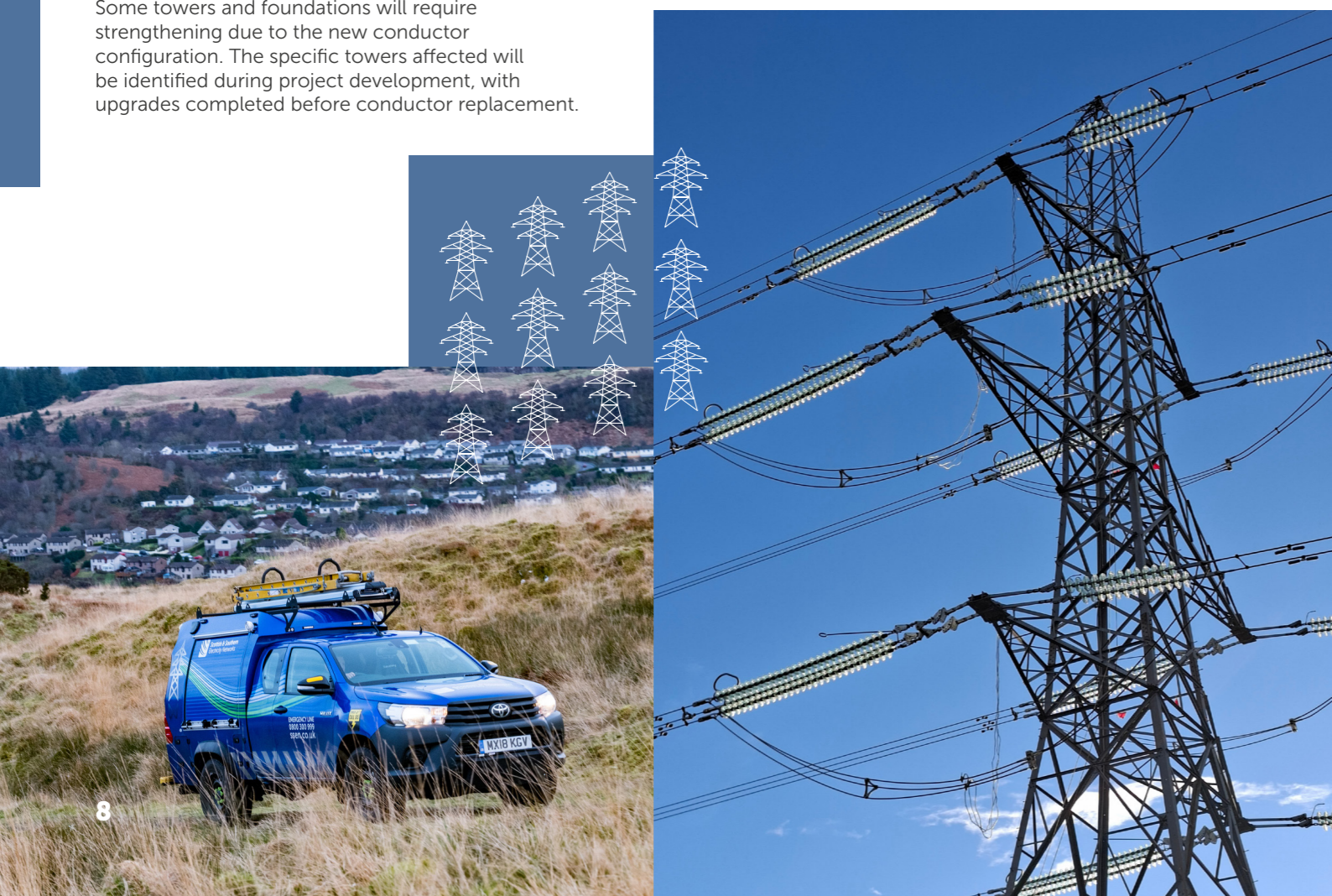
Some towers and foundations will require strengthening due to the new conductor configuration. The specific towers affected will be identified during project development, with upgrades completed before conductor replacement.

Access requirements

Access to towers will use new or existing tracks, trackway panels, or all-terrain vehicles as needed. All access will be coordinated with landowners and consents secured prior to works.

Operational corridor requirements

Upgrading from 275kV to 400kV requires a wider operational corridor—potentially up to 89m—between woodland edges. Detailed requirements will be determined in design and discussed fully with landowners before works commence. Minimum statutory ground clearance will also increase from 7.0m to 7.3m.



Environmental considerations

In this section, you'll find an overview of the main environmental points that are being considered in the planning of this OHL upgrade, from local wildlife and water to the landscape, heritage sites, traffic, and noise. We'll share what impacts we expect, what steps we're taking to reduce them, and how we're working with different groups and local experts to make sure we're doing things right.

Ornithology

Although the OHL route does not cross any areas specifically set aside for bird life, there is a chance that birds, especially wildfowl and waders, might be at risk of colliding with the lines while flying near or across the project area. We'll be carrying out a detailed assessment to understand if there's an increased risk to birds, considering both the existing infrastructure and nearby protected sites within 15km of the route.

When the line is being built, there could be some temporary disturbance to bird habitats. To help protect wildlife, we'll put measures in place to keep any impacts to a minimum. Where there could be nesting birds of prey (raptors), we'll organise specialist surveys to see which species might be affected. Any steps needed to protect them will be agreed with NatureScot.

Water environment

The OHL passes over or near to a number of river catchments and watercourses. Several towers are located in areas of potential flood risk but with mitigation measures we don't anticipate an increase in flood risk or have a detrimental impact on water quality. Private water supplies will be identified and assessed to determine potential risk to any supplies from project construction. Where required, measures will be put in place to ensure that the quality and quantity of water from these supplies will not be adversely affected.

Forestry

As part of the line upgrade, certain forestry works may be required. Every effort will be made to minimise such works wherever practicable, particularly within broad leaf woodland and other sensitive areas. We will engage fully with landowners to plan and manage these activities, including discussing opportunities to reduce tree heights where feasible rather than undertake felling. Where appropriate and subject to landowner agreement, replanting elsewhere on the property will also be considered, and suitable compensatory planting will be undertaken.

Landscape and visual amenity

During construction, you might notice some short-term changes to the local view, such as the presence of work compounds, new access tracks, scaffolding, and other activity. These changes will only be temporary and limited to the construction period. Once the work is finished, the new towers will look very similar to what's already there, so there won't be any major changes to the local landscape or the main views in the area.



Terrestrial and aquatic ecology Traffic and transport

The line mainly runs over farmland used for crops and grazing, with some stretches of woodland and wetlands. There are also important nature sites and valuable habitats in the area, which are home to a range of protected species. To protect local wildlife, we'll carry out targeted surveys and put in place species protection plans during construction, aiming to keep any disruption to a minimum.

A Construction Traffic Management Plan will be developed and used to specify construction traffic routes to suitable roads and appropriately signed diversions, where temporarily required during the construction phase of the works. This will include an assessment of hazardous or large loads and will be prepared in agreement with Aberdeenshire Council.

Cultural heritage

There are several protected historical sites, like Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings, within 3 km of the project, including the remains of the Aberdeenshire Canal and prehistoric sites along the River Don. Some of these are very close to the planned works. Within 1 km, there are also many other historical features, such as old buildings and transport routes, though their exact condition and location will need further investigation.

We'll carry out detailed surveys to find out more about these heritage assets. The findings will help us design the project so that any direct impacts are avoided or minimised as much as possible. Where necessary, we'll record important sites to make sure local history is preserved. Archaeological works will be carried out during construction, with recommendations included in the Construction Environmental Management Plan to protect known heritage sites near the towers and access routes.

Noise and vibration

An assessment of operational noise of the OHL will be undertaken during both dry and wet conditions (including consideration of 'corona discharge'), in accordance with relevant technical guidance and industry standards, and in discussion with the Environmental Health Departments of Aberdeenshire Council.

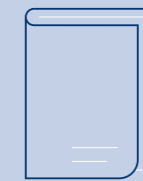
The consenting process

The legislation governing the consenting of OHL projects in Scotland is the Electricity Act 1989. Applications for consent to upgrade overhead lines are made under section 37 of this Act and are referred to as "section 37 consents"

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

We plan to submit our section 37 application to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in late 2026.

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



Determining a Section 37 application and communicating outcomes

Section 37 applications are determined on a case-by-case basis by the Scottish Ministers. We anticipate receiving a decision on the consent application within 12 months from the application date, however timescales may vary. When a decision is made, the ECU will send us a decision notice, copying in the local planning authorities and other consultation bodies. The decision notice is a record of the reasons for the decision and, if consent is granted, it contains the conditions that must be satisfied in order to implement the consent. The ECU and local planning authority will publish the decision notice via their own channels, and we must publicise the outcome on our website, in the Edinburgh Gazette, and in a local newspaper. We will also communicate the decision by mainstream media and other various means, including email updates to Elected Members and those signed up to project updates, social media, and press releases.



Other projects in the local area

The proposed upgrades to the existing Peterhead to Persley to Kintore OHL form part of the wider Peterhead to Kintore upgrade project (PKUP) aimed at upgrading the regional transmission network in the north east of Scotland.

Peterhead upgrades

The Peterhead upgrade project involves the installation of a new 400kV/275kV Supergrid Transformer building to connect to the existing Peterhead 400kV substation. The project will also divert the existing 275kV overhead line between Peterhead - Persley - Kintore into the Peterhead 400kV substation as part of the uprating process.

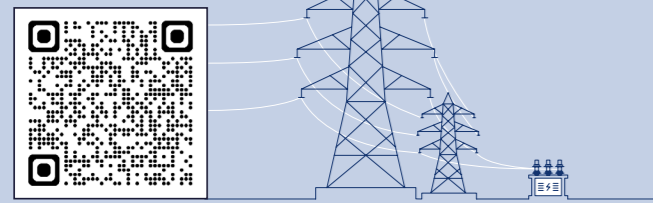
South Formartine 400/132kV substation

NESO's Beyond 2030 plan identified the requirement for a new 400kV/132kV substation in the vicinity of the Persley Tee Point in the south Formartine area. The new substation will form a key connection point on the existing overhead line route between Peterhead, Persley and Kintore and tie in to the Aberdeen 132kV grid.

Kintore substation upgrade

Kintore substation is currently undergoing essential upgrade works to replace ageing equipment. The Kintore substation upgrade project that is proposed as part of PKUP involves further upgrades of the existing 400kV substation building to accommodate new 400kV busbar bays. The upgrade will allow the existing Peterhead - Kintore overhead line to connect into Kintore once upgraded to 400kV.

Search Projects



Netherton Hub 400kV Overhead Line Connection – Peterhead Rebuild project

In March 2025 we consulted on the proposal to rebuild a section of the New Deer-Peterhead 400kV overhead line between the selected tie-in point at the proposed Netherton Hub site in Longside and the existing Peterhead 400kV substation near Boddam.

We are not yet able to provide an update to the community and will be delaying our next consultation until further notice. Stay up to date by registering at: ssen-transmission.co.uk/netherton-400kV-OHL-rebuild

Local renewable developments

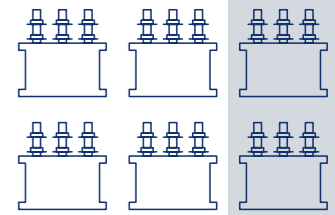
We know that local stakeholders are keen to understand the full extent of renewable developments being proposed in their local area. Applications to connect to the transmission network in our licence area are made to NESO and undergo a lengthy process of assessment before we begin to develop a network 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: Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) register | ESO www.neso.energy/data-portal/transmission-entry-capacity-tec-register.

Lasting legacy

We are committed to leaving a lasting, positive legacy in the communities where we operate. Alongside delivering new infrastructure, we invest in local priorities through community benefit funding, volunteering and outreach, and ongoing engagement with community groups across the region.



Recently, we have volunteered with Aberdeenshire North Food bank and supported improvements at New Deer Public Hall.

Housing

Through our housing legacy initiative, we are helping to increase local housing supply while accommodating the workforce delivering major grid upgrades. In Aberdeenshire, our agreement with The Springfield Group supports 293 homes overall, including 69 at a new development in Turriff, alongside our wider commitment to deliver over 300 legacy homes across five sites.

Homes will initially support the construction workforce and will then be released for local use, with a mix of affordable, social and private housing for sale and rent.

Economy

Our Pathway to 2030 investment programme is expected to deliver significant benefits for Aberdeenshire, including up to £1bn of local spend and up to £820m in total GVA. The programme is also forecast to support around 1,140 jobs and could boost the local construction sector by up to 20% annually. We recruited 183 staff locally in the last year and expect a further 150 new staff in the area over the next five years.

Skills

We are working with our contractors and supply chain to grow local skills through training, apprenticeships, graduate routes and 'earn as you learn' roles. In Aberdeenshire, this includes our learning partnership with Peterhead Academy (launched in 2025), linking pupils to industry experience connected to EGL2, and Pittodrie Pathways at Fraserburgh Academy with Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust. Across our business, we recruited 183 staff locally in the last year (including 38 'earn as you learn' roles), welcomed our largest-ever intake of 59 graduates, and have committed to creating 600 'earn as you learn' roles by 2030.



Next steps

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

As part of the section 37 application process, we are expected to hold at least three pre-application consultation events prior to submitting the application. This is the first series of events providing the opportunity for members of the public to respond to our proposals.

The feedback period

We will accept feedback on this round of consultation events until **24 July 2026**.

What we are seeking views on

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

How to provide feedback

- Submit your feedback online by scanning the QR code on this page or via the form on our project webpage: ssen-transmission.co.uk/pkup
- Email the feedback form to our Community Liaison Manager or write to us enclosing the feedback form at the back of this booklet.



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."


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


Our Community Liaison team

Each project has a dedicated Community Liaison Manager who works closely with community members to make sure they are informed of our proposals and that their views, concerns, questions, or suggestions are put to our project teams. Throughout the life of our projects, you will hear from us regularly. We aim to establish strong working relationships by being accessible to key local stakeholders such as community councils, residents' associations, and development trusts, and regularly engage with interested individuals.


Community Liaison Manager

Catherine

 SSEN Transmission, Unit 11,
Prime Four Business Park,
Kingswells, Aberdeen AB15 8NY

 pkup@sse.com

You can also follow us on social media:

 @ssentransmission  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/pkup

Your feedback

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

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

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

Q1. Which event did you attend? (Select all that apply)

- Peterhead Ellon Newmachar Kintore
- Accessed information online None

Q2. Do you have any comments regarding the proposals for the upgrade of this overhead line?

Comments:

Q3. Please tell us how you would prefer to receive project updates so that we can consider this for future improvements. (Select all that apply)

- Newsletter Email to a mailing list Text message Letter
- Public meetings Website updates Other (please state)

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

Comments:

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

Comments:

Full name: **Email:**

Telephone: **Address:**

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

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

Thank you for taking the time to complete this feedback form. Please submit your completed form by one of the methods below:

Post: FAO Catherine - SSEN Transmission, Unit 11, Prime Four Business Park, Kingswells, Aberdeen AB15 8NY

Email: pkup@sse.com **Online:** ssen-transmission.co.uk/pkup

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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