



Scottish & Southern
Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION



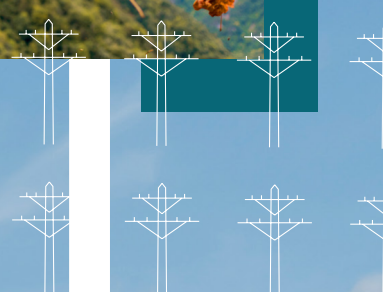
Salamander Offshore Wind Farm Connection Project

Overhead Line Route Selection
(and associated tee compound)

November 2025



ssen-transmission.co.uk/salamander

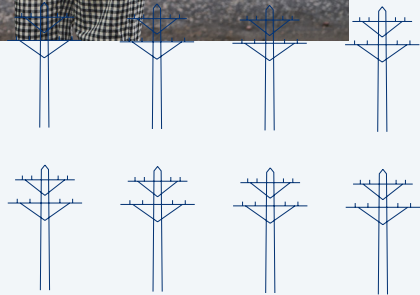


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The consultation event will be taking place on:

Thursday 27 November 2025, 2–7pm
Peterhead Football Club, Balmoor Stadium,
Balmoor Terrace, Peterhead, AB42 1EQ



Powering change together



The time has come to further enhance Scotland’s energy infrastructure, providing power for future generations as we move towards net zero.

The shift to a cleaner, more sustainable future is about more than climate change. It’s about ensuring future generations have the same opportunities to thrive as we have all had.

Countries around the world are investing in their energy infrastructure to support the demands of modern economies and meet net zero targets. The UK is leading the way in building a modern, sustainable energy system for the future.

We all have a part to play

When it comes to net zero, we have to be in it together. The UK and Scottish governments have ambitious net zero targets, and we’re playing our part in meeting them.

We work closely with the National Grid Electricity System Operator to connect vast renewable energy resources—harnessed by solar, wind, hydro and marine generation—to areas of demand across the country. Scotland is playing a big role in meeting this demand, exporting two thirds of power generated in our network.

But there’s more to be done. By 2050, the north of Scotland is predicted to contribute over 50GW of low carbon energy to help deliver net zero. Today, our region has around 9GW of renewable generation connected to the network.

At SSEN Transmission, it is our role to build the energy system of the future.

We’re investing £20 billion into our region’s energy infrastructure this decade, powering more than ten million UK homes and 20,000 jobs, 9,000 of which will be here in Scotland.



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

Who we are

We’re responsible for maintaining and investing in the electricity transmission network in the north of Scotland. We’re part of SSE plc, one of the world’s leading energy companies with a rich heritage in Scotland that dates back more than 80 years. We are also closely regulated by the GB energy regulator Ofgem, who determines how much revenue we are allowed to earn for constructing, maintaining and renovating our transmission network.

What we do

We manage the electricity network across our region which covers a quarter of the UK’s land mass, crossing some of the country’s most challenging terrain. We connect renewable energy sources to our network in the north of Scotland and then transport it to where it needs to be. From underground and subsea cables and overhead lines to electricity substations, our network keeps your lights on all year round.

Working with you

We understand that the work we do can have an impact on communities. So we’re committed to minimising our impacts and maximising all the benefits that our developments can bring to your area. We’re regularly assessed by global sustainability consultancy AccountAbility for how we engage with communities. That means we provide all the information you need to know about our plans and how they will impact communities like yours. The way we consult is also a two-way street. We want to hear people’s views, concerns, or ideas and harness local knowledge so that our work benefits their communities: today and long into the future. You can share your views with us at: ssen-transmission.co.uk/talk-to-us/contact-us/

Project overview

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

The proposed project comprises the construction of a new 132kV overhead line and the establishment of a 132kV tee compound to facilitate connection between Salamander Offshore Wind Farm’s onshore substation and the existing overhead line. The components include:

- Construction of a new 132kV double circuit overhead line between Salamander Offshore Wind Farm’s onshore substation and the proposed tee compound. The four overhead line route options that we’re considering range from 1.6km to 3.4km
- Construction of a tee compound in the vicinity of the existing overhead lines to facilitate connection between the new overhead line and the existing overhead line circuits.
- Establishment of temporary overhead lines to maintain connectivity of the existing overhead lines during the construction phase.

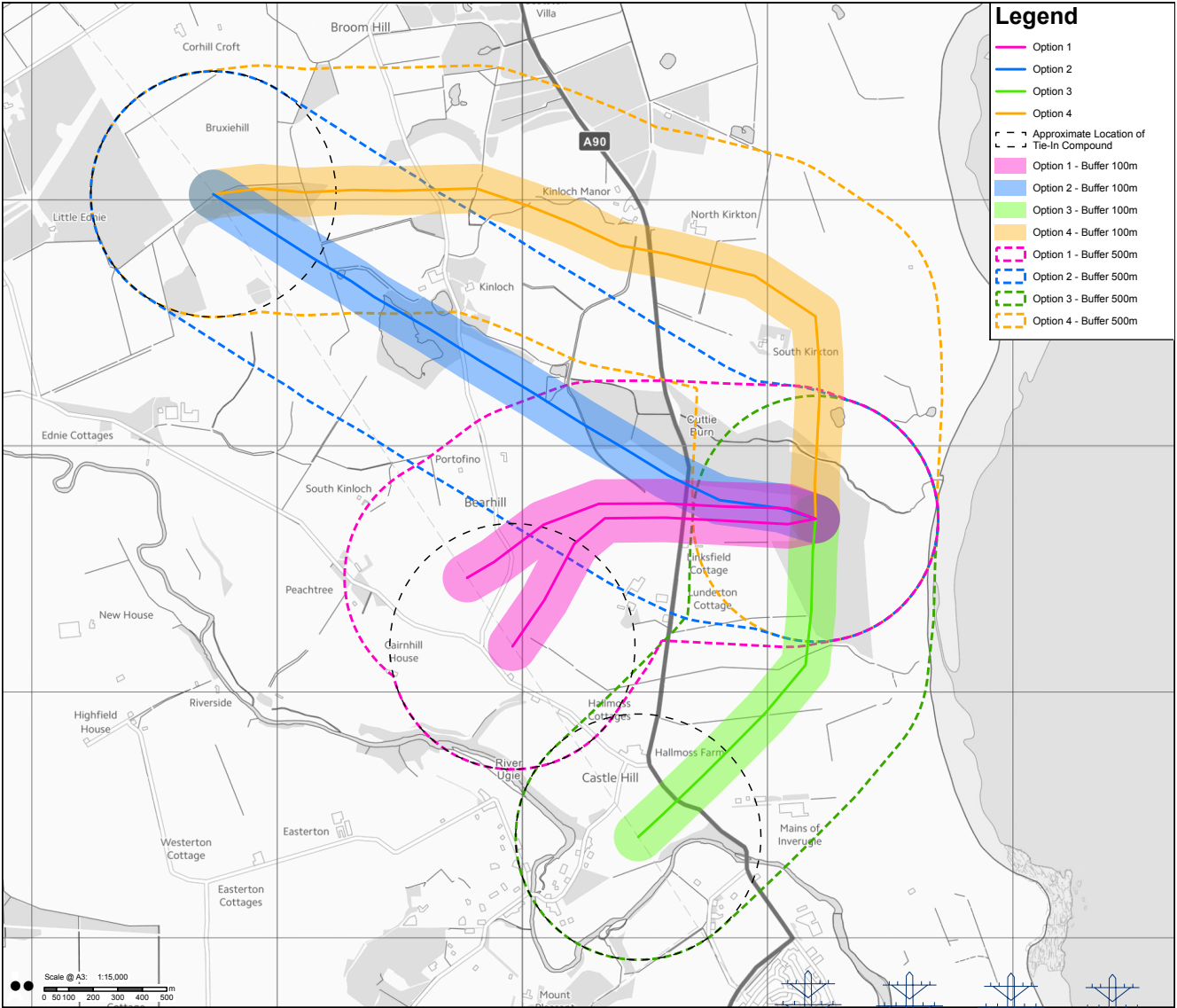
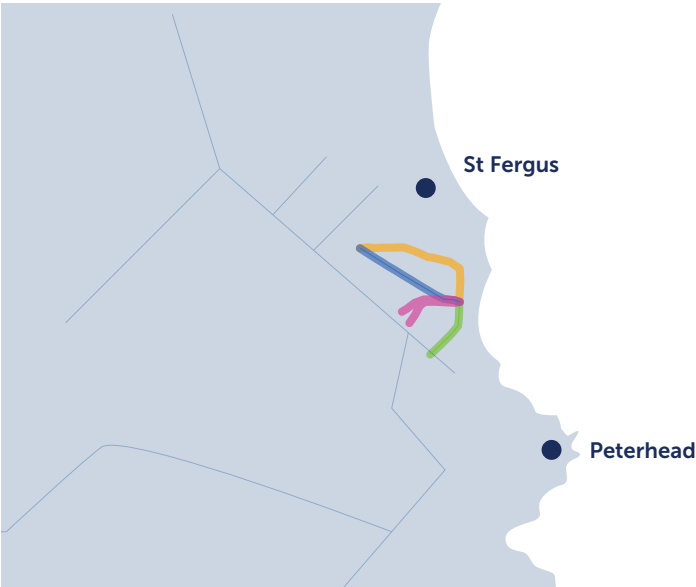
As Transmission Operator for the north of Scotland, we enable electricity generators to connect to the transmission system, allowing us to transport the electricity they produce to where it’s needed. By providing these connections, we ensure that electricity generated can be efficiently transmitted to areas of demand.

This proposed project involves a new 132kV transmission connection (200MW) between the onshore substation serving Simply Blue/Odjfell’s consented Salamander Offshore Wind Farm and our proposed tee compound. The connection will be provided by an overhead line route to our existing 132kV overhead lines. This connection will provide the necessary infrastructure to transmit electricity generated by the Salamander Offshore Wind Farm to areas of demand on the GB transmission network.

What is a tee compound?

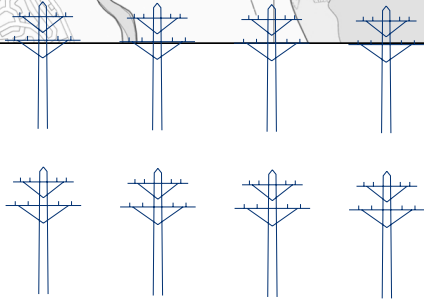
A tee compound is a type of connection point on the electricity transmission network. It allows a new transmission circuit (overhead line or underground cable) to connect into an existing transmission line, forming a junction that looks like the letter “T”.

At a tee compound, electrical equipment is installed to control and protect the flow of electricity between the existing and new connections. This includes items such as circuit breakers and disconnectors, which enable engineers to safely operate and maintain the network. A tee compound does not usually contain large transformers or significantly change the voltage level—its main purpose is to link new infrastructure into the existing network so that electricity can be transferred efficiently and securely.





More information on Salamander Offshore Wind Farm Customer Connections Project can be found at: ssen-transmission.co.uk/salamander



What we are consulting on

New overhead line routeing consultation

At this stage in the project's development, we are introducing our plans and consulting stakeholders on the possible route options for the 132kV overhead line connection. Following engagement with the public, statutory bodies and landowners, we will take forward one of the routes to the alignment selection stage for formal environmental assessment. At that point, we will carry out further local engagement and consultation prior to submitting a consent application.

We are considering four possible overhead line routes between our existing overhead line and the proposed onshore substation serving Salamander Offshore Wind Farm, which already has Planning in Principle (This can be viewed on Aberdeenshire Council's planning portal, reference APP/2024/1410). We have assessed these four routes from technical and environmental perspectives, and we are now presenting these options to stakeholders to obtain feedback. This input will help us identify a preferred route to take forward to alignment selection stage.

From our work as part of the routeing process, route option one has been assessed as the best option on balance, taking account of environmental, technical and cost criteria. This can be seen further in the RAG ('Red, Amber, Green') assessment tables.

New tee compound

The required tee compound needs to be located in close proximity to both the proposed and existing overhead lines (it will be located within the black dashed circles on the map). As such, the need to accommodate a tee compound was factored in when identifying possible overhead line route options. This was conducted from both environmental and technical perspectives to determine the suitability of both aspects which are dependent on each other.

Each overhead line route was assessed with the tee compound compatibility to ensure the most balanced approach was reached as they are co-dependent.

The location of the tee compound is dictated by the existing overhead lines and the point at which the proposed overhead line is to be connected, meaning that a standalone site selection process isn't appropriate.



Overhead line key stages

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

Strategic options assessment/routeing strategy

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

Stage 2: Corridor selection

Corridor selection seeks to identify possible corridors within which to locate a new overhead line. Corridors may be 1km wide or more. For this project, the Corridor stage was omitted due to the relatively short distances involved.

Stage 3: Route selection (we are here)

Route selection stage seeks to find a suitable route within the corridor which balances physical, social, environmental, engineering and cost constraint. Routes are typically up to 500m in width. Due to the relatively short lengths of the options for the new overhead line route , the corridor stage was omitted for this project.

Stage 4: Alignment selection

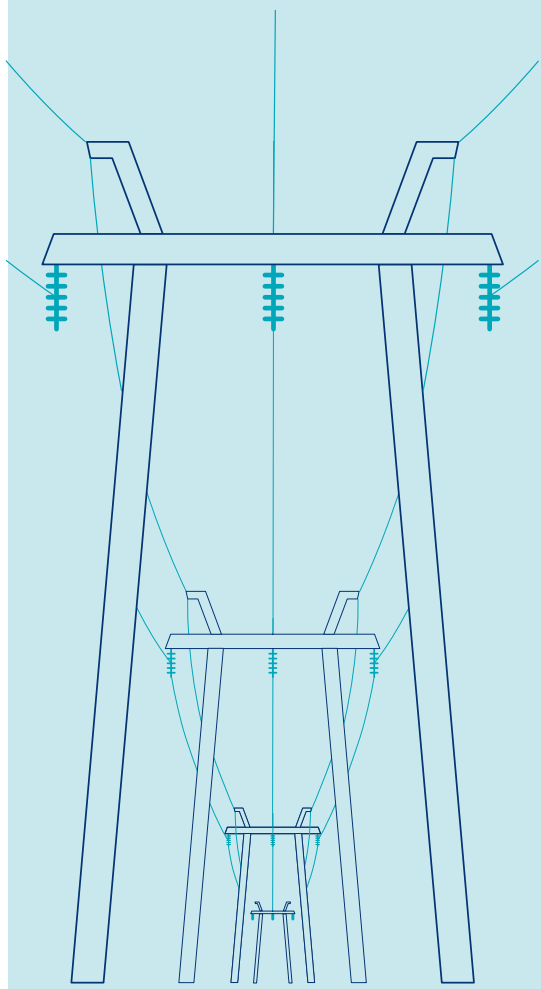
Alignment selection stage seeks to identify potential alignments within the preferred route and start to define the access strategy which will be adopted in terms of, for example, the nature and extent of temporary and/or permanent access tracks and possible road improvements. The alignment options will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

Stage 5: Final alignment

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

What happens next?

We are currently at Stage 3. Following engagement with the public, statutory bodies and landowners, we will select a potential route to take forward to alignment selection stage.



Why we're here today

We are currently at the route selection stage of project development. We have developed these route options by carrying out studies and assessments through engagement with landowners and wider stakeholders. Following this consultation, we will hold a further consultation event to present the potential alignment option. We welcome your feedback on all route options and will review all feedback received to inform our decision making.

Who we are consulting with

As well as communities, we are keen to hear feedback from a broad range of other stakeholders including but not limited to landowners, businesses, non-statutory consultees and statutory consultees such as local authorities, Energy Consents Unit (ECU), NatureScot, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and Scottish Forestry.

Choice of technology for the 132kV overhead line

We are still assessing options for what the most suitable technology type would be for this project. We will present this at the next public consultation event where we will welcome feedback on the proposed technology type.

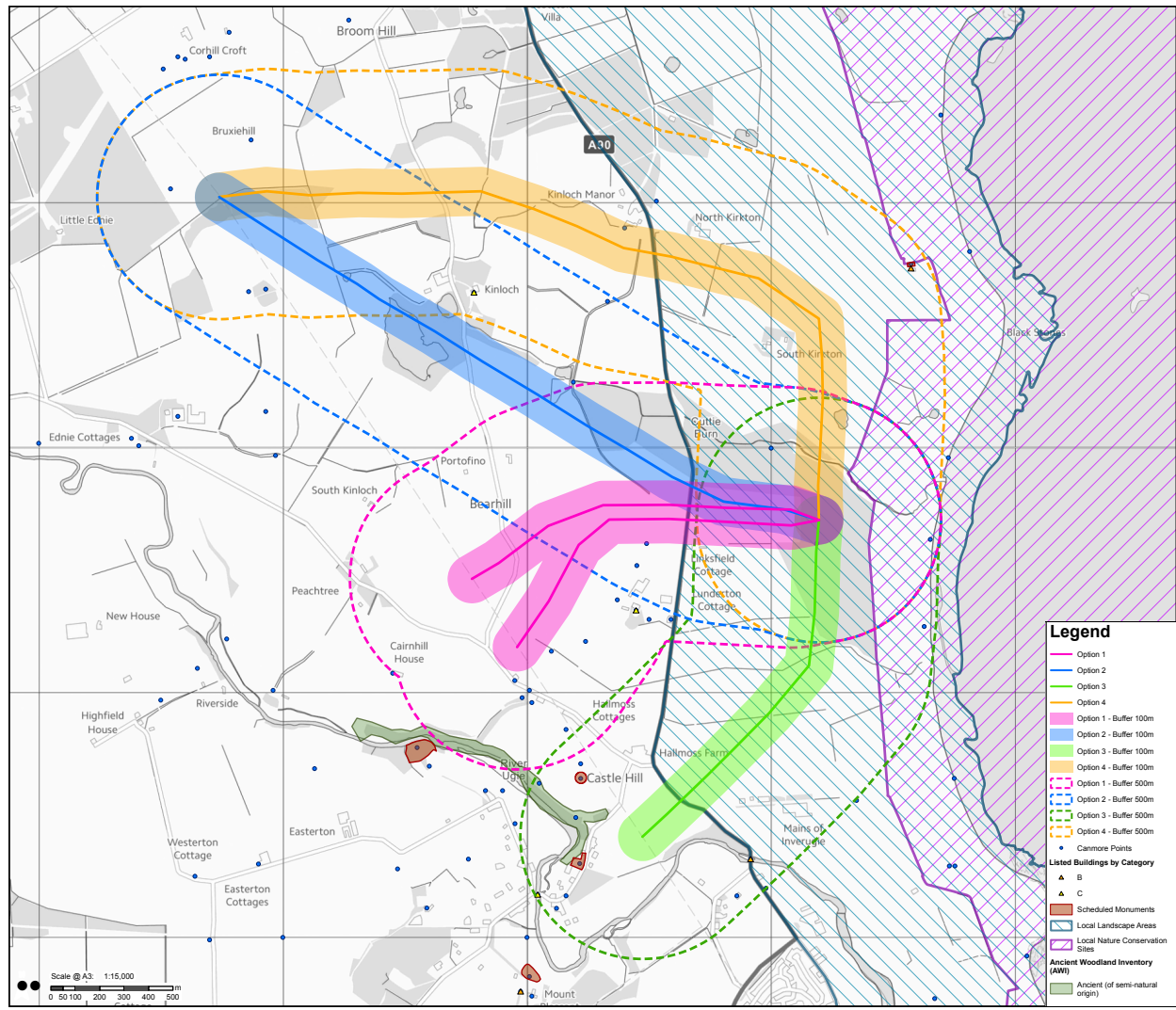


To find the feedback form, scan the QR code or visit the project website: ssen-transmission.co.uk/salamander



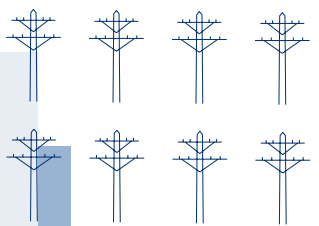
Routeing options

We have identified 4 route options based on initial desk-based review and site visits within the Area of Search. All route options comprise the tie-in or diversion of the existing overhead line from the proposed location of the Salamander substation connecting into the existing overhead line. These route options are shown in the map below, along with an indicative tee compound location for each respective route option.



Consult our maps

You can find a large-scale version of our map by scanning the QR code or visiting our project website at ssen-transmission.co.uk/salamander



Route assessment

We are still assessing options for what the most suitable technology type would be for this project. We will present this at the next public consultation event where we will gladly accept feedback on the proposed technology type.

Description of route options considered

Route option 1

Route Option 1 comprises two overhead lines, both 132kV double circuit routes that extend from the existing circuits to the Salamander substation. This route crosses an existing 11kV distribution line and the A90. Approximate length would be 1.5km for each of the two lines.

Route option 2

Route Option 2 would branch off from a point further north on the existing overhead line, south of Kirktown, before proceeding south-east to the substation. This route crosses an existing 11kV distribution line and the A90, with a route length of approximately 2.8km.

Route option 3

Route Option 3 would branch off from the existing overhead line further south than the other options, close to where the existing line crosses the River Ugie, before heading east towards the coast and then turning northwards on approach to the developer’s substation location. This route would also cross the A90, with a route length of approximately 1.6km.

Route option 4

Route Option 4 would branch off from the existing overhead line at the same point as Option 2 before heading eastwards, gradually curving around to approach the developer’s substation from the north. An 11kV distribution line runs through the centre of this route and the A90 crosses the central part of the corridor. Route Option 4 is approximately 3.4km in length, is located primarily within agricultural land and features numerous watercourses including the Cuttie Burn and Kinloch waterbody.

Key environmental constraints

Key constraints and considerations common to all route options include potential impacts on protected species, landscape designations, visual amenity and forestry, however it is noted that the magnitude of the potential impacts associated with Option 1 would be notably less than those associated with other options. One local level landscape designation, the North East Aberdeenshire Coast Special Landscape Area (SLA) has been identified within the study areas. Option 1 also avoids any impacts on prime agricultural land, whereas options 2, 3 and 4 would all encroach on prime agricultural land at their southernmost extents and also involve greater land take. The northern half of the Study Area is located within an area of woodland cover and commercial forestry. The developer’s substation where the proposed OHL will connect into is within this area. Options 2, 3 and 4 have potential to impact this area to the greatest extent. Routes 2 and 4 are more direct routes to the substation but cross through a large area of commercial forestry with Route 3 doing so to a lesser extent.

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and RAMSAR sites have been identified at Buchan Ness to Collieston Coast, Loch of Strathbeg and Ythan Estuary, Sands of Forvie and Meikle Loch. Options 2, 3 and 4 have been assessed as having higher impacts on protected species and ornithology, as well as moderate impacts on cultural heritage assets. There is an area of Class 1 peat to the north west of the existing OHL to be removed/diverted. This is located within the 100m buffer of Options 2 and 4. The River Ugie runs north-west to south-west flowing through Inverugie and is within the Study Area of all four options however is not crossed by any of the route options. The Cuttie Burn flows to the coast from Kinloch and is crossed over from Options 2 and 4 near the proposed substation. It is within the Study Area of options 1, 2 and 4.

Private Water Supplies (PWS) are expected to be present throughout the Study Area. PWS data has been requested from Aberdeenshire Council’s Environmental Health Department, however details have not been received at the time of this appraisal. These will inform the development of options at the alignment stage. Potential Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE) are anticipated to be present in the vicinity of each of the Route Options and will be assessed when data becomes available.

Overall, the preferred environmental route is considered to be Route Option 1. Option 1 would have the least impact to known heritage assets, but would nevertheless result in permanent setting impacts to two non-designated assets, including Hallmoss Bridge and ‘Cuttie Burn’ canal. The relatively short length of Option 1 would help limit the extent of landscape impacts, concentrating them in a small area already influenced by an OHL, although visual impacts from a number of nearby residential properties are likely. The rolling nature of this landscape coupled with localised

blocks of woodland is likely to limit more distant landscape and visual impacts. Option 4 is considered to have the greatest potential for landscape and visual impacts, largely as a result of the greater length of the route and therefore greater extent over which impacts may occur. This option is likely to result in the greatest impacts on the North East Aberdeenshire Special Landscape Area (SLA) and associated coastal landscape. It is also likely to result in visual impacts on a number of residential receptors.

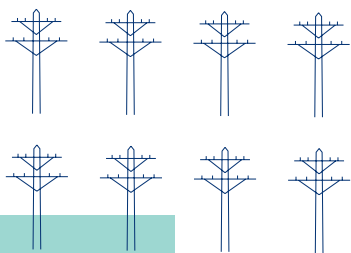
Table 1: Environmental RAG Rating

	Category	Sub-topic	Route options			
			1	2	3	4
Environmental	Natural heritage	Designations	L	L	L	L
		Protected Species	M	H	H	H
		Habitats	L	M	M	M
		Geology/Hydrology	L	M	M	M
		Ornithology	L	H	H	H
	Cultural heritage	Designations	L	L	M	L
		Cultural heritage assets	L	M	M	M
	Landscape and visual	Designations	M	M	M	M
		Landscape character	L	L	L	M
		Visual	M	M	M	M
	Land use	Agriculture	L	L	M	M
		Forestry	M	M	M	M
		Recreation	L	L	L	L
	Planning	Policy	L	L	L	L
		Proposals	L	L	L	L

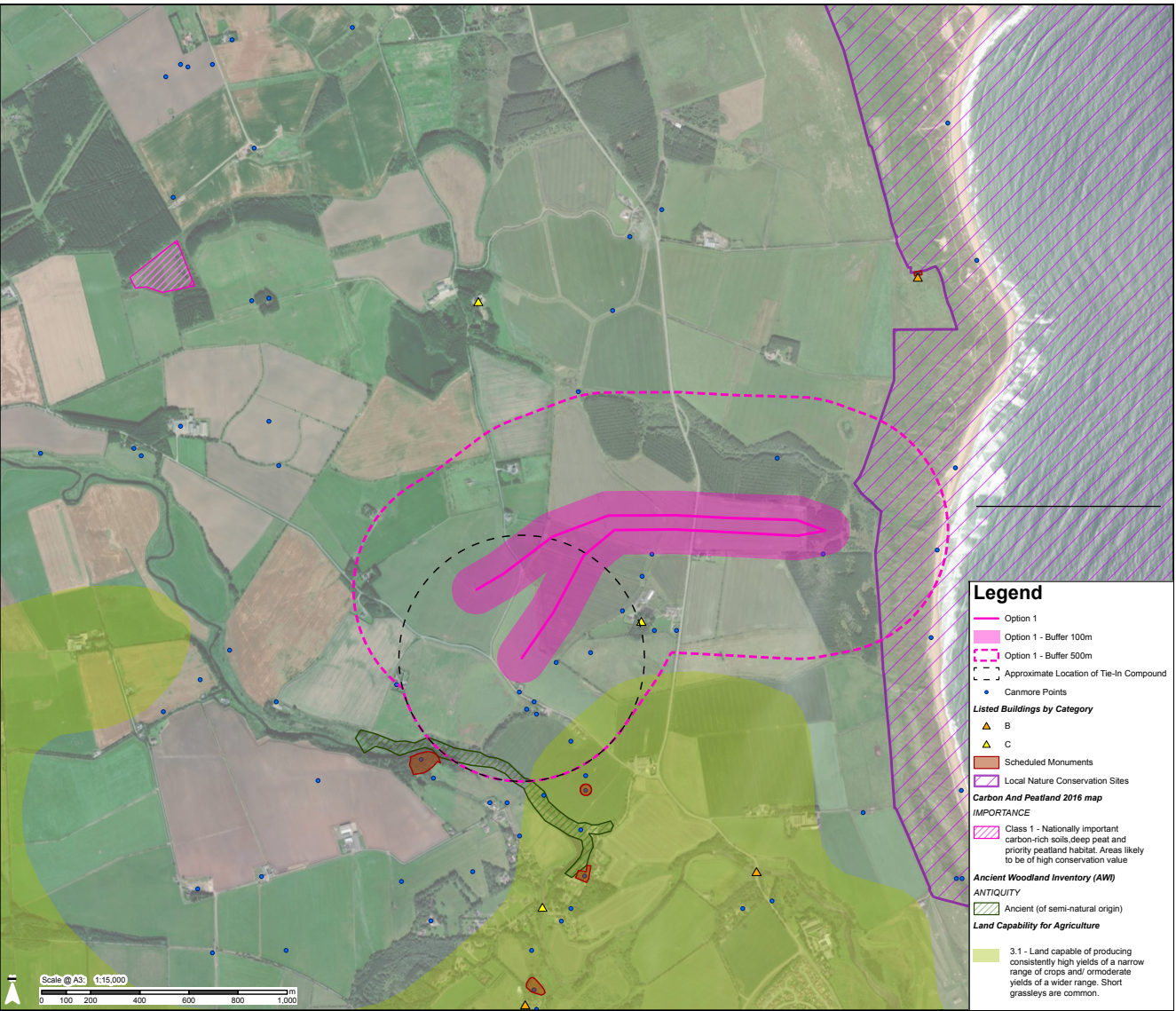
Route assessment

Table 2: Engineering RAG Rating

	Category	Sub-topic	Route options			
			1	2	3	4
Engineering	Length	Approximate corridor length	L	M	L	H
	Infrastructure crossings	Major crossing	H	H	H	H
		Road crossing	L	M	M	M
	Environmental design	Elevation	L	L	L	L
		Atmospheric pollution	L	L	L	L
		Contaminated land	L	L	L	L
		Flooding	L	L	L	L
	Ground conditions	Terrain	L	L	L	L
		Peat	L	L	L	L
	Construction/ Condition	Access	L	L	L	L
		Angle Towers	L	L	L	M
	Proximity	Clearance distance	L	L	L	L
		Wind farms	L	H	L	H
		Communication mast	L	L	L	L
		Urban environments	L	L	L	L
		Metallic pipelines	L	M	L	M



Potential route



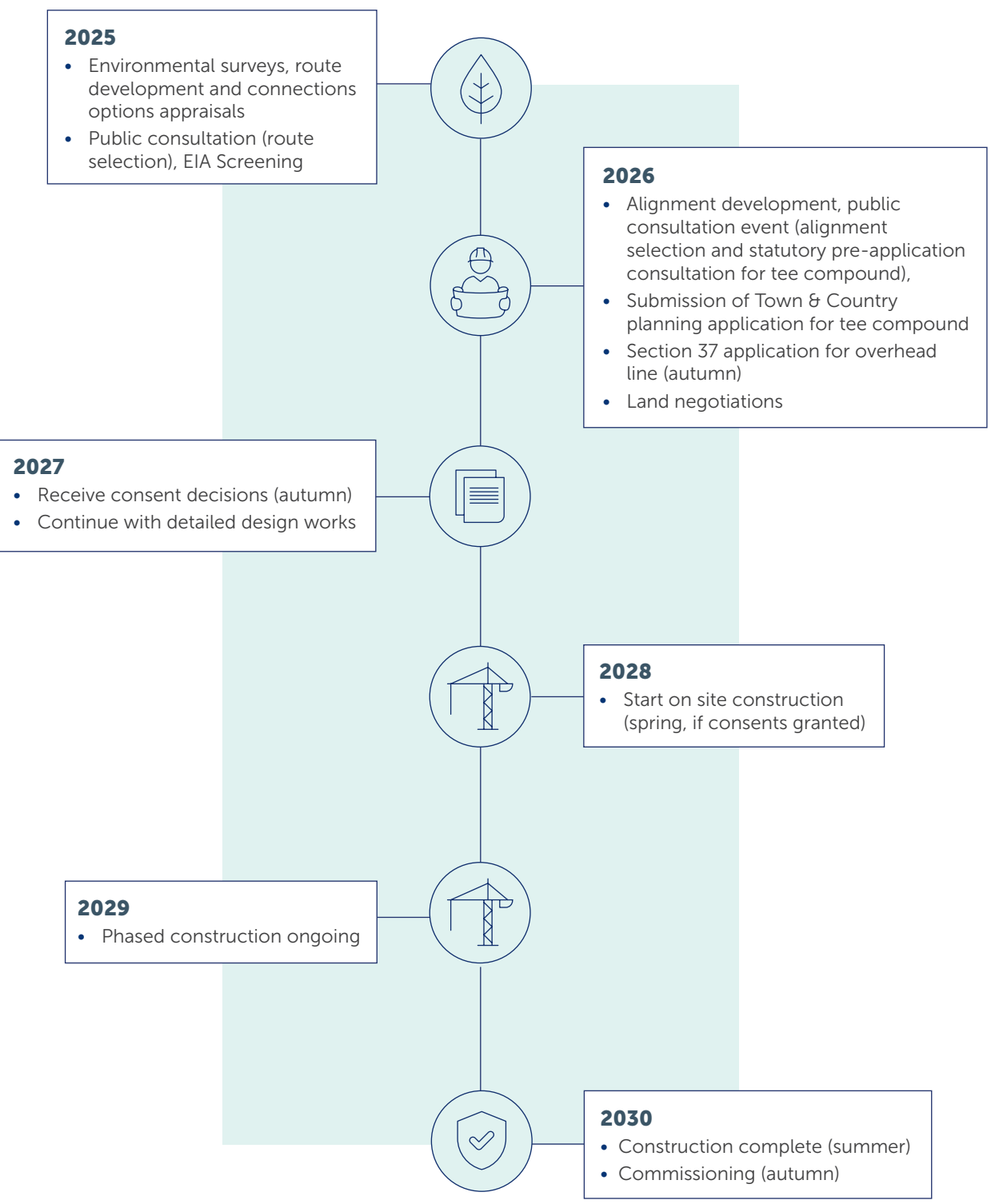
The routing assessment concluded that the combination of Route Option 1 is the potential route which we believe offers the overall best balance of technical and environmental impact considerations identified through the initial assessments.

This is now subject to consultation with stakeholders, where local and previously unknown considerations may confirm, or alter, the initial preference. Once a potential option is confirmed it will be taken forward to the alignment selection stage of project development.

Whilst a potential route has been identified, this appraisal has demonstrated that there remains potential for the development to result in moderate impacts in areas such as protected species, landscape designations, visual amenity and forestry.

As such, should the potential route be taken forward to the alignment selection stage as the proposed route following consultation, mitigation measures would need to be considered and implemented in order to minimise the potential for likely significant environmental effects.

Project timeline



*Please note that dates are indicative and subject to change.

The consenting process

This project involves construction of both an overhead line and a tee compound. These elements would be consented via different routes.

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The legislation governing the consenting of overhead line (OHL) projects in Scotland is the Electricity Act 1989. Applications for consent to construct and operate new overhead lines are made under Section 37 of this Act and are referred to as "Section 37 Consents". Such applications are submitted to, and determined by, the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU). In contrast, the tee compound would require planning permission under the Town and Country Planning Act, with any application submitted to and determined by the local planning authority, which in this case would be Aberdeenshire Council.

Depending on the outcome of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening, these applications will be accompanied by either an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report or a voluntary Environmental Appraisal, as well as standalone reports such as a planning statement, and detailed design drawings. A Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report will also be provided, and this will provide details of the public and stakeholder consultation undertaken, a summary of the feedback received, and our response to that feedback. We plan to submit our Section 37 application to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in October 2025.

Once consent applications have been submitted, all documents relating to the submissions will be made publicly available and there will be an opportunity for the public to make formal representations to the determining body before any decisions are made.

We will update stakeholders once the applications for consent have been submitted and we will also publish newspaper advertisements to inform local communities and the general public of the application being made to Scottish Ministers. Statutory pre-application consultation will apply to a Town and Country Planning application relating to the tee compound, including similar arrangements for the reporting of any feedback received, advertisement in local press and notification of stakeholders.

Determining a Section 37 application and communicating outcomes

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

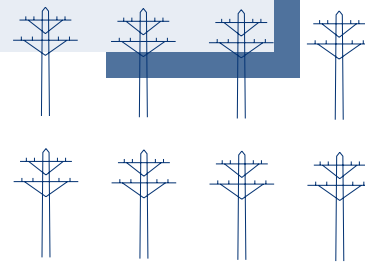
We anticipate receiving a decision on the consent application within 12 months from the application date, however timescales may vary.

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

The ECU and local planning authority will publish the decision notice via their own channels, and we must publicise the outcome on our website, in the Edinburgh Gazette, and in a local newspaper. We'll also communicate the decision by mainstream media and other various means, including email updates to Elected Members and those signed up to project updates, social media, and press releases.



Read more here about the Section 37 process here



Have your say

We understand and recognise the value of feedback provided by the community and stakeholders. Without this valuable feedback, we would be unable to progress projects and reach a balanced proposal.

The feedback period

We will accept feedback from now until **Friday 9 January 2026.**

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/salamander
- Email the feedback form to our Community Liaison Manager, or write to us enclosing the feedback form at the back of this booklet.

What we're seeking views on

We are asking for feedback on the areas raised in the feedback form in the following pages, including if there are any factors or environmental considerations you consider important that you don't feel we have addressed, and if you have any comments on the route options.

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. By telling us what you think, you will help shape our proposals.

Our Community Liaison team

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

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

Community Liaison Manager

Gillian Doig



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



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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/salamander

You can also follow us on social media:



@assentransmission



@SSETransmission



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."

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. Have you any comments regarding the location of the route options and associated tee compound locations?

Comments:

Q2. Are there any additional factors or environmental features that you would like to bring to the attention of the project team?

Comments:



Q3. 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 net-zero 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, Grampian House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth, PH1 3GH

Email: gillian.doig@sse.com

Online: ssen-transmission.co.uk/salamander

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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Notes



