



Scottish & Southern
Electricity Networks

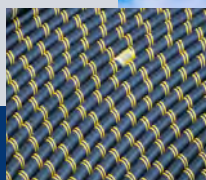
TRANSMISSION

Aberdeenshire coast landfall options

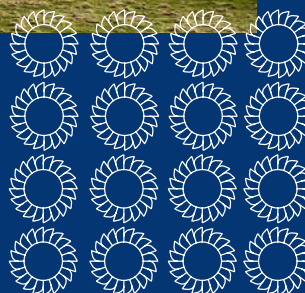
Shetland High Voltage Direct
Current (HVDC) Link 2 project

Public Information Events

Autumn 2026



ssen-transmission.co.uk/shetland2



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Public Information Events:

Wednesday 23 September, 3-7pm
Whitehills Public Hall
Reidhaven Street, Whitehills,
Aberdeenshire AB45 2NY

Thursday 24 September, 3-7pm
Banff Parish Church Hall
High Street, Banff, Aberdeenshire AB45 1AE



Executive summary

The proposed Shetland HVDC (High Voltage Direct Current) Link 2 requires a new subsea cable connection between northern Shetland and mainland Scotland. Over the past 18 months we have been undertaking option assessments to find a suitable landfall site for both ends of the cable. Our events in Banff and Whitehills are specifically looking for public feedback on two options at either Boyne Bay or Boyndie Bay.

After additional assessments, Sandend was discounted, leaving the two options, Boyne and Boyndie Bay. We are seeking feedback on these options ahead of a least constrained landfall being selected. The feedback window is open until Friday 6 November 2026.

After this point, we will analyse responses and conclude our development and design work. We will then share our least constrained landfall site with stakeholders.

In terms of the wider project, from landfall on the Aberdeenshire coast, the HVDC cable will be undergrounded all the way to the proposed Strathbogie Hub, which is expected to be located to the north-east of Huntly. The Strathbogie Hub is undergoing the final stages of the site selection process, so a least constrained site is not yet known. However, an underground cable of about 30km will connect the landfall to the Strathbogie Hub.

This is not the last opportunity for members of the public to comment on our proposals, and we expect that planning applications seeking the necessary consents will be submitted later next year. We hope to share a plan for a least constrained landfall, a proposed underground cable route, and a least constrained site for Strathbogie Hub, within the coming months.

To recap, our initial search for a feasible landfall site looked at locations stretching from Lossiemouth to Rattray Head. This identified an initial 12 potential sites, and we held our first information session in Portsoy in June 2025, where we shared details on all of these options and sought public feedback.

Of the 12 sites, five were then discounted due to various reasons – such as horizontal directional drilling (HDD) feasibility, space for an HDD compound and the onshore cable route length. Seven options underwent specialist review, which subsequently eliminated a further four sites.

Three shortlisted landfalls were taken forward to stage 2 design, these were Sandend, Boyne Bay and Boyndie Bay. We held our second information session in Portsoy in November 2025, where again we sought additional public feedback on these options.



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/

Help shape our plans

At SSEN Transmission, we are committed to delivering a robust and transparent consultation process underpinned by inclusion and accessibility. As a stakeholder led business, we understand the importance of involving communities and key stakeholders throughout each stage of our development process.

This period of engagement in the development phase of the projects is vital in shaping our proposals and to do this effectively, we need to capture feedback from stakeholders and harness local knowledge to identify key risks.

We’re 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.

We want you to share your thoughts and opinions on our plans, where you think we can make improvements, and let us know your 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. Because, ultimately, we want you to work with us to ensure that the energy infrastructure we build will be the best it can possibly be.

If you require additional support to submit your views, please contact our Community Liaison Team on ShetlandEngagement@sse.com who will happily assist you.

What to expect from this event

The aim of today’s event is to:

- Share with the community and other key stakeholders the progress made on the project
- Gain valuable feedback from you on the landfall options to help inform decision making on the project going forward.

There will be experts from SSEN Transmission on hand to answer any questions you may have.

Your feedback today has the power to influence outcomes. Across our wider portfolio, local insight has already led to changes in the location of infrastructure and design. By sharing your views, you’re helping us to understand what matters most to the people who live and work here.

Whether you have detailed feedback or just a first impression, we would really value your input.



The story so far

Aberdeenshire is being considered as the location for the proposed mainland landfall and connection infrastructure for Shetland HVDC Link 2.

The North of Scotland has a vital role to play in the UK’s clean energy future. This has been formally recognised through independent national planning. In March 2024, the National Energy System Operator (NESO) Beyond 2030 report confirmed that additional transmission infrastructure is needed, both on Shetland and to the Scottish mainland to connect future renewable generation and to support security of electricity supply across Great Britain.

This assessment forms the basis of the Shetland Strategy - NESO and Ofgem have tasked us with providing a coordinated response to a confirmed need.

From National Plan to Local Action

- NESO’s findings were based on a comprehensive assessment of how the electricity network must evolve to:
- Meet clean energy targets;
 - Manage increasing demand;
 - Support economic growth and
 - Maintain resilience

Shetland was identified as a strategically important location, not because of any one single project, but due to its long-term potential and critical role in the future energy network.

In December 2024, Ofgem, the GB energy regulator, endorsed this position by approving funding for early-stage development works in Shetland.

This sits alongside Ofgem’s assessment of NESO’s broader Clean Power 2030 recommendations, with further decisions expected soon.

Why this matters

Since the first Shetland HVDC link was developed, the scale of renewable energy generation and electricity demand on Shetland has increased, creating the need for additional transmission infrastructure.

The Shetland Strategy takes a coordinated approach to planning these future network requirements, considering the wider needs of Shetland’s electricity network rather than responding to individual projects separately. This approach will ensure we deliver a technically robust solution that supports future growth while minimising impacts on communities and the environment.

March 2024
NESO publishes transitional Centralised Strategic Network Plan (tCSNP2) (Beyond 2030) confirming Shetland requirements

December 2024
Ofgem approves early stage development funding

July 2025
Ofgem publishes Clean Power 2030 minded to position

June/November 2025
Early public engagement in Aberdeenshire

2026
Further Ofgem decisions expected to support Clean Power 2030

You can read the NESO Beyond 2030 report here



Shetland HVDC Link 2 project need and overview

Why is the project required?

The Shetland HVDC Link 2 is needed to provide a secure, long-term connection between Shetland and the GB (Great Britain) electricity network. It will enable new renewable generation, such as onshore and offshore wind farms, and support demand projects such as green hydrogen production. By reinforcing the existing Shetland HVDC Link 1, it also provides resilience for the islands' electricity supply.

The project will include the construction of new HVDC converter stations on Shetland and Aberdeenshire, together with associated substations and underground cables to connect them to the wider electricity transmission network.

A subsea cable will link the two landfall points, carrying clean, renewable electricity over these longer distances efficiently and reliably.

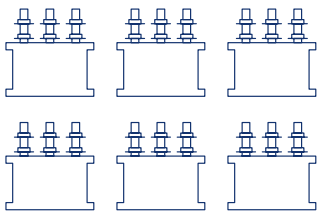
In addition to the subsea HVDC cable, the other key elements of the Shetland HVDC Link 2 project may include:

Northern Shetland:

- New HVDC converter station, in the Toft area.
Co-located with:
 - New AC 220kV substation
 - New AC 400kV substation
- Landfall in Northern Shetland and potentially up to 40km underground cable

Scottish mainland:

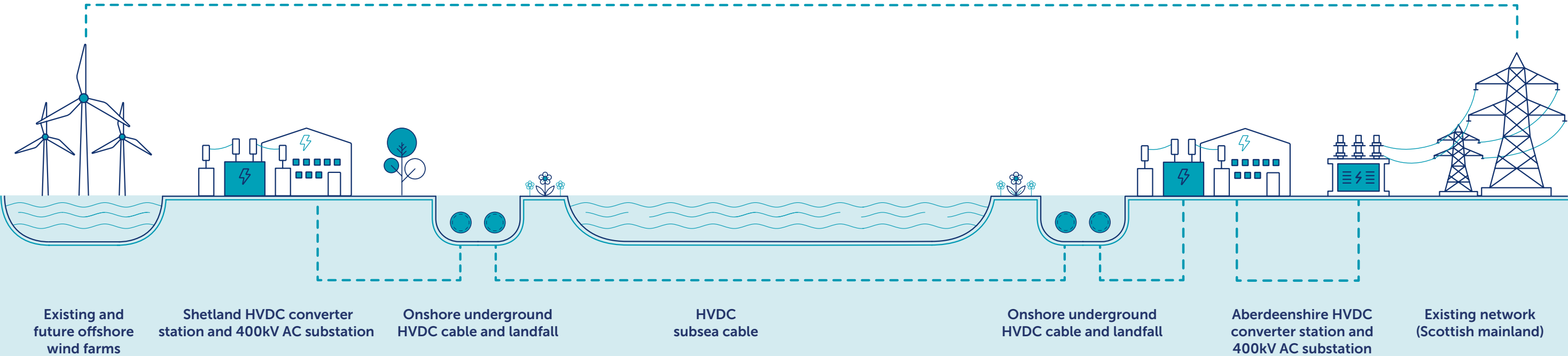
- New HVDC converter station in the Strathbogie region of Aberdeenshire
Co-located with:
 - New AC 400kV substation
- Landfall on the Aberdeenshire coastline and approximately 30km underground cable route.



Why HVDC?

High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) technology offers the most efficient means of transmitting large amounts of power over long distances.

It helps minimise energy losses, reduce environmental footprint, and improve the stability of the wider electricity network. Using HVDC also ensures the new Shetland HVDC Link 2 is compatible with the first Shetland HVDC link and any other future subsea connections, providing a coordinated and future-proof solution.



What is a landfall?

Cable landfalls are the locations where our subsea cables come ashore. When bringing the cable ashore, there are two engineering options:

Open Cut Trench

A section of the shoreline is excavated, and ducts are installed that will carry the cable from under the seabed onto land. The cable is then pulled through the installed ducts which are then buried, and the shoreline is reinstated.

Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD)

HDD is a type of trenchless method that can be used to drill and install ducts underground through the shoreline, providing an alternative method in areas of shallow bedrock or challenging geology.

Is there any above ground infrastructure?

Once the shoreline is reinstated, after the cable is laid, there will be a permanent cabinet (called a link pillar), contained within a fenced area.

Landfall Assessment

When planning where a subsea cable comes ashore, several factors need to be considered. This involves input from engineering, environmental and community specialists to identify the optimal option. Key considerations include:

- Technical feasibility of bringing the cable to shore, including proximity to existing infrastructure.
- Environmental sensitivities and designated areas.
- Feedback from stakeholders and local communities.
- This cross-disciplinary approach ensures that the landfall options taken forward for detailed design are robust, balanced and take account of local priorities.



Indicative HDD compound



Example HDD process



Example intermediate link pillar

Landfall site-selection process

The process for selecting our proposed landfall and marine cable corridors:

**Stage 1**

Preliminary landfall option identification, focusing on identifying potential landfall locations meeting essential construction characteristics.

**Stage 2**

Constraints identification, identifying environmental, social, and technical constraints associated with each landfall.

**Stage 3**

Confirm landfall site and identify potential terrestrial cable routes between landfall site and converter site. Corridor optioneering, identifying potential subsea corridors based on relative impacts on constraints.

**Stage 4**

Corridor Development and Selection, including a multi-disciplinary review of constraints and interactions between them to develop a suitable subsea cable corridor.

Provided below is a list of some of the key constraints which may influence development which will be considered in the site selection process for the project.

Environmental constraints

- **Cultural heritage** – The project will seek to avoid direct and indirect impacts on recorded heritage assets, such as chartered wrecks, scheduled monuments and other historic environment records.
- **Shipping and transport** – The project will seek to avoid busy areas with a high density of shipping and/or road activity, to not impact their operations.
- **Commercial fishing** – The project will seek to engage with fisheries to manage and mitigate any impacts as best as possible.
- **Ecology and ornithology** – The project will seek to avoid wherever possible designated sites such as those designated for breeding birds, or mammals, which may be sensitive to installation activities.
- **Benthic ecology** – The project will seek to avoid areas of Annex I reef, including maerl beds and horse mussel beds. These habitats are protected by legislation and may be sensitive to installation activities.
- **Peatland and Habitat** – The project will seek to avoid impact on areas of deep peat and sensitive habitat.
- **General Amenity Considerations** – The project will seek to manage noise and disturbance to nearby communities and their residents.

Technical constraints

- **Bathymetry** – Both seabed slope and water depth may impact the feasibility of how infrastructure can be installed.
- **Seabed and landfall geology** – The type of bedrock may impact the technical feasibility of installing.
- **Metoccean conditions** – Wave heights, wind speed and currents are considered as part of site selection, design and installation of the project.
- **Vessel access** – The project must ensure that water depths are sufficient and that there are no rocky outcrops that may impact the installation vessel's access to the work site.
- **Third party assets** – The project will seek to minimise proximity to other third party assets, to reduce potential for disturbance to operations.
- **Construction Access** – The project will seek to site the landfall close to existing road networks.

The project team uses key data sources which illustrate the above constraints and applies them to a 'constraints model'. Once we have identified viable areas, they are taken forward for further evaluation and consultation, so we can better understand their use and sensitivity. As well as the constraints identified above, other environmental factors will be investigated including ecology, ornithology, mammals, seascape and landscape.



Marine survey

The marine survey campaign started in February 2026 and will conclude in the coming weeks.

Reach Subsea are acquiring geophysical, benthic and geotechnical data on our behalf and will use a number of specialist vessels to do so.

This data will be used to help:

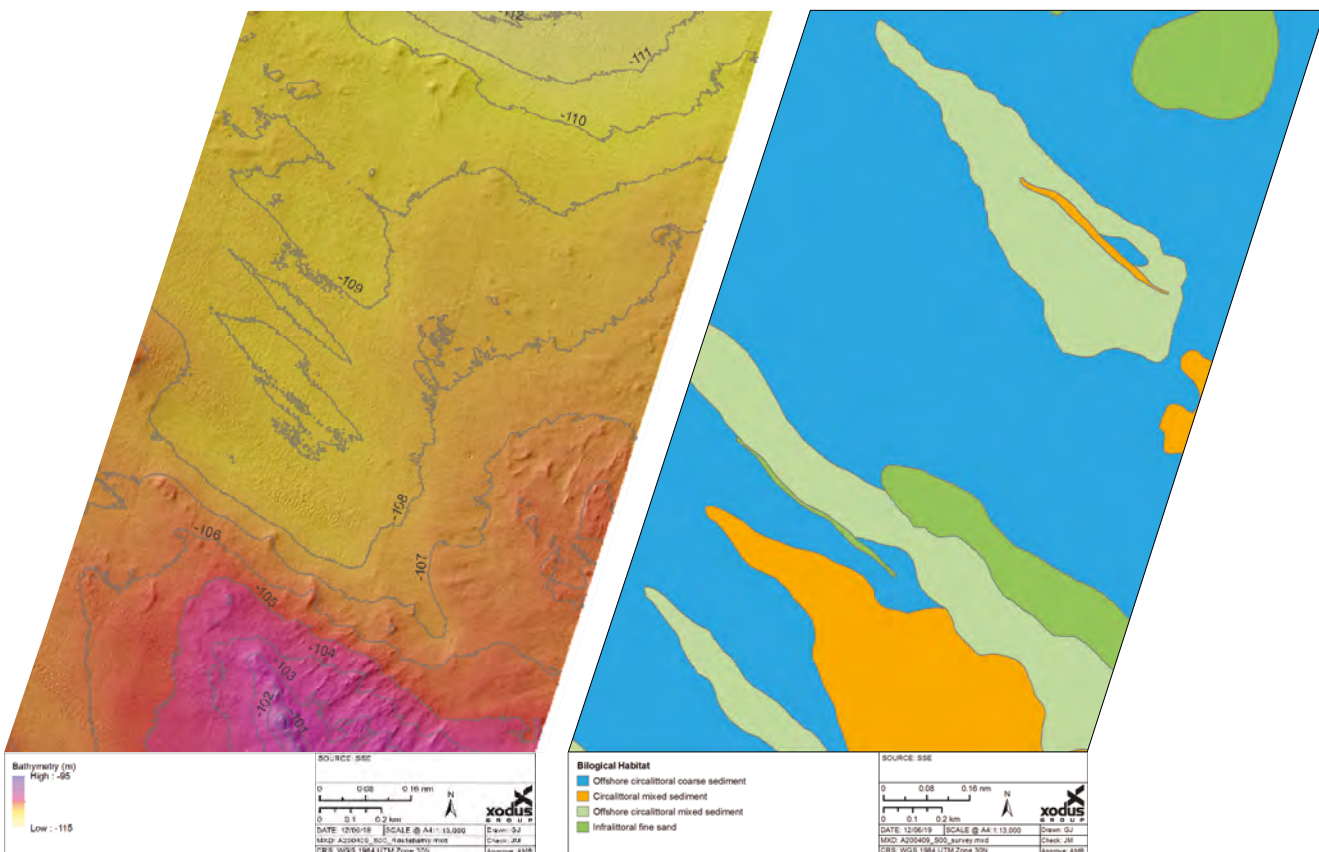
- Finalise the landfall site selection
- Design the subsea cable and installation methodologies
- Refine the route of the cable between the Aberdeenshire coast and Shetland

In advance of these surveys commencing, local fishery bodies were consulted and a Notice to Mariners was published.

1. Geophysical data acquisition

To determine water depths, seabed features, shallow geology, object detection and cable crossing positions.

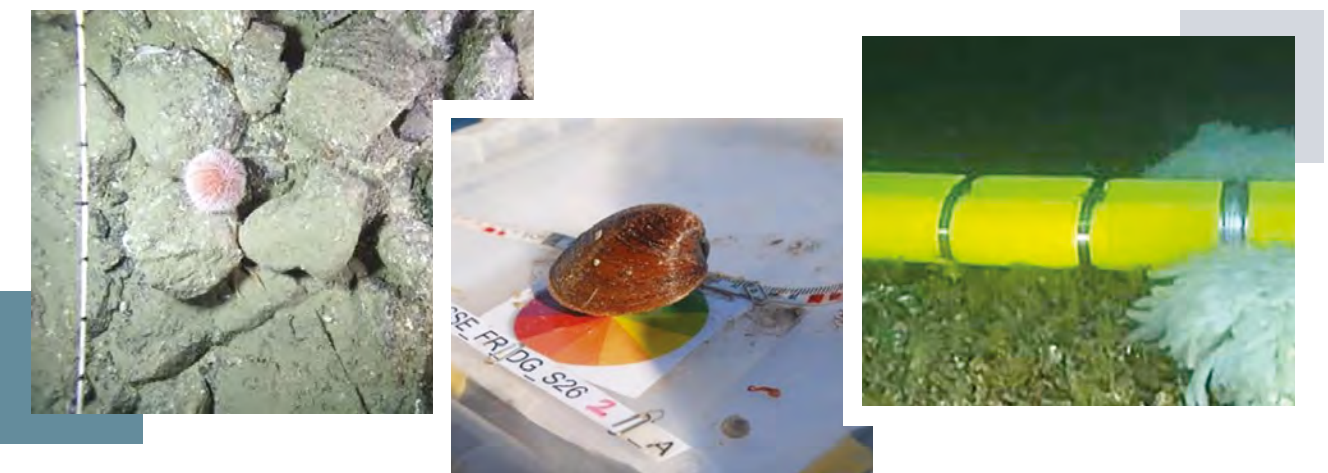
Instruments used: Multibeam Echo Sounder (MBES), Side Scan Sonar (SSS), Sub-bottom Profiler (SBP) and Magnetometer (offshore and nearshore).



2. Environmental survey

The Data from the Side Scan Sonar (SSS) and the Multi Beam Echo Sounder (MBES) is used to create habitat boundaries which are then checked using cameras and grab samples to create maps of the type and extent of seabed habitats.

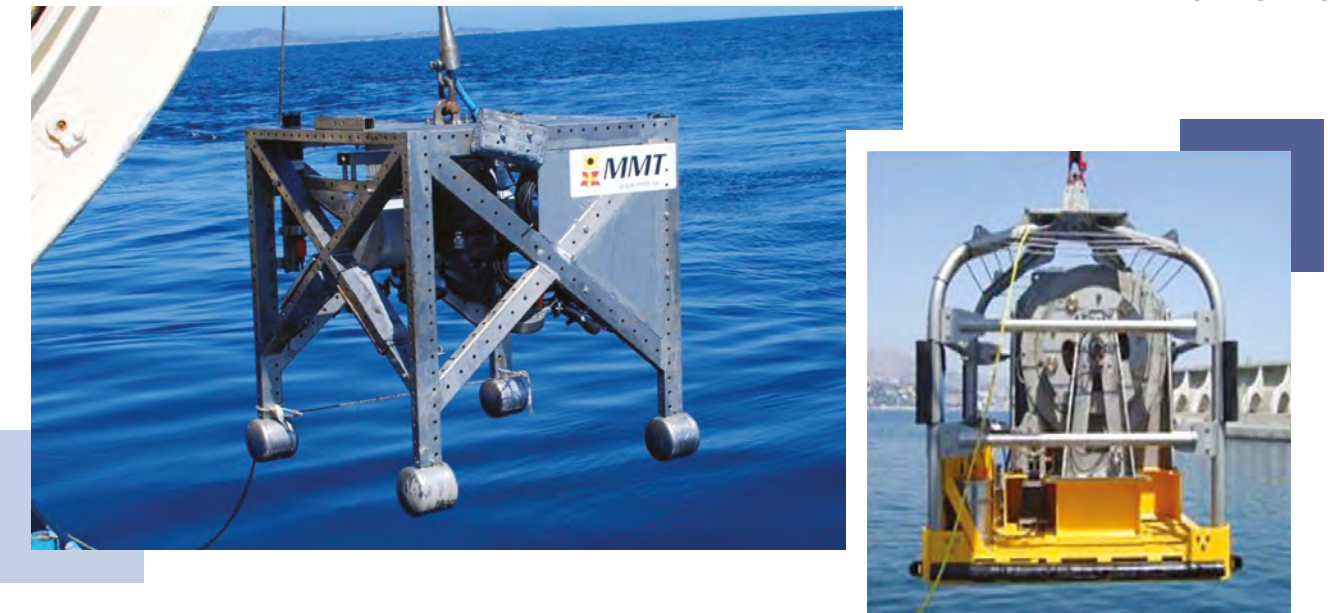
Instruments used: grab sampler and drop-down camera.



3. Geotechnical survey

To determine the structure and physical properties of the surficial and shallow sediment layers. Tools are used to recover cores of sediment and push a cone through the sediment measuring the resistance.

Instruments used: Vibrocorer and Cone Penetrometer Testing (CPT).



Landfall selection

Through a desk-based exercise, we initially identified 12 sites on the Scottish mainland, as having the potential to be suitable for a landfall of the HVDC marine cable. Taking into consideration engineering, community, consenting and environmental factors, these have now been refined to Boyne Bay and Boyndie Bay to take forward to the marine routeing exercise.

Our search area concentrated on the Moray and Aberdeenshire coast as denoted by the red rectangle on the map, shown at our public consultation event in June 2025.

Feedback and discussions from the consultation events have fed into the considerations for landfall selection.

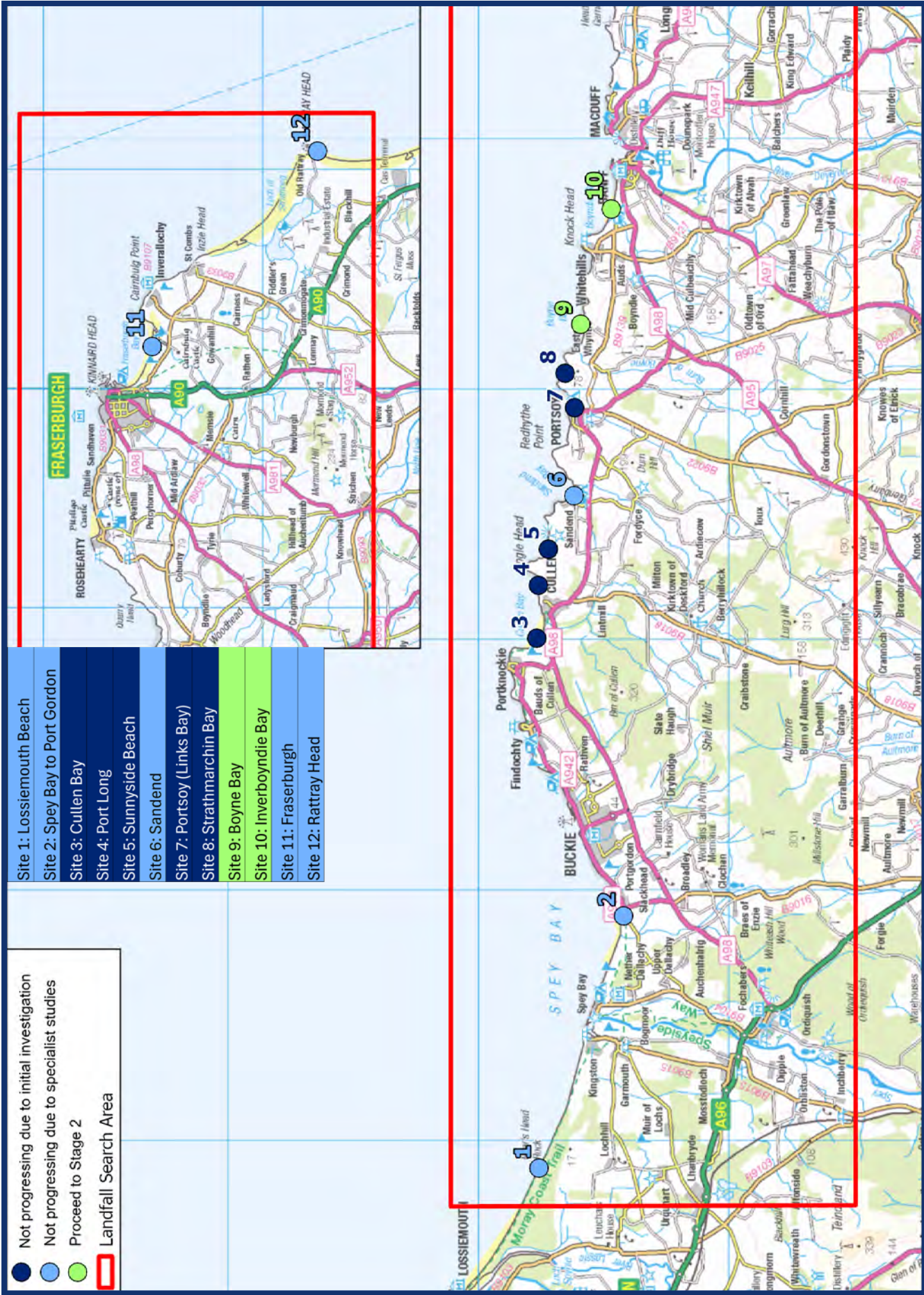
An initial appraisal was conducted of the 12 landfall sites, through desk based studies and site visits. This resulted in discounting five landfall sites. There was a variety of engineering, community and environmental reasons for discounting sites including:

- HDD feasibility.
- Limited space to construct a drilling compound.
- Lack of road access.
- Unsuitable ground conditions.
- Close proximity to residential properties and local amenities.
- Close proximity to environmental designations.
- Proximity to military firing practice areas.
- Proximity to third party assets.

We appointed external environmental specialists (both marine and terrestrial focused) and an engineering company who specialise in Horizontal Directional Drills (HDD). Each specialist comprehensively studied each of the seven landfall sites. As a result of these studies, landfall areas were refined further and a further four sites were ruled out.

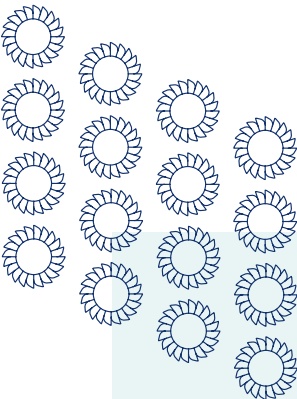
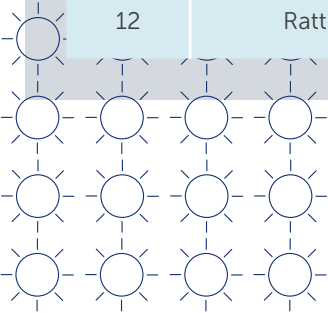
Three sites were shortlisted and taken forward to stage 2 design, which were: Sandend, Boyne Bay and Boyndie Bay, as presented in the public consultation event in November 2025. Following this event, the Sandend landfall was discounted on the basis that it interacted with more Marine Protected Areas as opposed to Boyne Bay and Boyndie Bay, and resulted in a longer, more technically complex onshore route.

Please note: The site referred to in this document as Boyndie Bay is also known as Inverboyndie.



Landfall status

Site	Area	Proceed to Stage 2	Key Reason
1	Lossiemouth Beach	No	HDD feasibility, geology and long onshore cable route to Strathbogie Hub.
2	Port Gordon	No	HDD deemed unfeasible.
3	Cullen Bay	No	Limited space for a HDD drilling compound; we would have to locate the HDD drilling compound on the golf course. Topography would make the onward routing of the onshore cable challenging.
4	Port Long	No	HDD deemed unfeasible - high cliff heights.
5	Sunnyside Beach	No	HDD deemed unfeasible - high cliff heights.
6	Sandend	No	Longer onshore cable route compared to Boyne Bay and Boyndie Bay. It is also located within the Moray Firth Special Protection Area.
7	Portsoy (Links Bay)	No	Limited space for a HDD drilling compound. Topography would make the onward routing of the onshore cable challenging.
8	Strathmarchin	No	HDD deemed unfeasible.
9	Boyne Bay	Yes	Please see page 18 for further detail.
10	Boyndie Bay	Yes	Please see page 19 for further detail.
11	Fraserburgh	No	Long onshore cable route to Strathbogie Hub, compared to other landfall options assessed.
12	Rattray Head	No	Long onshore cable route to Strathbogie Hub, compared to other landfall options assessed.



Marine approaches progressing to stage 2 design

Site 9 - Boyne Bay

Environment including Community	
Opportunities	Constraints
Few residential properties located close by	The site overlaps with the 'Cullen to Stake Ness Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest' (SSSI), designated for geological and biological features. And the Cullen to Whitehills Local Nature Reserve is located within the site boundary
No seal haul outs within 2km of the landfall	There are two scheduled monuments within 2km of the Boyne Bay site and 'Craig of Boyne Castle' is located within the site.
No active or inactive aquaculture sites within the vicinity of the landfall	Site is located within 1km of the Southern Trench Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area (NCMPA)
	A new core path runs along the coast, in front of the HDD drilling compound.
	Prime agricultural land
	Area of high fishing activity (demersal gear, dredges, pots, traps, rod and line)
Technical	
Opportunities	Constraints
HDD is deemed feasible	Caledonia Offshore wind farm export cables are making landfall in this area.
Space for a HDD drilling compound and auxiliary equipment	Temporary haul road will need to be constructed from the nearby B9139 road, during the construction phase
No offshore cables or pipelines in the vicinity of the landfall	
No ferry routes or chartered anchorages within the vicinity of the landfall	

Site 10 - Boyndie Bay

Environment including Community	
Opportunities	Constraints
No cultural heritage designations located within the site	A core path runs along the coast, in front of the HDD drilling compound.
No seal haul outs within 2km of the landfall	Landfall is located within 1km of the Southern Trench NCMPA
No active or inactive aquaculture sites within the vicinity of the landfall	Overlap with Whitehills to Melrose Coast SSS designated for geological features.
	There are nearby properties and a caravan park, a noise assessment will be undertaken to understand and identify any potential impacts and requirements for mitigation during construction.
	Area of high fishing activity (demersal gear, dredges, pots, traps, rod and line).
	There are 4 Scheduled Monuments within 2km of the Boyndie Bay Site. The closest is Boyndie Old Kirk (SM5668) located approximately 140m to the south
Technical	
Opportunities	Constraints
HDD is deemed feasible, industry experience of drill at nearby Offshore wind farm.	Offshore wind farm cables and a telecommunication cable make landfall in Boyndie Bay, therefore consultation with asset owners will be required and stand-off distance maintained.
Space for a HDD drilling compound and auxiliary equipment	Temporary haul road will need to be constructed from the nearby B9038 road during the construction phase, this would be more technically challenging due to the steep embankment
No ferry routes or chartered anchorages within the vicinity of the landfall	



Potential marine routes

Potential marine routes for the Shetland HVDC Link 2 project have been identified between the Shetland landfalls and Scottish mainland landfalls (Boyne Bay, Boyndie Bay). The indicative route options have been optimised to avoid technical and environmental constraints where possible, informed by a spatial Multi Criteria Analysis model.

At SSEN Transmission we aim to ensure that the routeing of our subsea cables:

- Has optimal seabed conditions for burial of the cables;
- Avoids and minimises interactions with other assets, for example cable/pipeline crossings;
- Avoids and minimises interactions with other users of the sea, for example shipping and navigation and commercial fisheries;
- Avoids and minimises interactions with Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), especially those designated for seabed features or other species sensitive to cable installation and operational activities;
- Is the shortest route from A to B;
- Meets legislative and marine planning requirements.

Constraints for the Common Offshore Cable Route Corridors

While the route options have been developed to maximise potential cable burial success, by avoiding areas of seabed and features which are anticipated to pose a challenge to trenching of the cable (i.e., areas of hard substrate, bedrock and mobile bedforms), some features are unavoidable. Areas of hard substrate are prevalent around Shetland, specifically to the west of Shetland, and along the route as it passes south past Foula, east of the Orkney Islands and south of Fair Isle.

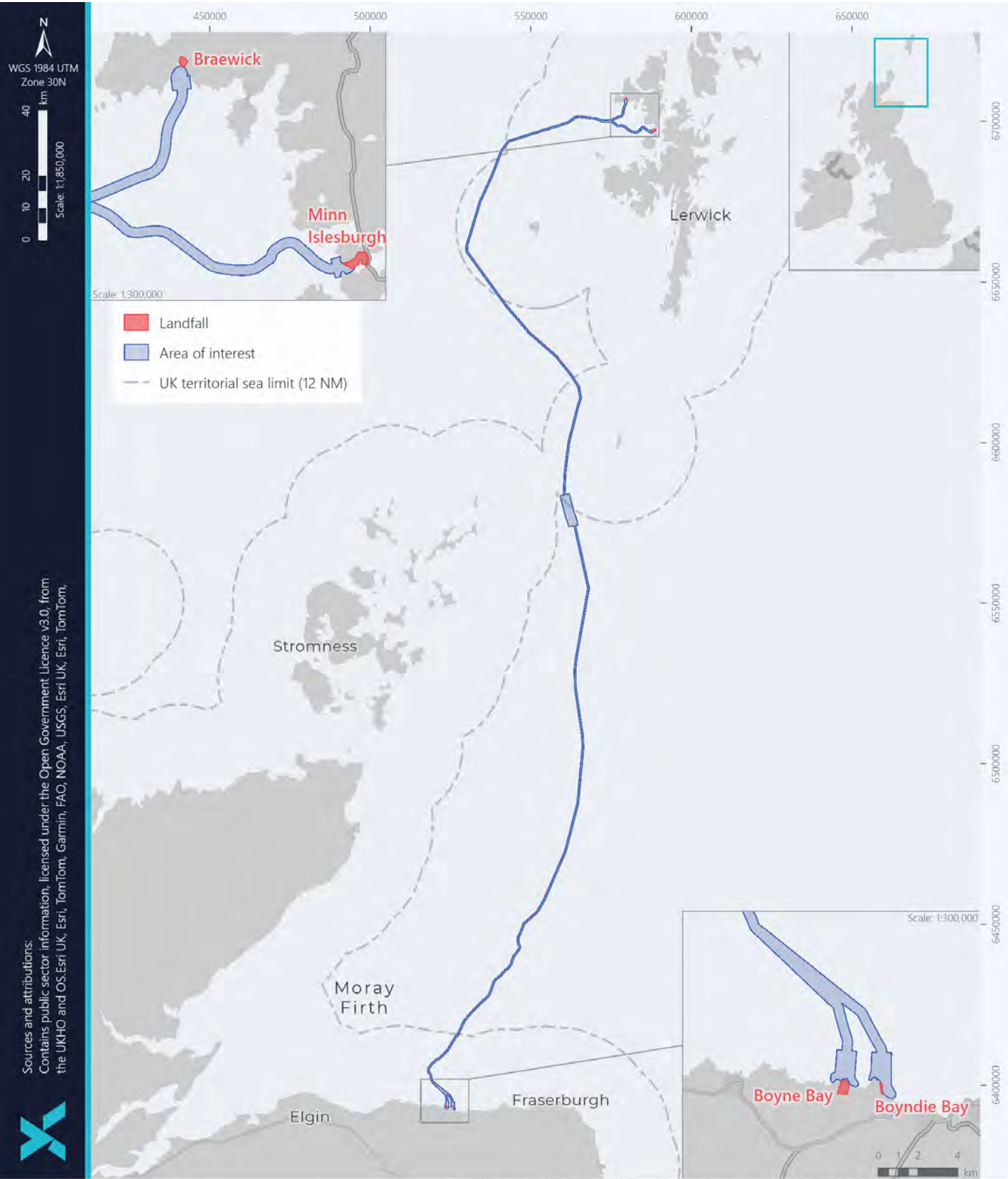
Routes were defined to avoid, where possible, areas of known and predicted hard seabed. There are also localised areas of sandwaves and potentially mobile bedforms identified within the route option corridors.

Geophysical, geotechnical and environmental surveys are conducted to confirm the extent and nature of these features, which will be used to inform detailed route engineering and cable installation methodologies. A notable consideration for all indicative route options is the overlap with designated sites, i.e., MPAs, including the Southern Trench Nature Conservation MPA (NCMPA) on the approach to the Scottish mainland, designated for various features including minke whale and burrowed mud; overlap with the Seas off Foula SPA on the approach to the Shetland mainland, designated for a number of breeding seabirds; and proximity (i.e., within 50 kilometres (km)) of the Moray Firth SAC, designated for features including bottlenose dolphin. The Southern Trench NCMPA is unavoidable, however the corridor identified avoids the trench feature of the NCMPA and mitigations will be in place to avoid impacts to marine mammals including minke whale.

Areas of commercial fishing activity have been identified within the offshore route corridors, and while routeing has sought to minimise overlap with commercial fishing grounds, these features are largely unavoidable given their extent. Moderate to high demersal trawling activity is evident throughout the offshore routes, increasing to high intensities on approach to the Scottish mainland landfalls. Scallop dredging intensity is low to moderate within the offshore cable routes, with an area of higher intensity identified on the approach to the Scottish mainland landfalls. Offshore static gear fishing activity is generally low throughout the cable corridors, with localised areas of higher activity identified to the west of Shetland, and the east of the Orkney Islands.

In terms of existing infrastructure, there are a number of crossings with subsea cables (telecommunications and power cables) throughout the route, including multiple telecommunications cables (e.g., the Shefa 'Shefa 2', Arelion 'Tat14', Aquacomms 'Havfrue', Colt 'Atlantic Crossing 1', BT 'R100') and SSEN Transmission's Shetland HVDC Link cables. There is also a crossing with the Moray East Offshore Wind Farm export cables on the approach to the Scottish mainland landfalls. All route options will overlap with the Piper B 30" oil export pipeline. There are also crossings of the Kirkwall (Hatston) - Lerwick (Holmsgarth) ferry route at and the Aberdeen - Kirkwall (Hatston) ferry route; however, these are open water crossings and therefore do not represent a significant consenting risk.

Routeing also avoids known wrecks and ScotWind lease areas.



Onshore cable route

The onshore cable will run for approximately 30km from the landfall to the substation site.
The cable will be entirely underground, meaning it will not be visible once installation is complete.

As the route is developed, we will work to avoid or minimise impacts to environmental constraints, such as the River Deveron, areas of ecological importance, farmland and existing infrastructure. Where required, specialist construction techniques such as trenchless crossings will be used to minimise disturbance.

Ongoing environmental surveys and engagement with landowners and statutory bodies will ensure the route is delivered responsibly with minimal long-term impact. We will provide an update on the onshore cable route in due course

Strathbogie Hub

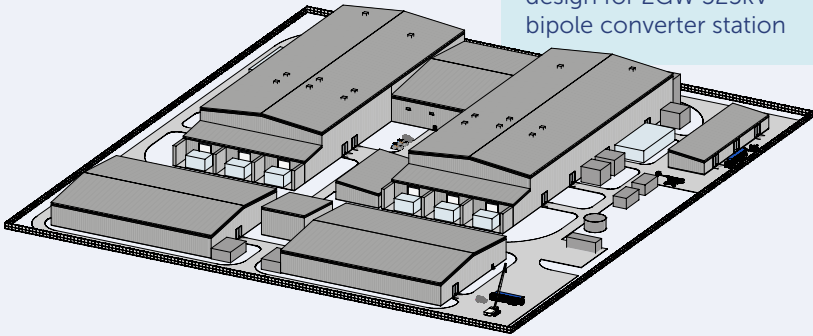
We are proposing a new converter station and substation hub to the north-east of Huntly to facilitate the connection of the Shetland HVDC Link 2 project to the transmission network.

The hub brings together key elements of infrastructure for this project on a single site, including an HVDC converter station, AC substation, substation buildings, terminal tower platforms, lighting, access roads, landscaping and screening, and temporary construction facilities. We held consultation events in May 2026 for the Strathbogie Hub and are grateful for public feedback. The project team have selected two sites, at Cruchie and Rivestone, for detailed assessment, which includes undertaking ground investigations across the sites. We will update the local community and key stakeholders with further information sessions in the months ahead.

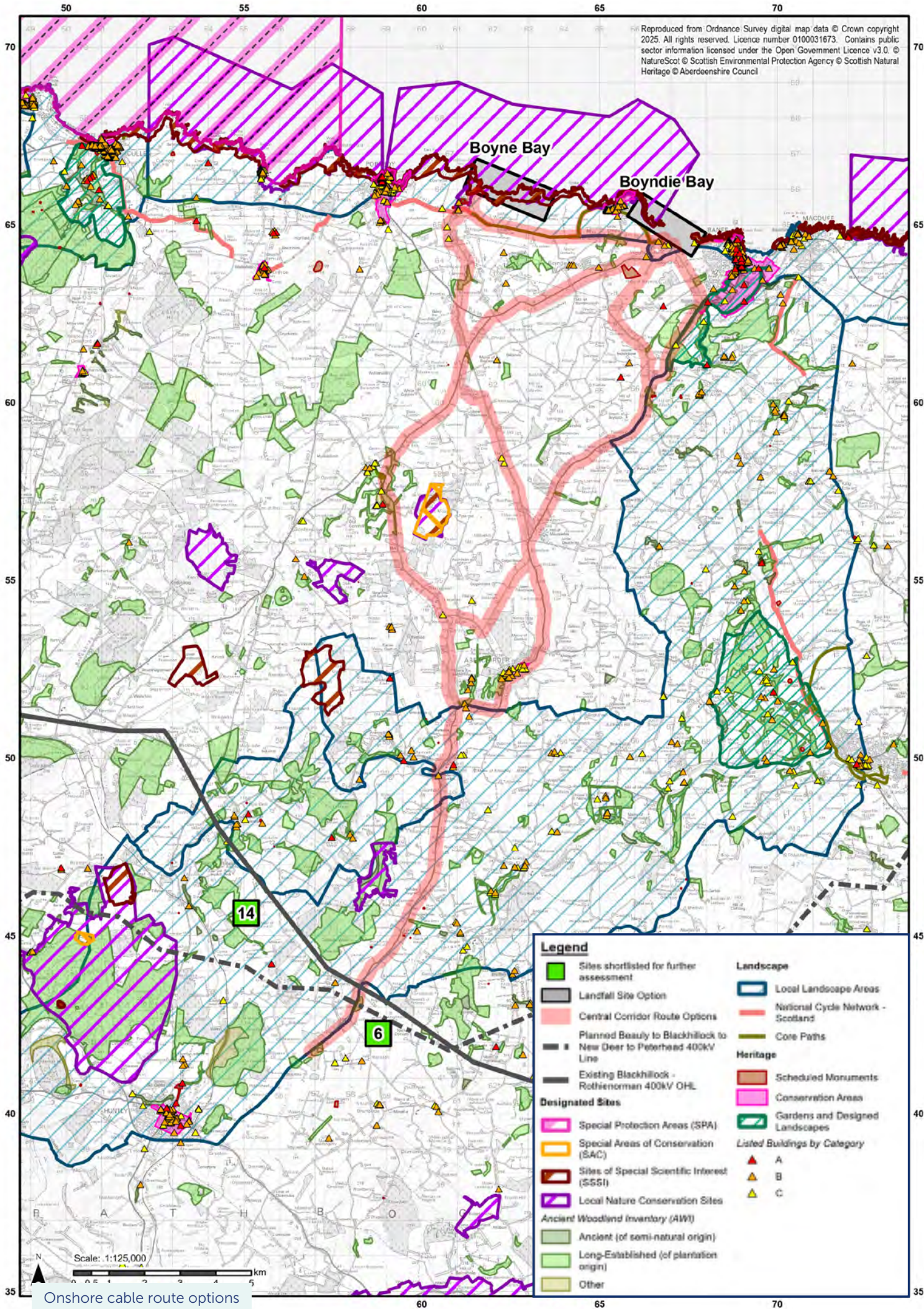
Indicative conceptual design for 2GW 525kV bipole converter station

Overview

- 400kV Substation** - is required in the area to facilitate offshore and onshore electricity generation connections in addition to the connection for the Shetland HVDC Link 2 project. The substation will connect into the 400kV transmission network.
- HVDC Converter Station** - A 2GW bi-pole, 525kV HVDC link is proposed between Aberdeenshire and northern Shetland, enabling the efficient, high-volume transmission of renewable electricity from Shetland and the far north of Scotland directly into the wider UK transmission network. This project element consists of two HVDC converter stations, one at each end of the link, connected via a subsea and underground HVDC cable circuit.

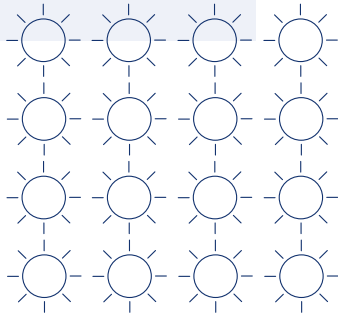


The Kergord HVDC converter station and AC switching station



Onshore cable route options

Indicative landfall areas on Aberdeenshire coast



Building a lasting legacy

SSEN Transmission is committed to leaving a lasting, positive legacy for the Aberdeenshire 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. Recent examples include volunteering with Aberdeenshire North Food Bank and supporting 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 before being 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 Gross Added Value (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 almost 200 staff locally in the last year (including 38 ‘earn as you learn’ roles) 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 regional 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 Eastern Green Link 2 (EGL2), and Pittodrie Pathways at Fraserburgh Academy with Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust. Across our business, we welcomed our largest-ever intake of 59 graduates, and have committed to creating 600 ‘earn as you learn’ roles by 2030.

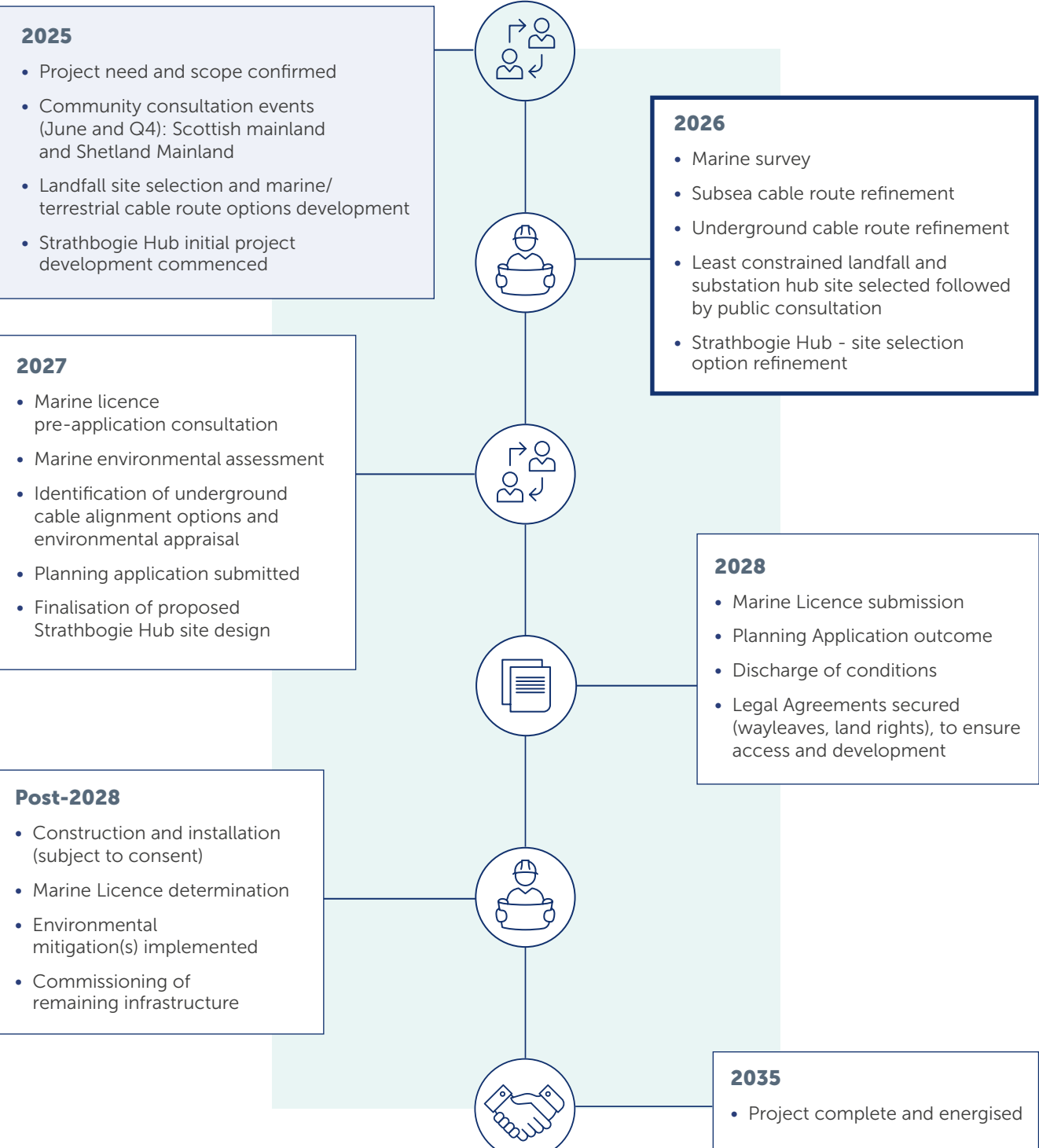
Our supply chain

We run competitive tenders to appoint contractors who share our commitment to delivering positive local outcomes. In Aberdeenshire, we encourage the use of local suppliers and services so project benefits are retained in the north east economy. Recent examples include Entier providing catering at our EGL2 site in Peterhead; David Smith Contractors Ltd (Fraserburgh) securing a major civil engineering contract creating nine new roles; and Nicol of Skene (Westhill) delivering onshore cabling works for the Spittal to Peterhead subsea project. We also apply clear environmental standards, including 10% Biodiversity Net Gain and no net loss of woodland.



Project development next steps

The timeline below sets out the key milestones for the project. Note the dates are indicative and are subject to change.



Next steps

We value community and stakeholder feedback. Without this, we would be unable to progress projects and reach a balanced proposal.

The feedback period

Following our event, a consultation period will open until **6 November 2026**.

How to provide feedback

You can complete our feedback form online, using the feedback form at the back of this booklet or submit feedback in writing or email.

The feedback will be analysed by the project team and a report on consultation produced and published on our website detailing our response to your feedback.

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.

What we're seeking views on

Please share any feedback with us regarding the landfall sites and marine route, shown today.



How to get in touch

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

 shetlandengagement@sse.com

You can also follow us on social media:

 @ssentransmission  SSENTransmission

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/shetland2



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.

Q1. Please provide any site specific information and feedback for the landfall options presented today.

Comments:

Q2. Please provide comment and any additional information regarding the marine route presented within this booklet for the Shetland HVDC link 2 Project.

Comments:



Q3. What suggestions for social or environmental community benefit opportunities do you have that you would like us to consider? Or are there any local initiatives that you would like us to consider supporting?

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: shetlandengagement@sse.com
Online: ssen-transmission.co.uk/shetland2

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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