

Skye Reinforcement Project Gate Check Report

May 2022



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1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Gate Check Report has been prepared by ASH design + assessment Limited (ASH) on behalf of Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (herein referred to as 'SSEN Transmission') operating under licence held by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (the Applicant), who own, operate and develop the high voltage electricity transmission system in the north of Scotland and remote islands. The Applicant submits this report in advance of an application to the Scottish Ministers under Section 37 of The Electricity Act 1989 for consent to construct and operate 110 kilometres (km) of new double circuit steel structure 132 kV overhead transmission line (OHL) between Fort Augustus Substation and Edinbane Substation, and 26 km of new single circuit trident H wood pole (H pole) OHL between Edinbane Substation and Ardmore Substation. In addition, the Applicant is seeking consent for a temporary diversion of the existing 132 kV OHL at Inchlaggan for approximately 750 m to facilitate construction of the new OHL in this location.
- 1.1.2 The project is referred to as the Skye Reinforcement Project (and hereafter as 'the Proposed Development'). The location of the Proposed Development is shown on **Figure 1**. The project is required to replace existing assets that are approaching the end of their operational life and provide additional capacity for new renewable generation. Following completion of the Proposed Development, the existing 132 kV OHL would be dismantled and removed.
- 1.1.3 The application for consent for the Proposed Development will be supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. A Scoping Report setting out the proposed scope of the EIA Report was submitted to the Scottish Ministers in December 2021 with a request for a formal Scoping Opinion¹. A Scoping Opinion was subsequently issued by the Scottish Ministers on 26 April 2022.
- 1.1.4 The purpose of this Gate Check Report is to ensure that the application is in keeping with the Energy Consent Unit's (ECU's) good practice guidance², namely to aid in management of the administrative requirements of the submission by outlining consultations with statutory and non-statutory consultees, engagement with the local community and how matters raised during the scoping process have been dealt with in the EIA Report. This allows further dialogue between the ECU, the Applicant and key consultees to seek feedback on departures from methodologies agreed at Scoping stage, the scope of assessment following any changes since Scoping stage, or highlight any other key matters prior to submission of the application.

1.2 Background to the Project

- 1.2.1 The existing 132 kV OHL from Fort Augustus to Ardmore on the Isle of Skye ('the existing OHL') is the sole connection from the mainland electricity transmission system to Skye and the Western Isles. Recent studies into the condition of the existing OHL have confirmed that the section between Quoich Substation and Ardmore Substation is required to be rebuilt. Furthermore, as a result of an increase in renewable energy projects for which access to the electricity transmission network is being formally requested, there is a requirement to increase the capacity of the existing OHL for the entirety of its length between Ardmore and Fort Augustus. This would in turn support the UK and Scottish Government targets for Net Zero.
- 1.2.2 As a result, SSEN Transmission has analysed the needs case and system planning requirements for the project to ensure the approach for upgrading the transmission network serving Skye ensures that the best sustainable long-term solutions are identified.

¹ Under The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017

² Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (Energy Consents Unit, February 2022)

- 1.2.3 SSEN Transmission has undertaken studies during the route option and alignment selection stages of the project to consider environmental, technical and cost factors prior to selecting a proposed route, alignment and design solution for the Proposed Development. Consultation has been undertaken during both route and alignment selection stages to seek comments from stakeholders, including members of the public, on the options put forward prior to identifying the Proposed Development that is subject to assessment within the EIA Report.

2. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

2.1.1 The Proposed Development would include the following elements, for which section 37 consent under the Electricity Act 1989 and deemed planning consent is sought:

- approximately 110 km of new double circuit 132 kV OHL on steel lattice towers;
- approximately 26 km of new single circuit 132 kV OHL on trident wood poles (H Poles); and
- Temporary diversion of the existing 132 kV OHL at Inchlaggan for approximately 750 m to facilitate construction of the new OHL.

2.1.2 The following elements or works would be required as part of the Proposed Development, or to facilitate its construction and operation, for which deemed planning permission under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 is sought:

- Approximately 24.25 km of new double circuit 132 kV underground cable;
- Sealing end compounds to facilitate the transition between OHL and underground cable, including permanent access to these compounds;
- The formation of access tracks (temporary, permanent and upgrades to existing tracks) and the installation of bridges and culverts to facilitate access;
- The upgrade of existing, or creation of new bellmouths at public road access points;
- Establishment of temporary measures to protect road and water crossings (e.g. scaffolding);
- Working areas around infrastructure to facilitate construction;
- Tree felling and vegetation clearance to facilitate construction and operation of the Proposed Development, to comply with the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations (ESQCR) 2002³; and
- Dismantling of the existing 132 kV OHL following completion and commissioning of the Skye Reinforcement Project.

2.1.3 Other associated works are required to facilitate construction of the Proposed Development, or would occur as a consequence of its construction and operation. These works, listed below, do not form part of the consent application and are therefore not assessed in detail in the EIA Report. However, further detail on some of these elements will be provided where possible.

- Borrow pits and quarries would be required to source stone for the construction of access tracks. Indicative locations and a high level appraisal of these works will be included as an appendix in the EIA Report. Separate planning applications for these works would be sought by the Principal Contractor;
- Temporary construction compounds would be required along the route of the Proposed Development to facilitate its construction. Indicative locations and a high level appraisal of these locations will be included as an appendix in the EIA Report. The final location of site compounds would be confirmed by the Principal Contractor and separate consent sought as required;
- Modification of the existing 11 and 33 kV distribution network in some areas to accommodate the new OHL. These works are likely to comprise short sections of undergrounding within the vicinity of the Proposed Development, and would be undertaken by Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution (SHEPD). Consent would be sought by SHEPD as required; and
- Public road improvements would be required in some areas to facilitate construction traffic. These are largely expected to be undertaken under permitted development rights held by The Highland Council. Further detail on public road improvement works will be included in the Transport Assessment of the EIA Report.

³ The Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations (2002), available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2002/2665/contents/made>

2.1.4 The total length of the new transmission connection would be 160 km in length. An overview of the Proposed Development is shown on **Figure 1**.

2.1.5 Given the length of the project, the EIA Report commonly refers to the seven sections that have been defined and used during the route and alignment stages of the project. These sections are as follows:

- Section 0 – Ardmore to Edinbane;
- Section 1 – Edinbane to North of Sligachan;
- Section 2 – North of Sligachan to Broadford;
- Section 3 – Broadford to Kyle Rhea;
- Section 4 – Kyle Rhea to Loch Cuaich;
- Section 5 – Loch Cuaich to Invergarry; and
- Section 6 – Invergarry to Fort Augustus

2.1.6 **Table 1** below provides a summary of the main elements of the Proposed Development on a section-by-section basis:

Table 1: Summary of Main Elements of the Proposed Development

Section	Design Solution	Other Ancillary / Associated Works
Section 0: Ardmore Substation to Edinbane Substation	Wood pole OHL for the entirety of this section (approximately 27 km). Wood pole structures approximately 13 m in height (including insulators and support), depending on ground conditions.	Temporary construction access, wood pole working areas, formation of new bellmouths off the public road and other public road improvement works as required, construction compounds and tree / vegetation clearance. Dismantling of the existing 132 kV wood pole OHL.
Section 1: Edinbane to North of Sligachan	Steel lattice OHL for the entirety of this section (approximately 20 km in length) from Edinbane Substation to a terminal tower and cable sealing end compound at approximate grid reference 148068 832110.	Temporary and permanent construction access and steel lattice tower working areas, cable sealing end compounds, formation of new bellmouths off the public road and other public road improvement works as required, construction compounds and borrow pits and tree / vegetation clearance. Dismantling of the existing 132 kV wood pole OHL.
Section 2: North of Sligachan to Broadford	Underground cable for approximately 15 km, from a new sealing end compound at approximate grid reference 148068 832110 (as per Section 1) to a new cable sealing end compound near Luib (approximate grid reference 156389 827438). From here, a new steel lattice OHL proposed to Broadford Substation.	Temporary and permanent construction access, underground cable and steel lattice tower working areas, cable sealing end compounds, formation of new bellmouths off the public road and other public road improvement works as required, construction compounds and borrow pits and tree / vegetation clearance. Dismantling of the existing 132 kV wood pole OHL.
Section 3: Broadford to Kyle Rhea	Steel lattice OHL for the entirety of this section (approximately 20 km in length) from Broadford Substation to the existing crossing towers at Kyle Rhea. Due to sensitivities of routeing a new OHL	Temporary and permanent construction access and steel lattice tower working areas, formation of new bellmouths off the public road and other public road improvement works as required, construction compounds and borrow pits and

	through the Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SAC, an alternative option through Glen Arroch and Kylerhea has been given consideration during the EIA process (see Appendix 4.2). This alternative would comprise a new steel lattice OHL from Broadford Substation to the existing OHL crossing towers at Kyle Rhea via Glen Arroch (approximately 20 km in length).	tree / vegetation clearance. Dismantling of the existing 132 kV steel lattice OHL
Section 4: Kyle Rhea to Loch Cuaich	Steel lattice OHL for the entirety of this section (approximately 38 km in length) from the existing crossing towers at Kyle Rhea to Loch Quoich Dam (approximate grid reference 207192 802419).	Temporary and permanent construction access and steel lattice tower working areas, formation of new bellmouths off the public road and other public road improvement works as required, construction compounds and borrow pits and tree / vegetation clearance. Dismantling of the existing 132 kV steel lattice OHL.
Section 5: Loch Cuaich to Invergarry	Steel lattice OHL for the entirety of this section (approximately 23 km in length) from Loch Quoich Dam (approximate grid reference 206992 802484) to a new cable sealing end compound near Loch Lundie (approximate grid reference 251139 805410).	Temporary and permanent construction access and steel lattice tower working areas, formation of new bellmouths off the public road and other public road improvement works as required, construction compounds and borrow pits and tree / vegetation clearance. Dismantling of the existing 132 kV wood pole (Quoich to Aberchalder) OHL and steel lattice towers.
Section 6: Invergarry to Fort Augustus	An underground cable for the entirety of this section, from a new cable sealing end compound near Loch Lundie (approximate grid reference 251139 805410) to Fort Augustus Substation, a distance of approximately 9.5 km.	Temporary and permanent construction access, underground cable working areas, cable sealing end compounds, construction compounds and borrow pits and tree / vegetation clearance. Dismantling of the existing 132 kV wood pole (Fort Augustus to Skye Tee) OHL.

2.2 Other Related Works

2.2.1 The Skye Reinforcement Project would give rise to a need to upgrade some of the existing substation infrastructure along the route of the new OHL. Further modifications would also be required to existing substations due to asset condition and the need to provide capacity to connect generation proposed on the Isle of Skye. The proposed substation works are summarised below:

- Broadford Substation: Installation of a new 132 kV indoor switching station, a new 132/33 kV transformer, outdoor circuit breakers and indoor reactive compensation measures at the existing Broadford Substation site; and
- Edinbane Substation: Installation of a new 132 kV indoor switching station and establishment of a new indoor substation at the existing Edinbane Substation site.

2.2.2 These works will be assessed as part of separate applications for planning permission under the Town and County Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).

2.2.3 In addition, there would be a requirement for a new switching station at Quoich Tee, near to the existing tee off at Kingie. This project would be developed separately by others and does not form part of this project.

- 2.2.4 Modification of the existing 11 and 33 kV distribution network in some areas is also likely to be required to accommodate the new OHL. These details are not known at this stage.
- 2.2.5 Cumulative effects between these projects, and where details of other works are known or can reasonably be anticipated, and the Proposed Development will be considered in the EIA Report where appropriate.

3. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

- 3.1.1 The Proposed Development has been subject to a route and alignment selection process, informed by SSEN Transmission's guidance⁴ which provides a framework to ensure environmental, technical and economic considerations are identified and appraised at each stage of the routeing process. This has also included the consideration of alternative technology solutions, including underground and subsea cable.
- 3.1.2 The route and alignment process has been documented as follows:
- SSEN Transmission, (March 2020): Skye Reinforcement Project Consultation Document: Route Options.
 - SSEN Transmission, (November 2020): Report on Consultation - Route Options: Skye Reinforcement Project.
 - SSEN Transmission, (September 2021): Skye Reinforcement Project Consultation Document: Alignment Selection.
 - SSEN Transmission (March 2022): Skye Reinforcement Project Report on Consultation: Alignment Selection
- 3.1.3 A summary of the alternatives considered during the route and alignment process, as well as further, more site specific alternatives considered during the EIA process, will be set out within the EIA Report.
- 3.1.4 Within Section 3 of the project, through the Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SAC, whilst a preferred alignment and design solution has been identified, as reported within the Consultation Document: Alignment Selection (September 2021), the sensitivities within this area of the project through this SAC are such that the alternative route option through Glen Arroch (referred to in route and alignment consultation documents as Route Option 3B) remains under consideration whilst the adverse effects on the SAC, and other factors, are fully determined.
- 3.1.5 As such, this alternative route option will be assessed through the EIA and Habitats Regulation Appraisal process in combination with the preferred alignment.

⁴ SSEN Transmission (March 2018), Procedures for Routeing Overhead Lines of 132kV and above (updated in September 2020)

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 Scoping

- 4.1.1 A Scoping Opinion was sought⁵ from Scottish Ministers on the environmental information to be provided in the EIA Report. A Scoping Opinion was subsequently issued by the Scottish Ministers 26 April 2022. The responses, contained within the Scoping Opinion, were considered in detail during the EIA process. **Appendix 1** of this report includes a matrix detailing the key issues that were raised in the Scoping Opinion and how and where they will be addressed in the EIA Report. The scoping matrix will be included in the EIA Report.

4.2 Key Scoping Issues

- 4.2.1 The Scoping Opinion made reference to site specific issues of interest to the Scottish Ministers, to be considered and addressed in addition to those laid out in responses from consultees. The issues raised were as follows.

EIA Consultation and Scope

“Scottish Ministers expect the EIA report which will accompany the application for the Proposed Development to consider in full all consultation responses attached [to the Scoping Opinion]. Scottish Ministers are broadly content with the EIA set out at Sections 6 to 16 of the Scoping Report.”

- 4.2.2 A Scoping Matrix will be appended to the EIA Report summarising all consultation comments received as part of EIA Scoping and where these are addressed within the EIA Report, where relevant.

Drinking Water and Scottish Water Assets

“Scottish Water provided information on whether there are any drinking water protected areas or Scottish Water assets on which the development could have any significant effect. Scottish Ministers request that the company contacts Scottish Water...and makes further enquiries to confirm whether there are any Scottish Water assets which may be affected by the development, and includes details in the EIA report of any relevant mitigation measures to be provided.

“Scottish Ministers request that the Company investigates the presence of any private water supplies which may be impacted by the development. The EIA report should include details of any supplies identified by this investigation, and if any supplies are identified, the Company should provide an assessment of the potential impacts, risks, and any mitigation which would be provided.”

- 4.2.3 Scottish Water have been contacted to request information on any assets within proximity of the Proposed Development. A combination of desk studies and site survey work has been undertaken to ascertain the presence of any private water supplies which could be impacted by the Proposed Development. The Water Environment chapter of the EIA Report will contain details of any assets and / or private water supplies identified, assess likely impacts and set out suitable mitigation measures, where required.

Aquatic Ecology

“In addition to identifying the main watercourses and waterbodies within and downstream of the proposed development area, developers should identify and consider, at this early stage, any areas of Special Areas of Conservation where fish are a qualifying feature and proposed felling operations particularly in acid sensitive areas.

⁵ In December 2021 under The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017

"[Marine Science Scotland] also provide standing advice for overhead line development...which outlines what information, relating to freshwater and diadromous fish and fisheries, is expected in the EIA report. Use of the checklist provided, should ensure that the EIA report contains the required information; the absence of such information may necessitate requesting additional information which may delay the process. Developers are required to submit the completed checklist in advance of their application submission."

- 4.2.4 Potential effects on fish and aquatic ecology will be considered within the Ecology chapter of the EIA Report. As noted in the Scoping Report, with the implementation of best practice construction methodology and pollution prevention measures as part of the CEMP, and the presence of an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) or other suitably qualified ecological consultant to carry out pre-construction surveys or checks in line with an approved SPP at notable water crossings or where underground cabling of watercourses is proposed during the spawning or egg incubation period, significant effects are not anticipated. Fish habitat surveys have been undertaken within Sections 2 and 6 of the project where underground cabling works are proposed. The results of these surveys, together with any further mitigation measures, will be provided in the EIA Report. The checklist referred to will be completed and provided to Marine Science Scotland.

Peat Landslide Risk

"Scottish Ministers consider that where there is demonstrable requirement for peat landslide hazard and risk assessment (PLHRA), the assessment should be undertaken as part of the EIA process to provide Ministers with a clear understanding of whether the risks are acceptable and capable of being controlled by mitigation measures. The Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments: Best Practice Guide for Proposed Electricity Generation Developments (Second Edition)...should be followed in the preparation of the EIA report, which should contain such assessment and details of mitigation measures."

"The Scoping Report was referred to Ironside Farrar commissioned by the ECU to provide advice regarding PLHRA and relative to the potential for risks posed by peat slides. Scottish Ministers agree with Ironside Farrar that a PLHRA will be required. Please note Ironside Farrar's comments in regards to PLHRA"

- 4.2.5 A PLHRA will be prepared for the Proposed Development, where required and in line with Ironside Farrar's comments, and will form part of the EIA Report.

Visualisation Viewpoints

"The scoping report identified viewpoints at Table 6.9 that will be prepared to inform and support the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment ('LVIA'). Please note the Highland Council's detailed comments and requests in regards to the assessment of Landscape and Visual Impacts including additional viewpoint locations and also NatureScot and HES responses requesting additional viewpoint locations."

- 4.2.6 Photomontage visualisations of the Proposed Development will be prepared to inform and support the LVIA within the EIA Report, with viewpoint location selections based on guidance, professional judgement and in light of comments received from both THC and NatureScot. Additional visualisations will be prepared to inform the cultural heritage assessment, based on comments from HES.

Further Consultation and Design Alternatives

"Ministers expect Company's [sic] to carry out adequate pre-application consultation and to demonstrate what alternatives to the proposal were considered before arriving at the design they apply for. Ministers agree with the Planning Authority that the EIA should include a description of the main development alternatives which are relevant to the proposal and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects."

"Ministers are aware that further engagement is required between parties regarding the refinement of the design of the proposed development regarding, among other things, surveys, management plans, peat, finalisation of viewpoints, cultural heritage, cumulative assessments and request that they are kept informed of relevant discussions."

- 4.2.7 The EIA Report will set out the alternative options considered and will discuss the reasons for identifying a proposed alignment and design solution. Pre-application consultation has been carried out throughout the project, particularly during the route and alignment selections stages, and continuing through the EIA stage. Details of pre-application consultation will be included in the EIA Report.

Mitigation Measures

"The Scottish Ministers are required to make a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the proposed development on the environment as identified in the environmental impact assessment. The mitigation measures suggested for any significant environmental impacts identified should be presented as a conclusion to each chapter. Applicants are also asked to provide a consolidated schedule of all mitigation measures proposed in the environmental assessment, provided in tabular form, where that mitigation is relied upon in relation to reported conclusions of likelihood or significance."

- 4.2.8 Mitigation measures, where required, will be set out within each technical chapter and summarised in tabular form within a Schedule of Mitigation as part of the EIA Report.

4.3 Community Engagement

- 4.3.1 In parallel with the statutory consultation process, consultation with the local community has been undertaken to inform and keep the local community up to date with the Proposed Development throughout the evolution of the project. An overview of public engagement during the routeing and alignment selection stages is given below.

Routeing Stage

- 4.3.2 Following publication of the Consultation Document⁶ in March 2020 at route options stage, it had been intended to hold face to face consultation events at several locations along the route. However, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in accordance with Scottish Government's Guidance on pre-application consultation for major planning applications⁷ during the COVID-19 emergency period⁸, these events had to be cancelled. To continue engagement on the project at this stage, SSEN Transmission developed an online consultation tool and hosted⁹ virtual consultation events during June 2020, to enable the local community and stakeholders to experience the full exhibition from home on a computer, tablet or mobile device. These events were held at the following dates and times:

- 09 June 2020; 14:00 – 16:00;
- 10 June 2020; 10:00 – 12:00; and
- 11 June 2020; 18:00 – 20:00.

- 4.3.3 The virtual consultation events were advertised in the Press and Journal (Highlands & Islands) on 05 June 2020, via local radio advertising campaigns and through social media. Local Councillors, Ward Managers and Community Councils along the route were also informed.

- 4.3.4 All contacts from previous events and members of the public signing up for project updates from the project webpage were emailed about the virtual consultation events.

⁶ Skye Reinforcement Project: Consultation Document: Route Options (March 2020), produced by SSEN Transmission

⁷ Public events and pre-application consultation is not a statutory requirement for Electricity Act applications, but the Scottish Government consider such engagement to be important for large scale projects and direct Applicants of such projects to the relevant advice on pre-application engagement for major planning applications.

⁸ Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-planning-guidance-on-pre-application-consultations-for-public-events/> (last accessed 25/03/22)

⁹ Via the project website <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/skye-reinforcement/>

- 4.3.5 The virtual consultation events provided an opportunity for members of the public to view information about the project, ask questions via a live chat function and provide feedback.
- 4.3.6 A feedback form was provided on the portal and all visitors were invited to complete this.
- 4.3.7 Visitor counts during the virtual consultation event recorded 60 visitors to the three interactive sessions, of these 54 visitors asked questions to the project team via the live chat function. Over a period of 30 days to 30 June 2020, 4,555 unique visitors to the virtual portal were recorded.
- 4.3.8 The comments and queries raised during routeing stage public engagement were detailed in a subsequent Report on Consultation¹⁰.

Alignment Selection Stage

- 4.3.9 During the alignment selection stage, public consultation events were held in September and October 2021, following publication of a Consultation Document¹¹, at venues throughout the route from Dunvegan to Fort Augustus, at the following dates and times:
- 28 September 2021: Dunvegan Community Hall, 15:00 – 19:00;
 - 29 September 2021: Broadford Village Hall, 15:00 – 19:00;
 - 30 September 2021: Glenelg Village Hall, 15:00 – 19:00;
 - 04 October 2021: Kyleakin Village Hall, 15:00 – 19:00;
 - 05 October 2021: Glengarry Community Hall, 15:00 – 19:00; and
 - 06 October 2021: Fort Augustus Village Hall, 15:00 – 19:00.
- 4.3.10 Virtual consultation events were also held via the project webpage on 13 October 2021 between 13.00 – 15.00 and 17.00 – 19.00.
- 4.3.11 The consultation events were advertised using various platforms: local newspapers, the West Highland Free Press, the Press and Journal, SSEN Transmission's social media channels, Facebook and Twitter and the dedicated project webpage. In addition, a postcard was delivered to 9,194 homes and businesses within the locale advertising the dates, times and locations of the face to face and virtual consultation events.
- 4.3.12 Visitor counts during the virtual consultation events recorded 67 unique users (individual devices accessing the site) and 120 page views (the number of different pages loaded across the site) across the two interactive sessions. Only one chat was initiated with the project team via the live chat function to raise one query. In addition, one associated follow up email was received by SSEN Transmission further to the virtual consultation events.
- 4.3.13 As per the routeing stage, the comments and queries raised during alignment selection stage public engagement were detailed in a Report on Consultation¹².

4.4 Community Councils

- 4.4.1 Throughout the evolution of the project, SSEN Transmission has maintained dialogue with all community and ward councils along the route and has sought to keep members up to date on project progress, and any upcoming consultation events. SSEN Transmission has also attended a number of meetings with THC ward councils and councillors, including:

¹⁰ Skye Reinforcement Project: Report on Consultation (November 2020), produced by SSEN Transmission

¹¹ Skye Reinforcement Project: Consultation Document: Alignment Selection (September 2021), produced by SSEN Transmission

¹² Skye Reinforcement Project: Report on Consultation (March 2022), produced by SSEN Transmission

- 07 December 2020: Ward 10 (Eilean a' Cheò) Council meeting;
- 08 February 2021: Ward 11 (Caol and Mallaig) Council and Ward 21 (Fort William and Ardnamurchan) Council meeting;
- 15 February 2021: Ward 10 Council meeting;
- 22 March 2021: Ward 10 Council meeting;
- 21 July 2021: Fort Augustus Community Liaison Group, including Fort Augustus Community Council;
- 16 August 2021: Ward 10 Council meeting;
- 12 December 2021: Ward 11 Council, Ward 21 Council and Ward 12 (Aird and Loch Ness) Council meeting;
- 19 January 2022: Fort Augustus Community Liaison Group, including Fort Augustus Community Council;
- 09 March 2022: Fort Augustus Community Liaison Group, including Fort Augustus Community Council; and
- 11 April 2022: Ward 10 Council meeting.

5. SUBMISSION INFORMATION

5.1 Submission

5.1.1 It is the intention to submit a Section 37 application for the Proposed Development in July 2022.

5.2 Advertisement

5.2.1 In accordance with the Electricity (Applications for Consent) Regulations 1990, and Regulation 14 of the EIA Regulations, the application will be advertised in the Edinburgh Gazette, a national newspaper and a local newspaper (to be agreed in consultation with ECU).

5.2.2 In agreement with the ECU, the advert will describe the application, state where copies of the EIA Report are located, state a date by which any persons can make representations to the Scottish Ministers in relation to the application, and the address to where representations are to be sent.

5.3 Public Viewing of EIA Report

5.3.1 In accordance with The Electricity Works (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020, the EIA Report prepared to support the Section 37 application for the Proposed Development will not be made readily available in hard copy format for public viewing.

5.3.2 The EIA Report, together with the notice of the application, will instead be available on SSEN Transmission's website: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/skye-reinforcement/>. A hard copy will however be provided for the Scottish Government Library at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh (EH6 6QQ) and statutory consultees as required. Further copies will be available from SSEN Transmission at a charge.

5.4 Consultee Lists

5.4.1 The list of consultees to be sent a copy of the submitted EIA Report will be agreed with the ECU. It is anticipated to include those consultees consulted during the scoping process, and any other stakeholders the Applicant or ECU are aware of with a potential interest in the project or its potential effects, as noted in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Consultees to be Issued the EIA Report

Statutory Consultees	
ECU	SEPA
The Highland Council	NatureScot
Historic Environment Scotland	Transport Scotland
Scottish Forestry	Marine Scotland Science
Non Statutory Consultees	
British Horse Society	Nuclear Safety Directorate (HSE)
British Telecommunications plc	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Civil Aviation Authority (Airspace)	RSPB Scotland
Crown Estate Scotland*	Scottish Executive Environment & Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD)
Defence Infrastructure Organisation	Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays)
Fisheries Management Scotland	Scottish Water
Highlands and Islands Airport Ltd	Scottish Wild Land Group (SWLG)
John Muir Trust	Scottish Wildlife Trust
Joint Radio Company	Skye and Lochalsh Environment Forum
Mountaineering Scotland	The Woodland Trust Scotland
NATS Safeguarding	Visit Scotland
Ness District Salmon Fishery Board	West of Scotland Archaeology Service
Community Councils and Local Groups	
Broadford and Strath Community Council	Kylerhea Community Forum
Dunvegan Community Council	Portree Community Council
Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Council	Sconser Community Council
Glenelg and Arnisdale Community Council	Struan Community Council
Glengarry Community Council	Waternish Community Council
Kyleakin and Kylerhea Community Council	

Appendix 1: Scoping Matrix

Abbreviations

BHS	British Horse Society
ECU	Energy Consents Unit
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
HIAL	Highlands and Islands Airports Limited
IF	Ironside Farrar
IOSF	International Otter Survival Fund
MOD	Ministry of Defence
NATS	National Air Traffic Society
NDSFB	Ness District Salmon Fishery Board
NS	NatureScot
ONR	Office for Nuclear Regulation
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SW	Scottish Water
THC	The Highland Council
TS	Transport Scotland
WT	Woodland Trust
IOSF	International Otter Survival Fund

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
1	Scoping Consultations	Scottish Ministers expect the EIA Report to consider in full all consultation responses included with the Scoping Opinion.	ECU01	6	Throughout the EIA Report	All consultation responses received are summarised within this Scoping Matrix and addressed throughout the EIA Report, where relevant.
2	EIA Scope	Scottish Ministers are broadly content with the EIA set out in Sections 6 to 16 of the EIA Scoping Report.	ECU02	6	Throughout the EIA Report	This has been noted.
3	Scottish Water Assets	Scottish Water provided information in relation to the presence of any drinking water protected areas or Scottish Water assets on which the Proposed Development could have any significant effect. Scottish Ministers request that the Applicant contact Scottish Water directly to confirm whether there are any Scottish Water assets which may be affected by the development and include details in the EIA Report of any relevant mitigation measures to be provided.	ECU03	6	Water Environment Chapter	Scottish Water have been contacted directly to obtain information on drinking water protected areas and assets. The water environment chapter will assess potential impacts on the water environment and will identify any relevant mitigation measures.
4	Private Water Supplies	Scottish Ministers request that the Applicant investigates the presence of any private water supplies which may be impacted by the Proposed Development, and detail these within the EIA Report along with assessment of likely impacts. Mitigation measures should be proposed, where necessary.	ECU04	6	Water Environment Chapter	The presence of any private water supplies along the route have been determined through site survey, and likely impacts from the Proposed Development will be set out in the noted chapter. Mitigation measures will be proposed, where relevant.

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5	MSS EIA Guidance	Marine Science Scotland (MSS) provide generic scoping guidelines for OHL development which outline how fish populations can be impacted during construction, operation and decommissioning. The guidelines inform developers as to what should be considered during the EIA Process.	ECU05	7	Ecology Chapter	The potential effects on fish and any relevant mitigation will be considered in the ecology chapter. Fish habitat surveys have been undertaken in Section 2 and 6 of the project where underground cable is proposed.
6	Impacts on Fish Populations	In addition to identifying the main watercourses and waterbodies within and downstream of the Proposed Development area, the Applicant should identify and consider any Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) where fish are a qualifying feature. The Applicant should also consider proposed felling operations, particularly in acid sensitive areas.	ECU06	7	Ecology, Water Environment and Forestry Chapters	Potential effects on SACs are considered primarily in the ecology and water environment chapters. The potential effects of felling are also considered in these chapters, based on the felling requirements set out within the forestry chapter and associated appendices.
7	MSS Information Requirements	The EIA Report should make use of the checklist in MSS's standing advice for OHL development to ensure the required information is provided. The absence of this information may necessitate a request for additional information which may delay the determination process. The Applicant is required to submit the completed checklist in advance of submission of the application.	ECU07	7	Ecology Chapter	The checklist will be completed and provided to MSS.
8	Peat Landslide	Where there is a demonstrable	ECU08	7	Geology and	A PLHRA is being carried out as part of the

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	Hazard Risk Assessment Requirement	requirement for peat landslide hazard risk assessment (PLHRA), the assessment should be undertaken as part of the EIA process.			Soils Environment Chapter	EIA Report and will be included as an appendix to the geology and soils environment chapter.
9	Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment Consultation	The EIA Scoping Report was referred to Ironside Farrar to provide advice regarding PLHRA. Scottish Ministers agree with Ironside Farrar that a PLHRA is required.	ECU09	7	Geology and Soils Environment Chapter	A PLHRA is being carried out as part of the EIA Report and will be included as an appendix to the geology and soils environment chapter.
10	Landscape and Visual Impact - Viewpoints	The EIA Scoping Report identified viewpoints in Table 6.9 that will be prepared to inform and support the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). THC's detailed comments and requests in relation to viewpoints and the LVIA should be noted, alongside additional viewpoint requests from NatureScot and HES.	ECU10	7	Landscape and Visual, and Cultural Heritage Chapters	The LVIA chapter will identify and describe the viewpoints used for production of photomontage visualisations to support and inform the LVIA. Consultation with THC and NS on viewpoint selection has been carried out. The cultural heritage assessment will also include a selection of wireframes / visualisations to support the assessment.
11	Alternatives	Scottish Ministers expect the Applicant to carry out adequate pre-application consultation and demonstrate the alternatives considered for the Proposed Development prior to arriving at the final design. The EIA Report should include a description of the main alternatives and a discussion of the main reasons for selection of the chosen option, including comparison of environmental effects.	ECU11	7	Routeing Process and Alternatives, and Scope and Consultation Chapters	The alternative options considered and the reasons for identifying a proposed alignment and design solution will be set out in the EIA Report, together with details of pre-application consultation.

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12	Schedule of Mitigation	The mitigation measures suggested for any significant environmental impact identified should be presented as a conclusion to each chapter. The Applicant is also asked to provide a consolidated schedule of all mitigation measures presented in the EIA Report in tabular form.	ECU12	8	Throughout the EIA Report Schedule of Mitigation	Mitigation measures will be included where relevant in each technical chapter. A consolidated Schedule of Mitigation will also be presented as an appendix to the EIA Report.
13	Further Consultation	It is acknowledged that the EIA process is iterative and further engagement between relevant parties may be required to refine the design of the Proposed Development. Scottish Ministers request they are kept informed of on-going discussions in relation to this.	ECU13	8	N/A	This has been noted. The Energy Consents Unit will be kept informed of any further discussions with consultees.
14	ECU Consultation	The Applicant is encouraged to engage with the ECU at the pre-application stage and before proposals reach design freeze.	ECU14	8	Scope and Consultation	The Applicant has engaged with the ECU during the pre-application stages. Pre-application consultation will be set out within the noted chapter of the EIA Report.
15	Scoping Matrix	When finalising the EIA Report, the Applicant is asked to provide a summary in tabular form of where within the EIA Report each of the specific matters raised in the Scoping Opinion have been addressed.	ECU15	9	Scoping Matrix	This Scoping Matrix addresses the noted request and will be included as part of the EIA Report.
16	OHL EIA Report	THC require that the EIA Report must include: a. a description of the physical characteristics of the whole	THC01	13	Project Description and Technical Chapters	The Project Description chapter will detail the specific elements of the Proposed Development. The following confirms where each point listed in THC's response will be

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		<p>development and the full land-use requirements during the operational, construction and decommissioning of the existing OHL and associated infrastructure to be replaced;</p> <p>b. a plan with eight figure OS Grid co-ordinates for all main elements of the proposal should be supplied. A horizontal and vertical Limit of Deviation should also be set out for each section of the line.;</p> <p>c. a description of the main characteristics of the construction process, for instance, nature and quantity of the materials used;</p> <p>d. the risk of accidents, having regard in particular to ground conditions, substances or technologies used;</p> <p>e. an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation, etc.) resulting from the construction and operation of the development; and</p> <p>f. the estimated cumulative impact of the project with other consented or operational major developments, including those to be connected and served by the proposed development,</p>			<p>where relevant</p>	<p>addressed:</p> <p>a. Project Description chapter;</p> <p>b. Proposed Development figures will illustrate all main elements of the Proposed Development, including the horizontal Limit of Deviation (LoD). The vertical LoD is discussed within the Project Description chapter;</p> <p>c. Project Description chapter;</p> <p>d. The potential for accidents and disasters will be discussed in the Scope and Consultation chapter, confirming that crisis management and continuity plans are in place across the SSE Group to respond to such events;</p> <p>e. This will be discussed in relevant chapters of the EIA Report; and</p> <p>f. The potential for cumulative impacts are considered within each technical chapter of the EIA Report, where relevant.</p>

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		as well as the upgrading of connecting substation infrastructure irrespective of these projects undergoing a separate consenting regime.				
17	Consideration of Alternatives	<p>THC require a statement outlining the alternatives studied by the Applicant, and indication of the reasons for the final choice. This should highlight the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • range of technologies considered; • route alignment process, criteria and economic parameters; • options for construction and operational access, means of transportation and ground disturbance; • design and locational options for all elements of the development; and • environmental effects of the different options considered. 	THC02	14	Routeing Process and Alternatives Chapter	A description of the route and alignment selection stage of the project, together with other alternatives considered during the EIA process, will be included in a routeing process and alternatives chapter.
18	Assessment	The EIA Report must provide a description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected.	THC03	14	Throughout the EIA Report	The assessment of the Proposed Development is undertaken throughout
19	Land Use and Policy	THC require that the EIA Report should recognise the existing land uses affected by the development having particular regard for THC's Development Plan	THC04	14	Planning and Energy Policy Context Chapter; and	These policy documents will be referenced within the noted Chapter and the Planning Statement which accompanies the EIA Report.

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		inclusive of all statutorily adopted Supplementary Guidance (SG). This is in addition to the expectation of receiving a Planning Statement in support of the application itself which, should comply with the Development Plan, should look at Scottish Planning Policy and Planning Advice Notes.			Planning Statement	
20	Sustainability	<p>THC require a Sustainable Design Statement. The application should include a statement on how the development is likely to contribute to the Scottish Government Energy Efficient Scotland roadmap and provide the Highlands with secure and clean electricity supplies.</p> <p>There should be assessment of future energy storage solutions and Hydrogen production in informing project need, as well as explanation of the electricity network benefits of the proposals.</p> <p>A strategy for the provision of electric vehicle charging points at certain points on the network should also be considered.</p>	THC05	14, 15	Project Need and Strategy	<p>A Project Need and Strategy chapter will explain the requirements and drivers for the Proposed Development.</p> <p>It is not proposed to submit a separate Sustainable Design Statement given such documents are targeted at housing developments. However, sustainable design principles will be discussed in the EIA Report and Planning Statement, where relevant.</p>
21	Landscape and Visual	<p>THC expect the EIA report to consider the landscape and visual impact of the development by:</p> <p>a. showing separate assessment and presentation of landscape and visual impacts and material;</p>	THC06	15, 16	Landscape and Visual Chapter	<p>The EIA Report will include a landscape and visual assessment. The following confirms where each point listed in THC's response will be addressed:</p> <p>a. The assessment of landscape and visual</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. showing single frame images with 50 mm and 75 mm focal lengths; c. having photomontages in accordance with the principles set out within THC's Visualisation Standards; d. having separate hard copy volumes of visualisations to both Highland Council Standards and NatureScot guidance. THC suggest it would be helpful to be provided with a A3 leaver arch folder for ease of use for fieldwork; e. using monochrome for specific viewpoints where there are a number of different intervening features in the view or where proposals are viewed alongside other visible structures including wind turbines and OHLs; f. including the expected impact of on-site borrow pits and access roads; and g. including the finalised list of Viewpoints (VP) and wireframes as agreed in advance with THC and NatureScot; <p>THC also made the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> h. it is kept in mind whether a VP is representative or specific and also who the receptors are; i. any pre-application discussions with the local community take into account that Community Council's may request 				<p>effects will be undertaken separately;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Visualisations will be prepared in accordance with both THC Visualisation Standards and NatureScot guidance; c. As above; d. As above. Hard copies will be provided; e. The requirement for monochrome visualisations is yet to be determined, but will be considered as visualisations are finalised; f. Ancillary works will be included in visualisations, where relevant; g. The finalised list of viewpoints will be agreed with THC and NatureScot; h. This has been considered when determining viewpoint locations; i. This is noted. No additional viewpoint locations were suggested by Community Council's; j. This is noted on the visualisation (THC set); k. The LVIA will consider all recreational interests within the defined study area. Furthermore, a Socio-economic, Recreation and Tourism assessment will consider the potential impact on, and mitigation for, public access within the vicinity of the Proposed Development; and l. The LVIA includes a cumulative assessment.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> j. additional viewpoints; the purpose of the selected and agreed viewpoints should be clearly identified, for example whether for visual or landscape assessment; k. when assessing impacts on recreational routes, core paths, the national cycle network, long distance trails should be assessed; and l. Cumulative impact will need to be considered. 				
22	Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	<p>THC require that the EIA Report include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. a full assessment on the impact of the development on peat, including peat probing for all areas where development is proposed; b. carbon balance calculations should be undertaken and included within the EIA Report; c. a full description of the likely significant effects of the development on the local geology including aspects such as borrow pits, earthworks, site restoration and the soil generally including direct effects and any indirect; d. where borrow pits are proposed, details including location, size, nature and the final reinstated profile should be provided; e. assessment of impacts on 	THC07	16, 17, 18	<p>Water Environment Chapter</p> <p>Geology and Soils Environment Chapter</p>	<p>Details on the geology, soils and hydrogeology of the area associated with the Proposed Development, and any expected effects, will be provided in the noted chapters. The following confirms where each point listed in THC's response will be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A peat probing campaign has been carried out across the project to establish peat depth and appropriate mitigation. A Peat Management Plan will be provided; b. The potential loss of carbon associated with the Proposed Development will be considered within the Geology and Soils Environment chapter, and associated appendices; c. This will be included in the Geology and Soils Environment chapter; d. Borrow pits are not included within the section 37 consent application, and

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		<p>watercourses, lochs, groundwater, other water features and sensitive receptors, such as water supplies;</p> <p>f. a systematic table of all watercourse crossings or channelising, with detailed justification for any such elements and design to minimise impact accompanied by photography;</p> <p>g. The EIA Report should provide information on, and the need for, abstractions of water supplies for concrete works or other operations; and</p> <p>h. details of onsite survey to identify any private water supplies or private drainage schemes (septic tanks) and details of the measures proposed to prevent contamination or physical disruption of them.</p>				<p>therefore not considered in detail within this EIA Report. However, indicative locations will be provided, together with an initial appraisal of anticipated volume, and potential environmental effects at each location;</p> <p>e. This will be provided in the Water Environment chapter;</p> <p>f. A schedule of permanent water course crossings will be provided;</p> <p>g. This will be considered in the Water Environment chapter; and</p> <p>h. A Private Water Supply survey has been undertaken, the results of which will be included in the EIA Report.</p>
23	Ecology and Ornithology	<p>THC outlined that the EIA Report should include;</p> <p>a. a baseline survey of the bird and animals (mammals, reptiles, amphibians, etc) interest on site. Detail on rare and threatened habitats, and those protected by European or UK legislation, or identified in national or local Biodiversity Action Plans should be presented;</p> <p>b. habitat enhancement and mitigation measures should be detailed,</p>	THC08	18, 19	Ecology and Ornithology Chapters	<p>The relevant ecological and ornithological survey results and associated assessments will be provided in the noted chapters. The following confirms where each point listed in THC's response will be addressed:</p> <p>a. Relevant survey work will be presented in the noted chapters and associated appendices;</p> <p>b. Habitat enhancement measures will be discussed in the ecology chapter and relevant appendices;</p>

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		<p>particularly in respect to blanket bog, in the context of both biodiversity conservation and net gain, along with details of any agreements with landowners;</p> <p>c. an address to whether or not the development could assist or impede delivery of elements of relevant Biodiversity Action Plans;</p> <p>d. analysis of the presence of protected species such as Schedule 1 Birds or European Protected Species;</p> <p>e. an address of the likely impacts on the nature conservation interests of all the designated sites in the vicinity of the proposed development and proposed mitigation;</p> <p>f. assessment of the potential impact on wild deer;</p> <p>g. an assessment of the aquatic interests within local watercourses;</p> <p>h. assessment of the effects on Ground Water Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE).</p>				<p>c. This will be discussed in the ecology chapter;</p> <p>d. This will be discussed in the noted chapters;</p> <p>e. This will be discussed in the noted chapters;</p> <p>f. This will be discussed in the ecology chapter;</p> <p>g. This will be discussed in the ecology chapter; and</p> <p>h. This is discussed in the ecology and water environment chapters.</p>
24	Forestry	THC advise that a specific chapter on forestry is included in the EIA Report. The Chapter should provide a baseline survey of the plants (including fungi, lichens and bryophytes) and trees present on the site	THC09	19	Forestry Chapter	A forestry chapter will be included as part of the EIA Report, providing a specific assessment on forestry interests, as well as areas of native woodland.

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		to determine the presence of any rare or threatened species and indicate areas of woodland / forestry plantation which may be felled. THC outline that full details of commercial forest management, including intended felling and replanting cycles, should be provided with the application. The EIA Report must consider the need for compensatory planting in line with the Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal policy and associated windthrow risk and identification of windfirm boundaries.				Compensatory planting requirements and potential windthrow effects form part of the forestry assessment and associated appendices.
25	Cultural Heritage	THC require the EIA report to identify all designated cultural heritage sites which may be affected by the development either directly or indirectly. THC also expect any assessment to contain a full appreciation of the setting of these historic environment assets and the likely impact on their settings, supported by visualisations (as stated in the Scoping Report).	THC10	19, 20	Cultural Heritage Chapter	This will be provided in the cultural heritage chapter. Visualisations have been produced to assist with assessment of impacts on sites and their settings, and these are included in Volume 3.
26	Noise – Operational Noise	THC require that when the Applicant conduct a review of noise sensitive receptors to determine whether detailed assessment is required, as set out in the Scoping Report, consultation with THC would be sought. THC also outline the following	THC11	20, 21	Other Issues	Results of the noise review will be discussed with THC, and discussed within the noted chapter.

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		<p>recommended condition be attached to forthcoming consent in relation to low-frequency noise from overhead lines:</p> <p>“Noise arising from within the operation of the overhead lines, hereby permitted, when measured and / or calculated as an Leq, 5min, in the 100 Hz one third octave frequency band must not exceed 30 dB, at noise sensitive premises; and</p> <p>The Rating Level of noise arising from the overhead line, hereby permitted, must not exceed the current background noise levels at noise sensitive premises. The Rating Level should be calculated in accordance with BS 4142: 2014: Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound.”</p>				
27	Noise – Construction Noise	<p>A construction noise assessment will be required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where it is proposed to undertake work, which is audible at the curtilage of any noise sensitive receptor, out with the hours Mon-Fri 8am to 7pm; Sat 8am to 1pm; or • Where noise levels during the above periods are likely to exceed 75 dB(A) for short term works or 55 dB(A) for long term works. Both measurements to be taken as a 1hr LAeq at the curtilage of any noise sensitive receptor. (Generally, long term work is taken to be more than 6 months). 	THC12	21	CEMP	Best Practicable Means to reduce the impact of noise from construction activities will be adopted. This will be detailed within the construction noise management plan developed by the Principal Contractor as part of the CEMP.

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		Regardless of whether an assessment is required, it is expected that the Applicant will employ the best practicable means to reduce the impact of noise from construction activities with a scheme demonstrating how this will be implemented.				
28	Traffic and Transport – General	A Transport Assessment (TA), Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) and an Abnormal Load Assessment will be required within the EIA Report. The scope of the TA should be agreed with THC and Transport Scotland prior to commencing. Swept path assessment and inspection and / or assessment of any structures along the route should be included, and it is noted that a trial run to demonstrate the suitability of the route may be required.	THC13	21	Transport Chapter	An assessment of the transport requirements of the project will be included. This has been informed through further discussion with the Council on the appropriate scope for the assessment.
29	Traffic and Transport – Assessment Methodology	A Transport Assessment is required and shall be carried out in accordance with National Guidance issued by Transport Scotland for Transport Assessment, THC's Guidance on the Preparation of Transport Statements. The scope should be agreed with THC.	THC14	22	Transport Chapter	A Transport Assessment is included as an Appendix to the Transport chapter. The scope of this has been discussed and agreed with THC.
30	Traffic and	It is requested by THC that the TA be	THC15	23	Transport	

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	Transport – Transport Assessment Methodology	<p>presented with subsections covering the three operational areas of Highland:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ross and Cromarty; 2) Skye; and 3) Nairn, Lochaber, Badenoch and Strathspey <p>It would be advantageous for proposed mitigation measures to be agreed in advance of submission of the EIA Report and TA.</p>			Assessment	A Transport Assessment is included as an Appendix to the Transport chapter. The scope and presentation of this has been discussed and agreed with THC.
31	Traffic and Transport – HGVs	<p>In relation to construction traffic, the TA must provide information related to how the roads can support the HGV traffic associated with construction. The TA must provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated volumes of material to be transported; • Details of likely routes for HGVs; • Receptors sensitive to HGV traffic; • Assessment of significance of the increase in HGV traffic along the identified routes, allowing for seasonal variations in traffic; and • Assessment of likely impacts on bridges, culverts and retaining walls. 	THC16	24	Transport Chapter	This information will be provided within the noted chapter and associated appendices.
32	Traffic and	An assessment of the impact of the	THC17	24, 25	Transport	Assessment of impact of the increase of all

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	Transport – Road Safety and Mitigation	<p>increase in all traffic (but particularly HGV traffic) on road safety shall be made in particular the impact on the safety of more vulnerable road users (those walking, wheeling and cycling).</p> <p>In order to support the increase is HGV traffic as well as the abnormal loads, it is likely that Prior Road Improvement (PRI) mitigation works will be required.</p> <p>The extent of the works must be clearly established for THC to provide their consultation response to the Scottish Government’s Energy Consents Unit (ECU). The three routes of particular concern are Glenelg, Struan Hill Road and Kinloch Hourn, however others will be affected. The Applicant must initially progress a feasibility design for road mitigation on these three routes, prioritising Kinloch Hourn.</p>			Chapter	<p>traffic, particularly HGV traffic, on road safety will be considered within the noted chapter of the EIA Report.</p> <p>Information on Prior Road Improvement (PRI) works will be included within a separate appendix to the EIA Report.</p>
33	Traffic and Transport - CTMP	The application must include a framework Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) aimed at minimising the impact of construction on the public and public road network. It can be updated and finalised once a contractor is in place prior to construction works commencing.	THC18	25, 26	Transport Chapter	A framework CTMP will be included with the EIA Report.
34	Traffic and	An appropriate Road Bond or similar	THC19	26	Project	These points have been noted and

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	Transport – Other	security is likely to be required. The proposal for new or upgraded access onto the public road shall be detailed on dimensioned drawings including radii, surfacing and drainage as well as the required visibility splays in accordance with THC's Roads and Transport Guidelines for New Developments			Description and Transport Chapters	considered during the project's progression. A Road Bond will be discussed with THC. Typical access junction drawings will be provided.
35	Socio-Economic, Tourism and Recreation	The EIA report should estimate who may be affected by the development, in all or in part, which may require individual households to be identified, local communities or a wider socio economic groupings such as tourists and tourist related businesses, recreational groups, economically active. Relevant economic information should also be included, such as potential number of jobs, and impact on both local and regional economies.	THC20	26	Socio-economic, Recreation and Tourism Chapter	The requested information will be provided in the noted chapter.
36	Core Paths, Public Rotes, Long Distance Routes	The potential impact on and mitigation for public access should be assessed incorporating core paths, public rights of way, long distance routes, other paths and wider access rights. The application should include relevant economic information connected with the project, including the potential number of jobs, and economic activity associated with the procurement, construction, operation and eventual	THC21	26, 27	Socio-economic, Recreation and Tourism Chapter	The Socio-economic, Recreation and Tourism chapter will consider the potential impact on, and mitigation for, public access within the vicinity of the Proposed Development.

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		decommissioning of the infrastructure. An Access Management Plan (AMP) is required to be submitted with the application.				
37	Access Improvements	THC also suggest Access Improvement Plans would also assist in scrutinising what potential opportunities exist for improving public access though both temporary construction access and permanent maintenance access tracks. Where post construction maintenance access routes are provided, consideration should be given for bypass gates for non-motorised access users.	THC22	27, 28	Project Description	Access requirements will be discussed within the project description chapter.
38	Aviation, Radar and Telecoms	The EIA Report needs to recognise community assets that are currently in operation for example internet coverage, TV, radio, blue light telecommunications, aviation interests including radar, MOD safeguards, etc. The EIA Report will need to demonstrate what interests they have identified and the outcomes of any consultations with relevant authorities.	THC23	28	Other Issues	Such interests and consultation outcomes will be discussed within the noted chapter.
39	Construction Management and Health and Safety	The EIA Report needs to address all relevant climatic factors which can greatly influence the impact range of many of the preceding factors on account of seasonal changes affecting, rainfall, sunlight, prevailing wind direction etc.	THC24	28, 29	Throughout the EIA Report	Climate change is considered throughout the EIA Report, where relevant. It is not intended to include an Outline CEMP as part of the EIA Report. A CEMP would

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		<p>Consideration must also be given to the potential health and safety risks associated with lightning strikes and ice throw given the proximity of recreational routes.</p> <p>Depending on the proximity of the working area and access route to any houses etc. the applicant may require to submit a scheme for the suppression of dust during construction.</p> <p>THC in principle would request that an Outline CEMD is included with the application.</p>				however be provided to the Planning Authority for approval prior to works commencing.
40	Significant Effects on the Environment	<p>The EIA needs to describe the likely significant effects of the development on the environment, which should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development, resulting from the existence of the development, the use of natural resources, the emission of pollutants, the creation of nuisances, and the elimination of waste.</p>	THC25	29	Throughout the EIA Report	The assessment of likely significant environmental effects will be undertaken throughout the technical chapters of the EIA Report.
41	EIA Methodology	<p>THC requests that, when measuring the positive and negative effects of the development, a four- point scale is used advising any effect to be either strong positive, positive, negative or strong</p>	THC26	29	EIA Process and Methodology Chapter	The approach to the assessment of effects will be set out in the noted chapter and defined within each of the technical chapters.

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		negative.				
42	Mitigation	A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce, and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment must be set out within the EIA Report. A clear summary table of all mitigation measures associated with the Proposed Development should be provided and entitled draft 'Schedule of Mitigation' and clarify where other groups are involved in its implementation.	THC27	29, 30	Throughout the EIA Report Schedule of Mitigation	Mitigation measures specific to a particular topic will be identified within each Technical Chapter. All mitigation measures will be contained within a Schedule of Mitigation Measures.
43	Outdoor Access	The BHS notes the potential opportunity a project of this scale can bring for off-road access improvements, therefore reducing potential for accidents on countryside roads.	BHS01	66, 67, 68	Socio-economic, Recreation and Tourism Chapter	The Socio-economic, Recreation and Tourism chapter will consider the potential impact on, and mitigation for, public access within the vicinity of the Proposed Development.
44	Cultural Heritage	HES are content with the scope of assessment. They welcome that the assessment will include consideration of the potential for direct physical effects on assets within their remit for all elements of the Proposed Development including off-line construction infrastructure, and for the removal of the existing overhead line infrastructure, as well as effects on setting.	HES01	58, 59	Cultural Heritage Chapter	Potential for direct and indirect effects on cultural heritage assets will be addressed in the noted chapter.

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45	Aviation	<p>HIAL has no objections to the proposal, but requests that, when the positions and elevations of each OHL pylon and pole is known, that this information is supplied to the Defence Geographic Centre in order for their UK wide obstacle database to be updated.</p>	HIAL01	72	Other Issues Chapter	This has been noted. The relevant information will be provided to HIAL on submission of the application.
46	Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment Requirement	<p>The environmental constraints plans show substantial areas of Class 1 and / or 2 peat along all seven sections of the route. Preliminary probing also identified peat along the route. The 2016 Carbon and Peatland map indicates that the route also passes through areas of Class 3 and 5 Peatland. Whilst these areas are not stated on the mapping to be nationally important, with priority habitat or conservation / potential conservation value, they are noted as potentially comprising areas of deep peat. This means that they could also pose a peat landslide risk and should be considered as part of any PLHRA. British Geological Society mapping also shows substantial areas of peat along the proposed route, especially in the northern part of Skye. OS mapping confirms that slopes of greater than 2</p>	IF1	132	Geology and Soils Environment Chapter	This has been noted. A PLHRA will be included with the noted chapter.

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		degrees are present along the route. These factors confirm that a PLHRA will be required.				
47	Peat Landslide Hazard Risk Assessment Methodology	IF would anticipate that the PLHRA would include fieldworks and probing of towers, tracks, UGC and associated infrastructure. The PLHRA should be submitted as a standalone document closely linked to the geology / soils chapter and any peat management plan.	IF2	132	Geology and Soils Environment Chapter	The PLHRA will be included as an appendix to the noted chapter and is based on fieldwork covering the different elements of the Proposed Development.
48	Otter	The IOSF recommend Route Option 3A be chosen for construction since the existing route has infrastructure already in place and so causes minimum environmental damage. If a different route is taken through Kylerhea itself and along the Glen then there could be extra implications for otters and other wildlife along the route, in addition to the impact on the landscape.	IOSF01	N/A	Ecology Chapter	This is noted.
49	Defence Infrastructure	Sections, 4, 5 and 6 of the application site falls within part of the UK Military Low Flying System where fixed wing aircraft may operate as low as 100 ft (30.5 m) above ground level. To address this, the MOD would require conditions of consent requiring that within these sections the	MOD01	69, 70	Other Issues Chapter	Consultation with the MOD on the requirement for infrared lighting will be undertaken.

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		development is fitted with aviation safety lighting and that data is submitted to ensure structures can be accurately charted to allow deconfliction.				
50	Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology	<p>NDSFB request that particular attention in Section 5 of the project is paid towards the risk of peat, and land slide risk given landslide near Quoich Dam in 2018.</p> <p>NDSFB recommend that electrofishing surveys are completed at the crossing point at Invervigar Burn, and potentially other crossings in Section 6 of the project, as the area is accessible to migratory salmonids including Atlantic salmon which are a protected species.</p>	NDSFB01	74	Ecology, Geology and Soils Environment Chapters	<p>Potential effects on peat, including peat slide risk, and potential for landslides, is discussed within the geology and soils environment chapter.</p> <p>Fish habitat surveys have been undertaken along the underground cable elements of the project in Sections 2 and 6, to identify potential constraints and appropriate mitigation measures. The results will be discussed within the ecology chapter.</p>
51	Cuillin Special Protection Area (SPA)	At this stage, NS consider there will be a likely significant effect from disturbance and temporary loss of foraging habitat during construction within the SPA (relevant to Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the project). Potential impacts could be mitigated through a breeding bird protection plan and appropriate habitat restoration strategy. It is recommended that this mitigation is included in the EIA Report.	NS01	42	Ornithology Chapter	The ornithology chapter includes an assessment of the Proposed Development on ornithology, and suggests appropriate mitigation measures to avoid or reduce adverse effects. Specifically in relation to the Cuillins SPA, a Shadow HRA will be provided.

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52	Cuillin SPA	NS note that it is proposed to scope out barrier effects but recommend the potential for loss of accessible foraging habitat from the operation of a different scale and design of overhead line is given some consideration in the EIA Report.	NS02	42	Ornithology Chapter	This will be considered within the noted chapter.
53	Cuillin SPA	While the preferred solution for Section 2 is undergrounding, there is still potential for a likely significant effect through risk of collision with the remaining areas of OHL close to or within the Cuillin Hills SPA. NS advise that comprehensive desk study, field survey and assessment are used to inform the selection of a route which minimises impacts to SPA golden eagle, and identify any additional mitigation requirements. This should include consideration of all known alternate nest sites, prey concentrations and the latest range-use modelling.	NS03	42	Ornithology Chapter	A Shadow HRA will be prepared that considers the potential effect of the Proposed Development on the qualifying features of the Cuillins SPA.
54	Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SAC and SSSI	With regards to the sensitivity of Section 3 through the Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SAC, if the appropriate assessment is unable to demonstrate 'no adverse effect on site integrity' NS would object to the proposal.	NS04	42	Ecology Chapter	Potential effects on designated sites are discussed within the ecology chapter. Specifically in relation to the Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SAC, a Shadow HRA is being prepared and will be included within the EIA Report. The Shadow HRA also considers the

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						alternative route option through Glen Arroch (Route Option 3B).
55	SAC Qualifying Habitats and HRA	<p>NS agree that results of detailed habitat survey and assessment should be used to select a route and design option that minimises impacts to the qualifying interests of the SAC. Their final view of which route would result in the least damage to the SAC qualifying habitats, including priority blanket bog habitat, will depend on the results of the detailed habitat survey and assessment.</p> <p>NS advise that an appropriate assessment would be required to consider both permanent and temporary, direct and indirect impacts to each of the SAC qualifying habitats including the amount of habitat expected to be lost, damaged or modified as a result of the proposals. This should include assessment of peat slide risk and any potential changes to hydrology.</p> <p>Detailed information on the construction process within the SAC should also be provided, including the location, extent and</p>	NS05	43	Ecology Chapter	<p>Potential effects on designated sites are discussed within the ecology chapter. Specifically in relation to the Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SAC, a Shadow HRA is being prepared and will be included within the EIA Report. The Shadow HRA also considers the alternative route option through Glen Arroch (Route Option 3B).</p> <p>Assessment has been informed by detailed habitat mapping, peat depth data, and construction design and methods provided by the Contractor.</p>

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		type of infrastructure, and description of methods. Assessment should also consider operational management practices within the SAC (e.g. access and maintenance, include any wayleave maintenance).				
56	Alternative Options	NS advise that all potential alternative route options and design solutions are kept open until further detailed assessment and a shadow HRA have been undertaken.	NS06	43	Ecology Chapter	The Proposed Development has been informed by the results of the EIA and HRA processes. Specifically in relation to the Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SAC, a Shadow HRA is being prepared. The Shadow HRA also considers the alternative route option through Glen Arroch (Route Option 3B).
57	NVC and Peat Depth	NS advise that the EIA Report includes full details of the habitat survey results to NVC sub-community level supported by peat depth survey where relevant. They recommend that maps of the NVC polygons are included with all infrastructure and access routes overlain.	NS07	43	Ecology Geology and Soils Environment Chapters	Results of habitat surveys and assessment of likely impacts on ecological receptors are set out in the ecology chapter. The geology and soils chapter sets out peat depth survey results and assessment of impacts on peat soils.
58	Reinstatement and Restoration	Mitigation measures to minimise impacts should be provided. NS recommend details of proposed reinstatement and restoration works are set out in the EIA Report.	NS08	43	Ecology Chapter	The ecology chapter discusses appropriate, mitigation measures to reduce potential effects on habitats.

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59	Dismantling of the existing OHL	The EIA Report should consider the potential for impacts associated with the dismantling and removal of the existing overhead line, including vehicle tracking, ground preparation, etc.	NS09	43	Project Description Chapter Throughout the EIA Report	A dismantling plan will be included as part of the EIA Report, and the potential effects of dismantling are discussed throughout the EIA Report.
60	Otter	NS advise that the potential for disturbance to otters and impacts to supporting habitats are considered in the EIA Report.	NS10	44	Ecology Chapter	Protected species survey results with respect to otter, and the potential effects of the Proposed Development, together with appropriate mitigation, will be included in the noted chapter.
61	West Inverness-shire Lochs SPA	Sections 5 and 6 would require a HRA in order to consider the potential for a likely significant effect from disturbance, displacement and collision risk to common scoters and black-throated divers which are protected by the SPA. The assessment of collision risk will need to be particularly robust in order to demonstrate no adverse effect on site integrity. Cumulative impacts will also require consideration.	NS11	44	Ornithology Chapter	A Shadow HRA will be included with respect to the West Inverness-shire Lochs SPA.
62	Sligachan SAC and SSSI	NS would expect the EIA Report to confirm that impacts to the SAC and SSSI in Sections 1 and 2 could be mitigated by appropriate construction methods and effective silt and pollution prevention	NS12	45	Ecology Chapter	This is discussed and assessed within the noted chapter, and appropriate mitigation measures set out.

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		measures.				
63	Mointeach nan Lochain Dubha SAC and SSSI	NS would expect the EIA Report to confirm that impacts to the SAC and SSSI in Section 3 could be mitigated by appropriate construction methods and effective silt and pollution prevention measures.	NS13	45	Ecology Chapter	This is discussed and assessed within the noted chapter, and appropriate mitigation measures set out.
64	An Cleirach, Druim Losal and Quoich Spillway SSSIs	NS would expect the siting of infrastructure to avoid direct impacts to the features of this SSSI and to ensure that rock faces and outcrops remain accessible and are not damaged or obscured.	NS14	45	Geology and Soils Environment Chapter	This is discussed and assessed within the noted chapter, and appropriate mitigation measures set out.
65	Lochs Duich, Long and Alsh Reefs SAC	NS are content that potential impacts on this SAC are scoped out, unless there is a possibility that access from the coast through this protected area is proposed.	NS15	45	Ecology Chapter	This is discussed and assessed within the noted chapter, and appropriate mitigation measures set out.
66	LVIA – Cuillin Hills NSA and Cuillin WLA	The proposed undergrounding within Section 2 is welcomed. NS advise that a Landscape Clerk of Works (LCoW) oversees the restoration of this section to ensure that the special landscape qualities are maintained. NS request a wild land assessment is carried out for Section 2.	NS16	45, 46	Landscape and Visual Chapter	The noted chapter will include the LVIA of the Proposed Development. Landscape mitigation measures will be proposed for the Proposed Development to mitigate potential adverse landscape and visual effects. LCoW advice from NS within Section 2 is noted. The LVIA will include a wild land assessment, incorporated into the LVIA.
67	LVIA – Knoydart NSA	NS note the potential for parts of Section 4 of the project to result in significant effects	NS17	46	Landscape and Visual	The noted chapter will include a LVIA of the Proposed Development. The LVIA includes

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	and Kinlochhour – Knoydart – Morar WLA	on the Knoydart NSA and Kinlochhour – Knoydart – Morar WLA. In particular, the alignment near Loch Coire Shubh. NS advise that the LVIA should include an assessment of effects on the SLQs of the NSA, in line with the stages outlined in the draft SLQ assessment methods. They also advise that a wild land assessment is carried out (relevant to Sections 4 and 5).			Chapter	assessment against the SLQ's of the NSA, and a wild land assessment is incorporated into the LVIA.
68	SLQ Assessment	NS advises that a SLQ Assessment should be completed for Section 2 and Section 4 in relation to the Cullin Hills NSA and Knoydart NSA respectively. NS are content with this being embedded in the landscape assessment.	NS18	47	Landscape and Visual Chapter	The LVIA includes assessment against the SLQ's of the NSA.
69	Carbon-rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat	Scottish Planning Policy affords 'significant protection' to carbon-rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitat. If such areas could be affected, NS would expect the EIA Report to demonstrate how any significant effects can be substantially overcome by siting, design or other mitigation. Site specific surveys should be carried out along to confirm the quality and distribution of peatland habitats. Peatland surveys should be carried out in accordance with the Peatland Survey 2017 "Guidance on	NS19	47, 48	Ecology, Geology and Soils Environment Chapter	The potential effects on carbon rich soils, deep peat and priority peatland habitats will be assessed in the noted chapters. The Proposed Development has been informed by a peat probing campaign to establish peat depth and appropriate and a NVC survey to identify priority peatland habitats.

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		Developments on Peatland”, and proposed Peat Slide Risk Assessment should follow the latest 2017 guidance “Peat landslide hazard and risk assessments: best practice guide for proposed electricity generation developments”.				
70	Peat Soils and NVC Mapping	NS would expect the EIAR to include mapped information on peatland habitats to NVC level, together with a detailed description of current condition.	NS20	48	Ecology, Geology and Soils Environment Chapter	NVC Mapping will be included within the ecology chapter along with a description on current condition. Peat soils are also assessed within the noted geology chapter.
71	NVC Mapping and Construction Detail	NS advise that all infrastructure and access routes are clearly mapped in relation to the NVC data and that the EIA Report includes full details of construction methods, access, any ground preparation and drainage requirements, for both construction of the new line and removal of the existing one. They advise direct and indirect, temporary and permanent impacts from the proposal as a whole (construction and operation of the new line, and removal of the existing one) should be quantified in the EIA Report. Although temporary tracks are mainly proposed, minimising their requirement, careful siting and effective restoration will be key to mitigating impacts to priority peatland and other sensitive	NS21	48	Project Description, Ecology, Geology and Soils Environment Chapter	All infrastructure and access routes, along with details of construction methods, will be provided as part of the project description chapter. Potential effects on peatland habitats are discussed within the noted ecology and geology chapters.

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		upland habitats.				
72	Underground Cable Methods	For the underground cable sections, NS recommend details of the construction and installation methods are provided. Information on the locations of any additional infrastructure and / or access tracks and the locations of the joint bays would be useful to provide.	NS22	48	Project Description Chapter	Details on the construction methods for underground cable, together with associated infrastructure, will be provided within the Project Description chapter.
73	Reinstatement and Restoration	NS advise that the EIA Report includes details of reinstatement and habitat restoration measures (including those associated with removal of the existing line) within a Peatland Management Plan and Habitat Management Plan.	NS23	48	Ecology, Geology and Soils Environment Chapters	Details will be provided in the noted chapters.
73	Ornithology Surveys Coverage	The EIAR should include further information on the extent of survey coverage, including how these detailed survey areas were arrived at and how those areas which were not surveyed will be considered. In the same regard, vantage point survey work should be justified and explained, in terms of the location and extent.	NS24	48, 49	Ornithology Chapter	Information on the extent of survey coverage and vantage point survey locations will be provided in the noted chapter.
74	Ornithology Survey	NS expect the EIA Report to demonstrate that survey methods and presentation of	NS25	49	Ornithology Chapter	The noted chapter will include information on ornithology survey methodologies.

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	Methodology	<p>results comply with the NS recommended guidance. Cumulative effects should also be considered.</p> <p>Sensitive information should be provided in a Confidential Annex as described in Section 5.1 of the guidance.</p>				Where required, sensitive information will be provided in a confidential annex.
75	Breeding Raptors	In relation to breeding raptors, NS recommend the most up to date information is requested from the Highland Raptor Study Group. Historical contextual information should also be sought on e.g. alternate nest sites.	NS26	49	Ornithology Chapter	Up to date information has been requested from the Highland Raptor Study Group to inform the assessment.
76	Roosting Raptors	NS recommend any roost sites within 2 km of the transmission line are identified so that potential impacts can be assessed.	NS27	49	Ornithology Chapter	Identified roost sites will be detailed within the noted chapter.
77	GET Model	In cases where modelling is necessary to determine impacts, a GET (Golden Eagle Topographical) model assessment should be carried out.	NS28	49	Ornithology Chapter	GET modelling has been utilised to inform assessment of impacts on golden eagles, where required.
78	Removal of Existing Infrastructure	NS are pleased to note that the ornithology assessment will cover all aspects of the project, including removal of the existing line. They advise that potential impacts through habitat change and displacement	NS29	49	Ornithology Chapter	Information relating to potential impacts on habitat change and displacement are included in the noted chapter.

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		should also be considered.				
79	Ornithology Mitigation	NS advise that mitigation options are considered as part of the assessment process and that full details are provided in the EIA Report. A well-designed and implemented breeding bird protection plan is likely to be required and NS advise that an outline plan is included in the EIA Report.	NS30	49	Ornithology Chapter	Full details of mitigation measures related to ornithology will be provided in the ornithology chapter.
80	Ecology Survey Methodology	NS recommend that survey work for protected species follows the methods published on their website. If protected species could be affected mitigation details / Species Protection Plans should also be included in the EIA Report.	NS31	50	Ecology Chapter	NatureScot's published methods have been considered in all survey work regarding protected species. The noted chapter contains mitigation suggestions for relevant protected species that may be impacted by the development.
81	Aquatic Ecology	NS advise that potential impacts on sensitive water species, including freshwater pearl mussels, be factored into route selection and access arrangements. It is noted that specific surveys are scoped out.	NS32	50	Ecology Chapter	Information collected from the GI works, whereby searches for fresh water pearl mussel and other sensitive water species was undertaken ahead of works, and fish habitat surveys in Section 2 and 6 of the project, has informed the assessment of effects on sensitive water species, and appropriate mitigation.
82	Annex 1 Habitats	Successful reinstatement of some Annex 1 habitats, including fragile upland habitats	NS33	50	Ecology Chapter	The potential effects on Annex 1 habitats is discussed in the noted chapter. The Proposed

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		and peatland, may be difficult to achieve and NS advise that survey results are used to inform the design and layout process, so that the development avoids, where possible, avoid sensitive Annex 1 habitats. Where this is not possible, habitat loss and damage, both direct and indirect, should be determined and suitable mitigation and / or restoration measures presented in a Habitat Management Plan.				Development has been informed by NVC surveys to identify sensitive habitats, and minimise effects where possible.
83	Deer Management	If there is potential for deer displacement during construction, NS recommend that the EIA Report includes an assessment of the potential impacts of the development on deer welfare, habitats, road safety, neighbouring and other interests such as nearby protected areas.	NS34	50	Ecology Chapter	The potential effects on deer will be discussed in the noted chapter.
84	Aviation	NATS stated that the Proposed Development was examined from a technical safeguarding aspect and found that it does not conflict with their safeguarding criteria. Accordingly, NATS has no safeguarding objection to the proposal.	NSTS01	73	Other Issues	This has been noted.

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85	Nuclear Regulation	ONR makes no comment on this Proposed Development as it does not lie within a consultation zone around a GB nuclear site.	ONR1	75	N/A	This has been noted.
86	Ornithology – Existing Data	RSPB welcome that new ornithological surveys will be taken, as some of the existing surveys are now over 5 years old.	RSPB01	76	Ornithology Chapter	New survey data is presented in the noted chapter.
89	Ornithology – Existing Infrastructure	RSPB disagree that dismantling the existing OHL poses no ornithological risk, and so argue that it should be scoped in.	RSPB02	76	Ornithology Chapter	This has been considered in the noted chapter.
90	Ornithology – Cumulative Impacts	It is essential that the impacts of this proposal are assessed in combination with other proposed and consented developments within the area, and RSPB are pleased this is proposed. Any identified impacts should be assessed against the relevant SPA and NHZ populations.	RSPB03	76	Ornithology Chapter	The likely cumulative impacts of the Proposed Development on ornithology are assessed in the noted chapter.
91	Ornithology – Mitigation Measures	The EIA report should fully discuss mitigation measures required to reduce impacts of displacement, disturbance and direct mortality on priority species and deterioration of habitats present along the line, during both construction and ongoing future maintenance. Evidence should be	RSPB04	76	Ornithology Chapter	Mitigation measures specific to ornithology are discussed in the noted chapter.

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		provided for the assumed effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures based on experience from other projects.				
92	Ornithology – Flight Activity Data	Flight activity data from vantage point surveys should be used to inform design to best avoid impacts on birds. Undergrounding or HDD should not be ruled out in some areas if field surveys reveal a high potential bird collision risk or presence of sensitive bog habitats. Line markers may also be required in some areas.	RSPB05	76	Ornithology Chapter	Flight activity from VP data has been included in the noted chapter, along with proposed mitigation measures.
93	Habitat Management Plans (HMP)	A detailed HMP should be prepared and submitted as part of the proposals. RSPB welcome the Applicant's commitment to achieve an overall 'No Net Loss' and to achieve Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) where possible. Relevant proposals should be included in the HMP.	RSPB06	76	Ecology and Ornithology Chapters	This is considered as part of the noted chapters.
94	Scope of Assessment	SEPA considers the following to be key issues which must be addressed in the EIA Process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimising impacts on peat and peatland; Avoiding good quality or rare GWDTE 	SEPA01	51	Ecology, Geology and Soils Environment, and Water Environment Chapters	These points are noted and the key issues addressed within the noted chapters.

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		<p>habitats and minimising impacts on other GWDTE habitats; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoiding impacts on watercourses and other water features. <p>SEPA are generally content with the proposed scope of the assessment.</p>				
95	Watercourse Impacts	<p>In Section 2 of the route, further consideration will need to be given to the exact location of the UGC route in relation to the Abhainn Torra-mhichaig. Except when a direct crossing is required, all works should be a suitable buffer outside the banks of the watercourse. SEPA would not consider a layout which included the cable running along the watercourse or within the banks acceptable.</p>	SEPA02	51, 52	Water Environment Chapter	This has been considered during the design of the cable route, and potential effects assessed within the water environment chapter.
96	Development Construction Methods	<p>Information on the different phases of the project and how they will be developed would be useful and should be shown on clear plans. This should include supporting infrastructure, construction compounds and laydown areas, and whether access is temporary or permanent.</p>	SEPA03	52	Project Description Chapter	Information on the Proposed Development, construction process and ancillary development will be included in the noted chapter.
97	GWDTE Survey	<p>SEPA highlight the requirement in their GWDTE guidance for surveys to extend to</p>	SEPA04	52	Ecology, Water	GWDTE survey methodology and results are set out within the noted chapters.

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	Methodology	at least 250 m from all excavations deeper than 1 m.			Environment Chapters	
98	Freshwater Habitats and Crossings	SEPA are content with the proposal to scope out freshwater habitat surveys and fisheries but only if the final design includes suitable buffers between infrastructure and watercourses, and any temporary or permanent watercourse crossings follow best practice design.	SEPA05	52	Ecology, Water Environment Chapters	This has been noted. Surveys carried out as part of the EIA process and information on watercourse crossings are set out within the noted chapters.
99	Peat Soils and Habitats	The project is identified as having an impact on Class 1 peatland. In addition to peat depth information, an assessment of peat habitat quality is also required. It should be demonstrated that impacts on good quality peatland habitats have been avoided. A peat management plan should be provided for the project. There may be areas where peat probing will be required to demonstrate the extent of deep peat and the options for avoidance.	SEPA06	52	Geology and Soils Environment Chapter	Details of peat survey and assessment are set out in the noted chapter. Management of peat is considered within the noted chapter also.
100	Habitat and Peatland Restoration	SEPA encourage the Applicant to outline any opportunities for habitat restoration or enhancement, particularly peatland restoration or improvements to riparian habitats.	SEPA07	52	Ecology, Geology and Soils Environment Chapters	This will be considered and opportunities set out within the noted chapters.

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101	Development Design and Infrastructure	All maps must be based on an adequate scale with which to assess the information. Each of the maps must detail all proposed upgraded, temporary and permanent site infrastructure. Existing built infrastructure must be re-used or upgraded wherever possible. The layout should be designed to minimise the extent of new works on previously undisturbed ground. A comparison of the environmental effects of alternative locations of infrastructure elements, such as tracks, may be required.	SEPA08	54	Project Description Chapter	The noted chapter includes all of the salient development information, and is supported by plans indicating layout of infrastructure required for the Proposed Development.
102	Infrastructure and the Water Environment	<p>The site layout must be designed to avoid impacts upon the water environment. Where activities such as watercourse crossings, watercourse diversions or other engineering activities in or impacting on the water environment cannot be avoided then the submission must include justification of this and a map showing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> all proposed temporary or permanent infrastructure overlain with all lochs and watercourses; a minimum buffer of 50 m around each loch or watercourse. If this minimum buffer cannot be achieved each breach must be numbered on a plan 	SEPA09	54	Water Environment Chapter	The noted chapter will assess the likely effects of the Proposed Development on the water environment and will proposed mitigation measures to minimise effects.

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		<p>with an associated photograph of the location, dimensions of the loch or watercourse and drawings of what is proposed in terms of engineering works; and</p> <p>c. detailed layout of all proposed mitigation including all cut off drains, location, number and size of settlement ponds.</p>				
103	Groundwater Abstraction	If water abstractions are proposed, a table of volumes and timings of abstractions and related mitigation measures must be provided.	SEPA10	54	Water Environment Chapter	It is not currently anticipated that any groundwater abstractions would be required for the Proposed Development. Water abstraction will however be discussed within the noted chapter.
104	Flood Risk	Watercourse crossings must be designed to accommodate the 0.5 % Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flows, or information provided to justify smaller structures. If it is thought that the development could result in an increased risk of flooding to a nearby receptor then a Flood Risk Assessment must be submitted in support of the planning application, inline with SEPA's technical flood risk guidance.	SEPA11	54	Water Environment Chapter	The noted chapter will include information on watercourse crossings and flood risk.
105	Peat Disturbance and Storage	The planning submission must a) demonstrate how the layout has been designed to minimise disturbance of peat	SEPA12	55	Geology and Soils Environment Chapter	The noted chapter will detail the likely impacts from the Proposed Development on peat and will provide an overview of peat management measures during construction.

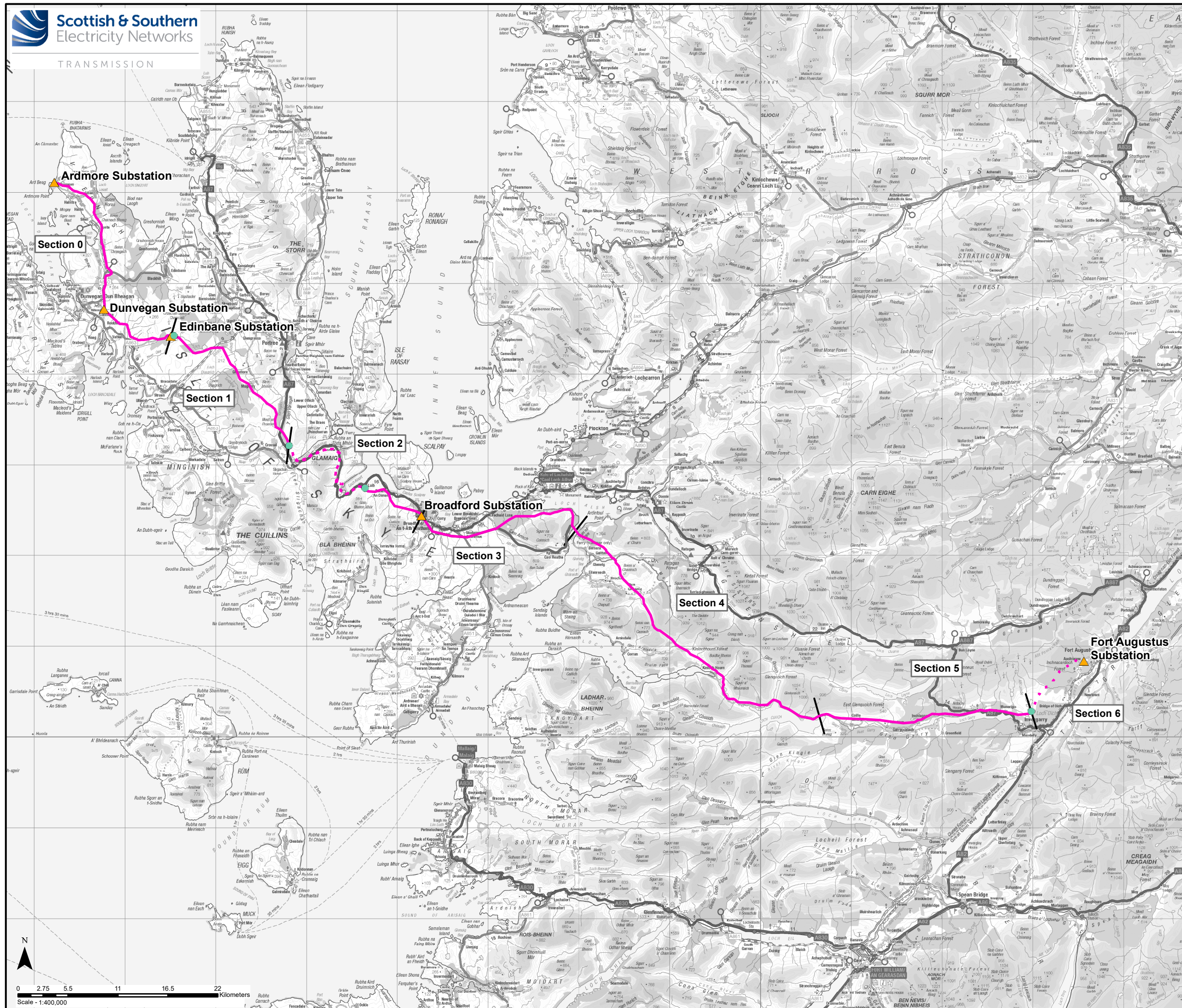
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		and consequential release of CO ₂ and b) outline the preventative / mitigation measures to avoid significant drying or oxidation of peat through, for example, the construction of access tracks, drainage channels, cable trenches, or the storage and re-use of excavated peat.				
106	Peat Depths and Re-use	<p>The submission must include:</p> <p>a. a detailed map of peat depths, to full depth, with all the built elements (including peat storage areas) overlain to demonstrate how the Proposed Development avoids areas of deep peat and other sensitive receptors such as GWDTEs; and</p> <p>b. a table which details the quantities of acrotelmic, catotelmic and amorphous peat which will be excavated for each element and where it will be re-used during reinstatement. Details of the proposed widths and depths of peat to be re-used and how it will be kept wet permanently must be included.</p>	SEPA13	55	Geology and Soils Environment Chapter	The noted chapter contains information on peat soils and depths present along the Proposed Development and an overview of peat management measures during construction.
107	Peat Assessment Methodology	To avoid delay and potential objection proposals must be in accordance with Guidance on the Assessment of Peat Volumes, Reuse of Excavated Peat and	SEPA14	55	Geology and Soils Environment Chapter	Assessment of likely impacts from the Proposed Development on peat will be included in the noted chapter.

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		Minimisation of Waste and SEPA's Developments on Peat and Off-Site uses of Waste Peat.				
108	Peat Management Plan	The Applicant must consider whether a full Peat Management Plan is required or whether the above information would be best submitted as part of the schedule of mitigation.	SEPA15	55	Geology and Soils Environment Chapter	A Peat Management Plan is included alongside the noted chapter.
109	GWDTE	<p>The following information must be included in the submission:</p> <p>a. a map demonstrating that all GWDTE are outwith a 100 m radius of all excavations shallower than 1 m and outwith 250 m of all excavations deeper than 1 m and proposed groundwater abstractions. If micro-siting is to be considered as a mitigation measure the distance of survey needs to be extended by the proposed maximum extent of micro-siting. The survey needs to extend beyond the site boundary where the distances require it; and</p> <p>b. if the minimum buffers above cannot be achieved, a detailed site specific qualitative and / or quantitative risk</p>	SEPA16	55, 56	Ecology and Water Environment Chapters	Information relating to GWDTEs within the vicinity of the Proposed Development and assessment of likely impact on these will be included within the noted chapters.

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		assessment will be required. SEPA are likely to seek conditions securing appropriate mitigation for all GWDTE affected.				
110	Forestry Removal	Proposals for felled forest material must be shown to comply with SEPA's Use of Trees Cleared to Facilitate Development on Afforested Land – Joint Guidance from SEPA, SNH and FCS.	SEPA17	56	Forestry Chapter	Information relating to removal of woodland will be included within the noted chapter.
111	Borrow Pits	<p>If borrow pits are proposed the following information should be submitted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a map showing the location, size, depths and dimensions of each pit; justification for the proposed location of each borrow pit and evidence of the suitability of the material to be excavated for the proposed use, including any risk of pollution caused by degradation of the rock.; and a map showing any stocks of rock, overburden, soils and temporary and permanent infrastructure including tracks, buildings, oil storage, pipes and drainage, overlain with all lochs and watercourses to a distance of 250 m. The Applicant must demonstrate that a site-specific proportionate buffer can 	SEPA18	56, 57	Geology and Soils Environment Chapter	Borrow pits are not included within the section 37 consent application, and therefore not considered in detail within this EIA Report. However, indicative locations will be provided, together with an initial appraisal of anticipated volume, and potential environmental effects at each location.

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		be achieved. On this map, a site-specific buffer must be drawn around each loch or watercourse proportionate to the depth of excavations and at least 10 m from access tracks. If this minimum buffer cannot be achieved each breach must be numbered on a plan with an associated photograph of the location, dimensions of the loch or watercourse, drawings of what is proposed in terms of engineering works.				
112	Pollution Prevention	A schedule of mitigation supported by site specific maps and plans must be submitted. These must include reference to best practice pollution prevention and construction techniques (for example, limiting the maximum area to be stripped of soils at any one time) and regulatory requirements. They should set out the daily responsibilities of ECOWs, how site inspections will be recorded and acted upon and proposals for a planning monitoring enforcement officer.	SEPA19	57	Schedule of Mitigation	A Schedule of Mitigation will be included with the EIA Report.
113	Water Infrastructure – DWPA and SW Assets	The Proposed Development falls within several drinking water catchments where SW abstractions are located. These are	SW01	115, 116	Water Environment Chapter	The likely impacts of the Proposed Development on DWPAs have been assessed within the noted chapter, with mitigation measures identified, where

No.	Subject	Task	Consultee	Scoping Opinion Page Ref.	EIA Report Reference	Comments
		<p>designated as Drinking Water Protection Areas (DWPA) under Article 7 of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>All Scottish Water assets potentially affected by the activity should be identified, with particular consideration given to access roads and pipe crossings.</p>				required.
114	Traffic and Transport	TS are satisfied the scope of works set out in the Scoping Report is in accordance with recognised guidelines and methodology.	TS01	121	Transport Chapter	Noted. Assessment of traffic and transport impacts likely to result from the Proposed Development are set out within the noted chapter.
115	Forestry	WT recommends that an Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) is undertaken for the entire route to help inform the EIA Report and ensure protection of ancient and veteran trees. They also recommend that the Applicant reviews the Ancient Tree Inventory (ATI).	WT01	120	Forestry Chapter	The noted chapter and associated appendices will identify potential effects on forestry and native woodland throughout the route, and confirm compensatory measures where woodland loss is anticipated.



- Key**
- Proposed Overhead Line
 - - - Proposed Underground Cable
 - Alternative Route
 - Proposed Cable Sealing End Compound
 - ▲ Existing Substation
 - Section Break

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Project No: LT91
Project: Skye Reinforcement Project
Gate Check Report

Title: Figure 1 - Location Plan and Overview

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