

# Skye Reinforcement Project Gate Check Report

**May 2022**



## CONTENTS

<b>1.</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND</b>	<b>2</b>
1.1	Introduction	2
1.2	Background to the Project	2
<b>2.</b>	<b>THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>4</b>
2.2	Other Related Works	6
<b>3.</b>	<b>CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>CONSULTATION</b>	<b>9</b>
4.1	Scoping	9
4.2	Key Scoping Issues	9
4.3	Community Engagement	11
4.4	Community Councils	12
<b>5.</b>	<b>SUBMISSION INFORMATION</b>	<b>14</b>
5.1	Submission	14
5.2	Advertisement	14
5.3	Public Viewing of EIA Report	14
5.4	Consultee Lists	14

### Appendices

Appendix 1: Summary of EIA Scoping Responses and Action Taken

### Figures

Figure 1: Location Plan and Overview

# 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 Opinion<sup>1</sup>. 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 guidance<sup>2</sup>, 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Under The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017

<sup>2</sup> 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) 2002<sup>3</sup>; 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.

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<sup>3</sup> 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 guidance<sup>4</sup> 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.

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<sup>4</sup> 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 sought<sup>5</sup> 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.*

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<sup>5</sup> 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 Document<sup>6</sup> 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 applications<sup>7</sup> during the COVID-19 emergency period<sup>8</sup>, these events had to be cancelled. To continue engagement on the project at this stage, SSEN Transmission developed an online consultation tool and hosted<sup>9</sup> 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.

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

<sup>7</sup> 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.

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

<sup>9</sup> 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 Consultation<sup>10</sup>.

#### 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 Document<sup>11</sup>, 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 Consultation<sup>12</sup>.

#### **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:

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

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

<sup>12</sup> 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**

<b>Statutory Consultees</b>	
ECU	SEPA
The Highland Council	NatureScot
Historic Environment Scotland	Transport Scotland
Scottish Forestry	Marine Scotland Science
<b>Non Statutory Consultees</b>	
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
<b>Community Councils and Local Groups</b>	
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	