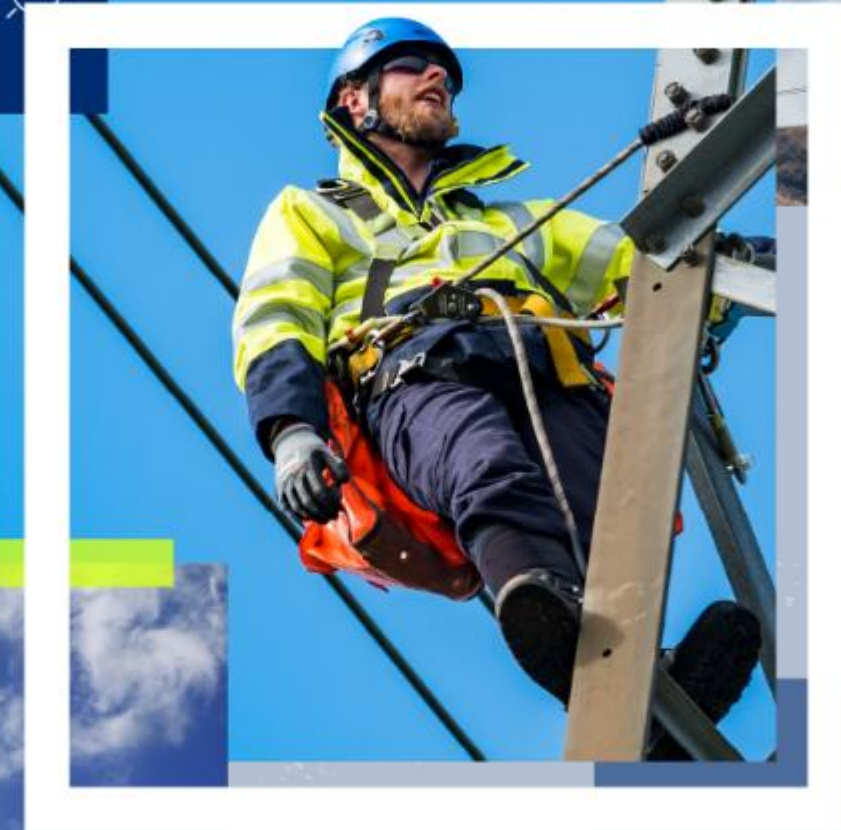


Skye Reinforcement – Area Community Liaison Group 1

Struan, Glendale, Dunvegan, Waternish, Skaebost, Uig,
Kilmuir, Staffin, Portree & Braes

Meeting 2 – 17 June 2026



Agenda:

- Project Update
- Borrow Pit Update (Balfour Beatty)
- Construction Traffic Management
- Community Benefit Update
- Terms of Reference sign off
- Date of next meeting
- Summary of key concerns / action plan
- AOB

Project Update



About the project

- The existing single circuit 132kV overhead line (OHL) from Fort Augustus to Ardmore provides the sole connection from the mainland electricity transmission system to Skye and the Western Isles and is essential for maintaining the security of supply.
- The existing OHL was constructed between 1956 and 1989 is now reaching the end of its operational life.
- To ensure security of supply and facilitate the connection of new renewable energy to the grid, the Skye Reinforcement project will cover the construction of a new double circuit 132kV overhead line, which will comprise of steel lattice towers, wood pole overhead line and sections of underground cable.
- The steel lattice towers will be comparable in size to those already in situ.
- Extensions of Broadford and Edinbane substations will be required to facilitate the new electrical infrastructure, with smaller upgrades also to be delivered at Dunvegan and Ardmore substations (within existing compounds)
- All existing Transmission OHLs will be removed once the new line is operational

Skye Reinforcement Planning Consent

Overhead Line Element

- Required Section 37 planning consent
- The respective application was submitted to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit in September 2022 and consent was received in June 2025.

Substations

- Required Town and Country planning consent
- Planning consent received in 2024 (Edinbane) and 2025 (Broadford)
- The upgrades at Dunvegan and Ardmore are of a nature and size that they don't require planning consent.

Underground Cable

- Underground Cable development does not require planning consent for this project.

Ancillary Planning applications

The delivery method of the project is determined by the contractors, who, at planning application stage had not been confirmed. As contractors are progressing their delivery models further planning applications have been submitted/will be submitted covering:

- Workers accommodation
- Access tracks
- Borrow Pits
- Improvement of public infrastructure (roads)

Construction Activity

(please note that some of the below is classified as pre-construction activity)

Overhead Line (OHL)

- Public road improvement works, maintenance of existing access tracks, including vegetation management
- Ground Investigation works (e.g. trial holes) & surveys, landowner engagement
- Accommodation and local site compounds Planning

Substations

- Public road improvements,
- Site set up at Edinbane Substation
- Vegetation management
- Accommodation Village Planning

Underground Cable (UGC)

- Ground Investigation works
- Site mobilisation (Fort Augustus)

Key Contractors						
Fort Augustus UGC section	OHL Glengarry-Luib (steel lattice)	Broadford Substation extension	Cuilins UGC section	OHL Cuilins to Edinbane Substation (steel lattice)	Edinbane substation extension	OHL Edinbane to Ardmore (wood pole)
Wood Group	Balfour Beatty	GE Vernova	Balfour Beatty	Balfour Beatty	GE Vernova	Norpower

Next Steps & Construction

No construction will commence until planning conditions are satisfied and required consents are received. In the meantime, works will continue where these can be delivered under separate consent (e.g. permitted development, partial discharge of conditions).

Currently planned construction start dates						
Fort Augustus UGC section	OHL Glengarry-Luib	Broadford Substation extension	Cuillins UGC section	OHL Cuillins to Edinbane Substation	Edinbane substation extension	OHL Edinbane to Ardmore (woodpole)
Quarter 3 2026	Quarter 3 2026	Quarter 4 2026	Quarter 3 2026	Quarter 3 2026	Quarter 3 2026	Quarter 3 2026

** As currently programmed; dependant on satisfactory discharge of conditions*

Works to take place between now and construction start

- Contractors will continue to work on detailed designs and delivery models
- Sharing of Traffic Management Plans
- Ground investigation works across the project area including vegetation management
- Continuation of public road improvements
- Ancillary planning applications by contractors (e.g. borrow pits, access tracks)
- Site mobilisation

Edinbane Substation

Works complete:

- Public Road Improvements completed on the Balmeanach Road
- Resurfacing of the C1245 (this route will be used for construction traffic to minimise traffic through the village along the A863)
- Site set up at Edinbane Substation – Site Offices and Welfare (Temporary cabins within the existing Substation compound)
- The whole site is now secured and access is managed

- Watercourse diversion at Edinbane Substation
has been diverted further west from its original location
- Access Tracks works at Edinbane Substation
The main access track which used to run along the Substation’s southern edge has been relocated approximately 26 metres further south.

Borrow Pit Planning Application – awaiting planning authority decision

Community Engagement/benefit:

Local primary schools STEM engagement, Skye Radio Youth Space Sponsorship, Dunvegan volunteering, Food Bank Support

Woodpole OHL Edinbane - Ardmore

Scope of Works

- Replacement of existing trident woodpole line, closely following existing alignment
- Same style & height as existing (132kV)
- Approx. 300 poles

Programme

- Construction programmed to start Q3 2026 (early works will include site set up and 'pegging of the line')
- Duration: ~24 months

Key Requirements

- Site compound: offices, welfare, yard (**no accommodation**) (Dunvegan Estate)
- Up to 20 'helidump' locations (exact number subject to wayleave agreements)
- Poles delivered by HGV (spread deliveries)
- Helicopter lifts: poles in bundles, conductor cable drums, other material
 - Stop/go traffic management might be required during take-off/landing in some locations
 - Helicopter use will be sporadic, not constant
- light vehicles + diggers
- No new access tracks (use existing)
- Surveys & access strategy development ongoing

Contractor

- NorPower
- Workforce: up to 50, staying in existing local accommodation, working in different squads along the alignment

Steel Tower OHL Edinbane – North of Sligachan

No construction will commence until planning conditions are satisfied and required consents are received.

Ongoing work:

- Survey works
- development of access and borrow pit strategy

Construction Programme Phase 1

- Works programmed to start Q3 2026
- Works will start with construction of access points (APs) in 2026, followed by access track development
- APs to be constructed in the area:
 - One off the track at Edinbane Substation (AP01)
 - 3 off B885 at Glen Vic Askill (AP02-04)
 - 1 off A87 at Glen Varragill (AP 07)

Borrow Pit consultation – Borrow Pit 60 ‘River Snizort’

- Pre-application notice (PAN) lodged with the Highland Council on 3rd April, consultation events held
- Consultation Material available on [Skye Reinforcement Project Borrow Pit Planning Applications – Balfour Beatty](#)
- Feedback welcome to skyecommunications@balfourbeatty.com and on Planning Portal once planning application has been submitted and validated

Contractor

- Balfour Beatty

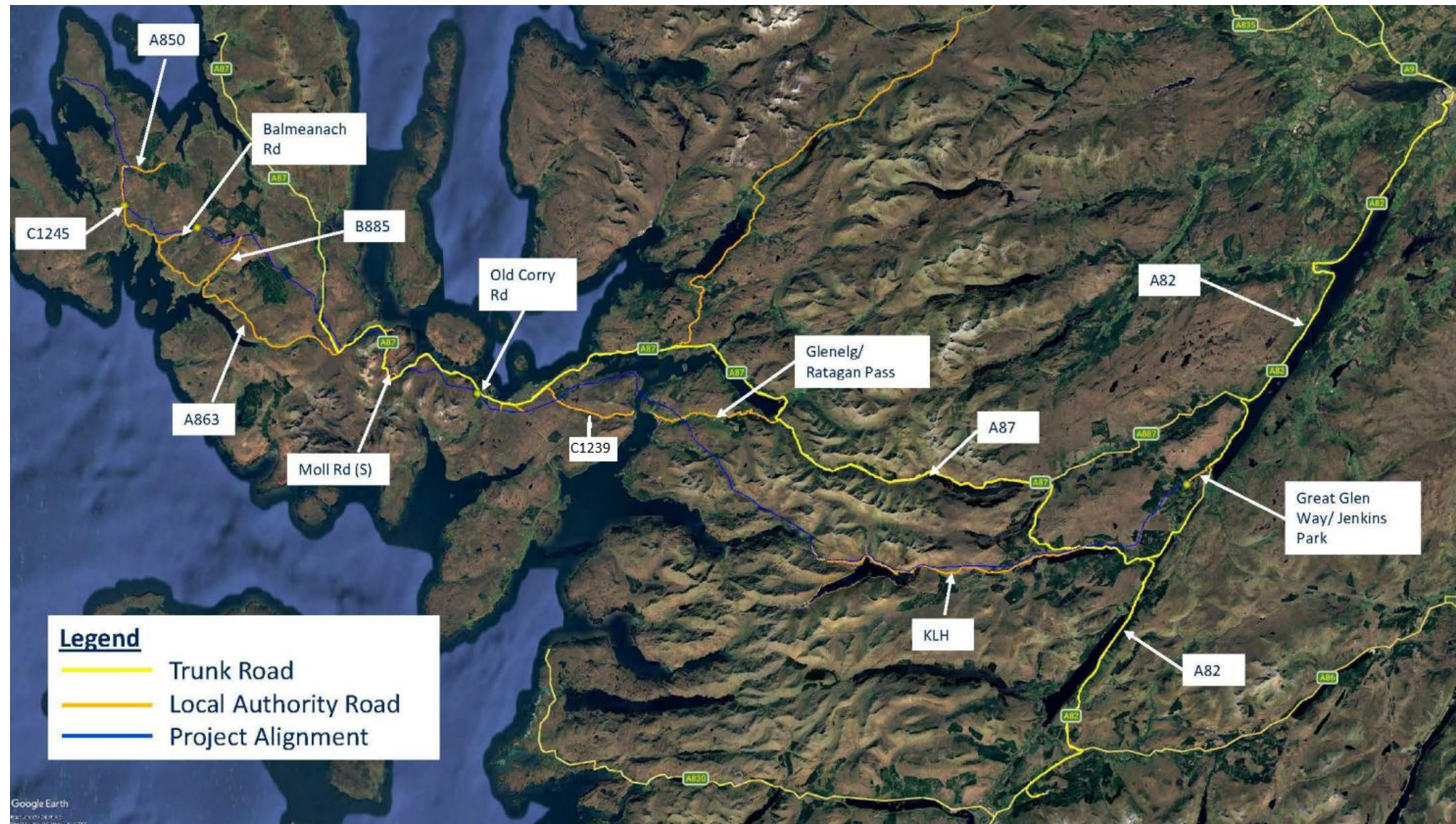
Construction Traffic Management



Construction Traffic Management Plans

- Construction Management Plans (**CTMPs**) are currently being in the process of being signed off by the relevant authorities
- Community engagement over CTMPs is a planning condition
- Working with communities to better understand and further mitigate local impact where possible
- A phased approach has been agreed in order to keep information up to date and relevant – the update in this presentation covers Phase 1
- The cumulative CTMP for the Skye Reinforcement Project only covers HGVs – we will aim to provide information on light vehicle movements separately on an ongoing basis where possible (e.g. as previously provided for the woodpole construction and substation works)

Skye Reinforcement Public Road Construction Routes



Road	Contractor Use (including subcontractors where applicable)
A87	Balfour Beatty, GE Vernova, NorPower
B885	Balfour Beatty
A863	Balfour Beatty, GE Vernova, NorPower
B850/C1245	NorPower
Balmeanach Road	Balfour Beatty, GE Vernova, NorPower

Skye Reinforcement Project - Public Road Construction Routes

Skye Reinforcement Project

2026 expected cumulative HGV traffic

Cumulative 2026 Totals	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
A82	160	176	170	164	144	135	108
Great Glen Way/ Jenkins Park	160	176	170	164	144	135	108
A87 (Invergarry)	425	1125	1363	1065	2417	2195	1354
KLH (C1144, U1207)	372	972	916	758	1169	1584	893
Old Military Road (Rattagan)	40	0	328	483	604	53	461
A87 (Broadford)	321	457	295	237	226	165	64
Haest Road	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Old Corry Road	110	48	70	56	120	150	48
Moll Rd	40	40	40	0	0	0	0
A863	441	669	355	61	106	105	104
B885	13	61	31	0	0	0	0
Balmeanach Rd	428	573	266	16	106	105	104
C1245	300	300	200	0	90	90	88
A850	300	300	200	0	90	90	88

Please note: This table provides an indicative overview and requires updating once construction start date is confirmed

- This table on the right considers the expected construction traffic volumes of all SSEN Transmission Skye Reinforcement Project contractors/project elements
- The table on the right provides monthly averages of HGV construction vehicle trips,

Example: one HGV travelling along Balmeanach Road to the Substation and coming back out is counted as two trips

Road	Contractor Use (including subcontractors where applicable)
A87	Balfour Beatty, GE Vernova, NorPower
B885	Balfour Beatty
A863	Balfour Beatty, GE Vernova, NorPower
B850/C1245	NorPower
Balmeanach Road	Balfour Beatty, GE Vernova, NorPower

Principal Contractors CTMP Working hours – Summary

The contractors will be working with communities to ensure that impact from traffic movements on local services and events will be kept to a minimum with priority always given to key services such as school transport.

Contractor	Applicable Months	Working Days & Hours
Balfour Beatty OHL	March - September	Monday – Friday (inc Bank Holidays) 06:00 – 20:00 Weekends - 06:00 – 20:00
	October – February	Monday – Friday (inc Bank Holidays) 07:00 – 19:00 Weekends - 07:00 – 19:00
Balfour Beatty UGC	March - September	Monday – Friday (inc Bank Holidays) 06:00 – 20:00 Weekends - 06:00 – 20:00
	October – February	Monday – Friday (inc Bank Holidays) 07:00 – 19:00 Weekends - 07:00 – 19:00
United Infrastructure (UI)	All	<u>THC consented hours</u> Monday – Friday 08:00 – 19:00 Saturday 08:00 – 13:00
GE Broadford & Edinbane SST	All	Monday – Saturday 07:00 – 19:00
Norpower	See extract	<p>On this project, NorPower will generally operate a fortnightly rota of working Monday during week 1 and from Monday to Thursday during week 2. This fortnightly work pattern is to help reduce the impact of travel given that the majority of NorPower staff do permanently reside on Skye.</p> <p>Consideration will be given on a local level to manage construction traffic for: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) School bus routes where children are collected, dropped off or are travelling during school terms ii) There are no construction works permitted on local Public Holidays iii) During local community events where increased traffic or parking requirements may be reasonably anticipated e.g. local agricultural shows, funerals etc. iv) No deliveries or construction traffic allowed to the site from Portree via the B863 Traffic to use A850 to access site office. v) Project team to avoid conveying of construction vehicles. vi) Measures to avoid school opening and closing times. <p>Norpower site team to mitigate any potential disruptions to nearby Dunvegan Edinbane primary schools. OHL deliveries and linesmen teams to avoid use of A863 where possible between 08:30 – 09:30 AM and 15:00 – 15:30. No more than 3 vehicles to travel together in a convoy during this time. Similar mitigation measures to be used for Edinbane primary school on A850 near NorPower compound.</p>

Community Benefit Update

CLG Terms of Reference

Dates for future meetings and venues



The Project Team

SSEN Transmission Project Management

Project Director OHL/UGC	Paul Higginbotham
Project Director Substations	Chris Bell
Lead Project Managers – Overhead Line	Simon Roberston & Cal Lancaster
Lead Project Manager – Underground Cable	Russel Maxwell
Lead Project Manager – Substations	Simon Johnstone

Community Engagement SSEN Transmission

Community Liaison Manager	Maren Ebeling
Contact details	SSEN Transmission, 10 Henderson Road, Inverness, IV1 1SN, M: +44 (0)7721 462 330, E: skye.reinforcement@sse.com

Community Engagement Balfour Beatty

Community Liaison Manager	Phoebe Caulfield
Contact details	Glen Mor(nr Fort Augustus), Invergarry PH35 4HT, M: +44 (0)7885 670 403, E: SkyeCommunications@balfourbeatty.com

Project Contact Details

Skye.reinforcement@sse.com
www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/skye-reinforcement

Sign up for local and wider project updates on the project website.