Skye Reinforcement – Struan Community Council 21 October 2025

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

The Skye-Reinforcement 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 is covered within the Section 37 Application.

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)

Key Contractors & Construction Start Dates

UGC = Underground Cable *OHL = Overheadline*

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 & RJ Macleod	Norpower

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)
October 2025	Quarter 2 2026	Quarter 4 2025	Quarter 2 2026	Quarter 2 2026	Quarter 4 2025	Quarter 1 2026

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

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks TRANSMISSION

‘Pre-Construction’ Activities

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 Villages Planning
- Design work

Substations
- Public road improvements
- site set up at Edinbane Substation
- Vegetation management
- Accommodation Village Planning

Underground Cable (UGC)
- Ground Investigation works
- Site mobilisation (Auchterawe)

Cross Project
- Traffic Management Planning
- Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Struan CC Area – Edinbane Substation

The construction phase of Edinbane Substation has started.

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)
- Initial Site set up at Edinbane Substation – Site Offices and Welfare (Temporary cabins within the existing Substation compound)
- The wider working area is now fenced in with public access along the track facilitated through pedestrian gates (this will change to the whole site being secured and access managed within the next few months, notice will be given)

Works currently ongoing:

Watercourse diversion at Edinbane Substation

The watercourse to the west of the substation lies within the footprint of the new substation and therefore requires diversion further west. Work on this diversion has commenced, beginning with the creation of access to the upper section of the watercourse. A typical watercourse diversion involves excavating a new channel, installing erosion and sediment control measures, and redirecting the flow into the newly formed path to maintain hydrological function and environmental integrity. In parallel, peat management and storage measures are being implemented to ensure responsible handling of excavated peat. This includes careful excavation, temporary storage in designated areas, and reuse where feasible to support habitat restoration.

Access Tracks works at Edinbane Substation

The main access track currently running along the Substation's southern edge will need to be relocated approximately 26 metres further south. Stripping out of peat for the new route is currently being undertaken on site.

Struan CC Area – Edinbane Substation (continued)

Works currently ongoing (continued):

Office and Welfare Site Compound
An area immediately east to the existing Substation boundary (between subsation and windfarm access track) will be utilised for the site and welfare compound. This will consist of a series of 60 interlinked double storey cabins providing office space, changing/drying rooms and welfare space including canteen. The site will cater for up to 150 workers on shift, with no accommodation on site at Edinbane Substation. There will also be a yard/storage area.

Borrow Pit
Stone is currently imported from Kingsburgh Quarry, Trotternish. Planning consent (24/00919/FUL) has been granted to reopen a disused borrow pit directly east of the Edinbane substation, reducing the need for imported stone. Works will involve peat removal (used to cover the old pit), followed by blasting and crushing. Advance notice of borrow pit being fully operational will be given.

Current Traffic Movements to Edinbane Substation Site (dated: 21 October 2025)

- 3 x HGV/Tipper Wagons doing 2-3 return journeys each day. Which is the equivalent of 6-9 lorry trips a day.
- Through the week on average there are approx.3 artic deliveries total. Delivering plant equipment to site.
- There is a total of approx. 2-5 long wheelbase van deliveries per week.
- Staff/contractor/visitor traffic totals approx. 30 vehicles typically increasing to up to 40 on a busy day. The large majority of travellers are on island. Portree, Dunvegan etc. Approx. 20% is coming from off island.

Struan CC Area – Other Activities

Works currently ongoing (continued):

Glenvicaskill Access Track works (off B885) – nearing completion

Road works
- Cattle grid replacement on B885 (complete)
- Surfacing of C1245 (complete)

Balfour Beatty are currently in the area undertaking GI Works for the steel tower overhead line.

Community Liaison Groups (CLGs)

Whilst SSEN Transmission would usually offer to run CLGs for any of our construction projects, the formation of CLG(s) is a condition of our Section 37 consent for the Skye Reinforcement Project and also the Town & Country Planning Consents for Broadford and Edinbane Substation.

The following Liaison Groups have been set up on the Island of Skye:

Skye Area CLG 1: Struan, Glendale, Dunvegan, Waternish, Skaebost, Uig, Kilmuir, Staffin, Portree & Braes formed, inaugural meeting held, led by SSEN Transmission

Skye Area CLG 2: Minginish, Sconser, Raasay, Kyleakin & Kylerhea, Sleat, Broadford & Strath formed, inaugural meeting held, led by SSEN Transmission

Broadford CLG: formed, inaugural meeting held, led by Broadford Community Council

The CLG approach has been previously discussed with Struan CC at which point the CC indicated that the Skye Area CLG1 would be expected to be sufficient.
The CLG approach will be reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure the proposed structure works for all involved and provides a good platform for meaningful and solution orientated discussion on concerns and opportunities.

Additional and close liaison with individual communities across the area will supplement the CLG engagement.

Community Benefit

More than £10m of community benefit funding will be generated by the Skye Reinforcement project.

Under the UK Government's original guidance, the overheadline element of the Skye Reinforcement project was not eligible for community benefit funding. However, in response to representations made by SSEN Transmission and others – including local cross-party elected members – it was announced in August that the guidance will be updated.

This means a total of £10.91 million will be available for the Skye Reinforcement Project to support communities, with the funding split equally between regional (SSEN Transmission's operational area) and local initiatives (Skye Reinforcement Project area specifically).

We're committed to working closely with local communities/stakeholders to shape how the local portion is used, ensuring it reflects community priorities, local plans and delivers meaningful impact. A consultation programme with local stakeholders will be run to achieve this. The consultation programme will be run by SSEN Transmission's Community Benefit Team, with an expected start in early 2026.

You can read the full press release here.

If you have any initial questions, please contact our Community Benefit Funding team at community.benefit@sse.com. You can expect to hear from us in early 2026 to discuss how you can get involved in shaping the fund locally.

Struan CC Meeting 21 October 2005 – Questions/Actions

Construction Traffic Management Plans (CTMPs):
SSEN Transmission to provide clarity on number of CTMPs and timeline on when the cumulative CTMP can be expected. -> CTMPs are still under review for the overall project. The CTMP for only the Substation works is finalised and will be shared with the community shortly.

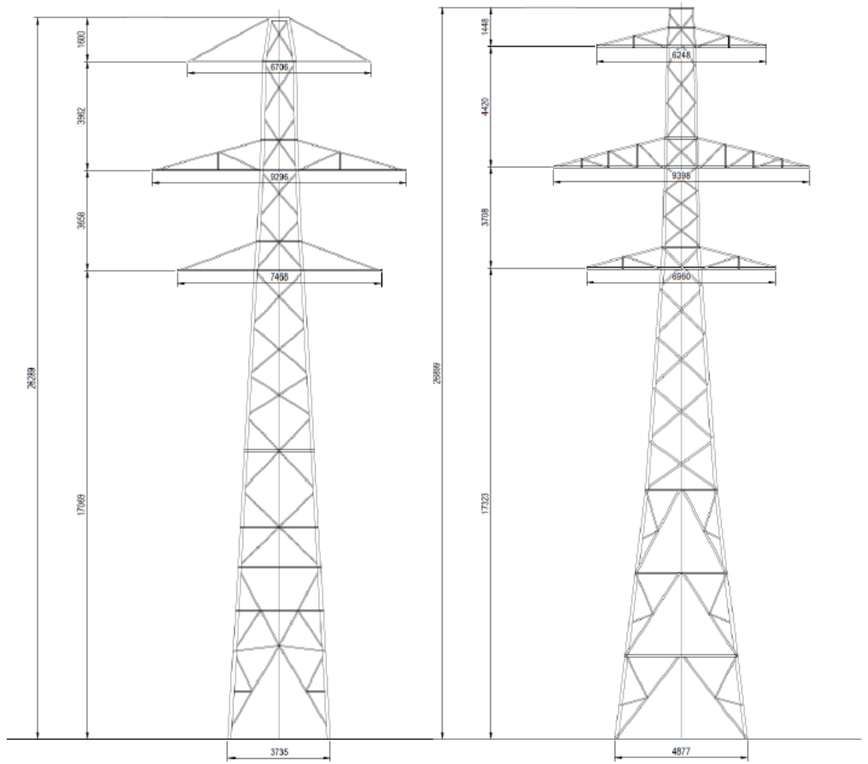
Steel Lattice Tower heights:
SSEN Transmission to provide average height of towers -> The new towers are of similar height and built as the existing towers on the Skye Trasmission line. Exact individual tower heights depend on their location in the landscape but on average the new towers are just under 27m in height (see next slide).

Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AIL):
Will the project require AILs? SSEN Transmmission confirmed that the project will require AILs, such as delivery of sizeable electrical hardware (e.g. transformers) to Edinbane (and Broadford) Substation(s). The project team are currently investigating the use of marine transportation of these to as close as possible to site to alleviate the need for AIL to travel across the whole of the island.

Communications:
SSEN Transmission to share the link to the project website -> post meeting response: www.ssen-transmission/skye-reinforcement ; the project website provides functionality to sign up for project updates with an option to join the mailing list for area specific information (click on Sign Up button and then tick relevant CC area). ME highlighted that all CLG papers/minutes will be published on the project website.

Community Liaison Group:
Struan Community Council attended the inaugural Skye Area 1 Community Liaison Group meeting on 30 October 2025.

Struan CC Meeting 21 October 2005 – Questions/Actions



132kV TOWER
PL16 D2 SUSPENSION TOWER
STD HT
EXISTING TOWER TYPE

132kV TOWER
NEW LINE L7(c)
D SUSPENSION TOWER
STD HT
PROPOSED TOWER TYPE

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION

The Project Team

Project Management

Project Director	Paul Higginbotham
Lead Project Manager – Overhead Line	Simon Roberston
Lead Project Manager – Underground Cable	Russel Maxwell
Lead Project Manager – Substations	Simon Johnstone
Edinbane Substation	Peter Lawrence (Project Manager), Lyle Ramsay (Site Construction Manager)

Community Engagement Team

Community Liaison Manager	Maren Ebeling
Stakeholder Engagement Manager	Kylie Cassidy
Community Benefit	community.benefit@sse.com

Project Contact Details

SSEN Transmission, 10 Henderson Road, Inverness, IV1 1SN
M: +44 (0)7721 462 330 [Maren]
E: skye.reinforcement@sse.com
www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/skye-reinforcement

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

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
TRANSMISSION