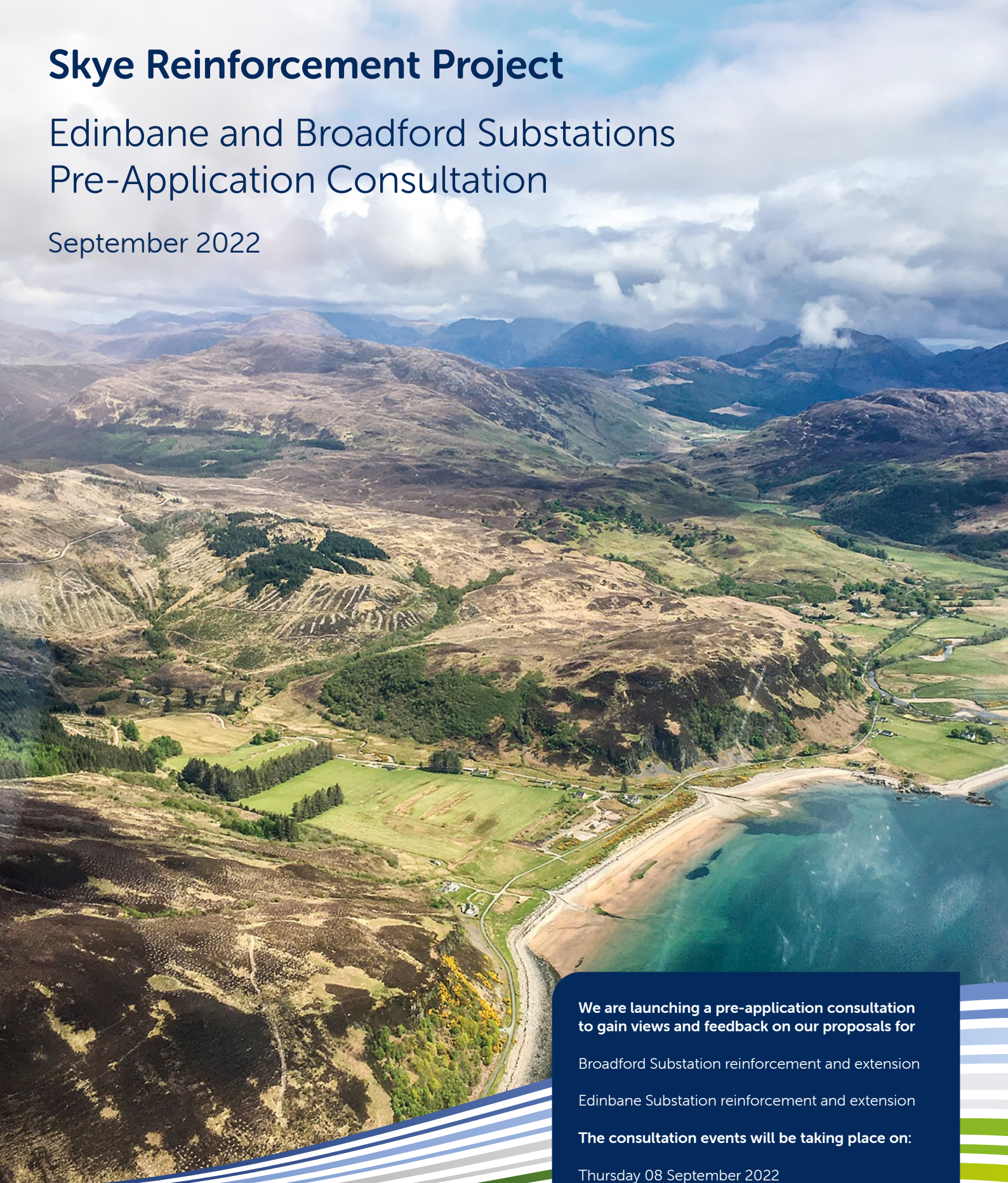


Skye Reinforcement Project

Edinbane and Broadford Substations Pre-Application Consultation

September 2022



We are launching a pre-application consultation to gain views and feedback on our proposals for

Broadford Substation reinforcement and extension

Edinbane Substation reinforcement and extension

The consultation events will be taking place on:

Thursday 08 September 2022

Skeabost Memorial Hall 10:00 - 13:00

Broadford Village Hall 15:00 - 19:00

Virtual Consultation Event - with live chat function

Monday 12 September 2022 17:00 - 19:00

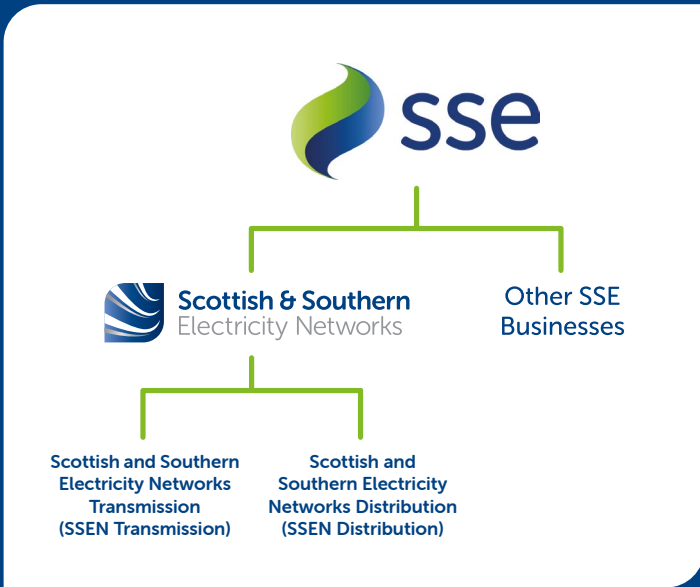


Scottish & Southern
Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

Who we are

We are **Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN Transmission)**, operating under licence as **Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc (SHE Transmission)** for the transmission of electricity in the north of Scotland.



What is the difference between transmission and distribution?

Electricity transmission is the transportation of electricity from generating plants to where it is required at centres of demand. The electricity transmission network, or grid, transports electricity at very high voltages through overhead lines, underground cables and subsea cables.

Our transmission network connects large scale generation, primarily renewables, to central and southern Scotland and the rest of Great Britain. It also helps secure supply by providing reliable connection to the wider network of generation plans.

The electricity distribution network is connected into the transmission network but the voltage is lowered by transformers at electricity substations, and the power is then distributed to homes and businesses through overhead lines or underground cables.

Overview of transmission projects

In total we maintain about 5,000km of overhead lines and underground cables – easily enough to stretch across the Atlantic from John O’Groats all the way to Boston in the USA.

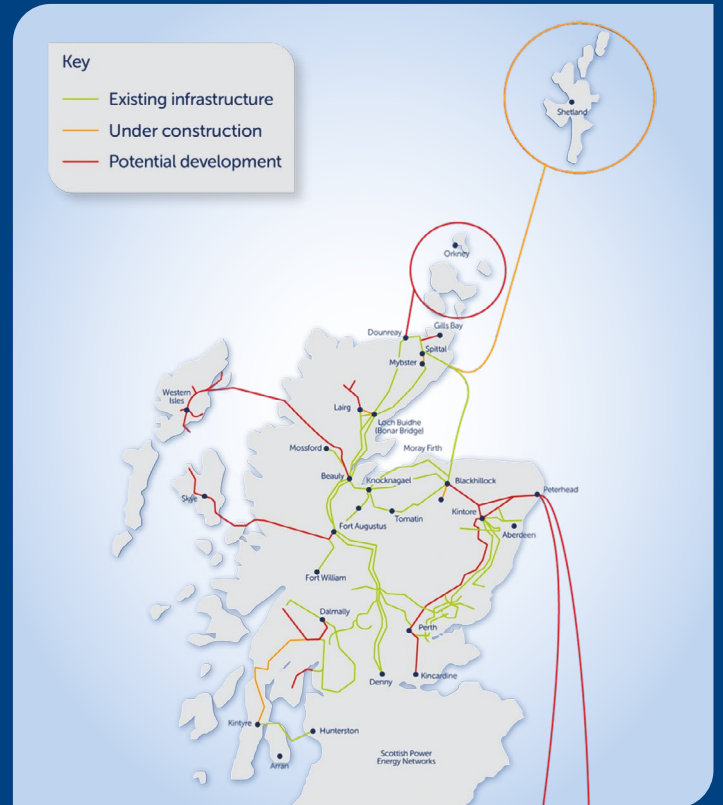
Our network crosses some of the UK’s most challenging terrain – including circuits that are buried under the seabed, are located over 750m above sea level and up to 250km long.

The landscape and environment that contribute to the challenges we face also give the area a rich resource for renewable energy generation. There is a high demand to connect from new wind, hydro and marine generators which rely on Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks to provide a physical link between the new sources of power and electricity users. Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks is delivering a major programme of investment to ensure that the network is ready to meet the needs of our customers in the future.

Our responsibilities

We have a licence for the transmission of electricity in the north of Scotland and we are closely regulated by the energy regulator Ofgem.

Our licence stipulates that we must develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission.



What is the Skye Reinforcement Project, and why is it needed?

The existing 132kV overhead line (OHL) from Fort Augustus to Ardmore on the Isle of Skye 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 in the area.

The current existing overhead line was constructed in three distinct sections between 1956 and 1989 is now reaching the end of its operational life.

To ensure the security of supply and facilitate the connection of new renewable energy to the grid, SSEN Transmission is proposing the construction of a new overhead line, which will comprise of steel lattice towers, wood pole overhead line and sections of underground cable.

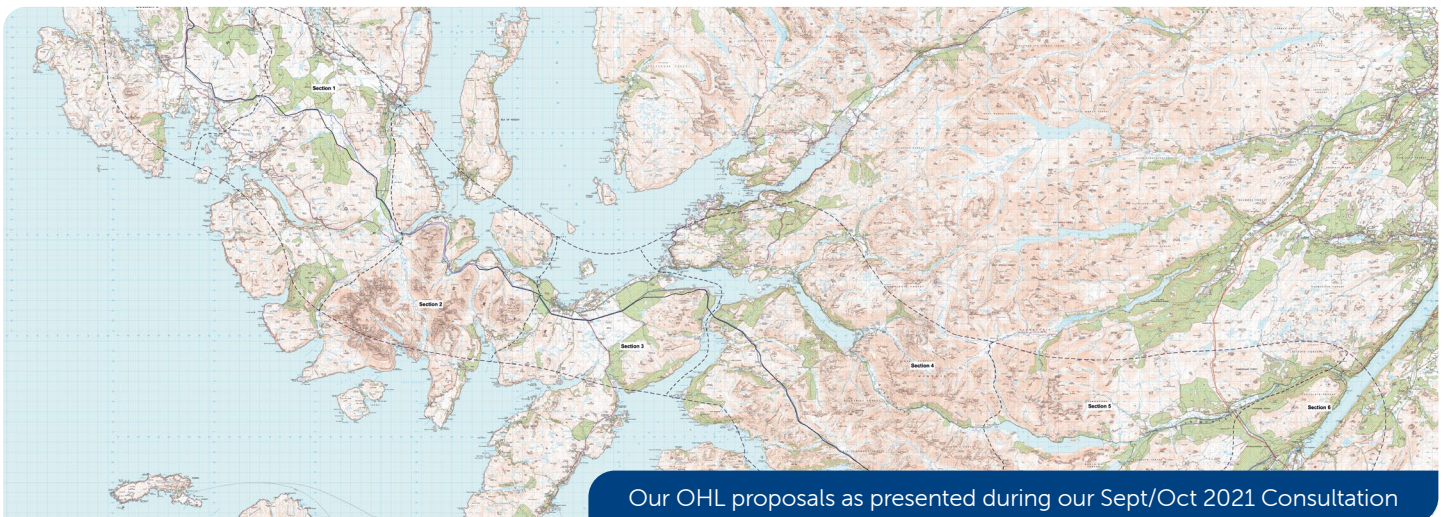
In addition, more applications from new generation developers in Skye initiated SSEN Transmission to develop a needs case for the project that ensured that the best sustainable long-term solutions was identified.

Given the scale of the replacement project, SSEN Transmission intends to 'future proof' the replacement line to allow the connection of additional renewables to help meet Government 'net zero' climate change targets. Taking 'a build it once, built it right approach' which it hopes will greatly reduce the need for additional major works in the future, helping keep local disruption to a minimum.

The main elements of the project are:

- A new double circuit 132kV OHL comprising of steel lattice structures between Fort Augustus and Broadford substations. The existing Fort Augustus to Abercalder 132kV wood pole OHL, and the existing 132kV OHL's between Abercalder and Broadford would be removed once the new OHL is operational.
- Between Broadford and Edinbane substations, the existing single circuit wood pole trident 132kV OHL would be replaced with a new 132kV OHL comprising of steel lattice structures. The existing OHL would be removed once the new OHL is operational.
- Between Edinbane and Ardmore substations, the existing single circuit wood pole 132kV OHL would be replaced with a new higher capacity 132kV wood pole OHL.
- A new Indoor Gas Insulated Substation adjacent to the existing substation at Broadford.
- A new indoor Gas Insulated Substation, Grid Supply Point and Wind Farm Connection, south west of the existing substation at Edinbane.

Construction works are also required at Broadford and Edinbane Substations to facilitate this project, and this consultation relates specifically to our Proposal of Application Notices (PAN) for these substation works.



Our OHL proposals as presented during our Sept/Oct 2021 Consultation

The story so far

Engagement to date

In 2020 we consulted with our stakeholders, explaining the need and the scope of this project and seeking feedback on the preferred route for the new 132kV OHL. We then published a report on consultation in November 2020 which summarised the feedback we had received and our response. The project team ensured any comments or concerns raised informed the design as it progressed prior to identifying a suitable alignment and design solution for the replacement line.

In September and October 2021, we presented our preferred alignment and design solution, alongside pre-application proposals for Edinbane and Broadford substations, seeking feedback on our refined proposals. This was again followed by a report on the consultation, published in March 2022, summarising the feedback received and our next steps.

Outwith formal consultation periods, we have continued to liaise closely with a wide range of stakeholders to help inform the project's design.



Section 37 planning application

In Summer 2022, following extensive consultation with local stakeholders, communities and all interested parties, we submitted an application to Scottish Ministers for consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 for construction and operation of approximately 160km overhead line (OHL) between Fort Augustus and Ardmore on the Isle of Skye.

Final Needs Case submission

In July 2022, we submitted to the energy regulator, Ofgem, a Final Needs Case (FNC) for the proposed replacement of the existing Fort Augustus to Skye electricity transmission line, moving towards the final stages of the regulatory funding approvals process for the proposed project.

What we're consulting on today

Broadford and Edinbane Substations Proposal of Application Notices (PAN).

In September 2021, alongside wider consultation regarding the Skye Reinforcement project route, we held pre-application consultation events for our proposed Broadford and Edinbane Substation works.

The submission of the Proposal of Application Notices (PAN) is the first step in the town and country planning process for these sites and kickstarts a 12 week pre-application consultation period for feedback and comments.

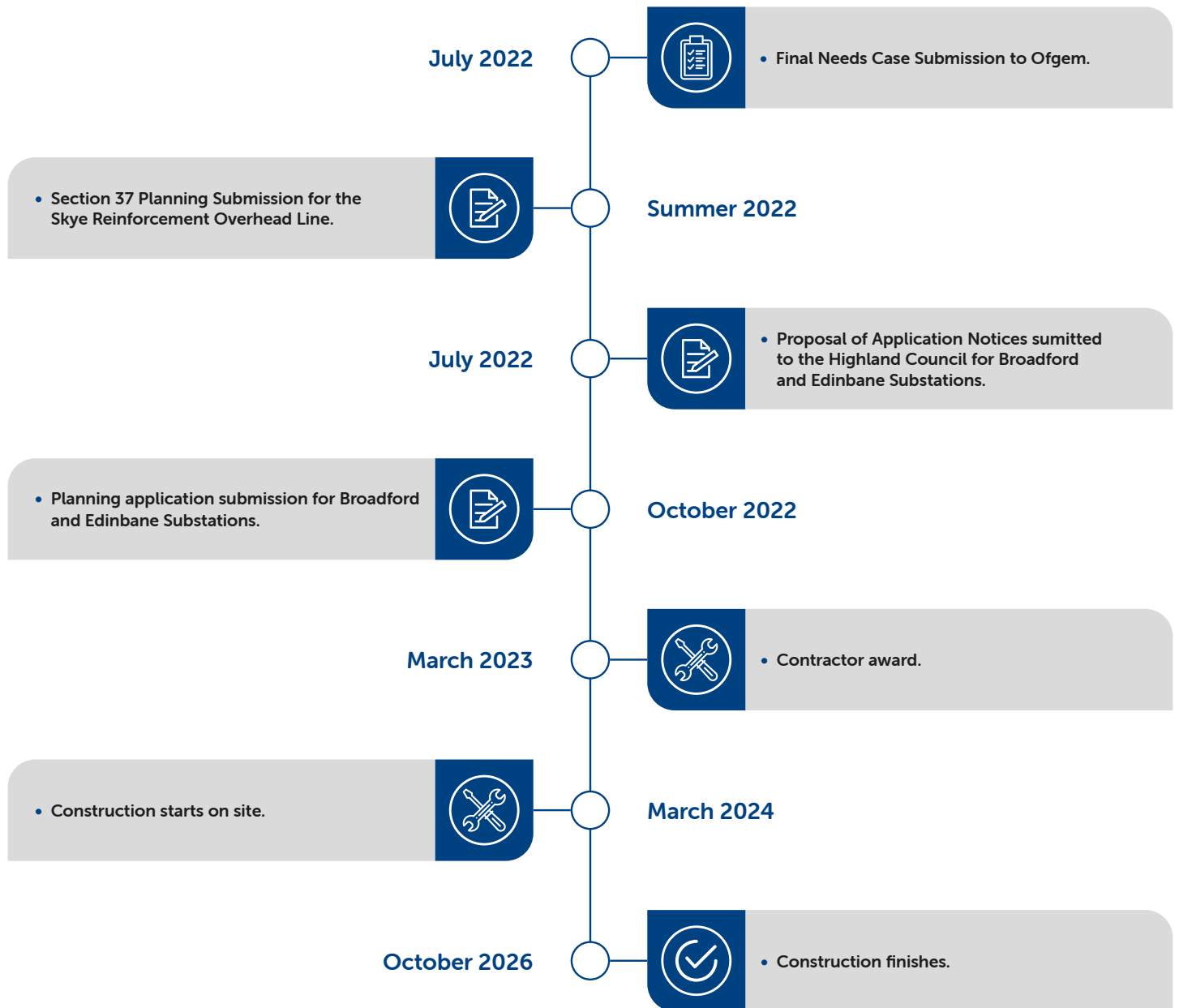
However since our initial PAN submissions in 2021, we have proposed some minor changes to the extent of development and this has required an increase in the extent of our red line boundaries (an area which defines the application sites).

We therefore submitted new PANs in July 2022, with larger red line boundaries. We are holding additional consultation to share this updated information and receive any comments or feedback on our proposals. All feedback received will be reviewed prior to submitting town and country planning applications to The Highland Council for these substation works. The proposal of application notice reference numbers are as follows:

Edinbane - 22/03176/PAN

Broadford - 22/03292/PAN

Skye reinforcement indicative timeline



Broadford Substation Project

Project need

There is a requirement for us to reinforce and extend the existing substation, driven by the Skye Reinforcement project and the associated wind farm connection commitments.

A new Indoor Gas Insulated Substation is proposed to be constructed on adjacent SSEN Transmission owned land to the east and south of the existing substation at Broadford.



Site selection – why the existing site?

- It is efficient and optimal to utilise the existing substation sites for the required infrastructure works.
- We propose utilising SSEN Transmission owned land adjacent to the existing substation, eliminating the need to extend the ownership boundary.
- Facilitates offline construction, minimising the impact on the existing infrastructure and electricity transmission and distribution systems supplying customers.

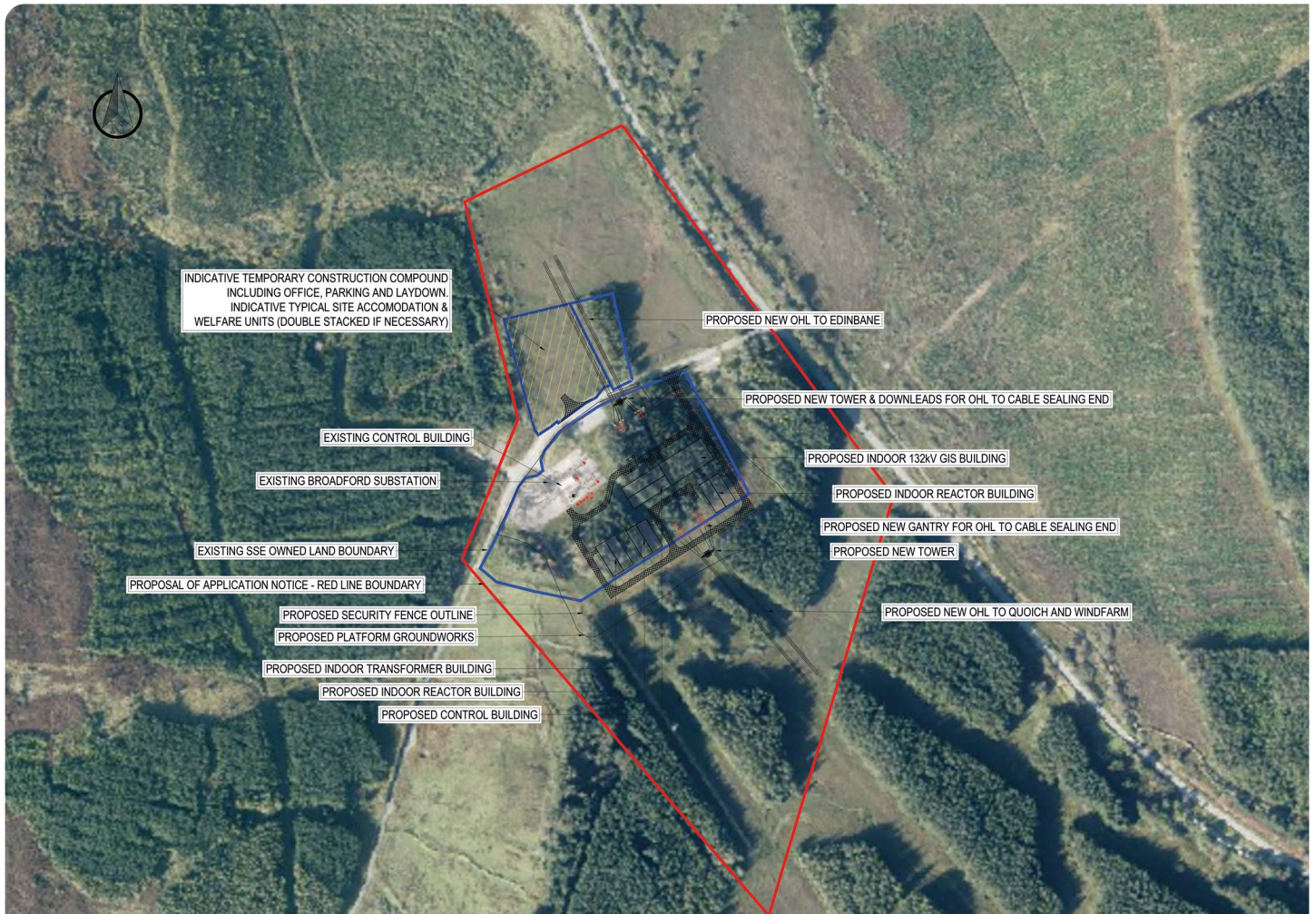
What has changed since we last consulted?

- The size of the required substation site has changed, meaning that a slightly larger footprint from what was previously proposed in September/October 2021 will be required.
- The change in the footprint is to accommodate additional electrical equipment required because of the addition of underground cable as part of the design solution. This removed the need for overhead lines in a large part of the Cuillin Hills National Scenic Area on Skye.



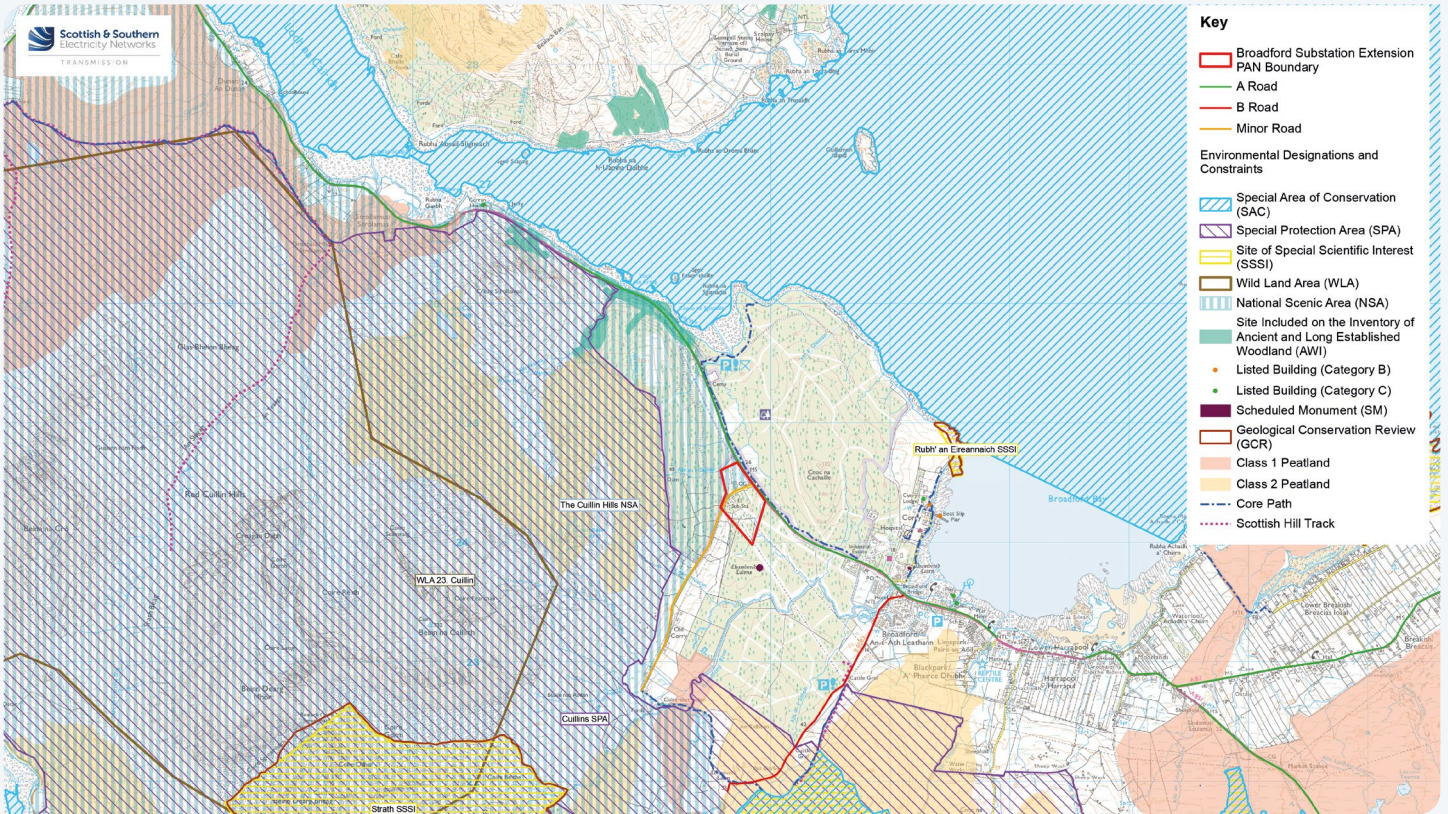
A 3D model drawing of the existing substation layout (left hand corner) with the proposed extension beneath.

Broadford Substation proposals – site layout



- Existing Broadford substation shown to the north west of the site.
- Proposed new Broadford substation to the south and east of the existing substation.
- New 132kV Overhead Line routes indicated running south east to north west.
- Temporary construction welfare area indicated on Old Corry Road off A87.
- Access will be via the existing track and public road.

Broadford Substation project – key environmental considerations



The key environmental considerations for the development of a substation extension in this location include:

- Landscape and visual receptors. The site is surrounded by commercial forestry plantation but is located on the very edge of the Cuillin Hills National Scenic Area (NSA). Potential effects in relation to the Cuillin Hills NSA, landscape character and visual receptors within the Broadford area will require consideration. A full landscape and visual assessment will be carried out and opportunities to mitigate effects would be considered in the form of appropriate landscape mitigation, where required.
- The Cuillins Special Protection Area (SPA) is located approximately 600m to the west of the proposed substation site. Potential effects on the qualifying features (golden eagle) of the SPA, as well as other potential ornithological constraints, will be considered.
- Habitats within the vicinity of the site comprise commercial forestry plantation and semi-improved neutral grassland. Minimising effects on sensitive habitats and deeper 4 areas of peat will be informed by existing habitat data and further survey work as required.
- Potential effects on European Protected Species will be informed by protected species surveys. Any identified effects could be reduced or eliminated by adopting appropriate mitigation such as the use of Species Protection Plans.
- Local hydrological constraints.
- Felling requirements within the commercial forestry plantation.
- Consideration of potential effects on cultural heritage.
- Transportation of materials and abnormal load requirements to the site.
- Potential effects of construction and operational noise.

Edinbane Substation Project

Project need & proposals

There is a requirement to reinforce and extend the existing substation, driven by the Skye overhead line project and the associated wind farm connection commitments.

A new Indoor Gas Insulated Substation, Grid Supply Point and Wind Farm connection is proposed to be constructed on land to the south and west of the existing substation at Edinbane.



Site selection – why the existing site?

- Proposed new substation site is adjacent to the existing substation site on land to the west and south, utilising existing screening to the west and natural topography to the north and east to minimise the visual impact.
- New substation buildings and associated infrastructure have been sited adjacent to the existing substation to limit the disturbance on the surrounding environment/ecology whilst facilitating offline construction.
- Buried HV cable connections proposed to connect the new substation to the overhead line, increasing design flexibility and minimising the footprint.

What has changed since we last consulted?

- The size of the required substation site has changed, meaning that a slightly larger footprint will be required.
- The reason for the change in footprint is in order for the site to accommodate additional electrical equipment required as a result of the addition of underground cable as part of the design solution.

This removed the need for overhead lines in a large part of the Cuillin Hills National Scenic Area on Skye.



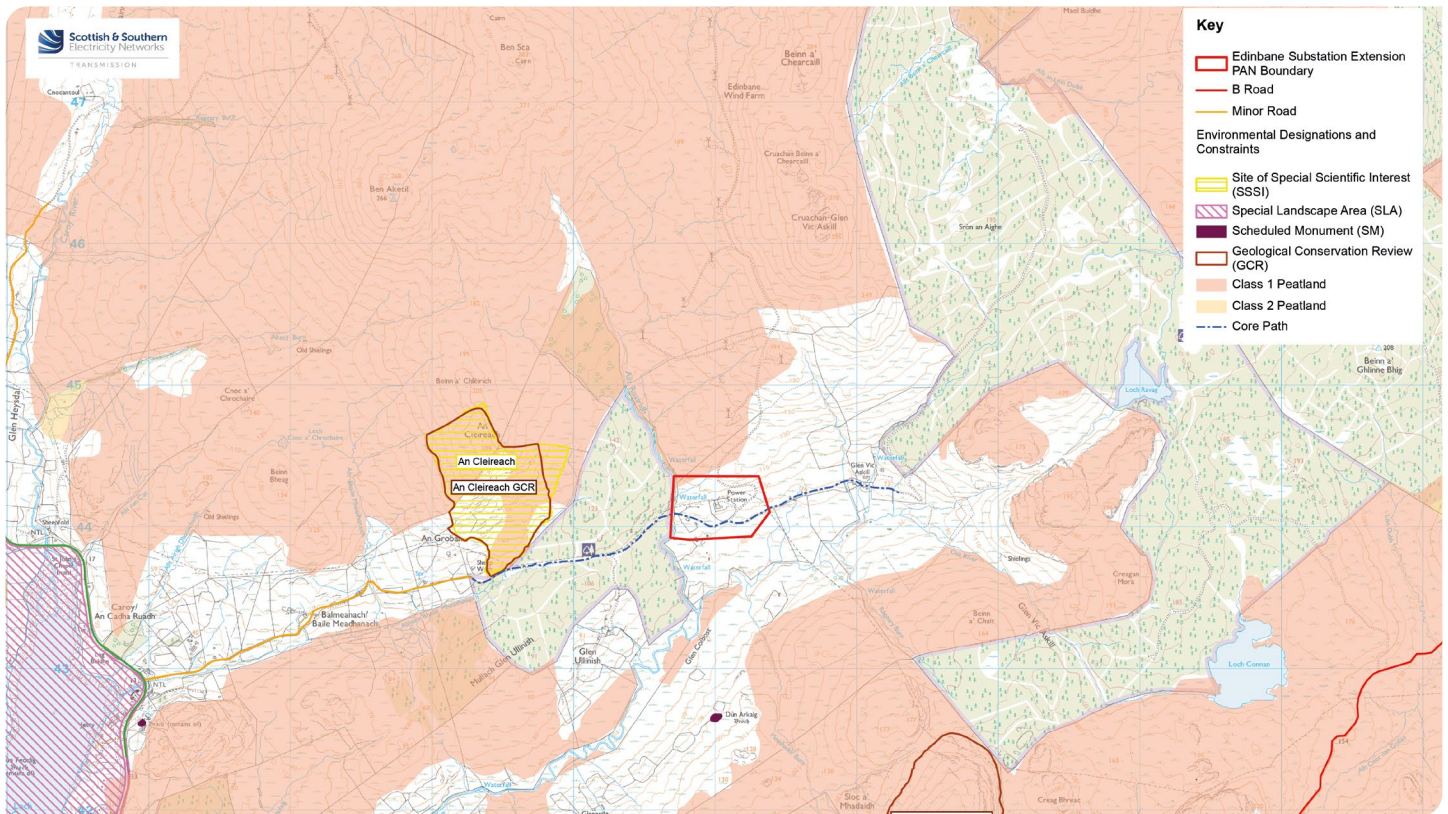
A 3D model drawing of the existing substation layout, with the additional buildings proposed shown in green

Edinbane Substation proposals – site layout



- Existing Edinbane substation shown to the north east of the site.
- Proposed new Edinbane 132kV Collector substation, Reactive Compensation Equipment, Grid Supply Point and infrastructure to facilitate Glenn Ullinish Wind Farm connection shown to the west and south west of the existing substation on land to be procured by SSEN.
- New 132kV Overhead Line route indicated in black.
- Temporary Construction Welfare area indicated to the North East of the existing substation.

Edinbane Substation project – key environmental considerations



The key environmental considerations for the development of a substation extension in this location include:

- Potential effects on landscape character and visual receptors within the vicinity of the site. A full landscape and visual assessment will be carried out and opportunities to mitigate effects would be considered in the form of appropriate landscape mitigation, where required.
- Potential effects on ornithology and European Protected Species, which will be informed by relevant survey data. It is anticipated that any identified effects could be reduced or eliminated by adopting appropriate mitigation such as the use of Species Protection Plans.
- Habitats within the vicinity of the site comprise semi-improved neutral grassland and wet modified bog. Minimising effects on sensitive habitats and deeper areas of peat will be informed by existing habitat data and further survey work as required.
- Local hydrological constraints.
- Potential effects on recreation given proximity to Loch Caroy to Glen Vic Askill Core Path.
- Consideration of potential effects on cultural heritage.
- Transportation of materials and abnormal load requirements to the site.
- Potential effects of construction and operational noise.

What happens now and how do I have my say?

We understand and recognise the value of the feedback provided by stakeholders during all engagements, consultations and events.

Without this valuable feedback, the Project Development team would be unable to progress projects and reach a balanced proposal to submit for planning.

As part of the consultation exercise, we are seeking comments from members of the public, statutory consultees and other key stakeholders regarding our proposals for Broadford and Edinbane Substation works, and will be seeking feedback until **Friday 7th October 2022**. You will find the appropriate feedback forms at the end of this booklet or you can fill them in online using the form on the project webpages.

Broadford Substation – PAN

Comments on the proposals at Broadford Substation can be made until 07 October 2022.

To provide feedback on the proposal or to gain further information on the project, please fill in a Broadford Substation feedback form, visit our in-person or virtual consultation events or contact our Community Liaison Manager. Once planning applications have been submitted, the public will have an opportunity to make formal representations to The Highland Council for the proposed Broadford Substation before a decision is made on our application.

Edinbane Substation – PAN

Comments on the proposals at Edinbane substation can be made until 07 October 2022.

To provide feedback on the proposal or to gain further information on the project, please fill in a Edinbane Substation feedback form, visit our in-person or virtual consultation events or contact our Community Liaison Manager. Once planning applications have been submitted, the public will have an opportunity to make formal representations to The Highland Council for the proposed Edinbane Substation before a decision is made on our application.

Community Liaison Manager, Lisa Marchi



lisa.marchi@sse.com



01463 728 072



07825 015 507



Lisa Marchi
Scottish and Southern
Electricity Networks,
10 Henderson Road,
Inverness, IV1 1SN



Additional information

Information will also be made available via the project webpage and social media channels:

Project website:

ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/skye-reinforcement

Follow us on Twitter:

[@SSETransmission](https://twitter.com/SSETransmission)

Follow us on Facebook:

[@assencommunity](https://www.facebook.com/assencommunity)

All written feedback received for both substations will be collated, reviewed and included in our subsequent Pre-Application Consultation Reports, along with our responses to the topics raised. These reports will form part of each of the planning application submissions.

Your feedback - Broadford Substation

Thank you for taking the time to read this consultation booklet. In order to record your views and improve the effectiveness of our consultation, please complete this short feedback form.

Please complete in **BLOCK CAPITALS**. (Please tick one box per question only)

Q1 Do you feel sufficient information has been provided to enable you to understand what is being proposed on site and why? Comments:

Yes No Unsure

Q2 Are you satisfied that the proposed layout is appropriate for the site location? Comments:

Yes No Unsure

Q3 Do you have any particular concerns or queries on the proposed development? Comments:

Yes No Unsure

Q4 Is there anything specific you would like to raise in relation to the project which will impact on the planning process to deliver this essential network upgrade at the Broadford Substation? Comments:



Q5 Do you have any other comments on the proposed development? Comments:

Empty comment box area.



Your feedback - Edinbane Substation

Thank you for taking the time to read this consultation booklet. In order to record your views and improve the effectiveness of our consultation, please complete this short feedback form.

Please complete in **BLOCK CAPITALS**. (Please tick one box per question only)

Q1 Do you feel sufficient information has been provided to enable you to understand what is being proposed on site and why? Comments:

Yes No Unsure

Q2 Are you satisfied that the proposed layout is appropriate for the site location? Comments:

Yes No Unsure

Q3 Do you have any particular concerns or queries on the proposed development? Comments:

Yes No Unsure

Q4 Is there anything specific you would like to raise in relation to the project which will impact on the planning process to deliver this essential network upgrade at the Edinbane Substation? Comments:



Q5 Do you have any other comments on the proposed development? Comments:

Full name

Address

Telephone

Email

If you would like to be kept informed of progress on the project please tick this box.

If you would like your comments to remain anonymous please tick this box.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this feedback form.

Please submit your completed form by one of the methods below:

Post: Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks, 10 Henderson Road, Inverness, IV1 1SN

Email: lisa.marchi@sse.com

Online: ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/skye-reinforcement

Download: Comments forms and all the information from today's event will also be available to download from the project website.

The feedback form and all information provided in this booklet can also be downloaded from the dedicated website:
ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/skye-reinforcement

Any information given on the feedback form can be used and published anonymously as part of Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks consultation report. By completing this feedback form you consent to Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks using feedback for this purpose.

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