Sloy Windyhill

Pre Application Consultation Events

July 2022

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

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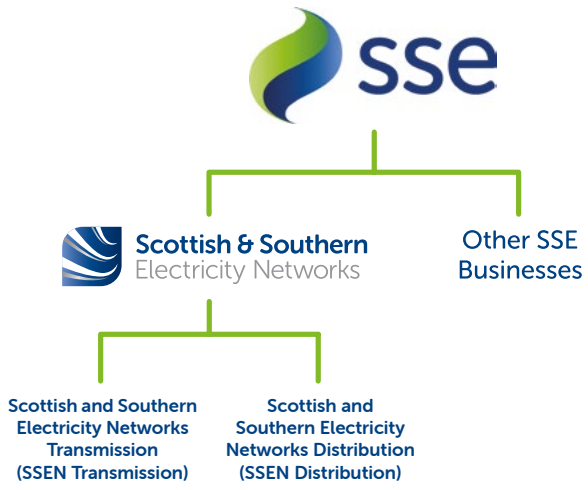
Who we are

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.



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.

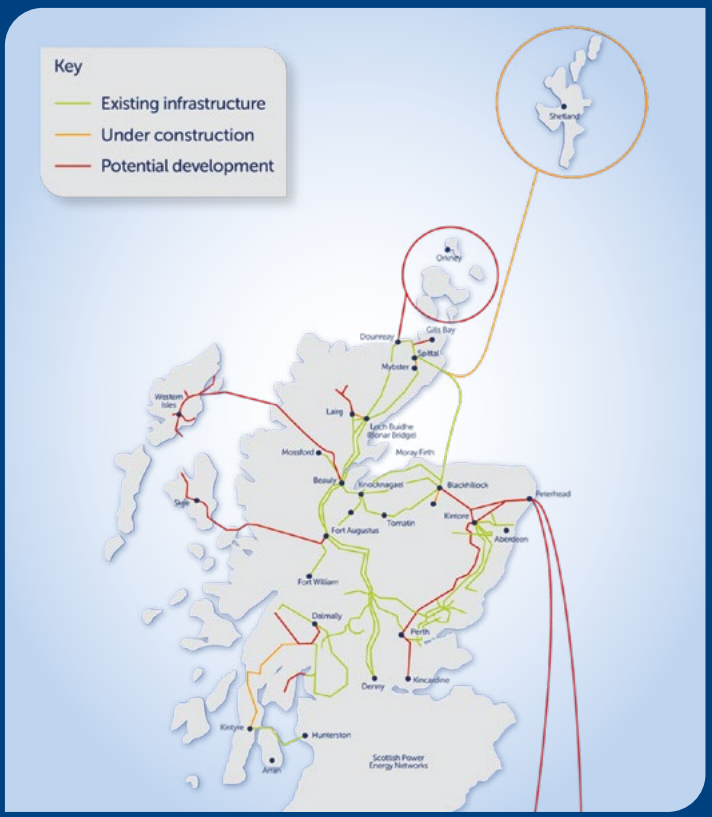
What is the difference between transmission and distribution?

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



Project need

Share your views with us

We are launching consultations seeking feedback on the following project in Argyll and Bute:

Our Sloy-Windyhill project - this consultation relates specifically to the construction of temporary access tracks that will be created to facilitate the works, both within and just outside of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. In this brochure we look to give an overview of the overall project to illustrate the need for these temporary access tracks, as well as show the findings of our various environmental studies that have been carried out by our consultants to be able to present the environmental and engineering considerations that we take into account when formulating our proposals.

Project need

The Sloy-Windyhill overhead line is a 132kV double circuit running from Sloy Switching Station towards Windyhill Substation with Overhead line sections owned by Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) and Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission.

The circuits owned by SSEN Transmission extend over a 14.5km route and were originally constructed in 1951. Reconductoring was performed in 1971 and the earth wire was last replaced in 1995. The ownership boundary between SPEN and SSEN is defined by Tower 51 on Sloy-Windyhill West Line, and Tower 52 on the Sloy-Windyhill East Line close to Glenmallan.

These overhead lines have been subject to significant steelwork corrosion. This is due mainly to diminished paintwork and is now actively reducing the remaining service life of the structures and the conductors are near to the end of its design life. The solution to this deterioration is to reconductor and refit the overhead line and refurbish the towers, replace and upgrade the earth wire and make upgrades to the tower foundations. Scottish Power Energy Networks have already refurbished the overhead line between Windyhill Substation and SSEN's boundary.

Project overview

To perform the works on this project in a safe manner we will need to construct and upgrade access tracks both within and just outside of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park. Any temporary tracks formed will be reinstated to their character landscape on the completion of the works.

The works that will make up the application will comprise of the following:

- The formation of temporary access tracks.
- The upgrade of a number existing tracks.
- Improvements and permanent enhancements to some sections of existing track.
- Improving access points onto main roads at key interface locations.
- Reinstatement of temporary access works upon completion of the project.

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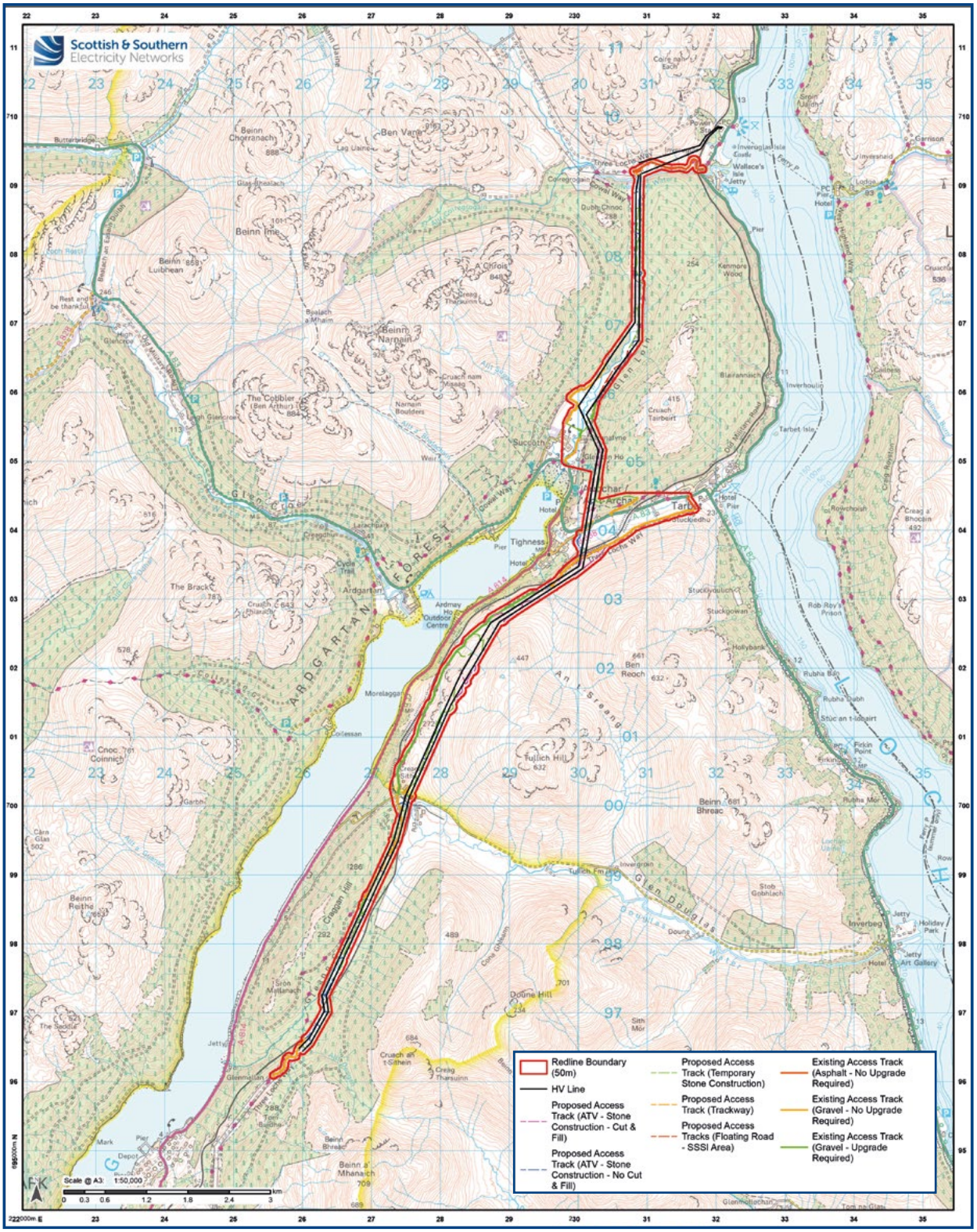
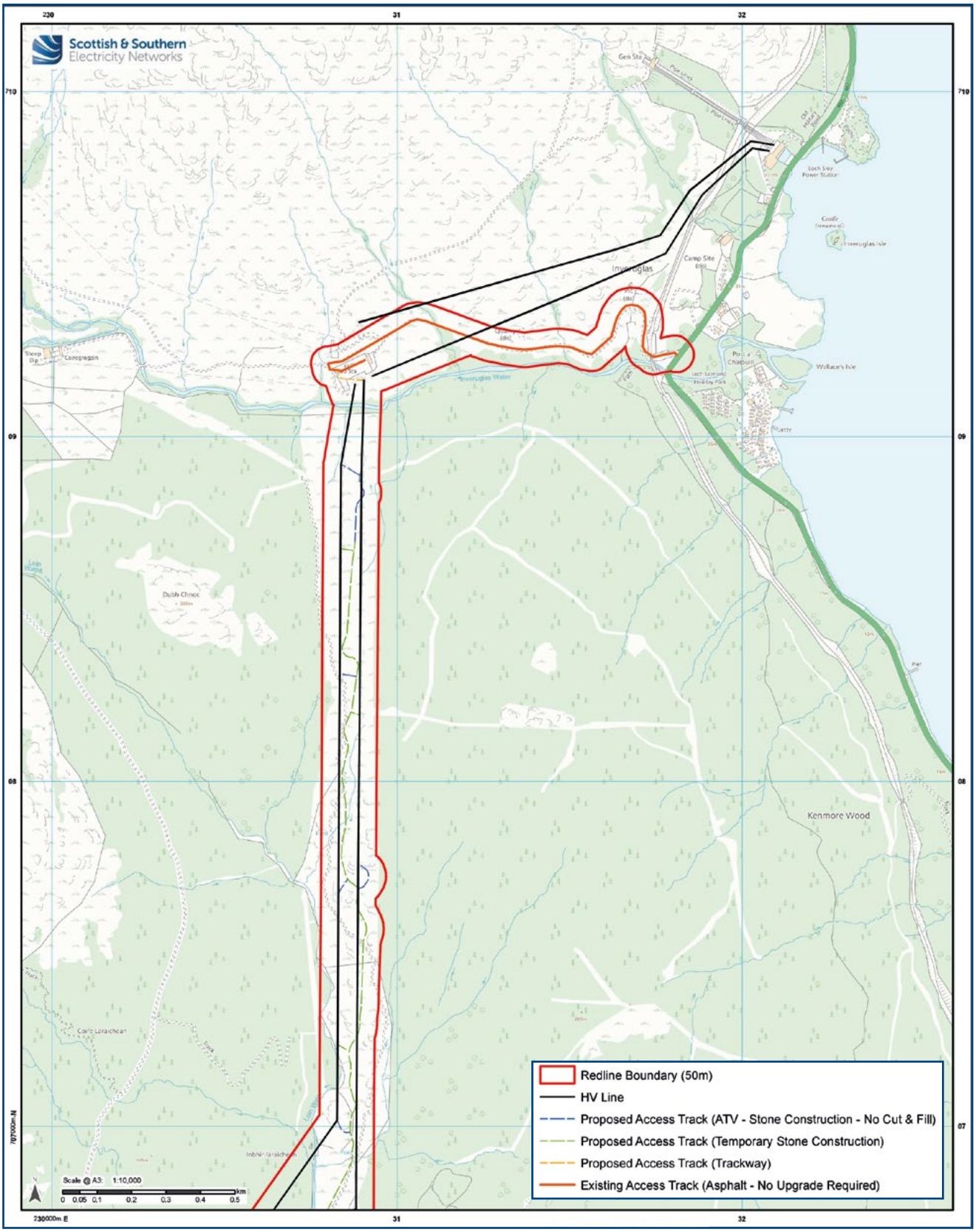
Proposal of Application Red Line Boundary Overview



Proposal of Application Red Line Boundry



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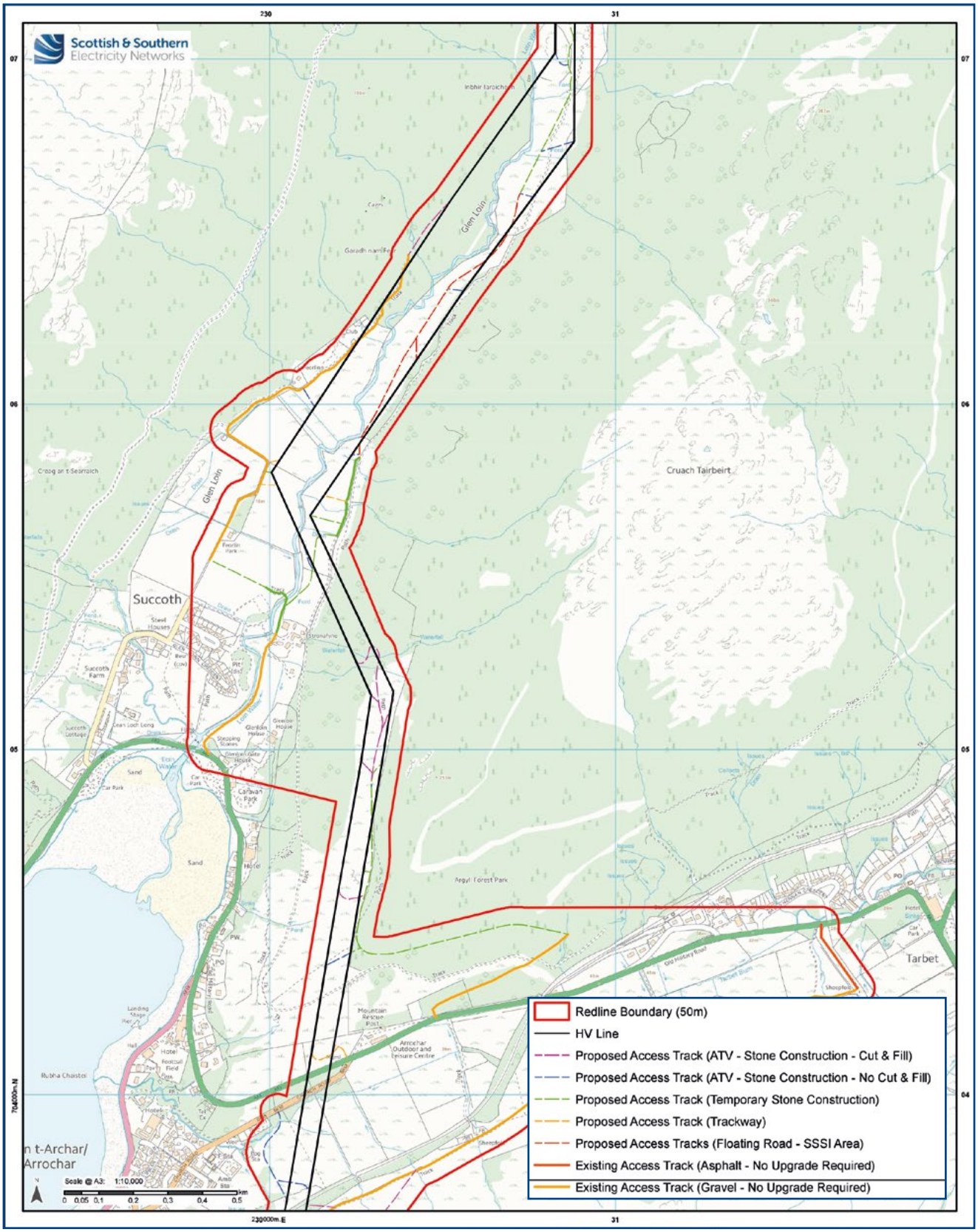

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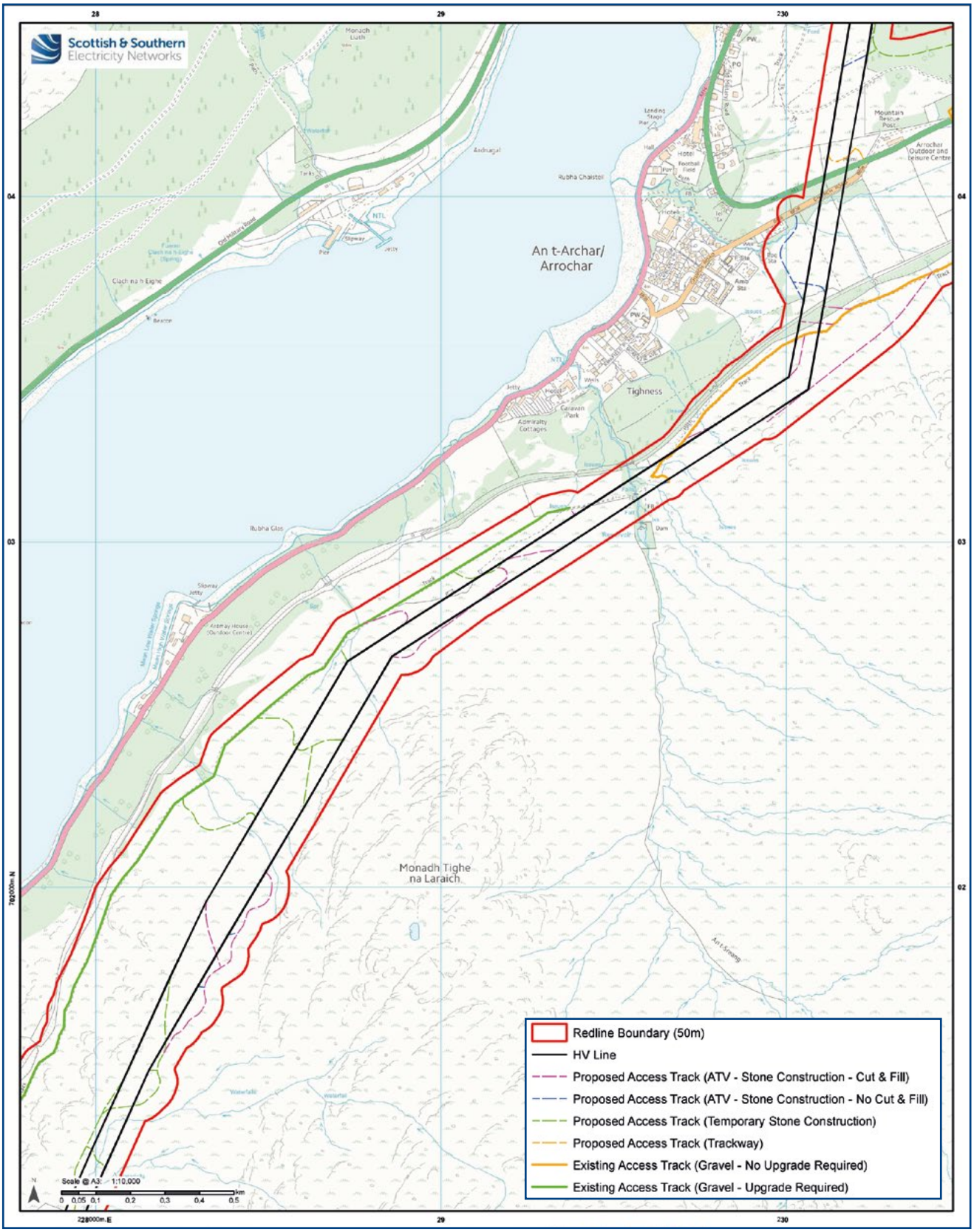

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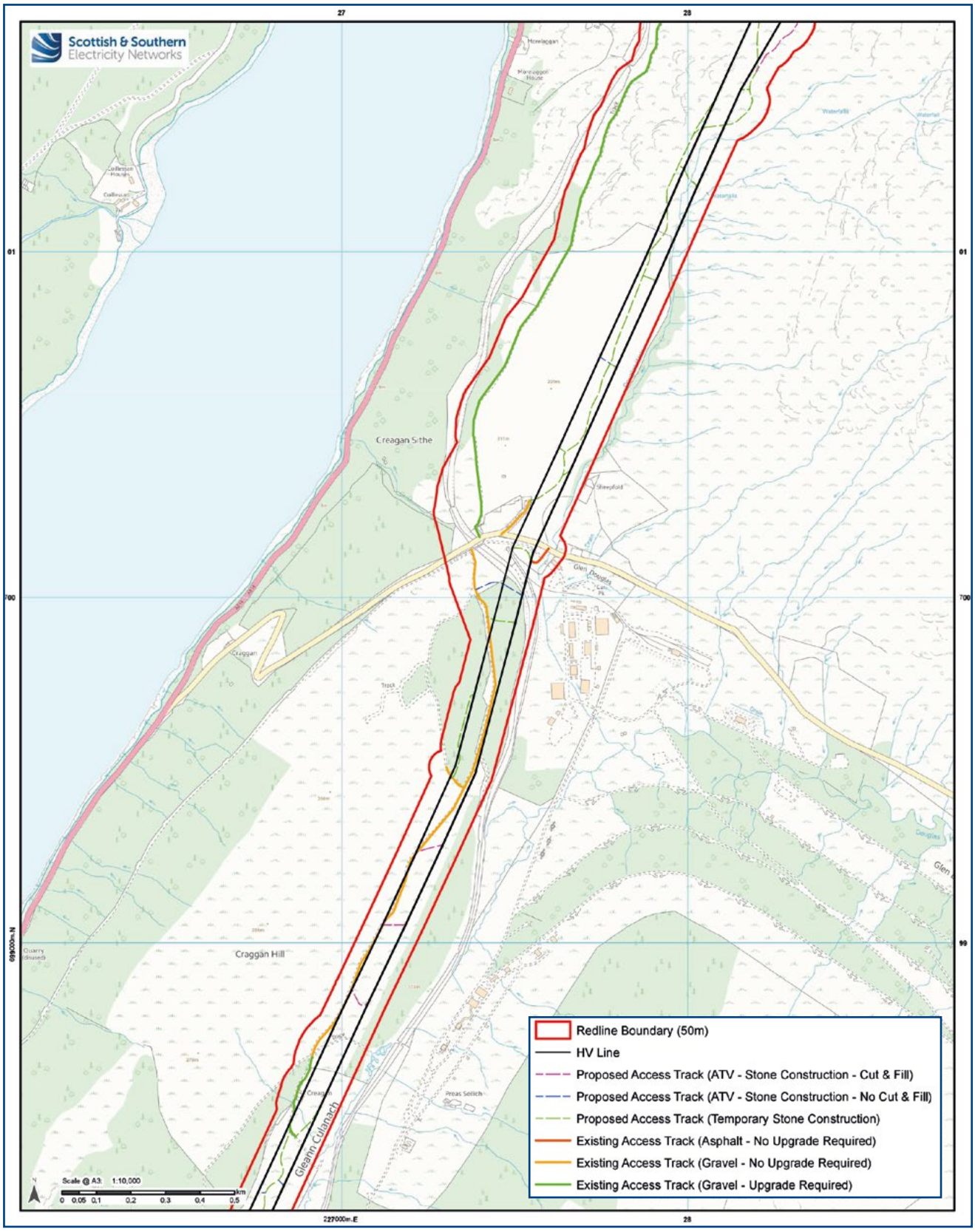

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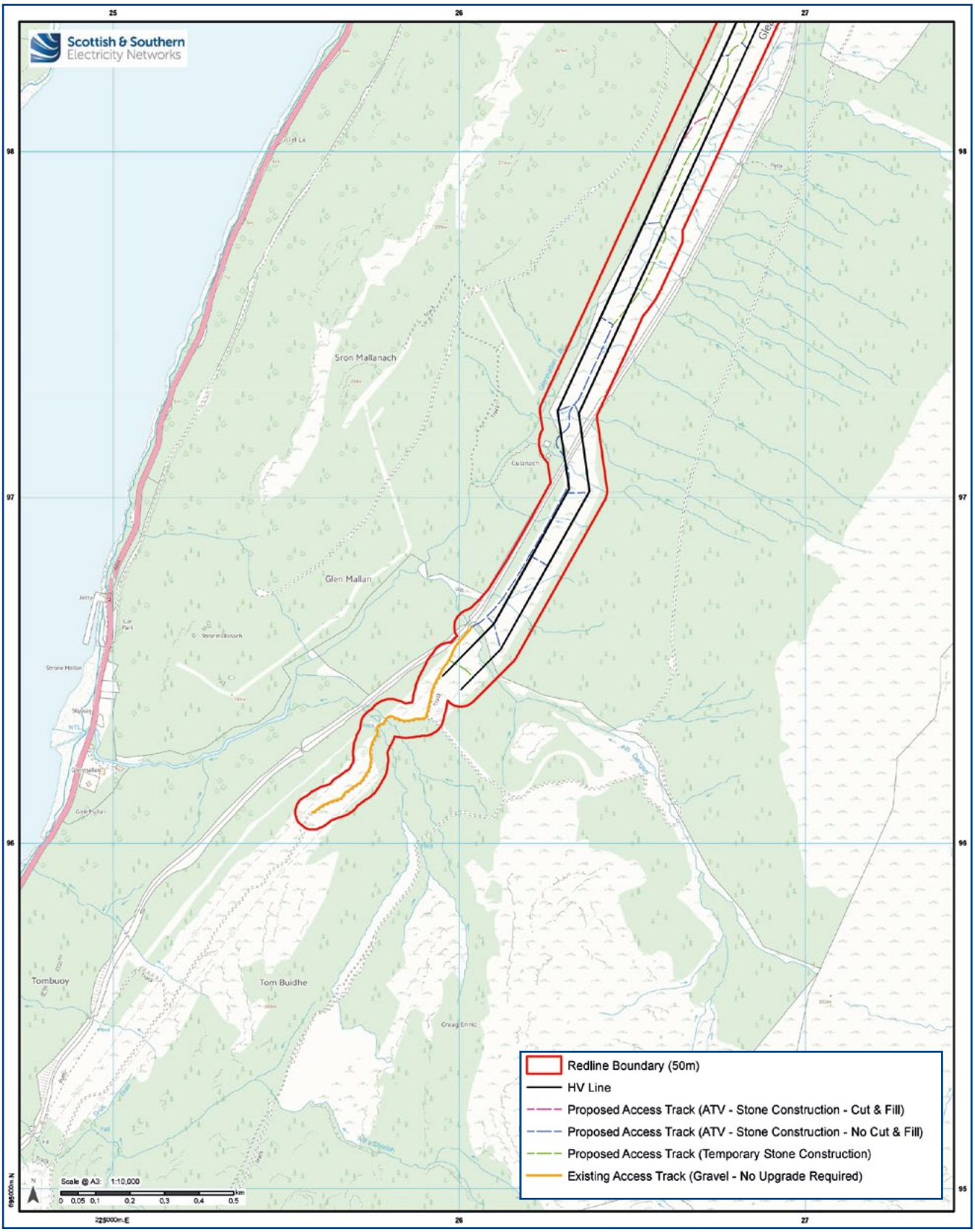

Project timeline

Below is a timeline for the overall project. Current ongoing discussions may result in minor changes.

June 2022

- Initial design works.

October 2022

- Submit planning application.

February 2023

- Planning permission determination.

March 2023

- Construction contract award.

May 2023

- Construction starts on site.

October 2024

- Completion of OHL works.

June 2025

- Construction complete (including track reinstatement).

Environmental considerations

A number of environmental studies and surveys have been carried out by professionally qualified specialists. This approach to assessment and some of the current findings are outlined below in relation to the formation and upgrade of access tracks and access points from the main road network.

Visual effects

The project is located within the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park and Argyll and Bute local authority. The project has been redesigned following feedback from the planning authority that all access routes should be temporary rather than a mix of permanent and temporary. This reduces the long-term visual impact of the project.

Terrestrial ecology (habitats and species)

The habitats on the project site range from commercial plantation forestry, broadleaved and mixed woodland, wet heathland, acid grassland and purple moor grass and rush pastures. The project crosses Glen Loin Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which is designated for upland oak woodland and upland mixed ash woodland.

Evidence of otters, badgers, pine marten and red squirrel was recorded on site as part of the protected species survey works.

The project is not considered to impact protected species due to the location of the access tracks and through the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures. Some trees would be required to be removed as part of the construction works.

However, new planting will be undertaken to enhance the habitats on, and around, the project site throughout construction to offset what we have removed.

Water environment and soils

The site passes and crosses Inveruglas Water and Loin Water, together with many other small watercourses. The northern area of the Proposed Development is part of the River Leven (Loch Lomond) Catchment while the central and southern areas are within the Cowal/Clyde Sealochs Coastal Catchment.

Where the crossing of watercourses is required, best practice methods will be adopted and the necessary authorisations obtained from regulatory bodies (e.g. SEPA).

A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be developed and implemented to ensure private water supplies, watercourses and waterbodies will be monitored and protected through the construction phase. All works on site will be in accordance with the CEMP.

Environmental considerations

Transport and traffic

The construction of the project would require the use of plant and machinery, along with vehicles to transport materials and workers to the site. The use of temporary access tracks will help reduce traffic on the existing public road network as well as facilitating safe access to the site.

A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will be developed to identify traffic movements, reduce this where possible, identify key constraints and traffic-related risks, and identify mitigation measures to minimise local impact.

Noise

Noise sensitive receptors are located along the length of the project, mainly focussed at Arrochar. Given the distance from these receptors and the temporary nature of the construction works, any change in noise level will be temporary and will be within the permitted levels.

Cultural heritage

There are no designated heritage assets located within the immediate vicinity of the project. No known undesignated assets are to be directly impacted during the construction of the project.

A single undesignated asset, Monadh Tighe Na Laraich, is located adjacent to the site. However, this will be demarcated prior to construction being undertaken to protect the site.

Engineering considerations

In order for us to be able to access the towers, we will use a variety of methods including the construction of access tracks, use of existing tracks, laying trackway panels on favourable terrain or by foot.

New access tracks to towers will only be required where the foundations need to be refurbished. We will agree any access requirements with the relevant landowners before commencing works.

Notes

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What happens now, how do I have my say?

We understand and recognise the value of the feedback provided by members of the public during all engagements, consultations and event. Without this valuable feedback, the Project Development team would be unable to progress projects and reach a balanced proposal to submit for planning.

Join our face to face and virtual consultation:

- Wednesday 6th of July 2022 – Three Villages Community Hall, Arrochar, 2pm-7pm

Our consultation events have been organised to ensure our project teams will be available to answer questions on the following dates and times:

Our live chat sessions will be held at the following times:

- Wednesday 20th of July 2022 – 5pm-7pm
- Thursday 21st of July 2022 – 10am-12noon

During these sessions you will be able to send us your questions using a text chat function and they will be answered by the project team.

Comments

We are planning on holding both face-to-face and virtual events. The face-to-face events will be subject to the Covid restrictions at the time and will go ahead if appropriate taking into consideration the safety and wellbeing of the communities we are consulting and the project team.

All feedback received will be collated, reviewed and included in the report on consultation which will be submitted as part of our town and country planning application.

If you are unable to join the face-to-face and virtual consultation live chat sessions, there are still plenty of ways to engage with our team. You can contact us by email, phone or post. Please see details for the Community Liaison Manager.

Recite me

To support everyone online, we provide accessibility and language options on our website through 'Recite Me'.

The accessibility and language support options provided by 'Recite Me' include text-to-speech functionality, fully customisable styling features, reading aids, and a translation tool with over 100 languages, including 35 text-to-speech.

Please select "Accessibility" on our website to try out our inclusive toolbar.

In you have any questions of require further information regarding either of these projects, please do not hesitate to contact the Community Liaison Manager.

Caitlin Quinn
Community Liaison Manager

caitlin.quinn@sse.com

M: +44(0)7901 135758

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks,
1 Waterloo St,
Glasgow, G2 6AY

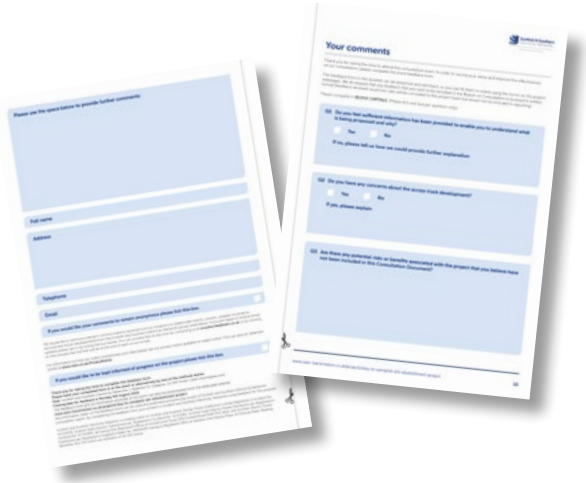
Additional Information

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

Project Website:
www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/sloy-to-windyhill-ohl-refurbishment-project

Find us on Facebook:
SSEN Community

Follow us on Twitter:
@ssetransmission



Your comments

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

The feedback form in this booklet can be detached and sent back, or you can fill them in online using the forms on the project webpages. We do request that any feedback that you wish to be included in the Report on Consultation is received in written format (feedback received via phone calls will be circulated to the project team but would not be included in reporting).

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 and why?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, please tell us how we could provide further explanation

Q2 Do you have any concerns about the access track development?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please explain

Q3 Are there any potential risks or benefits associated with the project that you believe have not been included in this Consultation Document?

Please use the space below to provide further comments:

Full name

Address

Telephone

Email

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

We would like to send you relevant communications via email such as invitations to stakeholder events, surveys, updates on projects, services and future developments from the Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks group listed below. If you are happy to receive email updates please opt in by ticking the box below. You can unsubscribe at any time by contacting us at **unsubscribe@ssen.co.uk** or by clicking on the unsubscribe link that will be at the end of each of our emails.

For information on how we collect and process your data please see our privacy notice available at today's event. This can also be obtained online at **www.ssen.co.uk/privacynotice**

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

Thank you for taking the time to complete this feedback form.
Please hand your completed form in at the event or alternatively by one of the methods below:
Post: Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks, 1 Waterloo St, Glasgow, G2 6AY Email: caitlin.quinn@sse.com
Closing date for feedback is Monday 5th August 2022.
The feedback form and all information provided at the event can also be downloaded from the dedicated website:
www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/sloy-to-windyhill-ohl-refurbishment-project
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.