



Spittal to Loch Buidhe to Beauly

400kV Overhead Line Connection

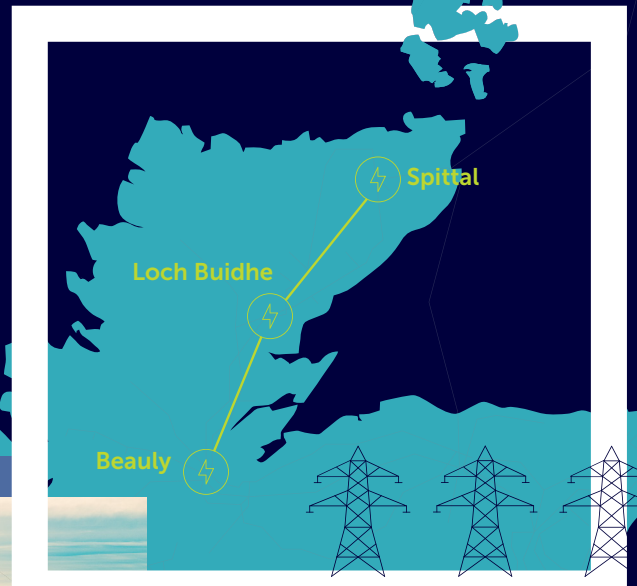
To support the continued growth in onshore and offshore renewables across the north of Scotland and the country's drive towards Net Zero, investment in our network infrastructure is needed to connect this renewable power and transport it from source to areas of demand across the country.

Extensive studies have confirmed the need for a new 400kV transmission connection between Spittal and Beauly, connecting into new substation sites near Spittal, Loch Buidhe and Beauly.

This connection will be provided via an overhead line of steel lattice towers (commonly referred to as pylons) likely to average around 57m in height.

Our current programme includes a construction start date of Spring 2026, with construction anticipated to be completed in Summer 2030.

This overhead line is part of our wider set of projects we are calling our Pathway to 2030, and you can learn more about our role in delivering net zero by visiting our project webpage: ssen-transmission.co.uk/slbb



The story so far

Feb 23



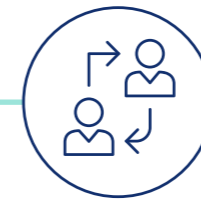
We introduced this project in February 2023, consulting on approx. 1km wide route options for the overhead line.

April 23



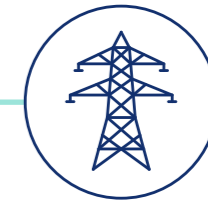
The consultation closed on 14 April 2023, with over **1000** written responses received.

Mid 23



Throughout Spring and Summer, we carried out a range of stakeholder meetings, listening to localised concerns and ideas and answering any further questions.

Dec 23



We then published a Report on Consultation, confirming our proposed route options and showing how the options taken forward to the next stage have been informed by this process.

So what now?

Why we're here today

The next stage of the process where we'd usually consult is the 'alignment' stage – this is when we'd have lines on the map, tower positions and clear proposals for where the line is likely to go rather than the 'routes' previously presented which are typically around 1km wide.

We're working on identifying these alignments at present, carrying out further studies and engaging with landowners and stakeholders, but we won't be ready to consult on them until closer to Summer.

In the meantime, we wanted to take the opportunity to come and share with you our work in progress and where we are just now in the process that we've narrowed down proposals a little further.

Since our last consultation an additional route option has also been identified, which straddles the south of Section D and north of Section E of our project and we believe it's important to hear your views on these options.

We also welcome your feedback on the refined routes and will consider them as part of the development of alignment options for consultation later this year.



What did our Report on Consultation Confirm?

In response to feedback from the local community across a number of sections of the proposed overhead line route, we confirmed we are considering more than one route option in each of Sections A, B, D and E, including both the original route options we presented in 2023 and additional options developed in response to community and landowner feedback.

What updates do we have to share?

Since publishing the Report on Consultation late last year, we've produced 'refined routes' of approximately 500m wide; you can view these on our project maps available at our events and on our project webpage. Key sectional updates are set out below.

Section A/B:

We've considered route options suggested by landowners and community groups and, whilst we have not identified new or additional routes as a result, we are still continuing to assess options in some areas in order to refine our proposals and identify the best on balance option. As a result, some of the route options in Sections A and B are larger than 500m wide.

Section C:

Whilst we have not identified any additional route options in Section C, we are continuing to refine our proposed route in order to minimise and mitigate community and environmental impacts. As a result some route options are larger than 500m wide.

Section D/E:

We've also added a new route that crosses Sections D and E that was not previously consulted upon, and you can find out more about how this route has been assessed within our updated Consultation Booklet.

Read our Report on Consultation:

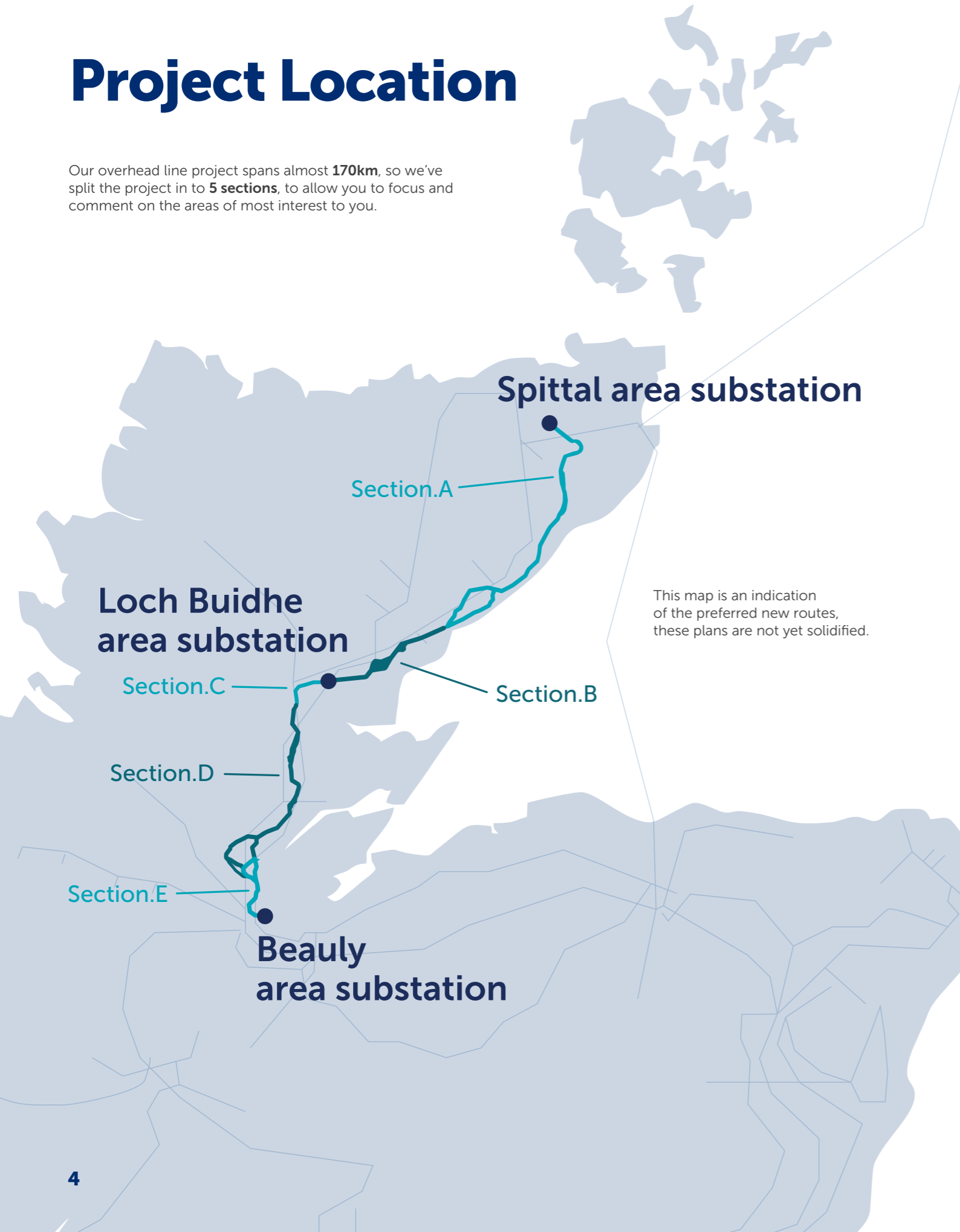


Download our refined project maps:



Project Location

Our overhead line project spans almost **170km**, so we've split the project in to **5 sections**, to allow you to focus and comment on the areas of most interest to you.



They are as follows:



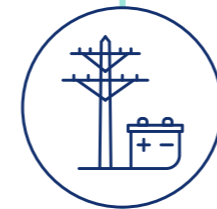
Section.A
Spittal to Brora



Section.B
Brora to Golspie



Section.C
West of Dornoch



Section.D
Dornoch to Dingwall



Section.E
Dingwall to Beaully

Help shape our plans

We welcome your feedback regarding our new and updated route options. Your comments will help inform the development of alignment options which we will consult on later this year.



Your Feedback

We welcome your comments from now until the end of our formal alignment consultation period anticipated to take place in Summer.

Once our alignment consultation period ends, we will review and respond to all comments received, and publish an Alignment Report on Consultation. This will confirm the alignment option we will take forward to a consent applications to Scottish Ministers.



Contact Us

The best way to contact us regarding this project is through our Community Liaison Team.



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@sentransmission



@SSETransmission

Let us know your thoughts

Thank you for taking the time to read this information booklet.
In order to record your views please complete this short feedback form:

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

Q1. Which update event did you attend? (Select all that apply)

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Halkirk | <input type="checkbox"/> Spittal | <input type="checkbox"/> Dunbeath | <input type="checkbox"/> Helmsdale |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brora | <input type="checkbox"/> Rogart | <input type="checkbox"/> Bonar Bridge | <input type="checkbox"/> Ardross |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strathpeffer | <input type="checkbox"/> Contin | <input type="checkbox"/> Garve | <input type="checkbox"/> Marybank |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beaully | <input type="checkbox"/> Kiltarlity | <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> Online portal |

Q2. Is there a specific section of the overhead line refined route that you are interested in? (Select all that apply)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Section.A | <input type="checkbox"/> Section.D |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Section.B | <input type="checkbox"/> Section.E |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Section.C | |

Q3. Now that we have shared refined routes, is there anything you'd like to bring to our attention regarding the proposed refined route that you believe we may not have already considered?

Yes No Unsure

Comments:

Q5. What suggestions for social or environmental community benefit opportunities do you have that you would like us to consider, or are there any local initiatives you would like us to support?

Yes No Unsure

Comments:

Q4. A new alternative route that did not form part of our initial route option consultation has been presented in section D/E. Do you have any thoughts, comments or questions in relation to the alternative route?

Yes No Unsure

Comments:

Name

Email

Address

Phone

Postcode

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

Please note that comments received may be included or referenced within our Pre-Application Consultation Report anonymously.

For information on how we collect and process your data, please see our privacy notice, www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/privacy. If you do not have access to our website or would like a hard copy sent, please contact us. You can unsubscribe at any time from receiving emails by contacting stakeholder.admin@sse.com

We intend to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to assist our experienced teams in the analysis of your feedback, so we can categorise key points raised more quickly. You can learn more about how we're utilising AI at <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/AIFAQ>



Scottish & Southern
Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION