Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

Stornoway Grid Supply Point Re-development

Public Information Event

February 2026

ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/stornoway-grid-supply-point-gsp-upgrade/

Contents

The Public Information Event will be taking place on:

Thursday 26th February, 3–7pm
Cabarfeidh Hotel, Stornoway, HS1 2EU

Powering change together

The time has come to further enhance Scotland's energy infrastructure, providing power for future generations as we move towards net zero.

The shift to a cleaner, more sustainable future is about more than climate change. It's about ensuring future generations have the same opportunities to thrive as we have all had.

Countries around the world are investing in their energy infrastructure to support the demands of modern economies and meet net zero targets. The UK is leading the way in building a modern, sustainable energy system for the future.

We all have a part to play

When it comes to net zero, we have to be in it together. The UK and Scottish governments have ambitious net zero targets, and we're playing our part in meeting them.

We work closely with the National Energy System Operator (NESO) (previously National Grid Electricity System Operator) to connect vast renewable energy resources—harnessed by solar, wind, hydro and marine generation—to areas of demand across the country. Scotland is playing a big role in meeting this demand, exporting two thirds of power generated in our network.

But there's more to be done. By 2050, the north of Scotland is predicted to contribute over 50GW of low carbon energy to help deliver net zero. Today, our region has around 9GW of renewable generation connected to the network.

At SSEN Transmission, it is our role to build the energy system of the future.

We're investing over £20 billion into our region's energy infrastructure this decade, with the potential for this to increase to over £30 billion. This investment will deliver a network capable of meeting 20% of the UK's Clean Power 2030 target and supporting up to 37,000 jobs, 17,500 of which will be here in Scotland.

Scan the QR code with your smartphone to find out more about how these policies have been assessed and determined.

Who we are

We're responsible for maintaining and investing in the electricity transmission network in the north of Scotland. We're part of SSE plc, one of the world's leading energy companies with a rich heritage in Scotland that dates back more than 80 years. We are also closely regulated by the GB energy regulator Ofgem, who determines how much revenue we are allowed to earn for constructing, maintaining and renovating our transmission network.

What we do

We manage the electricity network across our region which covers a quarter of the UK's land mass, crossing some of the country's most challenging terrain. We connect renewable energy sources to our network in the north of Scotland and then transport it to where it needs to be. From underground/subsea cables and overhead lines to electricity substations, our network keeps your lights on all year round.

Working with you

We understand that the work we do can have an impact on communities. So we're committed to minimising our impacts and maximising all the benefits that our developments can bring to your area. We're regularly assessed by global sustainability consultancy AccountAbility for how we engage with communities. That means we provide all the information you need to know about our plans and how they will impact communities like yours. The way we consult is also a two-way street. We want to hear people's views, concerns, or ideas and harness local knowledge so that our work benefits their communities: today and long into the future. You can share your views with us at: **ssen-transmission.co.uk/talk-to-us/contact-us/**

The Pathway to 2030

Building the energy system of the future will require delivery of significant infrastructure over the next few years. In partnership with the UK and Scottish governments, we're committed to meeting our obligation of connecting new, renewable energy to where it's needed by 2030.

Achieving Net Zero

By 2030, both the UK and Scottish governments are targeting a big expansion in offshore wind generation of 50GW and 11GW respectively. The Scottish Government has also set ambitious targets for an additional 12GW of onshore wind by 2030.

Across Great Britain, including the north of Scotland, there needs to be a significant increase in the capacity of the onshore electricity transmission infrastructure to deliver these 2030 targets and a pathway to net zero.

Securing our energy future

And it's not just about net zero. It's also about building a homegrown energy system, so that geopolitical turmoil around the world doesn't severely impact the UK and push up energy prices.

The UK Government's British Energy Security Strategy further underlines the need for this infrastructure, setting out plans to accelerate homegrown power for greater energy independence. The strategy aims to reduce the UK's dependence on and price exposure to global gas wholesale markets through the deployment of homegrown low carbon electricity generation supported by robust electricity network infrastructure.

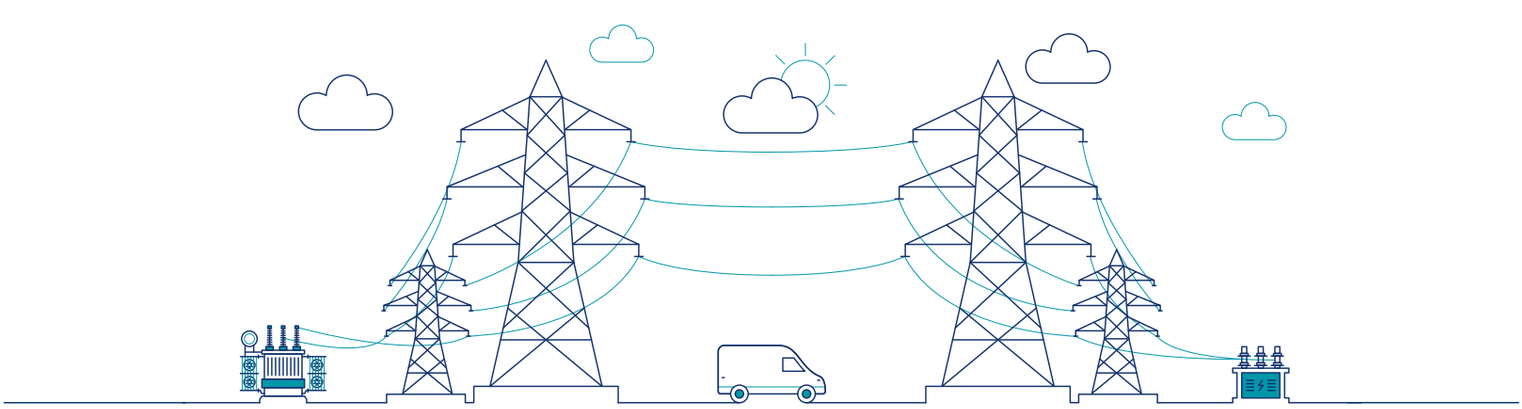
Meeting our 2030 targets

In July 2022, National Grid, the Electricity System Operator (ESO), published the Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design (HND). This set out the blueprint for the onshore and offshore transmission infrastructure that's required to support the forecasted growth in the UK's renewable electricity. It's an ambitious plan that will help the UK achieve net zero.

What does this mean for you?

The Stornoway Grid Supply Point (GSP) Re-development Project aims to connect increased generation on the SSEN Distribution network. To ensure there is sufficient capacity on the SSEN Transmission Network for this future generation, an extension of the Stornoway GSP site is required to accommodate the installation of additional electrical infrastructure. This additional electrical infrastructure then connects to the Lewis Hub to allow the increased generation to reach the wider GB Transmission Network.

The Lewis Hub is being developed as part of a separate project which aims to connect onshore and offshore wind in and around the Western Isles to the mainland transmission system, maximising the significant renewable potential of the Western Isles, adding capacity for new connections and reducing the island's reliance on diesel-powered electricity generation.

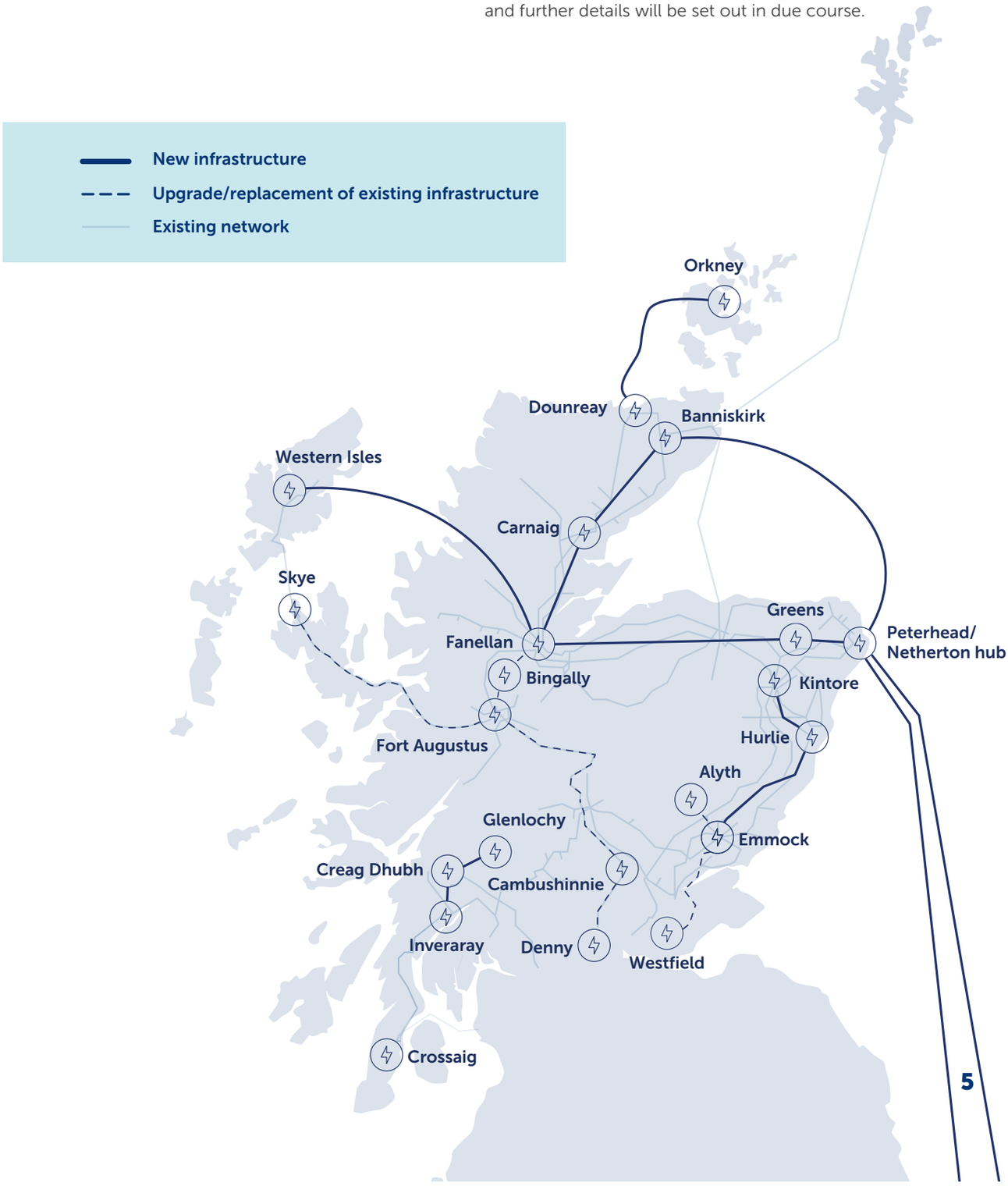


Future network investment requirements

Our 2030 targets are the first step on the transition to net zero. The UK Government has a target to decarbonise our electricity system by 2035 and fully decarbonise our economy by becoming net zero by 2050, with the Scottish Government committing to net zero five years earlier, by 2045.

To achieve these targets, further investment in new low carbon electricity generation and the enabling electricity transmission network infrastructure will be required.

The next stage of strategic network planning across Great Britain has now been outlined in the independent Electricity System Operator, National Grid ESO's, 'Beyond 2030' report, published in March this year. For the north of Scotland, the ESO's plan recommends several new and upgraded onshore and offshore reinforcements that the ESO has assessed are required to help deliver net zero targets. These projects, which will be subject to extensive public consultation, are at the very early stages of development and further details will be set out in due course.



Project need and overview

As the transmission license holder in the north of Scotland, we have a duty under Section 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 to facilitate competition in the generation and supply of electricity. We have obligations to offer non-discriminatory terms for connection to the transmission system, both for new generation and for new sources of electricity demand.

As outlined above, we are required to connect the increased generation and ensure a safe and reliable network.

Re-development of the existing Grid Supply Point is required to connect up to 144MW of local renewable energy to the network and provide security of supply and performance to the local distribution network.

The contracted connections are for Druim Leathann Wind Farm and Battery Point BESS whilst the GSP is an active connection point on the network for all of the below projects,

- Stornoway Distribution Network
- Lewis to Balallan Transmission Network
- Drum Leithan Windfarm
- Battery Point BESS
- Beinn Thulabaigh Windfarm
- Lewis HVDC Hub

To facilitate this, it is necessary to redevelop the existing GSP site to accommodate the installation of upgraded electrical equipment and facilitate connections with neighbouring projects.

Under our Network Operators License, this connection should be efficient, coordinated and economic, whilst having the least possible impact on the environment.

Project Evolution

The planned redevelopment of the existing Stornoway Grid Supply Point (GSP) is required to provide increased capacity to support new connection projects and enhance the resilience of the local electricity network inline with our operating licence.

Existing Stornoway GSP Site

The existing GSP provides a single 60MVA transformer and associated switchgear.

2 x 120 MVA transformers are required to replace the existing transformer, in order to operate the network from 2030 onwards.

Following the public information event in February 2025, we have completed further technical assessments that highlighted the need for additional HV plant to ensure the safety of the network on the Western Isles and the Isle of Skye.

The conclusion of these studies showed a need to increase the building sizes and platform to accommodate the additional electrical equipment.

The proposal to extend the Grid Supply Point (GSP) as presented in February 2025 is no longer feasible due to it's proximity to the River Creed and the A859.

Summary

Following Regional Performance Studies of the Network, to accommodate the increase in electricity demand and network capacity, the permanent platform requirement has increased from the area shown in February 2025.

Updated Scope

Due to the evolution of the project scope the team have revisited site selection and are continuing to evaluate alternative layout options for Re-development of the Stornoway GSP based on a permanent platform of approximately 120x140m and two 80x40m Switchgear buildings containing transformers and control and protection equipment.

In addition to the permanent substation platform the project will install access roads, landscape/screening and drainage elements and associated underground cable to connect the GSP to the Lewis HVDC Hub and the Distribution substation currently located at the existing GSP site.

A diagrammatic overlay of the area required for permanent infrastructure is provided below for Feb 2025 & 2026 to visualise the change in scope.

February 2025 Platform infrastructure

Site Selection Re-Visited (Stage 01)

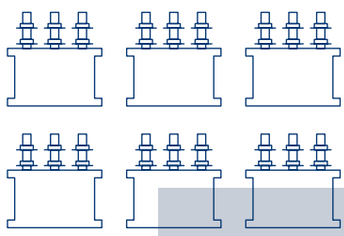
As a result of the network studies, we have looked again at sites for re-development. Re-evaluation of the stage 01 site select process is presented here to ensure we are making the best decision for the project.

Stage 1

The increase in building footprint means that site optioneering layouts directly adjacent to the existing GSP presented during February 2025 Public Information are no longer feasible owing to proximity to the A859 and the River Creed.

Stage 1 Initial Site Screening involves assessing site options within the wider area. The GSP Expansion development has to remain in close proximity c.2-3km of the existing Stornoway GSP Substation and this has defined the search criteria. Stage 1 was conducted to evaluate the potential redevelopment solutions for the GSP. Five potential areas shown on the image below were reappraised for Engineering, Environment and Cost.

September 2025 Platform Infrastructure



A summary of the sites considered

Site Location Options	Location	Stage 1 High Level Summary
A1 - Marybank	• Land - 400m west of A859 • Open moorland • with varying terrain • Watercourse to south • Former Lewis Paraffin Works • Peat-cutting area	Not progressed to Stage 2 due to: • Proximity to Residential Properties • Multiple crossings of the River Creed & circuit constraints • Challenging terrain • Constrained due to presence of other infrastructure
A2 - Stornoway GSP	• Land adjacent the existing Stornoway GSP substation • Near A859 • Open moorland with varying terrain • Near to the River Creed.	Progressed to Stage 2 due to: • Proximity to existing GSP and Lewis Hub, existing distribution network and HVDC infrastructure creates benefits for engineering, cost, and environment.
A3 - Macaulay	• Land - 300m NE of Creed Enterprise Park • Located - 40m from A859 • Open moorland • Small watercourse at NE corner • Likely shallower peat than other options	Not progressed to Stage 2 due to: • Highly Physically constrained site. • Limited space for visual mitigation. • Reduced development space due to proposed bunding for Lewis Hub • Clash with multiple incoming circuits to the Lewis Hub
A4 - Arnish West	• Inland - 700m from Arnish Point • West of Arnish road • 2.2km from A859 • Mixed terrain with rock knolls (south) and flatter ground (north) • Watercourse and small lochan to north.	Not progressed to Stage 2 due to: • Significant visual impact from Stornoway and Sandwick area. • Network complexity • Wider environmental disturbance for cables • Competing developer interests. • Least preferred option for ornithology
A5 - Arnish Point	• Coastal site on existing hardstands at Arnish port • Near SSE diesel generator and H&W fabricator • 3km from A859 • Good access via private road	Not progressed to Stage 2 due to: • Unavailability of land for energy infrastructure development • Longest cable route to GSP & Lewis Hub creates complexity and increases connection cost versus other options.

Summary

Of the five options considered at Stage 1, only A2 - Stornoway GSP is available for development. It is technically feasible, and limits environmental disturbance with shorter cable corridors to both the existing distribution substation and Lewis Hub.

Landscape and visual setting and peat along with cable connections are the key considerations for building location and orientation within the A2 area and will be considered at Stage 2 - Option Assessment.

At stage 2 engineering, environment and cost implications have been considered. This includes comparative analysis of civil engineering, cable routing, national heritage, cultural heritage, people, landscape, land use and planning.

Stage 1 - Site Location Plan

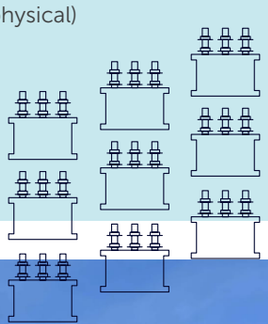
Option Assessment (Stage 02)

Following site selection, Stage 02 further evaluates and refines the position of the platform and buildings within the site area.

Design Development

The project team are looking for options for alternative layouts, levels and positions for the temporary and permanent infrastructure in this location. Whilst taking into account the below constraints on and adjacent to the GSP site.

- Biodiversity (River Creed)
- Landscaping
- Peat Restoration
- Visual Screening
- Drainage & Earthworks
- Traffic & Transport
- Connections (technical & physical)
- Developers
- Lewis Hub HVDC Site
- Utilities & Services



Updates for the GSP will involve exploring different options for the following.

- Access Strategy
- Platform Layout and elevation
- Landscape and Screening
- Peat Restoration Strategy
- Cable & Overhead Line Connections
- Temporary Construction Works

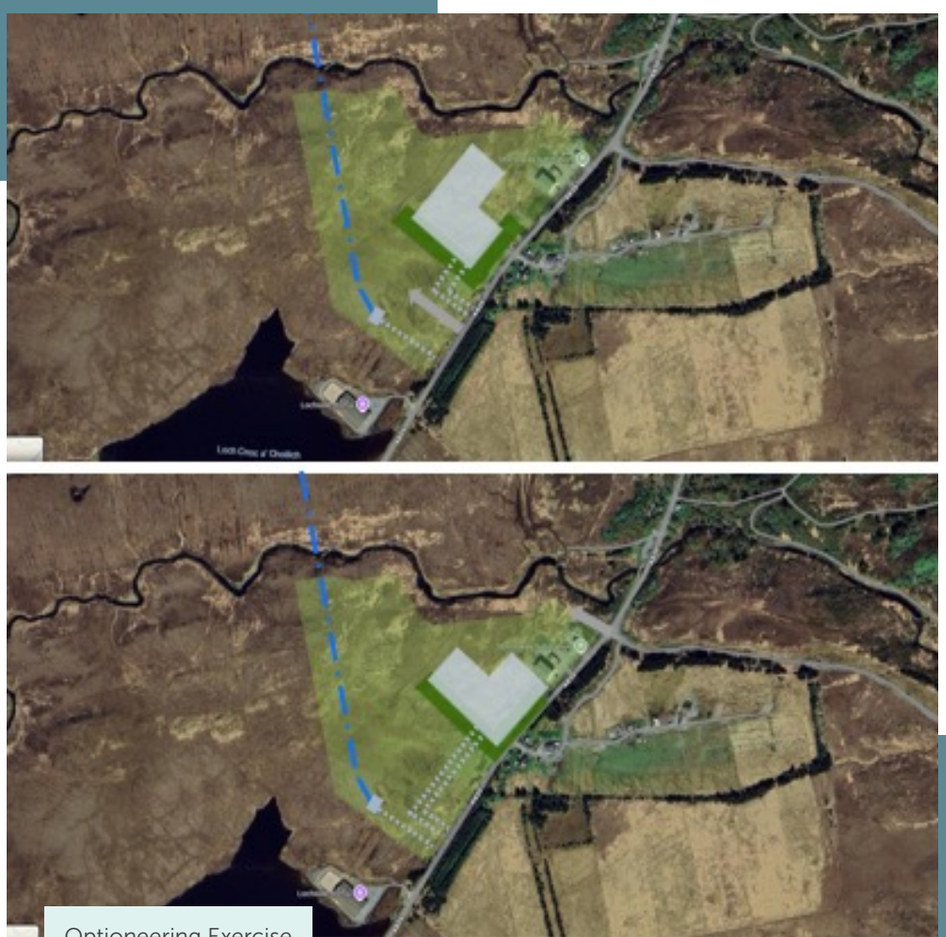
Optioneering Exercise

Next Steps

The project is planning to complete further site optimisation & to commence an Environmental Impact Assessment. Further consultations will be planned ahead of submitting a planning application in the Summer of 2026.

For spring 2026 the Project team is focused on providing options that address the following key areas of concern;

- Visual impact of the planned infrastructure
- Cumulative impact of wider developments
- Peat management & habitats
- A functional and robust local electrical network for consumers



Optioneering Exercise

Development Considerations

We will consider engineering, environmental and social considerations to optimise siting of the GSP Re-Development. This will be through a combination of desk-based assessment and site visits.

Environmental assessments

Relevant environmental concerns will be assessed inclusive of landscape and visual amenity aspects, noise, sensitive habitats, protected ecology and ornithology, hydrology, hydrogeology, recreation and cultural heritage. Following the confirmation of the preferred layout for the GSP extension, further detailed studies and assessments will be completed to support the consenting process.

Consenting

Local Planning Authorities determine the outcome of any applications made under the Town and Country Planning Act and establish the planning pathway our substation and converter projects must take, including which consents are required. This involves confirming whether projects require Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs). We are progressing this project as EIA development and will submit a Scoping Report to the CnES to agree the scope of the EIA with consultees. Both the Scoping Report and EIA will be made publicly available once submitted. The GSP project is classed as "National Development" under the Town and County Planning process; therefore, pre-application consultation is required with the public and interested parties and this will also be carried out this year.

Water/water soils and drainage

The following hydrological aspects are being considered as part of the site selection process for the GSP Re-development: Private Water Supplies, Groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems (GWDTE's), flood risk potential and soils and peat.

An appropriate site drainage plan for both the construction and operational phases will be developed to ensure no adverse impacts on the surrounding water environment.

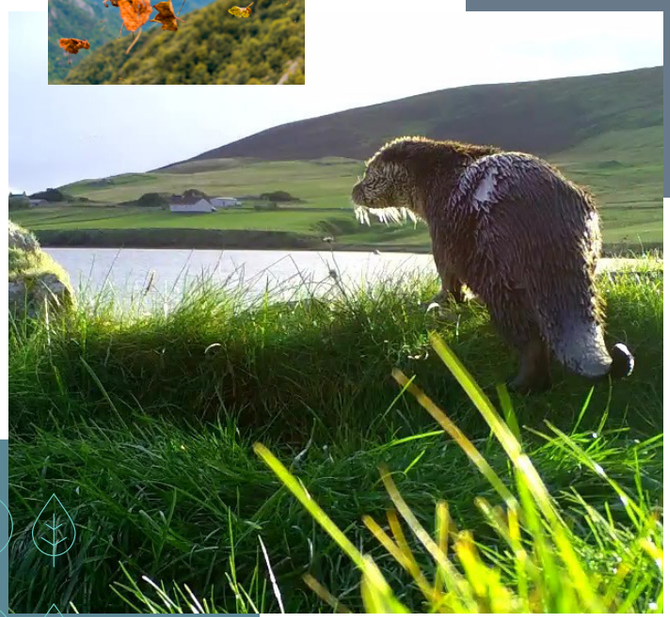
Construction Environmental and Pollution Management Plans will be prepared prior to construction to include the management and mitigation for sediment, dust, runoff and waste generated during construction.

Noise

A noise impact assessment will be commissioned to appropriately inform the planning submission. This will include baseline noise monitoring surveys at noise sensitive receptors within the vicinity of the site to inform an operational noise assessment. Appropriate mitigation measures will be considered dependent on the results of the assessment.

Local wildlife and ecology

The surrounding area has been surveyed to identify habitats and protected species including birds. The proposed development will seek to maintain and enhance any protected habitats which would be impacted by the proposed design. At this stage, no significant effects are anticipated as a result of the GSP Re-development. Ecology and habitat appraisals are underway and will be reported alongside any relevant mitigation measures.



Material cut/extraction

In order to provide a level platform alongside the existing substation platform; a volume of site material including carbon (peat) soils is required to be cut/removed and redistributed locally, in agreement with SEPA as regulator.

Traffic & Access

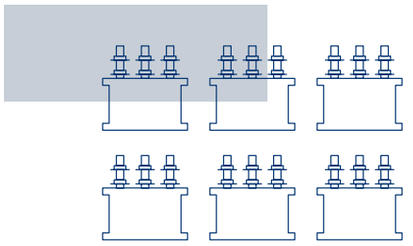
The construction of the GSP Re-development will require vehicles to deliver plant, machinery and workers to the site. It is anticipated the existing established routes will be used. An appropriate construction traffic management plan will be developed to ensure road safety for all other road users during the construction works including suitable management of all abnormal loads and vehicle movements.

Landscape and visual

The appearance and character of the landscape is already influenced by electrical infrastructure, including the existing Stornoway GSP and overhead lines. A landscape and visual impact assessment will be carried out to understand how the GSP Re-development will be viewed within the surrounding area, to identify any significant effects and propose recommendations to mitigate these effects. The assessment will be included in support of the planning application.

Cultural heritage

A walkover survey of the site and surrounding area has been undertaken to understand any potential effects on the historic environment. Potential effects will be appraised and reported in the EIA. There are no designated assets within the proposed development boundary. Consultation will be carried out with Comhairlie nan Eilean Siar to identify any on-site archaeological investigation that would be required before construction works commence, and if required a Written Scheme of Investigation would be prepared which would set out a strategy for archaeological mitigation in advance of the construction works.



Project timeline

March 2025
- Information shared on GSP Extension

Winter 2025
- Environmental Impact Assessment commences

Spring/Summer 2026
- Public consultation

Summer 2026
- Submission of planning application

Spring 2027
- Planning consent determination

Spring 2028
- Construction commences (subject to gaining consent)

Winter 2030
- Project Completion

Have your say

We understand and recognise the value of feedback provided by the community and stakeholders. Without this valuable feedback, we would be unable to progress projects and reach a balanced proposal.

The Feedback Period

We will accept feedback from now until **26 May 2026.**

How to provide feedback

Submit your feedback online by scanning the QR code on this page or via the form on our project webpage at: **ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/stornoway-grid-supply-point-gsp-upgrade/**

Email the feedback form to the Community Liaison Manager. Or write to us enclosing the feedback form at the back of this booklet.

Our Community Liaison team

Each project has a dedicated Community Liaison Manager who works closely with community members to make sure they are well informed of our proposals and that their views, concerns, questions or suggestions are put to our project teams.

Throughout the life of our projects, you will hear from us regularly. We aim to establish strong working relationships by being accessible to key local stakeholders such as community councils, residents' associations and development trusts, and regularly engage with interested individuals.

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."

What we're seeking views on

We are seeking your thoughts on the GSP extension options under consideration. We'll be actively looking to mitigate the impacts of the extension as much as possible over the coming months, but it would be helpful to understand what you believe we should be doing to help minimise these impacts and if there are any opportunities to deliver a local community benefit you would like us to consider. We encourage all interested community members to fill in a feedback form when submitting feedback, however if you prefer, you can email us to provide your feedback or ask any questions.

Community Liaison Manager

Kevin Morrison

SSEN Transmission, Battery Point, Stornoway, Outer Hebrides, HS1 2RT

07586 237 814

kevin.morrison@sse.com

Additional information:

The best way to keep up to date is to sign up to project updates via the project webpage:

ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/stornoway-grid-supply-point-gsp-upgrade/

You can also follow us on social media:

@ssentransmission @SSETransmission

NB: Comments made through the information feedback process are not formal representations to the Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar. When the planning application is submitted there will be an opportunity to make formal representations to the Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar.

Your feedback

Thank you for taking the time to read this information booklet. In order to record your views and improve the effectiveness of our communications, 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 and why?**

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Comments:

Q2. **Have we adequately explained the need for the Stornoway GSP Re-development?**

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Comments:

Q3. **Are there any factors, or environmental features, that you consider may have been overlooked during the site selection process?**

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Comments:

Q4. Do you have any other comments (positive or negative) or concerns in relation to the project?

Comments:

Full name: ..... **Email:** .....

Telephone: ..... **Address:** .....

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 stakeholder.admin@sse.com or by clicking on the unsubscribe link that will be at the end of each of our emails.

☐ **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 submit your completed form by one of the methods below:

Post: SSEN Transmission, Battery Point, Stornoway, Outer Hebrides, HS1 2RT

Email: kevin.morrison@sse.com

Online: https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/stornoway-grid-supply-point-gsp-upgrade/

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: ssen-transmission.co.uk/privacy

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

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: ssen-transmission.co.uk/AIFAQ

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.

Notes