Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

Report on Consultation – Alignment Selection

Tangy IV Wind Farm and Cnoc Buidhe Wind Farm 132 kV OHL Shared Use Connection

Date: August 2025

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Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

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GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
Alignment	A centre line of an overhead line (OHL), along with location of key angle structures.
Alignment (potential)	A centre line of an overhead line (OHL), along with location of key angle structures taken forward to stakeholder consultation following a comparative appraisal of alignment options.
Alignment (proposed)	A centre line of an overhead line (OHL), along with location of key angle structures taken forward following stakeholder consultation to the EIA stage of the overhead line routeing process.
Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI)	Provisional guide to the location of Ancient Woodland located in Scotland.
Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)	A CEMP outlines how a developer will minimise any negative environmental impacts of a specific construction project. A CEMP also demonstrates that a construction project complies with any relevant environmental legislation.
Conductor	A metallic wire strung from structure to structure, to carry electric current.
Consultation	The dynamic process of dialogue between individuals or groups, based on a genuine exchange of views and, normally, with the objective of project decision making.
Corridor	A linear area which allows a continuous connection between the defined connection points. The corridor may vary in width along its length; in unconstrained areas it may be many kilometres wide.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A formal process set down in The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 used to systematically identify, predict and assess the likely significant environmental impacts of a proposed project or development and identify appropriate mitigation measures to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment.
Habitat	Term most accurately meaning the place in which a species lives, but also used to describe plant communities or agglomerations of plant communities.
Kilovolt (kV)	One thousand volts.
Mitigation	Term used to indicate avoidance, remediation or reduction of likely significant adverse effects on the environment (see definition of EIA).
Overhead line (OHL)	An electric line installed above ground, usually supported by lattice steel towers or poles.
Route	A linear area of approximately 1 km width (although this may be narrower/wider in specific locations in response to identified pinch points / constraints), which provides a continuous connection between defined connection points.
Routeing	The work undertaken which leads to the selection of a proposed alignment, capable of being taken forward into the consenting process under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.
Section 37 (S37)	Applications for consent to construct and operate new overhead lines are made under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 in Scotland.
Span	The section of overhead line between two structures.
Stakeholders	Organisations and individuals who can affect or are affected by SHE Transmission works.
Terminal Structure	A structure (tower or pole) required where the line terminates either at a substation or at the beginning and end of an underground cable section.
Underground cable (UGC)	An electric cable that is buried below the ground.
Volts	The international unit of electric potential and electromotive force.

PREFACE

This Report on Consultation has been prepared by WSP UK Ltd (WSP) on behalf of Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN Transmission), operating under licence held by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc, to provide a summary of the comments received from stakeholders on the Potential Alignment identified for the proposed Tangy IV Wind Farm and Cnoc Buidhe Wind Farm overhead line Shared Use Connection project.

An Alignment Consultation Document was published in September 2024 which sought comments on the proposals, the approach to alignment selection, the analysis of alignment options and the identification of a Potential Alignment.

This Report on Consultation also provides a summary of how SSEN Transmission have responded to comments received by stakeholders on the Potential Alignment and details the actions that will be taken as the project progresses.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc, operating under licence held by Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (hereafter referred to as 'SSEN Transmission') are proposing to construct a new 132 kV connection with a combination of both overhead line (OHL) and underground cables (UGC) between the consented Tangy IV Wind Farm and proposed Cnoc Buidhe Wind Farm Substations and the existing Carradale Grid Supply Point (GSP) (hereafter referred to as 'Carradale Substation'). This would amount to a distance of approximately 21.5 km, including approximately 5.6km of UGC between the Tangy IV Wind Farm and Cnoc Buidhe Wind Farm Substations to a connection point at the terminal tower and approximately 650m of UGC from the end of the OHL to the existing Carradale Substation.

SSEN Transmission is following a staged approach to routeing: Route Selection, Alignment Selection and then the consenting process. The Route Selection stage was completed in July 2022, with a Proposed Route for OHL selected, based on earlier studies and consultation. The Proposed Route starts in two locations at the Tangy IV Wind Farm Substation and Cnoc Buidhe Wind Farm Substation. Both routes travel north and meet to the north of Lussa Loch. From here the route largely follows the valley of Gleann nam Feannag, the Allt nan Calltuinn watercourse, skirts around the Beinn Bhreac slopes, passes north of the Beinn an Tuirc Wind Farm, then travels parallel to the existing Crossaig to Carradale 132 kV OHL.

Alignment Options were identified within the Proposed Route which were then assessed against each other on environmental, engineering and economic considerations to identify a Potential Alignment taken forward to consultation. An Alignment Consultation Document was published in September 2024[1], describing the alignment selection process and selection of the Potential Alignment for the Proposed Development.

This Report on Consultation documents the consultation process which has been undertaken for the project between September and October 2024. The programme of consultation was designed to engage with stakeholders including statutory and non-statutory consultees, local communities, landowners and residents to invite feedback on the rationale for and approach to, the selection of the Potential Alignment. This report describes the key responses received and provides detail on the actions proposed in response to the issues raised. All comments received in response to the Alignment Consultation Document (September 2024)[1] informed further consideration of the Potential Alignment and the selection of a Proposed Alignment.

Public consultation events were held on the 24th of September 2024 at the Glenbarr Village Hall, Glenbarr, Tarbert PA29 6UT and 25th of September 2024 at the Carradale Village Hall, Carradale, Campbeltown PA28 6SB promoted through a mail drop, emails to stakeholders and press adverts. Attendees were able to engage directly with the project team where they could ask questions they might have and share their feedback on the current proposals.

The main feedback points surrounded flood risk, nearby water assets and protected areas, woodland removal, nearby protected bird species and habitats and nearby designated heritage assets, as well as highlighting the next steps for inclusion of consultees interests. This Report on Consultation also provides a summary of how SSEN Transmission have responded to comments received by key stakeholders on the Potential Alignment and details the actions that will be taken as the Proposed Development progresses through to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and consenting stage.

[1] **Tangy IV Wind Farm and Cnoc Buidhe Wind Farm 132 kV OHL Shared Use Connection – Alignment Selection** Consultation Document (September 2024), produced by SSEN Transmission.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the Document

The purpose of this Report on Consultation (RoC) is to document the consultation responses received as part of our Alignment Options consultation process for the proposed Tangy IV Wind Farm and Cnoc Buidhe Wind Farm Shared Use Overhead Line (OHL) project (and hereafter also referred to interchangeably as the "Proposed Development"), and where appropriate, show how the alignments that will be taken forward to consent application under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 have been informed by this process.

This RoC details the consultation process undertaken, including details of consultation methods and advertising, those consulted and/or contributing to the process. It also summarises the feedback received, including concerns, questions and areas of support. The report concludes by confirming the key decisions and any resulting adjustments made to the Potential Alignment, which was presented at consultation, confirming the Proposed Alignment to be progressed

1.2 Document Structure

This report is comprised of six sections as follows:

1: Introduction – setting out the purpose of the Report on Consultation;

2: Project Overview – describes the need for the proposals, the proposed technology solution and key elements;

3: Consideration of Alignment Options – sets out the Alignment selection process and methodology that has been applied to date to derive a Potential Alignment;

4: The Consultation Process – describes the framework for consultation and methods which have been employed;

5: Stakeholder Consultation Responses - summarises the range of responses and key comments arising from statutory and non-statutory consultees and describes how the comments and issues will be addressed; and

6: Conclusions and Next Steps – provides a summary of the conclusions reached and actions going forward.

2. PROJECT OVERVIEW

2.1 The Need for the Project

SSEN Transmission holds a license under the Electricity Act 1989 for the transmission of electricity in the north of Scotland and has a statutory duty under Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 to '*develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical electricity transmission system in its licensed areas'.* SSEN Transmission also has obligations to offer non-discriminatory terms for connection to the transmission system, both for new generation and for new sources of electricity demand. The consented Tangy IV Wind Farm and proposed Cnoc Buidhe Wind Farm in Argyll both require connection to the electricity transmission network at Carradale Substation by April 2029 and April 2030 respectively. It is anticipated that this would be achieved via the construction and operation of a new 132 kV double circuit OHL and UGC. Under the terms of their licence, SSEN Transmission is therefore obliged to connect both developers to the transmission network by the contracted connection dates.

Cnoc Buidhe Wind Farm submitted S36 application to the Scottish Government for 29 turbines in April 2025 (ECU00004767). The windfarm's connection to the grid network will be phased with first connection planned in April 2030 and the second in 2034. This is due to constraints on the wider transmission network which prevent the entire scheme connecting in one go.

2.2 Alternative Options and Preferred Technology Solution

While SSEN Transmission has determined that a steel lattice tower is the preferred technological solution for this project, due to Cnoc Buidhe Wind Farm increased capacity rating which requires the use of a different and heavier conductor that can only be supported by steel lattice towers. It is recognised that there are existing environmental and technical considerations that require the use of alternative technology options for short lengths of the alignment. The requirement or extent of any use of other technology options is essential from technical perspectives within the Cnoc Buidhe Wind Farm boundary in order to mitigate wake affect from the turbines on the OHL conductors.

2.3 Proposals Overview

SSEN Transmission is proposing to construct a new 21.5 km 132 kV connection, comprising both OHL and UGC. The alignment will be an UGC between the Tangy IV Wind Farm and Cnoc Buidhe Wind Farm Substations through the Cnoc Buidhe Wind Farm boundary for approximately 5.6 km to a connection point at the terminal tower, north of Collusca Water. From there, the connections will merge and transition to a shared use double circuit OHL, for approximately 13.5 km. The alignment will transition from OHL to UGC approximately 650 m north of the existing Carradale Substation before connecting into the existing Carradale Substation.

The final designation of support type is generally dependent on three main factors: altitude, weather and the topography of the route. The size of towers and span lengths will also vary depending on these factors, with towers being closer together at high altitudes to withstand the effects of greater exposure to high winds, ice and other weather events. The support configuration, height and the distance between supports will therefore only be fully determined after a detailed alignment survey.

It is assumed that the Proposed Development would comprise steel lattice towers from the L7 tower suite. Towers would be approximately 30.4 m in height on average, although tower heights may be increased where local topography dictates, in order to achieve sufficient clearance distances.. Each tower would carry two circuits with three horizontal cross arms on each side of the tower, each carrying an insulator string and two conductors. An earth wire, containing an optical fibre ground wire (OPGW), would be strung between the tower peaks. The spacing between towers (span length) would vary depending on environmental and engineering constraints.

The proposed steel lattice tower will support six conductors (wires) on six cross-arms (three on each side) and an earth wire between the peaks. Typical designs can be seen in **Plate 2.1**.

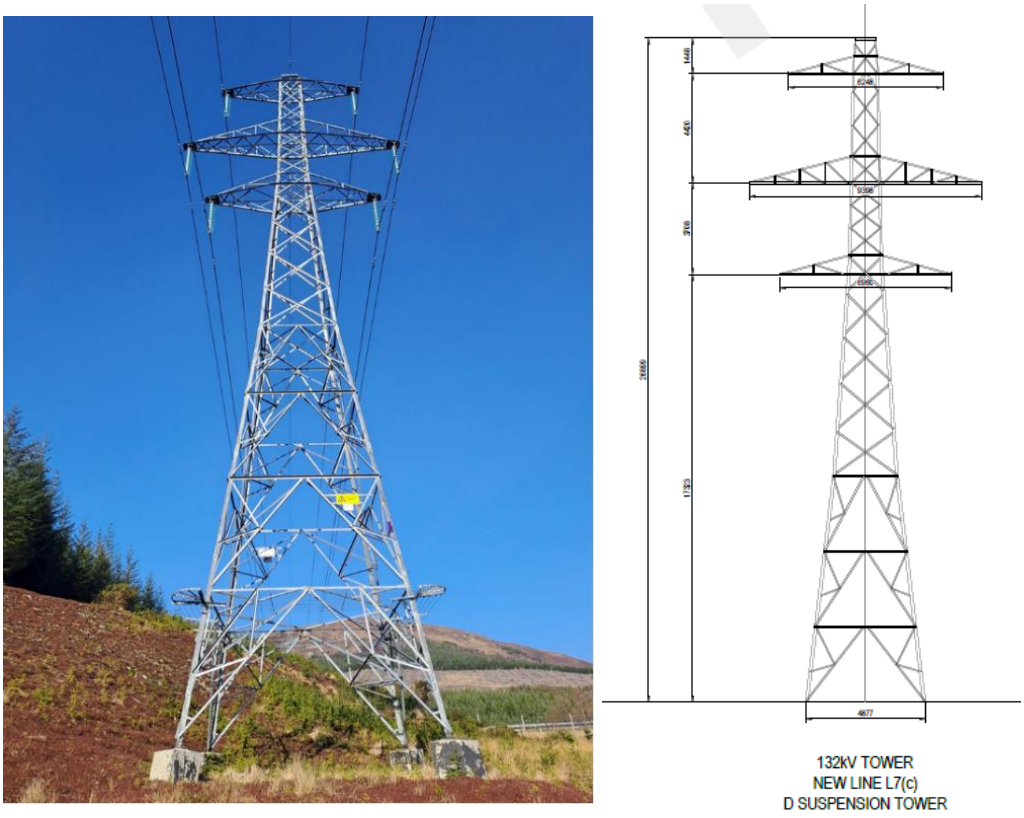

Plate 2.1 – Typical L7 steel lattice tower design

3. CONSIDERATION OF ALIGNMENT OPTIONS

3.1 Introduction

The Alignment Consultation Document[1] sets out the approach to the consideration and appraisal of Alignment Options, in line with SSEN Transmission's Routeing Guidance[2]. The guidance sets out SSEN Transmission's approach to select an alignment for an OHL, a process which aims to balance environmental, engineering and economic considerations throughout the Alignment Options process.

In line with the principles outlined in the guidance document, the method of identifying a Potential Alignment has involved the following four key tasks:

- Identification of the baseline situation;
- Identification of alternative Alignment Options;
- Environmental, technical and economic analysis of Alignment Options; and
- Identification of a Potential Alignment.

3.2 Identification of Potential Alignment

The Potential Alignment presented in the Alignment Consultation Document[1] has been selected on the basis that is considered to provide an optimum balance of environmental, technical and economic factors. The Potential Alignment is shown on **Figure 3.1**.

During the alignment selection stage of the project, Alignment Options within the Proposed Route were carefully considered to achieve an acceptable alignment which seeks to minimise environmental effects. Confirmation of the Potential Alignment has been informed by the consultation exercises summarised within this report, and through detailed surveys which have identified any additional and/or currently unknown engineering, environmental or land use constraints. Should any comments/concerns received from the Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultees, further review of Alignment Options may be required prior to the EIA and consenting stage.

[2] SSEN Transmission (2020) Procedures for Routeing Overhead Lines and Underground Cables of 132kV and above

4. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

4.1 Introduction

In accordance with the SSEN Transmission Routeing Guidance[2] a process of consultation on the Potential Alignment was implemented. This section identifies the methods of consultation and the key dates when consultation took place.

4.2 Methods of Consultation

The following methods were used to consult on the Potential Alignment, as set out below.

4.2.1 Alignment Consultation Document

The Alignment Consultation Document (September 2024)[1] was produced detailing the selection process for the Potential Alignment, taking account of environmental, economic and technical factors. The Alignment Consultation Document was emailed to statutory consultees (listed in Table 4.1 below) on 11th September 2024 and made available for download from the project website:

https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/tangy-iv-wind-farm-and-cnoc-buidhe-wind-farm-shared-use-132kv-connection-project/

Table 4.1 details the statutory and non-statutory stakeholders in receipt of the Alignment Consultation Document or otherwise informed of the website details.

Table 4.1 List of Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultees

Statutory Consultees	
Historic Environmental Scotland (HES)	Argyll and Bute Council
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	NatureScot
Scottish Forestry	
Non-Statutory Consultees	
Argyll District Salmon Fisheries Board	Scottish Water
Argyll Fisheries Trust	Scottish Wildlife Trust
BT Group Plc	Scottish Wild Land Group (SWLG)
Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS)	Transport Scotland
RSPB Scotland	

Landowners, residents and local communities were made aware, through various consultation promotion methods (see Error! Reference source not found.), of the Alignment Consultation Document which was made available via the dedicated project website. Updates were issued via email to project website subscribers, local community councils and ward councillors.

Table 4.2 Summary of Consultation Promotion Methods

Method	**Recipients**
Mail drop	4,161 local properties
Email to Stakeholders to advise of consultation	Jenni Minto MSP, Inveraray Community Council and Community Councillors for Mid Argyll and South Kintyre
Press Advert	Adverts placed within the Oban Times and the Argylle Advertiser.

Feedback on the Alignment Consultation Document was requested by 25th October 2024.

Stakeholders were invited to provide feedback through the following methods:

- A series of questions were asked within the Alignment Consultation Document requesting comments on specific aspects of the project as follows:
    - Has the approach taken to select the Potential Alignment been clearly explained?
    - In your opinion, has a clear overview of the required project elements been provided?
    - Do you have any specific concerns in relation to the Potential Alignment? If so, is there anything we could do to mitigate the impact of this?
    - Do you feel, on balance, that the Potential Alignment selected is the most appropriate for further consideration at the Environmental Impact Assessment stage?
    - Are there any factors, or environmental features that you believe have not been considered during the Potential Alignment selection process?
- A feedback form was also provided on the project webpage allowing users to submit comments.

4.2.2 Public Consultation Events

In-person public consultation events were held at the following times and locations:

- Tuesday 24th September 2024 at 1.30pm – 6.30pm at Glenbarr Village Hall, PA29 6UT
- Wednesday 25th September 2024 at 1.30pm – 6.30pm at Carradale Village Hall, PA29 6XT

The public exhibitions provided a forum to share information about the project and the Potential Alignment. Attendees were invited to take a summary information brochure (see **Appendix 2** – Information Brochure) and to consider information presented on a series of exhibition boards. The exhibition boards detailed key information on the project and what SSEN Transmission were consulting on, these included maps, environmental and engineering information. All members of the public were invited to complete a feedback form.

5. STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION RESPONSES

In developing the Proposed Development, the technical, environmental, economic and geographic constraints on the design and safe operation of the assets along with views expressed by stakeholders are considered. Gathering views from a variety of stakeholders is vital in developing and shaping a solution that balances different views of stakeholders. To ensure transparency throughout the consultation process it is vital to provide the opportunity to share the feedback received from stakeholders.

5.1 Statutory and Non-statutory Stakeholder Feedback

A total of seven written consultation responses were received from statutory and non-statutory consultees during the consultation period from September to October 2024.

Table 5.1 details the respondents and the corresponding dates on which their feedback was received.

Table 5.1 Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultee Respondents

Consultee	Date Response Received
SEPA	10/09/2024
Scottish Water	16/09/2024 and 31/10/2024
Scottish Forestry	25/09/2024
Nature Scot	3/10/2024
Transport Scotland	22/10/2024
Argyll Fisheries	24/10/2024
Historic Environment Scotland	15/11/2024

Table 5.2 provides a summary of the responses provided by statutory and non-statutory consultees. These are presented along with a reply from SSEN Transmission, including how the project will be developed to take account of the comments provided, as it moves forward into the next phase of development.

Through the consultation process a number of comments have been raised which require clarification or further assessment. These points include additional detail on the Potential Alignment, recommendations for continued consultation with stakeholders, and the importance of various surveys and assessments for protection of environmental aspects as the project evolves. This process will remain inclusive, seeking further consultation where appropriate.

Table 5.2 Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultee Responses

Consultee	Summary of Feedback	SSEN Transmission Response
SEPA	Until a finalised route and location plan of all towers and associated infrastructure is provided, SEPA cannot give any detailed comment on the alignment. In regard to preferred option for the switching station, SEPA highlight this is immediately adjacent to the Future fluvial extent of the Carradale Water, if chosen, full detailed flood risk assessment should be submitted to illustrate there will be no increase on flood risk elsewhere.	SSEN Transmission will undertake consultation with SEPA once the location of the towers and associated infrastructure is available. Detailed information on hydrology and flood risk will be presented in EIA report. Potential impacts in relation to the water environment will also be assessed in the EIA Report.
Scottish Water	**Drinking Water Protected Areas** From Scottish Water records it appears the route options do encroach within the Carradale Borehole catchment which supplies Carradale Water Treatment Works. Scottish Water abstractions are designated as Drinking Water Protected Areas (DWPA) under Article 7 of the Water Framework Directive. In the event of an incident occurring that could affect Scottish Water they should be notified without delay using the Customer Helpline number **0800 0778 778**. Scottish Water have produced a list of precautions for a range of activities. This details protection measures to be taken within a DWPA, the wider drinking water catchment and if there are assets in the area. Please note that site specific risks and mitigation measures will require to be assessed and implemented. These documents and other supporting information can be found on the activities within the catchments page of the Scottish Water website[3]. Scottish Water welcome the receipt of this notification about the proposed activity within a drinking water catchment where a Scottish Water abstraction is located. The fact that this area is located within a drinking water catchment should be noted in future documentation. Anyone working on site should be made aware of this during site inductions. Scottish Water would request further involvement at the more detailed design stages, to determine the most appropriate proposals and mitigation within the catchment to protect water quality and quantity. Scottish Water request that 3 months in advance of any works commencing on site, Scottish Water is notified at protectdwsources@scottishwater.co.uk. **Scottish Water Assets** A review of records indicates that there are Scottish Water assets in the area. This should be confirmed however through obtaining plans from Asset Plan Providers as these assets will need to be accounted for. Details of Scottish Water Asset Plan Providers are included in the SW list of	SSEN Transmission welcome Scottish Water's response and guidance on General Requirements in respect to precautions to protect drinking water and Scottish Water assets during hydro development, construction and operational activities. SSEN Transmission will consult with the Asset Plan Provider to confirm the presence of Sottish Water Assets in the area. Further consideration to interactions with access roads and pipe crossings will be given as the project progresses to the consenting stage. SSEN Transmission also acknowledge Scottish Water's policies and standards in relation to dealing with asset conflicts. These comments will be considered as the project progresses to the consenting stage. It is noted that the proposals will be required to comply with Sewers for Scotland and Water for Scotland 4th Editions 2018, including provision of appropriate clearance distances from Scottish Water assets, and this will be considered as the project progresses. SSEN will submit the detailed design proposals to HAUC for review and written acceptance three months prior to any works taking place within the Carradale Borehole Catchment. Water quality protection measures will be implemented, and Scottish Water will be made aware of what these measures will be and when work will commence on site.

[3] Scottish Water Sustainable Land Management. Available at: www.scottishwater.co.uk/slm

Consultee	Summary of Feedback	SSEN Transmission Response
	precautions for assets, which can be found on the activities within our catchments page of our website[3]. All Scottish Water assets potentially affected by the activity should be identified, with particular consideration being given to access roads and pipe crossings. If necessary, local Scottish Water personnel may be able to visit the site to offer advice. All of Scottish Water's processes, standards and policies in relation to dealing with asset conflicts must be complied with. In the event that asset conflicts are identified then early contact should be made with HUAC Diversions Team via the Development Services portal[4]. All detailed design proposals relating to the protection of Scottish Water's assets should be submitted to the HAUC for review and written acceptance. Works should not take place on site without prior written acceptance by Scottish Water. Scottish Water have produced a list of precautions for a range of activities. The list of precautions for assets details protection measures to be taken if there are assets in the area. Please note that site specific risks and mitigation measures will require to be assessed and implemented. The document/s and other supporting information can be found on the activities within our catchments page of our website[3]. It should be noted that the proposals will be required to comply with Sewers for Scotland and Water for Scotland 4th Editions 2018, including provision of appropriate clearance distances from Scottish Water assets.	
Scottish Forestry	The applicant should note that the 5th Edition UK Forestry Standard – 2023 (UKFS) will be applied from 1st October 2024. UKFS[5] and Scottish Governments Control of Woodland Policy 2009 (CoWRP) apply to this proposal. Scottish Forestry (SF) consider that both UKFS and Scottish Governments Control of Woodland Policy 2009[6] apply to this proposal. Scottish Forestry also highlight the published guidance on how to apply the Scottish Government's policy on control of woodland removal[7]. The guidance applies to both consenting authorities and applicants.	Scottish Forestry comments and information on UK forestry guidance and policy, and their requirements are noted. SSEN Transmission are committed to ensure that any proposed changes to woodland address the requirements of the Control of Woodland Removal Policy and other relevant guidance.

[4] Scottish Water Development Services Portal. Available at: https://swastroprodweb.azurewebsites.net/home/default

[5] Scottish Forestry UK Forestry Standard. Available at: https://www.forestry.gov.scot/sustainable-forestry/ukfs-scotland

[6] Scottish Forestry Woodland Removal. Available at: https://www.forestry.gov.scot/support-regulations/control-of-woodland-removal

[7] Scottish Government (2019) Scottish Government's policy on control of woodland removal: implementation guidance. Available at: https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.forestry.gov.scot/component/edocman/349-scottish-government-s-policy-on-control-of-woodland-removal-implementation-guidance/download?Itemid=0__;!!KLAX!kNwjnqlPhllidEnoyaCoUa5iaF5Z0Wu0m85mOp5yOZ32TjBSGbj_cJiIJ54LWszLsNSEXZfsIsjGzBpo9zF7yZXTRMFUxFCjJ82zzC8e$

Consultee	Summary of Feedback	SSEN Transmission Response
	In response to whether there are specific concerns about the alignment Scottish Forestry responded that woodland removal would form part of the application and suitable compensatory planting will need to be considered as part of the mitigation as per Scottish Governments Control of Woodland Policy 2009 (CoWRP). Efforts have clearly been made to avoid woodland and in particular Ancient Woodland sites, however, there may be indirect impacts where work is taking place adjacent to Ancient Woodland sites. There may also be smaller unmapped areas that would need consideration as the due diligence continues. This more detailed level of due diligence can be captured through a Native Woodland Plan either as part of the EIA or / and via a condition of consent.	This is an essential part of the design development process, with careful consideration given in the tower spotting process to ensure the requirement for woodland removal is avoided as far as reasonably practicable. SSEN Transmission will continue to involve Scottish Forestry in consultation as part of the consenting stage of the project, and will ensure to provide as much detail as possible around felling and compensatory planting requirements as part of the Proposed Development. Any likely impact on adjacent Ancient Woodland areas as well as Native Woodland areas will be appropriately assessed and captured in the EIA.
Transport Scotland	Transport Scotland have no comment to make on the proposed alignment itself but note that they will require to be consulted on the potential impact of the vehicle trips generated during construction of the project at the project application stage.	Noted, Transport Scotland will be included in consultation undertaken for the project as it progresses.
Nature Scot	In order to avoid disturbing roosting Greenland white-fronted geese, undergrounding works adjacent to (and within disturbance buffers) of Lussa Loch will need to be carefully timed to avoid the wintering period for this species. If Tangy Option 1 UGC is decided upon, maintenance periods may also be more limited in terms so as to avoid disturbing the geese. Part of the OHL section does appear to be located within the habitat management area for Beinn an Tuirc and the impacts this may have on the aims of this area for the target species as well as any mitigation and enhancement that can be provided will need to be considered. Cumulatively, consider the potential range loss for the resident pair of golden eagles alongside other developments in the area, including West Torrisdale Wind Farm will also need to be considered.	SSEN Transmission will ensure works adjacent to Lussa Loch are timed to avoid the wintering period for Greenland white-fronted geese. The potential impacts on the Beinn an Tuirc habitat management area and the cumulative impacts on the resident pair of golden eagles will be considered as the project progresses to the consenting stage.
Argyll Fisheries	Argyll Fisheries had no comments.	Noted.
Historic Environment Scotland	Historic Environment Scotland (HES) have identified likely significant effects on their historic environment interests. There are several designated heritage assets within the vicinity of the development site and the proposals may impact their setting. These include the Garvalt, Dun 500m SW of (SM3740)8 and Crois Mhic Aoidh, Standing Stone (SM251)9. **The Garvalt, Dun 500m SW of (SM37040)** The potential alignment suggests that the most likely route, using alignment option A3, would take the pylons about 2km to the west of the monument, and the pylons would lie close to the existing	SSEN Transmission will continue to endeavour to not raise significant issues for HES SM. An assessment of impacts on the setting of the Crois Mhic Aoidh, Standing Stone will consider whether views towards and from the SM contribute to its significance and what impact an OHL of the scale proposed on the alignments may have on the SM's setting.

[8] Historic Environment Scotland. Garcalt, dun 500m SW of SM3740 Available at: https://portal.historicenvironment.scot/apex/f?p=1505:300:::::VIEWTYPE,VIEWREF:designation,SM3740

[9] Historic Environment Scotland. Crois Mhic Aoidh, standing stone SM251. Available at: https://portal.historicenvironment.scot/apex/f?p=1505:300:::::VIEWTYPE,VIEWREF:designation,SM251

Consultee	Summary of Feedback	SSEN Transmission Response
	windfarms, grouping the modern development in the area in this location. If alignment option A3 were to be pursued it seems likely that a combination of distance, intervening topography and the OHL appearing directly in front of existing wind turbines would not result in a significant impact. Other alignment options may have a significant impact, and should these alignments be chosen, there may be a need for further analysis and visualisations. **Crois Mhic Aoidh, Standing Stone (SM251)** The preferred route identified by the applicant would pass within 2km to the west of the monument and would be visible with views in this direction. The applicant has already acknowledged that the setting of the monument may be impacted by the proposals. These impacts should be assessed through the production of a photomontage looking to the west toward the proposals with the standing stone in the foreground. Decisions that affect the historic environment should take the Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS)[10] into account as a material consideration. HEPS is supported by the Managing Change guidance series. In this case, HES recommend that the Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting guidance note[11].	assessed and the production of a photomontages prepared. The HES policy and guidance note are noted.

[10] Historic Environment Scotland. Historic Environment Policy for Scotland (HEPS). Available at: https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/planning-and-guidance/historic-environment-policy-for-scotland-heps/

[11] Historic Environment (2016)t Scotland. Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Setting. Available at: https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=80b7c0a0-584b-4625-b1fd-a60b009c2549

5.2 Public Consultation Responses

In response to this consultation, feedback was primarily received in-person at the consultation events. Only one completed feedback form was received despite various efforts to advertise these events.

5.2.1 Attendance and Feedback

There were 39 people in attendance over two days in-person consultation events gathering information and providing feedback on our proposals. During the 5-week consultation period the project webpage received a total of 60 views.

A summary of comments and questions received during the consultation are provided in T**able 5.3**.

Table 5.3 Summary of the Feedback from local residents and community

Summary of Feedback	Response by SSEN Transmission
Concerns raised about the visual impact on the local landscape	The landscape sensitivities and cultural significance of the eastern part of the Proposed Development have been considered during the routeing and alignment selection stages, and will continue to be assessed as the project progresses to the EIA. The EIA Report will include a specific chapter for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) and will also consider the potential for wider cumulative impacts when viewed against the backdrop of other existing and planned infrastructure in the area. The EIA Report will include photomontages showing visual projections of the appearance of the OHL at each key viewpoint. The EIA will consider the cumulative impacts of the Proposed Development, arising in combination with other planned electricity transmission connections, and other planned developments where impacts are predicted. The findings of the cumulative assessment will be set out in the EIA Report.
General disdain for the volume of windfarms in the area	The original transmission network in Argyll and Bute was constructed over 60 years ago and designed to transmit electricity to consumers in rural areas of low-density population. SSEN Transmission have seen a significant increase in generator connection applications in Argyll and Kintyre, predominantly in renewable generation supporting the country's drive towards Net Zero. Therefore, there is a requirement for SSEN Transmission to increase network capability in Argyll and Kintyre, beyond that already under current construction and public development, to enable the connection of further renewable generation and to export to the wider GB transmission network
Questions around whether undergrounding has been considered for the sections of OHL	The most appropriate solution for the operation and maintenance of the network is considered to be OHL over UGC wherever possible. For this project, a steel lattice tower OHL is proposed for the majority of the connection, with short sections of UGC required at either end in order to overcome technical constraints in connecting with the substations. The environmental, technical, and operational constraints associated with undergrounding at high voltages, make the option extremely challenging to deliver in many areas. Some of the challenges that contribute to this position include technical limitations, environmental impact, terrain concerns, infrastructure needs, operational needs and cost.

Summary of Feedback	Response by SSEN Transmission
Consideration has been given to local wildlife such as birds and butterflies but not to local livestock and crop	As part of the alignment design and appraisal work agriculture and farming issues were factored into the appraisal process, however unavoidably the Proposed Development will need to cross some areas of agricultural land. It is recognised that the proposed infrastructure may impact agricultural operations, and SSEN Transmission will work with landowners to minimise operational impacts where possible. SSEN Transmission are committed to reinstating affected farmland to its original condition. SSEN Transmission's contractors will be required to prepare a Construction Environmental Management Plan prior to commencement of construction. The CEMP will ensure that best practice measures are employed during construction to control noise, dust, and prevent pollution and to ensure sound biosecurity measures are employed to protect farms and prevent the spread of diseases. Drainage concerns are also noted and will be fully considered, measures will be identified in liaison with landowners and SEPA to minimise impact to drainage.
Concern for current and future food production	As part of the alignment work, OHL impacts on agriculture and farming were factored into the appraisal process, however unavoidably the Proposed Development will need to cross some areas of agricultural land. SSEN Transmission are aware of the legislative requirements and policy regarding agricultural land. Potential impacts on Land Use have been assessed as part of the EIA Scoping. It was determined that these impacts would be minor temporary and localised, and have been scoped out of further assessment. The permanent loss of land to towers and access tracks will be managed through agreements with relevant landowners and farmers. SSEN Transmission will continue to engage with landowners as the project progressed to the next stage.
Concerns around the lack of benefits for the local community	Following an extensive stakeholder consultation exercise in 2023, SSEN Transmission launched its first Community Benefit Fund in 2024 to fund a range of community projects across the north of Scotland. There are two types of fund open to projects in SSEN Transmission's network area. Not for profit, constituted groups can apply for funding. The Community Benefit Fund plans involve a local and a wider regional element.
Concerns around the increase in traffic and the wear and tear on certain roads in the local area	Impacts on traffic and transportation will be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). A Traffic and Transport Assessment will be undertaken, and where appropriate we will consider potential impacts in relation to construction traffic. Access locations for construction and maintenance will seek to utilise existing roads and access tracks (upgrading where required) as far as practicable to reduce the need for new accesses. Full consideration will be given to assessing the impacts of the project on road safety and road-users, and every effort will be made to ensure access to properties, fields and local facilities is maintained. A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will also be produced. This will require approval from Transport Scotland and local authorities. SSEN

Summary of Feedback	Response by SSEN Transmission
	Transmission will undertake specific liaison with Transport Scotland and Local Authority Roads Departments as the project develops to agree measures for public road improvements, temporary traffic management, and other mitigation that may be required. SSEN Transmission and their appointed contractors are required to return roads and access points to the same or better condition than before the project commenced, and any damage to roads and access points caused by the project will be fully repaired. Surveys and photographs will be undertaken before works begin to assess the condition of the roads and access points in advance of works commencing. Monitoring and photographs will then be taken throughout construction programme to ensure the roads are safe and usable. Repairs will be carried out to address any issues as they emerge. A survey will also be undertaken on completion of the works.
Concerns about health risks	SSEN Transmission would like to reassure you that infrastructure is developed, built and operated to meet all health and safety legislation and guidance set by relevant bodies - including the UK Government, Scottish Government, the Health and Safety Executive and our regulator, Ofgem – including that associated with Electro Magnetic Fields (EMFs). In respect of EMFs, SSEN Transmission strictly follow the guidance as set by the UK Government, which in turn is informed by international guidance. As well as setting exposure limits that protect against known, established effects of EMF; the UK Government's guidance also includes precautionary measures to protect against possible effects below the exposure limits that have not been established by science. In addition to this, the UK Health Security Agency and Department of Health have a remit to review new research in this area and ensure that current guidelines and policies are reflective of that research. Furthermore, the UK Government's latest policy on EMF is set out in National Policy Statement EN-5[12] which was reissued in November 2023 and came into force on 17 January 2024. This latest policy is reflective of that review process and in line with the NPS EN-5, the current UK Government guidance, informed by relevant international guidance, is therefore still considered appropriate by the UK Government and their public health experts. Whilst electricity consenting decisions are devolved to Scottish Ministers and the NPS EN-5 is therefore not all relevant in Scotland, we can confirm compliance with all EMF guidance as set out in the NPS EN-5. There have been over four decades of research looking into whether EMF can cause health effects and there are no established effects below the exposure limits. When SSEN Transmission design overhead lines, substations and cables it is ensured that they will not exceed those exposure limits, even when operating at 100% capacity. SSEN Transmission also ensure that the

[12] Department for Energy Security & Net Zero. (2023) National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a78a5496a5ec000d731abb/nps-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en5.pdf

Summary of Feedback	Response by SSEN Transmission
	precautionary measures are also applied to the design where required. SSEN Transmission will provide information on compliance as part of the consenting process, which will be publicly available. In summary, the guidance followed, which remains subject to ongoing review as required, ensures that safety measures will be applied to the 400kV overhead line infrastructure protecting the public against EMF exposure, keeping the network safe for the public. This and further information is available in SSEN Transmission's EMF Leaflet[13].

[13] SSEN Transmission. Pathway to 2030 Projects EMF Leaflet. Available at: https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/globalassets/projects/2030-projects/2030-project-documents/emf.pdf

6. CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT-STEPS

6.1 Conclusion

This Report on Consultation documents the consultation process which has been undertake for the project between September 2024 and October 2024. The programme of consultation was designed to engage with stakeholders including statutory and non-statutory consultees, local communities, landowners and individual residents in order to invite feedback on the rationale for and approach to, the selection of the Potential Alignment.

This report describes the key responses received and provides detail on the actions proposed in response to the issues raised. The consultation on the alignment selection process has been successful in obtaining feedback from both statutory and non-statutory consultees.

The main feedback points surrounded flood risk, nearby water assets and protected areas, woodland removal, nearby protected bird species and habitats and nearby designated heritage assets. Additionally, the responses highlighted the next steps for inclusion of consultees interests at the next stages of consent and guidance and policies that should be accounted for.

All comments and considerations to date will be taken forward into the consenting stage, through which assessments will be carried out for all relevant environmental aspects. This process remains inclusive, seeking further consultation where appropriate.

The Potential Alignment (**Figure 3.1**) has been selected on the basis that it is considered to provide an optimum balance of environmental, technical and economic factors, and has become the Proposed Alignment taken forward to the consenting stage of this project.

6.2 Next Steps

The project will now be taken into Stage 4: EIA and consenting. During this stage, the Proposed Alignment and associated infrastructure will be assessed from an environmental perspective, with environmental impacts identified, and mitigation measures adopted to minimise environmental effects as far as is practicable.

Following the formal consultation stage, SSEN Transmission will consider the final details of its proposals before submitting an application for consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989. There will be a further opportunity for comments to be submitted in relation to the application and accompanying EIA Report to the Scottish Government ECU.

SSEN will continue to engage with the local community, Community Councils, elected representatives, statutory and non-statutory stakeholders as the project progresses.

7. APPENDIX 1 – FIGURES

8. APPENDIX 2 – INFORMATION BROCHURE