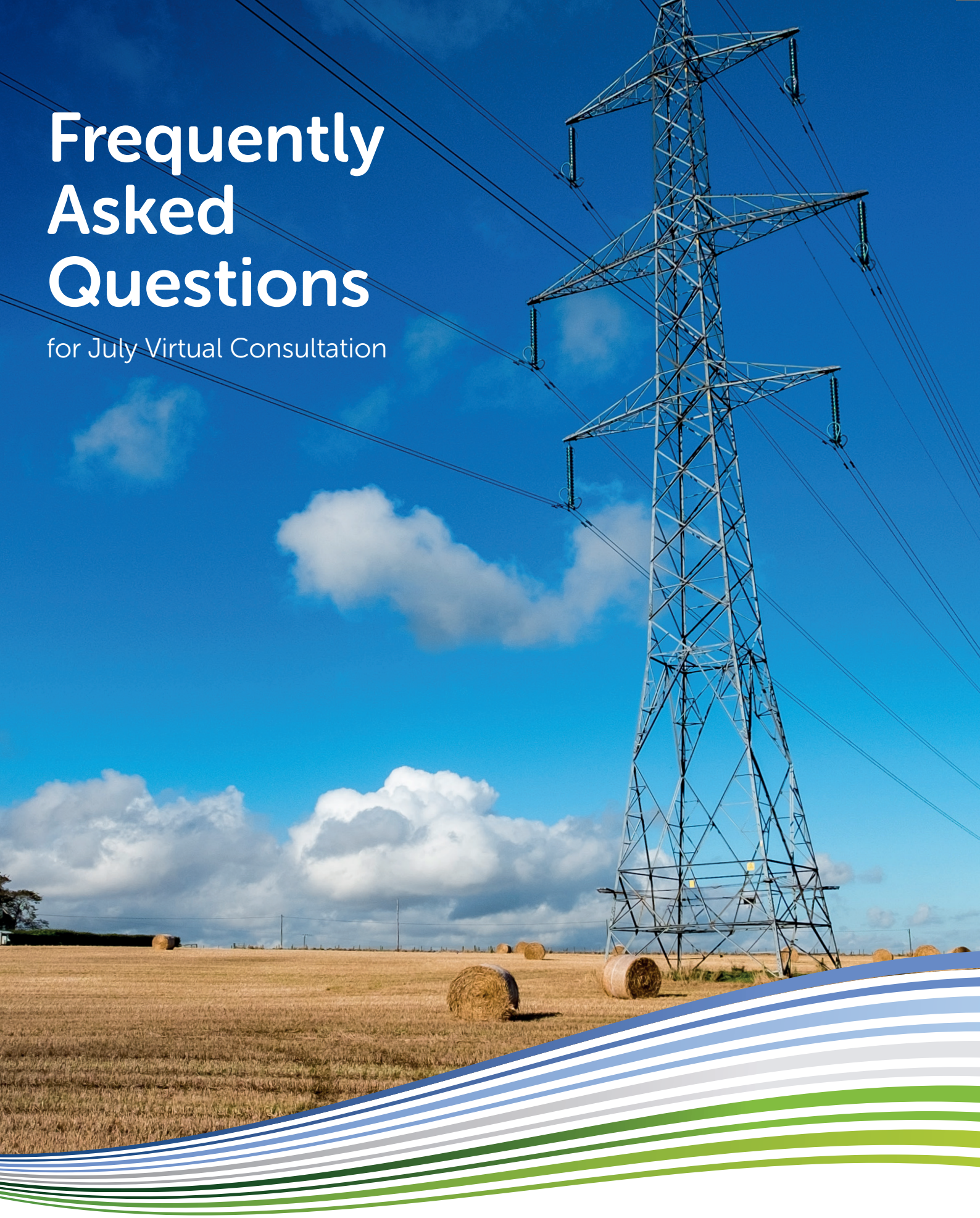
Frequently Asked Questions

for July Virtual Consultation



Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

ssen.co.uk

Who are Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks?

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks is the trading name of Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution Limited, Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc, Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution plc and Southern Electric Power Distribution plc.

Can funding for projects be asked for on a per kilometre basis relative to the length of line within each transmission operators region?

Ofgem have made no link between the proportion of assets within National Parks and National Scenic Areas (NSAs) within each transmission operators operational area, and the amount of funding available to them.

Can alternative tower designs be used as a potential mitigation method?

All financially and technically feasible mitigation options that fall within the scope of our VISTA policy are open for consideration for project development.

What impact will undergrounding have - Visually, Physically etc. What are the chances of the cables faulting?

The main impact undergrounding will have is an improvement of the visual landscape in the proposed project area as we will be dismantling sections of towers and over-head line.

Once cables are installed, the land will be reinstated to its original condition, which may take approximately up to 6 months once reinstatement works are completed.

As with all technology, the chance of cable faults is a factor SSEN must consider, however the likelihood of a fault to the cables is extremely minimal.

Will deals be done to maintain temporary tracks as permanent at Landowner request? Will you require permanent access tracks to maintain cables?

There are no plans to install additional permanent tracks due to our proposals as current/existing accesses are suitable for future maintenance.

We will install some temporary access tracks, which will then be reinstated to their original condition.

SSEN will not be making any deals with landowners to turn new temporary tracks into permanent tracks. Cable maintenance would be done by operational staff on foot.

Will you manage livestock during construction and reinstatement to ensure new land isn't damaged?

Yes. Stockproof fencing will be erected for a period of time along the cable route to prevent livestock entering the work areas, however a final proposal is not yet designed. Following installation of the cables, we aim to reinstate land to the original condition.

Can you underground Distribution Lines at same time?

Yes. Some of the 33kV distribution line will also be undergrounded at the same time. However, this distribution line currently uses the OHL towers that we are removing. Where this is not the case, and the visual impact is specific to the Distribution asset, then the appropriate funding stream should be used. For distribution information please go here: **www.ssen.co.uk/undergrounding**

What sort of construction times are you looking at? A year of disruption will be difficult for visitors.

We will programme our works for the least disruption to visitors and the local community as much as possible. For example, we will avoid disruption to the road during peak tourist season by completing the works over the winter from October to March.

When do you look to submit to OFGEM? When will the work start?

We will look to make our submission for funding to OFGEM by the end of August 2020 and if funding is approved would look to approximately start works in the area in March 2021.

What is the cost of the project?

Total cost for the project is £25 million.

What direct contact will you have with Communities? Would you come to local events to discuss projects?

The team at SSEN Transmission are willing and happy to engage with local communities wherever possible. We would lean on the local knowledge for any relevant events to be highlighted. SSEN Transmission are also willing to attend local community council meetings where appropriate to provide an update of the project once COVID-19 restrictions allow.

Does this need planning permission?

We will be consulting with the National Park planning authority over the coming months to establish what the appropriate planning permissions for the project are. SSEN Transmission will submit the necessary application for planning permissions thereafter.

As the cables will be installed under the road, how will you manage traffic and road closures?

We propose to complete the installation of the cables in the road in phases, working on one lane at a time, and completing the works in short sections such as 100m long.

This will mean only a section of the carriageway will be closed at a time and allow traffic to continue using the road.

Traffic management could include measures such as a contraflow system and traffic lights, as well as speed humps to reduce vehicle speed adjacent to the work area, this will be agreed in conjunction with Stirling Council and where necessary Traffic Scotland.

Can you confirm that the drainage in the field to the rear of the houses on Manse Road will be reinstated after the work has been completed?

Yes. We will identify the existing land drainage systems that intersect the cable route and repair any field drains which are damaged during the course of the works.

How are you making sure nothing rolls down the hill to Manse Road and Craignavie Road?

The stability of the ground will be assessed during the detailed design stage of the project, which will identify risks associated with works on slopes. Mitigation measures to prevent damage to property will be developed following the assessment.

Will there be much noise? Will you be working at night?

General construction activities may produce some noise, but we will work effectively with the local community and mitigate the noise where possible. A construction noise management plan will be developed, and this will be in accordance with the relevant regulations and authorities.

We propose to complete the installation of the cables in the road in phases, working on one lane at a time, and completing the works in short sections. This will mean only a section of the carriageway will be closed at a time and allow traffic to continue using the road. We do not anticipate these closures to be carried out overnight.

Traffic management could include measures such as a contraflow system and traffic lights, as well as speed humps to reduce vehicle speed adjacent to the work area, this will be agreed in conjunction with Stirling Council and where necessary Traffic Scotland.

Can you advise if the levels of electromagnetic radiation from the buried HV cables will be lower than the existing and could you also please advise of all guidance you follow i.e. any regulatory requirements and any best practice recommendations with where they can be sourced?

Electro-Magnetic Fields (EMFs) are produced by electrical circuits. Overhead lines produce an electrical field associated with the voltage and a magnetic field associated either the current.

Underground cables only produce a magnetic field and the cable sheath eliminates the electrical field.

All SHE-Transmission's assets comply with the relevant exposure limits set out by the Health Protection Agency and adopted by the Government. For more information on EMFs associated with cable circuits please visit National Grid's dedicated EMF website: **www.emfs.info/sources/underground**

What impact/disruption will there be to the houses on Manse Road?

Whilst we will look to minimise disruption there will be construction works at the back of the houses on Manse Road. The main impact will be noise for the duration of that section of works.

There may also be increased construction traffic however we are preparing mitigations to ensure this is kept to a minimum.

Will the cable also be routed underneath River Dochart?

Yes, the cable will pass directly underneath the River Dochart. This will be done by means of Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) which is a commonly used practice in the industry and which our contractors have vast experience with.

Why was this route chosen and not another that may have had less impact to local residents?

The cable route runs parallel to the existing overhead line for 70% of the route (from within the forestry to Breadalbane park).

Where the route deviates from the existing line is where the overhead line rises over Creag na Dunaich. Cable routes and access roads over the steep hill (and small cliffs in places) would be extremely difficult. The ground is rocky and there are limited access points. The hill is popular with hill climbers and would have required the felling of some ancient woodland.

To the east of the A827 road is a floodplain and close to the river Lochay, which is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The decision was made to install 900m of the route within the carriageway as this has the least environmental issues and was the preferred construction option by SSEN and the potential contractors who will deliver the project.

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