

# West of Beaully Asset Replacement Projects Public Event Summary Report December 2022



**Scottish & Southern**  
Electricity Networks

TRANSMISSION

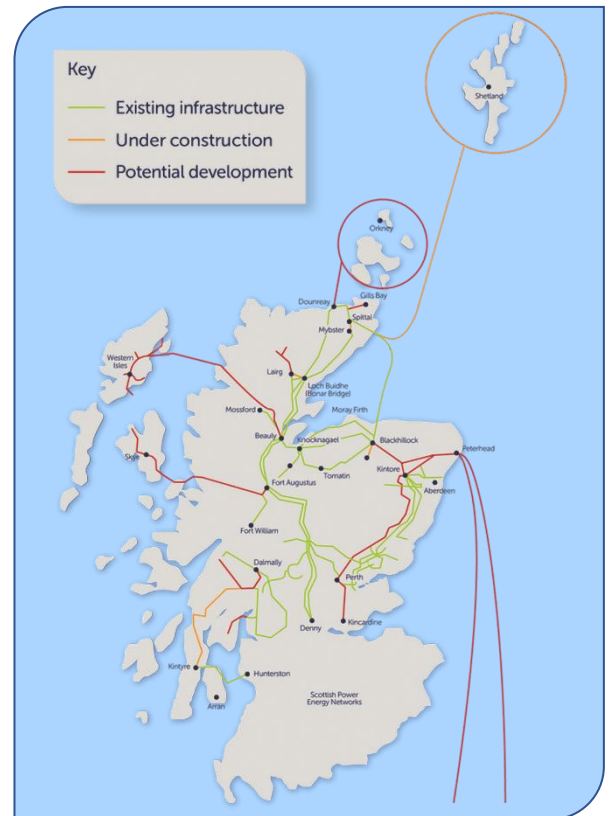
## **i** About us

We are SSEN Transmission (the trading name for Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission), and we are part of the SSE plc Group. We are responsible for the electricity transmission network in the north of Scotland maintaining and investing in the high voltage 132kV, 275kV and 400kV electricity transmission network.

Our network consists of underground and subsea cables, overhead lines on wooden poles or steel towers, and electricity substations. It extends over a quarter of the UK's land mass, crossing some of its most challenging terrain and powering our communities by providing a safe and reliable supply of electricity. We do this by taking the electricity from generators and transporting it at high voltages over long distances through our transmission network for onwards distribution to homes and businesses in villages, towns and cities.

Scotland's transmission network has a strategic role to play in supporting delivery of the UK's Net Zero target. We're already a mass exporter of renewable energy, with around two thirds of power generated in our networks area exported south. By 2050, the north of Scotland will need 33-35GW of renewable energy capacity to support net zero delivery. For context, we currently have just over 8GW of renewable generation connected in the north of Scotland. We are committed to inclusive stakeholder engagement, conducting regular external assurance audits on both our Stakeholder Engagement Strategy and delivery plans, and were recently awarded 'Accomplished' status by AccountAbility, the international consulting and standards firm.

Find out more: [www.ssen-transmission.co.uk](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk)



## Why do we hold community Consultation Events?

Following the effects of COVID 19 on public engagement, on the back of our [Infrastructure Stakeholder Engagement Survey](#) our Stakeholders said that they wanted more face-to-face engagement with us around our projects.

### Why do we carry out Consultation Events? –

The majority of consultations we carry out are voluntary. As a Stakeholder run business, we aim to be as accessible as possible to all our Stakeholders and keep them informed throughout a project's lifecycle. Engaging early with our Stakeholders allows us to collate relevant and insightful feedback, providing us with the best opportunity to develop mutually acceptable and agreed outcomes to inform the development and design of our project proposals.

Over and above our extensive voluntary engagement, we are also required to hold mandated pre-application consultation events for many of our infrastructure projects. These events are often very similar to our voluntary consultation, however, must meet the requirements set out by the relevant planning authorities. We will always inform our stakeholders when community consultation events are carried out in response to pre-application requirements.

You can find out more about our Stakeholder Engagement Strategy direct from our website:

[Our Stakeholder Engagement Strategy \(ssen-transmission.co.uk\)](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk)

How do we carry out our Consultations? – Consultations can be held via in person exhibitions and virtual events

## Introduction

SSEN Transmission are taking forward proposals for new substations required at Deanie, Culligran, Aigas and Kilmorack, collectively termed as West of Beaully Asset Replacement projects, (formerly referred to as 'The Beaully Cluster'). Upgrades are required to the four existing substation assets from Deanie to Kilmorack Power Stations, which converts the 11 kilovolt (kV) output to 132kV for export to the Transmission network and consists of the construction of the four new separate but linked substations to provide hydro generation connections to the associated generator.

All have ageing assets, approximately 60 years old, which need to be replaced to meet modern standards and to provide reliability of supply.

## Project Elements

The following elements are anticipated requirements for each of the four new substations

- Design and construction of a new offline substation compound with 132/11kV transformer. These will be separate but linked substations, with indicative platform sizes of 50 x 95 metres
- A new 132kV circuit breaker and earth switch Control building housing 11kV switch gear and control protection equipment
- Landscaping and biodiversity requirements
- Permanent access to the sites
- Upgrade of existing/new access tracks and temporary site compounds and construction laydown areas where required.

## Project Webpage

The designated project webpage with the link below, explains the project need and project details and contains the consultation materials which were shown at the events held at the end of October and beginning of November 2022. (Previous consultation events were held in July). Feedback forms were also available on the webpage for easy digital submission, as well as being available in hard copy format within the Project information booklet which also contains the same project information on display at the events.

[West of Beaully - Asset Replacement Projects - SSEN Transmission \(ssen-transmission.co.uk\)](https://ssen-transmission.co.uk)

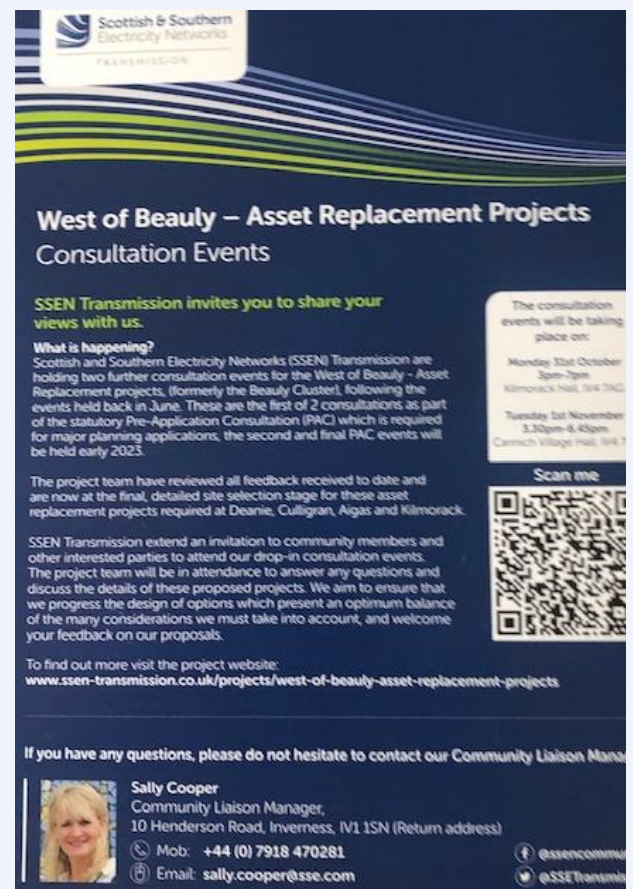


## Advertising process

The public consultation events were advertised using various platforms which included local newspaper The Press & Journal, SSEN Transmission's social media channels, Facebook and Twitter and the dedicated project webpage.

In addition, a postcard mail-drop was delivered to 2,123 properties, homes and businesses within the local area advertising the dates, times, and locations of the face-to-face consultation events.

Ward 11 and Ward 12 Councillors, Community Councillors, Beauly Community Liaison Group and stakeholder sign-ups were also emailed in advance notifying of the details of the consultation events and included the link to the project webpage and the A4 poster for sharing on their own social media platforms and for displaying on local public notice boards.



**West of Beauly – Asset Replacement Projects Consultation Events**

**SSEN Transmission invites you to share your views with us.**

**What is happening?**  
Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Transmission are holding two further consultation events for the West of Beauly – Asset Replacement projects. (Formerly the Beauly Cluster) following the events held back in June. These are the first of 2 consultations as part of the statutory Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) which is required for major planning applications; the second and final PAC events will be held early 2023.

The project team have reviewed all feedback received to date and are now at the final, detailed site selection stage for these asset replacement projects required at Deanie, Culligran, Aigas and Kilmorack.

SSEN Transmission extend an invitation to community members and other interested parties to attend our drop-in consultation events. The project team will be in attendance to answer any questions and discuss the details of these proposed projects. We aim to ensure that we progress the design of options which present an optimum balance of the many considerations we must take into account, and welcome your feedback on our proposals.

To find out more visit the project website:  
[www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/west-of-beauly-asset-replacement-projects](http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/west-of-beauly-asset-replacement-projects)

The consultation events will be taking place on:

Monday 31st October  
3pm-7pm  
Kilmorack Hall, IV4 7AG

Tuesday 1st November  
3.30pm-6.45pm  
Cannich Village Hall, IV4 7LY

Scan me

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Community Liaison Manager

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@ssencomm  
@SSETransmis

*A Mailer was delivered to 2,123 properties and was promoted on the project webpage, social media platforms, local retail outlets and in the Press and Journal newspaper*

## Stakeholder participation

### Face to Face Events

- A total of 35 people attended the event held at Kilmorack Hall on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October and 8 people attended the second event the following day at Cannich Village Hall.
- A 3D modelling video was used to show all 4 of the proposed substations to enable attendees to get a perspective of the locations size, colour and impact of the proposed new substations.
- The full project team attended these events to ensure that the resource was available to answer a diverse range of questions from attendees. Positive feedback was received on the quality of question answering.

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## Community Feedback

At the consultation events and through the consultation process verbal feedback was noted and attendees were also encouraged to submit this through the feedback forms. The feedback forms were included for each of the 4 projects in the Information booklet with a free-post envelope and were also available to be completed digitally and by email through the project web page. The feedback period was open for a 4-week period and was directed to the Community Liaison Manager, closing on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

### Total Number of Feedback Forms Received = 3

Deanie Substation – 1 received  
 Culligran Substation – 0 received  
 Aigas Substation – 1 received  
 Kilmorack Substation – 1 received.

**Please note** –The possibility of an additional site at Kilmorack which came about shortly prior to the consultation events meant that we were no longer seeking feedback on the previously identified `preferred` site, though feedback on all site options was still welcomed. Attendees were informed that the project is taking a step back in the site selection process for this proposed substation due to a new possible site which is now being assessed technically, environmentally and economically and the results will be compared to the other 5 site options to establish a preferred site. At this point the project team will consult to gather comments and feedback.

A summary of key themes from feedback forms from both consultations held to date, including verbal feedback from the events are listed below;

- Requests for understanding the reasons why the substations cannot be replaced in-situ.
- Concerns around visual impact from residents at Aigas, road users in the Kilmorack area and walkers in Glen Strathfarrar looking down on Deanie substation.
- Concerns on the volume of construction traffic on the roads and noise during the construction phase
- Requests that the Kilmorack and Aigas substations to be housed, with the building colour blending with the environment, such as green/brown. A suggestion to consult army about camouflage methods.
- Requests that the proposed new Aigas substation is located on the hill by the quarry.
- Aigas – Concerns around the impact of the project on wildlife, nature and the water.
- Natural screening to be used – trees, plants etc.
- Comments and questions around noise of the operating substations
- Previous preferred site B at Kilmorack – visually exposed to public roads, visual impact from cemetery and drivers going towards Cannich.



## Next steps

The project team will now be assessing and considering the feedback received to help further refine the projects design refinement where possible.

Second pre-application consultation events will be held for the proposed substations at Deanie, Culligran and Aigas around Spring 2023. These events will provide the project team with further opportunity to gather further comment and feedback and to demonstrate how and if it has been possible to implement feedback received so far at the previous events. Planning application submission is expected to be around mid-2023.

For the Kilmorack Asset Replacement project there will be 2 further pre-application consultation events with the planning application submission expected to be towards the end of 2023.



## How to get in touch

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact the project Community Liaison Manager, Sally Cooper.



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 SSEN Community

 @ssencommunity

[ssen-transmission.co.uk](http://ssen-transmission.co.uk)

