A832 Culvert Works

Revised proposal following community feedback

Aultbea and Badcaul

27 and 28 October 2025

Presented by project director Niall Macleod

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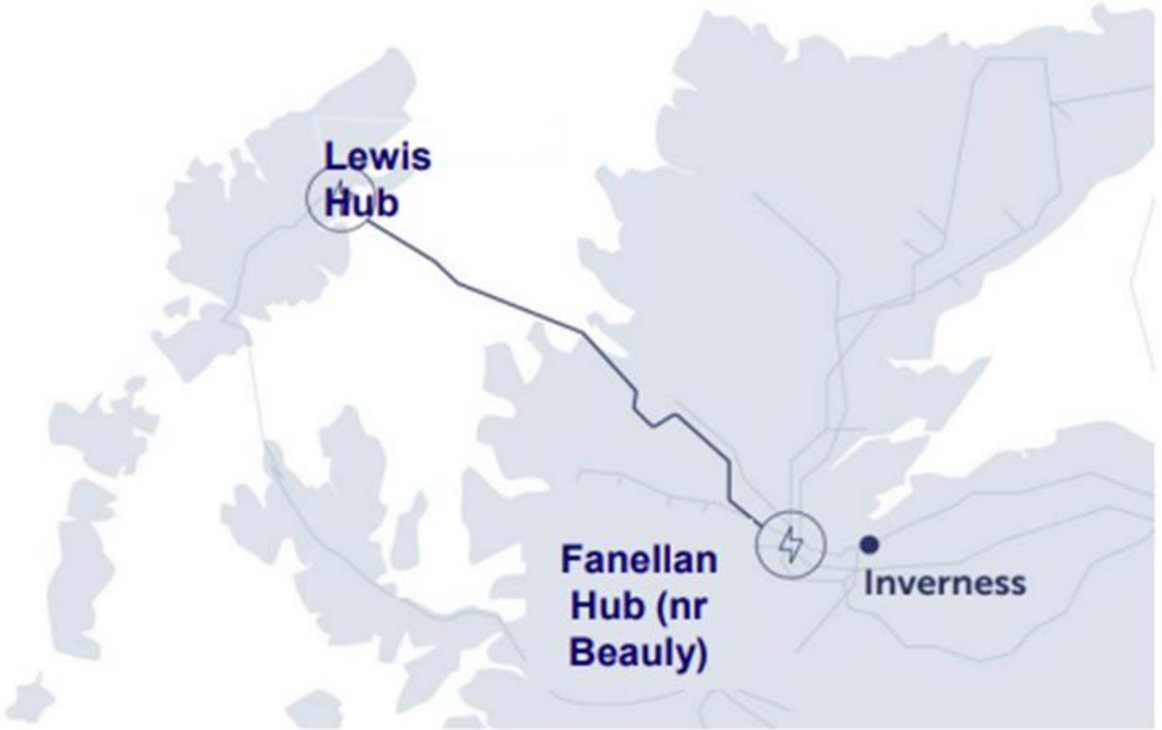
Welcome, an introduction to the project and meet some of the team

- Thank you to everyone who provided feedback at the last event.
- Over the last few weeks we have worked hard to take everything on board and come up with a revised proposal
- After tonight's presentation there will still be an opportunity to provide further feedback
- We will hold a further session in the New Year
- Meet some of the team:
  -Niall Macleod, project director
  -John Douglas, senior project manager
  -Gordon Bell, stakeholder manager
  -Kevin Morrison, communities liaison manager



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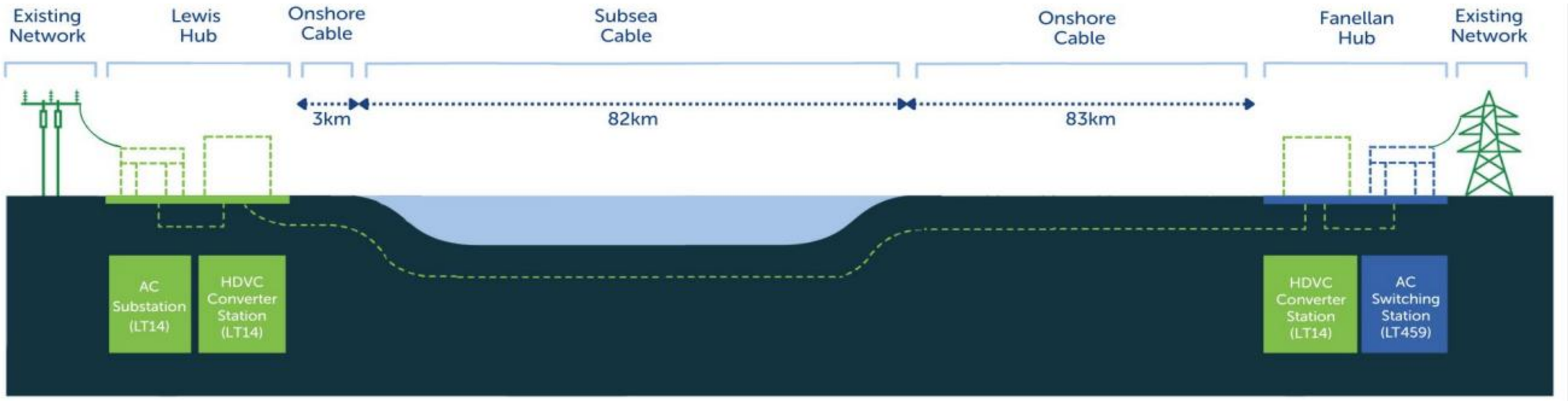
Why is this cable needed?

The LT14 cable will go across the Minch from Arnish Point, on the Isle of Lewis, to landfall at Dundonnell.

- The HVDC Link is a nationally significant project to unlock the vast renewable energy potential of the Western Isles, and will help meet the country's clean power and energy security targets.
- The route has been carefully developed over many years through extensive engineering, ecological, and ground investigations, and also shaped by consultation. To this end it has already been revised on multiple occasions.
- To mitigate impact on communities we have reduced cable routing on the public road network from 50km to just under 5km.



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Culvert replacement works

- A culvert channels water past an obstacle – in this case they allow water to flow under the A832.
- They are essential for maintaining proper drainage and preventing flooding.
- Appropriate maintenance of culverts means there are less blockages and therefore less flooding on the road. If not maintained, it can lead to sections of the road collapsing.
- We need to replace or upgrade 37 culverts along part of the A832 as part of our early enabling works for the cable.
- Many of these culverts have been classified as being in a “poor” condition by Highland Council’s roads department. Most need to be lowered to make space to safely install the cable.
- We are fully upgrading all 37 culverts on this stretch, including associated pipework, which in turn will reduce the risk of flooding and damage, and therefore increase resilience and safety.

Recap

Why are we here tonight?

- We need to replace or upgrade 37 culverts along part of the A832 as part of our early enabling works for the cable. Many culverts are in a poor condition, and most need to be lowered to make space to safely install the cable.
- The original plan was to conduct these works under daytime closure with a diversion in place and amnesty periods.
- We have listened to your feedback, we have refined our plans, installation methods and designs to try and mitigate your concerns and reduce the impact on your communities as far as practicably possible. We will demonstrate through this presentation what we are proposing to do.
- Our first decision was to delay the start of the works until early 2026. This was to give us time to finalise an entirely revised programme, to seek statutory permissions from the appropriate bodies, and to allow for ongoing consultation and engagement on the refined proposal.
- ***Your clear feedback*** – we should try and keep a single lane open during the day with night-time closures, if there was no other option.
- Under a full day closure, culvert replacement would take around 8-10 days. Alternative ways of working will take significantly longer and therefore extend the duration of the works programme.
- Initially our programme was high impact and short duration, we are now moving to low impact and a longer duration.

Our revised proposal on account of community feedback

To mitigate disruption on local communities, we are now proposing:

- ***There will be no daytime closures.***

- The vast majority of culverts will now be replaced during single lane closure with traffic management over a period of around 18 months (January 2026 to summer 2027). We have to create temporary bypasses to facilitate this due to limited road width.

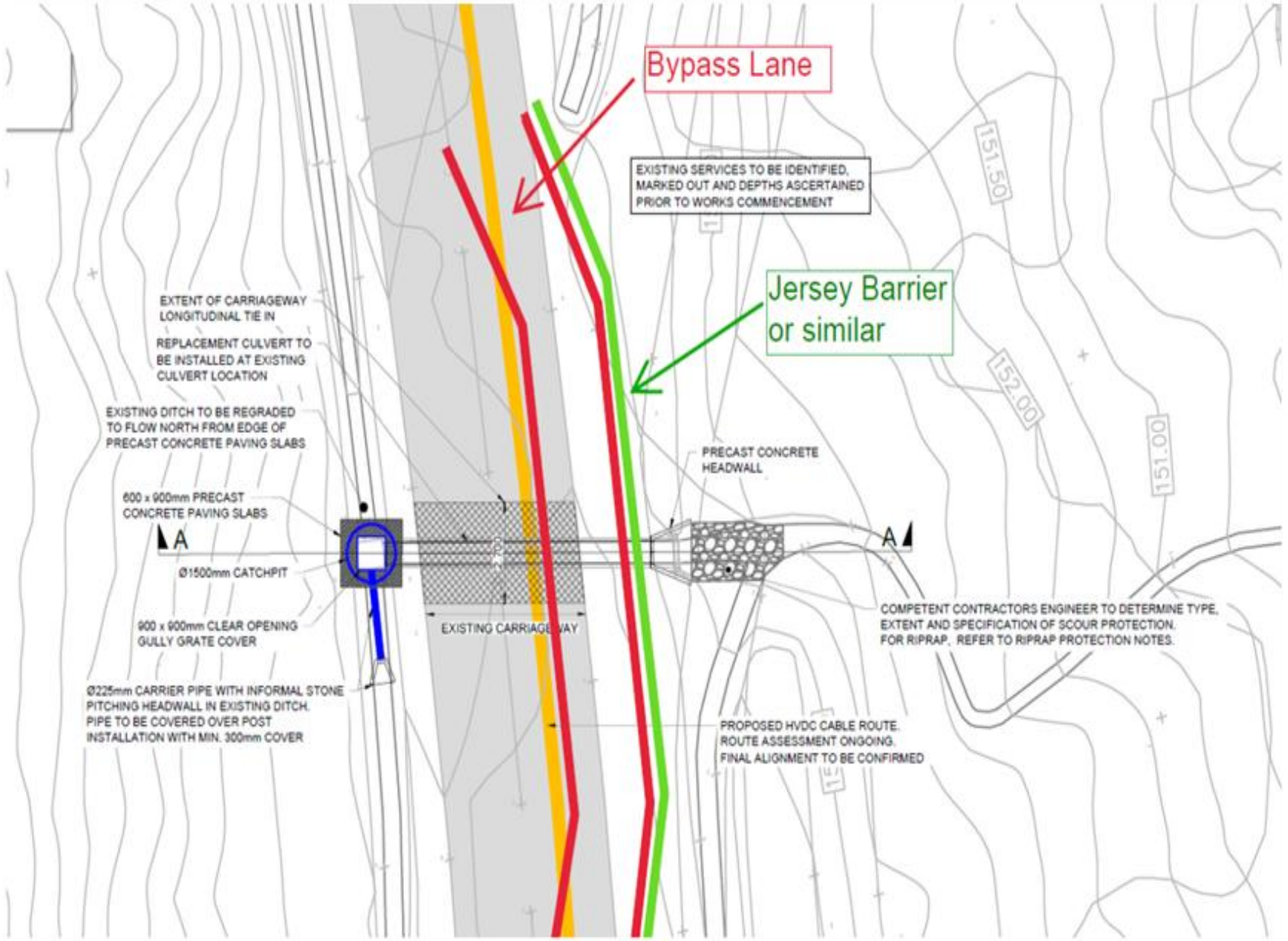
- We will also be replacing a small number of culverts, along with rock scaling works, during an overnight closure from 7pm to 7am, with one amnesty period from 11pm to midnight. This is expected to last a number of weeks during June and/or July 2026.

- Under the single carriageway solution, it will take roughly 18-20 days to replace each culvert and construct/remove bypass.

Month	Timings	Impact
Mid January 2026 to summer 2027	7am to 7pm with traffic management convoy system (up to 15 minute delays)	Original timeframe was around eight months. Single carriageway solution brings an additional 12 months.
June and/or July 2026	7pm to 7am full closure Road reopens 11pm to midnight	Expected to take a number of weeks.
After summer 2027 (for approximately 18 months)	7am to 7pm with traffic management convoy system (up to 15 minute delays)	Commencement of cable ducting

What is a temporary bypass?

- Temporary bypasses are part of the solution to facilitate culvert works being conducted safely under single lane closure. These will go on the verges next to the main carriageway.
- Due to the limited carriageway width, we must ensure that HGVs and other wider vehicles can pass by our traffic management works safely.
- A temporary bypass needs to have a tarred surface as per council specification. Safety barriers will be included for edge protection.
- The creation and removal of these bypasses adds time to the duration of our programme.
- We are seeking the necessary statutory permissions for these works.



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An example of extending the carriageway (Inchbae Bridge A835)

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Traffic management works

- Single lane working does not require a formal road closure order (TTRO – temporary traffic roads order) because it is not a full road closure.
- During the day traffic will be passing by a convoy working system, and we expect these to be approximately 200-300 metre sections at a time. The lights will be manned.
- Overnight it will be controlled by temporary lights.
- We expect no one to be delayed longer than 15 minutes at a time, and hope the real time figure will be quicker.
- A TTRO will be submitted to Highland Council next year ahead of any night-time closure (7pm to 7am). The diversionary route would be by Achnasheen and Garve.
- Emergency and urgent care access will be facilitated at all times.
- We will be conducting a full mail drop ahead of any works starting to ensure all local stakeholders are well-informed with sufficient notice.

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A summary of our early enabling works

How existing infrastructure will be upgraded during our early enabling works

- Culverts: 37 culverts will be fully upgraded to increase road resilience and safety.
- Rock face scaling: Rock faces around the culvert works will be scaled back to remove any loose debris before works start. This will help prevent rocks slipping.
- Road safety barriers: We will be making significant investment in improvements to bring these up to present-day specification.
- Clearing of ditches: Ditches will be cleared out along the route to help surface run-off and reduce the future flooding risk.
- Resurfacing: Full-width carriageway resurfacing and relining will take place along the entire 4.8km stretch we are upgrading culverts.
- You may see additional construction traffic and material storage at locations along the A832 corridor.

-There will be no daytime closures.

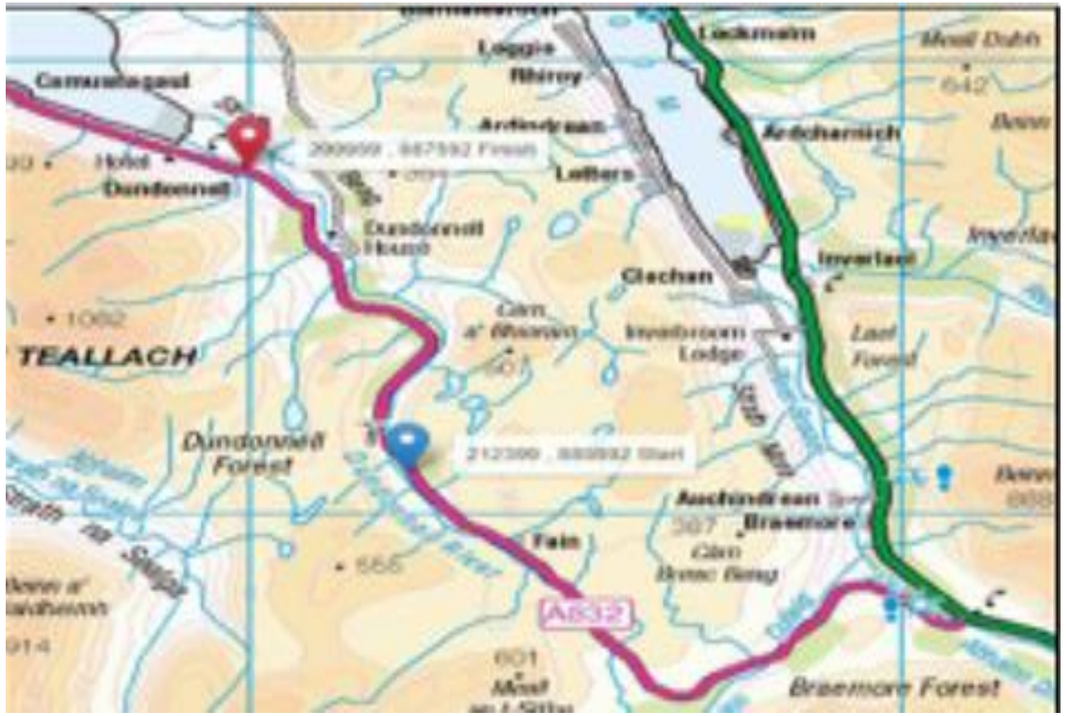
-There will be single lane working with traffic lights for the vast majority of the culvert replacement works programme.

-We expect the impact on road users under single-lane working to be a 15 minute delay, and hopefully less.

-There will be very limited night-time working under a full road closure.

-We will provide regular and ongoing updates, face to face and digitally, ahead of works taking place.

Next steps



- We hope the revised proposals demonstrate our commitment to continue to work with you to mitigate disruption as much as possible.
- Thank you for your continued patience and feedback.
- We welcome your views on our substantially revised proposals.
- We will continue to provide regular updates and will hold another event in the new year.
- We welcome your questions tonight and there is also an opportunity to speak individually with the project team afterwards.
- Our project team can be contacted at lt14mainlandcable@sse.com

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