

# Orkney Connection Project

**Report on Public Consultation Undertaken between February and  
March 2017**

**Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc.**

**May 2017**



## Introduction

This report provides a summary of activity and high level analysis following a series of public consultation events which were conducted by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc.

We held seven public exhibitions during February and March 2017 to present options on how we proposed to provide an improved grid connection to the Orkney Isles. The purpose of these events was to provide information and to seek the views of members of the public and statutory authorities.

The event format involved the display of exhibition posters and the attendance of the Orkney Connection Project Development Team. The events were held as open door events where any member of the public could attend when it best suited them. In addition we created large scale maps, feedback forms and an A4 booklet for members of the public to retain for their future reference.

The comments and feedback received during the events and during the period of consultation have been analysed and will be considered during the development process.

Project Development Manager, Warren Jones thanks all members of the public who took the time to attend the events and provided feedback on our initial proposals:

“We would like to thank all of those who took the time to attend our consultation events and all those who have subsequently provided formal feedback. As a responsible developer, the views of the local community are an important consideration in the development of our projects and we would encourage anyone with an interest in the proposed transmission connection to use the opportunity to let us know their thoughts, which will help inform the development of the project, including the potential options for reinforcement and connection.”

## Project Development Team

Jean Lewis	Lead Project Manager, Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc
Warren Jones	Project Manager, Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc
Lisa Marchi – Grey	Major Projects Liaison Manager, Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc
Mairi Rigby	Environmental Advisor, Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc
Peter Watson	Marine Consents Manager, Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc
Iain Firth	Wayleaves Manager, Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc
Rosie Calder	Wayleaves Manager, Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc
Keith Grant	Senior Environmental Consultant, ERM
Steve Deslandes	Engineer, Arcadis
Nuno Silva	Overhead Line Engineer, Arcadis



### Summary of events

Seven public consultation events were held, details as follows:

Date	Time	Location
25 February	11.00 – 15.30	Greamsay
26 February	11.30 – 14.30	Flotta, Community Hall
27 February	10.30 – 16.00	Kirkwall, The Mart
28 February	10.30 – 12.30	Hoy, Stomabank Hotel
28 February	14.30 – 19.30	Hoy, Stomabank Hotel
1 March	14.00 – 19.30	Burray, Burray Community Hall
2 March	14.00 – 19.30	Rendall, Rendall Village Hall
3 March	14.00 – 19.30	Finstown, Firth Community Hall

### Advertising:

We understand that advertising the public consultations was critical to gaining valued feedback, details of the efforts made to highlight the events as follows:

**The Orcadian** Colour adverts were placed in the main body of the newspaper (the Orcadian) two weeks prior to the events. These adverts appeared in the newspaper on 16/02/2017 and 23/02/2017. This type of advertisement was well received by those who attended the event.

**Local distribution** We sent a letter to 12,050 households on the Orkney mainland and its smaller islands to invite residents to the public consultation events.

**Radio Orkney** We approached Radio Orkney to ask if they could help promote the events which they kindly did by way of broadcast. A short interview was also given for broadcast by the Lead Project Development Manager, Jean Lewis. Our events also featured in their daily diary which was sent out via Facebook/Twitter.

**Project Webpage** A dedicated webpage was set up by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc. to host information about the project

**Social Media** The events were publicised via the Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Facebook and Twitter feed.

**Email** Emails were sent to multiple organisations, affected stakeholders, Elected Councillors, MSPs, MPs and Community Councils informing them of the events.



## Analysis of Consultation Events

The consultation events attracted over 300 members of the public from Orkney. In almost all cases, members of the public they were satisfied with the answers provided during the event. Where we were unable to give firm answers (due to the early stage of the development process), visitors appeared satisfied with the reasons why we could not answer and that any possibilities discussed were provisional and subject to change for a variety of reasons.

From analysis of the feedback, we understand that there is a strong sense of concern about the visual impact the project would have and the effect that it may have on the tourist industry. Two further main concerns which we noted were in regards to the potential use of steel lattice towers and frustration towards the lack of refined scope or design.

Whilst holding the events, feedback forms were provided by members of the project development team. To encourage members of the public to provide their comments to us at a later date, freepost stamped address envelopes were made available so feedback could be posted direct to the project development team.

As of 31 March 2017, we have received 89 feedback forms, analysis of some of the questions and responses are detailed below:

### Q1. Do you understand the need for this project?

77% Yes                      21% No                      2% Did not answer

### Q2. Have we explained the options assessment adequately?

71% Yes                      26% No                      3% Did not answer

### Q3. Can you rank the options present in order of preference 1-3

A - 17                      B - 9                      C - 19      Over 50% of submission did not express a preference

### Q5. What are your views on the preferred overhead line technology options presented?\*

	Steel lattice	Composite tower	Single wood pole	Twin wood pole
1 <sup>st</sup> Preference	0	2	34	8
2 <sup>nd</sup> Preference	0	11	3	8
3 <sup>rd</sup> Preference	6	20	2	8
4 <sup>th</sup> Preference	30	3	0	8
Not answered	53	53	50	48



**Please note, Questions 4, 5a, 6 and 7** requested members of the public to provide their opinion and comments, therefore it is not possible to figuratively analyse these questions.

**All comments have been reviewed by the team and will help shape this development moving forward.**

**\*Question 5** asked members of the public to state preferences in terms of overhead line technology. Please note, not all comments are equal to the total number of completed feedback forms, this is because

- Some people chose not to complete this question.
- Some people completed this question with a rating of 1,2,3 and 4 (in line with our request).
- Some people completed this question only partially
- Some people rated this question to equal preference, e.g. 1,4,4 and 4 (using the same rating more than once).

We recognised that members of the public may not have been able to visit the events due to a variety of reasons. We took proactive steps and uploaded the project information booklet and comments form to the project webpage. Large scale copies of the maps and route options were also uploaded for members of the public to view at their leisure.



**Consultation Feedback.**

1. We asked stakeholders to confirm they understood the need for our project.

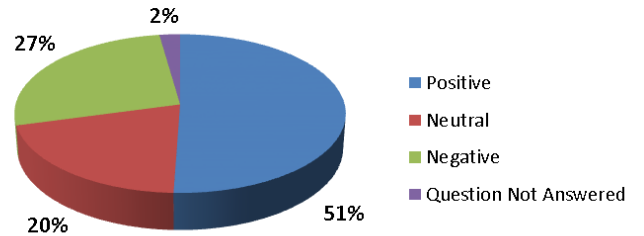
Yes	68
No	19
Question Not Answered	2

98% of Stakeholders answered Question One.

77% of people understood need.  
21% did not understand / or disagreed with need.

Responses fell under four categories.

Positive	45
Neutral	18
Negative	24
Question Not Answered	2



2. We asked Stakeholders to confirm that we had explained the options assessment adequately.

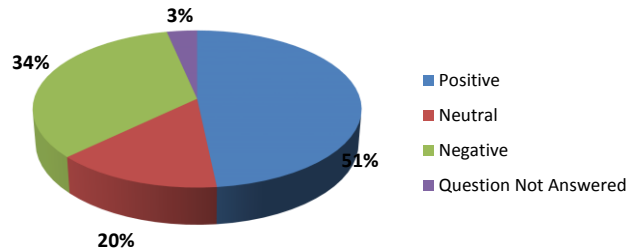
Yes	63
No	23
Question Not Answered	3

98% of Stakeholders answered Question Two.

71% confirmed they understood the process.  
21% did not understand the process.

Responses fell under four categories.

Positive	43
Neutral	13
Negative	30
Question Not Answered	3



3. We presented three options; stakeholders were asked to rank the options in order of preference

	Option A	Option B	Option C
1 <sup>st</sup> Preference	17	9	<b>19</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Preference	14	<b>18</b>	9
3 <sup>rd</sup> Preference	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	11
Question Not Answered	45	49	50
Percentage – Question Not Answered	50%	55%	56%

**Option C** ranked the highest with 19 votes as top preference.

**Option B** ranked the highest as second option with 18 votes.

**Option A and B** experienced the highest levels of opposition, each getting awarded 13 votes.

**54%** of stakeholders, however, chose not to rank their preference.

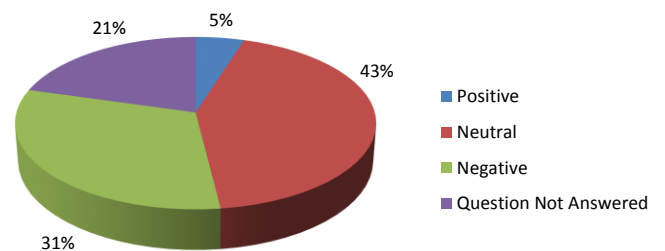
Only 46% of Stakeholders answered Question Three.

4. We asked stakeholders to confirm why they had ranked their options in this way.

Responses fell under four categories.

Positive	5
Neutral	44
Negative	32
Question Not Answered	21

79% of Stakeholders answered Question Four.



5. We presented four options for OHL technology; stakeholders were asked to rank in order of preference.

	Steel Lattice Towers	Composite Towers	Single Circuit Wood Poles	Twin Circuit Wood Poles
1 <sup>st</sup> Preference	0	2	<b>34</b>	8
2 <sup>nd</sup> Preference	0	11	3	<b>19</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Preference	6	<b>20</b>	2	9
4 <sup>th</sup> Preference	<b>30</b>	3	0	5
Question Not Answered	53	53	50	48
Percentage – Question Not Answered	59%	60%	56%	54%

**Single Circuit Wood Poles** ranked the highest with 34 votes as top preference.

**Twin Circuit Wood Poles** ranked the highest as a second option with 19 votes.

**Composite Towers** proved to be unpopular, with 20 votes.

**Steel Lattice Towers** experienced the highest level of opposition, receiving 30 votes.

**54%-60%** of stakeholders, however, chose not to rank their preference.

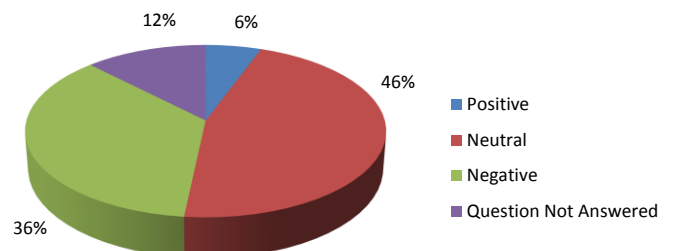
Only 43% of Stakeholders answered Question Five.

5a. We asked stakeholders to confirm why they had ranked their options in this way.

Responses fell under four categories.

Positive	5
Neutral	41
Negative	32
Question Not Answered	11

88% of Stakeholders answered Question Five (a).



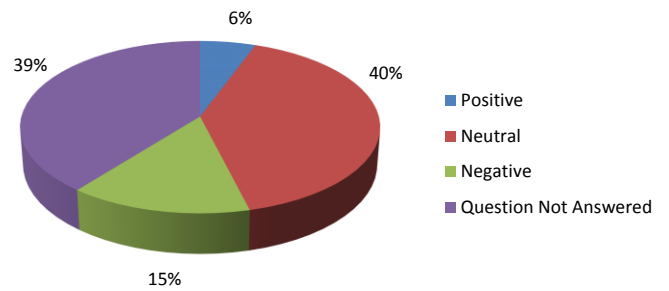


6. We asked stakeholders if they had any comments in relation to the marine aspects of the Orkney Project.

Responses fell under four categories.

Positive	5
Neutral	36
Negative	13
Question Not Answered	35

61% of Stakeholders answered Question Six.



7. We asked stakeholders for any other comments in relation to the Orkney Connection Project.

Responses fell under four categories.

Positive	6
Neutral	28
Negative	42
Question Not Answered	13

85% of Stakeholders answered Question Seven.

