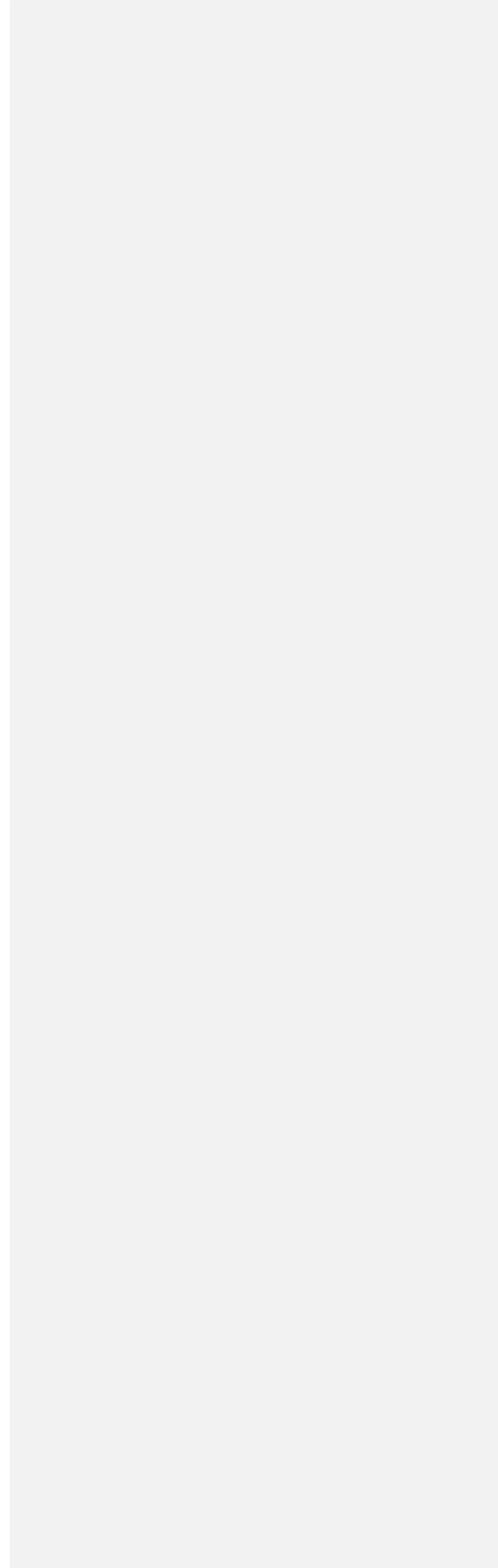


**Pre-Application Consultation Report**  
**Kinardochoy Substation**  
**January 2021**





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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Purpose of Document

- 1.1.1 Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission plc (SHE Transmission) is applying for consent under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) to construct an electricity substation comprising of platform area, control building, associated plant and infrastructure, ancillary facilities, access tracks, laydown areas and landscape works.
- 1.1.2 The Proposed Development falls within the category of 'National Development' under the Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Development) (Scotland) Regulations 2009 (the Hierarchy Regulations). Therefore, there is a statutory requirement to undertake public consultation.
- 1.1.3 This Pre-Application Consultation Report documents the consultation process for the project which has been undertaken in accordance with the Hierarchy Regulations prior to submission of the application. The programme of consultation was designed to engage with the Local Planning Authority, statutory and non-statutory consultees, local communities, landowners and individual residents in order to invite feedback on the proposals.
- 1.1.4 The Report describes the key responses received and details the actions taken in response to the issues raised.

### 1.2 Document Structure

- 1.2.1 This Report is comprised of six parts as follows:
  - 1: Introduction – sets out the purpose of the Report on Consultation;
  - 2: Proposed Development – outlines the background to the project and provides a description of the key elements;
  - 3: The Consultation Process – describes the framework for consultation and methods which have been employed;
  - 4: Public Responses and Key Issues – summarises the range of responses and key comments and issues arising through the consultation process;
  - 5: Project Responses to Consultations – describes how the comments and issues raised during consultation will be addressed; and
  - 6: Conclusions and Next Steps – provides a summary of the conclusions reached and actions going forward.
- 1.2.2 The main body of this Report is supported by a series of appendices and figures.

## 2. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

### 2.1 Project Background

- 2.1.1 SHE Transmission is a wholly owned subsidiary of the SSE plc group of companies. SHE Transmission owns and maintains the electricity transmission network across the north of Scotland, and holds a license under the Electricity Act 1989 to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission.
- 2.1.2 SHE Transmission is applying for consent to construct an electricity substation comprising of platform area, control building, associated plant and infrastructure, ancillary facilities and landscape works., hereafter referred to as the "Proposed Development". The wider project includes Overhead Line tie ins which are subject to s37 consent. The Proposed Development is located in the Local Authority of Perth and Kinross Council, as shown on **Figure 1.1**.
- 2.1.3 A new permanent access track is required from the B846 for use during construction and to provide ongoing access and maintenance to the substation during its lifetime. A site compound and lay down areas are also required during construction.

### **3. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS**

#### **3.1 Overview**

3.1.1 This section describes the methods employed during the consultation process and provides information on meetings and exhibitions held with stakeholders in order to obtain feedback on the application prior to submission.

#### **3.2 Proposal of Application Notice**

3.2.1 A Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) was submitted to Perth and Kinross Council on the 7th October 2019, triggering a 12-week consultation period, ending on the 30th December 2019. The PAN provided the Council

with an outline of the application details, and confirmation of the site location and indicative application boundary. A copy of the PAN is provided in Appendix 1.

### 3.3 Discussion with Statutory Consultees

- 3.3.1 SHE Transmission has been proactive in discussions with Perth and Kinross Council prior to, and during the 12-week PAN notice period. This has involved telephone and email communication, and a meeting to discuss the proposals and provide updates with regard to submission timescales.
- 3.3.2 A pre-application enquiry was submitted to Perth and Kinross in June 2019. A response was received from the council which included a constraints map. A follow up meeting took place with the case officer to discuss the feedback and the planning requirements for this Proposed Development.

### 3.4 Public Consultation Events

#### Site Selection Consultation Event

- 3.4.1 Prior to the submission of the PAN, a site selection public event was held at Kynachan Hall on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2019 between 2pm and 7pm.
- 3.4.2 The event was advertised in two local newspapers: The Courier and The Perthshire Advertiser (PA). PA publication was the 27<sup>th</sup> of August 2019 and The Courier publications were the 19<sup>th</sup> August, 20<sup>th</sup> August, 22<sup>nd</sup> August and 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2019 as well as online.
- 3.4.3 A mail drop was also carried out to 126 local properties of Tummel Bridge inviting them to attend as well as posters displayed locally. An update was published via the SSEN Facebook page and the dedicated project website page: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/kinardochoy-substation/>
- 3.4.4 The event was attended by 29 people and 13 feedback forms/emails were received with comments on the proposals.
- 3.4.5 An information brochure, including contact details, was available for attendees to take away. Copies of the exhibition boards (at A4 size), are included in Appendix 2.

#### PAN event (Number 1 – November 2019)

- 3.4.6 A public consultation event was held at Kynachan Hall on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 between 2pm and 7pm. The exhibition was communicated in the following ways:
- a mail drop to 126 local properties in the Tummel Bridge area;
  - posters in the local area;
  - notification via social media, by means of the SSEN Community Facebook page; and
  - Newspaper adverts were placed in both The Perthshire Advertiser and The Courier. PA dates being the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and The Courier dates being the 12<sup>th</sup> November 14<sup>th</sup> November and 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019. An advert was also placed in the local community magazine The Atholl Quair in both the October and November editions.
- 3.4.7 Local Councillors for the area were also invited to attend.
- 3.4.8 The public event provided an opportunity for members of the public to view information about the project, ask questions and provide feedback. A series of exhibition boards were on display at the event to explain the

proposals and to provide contact details. A comments form was also provided for attendees. A 3D model of the Proposed Development on the site was available for members of the public to view and discuss.

3.4.9 An information brochure, including contact details, was available for attendees to take away. Copies of the exhibition boards (at A4 size), are included in Appendix 3.

3.4.10 A sign in register was used to monitor attendance at the public event. 35 people attended the event. 9 written responses were received. Comments were also received face to face at the exhibition, but not received in written format. These responses are detailed in Section 4 of this report.

### **3.5 PAN Event (Number 2 – August 2020)**

3.5.1 Whilst it was not a requirement the decision was taken to hold a second public information event in advance of submitting the planning application. This allowed us to report progress and communicate changes that had been made since the last consultation event in November 2019. Due to COVID-19 and associated restrictions on public gatherings, a virtual consultation event was held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020. The project team were available to respond to questions between 1-3pm and again from 5-7pm.

3.5.2 The virtual consultation was advertised in the following ways:

- An information booklet and covering letter inviting local residents to join the virtual event sent to 126 local properties in the Tummel Bridge area;
- Newspaper adverts were placed in The Courier on the 10th, 12th and 14th August 2020.
- An advert was also placed in the local community magazine The Breadalbane and Atholl Quair and Pitlochry Life in the August editions.
- Local Councillors for the area were also invited to attend

3.5.3 The virtual exhibition room was hosted on the project website: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/kinardochy-substation/>

3.5.4 12 people attended the virtual event and 4 of these people asked various questions of the project team.

3.5.5 After the event had taken place copies of the exhibition boards were placed on the project website. These are included in Appendix 4.

## 4. PUBLIC RESPONSES AND KEY ISSUES

### 4.1 Site Selection Event

- 4.1.1 13 feedback forms/emails were received with comments on the proposals.
- 4.1.2 This event generated several questions from members of the public. A frequently asked questions document was published which provided responses to these questions. This was placed on the project website and a copy is include in Appendix 5.

### 4.2 PAN Event 1 Overview

- 4.2.1 A total of 9 written responses were received from members of the public in relation to the consultation event held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019.
- 4.2.2 This event generated several questions from members of the public. A frequently asked questions document was published which provided responses to these questions. This was placed on the project website and a copy is include in Appendix 6.
- 4.2.3 This section summarises the comments received at the consultation event and in feedback forms received after the event. Feedback can be grouped into several themes as outlined below:

#### Site Selection

- Questioning the need for the substation to be in this location;
- Acknowledgement that this was the best site in the area for this development.

#### Visual Impact

- Would like the substation to be as unobtrusive as possible;
- Concern raised about visibility of the substation from surrounding area including Schiehallion path Foss Hill and other surrounding area;
- Suggestion that the substation be buried;
- Suggestion that surface infrastructure should be green;
- Seeking clarity on the viewpoints that will be used in the landscape and visual assessment and suggest that consideration be given to including a viewpoint from the summit of Schiehallion, and also

the 1000 m point which is a popular resting point. Other relevant viewpoints should include Dun Coillich and Meall Tairneachan;

- Question as to whether we can guarantee that there will be no view of the substation from the top of the Lime Kiln;
- Concern regarding the visibility of the substation from Schiehallion;
- Colour and design of buildings should consider how to reduce visual impact of development;
- Industrial development should stay away from the countryside.

#### **Forestry**

- Request to see visualisations that consider current tree species;
- Would welcome visibility of proposed felling and planting plans;
- Planned felling needs to be considered;
- Planning application needs to include clear commitment to replacement planting.

#### **Construction Traffic**

- Site access will be difficult, both from the north and the south;
- Potential for traffic disruption through Aberfeldy;
- Impact of Heavy goods vehicles on historic Wade Bridge;
- Traffic noise and damage to buildings in close proximity to the B846;
- One section of the B846 is unsuitable for HGVs;
- Accessing from both the north and south would spread out disruption, noise and wear and tear;
- Happy that ways to reduce traffic disruptions are being investigated.

#### **Light**

- Concern regarding potential light pollution in an unspoilt area. Seeking clarity as to what measures will be put in place during construction and operation to prevent light pollution;
- Light from the substation could diminish experiences of walkers on Schiehallion.

#### **Noise**

- Any noise experienced from top of Schiehallion will diminish experience of walkers;
- Would like re-assurance that the noise assessment will include an assessment of noise from summit of Schiehallion.

#### **Fire**

- Fire precaution measures/mitigation for the substation.

#### **Broadband**

- Concern about potential impact of the substation of 4G broadband mast;
- Concern that contractors will use broadband in the area to the detriment of the locals. It should be upgraded and left in situation afterwards to benefit locals.

#### **Tourism**

- This area is heavily dependent on tourism and its natural beauty so it must be protected.

#### **Landscaping**

- Concern that planting and landscaping will not materialise.

#### **SF6 Gas**

- Concern about the use of SF6 gas in the substation particularly in relation to human/wildlife safety, potential leaks;
- Various queries around alternatives to SF6.

### **4.3 PAN Event 2 Overview**

4.3.1 12 people attended the virtual event and 4 of these people asked various questions of the project team.

4.3.2 This section summarises the comments and queries received at the information event, some of which covered similar points to that of the first event. Feedback can be grouped into several themes as outlined below:

#### **Construction traffic**

- Clarity around how long and at what times construction traffic will be using the road network;
- Potential impact on wades Bridge;
- Potential impact on holiday lodges in the area;
- Notification of abnormal load movements.

#### **Forestry**

- Opportunity to work with Dun Coillich Community Woodland Trust for replanting of trees should be considered.

#### **Landscaping**

- Height of bunds and other landscaping details.

#### **Noise**

- Level of noise likely to be experienced during construction period,

#### **Broadband**

- Impact of proposed development on 4G signal.

#### **Community benefit**

- Any potential opportunities for the community to benefit from the proposed development.

## 5. PROJECT RESPONSES TO CONSULTATIONS

### 5.1 Overview

5.1.1 This part of the PAC Report documents how the project has responded to the consultation responses raised throughout the consultation period.

### 5.2 Site selection

5.2.1 A comprehensive site selection exercise was undertaken in 2019 and the public was consulted on this. This set out the various options and the preferred option with supporting justification.

### 5.3 Visual Impact

5.3.1 A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment has been prepared. Viewpoints have been agreed with Perth and Kinross Council. Viewpoint 1 is agreed at the junction to Limekiln Car park and Viewpoint 5 is located on Core Path DULL 107 linking White House to the recognised route to the summit of Schiehallion considered the most appropriate viewpoint to address Schiehallion impacts. As such these have sought to reflect concerns raised through consultation.

5.3.2 In terms of the suggestion to bury the substation to reduce visual impact, standard substation design is based on an external arrangement which allows for safe operation, maintenance and control of fire risk. A subterranean transmission substation will have significantly increased fire, construction and operational safety risks.

### 5.4 Forestry

A woodland assessment has been completed as part of the EIA Report. Where trees are being removed, we are obliged to replace them with an equivalent area of tree planting. We have reached agreement with a local landowning charity (Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust) to undertake off site compensatory native woodland planting of 9.0 ha within their landholding at Dun Coillich, 1.6 km south of the site.

### 5.5 Construction Traffic

5.5.1 Construction of the Proposed Development will require a number of vehicle movements and movements of plant to and from the site. Traffic will be controlled through the creation and implementation of a Construction

Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). The CTMP will seek to put in place measures to minimise impact on other road users, as far as practicable.

- 5.5.2 The Transport Assessment which accompanies this planning application sets out anticipated construction vehicle movements associated with the Proposed Development.
- 5.5.3 In addition, a project specific Construction Environmental Management Plan will be implemented to control and mitigate environmental effects arising from the construction phase of the project, including measures to minimise the effects of construction traffic.

## 5.6 Light

- 5.6.1 Once operational the substation site will be unmanned and therefore lighting should only be required during the hours of darkness to support access and egress during emergencies.
- 5.6.2 During construction we will work with our appointed contractor to minimise lighting on site to that which is deemed necessary to safely operate during the hours of darkness.

## 5.7 Noise

- 5.7.1 Noise monitoring surveys have been undertaken at noise sensitive receptors within the vicinity to establish a pre-development baseline. This work concluded that operational noise will not be a concern and therefore no operational noise mitigation measures will be required. A summary noise statement is contained within EIAR 'Other Issues' Chapter.
- 5.7.2 The CEMP will include a construction noise management plan which will put in place measures to control noise during the construction period.

## 5.8 Fire

- 5.8.1 Fire risk is assessed throughout the development of the project and mitigation measures incorporated into the substation design as required. Fire safety is of the utmost concern and is a priority consideration when designing and building any of our assets.

## 5.9 Broadband

- 5.9.1 Pager Power undertook a study to determine the current baseline mobile phone reception and expected signal quality once the proposed development is complete. This assessment was in-conclusive but consideration of this matter is ongoing. The substation sits below the existing treeline in the line of sight which has not been taking into account in the study undertaken to date.

**Commented [GP1]:** Await confirmation this para is ok from Nick/Gary 08 12 20

## 5.10 Tourism

- 5.10.1 The site is considered distant from key tourist receptors and no significant impact is predicted. Consideration of the impact as regards visitors to Schiehallion are considered in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment chapter of the EIA Report.

## 5.11 Landscaping

- 5.11.1 A Landscape mitigation plan has been produced and form part of the planning application. This landscaping plan will need to be implemented and maintained as part of any planning consent. The landscape proposals are

designed to maximise screening of the substation from key viewpoints utilises native species and appropriate vegetation mix for the area.

#### **5.12 SF6 Gas**

5.12.1 At present there are no viable SF6 alternative gases for 275kV or 400kV voltages, which is the required voltage range of the switchgear. Air Insulated Switchgear was considered as part of early options assessment and a suitable comparison carried out to assess the viability of this option against the proposed GIS option. The installation of an AIS design would lead to a decrease in SF6 but not remove it completely. Further to this, the AIS substation would increase the overall platform footprint, increase the vehicular traffic during construction and increase the visual impact of the overall site.

#### **5.13 Community Benefit**

5.13.1 As advised at the virtual event in August 2020, once a Principal Contractor has been appointed we will look to hold a 'Meet the Buyer' event which would give local businesses an opportunity to meet our contractors and discuss the services they could provide.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 This pre application consultation report documents the consultation process which has been undertaken for the project since 2019 starting with site selection. The consultation process undertaken as part of this application goes beyond the statutory requirements for pre-application consultation. The programme of consultation was designed to engage with stakeholders, primarily the local community, landowners and individual residents in order to invite feedback on the Proposed Development. The approach to public consultation has ensured that the local community have been given the opportunity to comment on the proposals. This has enabled a number of locally important issues and concerns to be identified and subsequently taken into account in preparation of this planning application. Consultation with key stakeholders and the local community will continue as the project progresses.