Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

Report on Consultation

Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275kV Connection

November 2020

Ref: LT000029

CONTENTS

APPENDICES

FIGURES

GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
Alignment	A centre line of an overhead line OHL, along with location of key angle structures.
Amenity	The natural environment, cultural heritage, landscape and visual quality. Also includes the impact of SHE Transmission's works on communities, such as the effects of noise and disturbance from construction activities.
Conductor	A metallic wire strung from structure to structure, to carry electric current.
Consultation	The dynamic process of dialogue between individuals or groups, based on a genuine exchange of views and, normally, with the objective of influencing decisions, policies or programmes of action.
Corridor	A linear area which allows a continuous connection between the defined connection points. The corridor may vary in width along its length; in unconstrained areas it may be many kilometres wide.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A formal process set down in The Electricity Works (EIA) (Scotland) Regulations 2000 (as amended in 2008) used to systematically identify, predict and assess the likely significant environmental impacts of a proposed project or development.
Habitat	Term most accurately meaning the place in which a species lives, but also used to describe plant communities or agglomerations of plant communities.
Kilovolt (kV)	One thousand volts.
Listed Building	Building included on the list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest and afforded statutory protection under the 'Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997' and other planning legislation. Classified categories A – C(s).
Micrositing	The process of positioning individual structures to avoid localised environmental or technical constraints.
Mitigation	Term used to indicate avoidance, remediation or alleviation of adverse impacts.
National Scenic Area (NSA)	A national level designation applied to those landscapes considered to be of exceptional scenic value.
Overhead line (OHL)	An electric line installed above ground, usually supported by lattice steel towers or poles.
Plantation Woodland	Woodland of any age that obviously originated from planting.
Riparian Woodland	Natural home for plants and animals occurring in a thin strip of land bordering a stream or river.
Route	A linear area of approximately 1 km width (although this may be narrower/wider in specific locations in response to identified pinch points / constraints), which provides a continuous connection between defined connection points.

Term	Definition
Routeing	The work undertaken which leads to the selection of a proposed alignment, capable of being taken forward into the consenting process under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.
Scheduled Monument	A monument which has been scheduled by the Scottish Ministers as being of national importance under the terms of the 'Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979'.
Semi-natural Woodland	Woodland that does not obviously originate from planting. The distribution of species will generally reflect the variations in the site and the soil. Planted trees must account for less than 30% of the canopy composition
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	Areas of national importance. The aim of the SSSI network is to maintain an adequate representation of all natural and semi-natural habitats and native species across Britain.
Span	The section of overhead line between two structures.
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	An area designated under the EC Habitats Directive to ensure that rare, endangered or vulnerable habitats or species of community interest are either maintained at or restored to a favourable conservation status.
Special Protection Area (SPA)	An area designated under the Wild Birds Directive (Directive74/409/EEC) to protect important bird habitats. Implemented under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
Stakeholders	Organisations and individuals who can affect or are affected by SHE Transmission works.
Study Area	The area within which the corridor, route and alignment study takes place.
Terminal Structure	A structure (tower or pole) required where the line terminates either at a substation or at the beginning and end of an underground cable section.
The National Grid	The electricity transmission network in the Great Britain.
Volts	The international unit of electric potential and electromotive force.
Wayleave	A voluntary agreement entered into between a landowner upon whose land an overhead line is to be constructed and SHE Transmission
Wild Land Area (WLA)	Those areas comprising the greatest and most extensive areas of wild characteristics within Scotland.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In order to meet its license obligations, Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc (SHE Transmission) is required to provide a new 275 kV transmission connection, between the existing Inveraray to Taynuilt 132 kV overhead line and the existing Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) 275 kV overhead line from Dalmally to Inverarnan. The main drivers for the project are the forecast growth in renewable electricity generation across Argyll and the need to reinforce the electricity transmission network to transport that electricity to areas of demand, supporting the transition to net zero emissions.

Following a consultation on the project in 2018, SHE Transmission identified three alternative connection options for the section of the project in the Dalmally area and invited members of the public, statutory consultees and other key stakeholders, to participate in a consultation for these options on the 1st and 2nd September 2020. The three connection options are summarised below.

Option 1: Overhead Line from Creag Dhubh to Dalmally Substation

Option 1 comprises an overhead line connection (see Appendix 2, Figure 1) between Creag Dhubh and the existing Dalmally substation, owned by Scottish Power Energy Networks. This option was identified as the preferred alignment by SHE Transmission in its 2018 consultation (see Appendix 2, Figure 1). This Option required the least new infrastructure, because it utilised the existing Dalmally substation. It was therefore the least technically challenging and the most cost-efficient option.

Option 2: Overhead Line from Creag Dhubh combined with Underground Cable Connection from Croftintuime to Dalmally Substation.

Option 2 comprises an overhead line connection from Creag Dhubh substation to Croftintuime on the 2018 preferred alignment (part of Option 1), where it would transition, via a sealing end compound, into underground cable to cross the Strath of Orchy to connect to the existing Dalmally substation (see Appendix 2, Figure 2).

Option 3: Overhead Line from Creag Dhubh turning east at Duncan Ban MacIntyre Monument to a new Switching Station in Glen Lochy

Option 3 comprises an overhead line connection from Creag Dhubh substation to tower 33 on the 2018 preferred alignment (part of Option 1), where it would turn east (at the Duncan Ban MacIntyre Monument) via an overhead line (alignment still to be developed) to a proposed new switching station in Glen Lochy, adjacent to the existing Scottish Power Energy Networks Dalmally to Inverarnan 275 kV overhead line (see Appendix 2, Figure 3).

The consultation process included the publication of a Consultation Document[1] (21st August 2020) to describe the evaluation of the different connection options and invite interested parties to provide their views. In addition, SHE Transmission published a Consultation Booklet [2] and Poster[3], and held a Virtual Consultation Event along with live chat sessions. Through the consultation, comments were sought from members of the public, statutory consultees and other key stakeholders on the preferred connection option. This report presents a summary of the consultation undertaken by SHE Transmission, the feedback received until 27th October 2020, and SHE Transmission's responses to the issues raised.

Following analysis of the consultation feedback and a review of SHE Transmission's comparative analysis of engineering, environmental and economic criteria for each of the options, Option 3 is considered, on balance, to provide the best solution when assessing engineering, environment and economic criteria alongside the stakeholder feedback. However, it should be noted that although Option 3 is preferred, SHE Transmission are continuing to consider the detailed effects of Option 3 and will continue to assess the best solution against the criteria outlined earlier as the options are developed.

The Preferred Route will be developed further, through analysis of engineering, environmental and economic criteria, to select a Preferred Alignment between tower 33 at the Duncan Ban MacIntyre Monument (on the 2018 preferred alignment) and the proposed Glen Lochy switching station (see Appendix 2, Figure 4). Members of the public and other stakeholders will be invited to participate in another consultation on the Preferred Alignment and switching station location in spring 2021, before the alignment is finalised for the purpose of seeking the necessary consents and permissions under the Electricity Act 1989 and the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).

[1] URL: http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/media/4677/creag-dhubh-to-dalmally-275kv-connection-consultation-document-web-version.pdf

[2] URL: http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/media/4625/ssen-creag-dhubh-to-dalmally-argyll-12pp-24126-artwork-web.pdf

[3] URL: http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/media/4624/ssen-creag-dhubh-to-dalmally-argyll-a4-poster-hres-web.pdf

1. INTRODUCTION

1.2 Purpose of Document

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc (SHE Transmission) is proposing to construct and operate a new 275 kV overhead line between the proposed new 275/132 kV Creag Dhubh substation and the existing 275 kV overhead line from Dalmally to Inverarnan. This Report documents the consultation on the alternative connection options under consideration by SHE Transmission, which was undertaken between August and October 2020.

The programme of consultation is designed to engage with key stakeholders including: statutory and non-statutory consultees; local communities and their elected representatives; landowners, and individual residents; to invite feedback on the rationale for and approach to, the selection of the preferred option.

The Report on Consultation describes the key feedback received and details SHE Transmission's responses to the issues raised.

2. THE PROPOSALS

2.2 Project Background

SHE Transmission owns and operates the electricity transmission network infrastructure in the north of Scotland. As part of our Electricity Transmission Licence, we have a number of obligations, including:

- the development and maintenance of an efficient, coordinated and economical system of electricity transmission;
- facilitating competition in the supply and generation of electricity; and,
- ensuring that the security of the network is maintained as the demand and/or generation connections change over time.

These licence obligations mean that SHE Transmission must endeavour to connect generation to the network, and should do so in an efficient, coordinated and economic way. An increase in renewable generation applying to connect to the Argyll and Kintyre network is the primary driver behind a need to reinforce this regional network. The level of generation applying to connect in the Argyll and Kintyre area has continued to increase, particularly within the past 12 months. Power system studies undertaken to assess the impact of this new generation shows that the capability of the existing network would be exceeded. Therefore, reinforcement is needed in order to maintain compliance with the standards that we need to plan our network against. Individual projects, like the Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275 kV connection, are being progressed to provide this additional capacity for new generation connections.

SHE Transmission has been consulting locally on this project (formerly referred to as the North Argyll Project) since March 2016. The original proposals comprised a new 275/132 kV substation (Creag Dhubh) near to the existing Inveraray to Taynuilt 132 kV overhead line, with a new 275 kV overhead line between the proposed Creag Dhubh substation and the existing Dalmally substation.

We presented our former preferred overhead line alignment (Option 1), from Creag Dhubh substation to the existing Dalmally substation, during a consultation event in March 2018 (see Appendix 2, Figure 1). In recognition of the feedback received (and in combination with previous comments dating back to 2016), we have considered underground cable options (Option 2) and the potential for alternative overhead line options that would avoid crossing the Strath of Orchy (Option 3).

2.3 Project Description

Three options were presented at the September 2020 Consultation (refer to Appendix 1 Consultation Booklet and Appendix 2, Figures 1 to 3):

Option 1 - Overhead Line from Creag Dhubh to Dalmally Substation

A new 275/132 kV Creag Dhubh substation adjacent to the existing Inveraray to Taynuilt 132 kV overhead line.

A new 275 kV overhead line between the proposed Creag Dhubh substation and the existing Dalmally substation (owned and operated by Scottish Power Energy Networks).

Option 2 – Overhead Line from Creag Dhubh combined with Underground Cable connection from Croftintuime to Dalmally Substation

A new 275/132 kV Creag Dhubh substation adjacent to the existing Inveraray to Taynuilt 132 kV overhead line.

A new 275 kV overhead line between the proposed Creag Dhubh substation and a sealing end compound.

Construction of a 275 kV sealing end compound (transition from overhead line to cable) located west of Croftintuime.

A 275 kV underground cable from the sealing end compound to the existing Dalmally substation.

Option 3 - Overhead Line from Creag Dhubh turning east at Duncan Ban MacIntyre Monument to a new Switching Station in Glen Lochy

A new 275/132kV Creag Dhubh substation adjacent to the existing Inveraray to Taynuilt 132 kV overhead line.

A new 275 kV overhead line between the proposed Creag Dhubh substation and a switching station near Glen Lochy.

A new Glen Lochy switching station, to connect the new 275 kV overhead line with the existing Scottish Power Energy Networks 275 kV overhead line between Dalmally and Inverarnan Substation.

Please note:

- Option 1 was the preferred overhead line option described in the consultation completed in 2018.
- Options 2 and 3 are alternatives to the northern section of the overhead line route only, north of the Duncan Ban MacIntyre Monument.

3. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

3.2 Consultation History

In accordance with SHE Transmission's guidelines, a process of consultation on the preferred route option was implemented. A brief overview of the consultation undertaken since March 2016 is illustrated in Figure 1. The consultation booklet from August 2020 is provided in Appendix 1. Maps showing the route options are presented in Appendix 2.

Figure 1: Summary of previous consultation for the proposed Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275 kV Connection (formerly named the North Argyll project).

3.3 Methods of Consultation

SHE Transmission published a Consultation Document[4] (21st August 2020) to describe the evaluation of the different connection options and invited interested parties to provide their views. The Consultation Document was sent to statutory and non-statutory stakeholders (as detailed in Table 1) and made available to any interested stakeholder via publication on the project website. Comments were requested by 25th September 2020, but the virtual exhibition remained open until 27th October to allow any late responses to be included in this report.

3.3.1 Consultees

Table 1 lists the statutory and non-statutory organisations invited to consider the Consultation Document.

Table 1: List of Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultees	
Statutory Consultees	
Argyll and Bute Council (A&BC)	Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	Scottish Water (SW)
Nature Scot	Network Rail (NR)
Scottish Forestry (SF)	Transport Scotland (TR)
Non-Statutory Consultees	
West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS)	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Sustrans	Argyll District Salmon Fishery Board (ADSFB) / Argyll Fishery Trust (AFT)

3.3.2 Booklet and Posters

SHE Transmission published a Consultation Booklet[5] and Poster[6] (17th August 2020), both of which provided an overview of the project and consultation process, along with details of the virtual public consultation and live web-based chat sessions (see Table 2: Promotion of the Consultation).

3.3.3 Virtual Consultation

Due to the restrictions in place around social gatherings because of Covid-19, the public consultation was held virtually, in accordance with Scottish Government public health guidelines. We developed a bespoke platform which allowed stakeholders to visit a virtual consultation room and view the project information at their leisure. The virtual platform enabled stakeholders to experience the full exhibition from home on a computer, tablet or mobile device. It was designed to look and feel like a face-to-face consultation in a community hall, with exhibition boards, maps, interactive videos and the opportunity to share views on the proposals. As an alternative to face-to-face events which SHE Transmission would normally hold, a live chat function was available at advertised times to allow attendees to ask questions and get responses from the project team.

The virtual platforms could be accessed from the project website. The exhibition boards[7], consultation document and booklet were also available to view on the project website for those who preferred this format or did not have sufficient internet bandwidth to access the virtual platform. We also offered individuals an

[4] URL: http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/media/4677/creag-dhubh-to-dalmally-275kv-connection-consultation-document-web-version.pdf

[5] URL: http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/media/4625/ssen-creag-dhubh-to-dalmally-argyll-12pp-24126-artwork-web.pdf

[6] URL: http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/media/4624/ssen-creag-dhubh-to-dalmally-argyll-a4-poster-hres-web.pdf

[7] URL: http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/media/4666/ssen-creag-dhubh-to-dalmally-argyll-pull-ups-digital-24126-stage-4.pdf

outdoor meeting at their residence, if the above methods of communication could not satisfactorily answer their queries regarding specific effects on their property.

The Virtual Consultation Exhibition launched on 31st August 2020 and Comments were requested by 25th September 2020, but the virtual exhibition remained open until 27th October, to allow any late responses to be included in this report. Live chat sessions were held at the following times:

- Tuesday 1st September 2020, 14.00 – 16.00;
- Wednesday 2nd September 2020, 10.00 – 12.00; and
- Wednesday 2nd September 2020, 18.00 – 20.00.

Participants were encouraged to complete a feedback form (via the project website). Phone and email contact details were provided for the Community Liaison Manager for any additional questions or feedback.

3.3.4 Promotion of the Virtual Consultation

The virtual consultation was advertised using several methods, as summarised in Table 2. Stakeholders were contacted on 14th August advising them of the consultation. This communication went to the MSP and MP for the area, Councillors (Oban North and Lorn) and Community Councils (Glenorchy and Innishail and Avich and Kilchrenan). SHE Transmission communications provided the dates of the upcoming consultation and the different ways stakeholders and the public could engage with the team regarding the options. The Consultation Booklet was also posted to all homes and businesses in the surrounding area. Homes and businesses received a copy of the consultation booklet and feedback form during the third week of August 2020. An advert promoting the consultation was placed in the Oban Times. A press release was issued, and details were posted on SSEN social media platforms and the SSEN Transmission website.

Table 2: Promotion of the Consultation

Method	Details
Mail drop – Consultation Booklet	394 properties and businesses in postcode area PA33
Email to Stakeholders to advise of consultation	MSP, MP, Councillors, Community Councils
Mail drop – Reminder postcard	394 properties and businesses on postcode area PA33
Press Advert	Circulation 8,000
Social Media Campaign	Promoted through Twitter and Scottish and SSEN Facebook page

The number of completed and returned feedback forms was monitored through the consultation. A reminder postcard was sent to the residents and businesses that had received the original communication. This contained a summary of the routes being considered, links to the website and feedback form, a reminder of the date by which responses should be returned and contact details for the team for any queries or to request a hardcopy of the consultation documents.

3.3.5 Conference Calls

In addition, telephone conference calls were held with the following organisations:

- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (14th September 2020 and 29th September 2020);
- NatureScot (24th September 2020);
- Argyll and Bute Council (10th September 2020), and
- Scottish Forestry (16th September 2020).

3.4 Consultation Questions

SHE Transmission asked participants in the consultation to consider the following five questions below.

1. Has the need for the project been clearly explained?

2. Do the alternative connection options presented at this consultation (Option 2 and Option 3) respond to any concerns you had over the project?

3. Which of the three Options would you consider the best option for SSEN Transmission to develop?

4. Which of the three Options would you consider the least preferable option for SSEN Transmission to develop?

5. Are there any potential risks or benefits associated with this project, that you believe have not been included in the Consultation Document?

4. STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION RESPONSES

In developing the Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275 kV Connection Project, we consider technical, environmental, and economic constraints on the design and safe operation of the assets, along with views expressed by stakeholders. Gathering views from a variety of stakeholders is vital to developing and shaping a balanced solution. To ensure that we are transparent throughout our consultation process it is vital that we provide the opportunity to share the feedback we have received from stakeholders on the proposals we have presented.

In response to this consultation, feedback has primarily been received via completed feedback forms. Some respondents also chose to provide queries and views via email, post or phone call.

A number of topics were raised by respondents across the variety of feedback opportunities that were available, and these have been collated and responded to, in a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document (see Appendix 3).

4.2 Summary of Engagement from the Virtual Exhibition

All responses received until 27th October 2020 were considered by the project team and included within this report. Any responses received outside of this time frame will still be considered by the team, however, they have not been included within this report.

We received a mixed response to the delivery of the consultation using virtual method, with respondents stating that they would prefer physical interaction and also that the internet speed in the area was insufficient to support a video conference or virtual exhibition. However, due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions and associated government guidance, a virtual exhibition event was the only available option. Table 3 provides a summary of the engagement with the virtual exhibition.

Table 3: Summary of Engagement – Virtual Exhibition

Category	Number
Unique page views of the virtual portal over the consultation period (31st August – 25th September)	246
Unique visitors to the Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275 kV Connection Project website since the first advertising of consultation on 14th August	357
Unique visitors to the Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275 kV Connection Project website since the portal opened on Monday 31st August	202
Number of stakeholders asking questions during the live chat events	11
Completed feedback forms	34

4.3 Summary of Public Feedback Forms

We received 33 completed feedback forms and 3 emails/postal letters from stakeholders who did not also complete a feedback form. Where a preference for one of the route options was clearly stated within an email/letter, this has been included in the feedback analysis. Where emails were received which raised questions, these were responded to directly.

The following section collates the written feedback received in response to this consultation.

4.3.1 Responses to Route Preference Questions

We asked for feedback from the public on the best option to develop and the least preferred option. Respondents were also given the opportunity to explain their answer.

Respondents were asked which of the options they would consider the best option for SHE Transmission to develop. Option 1, an overhead line from Creag Dhubh to Dalmally, was not selected by anyone. 38 % (14 No.) of the participants selected Option 2 and 24 % (9 No.) selected Option 3. The remaining 38 % (14 No.) did not give any response to this question (as summarised in Figure 2).

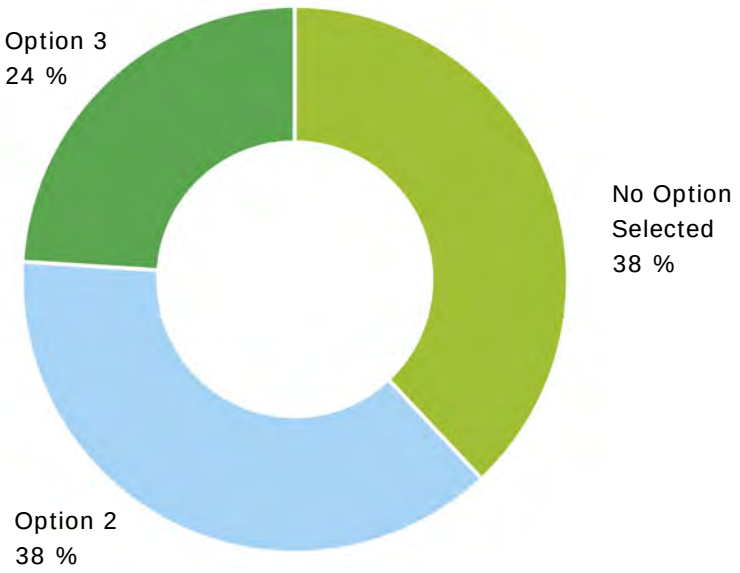


Figure 2: Summary of Most Preferred Option

Those respondents who selected Option 2 as their preference stated the following as their reason for doing so:

- Underground cables minimise the visual and environmental impact of the project.
- All power cables should be underground.
- Route avoids proximity to residential areas.
- Large pylons would affect the tourist trade.
- Already enough pylons in the area.
- Resilience benefits (e.g. less susceptible to outages caused by high winds and landscape benefits).

Comments from respondents who consider Option 3 as their preference included:

- Would prefer no more overhead lines in the community but this route is preferred as it takes the line away from Dalmally village/Stronmilchan. Although the pylons will still be visible on the hillside this will be at a distance.

- No disruption to Strath of Orchy and local community and roads.
- Route avoids the area which already has a high voltage line.
- Utilises existing infrastructure and so has less environmental, health and aesthetic impact.
- Option 1 would be extremely detrimental to Dalmally however, changing the route is only moving the problem.

A number of respondents did not select a route which they consider best and commented on why they made no selection. The comments included:

- None of the proposed routes are preferred; route does not need to exist / better alternatives are available / not appropriate for development / no option provided is suitable for health and wellbeing of the community close to planned areas / no option prevents damaging the environment and tourism / all options will result in upheaval for local residents / new routes are too close to the housing scheme and school / there are already powerlines through village, why is it acceptable to bring more.
- Specific alternative route suggestions[8].
- It is not possible to tell from the information given.

We also asked which of the options would be least preferable for SHE Transmission to develop. Responses are summarised in Figure 3.

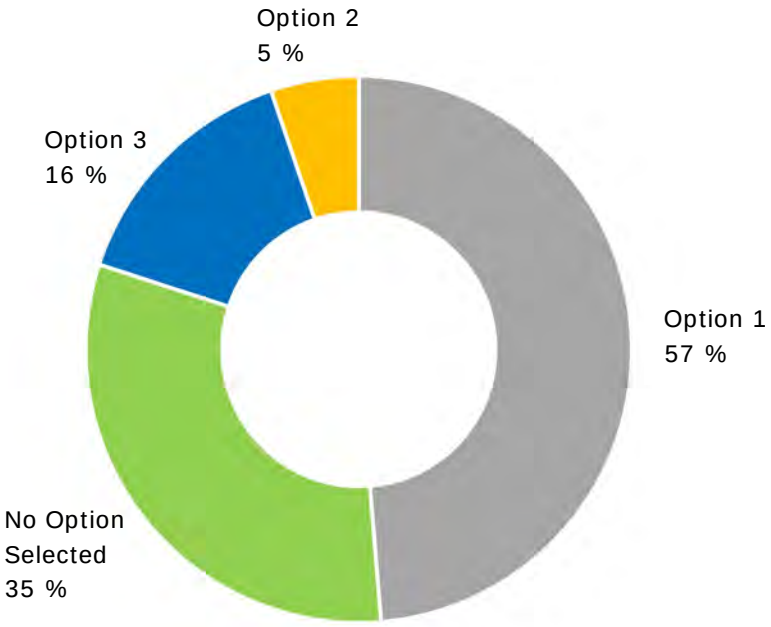


Figure 3: Summary of Least Preferred Option

Several participants selected more than one option for this question. Where this has happened, all options selected have been included.

Over half of all responses stated that Option 1 was the least preferable option (21 No., 57 %). 35 % (13 No.) of people did not select any option. 5 % (2 No.) of respondents stated that Option 2 was least preferred and 16 % (6 No.) stated that Option 3 was their least preferred option.

Those respondents who selected Option 1 as their least preferable option for development stated the following as their reason for doing so:

[8] Please refer to Appendix 3 FAQ's, specifically Qs16 and 17, which discuss alternative routes.

- This route would be devastating for the local community's health and wellbeing, livelihoods, landscape/environment, quality of life, leisure activities and heritage.
- Significant visual impact.
- All powerlines should be underground.
- Community do not want more powerlines in village.
- All options seem to require greater and more frequent transmission of electricity through the existing Dalmally lines which put all residents at risk.
- All routes are flawed.
- Ugly option which saves money for SSEN but impacts the community (including property prices).

Comments from respondents who consider Option 2 to be the least preferable option to develop included:

- All routes are flawed.
- All options seem to require greater and more frequent transmission of electricity through the existing Dalmally lines which put all residents at risk.

Respondents who selected Option 3 as their least preferable option to develop stated the following as their reason for doing so:

- Route creates additional overhead line mileage for little visual or environmental benefit.
- All routes are flawed.
- All options seem to require greater and more frequent transmission of electricity through the existing Dalmally lines which put all residents at risk.
- Route has impacts on nearby properties.
- Route spreads the pylon blight into the ancient woodland along the Succoth track.
- Would decrease the landscape value of the area further through increased transmission infrastructure as well as further reducing forest area in Succoth.

A number of respondents did not select a route which they consider the least preferable to develop and commented on why they made no selection. The comments included:

- All routes are least preferred; none of the options are acceptable, do not want more overhead power cables, none are suitable for health and wellbeing of those local to planned areas, environmentally damaging, detrimental effect on tourist, upheaval for residents.
- Alternative routes are being ignored.
- Routes will have great impact on property.
- It is not possible to tell from the information given.
- Additional options are too close to the housing scheme.

4.4 Statutory and Non-Statutory Stakeholder Feedback

Table 4 documents the replies received from stakeholders in response to the Consultation Document. Table 5 (in Section 5 of this report) provides a summary of statutory and non-statutory stakeholder feedback and SHE Transmission's response.

Table 4: Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultee Respondents

Consultee	Response Received
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	06/10/2020
Historic Environment Scotland (HES)	24/09/2020
Nature Scot	24/09/2020
Scottish Forestry (SF)	25/09/2020
Scottish Water	16/09/2020 and 28/09/2020
Transport Scotland	08/09/2020
Argyll District Salmon Fishery Board (ADSFB) / Argyll Fishery Trust (AFT)	24/09/2020
Argyll and Bute Council	27/10/2020
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	No response provided
West of Scotland Archaeology Services	No response provided
Network Rail	No response provided
Sustrans	No response provided

All consultation responses received during the consultation period have been collated and summarised into a consultation register. This register remains an active document and will be updated on receipt of further consultation comment.

4.5 Summary of Statutory and Non-Statutory Feedback

All statutory consultees that were contacted responded to the consultation document except for Network Rail. No replies were received from the non-statutory consultees who were invited to provide feedback (see Table 4).

Whilst recognising that this consultation was not part of a formal screening or scoping procedure, the statutory consultees gave informative responses and identified where an option may necessitate specialist survey or would require careful design or mitigation to avoid sensitive features.

Not every Option was given a response with consultees focussing on the Options where they could anticipate a potential issue. No preference was stated across the statutory replies for any one Option.

Please see Table 5 for stakeholder feedback and SHE Transmission's response.

5. SHE TRANSMISSION'S RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

5.2 Overview

This section of the report provides a response from SHE Transmission to the questions and themes emerging from the public consultation and the responses provided by statutory and non-statutory stakeholders.

5.3 Questions and Themes Emerging from Public Consultation

In addition to answering questions regarding their preference for route options, participants were also asked to provide other feedback. Topics raised included:

- Need for new infrastructure; respondents either didn't understand the need or queried why existing or alternative routes were being further explored. Respondents were also interested to understand more about the renewable generation projects the new connection will serve.
- Use of more overhead lines; respondents commented that there are already a lot of overhead lines in the area and they do not want more near residential areas. Undergrounding the lines would be preferable to reduce the visual impact.
- Development should not be progressed to the detriment of the area; encompassing effects on the community, environment and tourism.

SHE Transmission responses to the above themes is provided in the FAQs document in Appendix 3.

5.4 Statutory and Non-Statutory Stakeholder Responses

Table 5 provides a summary of the responses to the Consultation Document provided by statutory and non-statutory consultees, along with a reply from SHE Transmission regarding how the project will be developed to take account of the comments provided, as it moves forward into the next phase of development.

Table 5: Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultee Summary Responses		
Organisation	Summary Comment	SHE Transmission Response
Argyll and Bute Council	Response represents initial and informal views of Planning Officers and does not represent any binding opinion on the Council in respect of any future proposals. Any future proposals will require to be considered against the Local Development Plan (LDP) Planning Policies and Wider Policy Framework. Depending upon the date of any future application, the emerging LDP 2 document should be considered and given appropriate weight in any route proposals. A landscape sensitivity evaluation has been undertaken by the Council in respect of the ability and sensitivity of the landscape of Argyll and Bute to absorb windfarm development. This should be used to inform future SSEN proposals for large scale infrastructure and should be considered in seeking to finalise any proposals and in undertaking any future EIA in respect of landscape impacts. Loch Awe is partly within the designated North Argyll Area of Panoramic Quality (APQ) and sections of the overall infrastructure proposals would appear to be proposed within this requiring special attention to ensure significant and unacceptable impact on the APQ does not arise with specific reference to SG LDP ENV 13. Option 1 would remain the least favoured route option in the opinion of the council at this time due to concerns over potential landscape, cultural and amenity impacts (no change from 2018 consultation response). The Council can identify no reason to discount the proposed underground routes at Option 2, which would represent the best option in respect of landscape impact. It is noted that SEPA and Scottish Water have not at this stage raised any concerns despite the RAG matrix suggesting that peat, and water pollution maters associated with construction and operation of an underground cable solution could be problematic.	SHE Transmission will prepare a consenting strategy and will seek a formal scoping opinion on the environmental information to be provided within the EIA forming part of the application for Section 37 consent. It is noted that the emerging LDP 2 may need to be considered and we acknowledge the presence of the landscape sensitivity evaluation work the Council has undertaken. We will utilise this information and prepare a landscape and visual assessment as part of the EIA report. Further survey will be undertaken to identify sensitive receptors that will influence the design to ensure the project avoids and minimises potential environmental and landscape impacts.

Table 5: Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultee Summary Responses		
	Option 3 would address the Council's previously expressed concerns over visual impacts within the Strath of Orchy and head of Loch Awe associated with Option 1 at this point. However greater detail on the exact location and nature of any intended new infrastructure is required before more detailed comment can be provided. The infrastructure investment is generally supported by NPF3, SPP, LDP and other policies of the Council. This does not detract from the need to ensure that significant environmental and landscape impacts are minimised, and also that any potential impacts on sensitive receptors are carefully considered in determining what route and options will ultimately be proposed by formal S37 application under the Electricity Act.	
Argyll District Salmon Fishery Board (ADSFB) / Argyll Fishery Trust (AFT)	Argyll District Salmon Fishery Board (ADSFB) wish to be directly consulted on the specific proposals for each (watercourse) crossing. Their primary concerns are the protection and improvement of salmon and trout populations and their habitats.	Further consultation with ADSFB will be undertaken on the scope of environmental information to be provided with the application for consent through the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Consultation. We propose that all interactions with surface watercourses, including crossings, will be identified and assessed in the EIA Report.
Historic Environment Scotland (HES)	Historic Environment Scotland (HES) identified that all four route options presented for Option 3, will affect the designated Auchtermally Or Uachdar Mhaluidh, Deserted Township (SM 4019). HES advised that it should be possible to accommodate an OHL without raising issues of national interest; however, HES would need to see the proposed alignment and visualisations demonstrating the effects on the setting of this scheduled monument before being confident that significant effects can be avoided. More detailed assessment of potential effects on the site and setting of historic environment assets is required should Option 3 be taken forward.	Further consultation with HES will be undertaken on the scope of environmental information to be provided with the application for consent through the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Consultation. We would propose that the EIA includes a comprehensive study of the potential for direct and indirect (setting) effects on heritage assets, which will include the Auchtermally Or Uachdar Mhaluidh, Deserted Township asset.
NatureScot	NatureScot noted that an objection from a landscape perspective would be unlikely for Option 1 and they would be supportive of access	Further consultation with NatureScot will be undertaken on the scope of environmental information to be provided with the application for

Table 5: Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultee Summary Responses		
	improvements that would result from Option 2. NatureScot agreed that Option 3 appears to minimise landscape impacts. It was noted that Options 3 lies outside of the SPA designated for the protection of birds and, as such, no likely significant effects in terms of the Habitat Regulations are foreseen.	consent through the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Consultation. This will include seeking confirmation of the scope of the EIA Report in relation to potential landscape and visual effects, effects on ecology (including habitats and protected species) and effects on birds.
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	For Options 1 and Option 3 SSEN can expect a standard response from SEPA given the limited detailed information that is required at this stage. Option 2 – SEPA do not necessarily have concerns regarding the principle of the undergrounding options. However, would make the following observations: Any work in or near the water environment has the potential to result in a significant adverse impact and therefore pollution prevention mitigation is required to prevent/minimise sediment pollution for the duration of the works. Work within an active flood plain may require special consideration. Watercourse crossings may require authorisation under the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 depending on what approach is finely decided upon. No objection in principle to any selected cable option at this stage but it is recommended that peat mass balance calculations information be provided. We would expect a detailed Stage 2 Peat Management Plan be provided within the EIAR if Option 2 is preferred. Any use of waste materials for restoration etc. may require an exemption from waste management licensing or a waste management licence. If SSEN are to choose an underground route option, then we recommend a further meeting take place before finalisation of an EIAR.	Further consultation with SEPA will be undertaken on the scope of environmental information to be provided with the application for consent through the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Consultation. We would propose to include a detailed assessment of likely significant effects on the water environment and an assessment of potential interactions with peatland habitats. We also anticipate providing information on the management of peat (through a Peat Management Plan) and the potential for peat instability through a risk assessment.
Scottish Forestry (SF)	Scottish Forestry (SF) stated that areas of woodland that are fragmented by the alignment should be left in a commercially workable condition, consideration to be given to access and ground conditions.	Further consultation with SF will be undertaken on the scope of environmental information to be provided with the application for consent through the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping

Table 5: Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultee Summary Responses		
	Where possible route along the edge of woodland, this would be preferable to avoid felling and be mindful of edge design. Option 2, routes A5.1 and 5.2 have potential to create a corridor in woodland that may serve to highlight the line if not integrated by good woodland design. Option 3 - B1 Minimal woodland impact especially if microsite / alignment can avoid woodland. Potential to avoid need for native woodland removal to east and improve native woodland corridor connection with careful alignment. A2- mainly woodland edge impact. Increased woodland removal with switching station in woodland. A2 and B3 both have the potential for relatively large areas of woodland removal and dissect / fragment areas of woodland.	Consultation. We would propose to include information demonstrating a detailed assessment of any areas of woodland removal required to create access tracks, an operational corridor and development platforms for the proposed connection. Consideration will also be given to any secondary or indirect felling potentially required because of the creation of the operational corridor. Where possible, woodland removal or fragmentation will be avoided through the next phase of design, which will include detailed alignment selection.
Scottish Water	Scottish Water (SW) The proposed falls within a drinking water catchment where a Scottish Water abstraction is located. Scottish Water abstractions are designated as Drinking Water Protected Areas (DWPA) under Article 7 of the Water Framework Directive. Cladich Intake supplies Cladich Water Treatment Works (WTW) and it is essential that water quality and water quantity in the area are protected. It is a relatively small catchment therefore there may be less opportunity for dilution and a potential higher risk of activities affecting water quality. The fact that this area is located within a drinking water catchment should be noted in future documentation. Anyone working on site should be made aware of this during site inductions. Further involvement at the more detailed design stages, to determine the most appropriate proposals and mitigation within the catchment to protect water quality and quantity.	Further consultation with SW will be undertaken on the scope of environmental information to be provided with the application for consent through the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Consultation. We would propose to include assessment of likely significant effects on the water environment and mitigation proposals to avoid effects on the DWPA. It is noted that, where possible, interactions with the water environment will be avoided through the next phase of design, which will include detailed alignment selection.

Table 5: Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultee Summary Responses		
	SW will need to review and agree the Pollution Prevention Plan and the Construction Environmental Management Plan. SW assets are present along the route = a 4" asbestos cement and a 125mm MDPE water distribution main near the northeast end of the route, a separate 4" asbestos cement water distribution main follows the route of the B8077. There is also a 3" asbestos cement raw water main near Claddich running northeast from the RWI.	
Transport Scotland	Transport Scotland (TS) will ask for details on construction generated traffic when a formal application comes forward, any changes to the trunk road network will need to be discussed and approved with the TS Area Manager, any crossing will require a detailed method statement, Network Rail will require to be consulted.	Further consultation with TS will be undertaken on the scope of environmental information to be provided with the application for consent through the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Consultation. Traffic and Transport will be assessed as part of the EIA. Studies will provide details on construction generated traffic and identify suitable mitigation that may be required.

5.5 Preferred Connection Option

Following a comparative analysis of the consultation feedback received with SHE Transmission's assessment of the Options summarised in the Consultation Document (August 2020); Option 3 is our preference, and we will continue to develop this Option further. Option 3 is considered, on balance, to provide the best solution when assessing engineering, environment and economic criteria, including the range of stakeholder feedback.

Of the potential options within Option 3, presented in the consultation materials, overhead line Route B1 connecting to switching station Site 6, were the Preferred options. Considering consultation responses, this assessment remains unchanged, therefore, Route B1 and Site 6 will be considered in further detail.

5.5.1 Rationale for Selection of the Preferred Option

Option 1 was SHE Transmission's preferred option in 2018, in which we presented the potential effects of the project, assessed using preferred tower positions. This Option required the least new infrastructure, because it utilised the existing Dalmally substation. It was therefore the least technically challenging and the most cost-efficient option. All overhead line Route options considered at this stage had the potential for higher risk landscape and visual effects in the Strath of Orchy, due to the location of the existing Dalmally substation. The selected Preferred Alignment in 2018, provided the optimal balance of environment, engineering and costs, to connect the existing Dalmally substation to the proposed Creag Dhubh substation.

Option 1 received significant opposition in the March 2018 Consultation with many stakeholders, particularly the local community, strongly opposing the preferred tower positions, citing landscape and visual concerns, particularly where the overhead line crosses the Strath of Orchy. Following the September 2020 consultation, this position remains unchanged with no respondents in favour of Option 1. Argyll & Bute Council requested a strong justification should Option 1 proceed, which they have indicated is the least favoured route at the time of responding to the recent consultation.

The environmental assessment in 2018, concluded that whilst the overhead line would affect the landscape locally, it would have a relatively limited effect on the wider landscape. This assessment was not accepted by Argyll & Bute Council during the 2018 or 2020 Consultation. NatureScot, who are the regulatory body for protection of landscape, noted that an objection from a landscape perspective would be unlikely for Option 1. If the design had continued into a consent application to the Scottish Ministers under Section 37 of the Electricity Act, we would have also included the detail of specific mitigation to reduce any significant effects.

The assessment included higher risks associated with the proximity to residences, because some residences are approximately 150 m from the preferred overhead line alignment. It also identified higher risks due to ground conditions, flooding and areas of deep peat. SEPA commented that a standard response regarding flooding and pollution would be expected, which is understood to mean that, prior to the EIA assessment being completed, the effects of Option 1, are likely to be those normally expected for an overhead line of this voltage. No other stakeholders commented specifically on the engineering risks associated with Option 1.

To enable this new Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275 kV overhead line to connect to the existing Dalmally to Inverarnan overhead line, it is necessary to connect using a switching station. The preferred option in 2018 (Option 1) was to connect to the existing Dalmally switching station, because otherwise, we would need to propose the construction of a new switching station. A new switching station increases cost, requires new land to be developed and has the risk of creating additional environmental effects.

Option 2 was developed following consultation feedback in 2018, requesting that the overhead line in Option 1 be undergrounded. Stakeholders requested an underground cable, as they considered it to be the best way to achieve the aim of no new towers in the Strath of Orchy, and the associated negative landscape and visual effects.

One of our RIIO- T2 business plan commitments for the period 2021 to 2026 is to put our stakeholders at the centre of our strategy development, planning and decisions. Focusing our engagement activities across every aspect of our business in order to: increase stakeholder satisfaction; gain better outcomes for consumers and society; and, enable real progress on energy transition to net zero carbon. We aim to ensure that stakeholders can share their views on what is important to them. We aim to demonstrate that feedback has been taken onboard and work in collaboration with stakeholders to develop appropriate mitigation measures where possible.

In response to stakeholder requests for an underground cable, SHE Transmission completed detailed engineering constructability assessments and an environment assessment of the possible underground cable options in 2019. This assessment of cable options identified the following high-risk issues of concern: infrastructure (road, railway) crossings; flooding; terrain; peat deposits and gaining access for works.

Respondents to the September 2020 consultation raised two key themes around Option 2. Firstly, Option 2 will reduce the visual impact of the preferred overhead line at the Strath of Orchy (Option 1); and, secondly, the underground cable would be installed in an area of high flood risk with subsequent pollution risks, that would need careful consideration and mitigation to be agreed with regulators.

The assessment also identified high risks associated with: crossing of roads and railway; flooding; and ground conditions. There is a potential risk of pollution incidents during construction, resulting from this combination of the engineering risks. There is also a high risk to the safe operation of an electricity cable located in an area that regularly floods.

SEPA noted that they do not necessarily have concerns regarding the principle of undergrounding options. However, SEPA also noted that any work in or near the water environment has the potential to result in a significant adverse impact. Therefore, pollution prevention mitigation would be required to prevent/minimise sediment pollution for the duration of the works. SEPA added that works within an active flood plain may require special consideration.

The cost estimate included in the Consultation Document for Option 2 was greater than Option 1. The additional cost of a cable option with the project, would mitigate the potential landscape and visual effects of Option 1; but would introduce new, and potentially significant adverse effects on the environment, due to construction in an area of high flood risk and associated pollution risks. The specific mitigation required to reduce or avoid these effects has not been identified, but would likely increase the cost estimate for Option 2.

Option 3 was presented at the September 2020 consultation following an alternative connection options assessment. This alternative connection option aims to reduce the visual and landscape issues, cited as a key objection to Option 1, and remove the engineering challenges and pollution risks associated with Option 2. Addressing stakeholder feedback from past consultations was also key driver in developing Option 3.

During the 2018 consultation on Option 1, stakeholder feedback from statutory consultees and the public suggested that we find an alternative route to the preferred design. Argyll & Bute Council recommended that in the absence of undergrounding this section, that further work and consideration be given to utilising an alternative route (Route 5 in 2018) which was located to the east of Dalmally, which appears to be a better landscape fit to the surrounding topography, avoiding potentially serious landscape impacts at the head of Loch Awe.

An assessment of the alternative connection options at Glen Lochy was completed in 2020. The results presented in the Consultation Document identified only one high risk effect on the railway line, due to works in proximity to it. This assessment is not as detailed as the assessment for Option 1 or Option 2, because the Option 3 assessment does not include specific tower positions. This follows the SHE Transmission overhead line routing guidance for the assessment of overhead lines, which requires us to conduct a consultation on Route options, before a more detailed assessment of tower positions, within the Preferred Route.

Option 3 would address Argyll & Bute Council's previously expressed concerns over visual impacts within the Strath of Orchy and head of Loch Awe, associated with Option 1. However, Argyll & Bute Council stated that greater detail on the exact location and nature of any intended new infrastructure is required, before more detailed comment can be provided. NatureScot agreed that Option 3 appears to minimise landscape impacts. It was noted that Options 3 lies outside of the SPA designated for the protection of birds and, as such, no likely significant effects in terms of the Habitat Regulations are foreseen. Historic Environment Scotland noted that Option 3 has potential to affect a designated scheduled monument and will require detailed assessment of potential effects on historic environment assets and a carefully designed alignment.

Public consultation feedback on this option was varied, with comments accepting it would address visual concerns and move the towers away from residential areas, alongside those who stated they would prefer no more overhead lines in the area. Other feedback identified that further information would be required, such as the alignment through Glen Lochy and more detailed survey results.

The cost estimate, included in the Consultation Document for Option 3, was greater than both Option 1 and Option 2. The additional cost of the new switching station at Glen Lochy would mitigate the potential

landscape and visual effects of Option 1; and would not introduce new high-risk effects, such as those created by Option 2. The RAG assessment methodology for cost in the Consultation Document, assessed both Option 2 and Option 3 as medium (amber) when compared to Option 1.

The cost estimate for Option 3 is not as detailed, and potentially not as accurate, as that for Option 1 and Option 2; because it does not include specific tower positions and specific consideration of the site conditions for the Glen Lochy switching station.

5.5.2 Preferred Option

SHE Transmission has considered the results of the assessment summarised in the Consultation Document, and stakeholder feedback to it, summarised in this Report on Consultation. SHE Transmission has decided that Option 1 will not be developed further at this time. Considering the higher risk engineering challenges of undergrounding in this location and the potential risk of environmental pollution, SHE Transmission will not develop Option 2 further at this time.

The Option 3 assessment is based on a Route, without locations of towers being identified. SHE Transmission will conduct further site surveys for Option 3, to develop a more detailed design for the next stage of development, the Alignment stage. We will identify tower positions and their predicted effects, then consult on this Preferred Alignment in Spring 2021. As we develop Option 3 further, we will continue to consider and assess the most suitable solution against the criteria outlined in the Consultation Document.

5.5.3 Proposed Route and Proposed Site

Further assessment of Option 3 will be based on the Preferred Route B1 and Preferred Site 6, presented in the Consultation Document.

Route B1 has been identified in the Consultation Document as the Preferred Route. Stakeholder responses to the preferred option B1 considered that it would result in minimal woodland impact, especially if micrositing of alignment can avoid woodland. The potential to avoid the need for native woodland removal and improve native woodland corridor connection, with careful alignment. This was in preference to Routes A2 and B3, which both have the potential for relatively large areas of woodland removal and to dissect / fragment areas of woodland. All four route options presented for Option 3, will affect the designated Auchtermally Or Uachdar Mhaluidh, Deserted Township (SM 4019). More detailed assessment of potential effects on the site and setting of historic environment assets is required should Option 3 be taken forward.

Further detailed analysis of the Route B1 and potential alignment options will consider consultation feedback and focus on finding an alignment that avoids or minimises potential environmental impacts referred to in Table 5 above.

Stakeholder responses did not provide any specific comments on the preference for substation site option 6. Public comments included a concern over use of the track to Succoth, which would be used to access switching station site options 2, 3, 4 and 5.

6. NEXT STEPS

We will develop the design for Proposed Route B1 and Proposed Site 6, through analysis of engineering, environmental and economic criteria to develop a Preferred Alignment between Tower 33 (on the 2018 preferred alignment) where the route turns east at the Duncan Ban MacIntyre Monument and the proposed Glen Lochy switching station, Site 6 (see Appendix 2, Figure 4).

Members of the public and other interested stakeholders will be invited to participate in another consultation on the Preferred Alignment in spring 2021, before the alignment is finalised for the purpose of seeking the necessary consents and permissions under the Electricity Act 1989 and the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended). The anticipated programme is as follows:

Autumn and Winter 2020:	Request for EIA scoping opinion.
Autumn 2020 to Spring 2021:	Alignment selection between Duncan Ban MacIntyre Monument and Glen Lochy switching station to select a preferred alignment and tower positions. Refinement of the Glen Lochy switching station site to select a preferred site.
Spring 2021:	Consultation on the Preferred Alignment and Preferred switching station Site.
Summer 2021:	Finalise design to make applications for necessary consents and permissions.
Summer and Autumn 2021:	Prepare EIA Report and make Section 37 application.

We will continue to engage with the local community, Community Councils, elected representatives, statutory and non-statutory stakeholders through the project.

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

APPENDIX 1: CONSULTATION BOOKLET

Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275kV Connection

Project Update and Alternative Connection Options Consultation

Share your views with us:

We are launching a virtual consultation exhibition to gain views and feedback on our updated proposals for the Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275kV Connection (formally known as North Argyll) Project.

Information on our proposals is available within this project update booklet, and we also invite you to join our virtual consultation where further information on the options will be available. There will also be live chat sessions via the virtual exhibition at the following dates and times:

- Tuesday 1st September 2020 - 2-4pm
- Wednesday 2nd September 2020 - 10-12pm
- Wednesday 2nd September 2020 - 6-8pm

For more information, please visit the project website:
www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/creag-dhubh-dalmally-275kv-connection

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

About the project

The overall aim of the project is to reinforce the existing transmission network connections in the Argyll region, to enable renewable energy projects to connect to the GB transmission network and to ensure security of supply.

The existing transmission network for Argyll was originally designed to serve a rural area with low demand for electricity.

Requests from renewable generation developers to connect to the network in this area exceed the current capacity of the existing transmission network, meaning a new transmission circuit is required to meet demand from generation developers and ensure security of supply.

We have been consulting locally on this project (formerly referred to as the North Argyll Project) since March 2016.

The original proposals consisted of a new 275/132kV substation (Creag Dhubh) near to the existing Inveraray to Taynuilt 132kV overhead line, with a new 275kV overhead line circuit between the proposed Creag Dhubh substation and the existing Dalmally substation.

We presented our preferred overhead alignment from Creag Dhubh substation to the existing Dalmally substation during a consultation event in March 2018.

In recognition of the feedback received (and in combination with previous comments dating back to 2016), we committed to explore underground cable options and assess the potential for alternative overhead line options that would avoid crossing the Strath of Orchy.

We have completed further studies to inform the options assessments and now provide a summary of the alternatives, alongside the preferred overhead line solution from 2018.

This booklet provides a summary of the three options:

1. **an overhead line to the existing Dalmally substation.**
2. **an underground cable connection to the existing Dalmally substation.**
3. **an alternative overhead line connection location east of Dalmally and new Switching Station.**

We will be launching a virtual consultation platform on Monday 31st August and would encourage you to view the platform for further detailed information on each option. You can also join an interactive chat session to ask us any questions and provide your feedback on the options.

Please visit our webpage for further information: **www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/creag-dhubh-dalmally-275kv-connection**

If you cannot participate in the virtual consultation, please complete the feedback form at the back of this booklet and send to the project Community Liaison Manager, who can also be contacted for any further information or queries.

We hope this information proves useful, thank you for taking the time to read this booklet and we look forward to hearing your views.

Project history

March 2016

Project Introduction Consultation

The North Argyll project is introduced to local stakeholders.

We share the project scope and search areas being considered for a new overhead line to connect to the existing Dalmally substation.

October 2016

Route Options Consultation

A preferred route for the new overhead line is shared with the local community alongside alternative options considered. Feedback received in Dalmally specifically indicated a general objection to the project. Community members cited concerns regarding proximity to residential properties, visual impact and the proximity of the project to the existing Scottish Power transmission line. There were requests that the line be undergrounded in Dalmally due to these concerns.

Throughout 2017

Initial Cable Investigations

During analysis and review of all feedback received during the consultation process (including the March 2016 consultations) a decision was made to carry out an investigation into potential underground cabling route options around Dalmally.

January 2018

Cabling Update Meeting Glenorchy and Innishail CC

Members of our project team attended a local Community Council meeting to present the results of a Cable Feasibility Study which took place in 2017.

Three potential options were identified, each constrained by the location, with no clear preference between options.

March 2018

Preferred Alignment Consultation

We share our preferred alignment for the overhead line proposals between the preferred substation site (Creag Dhubh) and Dalmally Switching Station.

The vast majority of feedback received is in objection to the preferred route and subsequent alignment, citing landscape and visual concerns.

May 2019

Further Underground Cabling Investigations Announced

In recognition of the consultation feedback in Dalmally, we announce plans to further explore undergrounding across the Strath of Orchy and appoint a design contractor to conduct ground investigation studies.

Late 2019

Cabling Investigation Results

Two potentially feasible cabling options are identified, however, due to the high risk of environmental pollution and engineering challenges; a decision is made to investigate other potential connection options which would aim to respond to the community's landscape and visual concerns.

Early 2020

Glen Lochy switching station

An alternative connection location, avoiding the Strath of Orchy is identified to the east of Dalmally; which would link to the existing overhead line between Dalmally and Inverarnan substation.

September 2020

Virtual Consultation

Three options presented for consultation:

1. an overhead line from Creag Dhubh to the existing Dalmally substation (preferred solution from 2018),
2. an underground cable connection to the existing Dalmally substation; and
3. an alternative overhead line connection location east of Dalmally and new Switching Station.

Option 1: Overhead Line (Preferred in 2018)

Option includes:

- A new 275/132kV Creag Dhubh substation adjacent to the existing Inveraray to Taynuilt 132kV overhead line.
- A new 275kV overhead line between the proposed Creag Dhubh substation and the existing Dalmally substation (owned and operated by Scottish Power).

The preferred overhead line option was presented during public consultation events in March 2018. You can find out more about these proposals by **downloading the March 2018 Consultation Booklet from the project webpage**[1] or by contacting the Community Liaison Manager to request a hard copy.

This option was considered preferable following a technical, environmental and economic assessment.

Feedback from this consultation (and previous public engagements) expressed opposition to an additional overhead line at the head of Loch Awe, crossing the Strath of Orchy.

We therefore committed to exploring options for an underground cable to cross the Strath of Orchy. You can find out more about the underground cable options on the next page.

Potential risks associated with this option:

1. Landscape
2. Visual
3. Residential proximity
4. Ground conditions

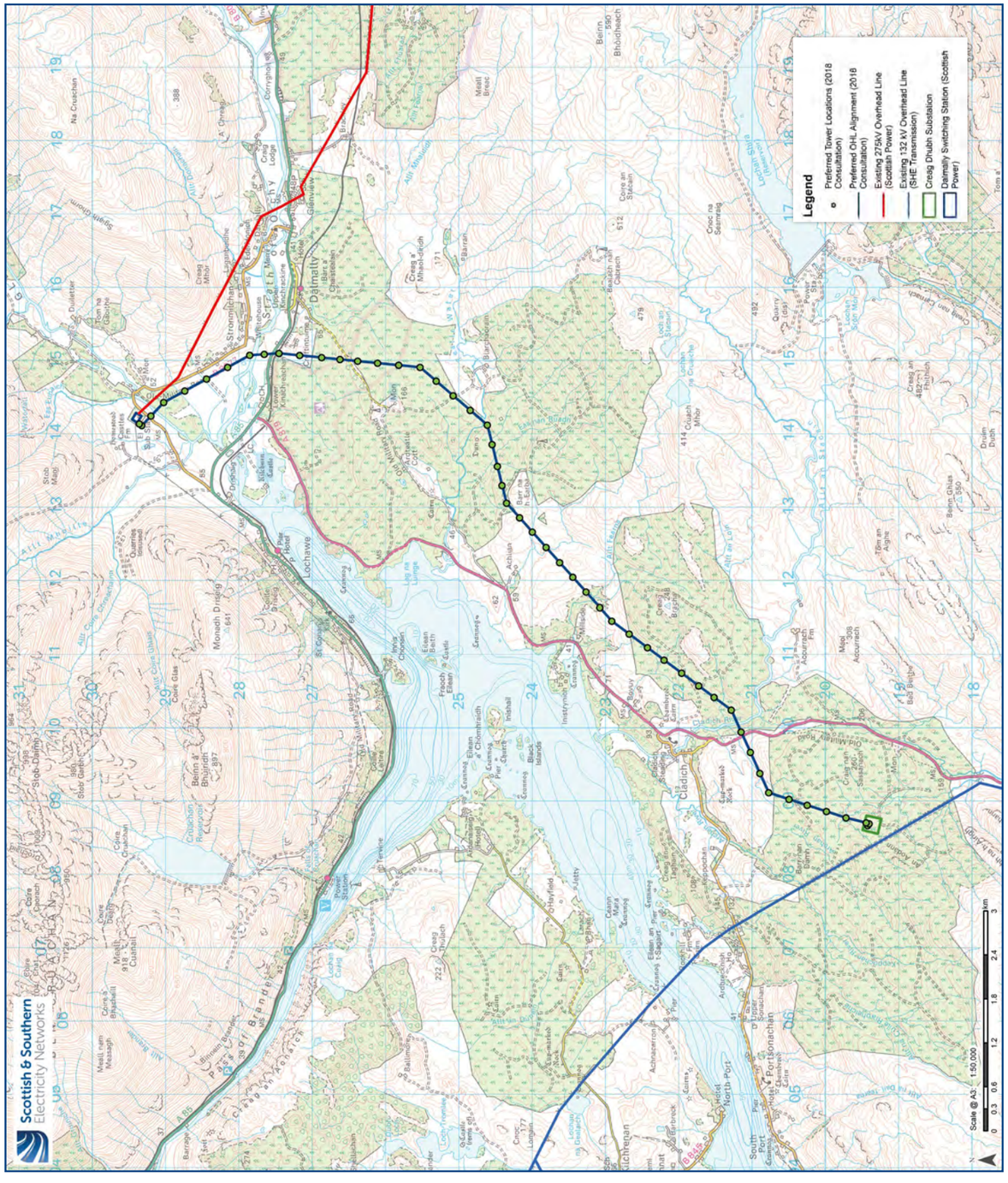
To illustrate the level of risk associated to each consideration, please see the below Red Amber Green (RAG) table.

A high risk is shown as red, a medium risk is shown as amber and a low risk is shown as green.

Environmental Red Amber Green (RAG) assessment for preferred overhead line Route (2017 consultation)	
Landscape	
Visual	
Ecology	
Ornithology	
Cultural Heritage	
Land Use	
Hydrology Geology	

Engineering RAG assessment for preferred overhead line Route (2017 consultation)	
Road Crossings	
Elevation	
Number of Deviations	
Residential Proximity	
Access Routes	
Route Length	
HV Crossings	
Ground Conditions	
Terrain	

[1] March 2018 Consultation Booklet: https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/media/4487/mar-18-north-argyll-booklet.pdf



Option 2: Underground Cable Routes

Option includes:

- A new 275/132kV Creag Dhubh substation adjacent to the existing Inveraray to Taynuilt 132kV overhead line.
- A new 275kV overhead line between the proposed Creag Dhubh substation and a sealing end compound.
- Construction of a 275kV sealing end compound (transition from overhead line to cable) located west of Croftintuime.
- A 275 kV underground cable from the sealing end compound to the existing Dalmally substation.

SSEN Transmission completed an initial cable feasibility study in 2017. Following the March 2018 consultation events, we committed to carrying out a further detailed underground cable constructability assessment. To do this, we employed a design and build contractor to complete further studies of the proposed cable routes. Using indicative underground cable alignments it was possible to assess: the potential risks; engineering issues; likely environmental effects; and, estimated costs.

Three route options were identified initially. However, following more detailed review of technical constraints, one (Route A3) was not considered further. The remaining two options (Route A2 and Route A5) were included in the detailed constructability assessment.

Potential risks associated with this option:

1. Infrastructure crossings
2. Road crossings
3. Flooding
4. Terrain
5. Peat
6. Access

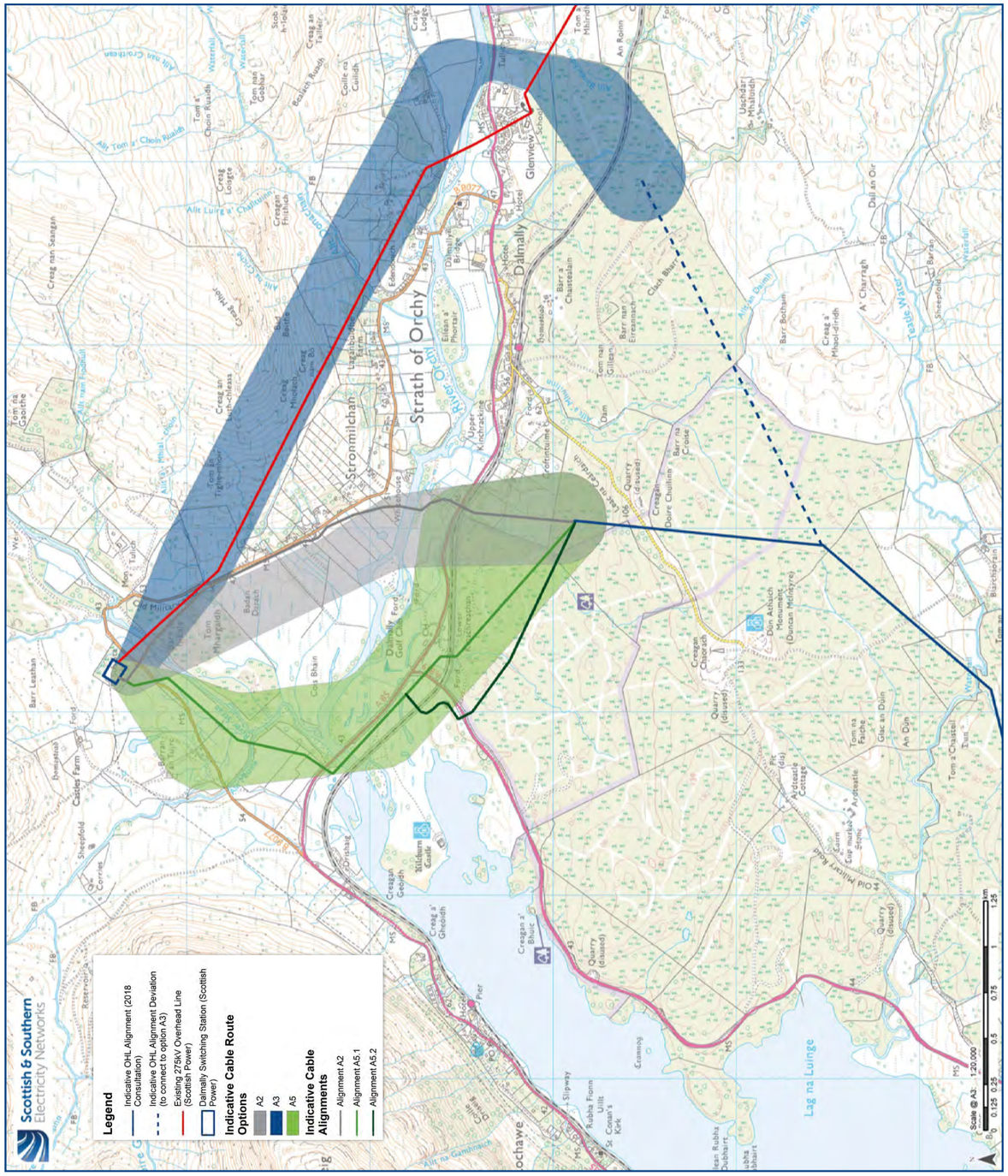
Environmental RAG assessment of Cable Route Options (2019)		
Guidance Criteria – Environmental	Option A2	Option A5
Natural Heritage – Designations		
Natural Heritage – Protected Species		
Natural Heritage – Habitats		
Natural Heritage – Ornithology		
Natural Heritage – Hydrology/Geology		
Cultural Heritage – Designations		
Cultural Heritage – Cultural heritage assets		
People – Proximity to Dwellings		
Landscape and Visual – Designations		
Landscape and Visual – Landscape Character		
Landscape and Visual – Visual		
Land Use – Agriculture		
Land Use – Forestry		
Land Use – Recreation		
Planning		

Further information on the underground cable constructability assessment can be downloaded from the project webpage.

The identification of significant risks and costs associated with the underground cable options, led SSEN Transmission to consider an alternative solution to a Dalmally switching station connection; one which could be considered environmentally, technically and economically preferable.

Further information on the potential Glen Lochy connection is available overleaf.

Engineering RAG assessment of Cable Route Options (2019)			
Guidance Criteria – Engineering	Option A2	Option A5.1	Option A5.2
Infrastructure crossings			
Road Crossings			
Contaminated Land			
Atmospheric Pollution areas			
Flooding (Operation)			
Trees Root Protection Area			
Terrain			
Peat			
Rock			
Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology			
Access			
Angle/Deviations (Cable Bending)			
Flooding (Construction)			
Surface Water			
Circuit Design			
Access			
Link Boxes			
Fault Repairs			
Distance from Constraints			
Distance from Existing Circuits/Network			
Proximity to Windfarms			
Urban Environments			



Option 3: Glen Lochy Overhead Line and Switching Station

Option includes:

- A new 275/132kV Creag Dhubh substation adjacent to the existing Inveraray to Taynuilt 132kV overhead line.
- A new 275kV overhead line between the proposed Creag Dhubh substation and a switching station near Glen Lochy.
- A new Glen Lochy switching station, to connect the new 275kV overhead line with the existing Scottish Power 275kV overhead line between Dalmally and Inverarnan Substation.

We have assessed an alternative connection location, 2km east of Dalmally, which would enable a new overhead line connection to the existing 275kV overhead line whilst avoiding the Strath of Orchy.

As indicated on the map opposite, we have identified potential Routes for the new overhead line. The Route selection process identifies a wide corridor in which a preferred Alignment for the overhead line can be determined. This aims to progress towards a preferred overhead line Alignment in a systematic manner, which is technically feasible, economically viable, and could be anticipated to cause the least disturbance to the environment and to those who live, work and visit the area or use it for recreation.

At the alternative connection location, a new switching station would be required to connect the new overhead line to Scottish Power's existing overhead line, between Dalmally and Inverarnan substation. The adjacent map illustrates the proposed switching station sites which would facilitate this connection.

A RAG assessment was also carried out on the switching station site options presented, and will be available to view within the virtual consultation.

Potential risks associated with this option (of the preferred route):

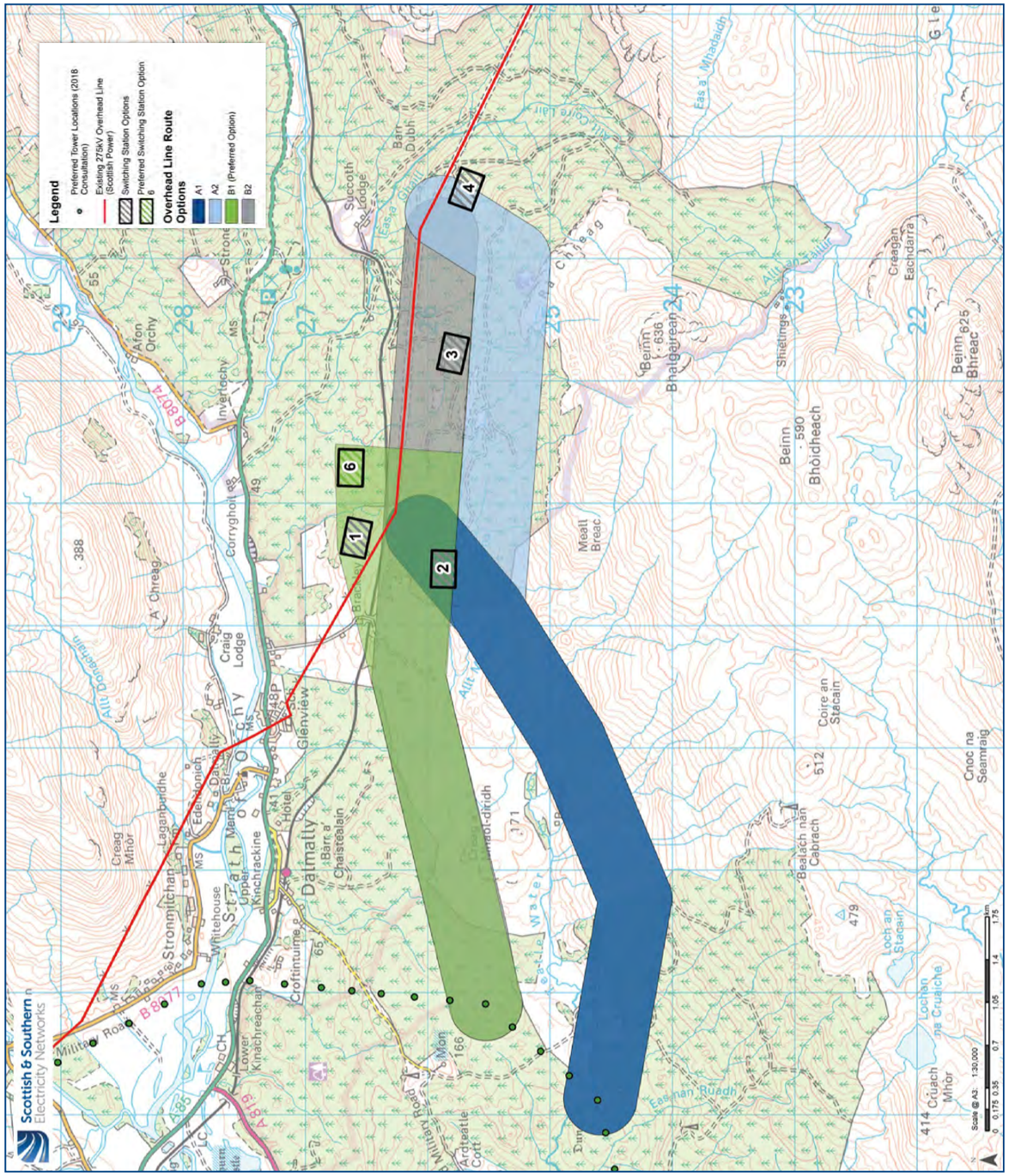
1. Railway crossings

Environmental RAG assessment of Glen Lochy OHL Route Options (2020)

Guidance Criteria – Environmental	Route A1	Route A2	Route B1	Route B2
Natural Heritage – Designations	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Natural Heritage – Protected Species, Habitats, Ornithology	🟧	🟧	🟧	🟧
Natural Heritage – Hydrology/Geology	🟧	🟧	🟩	🟧
Cultural Heritage – Cultural Heritage Assets	🟧	🟧	🟧	🟧
People – Proximity to Dwellings	🟧	🟧	🟧	🟧
Landscape and Visual – Designations, Landscape Character, Visual	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Land Use – Agriculture	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Land Use – Forestry	🟩	🟧	🟩	🟧
Land Use – Recreation	🟩	🟩	🟧	🟧
Planning	🟧	🟧	🟧	🟧

Engineering RAG assessment of Glen Lochy OHL Route Options (2020)

Guidance Criteria – Engineering	Route A1	Route A2	Route B1	Route B2
Altitude	🟧	🟥	🟩	🟥
Terrain	🟧	🟧	🟧	🟧
Waterbodies	🟥	🟥	🟩	🟩
Slope	🟥	🟥	🟧	🟧
Peat	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Rock	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Flooding	🟥	🟥	🟩	🟩
Road Networks	🟧	🟧	🟧	🟧
Access Tracks	🟥	🟥	🟩	🟩
OHL Crossings	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
Railway Crossings	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟥
LV/HV Crossings	🟥	🟥	🟩	🟩
Operations & Maintenance	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩



Next steps

Our virtual consultation platform will launch on Monday 31st August, where further information regarding our proposals will be available alongside an opportunity to join interactive chat sessions.

However, we will still be available to engage via email, telephone and online meeting, to ensure we reach stakeholders in a manner most suitable to them.

We are continuing to work on the Glen Lochy option, undertaking further survey and assessments, as have been done for the other options.

We intend to carry out further public engagement in early 2021 following collation and review of feedback from this event and are keen to receive feedback from as many local interested people as possible.

A Report on Consultation will be published in October 2020, which will record feedback received during this consultation exercise; and, the response from SSEN Transmission to the consultation feedback.

The feedback form in this booklet can be detached and sent back, or you can fill in an interactive feedback form available from the project website:

www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/creag-dhubh-dalmally-275kv-connection

We will be seeking feedback from members of the public and Statutory Bodies until 16:00, Friday 25 September 2020.

If you require a hard copy of any of the additional information highlighted in this booklet, please just contact the Community Liaison Manager via the details opposite.

Keep in touch

If you have any questions or require further information regarding SSEN Transmission's Shetland Projects, please do not hesitate to contact the project Community Liaison Manager:

Kelly Scott
Community Liaison Manager

E: kelly.scott@sse.com

M: 07443 772 946

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks,
1 Waterloo Street,
Glasgow, G2 6AY

Additional Information

Information will also be made available via our social media channels:

Find us on Facebook:
SSEN Community

Follow us on Twitter:
@ssencommunity

Your Comments

In order to record your views and improve the effectiveness of our consultation, please complete this short feedback form.

Please complete in **BLOCK CAPITALS.** (Please tick one box per question only)

Q1 Has the need for the project been clearly explained?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please provide a sentence below to explain your answer:

.....

Q2a Which of the Options would you consider the best option for SSEN Transmission to develop?

☐ Option 1
Overhead Line (Preferred in 2018)

☐ Option 2
Underground Cable Routes

☐ Option 3
Glen Lochy Overhead Line

Please provide a sentence below to explain your answer:

.....

Q2b Which of the Options would you consider the least preferable option for SSEN Transmission to develop?

☐ Option 1
Overhead Line (Preferred in 2018)

☐ Option 2
Underground Cable Routes

☐ Option 3
Glen Lochy Overhead Line

Please provide a sentence below to explain your answer:

.....

Q3 Do the alternative connection options presented at this consultation (Option 2 and Option 3) respond to any concerns you had over the project?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Please provide a sentence below to explain your answer:

.....

Q4 Are there any perceived risks or benefits associated with this project, that you believe have not been included in the Virtual Consultation? (If you viewed this)

Q5 Please provide any other questions or comments below

Full name

Address

Telephone

Email

If you would like to be kept informed of progress on the project please tick this box.

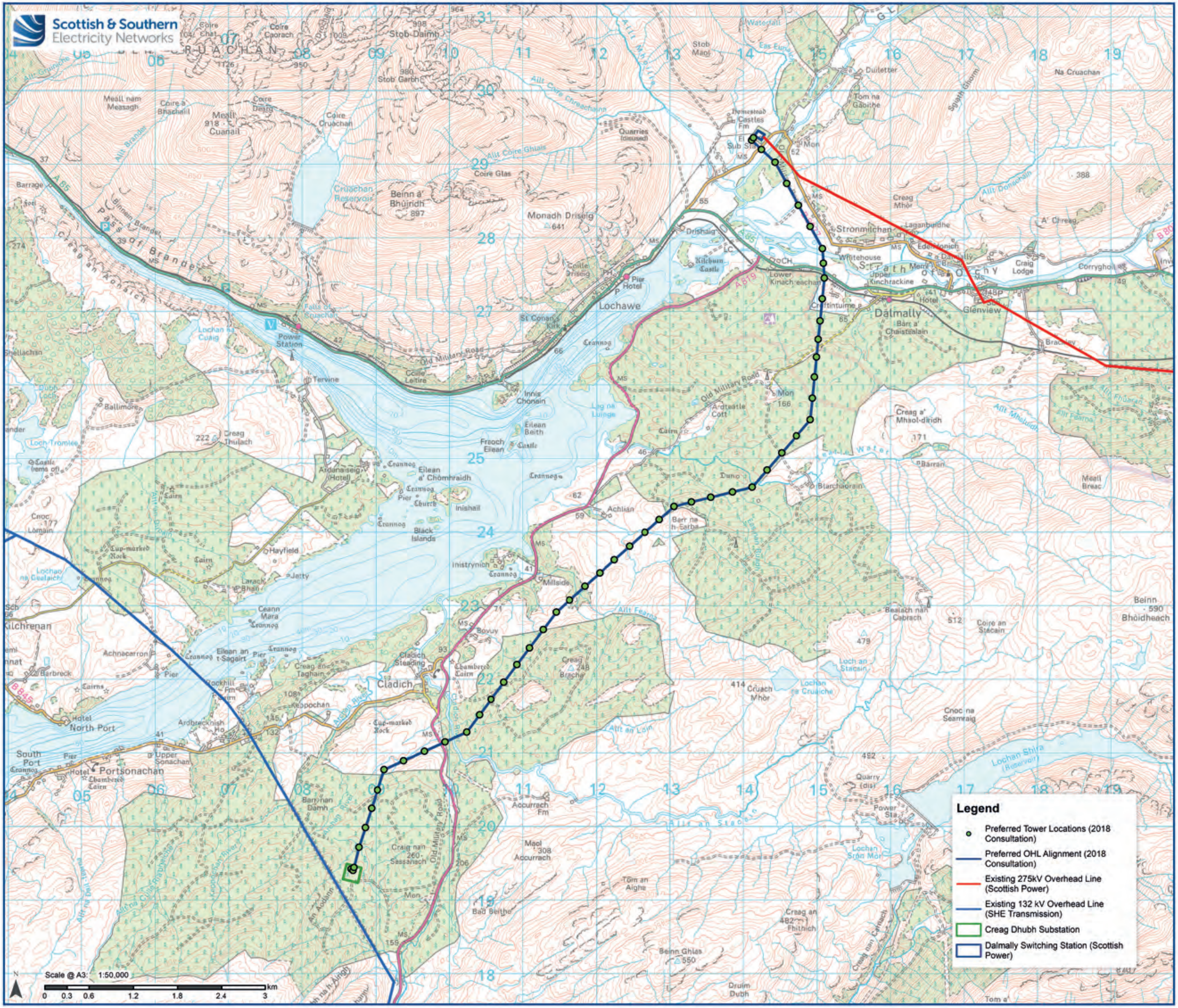
If you would like your comments to remain anonymous please tick this box.

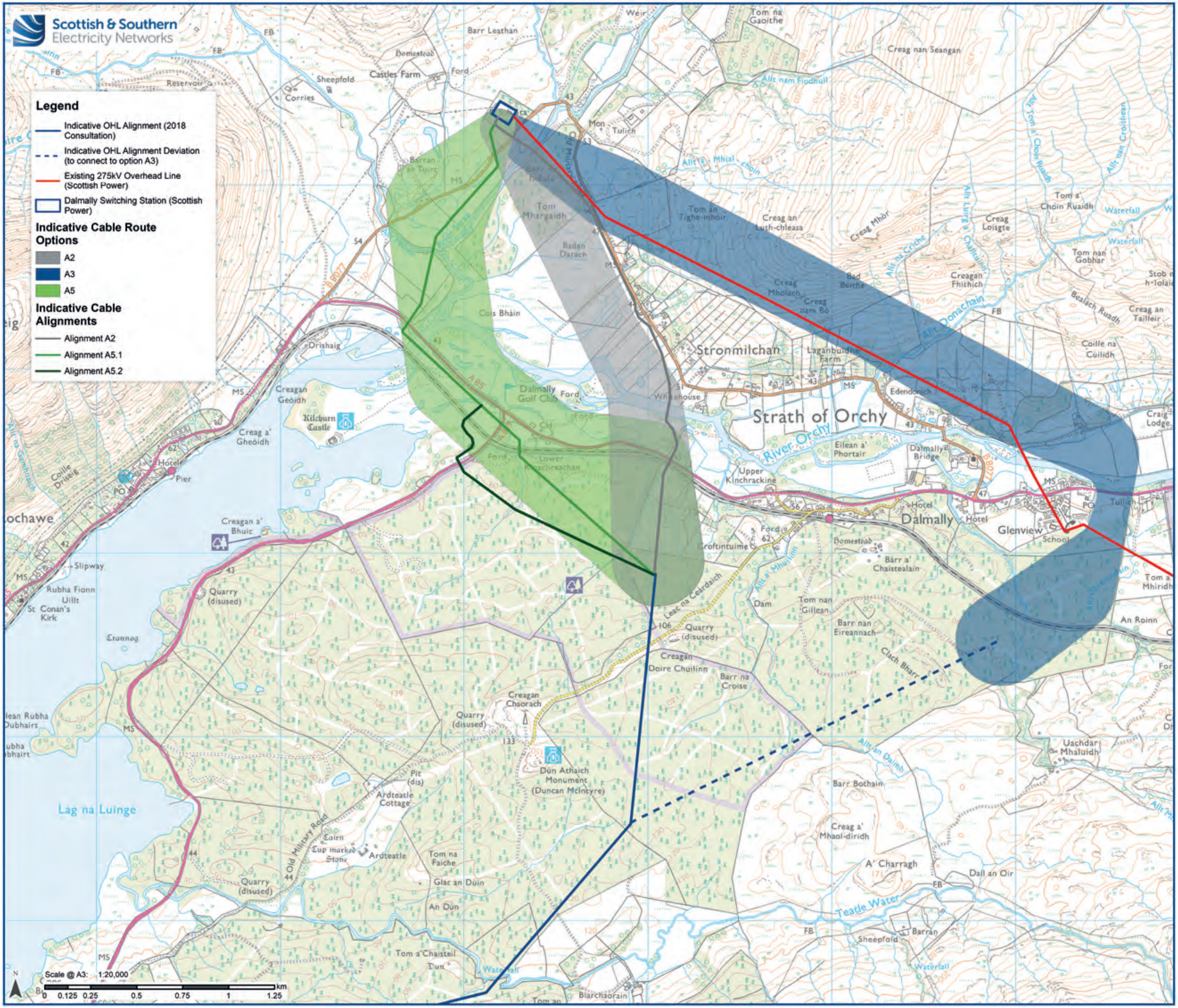
Thank you for taking the time to complete this feedback form.
Please submit your completed form by one of the methods below:

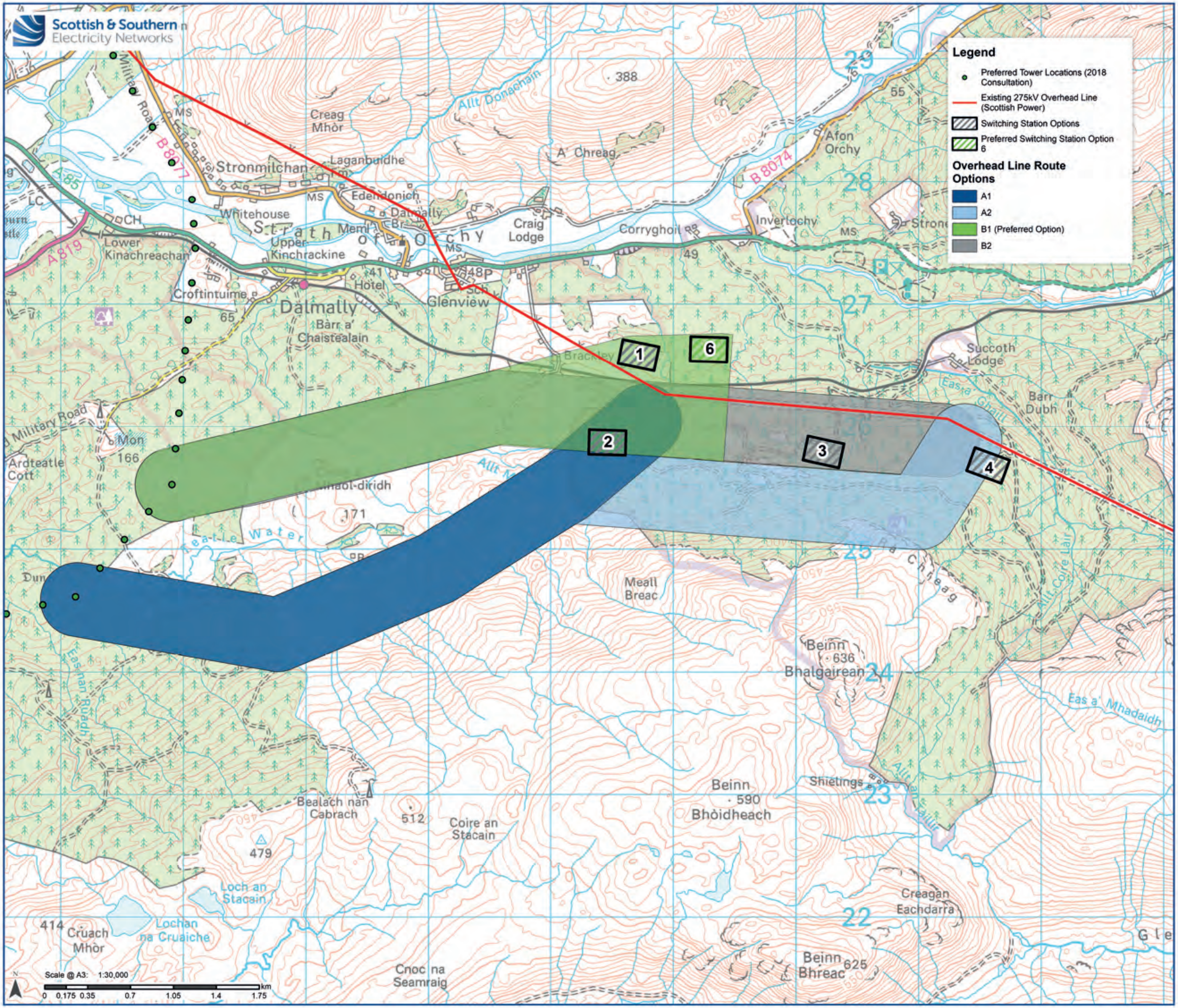
Email: kelly.scott@sse.com
Mail: Kelly Scott, 1 Waterloo Street, Glasgow, G2 6AY
Online: www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/creag-dhubh-dalmally-275kv-connection
Download: Comment forms and all the information from this consultation booklet will also be available to download from the project website.

Any information given on the feedback form can be used and published anonymously as part of Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks consultation report. By completing this feedback form you consent to Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks using feedback for this purpose.

APPENDIX 2: FIGURES


Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
Legend
Preferred Tower Locations (2018 Consultation)
Preferred OHL Alignment (2018 Consultation)
Existing 275kV Overhead Line (Scottish Power)
Existing 132 kV Overhead Line (SHE Transmission)
Creag Dhubh Substation
Dalmally Switching Station (Scottish Power)
Scale @ A3: 1:50,000
0 0.3 0.6 1.2 1.8 2.4 3 km
Dalmally
Lochawe
Cladich
Portsonachan
North Port


Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
Legend
Indicative OHL Alignment (2018 Consultation)
Indicative OHL Alignment Deviation (to connect to option A3)
Existing 275kV Overhead Line (Scottish Power)
Dalmally Switching Station (Scottish Power)
Indicative Cable Route Options
A2
A3
A5
Indicative Cable Alignments
Alignment A2
Alignment A5.1
Alignment A5.2
Scale @ A3: 1:20,000
0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 1.25 km
Strath of Orchy
Stronmilchan
Dalmally
River Orchy
Glenview
Lag na Luinge
Dalmally Golf Club
Kilchurn Castle
Drishaig
Upper Kinchrackine
Dùn Athaich Monument (Duncan McIntyre)
Teatle Water
Barr Leathan
Castles Farm
Sheepfold
Corries
Creag nan Seangan
Tulloch
Edendonich
Dalmally Bridge
Eilean a' Phortair
Ardteatle
Ardteatle Cottage
Blarchaorain
Tom a' Chaisteil



Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks
Legend
Preferred Tower Locations (2018 Consultation)
Existing 275kV Overhead Line (Scottish Power)
Switching Station Options
Preferred Switching Station Option 6
Overhead Line Route Options
A1
A2
B1 (Preferred Option)
B2
1
2
3
4
6
Creag Mhòr
Allt Donachain
388
A' Chreag
Laganbuidhe
Stronmilchan
Edendonich
Whitehouse
Dalmally
Strath of Orchy
Upper Kinchrackine
Lower Kinachreachan
Croftintuime
Dalmally
Hotel
Glenview
Barr a' Chaistealain
Craig Lodge
Corryghoil
Inverlochy
Afon Orchy
B 8074
B 8077
A 85
A 819
Succoth Lodge
Barr Dubh
Military Road
Mon
166
Ardteatle Cott
171
Teatle Water
Meall Breac
Beinn Bhalgairean
636
Beinn Bhòidheach
590
Shielings
Bealach nan Cabrach
512
Coire an Stacain
479
Loch an Stacain
Lochan na Cruaiche
414
Cruach Mhòr
Cnoc na Seamraig
Beinn Bhreac
625
Creagan Eachdarra
Eas a' Mhadaidh
Scale @ A3: 1:30,000
0 0.175 0.35 0.7 1.05 1.4 1.75 km

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

Legend

- Proposed Tower Locations
- Tower 1
- Tower 33
- Preferred OHL Alignment, 2018 Consultation
- Existing 275kV Overhead Line (Scottish Power)
- Preferred Route, Option 3, 2020 Consultation
- Proposed Creag Dhubh Substation
- Preferred Switching Station, Site 6, 2020 Consultation

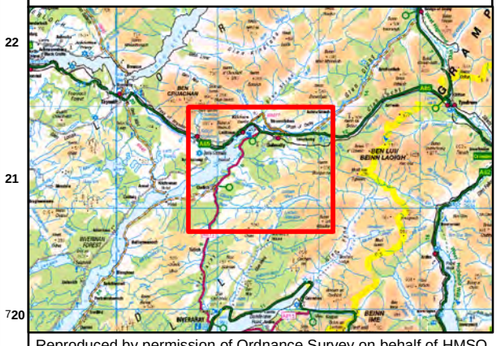
T1

T33

6

Scale @ A3: 1:45,000

0 0.275 0.55 1.1 1.65 2.2 2.75 km



Project No:	1700003673
Project Name:	Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275kV Connection
Figure Title:	Option 3: Overhead Line from Creag Dhubh turning east at Duncan Ban MacIntyre Monument to a new Switching Station in Glen Lochy
Drawn by: BM	Date: 28/10/2020
Drawing:	R170_3673_Figx_GlenLochyPrefferedRouteSubstationOption_C

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

APPENDIX 3: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

APPENDIX 3

CREAG DHUBH TO DALMALLY 275 KV CONNECTION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Please see Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) below. If you would like to discuss any of these questions further, please contact our Community Liaison Manager: Helen Batey; Email: helen.batey@sse.com; Mobile: 07778 453 993.

Q1. Why is there a need for new infrastructure in the area?

Answer: There has been an increasing number of generators applying to connect to the Argyll and Kintyre network, this is the major driver behind a need to reinforce this network. The number of generators applying to connect in the Kintyre area has continued to increase in the past year. Power system studies undertaken to assess the impact of this new generation shows that the capability of the existing network would be exceeded. As a result, it is proposed to reinforce the Argyll and Kintyre network. Individual projects, like the Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275 kV connection, are being progressed to provide this additional capacity for new generation connections.

SHE Transmission is enabling the growth of renewable generation and the electrification of heat and transport according to the Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission (SHE Transmission) A Network for Net Zero (December 2019) http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/riio-t2-plan/

Climate change is already affecting people, ecosystems and livelihoods around the world. Tackling climate change is the greatest challenge of our generation. The largest role we play in combating climate change is through our part in the GB power sector. Considerable progress has been made in the decarbonisation of electricity generation over the past decade. While this change has been rapid and profound, more remains to be done.

Clean electrification has an important role to play in removing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from heat and transport. Smart, flexible grid networks will be an essential part of that transition. For that reason, the Committee on Climate Change argue that: "A relatively large expansion in [grid] capacity is likely to have low regrets" and consideration should be given to future-proofing to achieve net zero emissions targets.

The north of Scotland and its islands have a significant renewable energy resource from onshore and offshore wind, hydro and (potentially) marine and tidal. At the end of 2018, 15% of the UK's installed renewable generation capacity was located in the north of Scotland. By the end of the RIIO-T2 period, we expect 8.1 GW of generation to be connected to the north of Scotland transmission system. Our modelling of the requirements to meet net zero emissions targets indicates that connected generation would need to increase to between 13.6 GW and 15.7 GW.

Our stakeholders are clear that we must provide timely, cost effective whole system solutions to ensure national net zero emissions targets are met. But importantly, we must be evidence-based and pragmatic in our investment decisions to protect consumers from rising costs.

Q2. Why are overhead lines being considered when underground cables are an option and are being used on a project nearby? Could underground cables be considered for all routes?

Answer: Each project is assessed on a case by case basis following SHE Transmission's route selection guidance in combination with other factors such as stakeholder views and wider network responsibilities and demands (e.g. the need to increase capacity or replace infrastructure reaching the end of its operational life). The assessment will guide whether an overhead line or underground cable is the best solution. In general, overhead lines are the most economical way of transmitting electricity between two points and is the default solution for long distance power transfer. They are a standard, well established technology which form the majority of new and existing electricity transmission infrastructure around the world.

Undergrounding is being considered for the nearby Glen Falloch VISTA project[1]. A VISTA (Visual Impact of Scottish Transmission Assets) project[2] is an initiative designed by SHE Transmission to assess the visual impact of existing electricity infrastructure on National Parks and National Scenic Areas (NSAs) within the SHE Transmission network area. The overall aim of the policy is to identify the most effective mitigation proposals, for which specific funding can be sought from Ofgem.

The case by case approach and assessment of options is necessary to protect the interests of customers, SHE Transmission must demonstrate to the energy regulator (OFGEM) that proposed investments are necessary, efficient and economical as the charges are ultimately levied on all electricity customers and require substantial justification.

Q3: What details are available about the type and location of the renewable generation project the new connection will serve and how will this project facilitate their connection to the existing network?

Answer: There are a number of windfarms around Dalmally and the wider Argyll region that are seeking to connect to the electricity transmission network. The contracts that have been completed are with National Grid and they publish information in the public domain. This can be found in the Transmission Works Register Report here https://www.nationalgrideso.com/connections/registers-reports-and-guidance which is regularly updated. The Transmission Works Register Report for 4th September 2020, lists the following projects: Blarghour wind farm; High Constellation wind farm; Skipness & Corranbuie wind farm; Sheirdrim wind farm. This list is subject to change and does not list those projects for which a contract has not been signed.

The Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275 kV connection will provide the additional capacity for the new generation connections. This project forms part of the wider reinforcement needed across the Argyll and Kintyre network.

Q4: How will you mitigate the environmental impact?

Answer: Environmental survey and assessment are undertaken as part of project development and the information is used to inform the design and avoid environmental impact from the outset. Where this is not possible, mitigation is provided to reduce impacts to within acceptable limits as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. The EIA Report is submitted with the Electricity Act (Section 37) application to the Scottish Government for the preferred option.

Following identification of the preferred option, we will be looking to undertake detailed environmental survey and reporting from Autumn 2020 through to Spring 2021. The assessment undertaken to date for the three Options follows our internal guidance which looks to identify the least constrained option, based on environmental, technical and cost issues. This has included, but not limited to, gathering site specific information on protected species, birds, habitats, hydrology, cultural heritage and proximity to dwellings.

The EIA will cover a number of topics. To ensure the range of potential environmental sensitivities are considered, a scoping exercise will be completed. This will identify the information expected to accompany the EIA and will inform further detailed survey.

As part of SHE Transmissions new RIIO-T2 Business Plan we are committing to No Net Loss on projects from 2020, and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) on Projects from 2025. We are working across the industry and the public sector in Scotland to develop a new, innovative approach that embeds biodiversity considerations into every stage of the project lifecycle.

https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/riio-t2-plan/our-approach-to-implementing-biodiversity-net-gain/

[1] https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/vista-glen-falloch-sloy/

[2] https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/media/1576/vista-booklet_v2-2.pdf

Q5: What allowance is being made for the consultation being conducted during the Covid pandemic?

Answer: Given the volume of attendees at our 2018 consultation event at Dalmally Community Centre (over 90) and the latest government Covid 19 guidelines, it was considered that socially distanced consultation meetings could not be carried out safely.

Whilst our preference would always be to conduct consultation in a face to face environment, as this was not possible, we had to use the best alternatives available. We developed a virtual consultation platform to try and provide an experience as close to a standard consultation as possible.

The virtual consultation platform included a chat function, so that visitors could ask questions about the exhibition material. Feedback received from some participants, and promoted by two Argyll & Bute Ward Councillors, was that this process did not satisfactorily meet visitors need to interact personally with the project team. A further exhibition is planned for Spring 2021. If due to continuing Covid 19 restrictions, we are required to use a virtual consultation platform; we will introduce further methods to allow visitors to the exhibition to interact more fully with the project team; for example, by including voice conferencing communication.

To ensure residents in proximity to our proposals were made aware of the virtual consultation, we sent an information booklet to all PA33 postal properties outlining the three options being presented. This included a feedback form and the address, email and phone number of the Community Liaison Manager, should community members be unable or not wish to utilise the virtual consultation platform. Alongside this, we placed an advert in The Oban Times, posted information on our social media platforms and wrote to all Local Ward Councillors and the Community Council.

We are available to engage via email, telephone and online meeting where required, to ensure we reach stakeholders in a manner most suitable to them. If those with poor internet connection wish to contact us, we can email or post copies of the consultation material and respond to any specific questions. Contact details are provided at the start of this document.

Q6: What local benefits to the community can be delivered as part of this project, through the planning, construction and longer-term operation?

Answer: Reinforcing the network will ensure future security of supply. It will also increase the capacity of the network to accommodate renewable generation. These infrastructure projects can provide local employment and use local services and suppliers.

SHE Transmission appoint a Principal Contractor to build the consented project. We encourage our contractor to use local services and suppliers as far as possible (e.g. local shops, accommodation, machinery and materials suppliers). We will also investigate the possibility of setting up a 'Meet the Buyer' event at an appropriate time to allow local businesses the opportunity to meet the Principal Contractor once they are appointed.

Q7: Would this project increase the amount of electricity being transmitted through residential areas, and would this present any health risk?

Answer: For Option 1 and Option 2 the point of connection between SHE Transmission and Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) would be at the existing Dalmally substation, to the west of Dalmally village. The point of connection for Option 3 is east of Dalmally village. The power flow in SSENs new network will travel north towards the connection point with SPEN and then east along SPENs existing overhead line towards Inverarnan and Glasgow.

As such Option 1 and Option 2 will result in an increase in power flow on the existing overhead line through the residential area of Dalmally. Option 3 will not result in an increase of power flow on the overhead line through the residential area of Dalmally as a result of this project. The electro-magnetic field is expected to remain within the electric and magnetic field limits set out by the UK Government.

Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs) are considered as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. SHE Transmission are obliged as part of our transmission licence obligations, to ensure that our assets operate within the limits specified in guidance from the UK Government. These limits are based on the advice of the Government's independent scientific advisers - Health Protection Scotland and Public Health England (formerly Health Protection Agency, Formally NRPD) - who ensure the appropriate level of protection for the public from these fields.

Health Protection Scotland and Public Health England are appointed by the Secretary of State to protect the public from dangers to health. These organisations conduct and review relevant research and ensure that the guidelines for limiting exposure are based on the most appropriate available scientific information. Further information on the guidance can be accessed on the UK Government website. https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/electromagnetic-fields

Information on the research into a possible link between EMFs generated from electricity transmission infrastructure and human health is documented in the Energy Networks Association (2017) publication "Electric and Magnetic Fields: The Facts".

Q8: Project costs and analysis are given as percentages, could you provide more specific figures to illustrate the differentials in cost. Can you advise who costed the project?

Answer: The cost estimates are calculated by SHE Transmission. The costs are provided as a percentage against a baseline cost. At this stage these are estimates only, not the final cost of the project.

The cost of an underground cable solution is unique to the design as each will consider factors such as terrain, ground conditions, access requirements, route lengths, number of crossings of water courses, bridges, roads, railways, electrical cable design and network system requirements. Typically, in comparison to an overhead line, this can vary from between 3 and 5 times more expensive, and in some cases can be considerably more, and is the reason why undergrounding cannot be considered for all routes. A summary of the costs comparison between Options is provided in the Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275kV Connection - Consultation Document (August 2020).

Q9: Would the proposed new Glen Lochy Switching Station or new Creag Dhubh Substation require planning permission from Argyll and Bute Council?

Answer: Town & Country Planning Applications would be required for both the substation and switching station. The planning applications would be submitted to Argyll & Bute Council.

Q10: Have the following assessments been undertaken for the project:

- Health Impact
- Economic Impact
- Equality Impact
- Climate Change

Answer: As part of SHE Transmissions new RIIO-T2 Business Plan we are establishing our preferred route corridor and/preferred sites through balancing technical, environmental, cost and impact to stakeholders. This includes impacts to local communities and businesses, visitors and interest groups, customers that will benefit from the infrastructure and the impact on consumers.

As part of the planning process SHE Transmission will complete an EIA scoping exercise with stakeholders to identify the topics that should be assessed and included in the EIA. Topics identified are usually in proportion to the proposed development and reflect the anticipated impacts. The above list can be considered as part of the scoping exercise.

Q11: How does this project fit into the big picture transition strategy for Scotland?

Answer: SHE Transmission is enabling the growth of renewable generation and the electrification of heat and transport according to the Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission (SHE Transmission) A Network for Net Zero (December 2019) http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/riio-t2-plan/

Given the previously described increase in renewable generation in the Argyll region, we are at an early stage of assessing future network upgrade requirements, which are likely to result in further Transmission infrastructure development in Argyll and Bute. We want to be as open and transparent as possible, regarding any anticipated future works and we are in the process of planning a regional update webinar, aimed at providing transparency regarding the anticipated levels of renewable generation requiring connection and the resulting portfolio of Transmission projects in Argyll and Bute. This will take place before the end of March 2021 and details of this session will be made available once dates are agreed.

Q12: How does funding of renewable generation projects interface with transmission requirements?

Answer: SHE Transmission own the electricity transmission infrastructure in the North of Scotland. As part of our Electricity Transmission Licence, we have a number of obligations, including:

- The development and maintenance of an efficient, coordinated and economical system of electricity transmission;
- facilitating competition in the supply and generation of electricity; and,
- ensuring that the security of the network is maintained as the demand and/or generation connections change over time.

SHE Transmission do not own the generation on the network. As a Transmission Owner, we provide connections to our transmission network for generation, demand or interconnector developers in order to meet our licence obligations.

Renewable generation projects are funded by the developers/companies that own those projects. The renewable generator will pay a fee for submitting an application to connect to the transmission network. Any new connection assets that are required to connect a generator to the transmission network, are paid for by the developer. Any larger wider network transmission reinforcements, required by a developer or a number of developers, will be underwritten prior to connection and then paid for through a use of system charge, on an annual basis. This process is licenced and regulated by OFGEM.

Q13: Why was Option 3 not presented in 2018?

Answer: The options appraisal at the project outset did not identify Option 3. The options considered focussed on a direct route between the Creag Dhubh substation and Dalmally substation and considered a number of overhead line routes and alignments and cabling under Loch Awe.

Following the consultation exercise undertaken March 2018, where the majority of feedback received was in objection to the preferred route and subsequent alignment, citing landscape and visual concerns, SHE Transmission agreed to re-evaluate the options available for the northern section of the preferred alignment where it passes through the Strath of Orchy.

A cable route assessment was undertaken for Option 2 which identified potential technical and environmental constraints. This resulted in further consideration of an alternative overhead line route and consequently Option 3 was developed. Option 3 aims to avoid visual concerns raised by Option 1 and remove the technical and pollution challenges created by Option 2.

Q14: Why does the line voltage transformation have to take place at the Creag Dhubh substation? If the 275 kV connection was moved further along the line to Glen Lochy this could perhaps be done at the new substation which would result in the new power line being of smaller 132 kV pylons.

Answer: The location of the substation has been chosen at Creag Dhubh due to its vicinity to the existing 132 kV overhead line between Taynuilt and Inveraray. There is a requirement for both circuits to be turned into the newly proposed 275/132kV substation. If the substation was closer to Glen Lochy this would require us to take two overhead lines towards Dalmally.

We have also taken into consideration the location of renewable generators that would require a connection to the substation. If the proposed Creag Dhubh substation was sited further east towards Glen Lochy, then additional overhead lines would be required along the route for the generator connections, adding to the number of overhead lines currently proposed along the route.

We also need to take into consideration future network requirements as we work towards Net Zero targets and ensure the network we build now can accommodate planned and proposed renewable generation connection applications in the area. SHE Transmission is enabling the growth of renewable generation and the electrification of heat and transport according to the Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission (SHE Transmission) A Network for Net Zero (December 2019) http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/riio-t2-plan/

Q15: What information is currently available about the location of the potential new infrastructure associated with the new lines? (e.g. new substation / sealing end compounds)

Answer: The following documents are available:

- Consultation Document Route Selection, North Argyll substation to Dalmally 275kV Over Head Line, June 2017.
- Consultation Document, Alignment Selection, Creag Dhubh substation to Dalmally substation 275kV Overhead Line, March 2018.
- Creag Dhubh Substation to Dalmally Substation 275 kV Connection Cable Route Options: Environmental Appraisal, July 2019.
- North Argyll Cable Route Report (Engineering Constructability), April 2019.
- Glen Lochy 275 kV Switching Station Engineering Site Selection Report, July 2020.
- Glen Lochy 275 kV Switching Station, Environmental Site Selection Study, July 2020.
- Overhead Line Route Engineering Assessment for the Glen Lochy Switching Station, July 2020.
- Overhead Line Route Environmental Assessment for the Glen Lochy Switching Station, August 2020.

We have also provided a Consultation Document and Alternative Options Consultation Booklet. These documents are available on the project website here: http://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/creag-dhubh-dalmally-275kv-connection/

Please contact us if you would like an electronic or hard copy of any of the above documentation.

Q16: Why is a submarine cable under Loch Awe not considered?

Answer: In response to feedback from statutory stakeholders during previous public consultation, SHE Transmission appointed an experienced Cable Engineering Consultant in December 2016 to further explore the feasibility of undertaking a submarine cabling solution at Loch Awe. The survey found that any potential route would be constrained by the existing configuration of the underwater terrain in and around Loch Awe. These physical constraints present technical challenges to the construction and operation of a submarine cable meaning it is not feasible to proceed with this option. Further detail was provided on page 5 of our Frequently Asked Questions document 2018 https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/media/4489/north-argyll-faq.pdf

Q17. Are there any further transmission projects in the pipeline for this area, and if so, when will these be introduced to the local community?

Answer: Given the previously described increase in renewable generation in the Argyll region, we are at an early stage of assessing future network upgrade requirements, which are likely to result in further Transmission infrastructure development in Argyll and Bute. We want to be as open and transparent as possible regarding any anticipated future works are therefore in the process of planning a regional update webinar aimed to provide transparency regarding the anticipated levels of renewable generation requiring connection and the resulting portfolio of Transmission projects in Argyll and Bute. This is anticipated to take place before the end of March 2021 and details of this session will be made available once dates are agreed.

Q18. Would SSEN Transmission consider changing the location of the Creag Dhubh substation and the routing of the line?

Answer: We intend to build Creag Dhubh substation within the same forestry plantation at the top of Glen Aray near the existing Inveraray to Taynuilt 132 kV overhead line and do not intend to change this location.

In the Consultation events in March 2016 we described the substation study area and that this had been identified following early analysis of technical, environmental and geographical factors and that proposals take account of the outcome of these investigations. We invited feedback from the local community and other stakeholders on our proposals. The location of the substation study area has the requirement that it must be able to link to the existing 132 kV overhead line between Inveraray and Taynuilt and the proposed 275 kV overhead line to Dalmally. Responses from stakeholders were taken into account and a decision was taken to proceed with development of a substation within that substation study area.

In October 2016, we presented two substation location options within this substation study area and sought feedback from the local community as to their preference. In March 2018, we shared our preferred substation location.

In March 2018 we requested an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Opinion from Argyll & Bute Council. In June 2018 Argyll & Bute Council responded that that in this instance an EIA will not be required. However, the scale and nature of the development, and the quality and sensitivity of its landscape setting is such that an Environmental Appraisal should be submitted with any planning application.

Over the coming months, we will be looking at possible micrositing adjustments to ensure the best outcome is reached to mitigate landowner and environmental impacts, before a Town and Country planning consent application is submitted to Argyll & Bute Council, accompanied with an Environmental Appraisal. Prior to submitting a planning consent application, a pre-application consultation (PAC) event will be conducted with detailed plans of the proposed consent application.

Q19. Does the location of the Creag Dhubh substation determine the routing of the line?

Answer: Substation location is not the sole driver in terms of choice of location for our projects, which need to be considered on a whole project basis. When initially identifying areas where development is required, there are various different factors which must be taken into consideration, including proximity to requesting generators, topography, distance from existing infrastructure, and environmentally sensitive areas. These various considerations are assessed, and suitable areas for all associated infrastructure identified at the very beginning of a project's development.

Q20. Wouldn't the existing 132 kV link between Inveraray and Creag Dhubh require upgrading before the new Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275 kV line can operate?

Answer: The Creag Dhubh to Dalmally 275 kV overhead project can function using only the infrastructure included in this project's description and existing infrastructure. The Creag Dhubh substation can change the voltage from 275 kV to 132 kV. Therefore, the existing overhead line between Inveraray and Creag Dhubh can continue to function as a 132 kV connection; the only change required is that the overhead line must be connected to the new Creag Dhubh substation, which is included in this project.