

Document reference	Aug 2023
Revision	1
Function	Major Projects

Meeting	Beauly Community Liaison Group	
Date	29 th Aug 2023	
Time & Venue	7pm @ Lovat Hotel & Teams	

Beauly CLG Attendees and Apologies:

Attendees	Representation
Cllr David Fraser	Cllr and Chair of Beauly CLG
John Stewart	Kilmorack Community Council
Steve Byford	Kilmorack Community Council
Bill Fraser	Kiltarlity Community Council
Graeme MacKay	Kilmorack Community Council
Cameron Kemp	Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Council
Seona Fraser	Beauly Community Council
Paul Stirling	Strathglass Community Council
Duncan Fraser	Kilmorack Community Council
Lee Wilson	SSEN Transmission (Teams)
Kelly Scott	SSEN Transmission (Teams)
Greg Clarke	SSEN Transmission
Rob Slaughter	SSEN Transmission (Teams)
Sally Cooper	SSEN Transmission
Simon Johnstone	SSEN Transmission
Claire Goddard	SSEN Transmission (Teams)
Sophie Cheney	SSEN Transmission
Gillian Hurding	SSEN Transmission
Steven Miller	SSEN Transmisson (Teams)

Note of abbreviations.

CLG – Community Liaison Group SSEN T – SSEN Transmission OHL – overhead lines GI – Ground investigation SO – System Operator

Minutes

1.0 Introductions and agenda

Introductions and Agenda

- 1. Previous meeting notes, outstanding actions
- 2. Responses to Actions
- 3. Communications and expected process
- 4. Project Updates Wester Balblair
- i. Noise update
- II. Beauly 132kV Redevelopment update
- iii West of Beauly Asset Replacement projects
- 6. The Pathway to 2030 Project Updates:
- j. Getting to Net Zero
- ii. New Beauly area substation/converter station
- ii. Spittal Beauly 400kV and Beauly Blackhillock 400kV projects
- iv. Beauly Denny upgrade/Fasnakyle
- Issues arising Community
 - SSEN Transmission Concerns about Community behaviour
- 8. AOB

2.0

9. Date of next meeting



CLG member challenged June 2023 Meeting Notes and did not accept them. The member previously requested a paragraph was changed which SSEN T had noted differently and advised the Notes are not verbatim and are a summary. Chair suggested and SSEN T agreed to update June Meeting Notes as requested and to re-issue. Completed Action

SSEN T offered to record meetings going forward to have a reference back, this has been agreed going forward.

Previous Meeting Notes

Jumber	Action / Update	Owner	Upon/Clased
1.	Revised Terms of Reference sent to CLS	40	Dissel
2.	Noise monitors latest data, frequencies graph	II RS	Open .
3.	To request that The Council Environmental Health Team ensure community involvement in the 2023 noise review.	DF	Long term open
4.	Invite SSER to CLG meeting	LW	Closed
5.	Update on community benefit	RH	Open
6.	Information about extent of disruption of undergrounding 132kV from previous VISTA project	LW	Орсп
7.	SSE long-term bettery stonge plans, CLG requested to understand this with high level of GWs planned for connection.	SE/(W)	Open
8.	Pasnaltyle – land take required for new substation? Eire security?	SUMMAN	(iper)
9.	Response to CLG why HVDC is required at Loch Buildhe, which sites are approved along the line and what is planned.	5C	Clesed

Actions 1, 2, 6, 7,8 now Closed Additional Note – re Action 8, The Chair advised the Highland Council is setting up a working group to look at wildfires, to which he will part of and will update the Group.

3.0 Responses to Actions

Questi		Answer
battery the high	7. What are SSE's storage plans with h lavel of GWs d for connection?	Any specific information regarding SSE Renewables plans regarding generation would need to be put to them. Battery developers as with other technology developers who require a connection to our network apply to the ESO who then passes this onto the Transmission Owner (such as us for the north of Scotland) who under their licence obligations are required to provide a connection. The quantity of battery storage is determined by the market, with Generators reacting to incentives /stimuli provided by the Govt (OFGEM).
wildline close to carrying OHI atm more d increase	8, the Cannich e which went very the OHL that g out <u>fire fighting</u> by nuctures became langerous, because of ed conductivity from and steam	-If there is a sizeable fire, the smoke containing carbon might cause OHL tripping. Due to tower heights for 275/400kV there is less risk than with 132kV. Statutory clearances from ground to conductors are upwards of over 10m. Liaise closely with Scottish Fire service for issues arising that may compromise both personal safety and property, electrical connectivity and security of supply. The Fire Service have our control room contact numbers which initiates a response, liaise with commanders and take appropriate action to reduce the risk with the fire service – which could mean shutting down the network. -First point of mitigation - Maintain 40m clear of vegetation either side of Beauly-Denny OHL and install access.
	9. Why is HVDC d at Loch Buidhe?	It's not, only a substation is planned at Loch <u>Boidhe</u> . Converter stations are required at Spittal, Beauly and Peterhead to convert electricity from the subsea cables that transport electricity from the Western Isles, between Spittal and Peterhead and from Peterhead to the South. These key locations also allow offshore and onshore renewable generation to connect to the reinforced electricity network.

3.1 Action 9: CLG asked whether each new Loch Buidhe substation would not just be a substation but also have series of OHLs from onshore renewable generation. SSEN T explained that is correct in theory and depends on which Generators require a connection to the Grid and to be connected to Loch Buidhe Substation (SS) — these being either overhead line (OHL) or underground cable (UGC) connections. Due to the volume of power required to be transmitted additional infrastructure is required and a new substation to house it.

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SEEN T explained existing substation is 275/132kV and new one will be 400kV. A 400kV line will go from Spittal to Beauly. An additional busbar is needed at 400kV and needs to connect into existing 275kV connections so new transformers are going in to connect to the existing connections. Approx. size of new substation as of Feb 2023 consultation booklet – 463m x 311m.

Additional Questions and Requests Post Meeting

In our Spittal-Beauty project update in May 2023, we set out the established industry wide processes to Identify the need for investment in new or upgraded infrastructure to meet changes in electricity generation and demand: consultation-response-may-2022.pdf (seen-transmission.co.uk) Transmission Owners (TDs) develop system reinforcement options to address network constraints. The origins of the Spittal to Reauty, Reauty to Peterbead line and the and enable torecast changes in electricity generation and demand – these solutions include the Espelled and Keith substations are documented as required by National. broad routes and technology choices. Grid ESO and they or the UK Ministers directed the timescale but we would like to know who decided the route, the method and the power The ESO then assess these system reinforcement options through the Network Options Assessment. requirements and more important did this get audited by an (NGA) process and make recommendations as to which options should proceed independent engineering body to make sure it was the best option for the residents along the line. Or did the Scottish Government and localin July 2022, the ESO published the Holistic Network Design Pathway to 2030, which included the Councils simply accept that SSEN have pursued the best and most outputs from the NOA 2021/22 refresh, setting out the anshare and offshare network requirements profitable option to meet the UK Covernment's 50GW of offshore wind by 2000 target The independent SR energy regulator Olgem approved the Need for these projects as part of its Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment (ASTI) framework decision in December 2022. Transmission Owner proposals are not subject to audit by independent engineering bodies The Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit determine our Section 37 applications for new overhead line infrastructure, oltimately determining whether approval is granted for the final design Local Council's determine the outcome of our Town and Country Planning applications for substations, and are also a statutory consultee for Section 37 applications. Scottish & Southern

4.1 The CLG asked if SSEN T proposals are assessed or challenged? SSEN T explained that the Energy Supply Operator (ESO) and the regulator Ofgem independently assess and oversee the approval of projects. SSEN T

confirmed that its` Transmission engineering teams have a series of meetings with Ofgem who review and assess design decisions put forward. Both the technical and economical processes are checked by Ofgem.

- 4.2 SSEN T further explained that National Grid ESO (NGESO) will become a public body and going forward will be called the Future System Operator (FSO), this new body will be separate from National Grid PLC and will have additional responsibilities it is currently going through the legislative change. NGESO is not currently a public body.
- The CLG enquired about the battery storage applications coming through in the area saying it didn't make sense that SSEN T say they have no influence as to where battery storage (BS) is located. SSEN T explained it has nothing to do with the provision of BS which is part of the Pathway to 2030 process based on the Holistic Network Design (HND). SSEN T went onto say it is about enabling forecast changes in generation and demand, with provision of storage for surplus electricity a massive element in predicting what Transmission infrastructure is needed in places where it's saved to where its required. The CLG said they find this illogical and not sure what the answer is, but it didn't make sense.

SSEN T responded that as the Transmission Owner differentiating between energy sources does not take place, whether it is a connection for a windfarm, hydro power station, coal generator, nuclear station, battery provider. A battery operates as a customer taking power from the system and operates as Generator putting power back into the system. So, if battery provider wants to connect to the network, as with all other generators, SSEN T is obliged under its licence to provide a connection, this is a legal requirement. The System Owner has established system planning processes and looks at the System in its entirety, so the supply and demand including battery storage and pumped storage and review the amount of energy from different sources that is coming online. This is all considered in the network planning processes that identify the Need for the Grid reinforcements that the Transmission Owners must take forward to meet the future changes in generation and demand. This includes System Operator factoring locations of battery storage in their network planning processes, SSEN T don't define locations or where they connect to the network. As Transmission Owner it is obliged to provide a connection offer and if they accept connection offer SSEN connect them to a network notwithstanding the process to get consent for the infrastructure needed to enable the connection or approval from the Regulator for the expenditure.

With regards to location of these, closest to established infrastructure is not always best.

(For the Generator it depends on what part its closest to on the network, as there are different voltage lines, different substations (SS) and different transformer ratings so it might be close to a particular line into a particular SS but if an upgrade is required to facilitate the additional power from the Generator it might be a more expensive and complicated connection than if the Generator were to locate in a different direction and connect into a bigger substation. This is factored into different options.)

The CLG added if HND not required to provide location of storage, then it's not a good design and who can provide the answer.

SSEN T again reiterated that the SO (System Operator) already considers these factors in their network planning processes and these processes have informed this HND. Advising the CLG that the question is better directed towards the SO. The CLG said the area is inundated with BS applications; the Chair interjected that this question should be directed to SO to find out what allowance is made for battery storage and where.

The CLG said at the recent Kate Forbes MSP meeting, community said that Ofgem approving cheapest options needs to be addressed and thought that KF requested SSEN T to find way of opening of dialogue with Ofgem for them. The CLG stressed communities don't want the cheapest option they want the most acceptable option.

UPDATE - On checking back Meeting Summary from KF confirmed that KF office were taking forward this Action to write to Ofgem, ESO and UK/Scot Govt.

The CLG wanted to know what the situation would be if a BS generator wanted a connection which involved going over private land, SSEN T explained that would try to find a suitable/alternative route. There is the Compulsory Purchase Order option if unable to find alternative route, though SSEN T prefer not to use this power, preferring instead to come to an agreement. SSEN T reiterated it does not dictate the locations for connection offers.

The CLG said there is perception that SSEN T proposals are not just the cheapest but one that provides most profit for SSEN T and they require reassurances that communities will be provided with the best solution, irrespective of profit.

SSEN T again explained that independent SO carries out the assessment of Need and the independent Regulator provides the approval of Need and again referred the CLG to pick this up with these bodies if they still question this process. SSEN T have put forward the solutions required to meet the changes in electricity generation and demand based on what is planned for 2030 with potentially more after this to reach net zero.

SSEN T said they had already explained this process and shared Initial Response to Consultation in May. This is also on the Spittal – Beauly website, <u>Spittal – Loch Buidhe – Beauly 400kV Connection - SSEN Transmission</u> (ssen-transmission.co.uk)

Even though the CLG want SSEN T to explain these processes which they are trying to do, SSEN T advised having explained this already that there is a huge amount of info in public domain about these processes.

The Chair stressed the need to build the trust which the communities require on the proposals being developed and highlighted that the meetings are very good with the open-ness of scepticism people have so that it can be fully discussed at these times and there's also this opportunity with the working group with Kate Forbes.

The CLG said the Scottish need already met by renewables and they don't understand why anyone can put in an application for a battery farm and SSEN T is duty bound to connect whether required or not? SSEN T responded that in theory that is correct, obligated under licence to provide the connections, where the connections trigger the need to provide reinforcements SSEN T have to develop with the SO and possibly with other Transmisson owners the wider reinforcements, if Regulator does not approve the Need SSEN do not get the expenditure so the project is not built. In the case of the 2030 HND the regulator has approved the Need for these projects. The power might not all be needed in Scotland today, but if Scotland is going to reach Net Zero it needs to decarbonise heat, transport, so the generation that is getting built and is being transported will go to Scottish needs as well as England and Wales. It is an integrated GB transmission system, power will flow in both directions so when there is low wind output in Scotland, power will be imported from South and vice versa.

SSEN T explained they are one part of this energy jigsaw and do not determine the mix or the generation locations.

CLG said they wish to have a clear picture of how many windfarms, turbines etc are required to meet the targets, SSEN T informed them it's difficult to answer because technology is developing so wind turbines/engines are getting bigger, there's less of them and their output is larger, their location depends where the Generators decide to locate them. These are policy decisions needed at a political level, SSEN T have to provide the connections irrespective of generation location and if that involves building strategic reinforcements to transport that power that is what has to be done. SSEN T went on to explain that there is movement towards Spatial planning of the system so where in theory new generation is one place, an

example of spatial planning is Scotwind. SSEN T are now required to develop the network infrastructure to enable transportation of power from this area of generation to areas of demand.

SSEN T repeated the point that a lot of the CLG concerns re offshore wind farms etc are policy based and not for SSEN T to answer.

CLG asked policy related questions such as when the wind is not blowing and then relying on nuclear power, nuclear being very expensive it will be very costly to provide non fossil power when wind not blowing. SSEN T stated as Transmission Owner it's not its place to answer and said SO is asking what nuclear is expected to be built in the UK and where is it to be located, how will it affect supply/demand. The Climate Change Committee forecast electricity demand to increase 50% by 2035 and double by 2030.

The CLG said the perception is that SSEN is 1 company with 1 part of the company services the other part and the proposals are being unilaterally decided by SSE and driven by what they can see by maximising future profit opportunity for SSER to connect onshore wind farms. SSENT responded they do not set these industry rules nor make decisions on behalf of independent SO or independent Regulator. The process is underpinned by regulatory framework by UK Govt.

5.0 Additional Questions and Requests Post Meeting

8889 Topdating the CLS in advance restrategic business updates Re-removed of metamotic PH tripper representation to the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Consultana

- 1. Under such discussionance, who was no prior mention made to the CDS that \$589 had submitted to UK Government, some 6 moretle proc, their well trackungs this. street in the SQ transmode?
- Under such a municipance, why was no. Perchange in the cto that year had submitted to the Scottish Government Scottish RPL67
- nowwesty discussed who mind agricult Council?
- 4. fether than sharing with the CES beforehand, why has this been first known. about by medio-close is?

The remit of the COO's, proposed, project related information as set out in the Texas of Reference and to work out about west together, rather than update on strategic business decisions. Our CIG agends (and subsequent staffing in attendance) to very much focussed on apacific project related quistes

Bowever and in the Europea of managements, to further exclain the background to these relation, it is which proportion that the timely delicing of grid is one of the main barriers to the cultient of titl and Social Covernment energy targets with incustry and Covernment exploring ways to proelective delivery or end intrasmicinus.

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Then in April 2002, up part of its British Energy Security Ministry Unit Of Communication recorded its intention to appears on "Effectively Medicinals Commissioner to advise government on policiar and regulatory changes to accelerate progress on network influstructure. In his recent report as wideto make separtant dranges to the - published on 4 mages, 2023. Act Wise, it the UK Concurrent's Beautifully Symmetry Separate Commissions, addited a recommendation that

The automorphisms of the a postic hard inquery when the channing authority my are should be reserved from the Pheriological First 1999, the 5. Have one or both proposed changes been in alternative process about a terral security should be have abeed in should also stood the best should be the stood of the stood o

> Due net connects filled #Mores's recommender one can be found via the followings between two well-connected on an expressioners specu/2028/8/hips winco his papier to now arreful accomment to cut/

On the National Planning Francisco & 4 (MFF4), we have proposed changes to the wording around conject would not to account for instances. distribution of the design of the design of the second of reference was about its a key princips for RSFM Temporal scient, due to the extent of ancient wood and cover scross the north of scotland there will be circumstance, where this is anavorable,



SSEN T stated that the reason for removing the automatic trigger is to accelerate Grid to achieve Govt targets 5.1 and went on to explain that the formation of the CLG and the focus of it is on local projects and impacts such as the Beauly - Denny etc. SSEN T have never previously considered the CLG forum appropriate to share business strategy, not for reasons of secrecy but for reasons of not being appropriate for the CLG as the focus of the group is on local projects. SSEN T added that staff working at local project level are not involved in strategy discussions and are not party to those conversations.

In the above it has been explained why these policy changes have been proposed and the reason is its widely acknowledged that Grid and the lack of infrastructure is seen as the biggest barrier to reaching Net Zero targets, there is not enough infrastructure to double electricity by 2050 as told by the Climate Change Committee. SSEN T is asking how a quicker way can be found to get Grid on the system. This is also outlined by Nick Winser's independent recommendations.

The CLG asked to be informed of any policy changes. Community Councils (CC) said they consider applications, the framework is a process that exists where they have a system that lets them know it's going to go to PLI allowing it to be explored in a legal environment. With the removal of a trigger then control is removed from CCs and the local authority and continued to say it is not playing different ballpark but playing a different

game. SSEN T agreed it is for the UK Govt to make any changes, they might not make these changes, it sits with them to decide.

Action - Chair to feedback on the stance of The Highland Council. The Chair stated that the CLG need to be informed and kept updated about legal reforms to achieve Govt ambition.

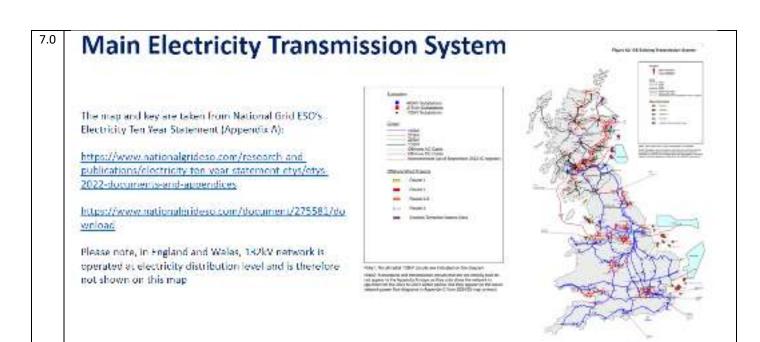
Additional Questions and Requests Post Meeting

6.0

1. Please provide a reasonably wood map of the Scottish Gara showing fu/h/682) in progress, adding all him are sound dure progressale bleck research translable and of all adulting trunk power distribution corridors (OHL, undergrounded, and subsect. we are currently considering the most effective and clear way to present the information. For now, whether each in AC or OC, 1.17 or 275 Kg, and its power-carrying aspectly in GW. 10. all additional track power development and as which from part of SEM, "Puttwey to please see tallowing slide for proposil existing Main Decadaby Transcription Systems. 2060" processis (ORL undergrounded, and subsec), whether each is AC or DC 161. Title | All transmission contracted wind farms, battery storage, purposit-rytho storage and other 775, or 400 Kg and its power-ranging saparity in GW. () conducts an accurate light print are unfalled pictured substitutes which form put of electricity, reneartion applications are field on the FSDs Transmission Droy Dapacity (TDC) Register. to per the above, we are missioning how we can be a present this of mission or be much SSEMS "Felhous to 2050" proposels ellective and clear was di la l'oblishmated, consented, la rel applied for sil reforms (print pre and offshore) and neir catedostper in 649 The orshop of clarements a magnetization, set out in the LMC were informating a sublished e) bettery or pumped storage power storage providence or recommenciations arising more. industry electricity network alanning processes. While the main order of the UND is to enable the Holistic Nationals Resignations is 506W (Inflying and by 2030) the custofiched network planning prices as no soleimpacts from all generation and demand technologies, including battery and pumped-hydro 2. Please provide a reasonably-dised map of the entire UK Area showing: strenge. However the IND did not make any specific recommendations reporting strenge, Storage of The principal existing transcript above distribution conducts (CH), conleague and and migrate when developers accommend on corpe-1s. There is may night in section plan for 2 magsubsequented and to AC or DC 152 or 275 kg and their power counting capacity in GM; currently utilized to transport power generated in the Scottlet Area southwests hit Any appreciatory principally ank power distribution carridges (AIII), restrigators for, 4) is set out in State 5, we admitted in the ESE options to odde a system are trains and anable the fature commentum of renovable class into gamerators across the north of Scotland. The and solvest, whether wo or DC 182, 275, or 400 kM and that power-parying capacity in GA; required to transport the significant amounts of power to be perented in the LSC) then screened these options and made a series of recommendations on which options should Scottish Soverthitle arrow where it will be accorded. process. Ofgenetics appropriate need the these projects, following a period of consultation. 3. The mechanism by which SSEN has validated its proposals for the "Pathway to Now the system need has been established we remain committed to ongoing and extensive or saltitrion to help inform the detailor retwork less go. This includes local pathor ticommunities and statistic visible folders. As surfaction project development since sie well set our in the commendate is formulate charities are received and independent of the commendate in t of Details of concellations cannot out with bool authorities, communities, sustaining moralities, MECA and other opb), consultation responses received from those who were consulted the his been considered. at Asymptoseparate agreement report prepared by OFDEM d). The OREEM secking, and maximum this was appined. We are one in a position to anomers on the consultation or antision stability processes, including from the free least communicated, of others (see the 650, Ofgeni).

- SSEN T explained that it is not a straightforward request for maps showing the energy flows etc which needs to be worked through. ESO forecast supply and demand which necessitates the new infrastructure being taken forward. CLG said they asked for map last April showing the energy flows currently and required in 2030, CLG don't feel it's their job to find the information and they want to see proof its required. SSEN T provided a holding response and are trying to present this info for them in a useful way- it includes consideration of different technologies.
 - ACTION SSEN T to inform when this map will be available. Update Maps will be available end of Oct System planning team can provide the map comparing electricity transmission now and what is planned by 2030, showing the trunk network what is required around the UK/Scotland including ACDC. To show what's connecting where and the volume of power and what is planned to connect at and the current capability limits of the existing network that's preventing the existing network accommodating that power.

SSEN T advised the CLG to read the ESO 10-year statement. This clearly shows the network requirements and arrows showing general direction of power south. SSEN T will show map showing 2030 network plan for Scotland in the type of format to the one available in this slide pack. CLG agreed that's what they would like this and the UK map sitting on top, so the CC can explain to those in the Communities who question the Need by seeing how and why its required.



7.1 Map above shows current electricity network across GB, It is to be noted that in England /Wales 132kV infrastructure operated by DO's not TO's, which is why no black lines on England/Wales map. As map shows, lots more 400kV inf in England/Wales to reflect the bigger demand and historical heavy generation assets on the system -e.g., coal, gas, nuclear etc. Holding response for now. SO and the independent Regulator would not have recommended or approved these if not needed.

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Post Meeting Note – please note that overall design is not just about the power flows, but also about the network interconnectivity. One of the key drivers for a transmission network is reliability ('keeping the lights on'), so SSEN T have to design for at least any one part of the system being out of service at any given time (either due to planned maintenance or unplanned failure of some sort) and still deliver power. In practice, multiple projects / maintenance activities mean we usually have multiple parts of the network out at any given time, but in a carefully controlled and coordinated manner, with contingencies in case there was then an additional unplanned fault elsewhere. (From a project perspective, SSEN T are closely scrutinised on this and it is common for some design options to be rejected due to potential outage requirements being too onerous.) without this additional factor, the power flows in isolation may appear as overdesigning the network.

8.0 Additional information which may prove helpful The most applicable to the colors applicing the region (p_{ij} in whom with distinct projects looking to compact to the network, their describe, who the developer is end where about on the nativork they are looking to connect. PSD Data Portal: Transaction Entry Capacity (1801 Regular - Delacat) Satismed this Is. Transmission Entry Expandly (196). National Grid Dischricks System Operator Instignatorides oxumi trick Winser, Lit Best-lisity Networks Commissioners Saining indight on what changes are thely to occur <u>consgention</u>. Transmission betweek Accelerating electricity transmission network deployment: Electricity terating electricity transmission metaunts dealowment report. Newcop for the rest is compared they control above regarding a trebesting tree dating approved for the MSTI projects from protects under ASTI are what we refer to as the Olganic Theirian measurementing and our electricity. Consoliation on accelerating or shore electricity transmission investment transmission involved in volume. Pathway to 2000 prolects's Disam Decision on accelerating prohots electricity transmission Insettrent | Otrem Cational Inicial College Returns Citylian Assessment 21, 77 knewing multiple maps resting to all projects including the other issurprison district. https://www.nationalgneisso.com/document/akases/fownload ational Grid ESC's The Pollmary to 2000 Malistin. Accessing the high specifies seminary specific positing plans to facilitate the connection of 25 GW who, helping to deliver the Concernment's emittion for 50 GW. The Pathway to 2000 Holistic Network Design | 1500 Newsork Dealer Offi Dilpage Instignatoridesc.com/ connected offshare wind by 2000 National Grid CSO's Rusure Energy Scenarios 2020 finding out more about the four different pathways for the future of the whole energy https://www.retonalgindes.com/document/2003101/download UK Gavic British Energy Security Strangy (8035) April 23 Understanding the Uk Soverments connegy for how Great Britain will accelerate British energy security strategy: 90 V HK (www.gov.dk) incrembation operators son waterway, wanging the standard in commissions. The subsequences is passed on the outcomes of the report.

Scottish & Southern

Mick Winder had spoken, it's now time for eovernment to actilisees.

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Recess - SSEN T were asked to leave the room while the CLG conferred.

Stop on the High Winson Report

9.1

Part 2 The Chair stated that the CLG meetings are not working, trust needs to be built. Going forward meetings need to be effective, and the Group needs the opportunity to influence, Chair asked to think for solutions how meetings can be more effective.

SSEN T explained that its communications are required to be coordinated and we have an obligation to all our stakeholders not just the CLG, so if advance information is shared ahead of going into the public domain SSEN T also require trust from the Group to respect a degree of confidentiality so as not to confuse our messaging or put SSEN T on the back foot, the CLG need to understand these challenges. SSEN T said that finding the solution for the format of meetings should be shared with the CLG, as SSEN Tand they need to know what the CLG is looking for to make the format of meetings work.

Action – CLG to feed back on how they see these meetings being more effective.

Community benefit – The CLG suggested any community benefit should be money spent on projects producing fair results and commented that putting it up front is just a bribe that will divide communities. SSEN T responded that the aim is to provide both community benefit and a fair project design for communities, stressing that SSEN Twish to work with communities during the development of these projects to achieve this

10

Communications and expected process

. Community Item on the Agenda

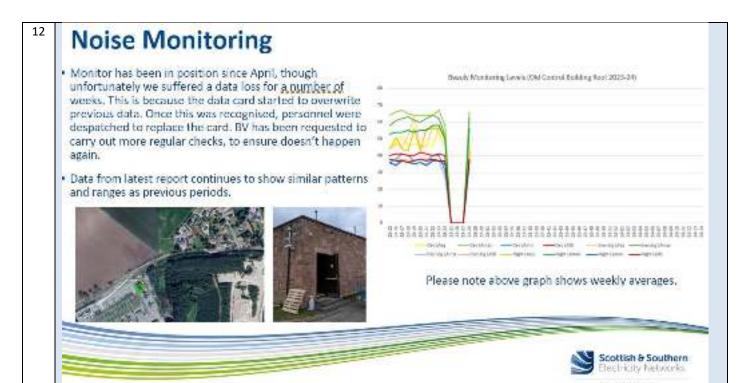


11

Project Updates: Wester Balblair

- Noise Monitoring at the substation
- Beauly 132kV Redevelopment latest
- West of Beauly Asset Replacement/Glen Strathfarrar





Noise Monitoring

12.1

- Whilst the representation on the previous graph was averages, we can interrogate the data for more details.
- BV have confirmed we can extract frequency data and as we would expect for a substation, there is a clear signature at 100Hz around 45-50dB(A). There are then two others at 200Hz and 315Hz around 30dB(A). We know from previous work that SVC can show characteristics around 315Hz, 400Hz and 500Hz.
- These values are constant throughout the measurements and generally become tonal at night as external noise sources
 reduce; they are however masked from dawn and through the day by other noise sources, due to higher local activity
 (mainly traffic noise).
- This pattern is clear from day one of data collection and is expected to have more influence on the receptors depending on weather conditions <u>e.g.</u>, south winds carrying the signal towards the community. BV state that "there is no obvious change in the noise data since we started measuring".
- During last CLG, the period 9th 11th June was specifically mentioned as the substation noise being noticeable, BV have scrutinised these dates and could not discern any unusual behaviour from the substation. We note it was the weekend (less general activity in the area including reduced road traffic) and southern winds could have helped carry noise towards. Wester <u>Balblair</u>.



The CLG said previous weekend, noise heard at 2am and 3am was loud and tends to fluctuate, it was quiet the weekend prior. Noise still there and not as loud.

SSEN T reiterated as explained at previous CLG meetings the point will not be reached whereby there will be no noise at any time. The CLG confirmed it is occasional and roughly the same level, saying it depends on wind direction, if west wind noise is worse and if low cloud. It is heard under certain meteorological conditions. SSEN T understand from what is said that there is less fluctuation of noise as previously heard, when there is less `human` noise, for example when there is less traffic it is more audible.



13.

Beauly 132kV Redevelopment Project Community Engagement

Muirtown Primary School

On 12th Tane, the SSANT Bourly site team together with our Community Signer a BAM after ded Maintenay Primary School to deliver a class to Primary 1. 3 pupils. We discussed the durings of electricity in the home and actoide. The pupils had the opportunity to participate in a "spot the hoursts" game, the children wave ready engaged.

Our site 8AM Scologist also came along to provide the publishe opportunity to "opporting a nimers" that have been encountered during construction and to learn about their hubitots. These primers included; buts, budgers, red kites, water votes, field more and hards. The published a good <u>and estanding</u> and the meated great discussion, involvement and the assession fundent with a downing competition.

Overall, we had a great day, and it containly was a change from our day job. The teachers and pupils were very grateful for our input and engagement, all pupils required a SSEN Tigoday bug.



13.3

Beauly 132kV Redevelopment Project Community Engagement



13.4

Beauly 132kV Redevelopment Project Community Engagement

Beauly Primary School

- School engagement began in May with a meeting with the Head leacher to find out how we could provide support.
- On the back of this and together with our Contractor (BAM) we have built a play area and sand pit enclosure for the Nursery children.

Work placement

 SSEN T have provided a Summer placement for an engineering student. They were tasked with measuring up and producing a drawing for the enclosure. This was constructed during the summer holidays to minimise disruption to the school and was handed over to the Head Teacher on 14th August just before the school return from summer holiday.

We are currently organising further engagement with Beauly Primary School and hope that this can be implemented in October 23.





14

West of Beauly – Asset Replacement Projects (including VISTA Glen Strathfarrar)

Asset Replacement:

- + Ongoing environmental surveys at all sites
- · Ongoing noise monitoring for closest residential properties
- Algas an alternative site under consideration for Algas, site selection to be concluded
- Kilmprack site located in scrubland
- West of Beauty Asset Replacement Projects 3rd consultation event to take place end of 2023/early 2024.
- Glen Strathfarrar VISTA Public consultation event due to take place late 2023

VISTA:

- 4km of new 132kV underground cable replacing existing overhead line within Glen Strathlarrar National Scenic Area (NSA)
- Primary objective of VISTA is to use the Ofgem funding to deliver the maximum benefit for nationally designated landscapes in the north of Scotland transmission network.
- See Killin VISTA as example:

VISTA - Killin - SSEN Transmission (ssen-transmission.co.uk)



14.1

SSEN T informed the CLG that dates for these next consultation events have the potential to change due to design delays from Distribution colleagues. There has been programme slippage with designs and layouts more difficult than hoped. It is reacting to feedback at Kilmorack by moving the proposed site away from road and trying to avoid ancient woodland to underneath OHL so diversion work may be required.

15

Pathway to 2030 Project updates

- -Achieving Net Zero and Energy Security: Further context on the need
- -Site and Route selection update
- -New Beauly area Substation/Converter Station
- -Spittal Loch Buidhe Beauly 400kV OHL and Beauly Blackhillock 400kV OHL
- -Beauly-Denny circuit upgrade



TRANSMISSION

15.1

Why are these projects needed?

To deliver UK and Scottish Government net zero and energy security targets

- ScotWind leasing round (Jan 22) delivered seabed leases for up to 28GW, vastly exceeding expectations (10GW)
- British Energy Security Strategy (April 22) 50GW 2030 offshore wind targets (UK target), including current 11GW Scottish Government target – to accelerate net zero to deliver homegrown, low carbon, affordable energy independence
- National Grid Electricity System Operator led Holistic Network Design (HND) (July 22) will enable circa 11GW of ScotWind by 2030, key to deliver 50GW by 2030
- Ofgem approval of need for HND projects (Dec 22) as part of its Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment (ASTI) framework decision













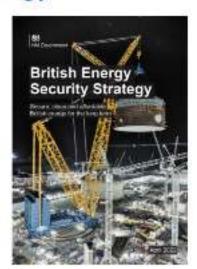
15.2

The British Energy Security Strategy

This plan comes in light of rising global energy prices, provoked by surging demand after the pandemic as well as Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This will be central to weaning Britain off expensive fassil fuels, which are subject to valatile gas prices set by international markets we are unable to control, and boosting our diverse sources of homogrown energy for greater energy security in the long-term.

Accelerating our domestic supply of clean and affordable electricity also requires accelerating the connecting network infrastructure to support it.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-energy-security-strategy





15.3

The Pathway To 2030 Holistic Network Design

The Pathway to 2030 Hollistic Network Design (HND) is a major step for Great Britain in delivering cheap, clean energy from offshore wind.

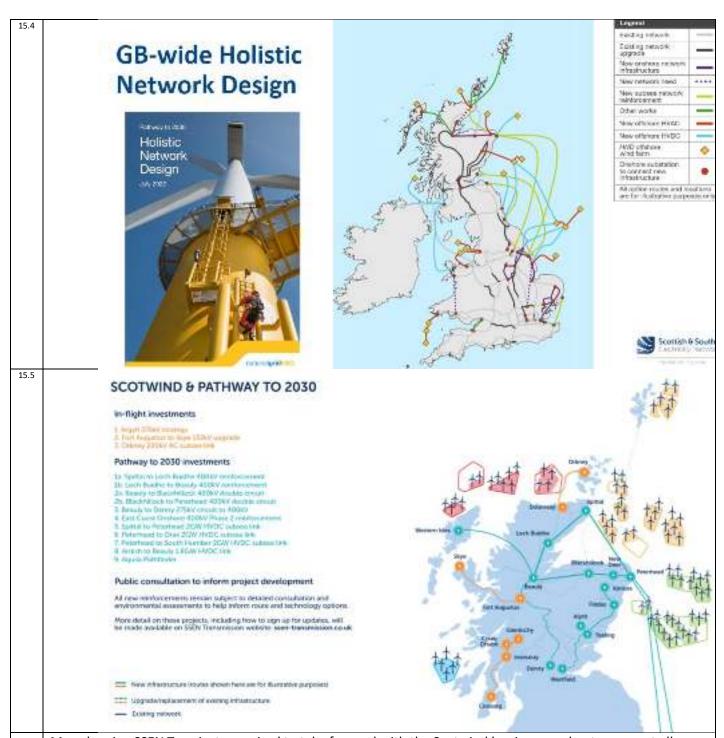
It sets out a single, integrated design that supports the large-scale delivery of electricity generated from offshore wind, taking power to where it's needed across Great Britain

The HND provides a recommended offshore and anshare design for a 2030 electricity network, that facilitates the Government's ambition for 50GW of offshore wind by 2030.

https://www.nationskalideec.com/firmre-energybathway-2030-holisdic-networkdesign







Map showing SSEN T projects required to take forward with the Scotwind leasing round outcome, not all these sites will be taken forward as part of the HND process, SSEN T will try to visualise on the map requested by the CLG the Scotwind sites taking forward to 2030 and where they are connecting to on the onshore system that driving these reinforcements.

Note -This is partly why a map showing power flows possibly still would not demonstrate the need as clearly as CLG might expect as it might be assumed everything is in service, so potentially it might look like overdesigning.

SSEN T want to share the information in a helpful and simple way so all can understand. ACTION by SSEN T

Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment The British Energy Security Strategy set out the Government's ambition to <u>pagged up</u> to 50GW of affahore generation to the electricity network by 2030. Facilitating this ambition will require significant reinforcements to the anshare electricity transmission network and a change to the current regulatory framework in order to accelerate delivery of large projects. In August 2022 we consulted on how Ofgern could support the accelerated delivery of the strategic electricity transmission network upgrades needed to meet the Government's 2000 renewable electricity generation ambitions. This document contains our decision to introduce a new Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment (ASTI) framework. We set out the initial list of ASTI projects, our decision on exempting strategic projects from competition, the new process for aurening and funding ASTI projects and the range of measures we are introducing to protect consumers against additional risks that changing the process brings. https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/decision-accelerating-onshore-electricitytransmission-investment Scottish & Southern Map above shows Ofgem approved sites to reach 2030 targets. 16 Site and route selection update Ground Investigation and Survey Work: Whilst initial surveys will prioritise routes and substation locations which scored best based on our initial assessment of the environmental, communities, technical and economic factors, additional routes or substation sites may also be investigated as we continue to consider feedback received through our consultation and ongoing community engagement Site selection process is still ongoing: Formal consultation is being undertaken with THC over the next month and the written feedback will be factored into our final decision making. This will consider our original options plus additional options suggested by both THC and community sources. Scottish & Southe 17

New Beauly Substation and Converter station

Activities completed since last CLG:

- Breeding bird & ecology surveys
- Ground Investigations Contractor appointed (BAM), site set up and GI commenced
- Design consultant appointed
- . Fundinge to consider feedback
- Assessments of alternative options near quarry complete, including option to extend existing Wester Balalay and the split site option.

Next Steps:

- Consultation with THC on site selection.
- Ground investigations conclude and Sept/carl Oct
- Site Selection conclusion
- Report on Consultation issued
- Engagement with stakeholders regarding site selection conclusion and Report on Consultati
 - Continuation of ecology/ bird surveys:
- Daseline noise monitoring starts

SAFETY REMINDER: Ground Investigation Works at Fanelian

- Operational CDM site
- Members of the public must adhere to signage
- Additional security measures employed due to incident to protect the public and our operatives



- -The CLG replayed drilling works recorded as part of the GI works at Fanellan to which SSEN T said they were fully aware of the noise intrusion; apologised and said they should have anticipated the noise levels and will be visiting properties concerned.
- -SSEN T informed the CLG that they are meeting with GI contractors and will highlight the sensitivities of the area around the cottages, be expected to act. Community asks re supply a contact number.

Action to provide contact number for contractor. This has been Actioned and shared with the nearest residents

SSEN T explained that detailed GI is only carried out on 1 site initially to verify what the geological maps tell us. A vast amount is already known about the quarry. SSEN T informed the Group that feedback shows there is not a uniform community view on site selection and there is conflicting feedback.

Kiltarlity Community Council voting - The CLG said the Kiltarlity CC held a vote on the following

- 1. A. whether the Fanellan site is acceptable or 1b. who does not consider it acceptable? Not a single person out of 50 supported it.
- 2a. Whether the site at the substation (quarry) at low lying area was more acceptable? The result of this was not unanimous but.

SSEN T explained that detailed ground investigation (GI) works are initially being carried out on 1 site initially to verifying what geological maps inform. SSEN T informed the Group that feedback shows there is not a uniform community view on site selection and there is conflicting feedback. The CLG asked whether communities had been factored into site selection.

SSEN T responded that community consideration is certainly part of the site selection process, adding that considering feedback received to date and including the technical, environment and engineering factors at present, Fanellan still performs as the best site option based on our initial assessments and the GI works will help to further inform. If the GI inform us otherwise, then GI works will be required at different site locations to determine a better site. These GI investigations are ongoing; therefore, the final site selection is still to be concluded.

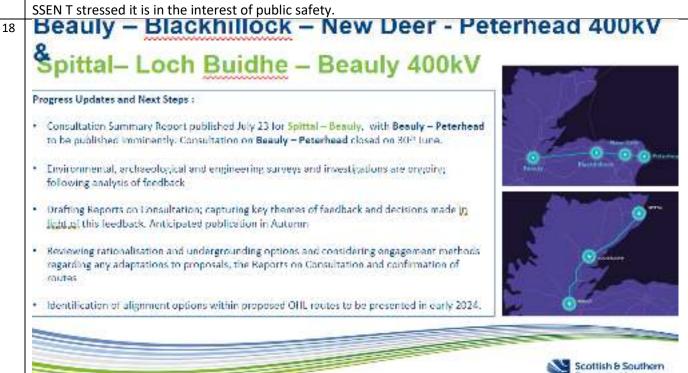
CLG said they do not feel this is proper consultation. SSEN T clarified that from considering feedback from the Stat Consultees and the public the quarry area is being investigated, various options at the quarry have been looked at, the option to extend the quarry, the split site which came out of the Kate Forbes meeting and the site west of Broallan. This information and outcomes will be detailed in SSEN T Site selection report once its concluded.

This will be completed around Sept/Oct and SSEN T. SSEN T stressed that they are fully aware of the impacts that these projects have on communities and are trying to mitigate impacts, by taking on board feedback SSEN T explained they will not always be able to respond favourably to feedback and will need to justify to communities why decisions are made with reasoning set out and stressed that they are keen to work with all stakeholders in the design development

ACTION SSEN T will explain what has been concluded, which site and why it is being taken forward and why others are less favourable.

SSEN T offered to present findings to Kiltarlity CC and were not taken up on this, adding that they can reflect on this.

SSEN T updated the CLG of vandalism carried out on plant used for the GI works at Fanellan, explaining that it is a CDM area, so it is in the interest of public safety for them not to access the investigation area. CLG said locals use the path up in the area and access should be maintained for those who wish to use it. SSEN T stressed it is in the interest of public safety.



Beauly- Denny 2nd Circuit Upgrade

Scope of Fasnakyle project

Upgrade to the second arout on the existing Berral. Denny exertional line (OHL) from 275kV to 400kV. The Berral. Denny OHL was reportured for 600kV operation on each or terrain also also have put into psyche with one operating. at the lower schage of 2750%. This means no altered ons to the OHI are required to appraise it to 4000%.

This upgrade also drives the requirement for a new, additional substation near <u>Faysalyde</u> (south-west of Invernals] and sign of finant inorth-east of Duchland) to accommodate the 400M equipment including modifications to other substations along the roots, including Fort Augustus, Egophia, Egophia (Egophia) Terrind,

Project Update

- New 100KV substation at Easnaside is currently based on an Air Insoluted Switchgood (AIS) scottion. A typical postform size for an AIS. substation would be approximately 380
- 50-e velocition process amoring (no next distribute.

Next Steps

- Public Consultation Tues 511 Sept
- Virtual Consultation Thurs 213 Sept
- Lumber engagement with stakeholders
- Confirmation of potential substation
- Further surveys and investigations (e.g., GI, habitat, biodiversity etc.)





19.1

Beauly- Denny 2nd Circuit Upgrade

Fasnakyle: 5Ite 5election

uneen afterent options were kientilied over timee afterent sets of site selection, all whole a 2.5km second window attrayside of the Beauty-Denny peerhand line and running north along the line to <u>Contrary</u> and south down to . Burdenson This identification was performed using publicly available rate and multi-uniters analysis (MCA) to provide high level constraints information.

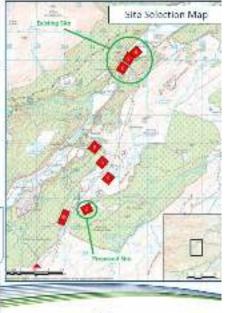
Of the fourteen options, Options 7, 5 and 13 were able to be discounted early in the process due to feadblifty boses. in turns of space constraints or environmental reputational or local talksholder in pact which coolds carrie to light when south rived, barly ted. Amber, Creen (IAAC) matrix scoring was order taken for options 1 through 6, a second set of scoring for options 8 to 12 and a trial for option 44. Those options were taken known the Stage 2. These were options 4, 9 and 10, all within two <u>Magazeres</u>; of each other south and west or Tomich village.

Tollowing further analysis of actions 4, 1 and 10, the potential site option the project believe best balances the anation mental and technical factors under one denotion for the fleeteday ones 400 for second on to Option 2. The key necknown state angle resing and examendar in assess too this are set and believe.

Acceptance of all three options has Net I had Option 5 w the animon mentally maint conferent. While all Contract see in producity to Packet And Kurtur Wandland, Option 9.16. disasted the hydroest distance and lattie only Option that does not require one felling. It will have the least impedian the residence and concentration on soot forming things, stantar the farthest sweet feeth of the Epinope, the salou potential for the prospects of any up confidence or broading to local activity. twittings fruit area and it into shed the forther from any measurements the like polyage.

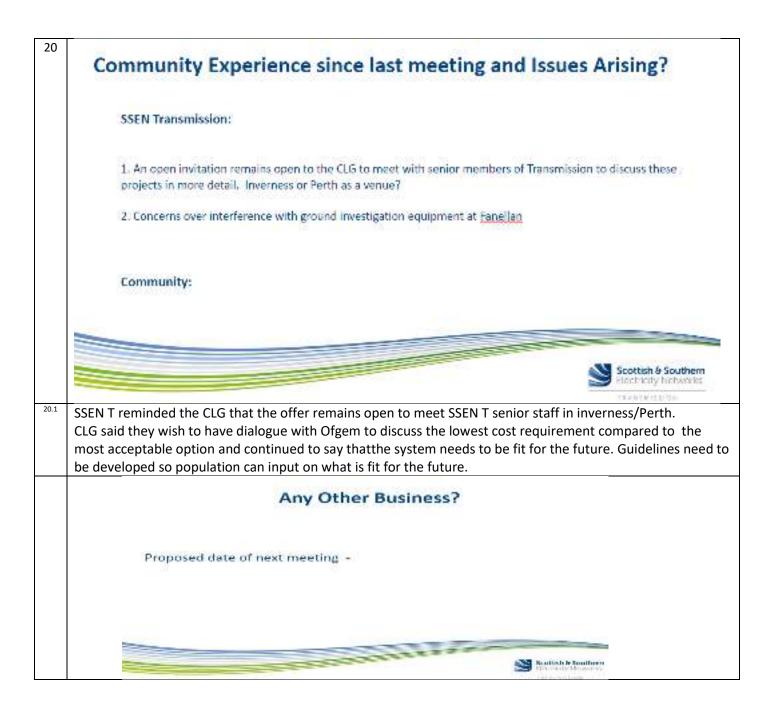
Option 4. For Discontact with comparison success blooms locanises and wideling execution connectivity into the network off the fibrer, curton assess the size here positioned machine that compound to

copita costs such across a territori, divinicasi, fillingi, public med intersections, err. and operations med including in particles and real treatment were compared for each of the options. For Options 1, 9 and 25 there was very little at herence



Scottish & Southern

Fasnakyle: CLG provided feedback on visualisations and position these are taking from to ensure consistency. SSEN T explained that 3DW will be at the consultation event to show images from different points, and at this early stage the substation can be shown at different levels in terms of landscaping it's too early in the process to show this in much detail and as the project design develops so will the visualisations. SSEN T will ask 3DW to update model to show a GIS example as well as AIS. Non-SF6 will be used if GIS is taken forward. The Chair said the event hours should have run for a longer duration and SSEN T agreed that the next events will run until 8pm.



Outstanding Actions and Updates

Number	Action/Update	Owner	Open/Closed
1.	Noise monitoring/graphs	RS	Open
2.	THC Working Group - Fire management	Cllr Fraser	Open
3.	Feedback on THC stance re removing PI trigger	Cllr Fraser	Open
4.	SSEN T to inform when requested maps will be available.	GC	Update provided. Maps to be available end of Oct
5.	How CLG envision the meetings to be more effective	CLG	Open
6.	How SSEN T envision more meaningful meetings for the CLG	SSEN T/SC	In process
7.	Request that THC Environmental Health team ensure Community involvement in the 2023 noise review.	Cllr Fraser	Open