	Document reference	April 2023
	Revision	2
	Function	Major Projects

Meeting	Beauly Community Liaison Group
Date	11 th April 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
Duncan Fraser	Kilmorack Community Council
Graeme MacKay	Kilmorack Community Council
Cameron Kemp	Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Council
Karen Young	Kirkhill and Bunchrew Community Council
Paul Stirling	Strathglass Community Council
Humphrey Clarke	Strathglass Community Council
Lee Wilson	SSEN Transmission
Kelly Scott	SSEN Transmission
Matthew McKessick	SSEN Transmission
Barry Mackenzie	SSEN Transmission
Rob Slaughter	SSEN Transmission (Teams)
Sally Cooper	SSEN Transmission
Alice Byrne	SSEN Transmission
Tara Cowley	SSEN Transmission (Teams)
Apologies	Position
Duncan McCall	SSEN Transmission
Simon Hall	SSEN Transmission

Note of abbreviations;

CLG – Community Liaison Group



Community – refers to the Community Councillors

SSEN T – SSEN Transmission

1.0	Introductions and agenda
1.1	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 20px;"> <h2 style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Introductions and Agenda</h2> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Previous meeting notes, outstanding actions 2. The role of the CLG 3. Project Updates <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Noise monitoring ii. Beauly 132kV Redevelopment iii. CPNI fencing project iv. West of Beauly – Asset Replacement project 4. The Pathway to 2030: Update on Consultation 5. Community experience since last meeting 6. Issues arising - SSEN Transmission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community 8. AOB and next meeting date </div>

Following introductions, new representatives from Kirkhill & Bunchrew CC and Strathglass CC were welcomed. With the development of the Pathway to 2030 projects it has been agreed that the current Beauly CLG should be extended to also include these Community Councils.

2.0	<h2 style="margin: 0;">WHO WE ARE: SSEN TRANSMISSION</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are responsible for maintaining and investing in the electricity transmission network in the north of Scotland. Our network extends over a quarter of the UK's land mass, crossing some of its most challenging terrain. • Our first priority is to provide a safe and reliable supply of electricity to our communities. We do this by taking the electricity from generators and transporting it at high voltages over long distances through our transmission network for onwards distribution to homes and businesses in villages, towns and cities. • Our operating area is home to vast renewable energy resources, and this is being harnessed by wind, hydro and marine generation. Working closely with National Grid ESO, we enable electricity generators to connect to the transmission system, allowing the electricity generated by them to be transported to areas of demand across the country. • As a natural monopoly, we are closely regulated by the GB energy regulator, Ofgem, who determines how much revenue we are allowed to earn for constructing, maintaining and renovating our transmission network in the north of Scotland. These costs are shared between all those using the transmission system, including generation developers and electricity consumers.
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3.0	<h2 style="text-align: center;">The role of the CLG</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLG initially set up for Beaully Denry project and was continued regarding noise issues at Balblair substation and subsequently with the development of additional projects in the area. • Still serves a purpose for Kilmorack CC, Kiltarlity CC and Beaully CC and for the local residents in proximity to substation; noise, redevelopment project etc • Suite of Pathway to 2030 projects on a new scale and effect communities across the wider area • Therefore how can we engage on the Pathway to 2030 with the CLG whilst still serving it's original function, or do we need to revisit the role of the CLG and widen the attendance • Invites to join CLG and notification of meeting on 11th April sent to Strathglass CC and Kirkhill & Bunchrew CC <div style="background-color: #003366; color: white; padding: 10px; border-radius: 10px; width: fit-content; margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <p>Workshop session on the role of the CLG in regards to Pathway to 2030 project and any changes required in regards to terms of reference.</p> <p>- 30 mins</p> </div> 
3.1	<h3>The Role of the CLG</h3> <p>The Chair ensured that both the members of the Community and SSEN T understood and were comfortable in his role on the Planning Committee. All were accepting of this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The Chair asked that the Community Councillors feedback information from their communities. -Transparency and mutual trust; SSEN T agreed to work transparently with the CLG by sharing relevant information with the CLG which at times might not be ready to share publicly and asked that at such times this confidentiality is respected. The aim of these meetings is to be of value with mutual transparency and trust. -SSEN T will distribute the updated draft version of the Terms of Reference to all those at the meeting for comment and agreement. -It was understood the Chair and Community would meet separately to consider the new role of the CLG and the Terms of Reference ahead of future meetings.
4.0	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Noise Monitoring</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfortunately, it has proved difficult to coincide availability of the consultant to position the monitor and the contractor to provide access / power supplies. • Optimistic we now have this aligned and monitor to be in place shortly. • The monitor will remain in place for a minimum of 12 months as agreed. • Provided feedback on two specific time periods of 'noticeable noise' highlighted by community in Jan / Feb as post meeting notes for February meeting. Happy to review any future such occurrences. 
4.1	<p>The Community said the noise still fluctuates, 1-2am and 5am and the noise has reduced since the installation of the jackets. SSEN T informed that the noise monitor is scheduled for installation that same week. The monitor will be calibrated weekly, it takes 5-10 minutes and it's calibrating the SVC (Static Var Compensator which regulates reactive power to control how the network operates). It is computerised and done remotely from the Control Room. SSEN T responded to the Community`s question on whether calibration can be more frequent, to which SSEN T explained that it would be unlikely to go out of calibration in a week; this is more likely to happen over say a month. It is the variability of the SVC response that has been slowed down by the recent works; it won't tend to react to general fluctuations in network power flows, but will still respond quickly to network issues if / when required.</p>

The Community asked whether the new substation would have an SVC. SSEN T responded that it would not have an SVC, however some combination of transformers or reactors (which look like special transformers) seems most likely at present. SSEN T now ensures that noise modelling is carried out during design stage to determine the need for any noise mitigation, which will then be fitted as part of the initial installation; an example being the noise enclosures that will be fitted to the new transformers associated with the Beauly 132kV GIS project. Noise mitigation is an inherent part of the design process, rather than something thought about retrospectively.

Post Meeting Note: The noise monitor is now installed and SSEN T plan to have info to share at the next meeting, following the first download of information.

5.

Beauly 132kV Redevelopment Project

Progress

- Access track along the south and west of the 400kV compound is progressing well, this will allow access to the main site compound area.
- Cut and fill earthworks for the platform extension has now been completed.
- Construction of retaining wall has been completed.
- Works have now commenced on the 132kV GIS Building, concrete pour for the building foundations are ongoing.




Look Ahead – Construction of the 132kV GIS building will continue.

5.1 The GIS building is being constructed at a lower level to help obscure it from the road. The Community didn't agree to the request for extended weekend working hours within the GIS building having asked some local residents.

6.0 CPNI Fencing Project

6.1

CPNI Fencing Project

- All construction complete
- Commissioning complete by end of April
- Site to be mobilised by end of May
- Thanks for your patience during construction works.

7	<h2 style="text-align: center;">West of Beaully – Asset Replacement Projects (including VISTA Glen Strathfarrar)</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground Investigation works completed end March 23. Ongoing borehole monitoring taking place until June 23. • Ongoing environmental surveys commenced at all sites • Baseline noise monitoring to commence in April 23. • An alternative site under consideration for Aigas – finalised solution to be shared in due course. • Glen Strathfarrar VISTA – Public consultation event due to take place in Summer 2023 • West of Beaully – Asset Replacement Projects - 3rd consultation event to take place in August 2023.
7.1	<p>SSEN T informed the Community that the old quarry (up the hill near to Aigas) is being assessed as an alternative site and are trying to get collaboration with SSER to help overcome the challenges that come with this location.</p> <p>Glen Strathfarrar VISTA (Visual Impact of Scottish Transmission Assets) – SSEN T are proposing and applying to Ofgem for funding to underground 3.5km of cable and to remove 13 towers. Similar projects have been carried out at Boat of Garten, Killen. Letters of support from statutory consultees and community stakeholders are required as part of the proposals. Ofgem have very set criteria for these types of projects.</p>
7.2	<h2 style="margin: 0;">The Pathway to 2030</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why it's needed - Themes of consultation and lessons learned - Next steps and upcoming engagement - <u>Mythbusting</u>

7.3

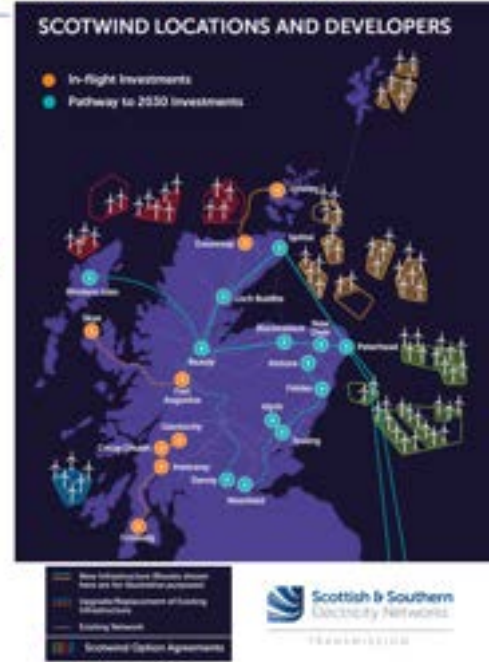
CONNECTING SCOTWIND TO DELIVER 50GW BY 2030

Why are these projects needed?

- **ScotWind leasing round (Jan 22)**- initially delivered seabed leases for up to 25GW, vastly exceeding expectations (10GW was expected) – through clearance process, this now stands at circa 28GW
- **British Energy Security strategy (April 22)** - 2030 offshore wind Government targets: 50GW offshore wind (UK target), including current 11GW Scottish Government target
- **National Grid Electricity System Operator led Holistic Network Design (HND) (July 22)** will enable 10.7GW of ScotWind by 2030, key to enable 50GW by 2030
- This is expected to **take total Scottish offshore wind to circa 17GW**
- **Ofgem approved the need for HND projects (Dec 22)** as part of its Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment (ASTI) framework decision
- Work now underway to design the onshore and offshore network infrastructure required to deliver ScotWind's full ambition, **Holistic Network Design Follow Up Exercise, (anticipated Q2 2023)**

SSEN Transmission is set to deliver 10% of the total emissions abatement required for Net Zero

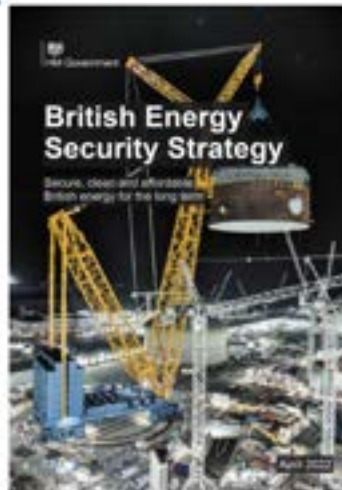
At present, we currently have around 9GW of renewable energy connected to our network



7.4

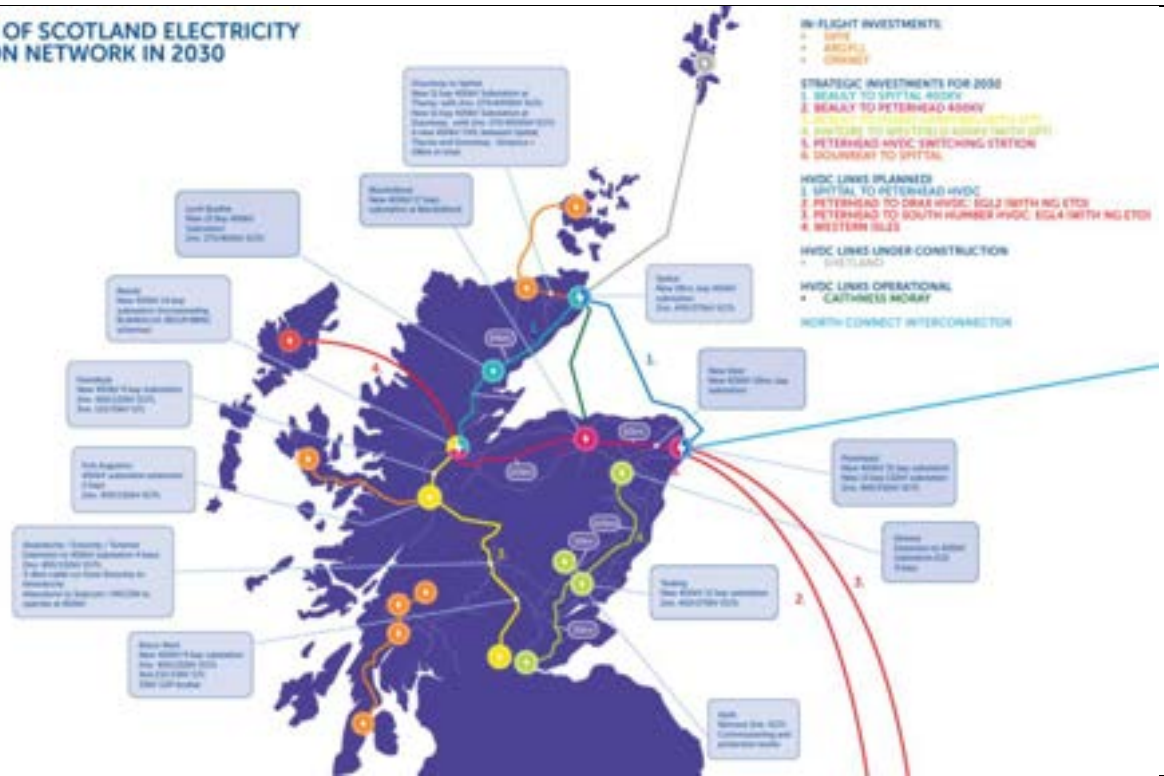
CONNECTING SCOTWIND TO DELIVER 50GW BY 2030

Why are these projects needed?



7.5

MAIN NORTH OF SCOTLAND ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION NETWORK IN 2030



7.6

Pathway to 2030 – Update on projects connecting to Beauly area

Beauly – Blackhillock – New Deer – Peterhead 400kV

Spittal– Loch Buidhe – Beauly 400kV Connection

Why Beauly?

The Beauly Substation forms a key junction on the GB Transmission system and transforms electrical voltage from 400kV, 275kV and 132kV and the Pathway 2030 projects are required to connect into it, therefore a new site is required within a 10km radius of Beauly. Connections coming in North, West and South, onshore, Beauly represents central area with existing infrastructure.

Offshore AND onshore solution required

New 400kV Substation + HVDC converter station near Beauly

Beauly – Denny 2nd Circuit Upgrade

7.7

SSEN Transmission described the huge scale of these projects they are obligated under the Transmission Operator licence to deliver and the desire to work with statutory consultees and stakeholders to mitigate the impacts. SSEN T explained they are being driven by UK and Scot Gov Net Zero targets, which involve the connection of Scot Wind, and that the Electricity System Operators Holistic Network Design (which transmission operators feed in to) sets out the blueprint for the grid infrastructure required to deliver 2030 wind targets. SSEN T advised that Ofgem have also approved the investment required for these projects.

-The Chair explained that SSEN T are not providing communities with the whole picture of projects coming into the Beauly area and now with the - Blackhillock – New Deer – Peterhead (BBNP) consultations coming up this has created mistrust towards SSEN T. -The Community queried whether there was any research into potential health dangers of siting 400kV DC lines in proximity to residences.

-The Community said that those in the area feel deep anger and SSEN T showing lack of transparency around the proposals. They asked about community benefit and what's in it for them for enduring these impacts. The Community said they would like to see how SSEN T had acted on feedback.

SSEN T very much encouraged and welcomed useful feedback so the project team can assess and use it to mitigate impacts. Feedback which includes local knowledge is very helpful to identify protected spaces,

recreational areas, habitats etc. It is critical to work from an informed environmental baseline for developing the design of these projects.

SSEN T stressed the importance of working collaboratively with specific groups and communities, these national infrastructure projects will happen and are aligned with UK and Scottish Govt targets and by working constructively with stakeholders it will be possible to try to mitigate the impacts. As part of the ongoing consultation process SSEN T will demonstrate feedback and how this has been incorporated into the designs. For example if alternative sites are suggested, SSEN T will feedback on how these were assessed.

SSEN T informed that there will be additional information at the BBNP consultation events this month which will show the projects interfacing with the Beaulieu area so that the public can see the whole picture. SSEN T acknowledged and understand that Communities require this holistic information and going forward are committed to improving and providing more targeted stakeholder engagement and are working on a strategy and would welcome suggestions.

SSEN T agreed that the drivers and the need for these projects need to be made clearer. The Chair reiterated that this needs to be communicated to the CLG so members can feed back and forth with questions and answers.

Addressing community benefit, SSEN T explained that historically being a regulated business by Ofgem community benefit funds were not available, however the British Energy Security Strategy (which has been set up following geopolitical events) highlighted the requirement for change. The UK Govt are consulting on community benefit for strategic network infrastructure projects to ensure that local communities benefit from hosting transmission infrastructure. SSEN T completely agree with this sentiment in that it is crucial these communities receive socio economic benefits to ensure the UK reaches its` net zero targets to facilitate energy security. SSEN T are proactively working with the regulator to ensure this and work is ongoing to agree the mechanisms to provide such a fund and look forward to providing more information in the coming months.

Post meeting note: The Scottish Government are currently consulting on community benefits for electricity transmission network infrastructure: [Community benefits for electricity transmission network infrastructure - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/community-benefits-for-electricity-transmission-network-infrastructure)

SSEN T said that both onshore and offshore transmission infrastructure is required to have resilience and security of supply. The Community pointed out that the concentration of infrastructure around Beaulieu would seriously compromise energy security due to vulnerability to sabotage. saying that underground and subsea cable would be more difficult to sabotage compared to overhead lines which can easily be taken out.

SSEN T noted there are pros and cons to both overhead lines and cables; for example it can be more difficult to locate, then repair faults on cables and subsea cables can be subject to inadvertent damage by anchors, in similar way to land cables being vulnerable to accidental damage.

Post Meeting Note: As part of our obligations, SSEN T must take appropriate steps to consider security of our assets, including compliance with the requirements of the Electricity Safety, Quality & Continuity Regulations 2002 (usually abbreviated to ESQCR). If this is of interest, we can arrange for further information to be shared at a future CLG meeting. SSEN T are sure community will however appreciate that there are necessary limitations on what we can share publicly with regard to security and resilience.

8.0	<h2 style="color: #0056b3;">March Consultation – Spittal– Loch Buidhe – Beauly 400kV Reinforcement New 400kV Substation and HVDC converter station near Beauly</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation event at <u>Kilmorack Hall</u> on 2nd March attended by estimated between 250-300 people. Virtual event 6th March • Consultation period extended to 14th April • Themes of feedback and lessons learned are currently being assessed • A programme of further engagement with local community councils and elected members, community members, residents associations and working groups is underway/in the process of being determined. Further details to follow once feedback period closed <p>Reminder: These consultation events were <i>initial early consultation</i>. Further consultation events will follow and any statutory consultation will not occur until next year.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Next Steps ahead of overhead line alignment selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation Summary (high level) - Report on Consultation (detailed) - Further engagement with stakeholders - Confirmation of preferred overhead line route - Further surveys and investigations - Identification of alignment options within preferred overhead line route </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Next Steps ahead of confirming proposed substation location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation Summary (high level) - Further engagement with stakeholders - Further surveys and investigations, inc into potential alternative </div>
8.1	<p>The Community said that SSEN T should not be asking for separate feedback for each of these projects. SSEN T explained that planning applications are legally required to be submitted on a project-by-project basis, therefore feedback forms and feedback for each of these projects are needed to be kept separate, though SSEN T agreed that these need to be shown holistically. At the upcoming BBNP consultation events SSEN T will have project team members from the other projects too along with information to show this and will be very happy to have discussions around the projects interfacing with Beauly at this event.</p>
9.0	<h2 style="color: #0056b3;">March Consultation – Lessons Learned and Key Themes of Feedback</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We needed to be more explicit regarding why the infrastructure is required and that this was early voluntary consultation. Feedback suggests some stakeholders were unaware this was just the beginning of the engagement process • Next round of consultations needs to have disabled access, suitable parking and large enough to accommodate the number of attendees. We will have more booklets available and feedback periods will be extended beyond the standard 4 weeks. • We recognise the frustration of consulting on these projects individually. We're trying to align consultation events where practicable and we're looking at ways we can best inform communities of the 'big picture' regarding our Pathway to 2030 projects. • There was a perception that we were hiding information by not showing all interfacing lines coming in, such as BBNP. This was due to preferred routes for this connection still being determined. Going forward, maps/visuals will be available showing all the projects interfacing with Beauly at consultations for these projects. • Community Benefit was a key topic. In the 2022 British Energy Security Strategy, The UK Gov committed to consult on community benefit for strategic network infrastructure projects to ensure local communities benefit from hosting transmission infrastructure. We completely agree with this sentiment – it is crucial our communities receive a social and economic benefit from the infrastructure required to ensure the UK reaches it's net zero targets and facilitate it's energy security. Work is ongoing to agree the mechanisms to provide such a fund and we look forward to providing you with an update in the coming months. We'll ensure this is well communicated once able to do so. • Many community members stated they didn't receive the maildrop. Around 30,000 were sent, we've checked many of the postcodes who stated they weren't received and our suppliers confirmed they were sent. This emphasises to us the requirement to utilise varied form of advertising. We used social media and local newspaper outlets but we'll reply more heavily on email, try and put out local public notices in local areas and consider targeted adverts.
9.1	<p>In addition to those `lessons` in the above slide SSEN T also acknowledged the need for larger, clearer maps and visual information, terminology which is easier to understand, extended consulting hours at the events, name badges for staff for ease of identification.</p>

March Consultation – Themes of Feedback

- Visual, noise, wildlife impact concerns and recreational users
- Preference to use existing infrastructure corridors and existing substations
- Requests for rationalisation, underground cable, subsea
- GIS in preference for AIS for substation
- Concern in regards to the size of substation infrastructure

Following the close of the feedback period on 14th April, we'll continue to consider these alongside all other themes arising in more detail.

10.

Beauly – Blackhillock – New Deer – Peterhead 400kV

- Routing consultation taking place at:
Phipps Hall, Beauly - Thursday 27th April - 12-7pm
- Similar format to 2nd March consultation, lessons learned re venue, accessibility, volume of materials etc. Feedback period proactively extended.
- Consultation will be **specific in regards to the OHL routes to Peterhead**, but info on the Substation and Spittal line will be available and reshared
- Report on Consultation from the September 2022 events is available online
- Mail drops have already been issued. We'd appreciate any assistance the CLG can provide in ensuring your local community is well aware of the event



Beauly – Denny 2nd Circuit Upgrade

Scope of project

An upgrade of the second circuit on the existing Beauly- Denny overhead line (OHL) from 275kV to 400kV, to accommodate new renewable energy generators connecting to the transmission network in coming years.

On completion, both circuits will operate at 400kV. The Beauly-Denny OHL was constructed for 400kV operation on each of its two circuits but put into service with one operating at the lower voltage of 275kV. This means no alterations to the OHL are required to upgrade it to 400kV.

This upgrade also drives the requirement for a new, additional substation near **Fasnakyle** (south-west of Inverness) and also at **Braco** (north-east of Dunblane) to accommodate the 400kV equipment, alongside some modifications to other substations along the route, including: Fort Augustus, Errochty, Kinardochy and Tummel.

Programme dates

- Public Consultation (**Fasnakyle substation**): June/July 2023
- Public Consultation 2nd & 3rd event: Spring 2024
- Planning Application submitted: Spring- Summer 2024
- Construction start: Summer 2026
- Construction End: Spring 2029



Project Update

We are **expanding the search area of our site selection process** due to the challenges and constraints we are facing in regards to finding a suitable site at **Fasnakyle**.

SSEN T informed that the Beauly – Denny 2nd circuit upgrade project is running behind some of the other projects and the Team are still working out the number of connections required by Generators; it's our licence obligation to connect them. The search area for a new substation in the Fasnakyle area has been expanded; it

	<p>will need to connect the Beaully – Denny line and the new Generator connections. Until this information becomes clearer, the size of the new substation is unknown.</p> <p>There was a short discussion regarding the challenges faced by SSEN T in locating a substation site in the area, SSEN T explained that this was due to constraints, such as SSSI's, Nature Reserves, National Scenic Area and the Strathglass Complex. The Strathglass attendees confirmed the area attracted in the region of 250,000 people a year and there were just 2 roads in and out, highlighting its sensitivity. The Chair asked that when SSEN T have a preferred site to inform the CLG either via email or Teams meeting.</p>
10.0	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Community Experience Since Last Meeting</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Beaully Community to comment</p>
10.1	<p>SSEN T were informed that the Community and stakeholders were shocked at the scale of the project proposals and the communities do not want them. The Chair recommended the submission of useful feedback and to use the opportunity to influence the design development. SSEN T informed that feedback will be accepted anytime during the development phase of these projects and not just following the consultation events. The feedback date for these events were set to enable a Report on Consultation to be produced to enable design progression.</p> <p>SSEN T informed the Community that statutory consultees have requested that the quarry area in Wester Balblair be assessed for its suitability for the new substation/converter station location; desk-based assessments are currently underway. The Community informed that they are of the understanding that this is a community asset. For reasons of due diligence, SSEN T explained that these assessments are required though if the Community feel this is not a good site location to feed this back so that the statutory consultees can be informed.</p> <p>The Community acknowledged that the Pathway to 2030 projects are working to tight timescales and questioned the likelihood of influencing changes. SSEN T responded that the difference is the shorter time period between statutory consultation events. The Chair advised Kilmorack CC to write to The Highland Council requesting sufficient time to provide Communities with confidence of good outcomes. The Community asked how they get the message across to the `powers that be` of the burdens residents and communities are feeling with these projects. The Chair said this will be taken up at the Community Councils meeting next week following The Council's meeting with SSEN T.</p>

Date of next meeting tbc

Actions

Number	Action / Update	Owner	Open/Closed
1.	Send draft Terms of Reference to all members of CLG	SC	
2	Noise monitor installed and first month of information to be shared at next CLG - this has been shared in the meeting notes	RS	
3	Provide update on Community Benefit once this is available	SC/KS	

4.	Asset security – post meeting note added to relevant section above. Potential for further discussion on topic at future CLG if Community deems it of interest.	RS	Closed
5.	To ensure Environmental Health inform the Community at the 2023 noise review	DF	