

BALHUNGIE CABLE ROUTE VARIATION PROPOSAL

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) – July 2020

Why are you looking to change the route?

The approved onshore cable route was, at the time of development, considered to be the best in terms of environmental, technical and economic factors.

However, further dialogue with the landowner of Balhungle Farm has resulted in this request to amend the approved route through the farm to further minimise potential impacts on farm operations.

The proposed alternative route will also provide a better angle to cross a high-pressure gas pipeline which crosses through the consented route.

Should unforeseen problems arise, is there a designated single point of contact?

At this time the designated point of contact will be:

Pauline Allison, Stakeholder Engagement Manager

Email: pauline.allison@sse.com / 0141 224 7192 / 07880 180 662.

Are there designated working hours e.g. daylight only over winter months?

The working hours will be: 7am – 7pm Monday – Friday with a 1 hour soft start and finish.

Saturdays will be 7am – 5pm with 1 hour soft start. There will be no 24hr working required.

When are you looking to submit this application and when do you expect consent?

Following the feedback from our consultation we will take a decision on how to progress this application with Angus Council. It will likely be submitted to the Council later this year. Timing will then depend on when Angus Council are able to bring the application to Committee to make a decision. Ideally this will all happen later this year.

Can you tell me more about the horizontal directional drilling?

At environmentally sensitive locations such as at the Buddon Burn it is proposed to use Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) rather than conventional open cut trenching.

This is a guided, trenchless method in which a pilot borehole is drilled along a pre-determined bore hole path. Subsequent hole enlargement then follows the path set by the bore hole with minimum disruption.

This then allows the installation of the duct for the cable.

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What is happening with community benefit?

Seagreen is fully committed to a £1.8M community benefit fund which will be divided between six Community Councils. This fund has been developed in line with Scottish Government guidance and SSE policy.

We are engaging with the community councils to establish the best model for delivering funding.

The fund will be administered by SSE's Community Investment Team who will work alongside local representatives.

For more information please contact:

Craig Mullen, Community Investment Manager craig.w.mullen@sse.com / 07384 452823

What structures will be built and where will they be and how permanent will they be?

At Balhungie, the temporary infrastructure (for use during construction period only) will include:

- access tracks alongside the cable route to install the ducting;
- one pulling pit to assist cable pulling through the duct; and
- hardstandings, for material storage and welfare at the HDD area of work.

These features will be reinstated following construction.

Permanent infrastructure (which will remain for the lifetime of the wind farm) at Balhungie will include:

- the ducting and cable underground;
- cable markers to identify the location of the cables above ground; and
- joint bay above ground features; lids and fencing to surround the 3 joint bays (for access to link boxes).

In relation to the full cable route, the above also applies, with the addition of temporary compound areas, additional permanent joint bay locations (lids and fencing above ground) and permanent cable markers.

The only permanent structure related to this project is the new substation at Tealing.

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What areas will be closed off and for how long?

With regards to closures, at Balhungie, Core Path 190 (between Balhungie and Ashbank) will be affected by the works. The track crossing is likely to be closed for a short duration during the site enabling works and laying of the cable ducts.

To segregate the public from HGV movements and civils construction plant operating within the corridor a local diversion will be provided over the duration of the closure.

What are some of the benefits of a project like this?

Seagreen will provide a significant economic boost to Angus and Scotland and create up to 400 jobs during construction in Scotland, many in Angus and the project will utilise local, Scottish and UK based suppliers wherever possible.

In addition to bringing around £1bn in economic benefits to Scotland, Seagreen will power around 1.3 million homes using the power of the wind.

There will also be the £1.8m Community Fund and the project has committed to working with local colleges and supporting apprenticeships. There is an additional £400,000 of funding that will be focused on supporting STEM based skills development in Angus.

The 25 year operational phase will create jobs at Montrose Port which has been chosen at the home of the projects Operations and Maintenance base.

How are you going to manage the work around the current Covid restrictions?

SSE Renewables is fully committed to minimising the impact of coronavirus while we continue to deliver critical green infrastructure, including work on the Seagreen development.

The wellbeing of our employees, contractors and the local community continues to be our number one priority and all work is being undertaken in line with government guidance.

All activities are being and will continue to be actively risk assessed with mitigation measures being put in place as needed. This includes implementing extra preventative hygiene measures and social distancing. We are keeping all works under review in tandem with evolving government advice.