

Outline information on

SSEN Plans for 400 kV Electricity System upgrades affecting CDDCC area.

You may by now have heard about the plans under way by SSEN to run a new 400kV electricity line through our area – mainly affecting Durris and Drumoak in terms of routing, but also Crathes from the environmental aspect. Not as well known is that an existing 275 kV line is also being upgraded to 400 kV. There is a lot of information available on SSEN's web site but it is not easy to get an overview. This summary sheet provides basic details and where you can find out more.

TWO projects are under way. Firstly, the “reinforcement” of an existing 275kV line to accept 400kV. This itself is in two sequential parts, “East Coast 275kV OHL Upgrade” and “East Coast 400kV OHL Upgrade”. The second project is a new 400kV line, “Kintore-Fiddes-Tealing 400kV OHL Connection”.

1. Project: East Coast 275/400kV Reinforcement

The consultation for this project was in September 2020 and was held virtually due to COVID (see East Coast 400 project documents page – link below)

First part	East Coast 275kV OHL Upgrade	Short name: East Coast 275
SSEN website	https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/east-coast-275kv-ohl-upgrade/ Scroll to ‘Project Documents’ and there are two relevant pdf documents, Nov 2019 (see page 8), and April 2021 (giving the wider details on both the 275 and 400 projects, pp 6 & 8).	
Line affected	The existing 275kV line runs from Kintore, towards the south, passing over Park, to the west of Kirkton of Durris, through Durris Forest, Fetteresso and onwards further south.	
Project Description	This line is being upgraded to 400kV transmission voltage so as to contribute to greater national capacity. The existing 275kV line was originally installed as capable of upgrade to 400kV. The upgrade is being done in two parts. The first part, East Coast 275, is described as “re-profiling” of the existing line – i.e. pulling the cabling tighter so that when subjected to higher electrical loads the extra heat does not cause the cable to sag.	
Timeline	Summer 2021 – October 2023	
Impacts	It does not appear that new or bigger pylons are required (but see below). There have been and may continue to be access needs, road closures, etc.	
Second part	East Coast 400kV OHL Upgrade	Short name East Coast 400
SSEN website	https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/east-coast-400kv-ohl-upgrade/ Under Project Documents there are a fair number of documents including project details and road closures, environmental impacts and historical Consultation documents.	
Line affected	As for East Coast 275	
Project Description	This is the follow-on part after East Coast 275 and involves replacing the conductors with all-aluminium cables which give a greater capacity, lower losses and lower heat generation. Insulators will also be replaced for the higher voltage. See April 2021 doc. p 8 for details.	
Timeline	Spring 2023 – November 2026	
Impacts	There have been and may continue to be access needs, road closures. Some tower extension work (3 m to 5 m) may be needed. The electromagnetic effects of both 275kV and 400kV lines are classed as similar https://www.emfs.info/sources/overhead/ . Further discussion on this is outside the remit of this summary.	

Further info Contact Community Liaison Manager Louise Anderson at louise.anderson@sse.com

2. Project: Kintore-Fiddes-Tealing 400kV OHL Connection

Project	Kintore-Fiddes-Tealing 400kV OHL Connection	Short name “East Coast 400kV Phase 2” The National Grid / ESO project designation is “TKUP”.
Project Description	A complete new 400kV line is required to add extra capacity to the UK transmission system. Including “Phase 2” in the short name has led to confusion between this project and the East Coast 275/400 projects.	
UK Context	See report at “ Read NOA 2021/22 Refresh report ” from https://www.nationalgrideso.com/research-and-publications/network-options-assessment-noa/	
SSEN website	https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/kintore-fiddes-tealing-400kv-ohl-connection/ Scroll to ‘Project Documents’ A good starting point is the “ May 2023 public consultation information booklet ” (60 page pdf document). This gives the entire background and a summary of the progress from project need, through selection of a preferred Corridor, and then within that the Route options and preferred Route. Our area is covered by Section E (south of the Dee) and Section F (north of the Dee). The overall preferred route is given in the document “ Preferred route ”. The route options and preferred routes for sections E and F are under: “ Route options section E ” and “ Route options section F ” The detail associated with selection of the preferred route selection process is in “ Consultation document route selection ” (152 page pdf document, issued May 2023). The relevant detail is on pages 68 to 98 and 100. Note that selection of section E route is affected by the selection of route for section F, and vice versa.	
Timeline	2022 – 2029	
Impacts	As appropriate for a new overhead transmission line	
Consultation and Feedback	The consultation for this project was held from 2 nd to 17 th May 2023. The deadline for responses has been extended to 23 rd June 2023. Feedback may be submitted using the “ Submit Feedback ” link on the main web page listed above. The format of this feedback is broadly the same as pages 55-59 of the May 2023 consultation booklet. e-mail feedback may be sent to the project Community Liaison Manager, Martha Smart at TKUP@ssen.com	

Comments

Please note this information sheet has been put together quickly to provide information as quickly as possible to the community. If you have any corrections or comments please e-mail me at newpowerlines@durrismail.co.uk.

If you know of someone affected who is without internet access, please consider printing and passing on a copy of relevant information.