

Your Comments

Please complete in **BLOCK CAPITALS**

Thank you for taking the time to find out about our plans for the Orkney Connection Project.

We appreciate all feedback and thank you for taking the time to provide your comments.
You can complete a feedback form today, or you can post it back to us at the address provided.

Please provide any comments to us at the earliest opportunity and by the **31st March 2017** at the latest.

Feedback submitted to SHE Transmission will be considered and reviewed by the project team.

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Q1 Do you understand the need for this project?

Yes OREF does understand the project, indeed we have been advocates for this project for the past 15 years. We are concerned to ensure that the project is delivered in the most cost effective way whilst ensuring appropriate protection of Orkney's communities, wildlife and landscapes and to the overall benefit of Orkney's economy. We wish to see the new connection delivered as soon as possible and appreciate that this will open up access to new and additional generation from marine and onshore technologies.

Q2 Have we explained the options assessment process adequately?

No - there is inadequate or misleading information provided. Specifically the developer capacity identified is under-represented, there is insufficient information about the proposed substations and why the suggested locations were chosen over other locations - there are prospective substation locations identified with Orkney's local planning documents, The fact that pylons are suggested as a possibility is totally inappropriate and should not have been suggested and the maps provided are virtually unreadable. The basis for decision making is absent as are the options that were considered to get to this point

Q3 Can you rank the options presented in order of preference (1-3)?

Option A

?

Option B

?

Option C

?

Q4 Why have you ranked the options in this way?

There is insufficient information provided at present to differentiate between the options we would need to see development costings, proposed technologies to be used and more visibility of specific corridors before a comment could be made.

For example there are likely to be unacceptable OHL routes associated with each of the options.

We would also raise concerns over the apparent use of the Stenness/Orphir area as a strategic landing point and substation location. This area is less appropriate than others in Orkney and would have little if any potential for further expansion> It would also add further OHL pressure to an already cluttered OHL landscape



Q5 What are your views on the preferred overhead line technology options presented? Could you rank these in order of preference (1-4)?

Steel Lattice Towers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Circuit Wood Pole Trident	<input type="checkbox"/> 1
Composite Towers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Twin Circuit Wood Pole Trident	<input type="checkbox"/> 2

Q5a Why have you ranked the options in this way?

The lattice towers are totally inappropriate and unnecessary within the context of the Orkney landscape, the composite towers are also similar. Furthermore such suggestions within the consultation process give the impression of a total lack of internal environmental stewardship within the project design process which further undermines the credibility of SSE to deliver a project of this type effectively. Trident lines would probably be acceptable in some areas with careful routing and if supported by the removal of existing 11kV lines, cable burial may be needed in other more sensitive areas and needs to be considered as a credible alternative, also alternative subsea routings should be fully considered

Q6 Do you have any comments on any of the marine aspects of this development? e.g. Marine cable routes or marine cable landfalls?

The technical challenges associated with working around Graemsay need to be fully taken into account, this area may not be appropriate for cable laying for many different reasons. Suitable eastern and western routes have been previously identified from earlier SSE consultation work. We would caution that the marine corridors identified may provide inadequate opportunities to avoid seabed obstacles and competing fisheries interests.

Q7 Do you have any other comments on the Orkney Connection Project?

This project has been talked about for 15 years, and has been in some kind of design process for 10 years. It is essential to the economic vitality of the islands but it needs to be delivered appropriately. There are very important landscape, social, near neighbour, wildlife, habitat, cultural and archaeological considerations that need to be addressed. There is also a huge amount of local knowledge and understanding that could be very helpful to SSE in achieving the most cost effective yet appropriate solution.

Unfortunately this consultation has not provided the comfort to OREF and the wider community that SSE understands the issues outlined above. There are also concerns that by raising the spectre of pylons in Orkney that SSE is seeking to stir up objections to this scheme to further delay or postpone a project which, as a company, it has been clear SSE have been unwilling to back and move forward with appropriately. We strongly advocate greater and more detailed engagement with the local community and the expertise which is available within Orkney.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form. If you would like your comments to remain anonymous, please tick here

Comments can be submitted as follows:

- At the exhibition today: complete a Comment Form and give it to a member of the team.
- **By post:** Complete a Comments Form and post it to our Liaison Manager
- **By email:** Complete a Comments Form and email it to our Liaison Manager, Information can also be posted out to you by our Liaison Manager upon request.

Communities Liaison Manager

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