

Technical Note

Project name Glen Earrach	Subject Additional Information to Chapter 3: Evolution of Design and Alternatives	Date April 14 2026
Prepared by AC Senior Civil Engineer	Checked by MC Project Manager	Verified by DL Technical Director
		Approved by MC Project Manager

Background

This document should be read in conjunction with Chapter 3: Evolution of Design and Alternatives of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the Glen Earrach Pumped Storage Hydro project (the Proposed Development) (hereafter Chapter 3).

It is submitted as Additional Information to update Chapter 3 by recording aspects of the design rationale which informed the design evolution described in Section 3.4 at the time, but which were not explicitly set out in the original EIAR text.

In particular, this document provides a factual clarification of aspects of the design evolution of the Proposed Development that were informed by consideration of a potential future grid connection, including the positioning of the GIS switchyard and associated above-ground infrastructure..

Grid Connection as a Factor in Design Evolution

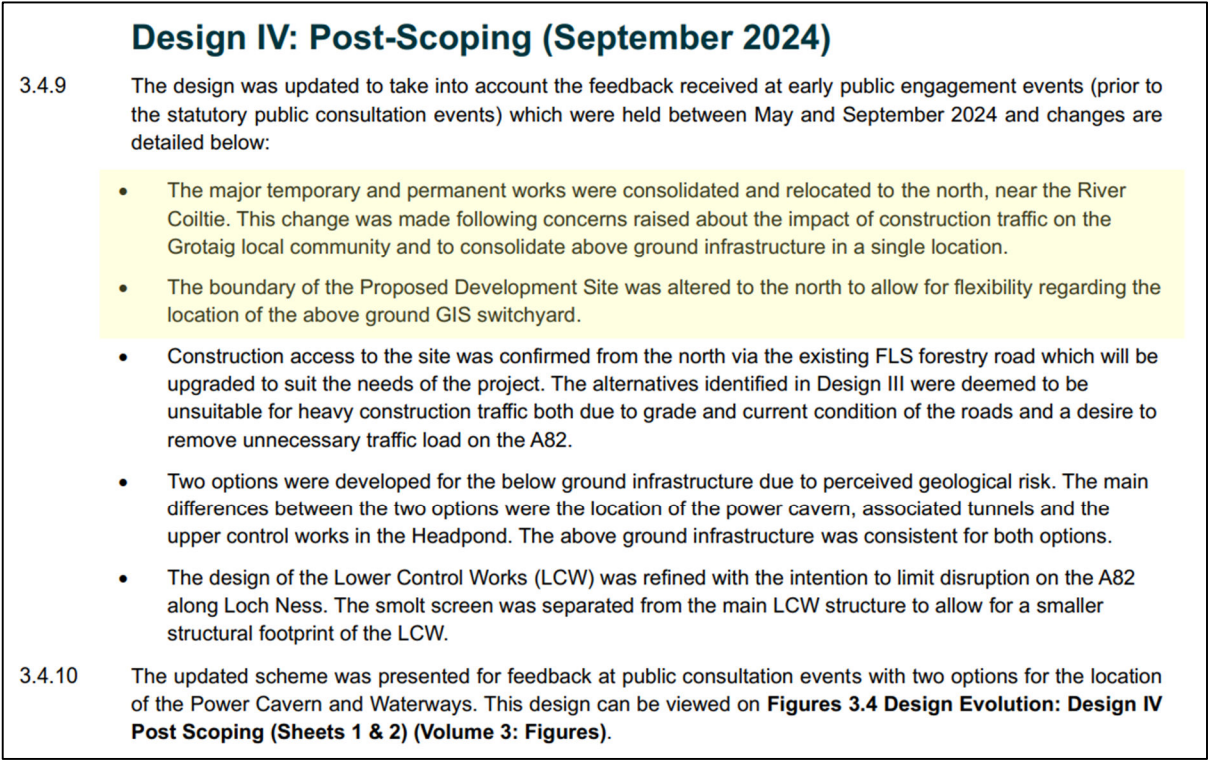


Figure 1 Extract of Chapter 3 Section 3.4.9

3.4.9A In addition to the factors described in **paragraph 3.4.9**, the consolidation and relocation of the major temporary and permanent works to the north of the Proposed Development Site at Design IV (Post-Scoping, September 2024) was also informed by consideration of the future grid connection. At the time of the Design IV revisions, the Applicant held a grid connection offer citing the future Bingally Substation as the connection point¹ but without any available transmission line routing information. The relocation of the above-ground infrastructure, including the GIS switchyard, to the northern part of the Proposed Development Site was undertaken in part to provide a logical and efficient connection corridor towards Bingally, with the objective of achieving a transmission line routing that would avoid likely significant adverse environmental effects.

3.4.9B The progression of this design change is evident in the figures accompanying the EIAR. At Design III (Scoping, April 2024), as shown on **Figure 3.3**, the switchyard was located to the northeast of the Proposed Development Site. Following the Design IV revisions, the internal cable tunnel infrastructure was reorientated to the north towards the relocated compounds, as shown on **Figure 3.4**. The revised GIS switchyard location is shown more explicitly on **Figure 3.5** (Design V: Post-Public Consultation, November 2024), where it is specifically identified in the position it has occupied through to Design VI (Design Freeze, January 2025), as shown on **Figure 3.6** and the drawings associated with **Chapter 2: Project and Site Description**, eg **Figure 2.7 Site Design - Operational Phase Plan**. (All figures are from original EIAR submission, **Volume 3: Figures**).

3.4.9C The relocation of the GIS switchyard to the northern part of the Proposed Development Site was a deliberate design decision informed by multiple objectives. In addition to the reasons set out in Chapter 3 of the main EIAR (Volume 2 Main Report), including the consolidation of above-ground compounds in a single area screened from views from Loch Ness and Drumnadrochit, the GIS switchyard was specifically positioned as close as practicable to the adjacent valley of the Allt Feith an t-Seilisdeir, in order to establish a logical grid connection corridor running westwards towards the indicative connection point at Bingally Substation. This positioning was selected to take advantage of the natural east–west orientation of the glens in this area. Furthermore, and as a subsequent evolution of the design, the Applicant has improved the design further with a view to enabling the use of an underground cable to connect the GIS switchyard into the Allt Feith an t-Seilisdeir glen, thereby avoiding the introduction of overhead line infrastructure within the Coiltie Glen where the Proposed Development's above-ground construction compounds are located and where an overhead line would be more visually prominent.

3.4.9D An indicative transmission line routing has been prepared by the Applicant as part of the above process, to inform the evolution of the design. This indicative routing includes a section of approximately 2 km of underground cable, to be installed through a minimally invasive micro-tunnelling approach, from the GIS switchyard northward to the head of the Allt Feith an t-Seilisdeir glen, at which point the overhead line would commence. From there, the natural topography of the east–west valley provides a screened corridor towards Bingally, offering natural cover and screening for a future overhead line.

3.4.9E As clarified above, the grid connection offer citing Bingally has since been amended under the TMO4+ grid reform process and is now classified as Gate 1, with an indicative status only, reflecting the current stage of the connections process. However, the indicative route to Bingally developed by the Applicant as part of the design evolution above provides a reasonable basis for any required assessment, being the best information available at this time. Control over the future transmission line routing sits with SSEN Transmission under its transmission licence, and a full Environmental Impact Assessment will be undertaken by SSEN as part of the future consenting of the transmission line.

¹ Since that time, as part of the ongoing grid reform process being run by NESO, the Applicant has received an amendment to its grid offer which amends the connection point to having an indicative status only.

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