

# Project VISTA

EUROPARC Conference

Aviemore

19<sup>th</sup> of September 2018



**Scottish & Southern**  
Electricity Networks

# Agenda

1. Introduction
2. History of Power Lines in the Landscape
3. The Beaully Denny Project
4. VISTA – a new approach
5. Questions

# 1. Introduction

## Who are we?

- We are responsible for maintaining the electricity transmission network in the north of Scotland
- What we do:
  - Construct
  - Maintain
  - Operate



# 1. Introduction

What we do



# 1. Powerlines in the Landscape

## The Hydro development

- Hydro generation construction (1940's & 50's)
- Requirement for a transmission network
- Providing power to communities

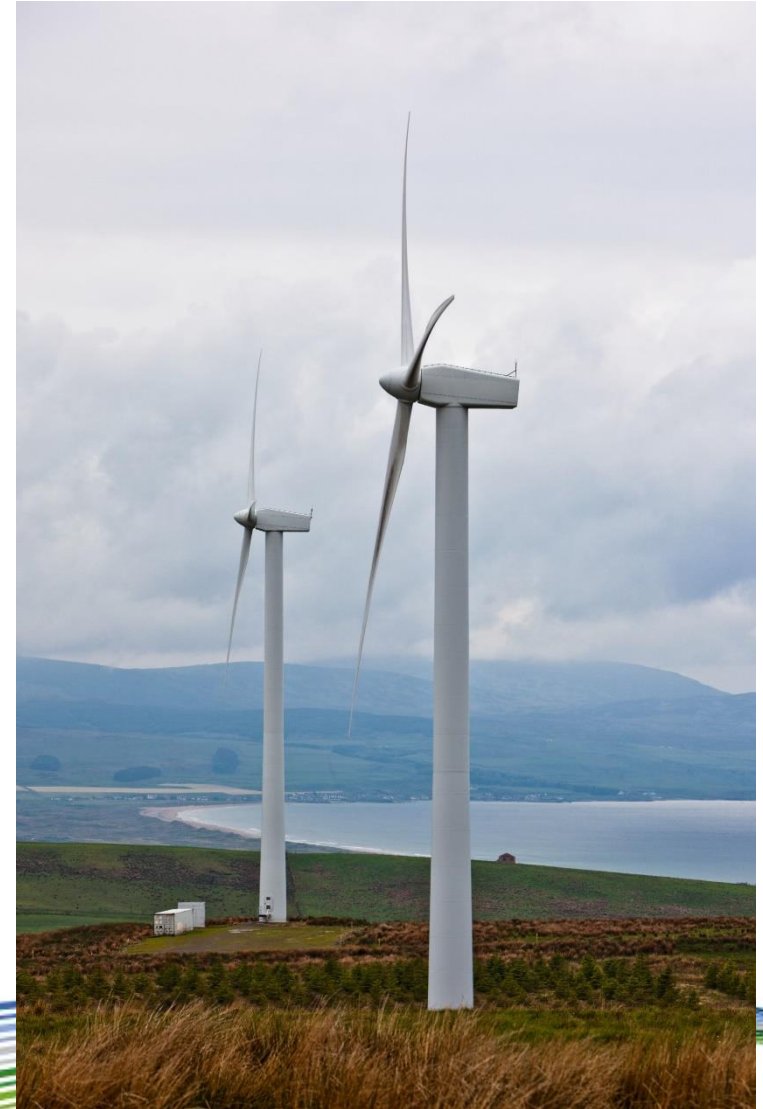




# 1. Powerlines in the Landscape

## The Modern Context

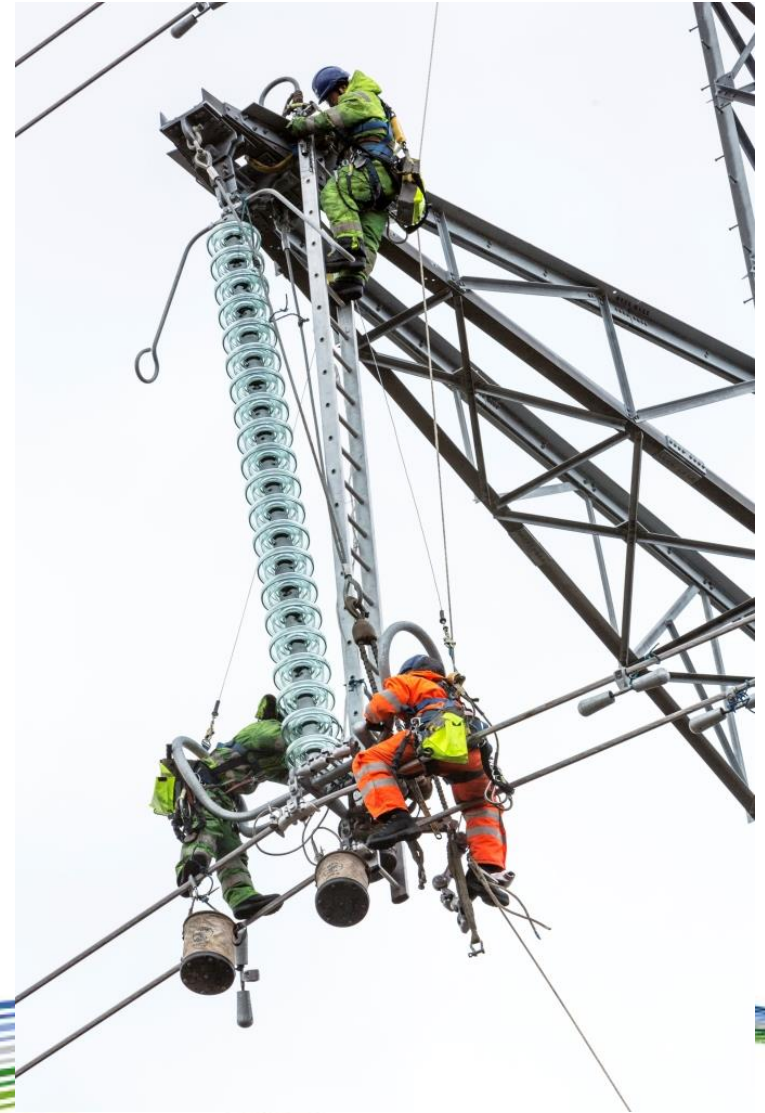
- Climate change
- Renewable energy generation projects (2000's – present)
- Transmission network upgrades
- Modern regulations



# 2. The Beauly Denny Project

## The project

- 220km overhead line (400kV)
- Completed in 2015
- 39km in the CNP
- Replacing old 1950's towers with larger modern towers





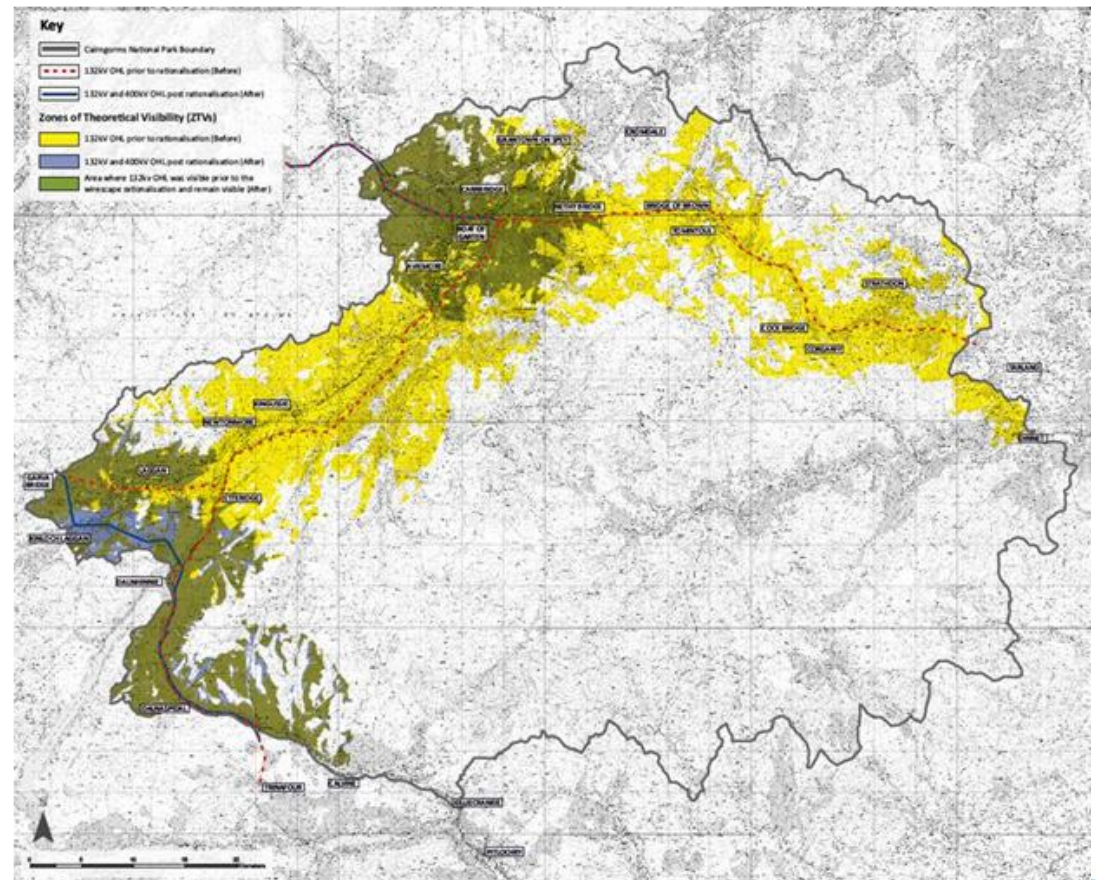
# 2. The Beaully Denny Project

## The Impact and Outcome

- Landscape and visual concerns
- Detailed assessment
- Mitigation required

<https://vimeo.com/232478776>

- Learning for future projects





# 3. VISTA – a new approach

## What is VISTA

- Funding to reduce visual impact
- National Parks and National Scenic Areas (NSA's)
- Working with key stakeholders
- Development of mitigation projects



# 3. VISTA – a new approach

## STAGE 1

### Identifying Priorities

- Identification of transmission infrastructure;
- Screening of transmission infrastructure;
- Initial Landscape & Visual Assessment;
- Identify most important impacts.



## STAGE 2

### Defining the Projects

- Review priority areas;
- Identify mitigation options;
- Appraisal of options & potential benefits;
- Selection of infrastructure & mitigation proposals to be progressed.



## STAGE 3

### Developing the Projects

- Review priority proposals in more detail;
- Technical, Environmental & Economic Feasibility Studies;
- Detailed development of projects in collaboration with Stakeholders.



## STAGE 4

### Consent & Implementation of Projects

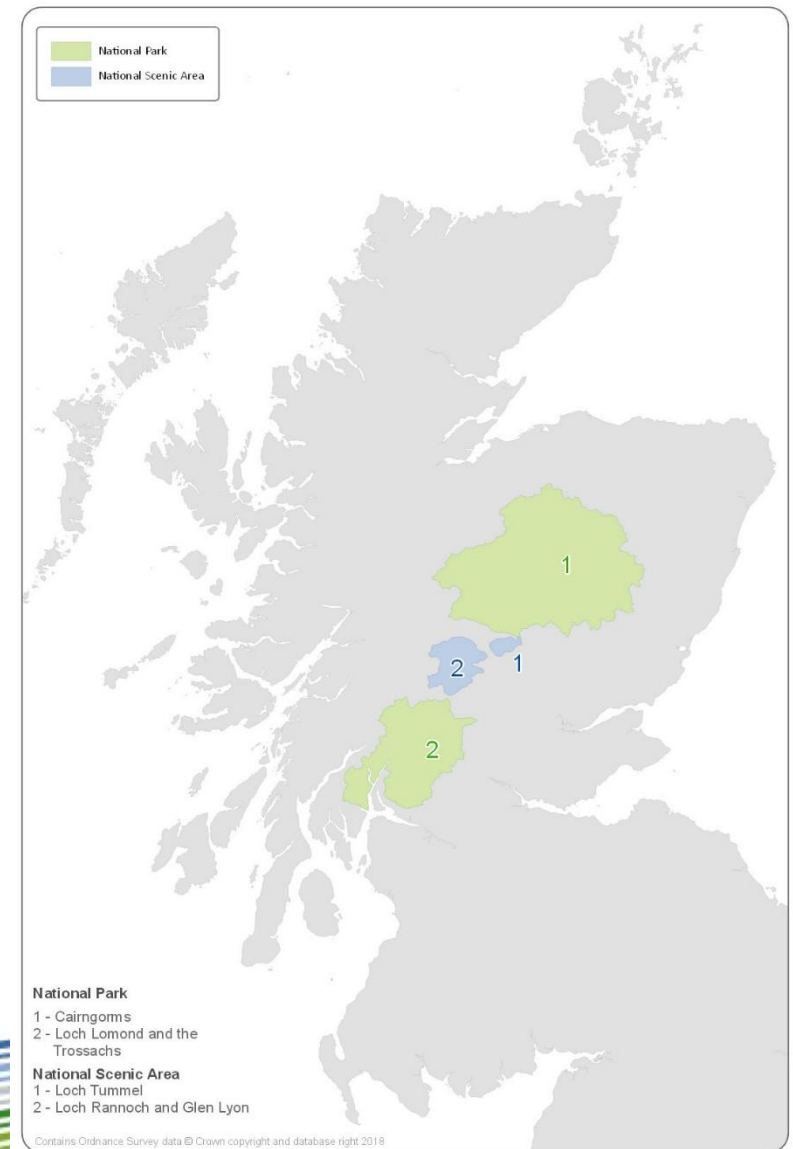
- Consultation with consultees & authorities;
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA);
- Consent applications;
- Submission of Projects to OFGEM.
- Implementation - construction & maintenance.



# 3. VISTA – a new approach

## VISTA across Scotland

- Four undergrounding projects
- Six landscaping projects
- One tower painting project
- Projects prioritised through working with stakeholders





# 3. VISTA – a new approach

## VISTA in the Cairngorms

- Two underground cable projects
- Removal of 13km of Overhead lines
- Projects prioritised through working with stakeholders
- Funding application planned for winter 2018



# 3. VISTA – a new approach

## Key learnings

- Benefits of early engagement
  - Informed stakeholders
  - Early input
  - Shape development
- No universal mitigation method



# Questions?





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