Agenda

1. Introduction
2. History of Power Lines in the Landscape
3. The Beauly 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 Beauly 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?