

Electricity Act 1989
Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997
DPEA Code of Practice

TEALING TO KINTORE OHL TRL-120-1

COMMUNITY HEARING STATEMENT BY ALAN JOINER in relation to Agricultural Operations

I am Alan Joiner, a retired Agronomist. I live at Dunswood, near Menmuir. I have a small holding of 141 acres.

In the Inquiry documentation SSEN say that only 4.98ha (12.3acres) will be lost to farming on the entire Kintore to Tealing OHL line.

Forgetting for the moment any possible loss under the actual line – almost all towers are NOT sited on fence lines, and because of this, at least twice the area of each tower is rendered unusable, unless it is in a grazing field.

The areas quoted by SSE appear to cover only the footprint of the metal structures. However, the tower foundations will be very substantial for these large footprint pylons, meaning cultivation will not be possible for at least two metres beyond the tower base.

In my case, my wife and I have three towers over 34 of the 40 acres I can crop. Of the four most productive fields that I crop, all of which were comprehensively drained, three will not only have towers built on them, but will have extensive access tracks through them. This potentially renders them unusable for the construction period and beyond. SSEN's numbers are therefore misleading.

CABLE SAG

Arcing of electricity from these more powerful lines can extend in certain circumstances to over 10 metres.

At Dunswood we have *predicted* sag heights of 13.5m, 10.7m and 11.37m – said to be the “worst case” scenario whatever that means. Modern combines can be at least 5.5m high and higher, and with the grain tank lids and unloading auger extended, the overall height would be considerably higher. A JCB 542-100 Agri telehandler can reach 9.8m – far too close for comfort.

The possibility of risk to life from arcing of electricity to increasingly large farm equipment is therefore significant.

The line will also render irrigation of the high value and economically important potato crop impossible. In these days of climate change, warmer, drier conditions are likely to be more

prevalent. This will mean that the loss to agriculture will be much greater than the paltry 4.98ha stated by SSEN.

GPS and Autosteer:

Concerns on a previous potential OHL route by SSEN themselves about a business dealing in GPS and remotely operated machinery and the effect the line may have on that do a disservice to virtually ALL farming operations affected by this project.

Almost all farms,(and my contractors) use the very same technology as the business SSEN are so concerned about to do their normal day to day work. It is well known that autosteer technology is affected by the 275kV lines at present – it should be no surprise that the proposed 400kV line is likely to have an even greater detrimental effect on these operations.

The Scottish Government have helped fund the uptake of technology such as satellite guided control of farm equipment. Interference from the OHL will render the increasingly popular use of drones and autonomous vehicles unviable. This will leave affected farms at a severe disadvantage.

In areas with poor internet and mobile phone reception, any interference from the OHL will cause even more problems. All GPS use is internet reliant.

SUMMARY

The importance of agriculture should never have been scoped out, as the provider of most of the tower locations, SSEN were at the very least disingenuous.

I do not believe for a moment that the risks to the rural population of all aspects of this project would not be tolerated in a more urban environment.

SSEN is a private limited company, it has forced itself onto our land, to provide a project no-one wants apart from its management and through them, its shareholders. Other options are available.

It is inconceivable that SSEN in the consultation and planning application chose to ignore agriculture, and in fact successfully argued to have it scoped it out of the project entirely. Now it is to be reintroduced, which is a telling rebuke to SSEN from the planning system, which seems to be working well in the face of such detailed and concerted opposition. One must consider that agriculture is the biggest industry affected and the corresponding farm businesses are bearing the brunt of this unnecessary project.

Alan Joiner

13 May 2026