

# **IMPACT STATEMENTS**

## **Introduction**

These are our stories.

From Kintore to Tealing, the people who live, work, and care for this landscape are facing a future they never imagined. The proposed 400 kV overhead transmission line cuts through farms, homes, and habitats that have been tended for generations — places where families have built their lives, cared for wildlife, and sustained rural communities.

For many, these are not simply parcels of land, but living landscapes — woven with memories, livelihoods, and a profound sense of belonging. The pylons and access corridors proposed by SSEN threaten to undo that fabric, piece by piece, replacing tranquillity and stewardship with industrial infrastructure that will dominate the countryside for decades to come.

The people behind these stories are not campaigners by nature. They are farmers, foresters, small business owners, and families who once believed they would grow old in peace among familiar fields and woods. Now, they find themselves fighting to be heard — trying to protect their homes, their mental wellbeing, and their way of life from forces that feel far beyond their control.

Across this long corridor of land, the impact is deeply personal. Some have already seen their businesses falter, their property values collapse, or their sense of security erode. Others speak of sleepless nights, of worry for their children's future, and of grief for landscapes that may soon be unrecognisable.

These pages are a testament to that human cost — to the turmoil, distress, and loss felt by those who stand in the path of the proposed Kintore–Tealing line. They are not legal arguments or technical objections; they are lived experiences, shared with courage and sincerity.

What unites these voices is not only their sorrow, but their love of place — a love that binds neighbours and communities together in quiet defiance. Each story is rooted in a profound respect for the land and a hope that decision-makers will pause long enough to see what is truly at stake: not just the view from a window, but an entire way of life.

May these stories speak for those who have been made to feel powerless, and may they remind all who read them that the human heart of this landscape still beats strong beneath the shadow of the pylons.

### **Those that live on the route of the Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL**

- **Angus Pylon Action Group**
- **Stop Tealing Industrial Group**
- **Deeside Against Pylons**

**27<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

## **1. Sasia Pryor**

I am writing to express my deep concern and strong objection to the proposed installation of a sub-station and pylons in close proximity to my property. After careful consideration and evaluation, I believe that the installation of these pylons would have significant negative impacts on my property, local business and the surrounding environment.

As mentioned in my previous letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023, I was shocked and upset to find out about the SSEN project proposal at such a late stage as the letter issued to me as a landowner, advising of drone scoping activities, was sent to the incorrect address however, the subject content of this letter states the current address.

There is a campsite development at my property currently in final phases of construction and completion. Location of the campsite is marked in red as per Fig 1. below and is central within the proposed route C corridors. The full plans can be found via Aberdeenshire Council (Planning Reference: APP/2021/2322).

During the planning and mapping process of this campsite project it has been identified there is a naturally occurring underground well. Furthermore, our land and the surrounding land has a complex infrastructure of field drains. There are soakaway systems in situ to support the residential and business septic tanks. There are watercourses surrounding the property to support surface drainage as this location was historically a wet moor. Disruption to the well and/or water drainage systems in close proximity to the property will cause drainage issues for our land. There is also concern this will have a negative impact on the neighboring fields which are classed as prime agricultural land.

The campsite I have invested in was carefully chosen for its pristine location, offering visitors an opportunity to immerse themselves in nature and enjoy a unique experience in the historic location known as the 'Howe of the Mearns'. This business is planned to bring tourism to Aberdeenshire and Angus with much welcomed footfall to support the local economy.

The visual impact of pylons in such close proximity would mar the picturesque views and disturb the sense of immersion in nature that is being offered to visitors. The towering structures and overhead cables would disrupt the unobstructed landscapes, obstruct the open sky, and create an industrial presence that is incompatible with the serene environment sought after by campers. The visual and noise intrusion would drive away existing and potential customers, resulting in a considerable loss of income for the campsite and its associated businesses, of which this is aimed to support in the local area.

Moreover, the construction process required for the installation of these pylons would cause substantial disruptions, leading to an adverse impact on the campsite's operations and financial viability. The noise pollution, increased traffic, and other construction-related disturbances would create an undesirable environment for campers, resulting in canceled bookings, negative reviews, and ultimately, a decline in revenue. The anticipated loss of income not only affects me as the campsite owner but also has broader implications for the local economy, including the employees, suppliers, and nearby businesses that depend on the campsite's success. This includes the surrounding agricultural businesses. I have a duty of care to my dependents whom are supported by the income from this business, one of whom is registered disabled and our property has been adapted to support their needs and wellbeing.

This disruption would not only diminish the camping experience but also potentially harm the local wildlife and ecosystem. Our campsite has an abundance of biodiversity and wildlife which we are very passionate about preserving. Native hedging, trees and wildflowers have been planted to support this

ecosystem and installation of a wildlife pond will further enhance this. In and around our land we regularly have sightings of red squirrels, a variety of bees, bats, owls, migrating geese, shrews, toads, hares, deer and red kites to name just some.

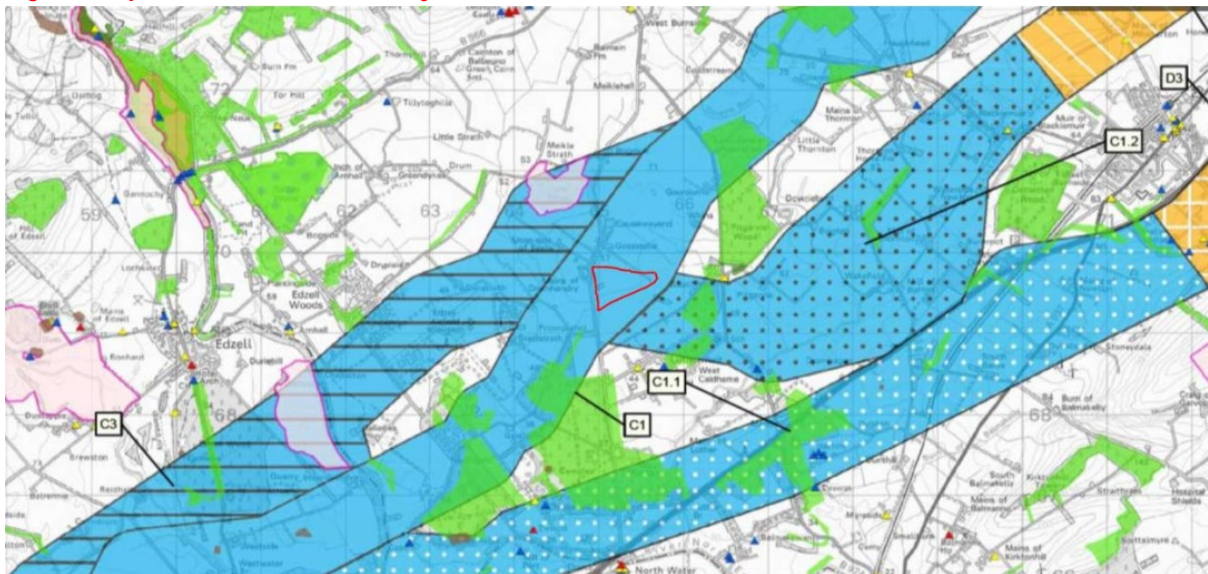
Furthermore, the potential risks associated with the electromagnetic fields generated by these pylons are of great concern particularly as they are a much higher voltage (400kV) than existing pylons. Campers, including families and children, seek a safe and healthy environment to enjoy their outdoor experiences. The proximity of pylons, with the associated electromagnetic radiation, raises legitimate concerns about the long-term effects on human health and wellbeing. As an advocate for the safety and welfare of campers, I cannot support a decision that potentially compromises their health and safety.

It appears the route corridor and option of overhead lines has been heavily weighted on installation cost. I request you to balance this cost amongst cost of impact to the local economy, businesses, unique environment of the area as well as the health and wellbeing of the community. This holistic impact analysis should be shared with the public.

I strongly urge SSEN to engage in a thorough evaluation and transparent consultation process with all landowners, stakeholders, and relevant environmental experts to find a mutually agreeable solution that balances the need for energy infrastructure with the preservation of natural landscapes, outdoor recreational spaces and local livelihoods. Collaboration and consideration of alternative options, such as alternative routes or underground cabling, will lead to a more sustainable and harmonious approach to energy distribution and infrastructure development.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I sincerely hope that my concerns are given due consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you soon regarding my objection and any potential alternatives that can be explored to minimise the detrimental impact to the area, my property, my business, my family and the environment.

**Fig 1. Campsite Location marked by red line.**



Sasia Pryor

## 2. Ali and Denis

- a. We know that the TKUP project is going to impact local lives and livelihoods in many ways, what are the biggest impacts on you?

We create safe spaces for people to work through their trauma, anxiety and wellbeing blocks. If this goes ahead we will be surrounded by pylons adding construction, noise and an influx of workers - this will negatively impact our ability to create these safe spaces. This will make some people choose to work elsewhere.

- b. What will this cost you?

We will lose value of our home, our business may not flourish under this pressure, and we will lose the countryside aspects we moved here to gain.

- c. How will your wellbeing/ mental health be impacted?

There will be a negative impact - constant noise and interruptions during construction will be damaging for anyone, but especially neurodivergent individuals.

- d. What 3 things have hurt you the most?

- The misinformation and lies, especially at consultation events.
- The threat to our home, communities and countryside.
- The Scottish government's part in this.

- e. Do you think your business will survive the turmoil of the building of and then living with this infrastructure?

It is hard to answer this question. Changes will have to be made to our business structure and we may well lose money.

- f. In the worst-case scenario, what's going to happen to you and your business?

We will be forced to move - losing a lot of investment.

- g. What's special about your business and your location?

The birds and nature, the feeling of solitude in our woods, the calmness people feel when they drive up our drive.

**Ali and Dennis**

### 3. June Morrison

- a. We know that the TKUP project is going to impact local lives and livelihoods in many ways, what are the biggest impacts on you

TKP's biggest impact to my life is the fact we have already more than enough pylons in our area and now we are getting even more and even bigger . This will ruin our quiet beautiful countryside

- b. What will this cost you?

It will cost us our beautiful views of the countryside but also financially our house prices which are dropping massively. It will also cause noise and heavy traffic pollution as well as inconveniencing us while all the work goes on with traffic lights etc

- c. How will your wellbeing/ mental health be impacted?

My health with the impact from TKUP along with everything else that SSEN are letting into our area is major. I've been told the stress could have me in a wheelchair by xmas 25 and I'm stressed all the time so my mental health has taken a big knock in the past 18months.

- d. What 3 things have hurt you the most?

- a. The lies we get told about everything.
- b. No one listening to us
- c. The industrialisation of our countryside

- e. Do you think your business will survive the turmoil of the building of and then living with this infrastructure?

Don't have a business but homelife is a nightmare and I don't think I will survive living here

- f. In the worst-case scenario, what's going to happen to you and your business?

That we end up in a construction site for years. The noise and mess from construction to deal with daily for years

- g. What's special about your business and your location?

Our area was a quiet hamlet but now so noisy and messy. We had animals in the fields and places to walk and all this is being taken away from us

**June Morrison**

#### 4. Glo Potter

a. We know that the TKUP project is going to impact local lives and livelihoods in many ways, what are the biggest impacts on you

The biggest impact this proposal will have on me is that the quality of my life will suffer. In fact my health has now suffered due to the recent of having to have medical intervention for the years of stress that SSEN have inflicted up on me. The threat of having this substation and associated giant pylons and other storage projects will mean a fundamental change in our ways of life in this beautiful quiet corner of the Mearns to s dystopian industrial estate which will surround us. This will not only take away our peace but the health and environment we have built up over the years here. It fills me with great sadness and so depression certainly trepidation for the future. We are in our seventies in an area where there is no public transport and if ill health makes it harder to continue, we might have to think about a future away from here. because the SSEN scheme will make our home difficult to sell at all and even if sold might only realise half of what it is worth we may even have to be thinking in the farther term of nursing homes and we may have to face separation which is simply cruel and for us unthinkable . This is not a quick easy clean equitable or fair transition as it will take away all we ever worked for.....**our hope and even our future.**

b. What will this cost you?

The cost will be high for us as we count our wellbeing as important. They use the words net zero without wisdom and care of people like us who are not considered by them to be as important as getting their schemes through to make money..at our expense. Financially we will lose up to half the value of our house if indeed we are able to sell if at all.

Environmentally we will lose this wonderful biodiverse area ...there will be no more skylarks song or fawn in the field which causes me to mourn

c. How will your wellbeing/ mental health be impacted?

As I said this last couple of years has had a toll on me. My health has suffered, and I have had tests to say I now need medication for high blood pressure caused by stress. This has been exacerbated by SSEN not listening to or taking account of us. They have not even answered our questions about fundamental issues of their scheme which w/o affect my breathing as I have asthma. In short, I am given the impression that they do not care about me or indeed any of our neighbours who they see as an inconvenience in their path to greater profit for this company

I have felt diminished ignored and ground down by their methods of 'consultation' but for the fact that I know there are good people round me who are also fighting these proposals I might have lost faith and fallen into depression however it does make me sad to think our own county are backing people who could inflict such pain on me and others like me.

d. What 3 things have hurt you the most?

- Been told I have a voice and choices to discover that is not the case.
- Thinking I have rights but watching these big companies trample on them.

- Asking for help and not being listened to for example by Scottish government who will not even meet us yet learning all the whilst the number of meetings scheduled and noted in parliamentary records of the meetings between SSEN and parliamentary representatives who I thought were there to represent us.
  - *Do you think your business will survive the turmoil of the building of and then living with this infrastructure?*

We are retired so do not have business concerns though I know of several businesses which will be affected in the agricultural sector and hospitality. This will affect our whole life and wellbeing though in my lowest moments sometimes I think they just want us to shut up go away or just die....but we are not going to do any of these and will keep up our protests...there are many of us and we will be heard.....**This is MY home.**

**Glo Potter**

## **5. Nicola Robertson**

Dear Whoever is Reading this,

I am highly worried and concerned about these SSEN new pylon plans.

I live in DD9 7XG and our only walking routes are on rural roads. These walks are crucial to my families, adults and children, health and wellbeing.

Not only am I concerned about the direct health issues from these pylons. But these walks are a breath of fresh air and they help clear our minds so much.

The views from these walks are so important in our mental health. I am dreading these views changing, it already causes so much stress and anxiety.

We are also looking to upsize our house in the near future but we are concerned about not only the route of these pylons impacting our current house price but also reducing our options for future as we do not want to be near these monsters and their health implications but this area is our home, our education and work places are here along with our friends.

**Nicola Robertson**

## 6. Dawn Short

My husband and I live at The Bent. We have been there for over 17 years. This is the first place in my life that has truly felt like home - I had never lived anywhere more than 5 years.

When we first found our house we stood at the back fence, gazed at the hills and knew this was home. My beloved Gran's ashes are blowing around in those hills.

Since learning of SSEN plans it feels like something precious has been stolen from us. SSEN tell me it will be OK - *"the view will still be there just with some pylons in it"* and when I was concerned about the "buzz" they reassured me that we *"wouldn't be able to hear it over the sound of the wind whistling through"*. They tell us there will be no effect on property values - but we would not have bought our house with pylons between us and the hills.

I am in a state of disbelief that anyone would seek to desecrate the Howe or the Mearns in such a way.

This horror regularly brings tears to my eyes.

**Dawn Short**

## **7. John and Angie Ross**

### To whom it may concern

I am writing to submit my personal objection in response to SSEN's recent application to the Energy Consents Unit for the proposed installation of large pylons through Angus. My concerns go beyond the visual and environmental harm to the countryside, as this project directly threatens my financial security and future wellbeing.

### **Impact on Property Value, Tourism Income, and Pension Security**

Our holiday home is currently valued at £500,000 and represents not only an important source of income today but also a major part of our pension pot for the future. Its value is directly linked to our financial security in retirement, and any reduction in that value has profound consequences for our ability to support ourselves later in life.

Studies indicate that properties near high-voltage pylons can suffer value reductions of up to 30%, which in our case could mean a devastating £150,000 loss. This is not a figure we can absorb. We are extremely worried that, when we reach pension age, the reduced value of our home will mean we simply will not have enough money to live on. The pylons will strip away not only the beauty and appeal of the property but also the financial safety net we have carefully built over many years.

On top of this long-term impact, we also face considerable short-term financial damage during the construction phase. The movement and operation of large lorries, heavy machinery, and other equipment so close to our property will create significant disruption. Guests choose our holiday home for its tranquility, scenery, and peaceful atmosphere — all of which will be completely undermined by nearby construction works. We fully expect that bookings will fall dramatically during this period, depriving us of vital income at the very time we are trying to maintain the property and meet our ongoing financial commitments.

### **Mental Health Impact and Increased Stress**

This situation is already causing significant stress and anxiety. The uncertainty around our financial future, combined with the knowledge that our carefully planned pension provision may no longer be sufficient, has placed us under great strain. Instead of looking forward to a secure and comfortable retirement, we are left fearing that our livelihood and stability will be undermined by pylons towering just 535 metres from our home and dominating the view from our fully glazed gable end over the Angus countryside.

The peace of mind that should come with preparing for later life has been replaced with constant worry. The impact on our mental health cannot be overstated. The stress of potentially losing such a large portion of our pension pot, through no fault of our own, is deeply unfair and distressing.

### **Conclusion**

I urge SSEN to fully consider the human cost of this project. It is not only landscapes and houses that will be affected, but also people's lives, security, and futures. For us, this is not an abstract issue — it is about whether we will have the means to support ourselves in retirement after a lifetime of hard work and planning.

**John & Angie Ross**

## **8. Donia**

Hello,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Deeside pylons, primarily due to concerns around potential radiation exposure and the long-term health impact on residents, especially young children like my 4-year-old son who lives in Drumoak and goes to Drumoak nursery.

This development would also further threaten local wildlife, which is already under pressure from excessive construction in Drumoak and Banchory. We do not need more trees cut down or natural habitats destroyed for unsightly infrastructure.

I urge them to reconsider the environmental and social costs of this project.

**Donia**

## **9. Julie Urquhart**

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to inform you that the pylons have affected my life. I completely oppose to them being built. We simply cannot have these pylons near our schools.

Drumoak school may be small but it's very important to this growing community. To have the radiation come off these lines and loom over the children at their safe place has caused many so much stress. You do not know the health impact it could have on our children.

We would love to love house but because of these lines , our house will be worth nothing. Family have also moved near by and having this proposed will also make their house worthless. For elderly this is a huge stress, this is all they have worked for taken away. You may as well drop a bomb on our properties.

Please also consider the badgers, fox's, pine martins, deer, red squirrel, hedgehogs we have. You will soon ruin their lives to.

**Julie Urquhart**

## **10. Bruce Farquharson**

From the moment I received the registered letter in the post in July 2024 I had a sinking feeling in my stomach that my life, livelihood and lifestyle were to change forever!

When meetings were set up to discuss their plans with us, SSEN and Balfour Beatty 'tried' to reassure me that we were simply an alternative route and nothing was set in stone!

By the time I went to their 'consultations' in September, we were the preferred route !

They talked about listening to stakeholders and landowners feedback as to the reasons for moving the route twice before and now onto a whole new corridor, yet in the many meetings which I had with SSEN self titled 'land managers' they or any of there senior management didn't listen or act on anything that I put forward. Questions asked left unanswered!

A small farm like my own, where I was brought up as a child, married and brought up my own children and expected to bring my grandchildren to experience this wonderful rural idyll , will be decimated by SSEN's grotesque plans for our beautiful country!

Rotations on my farm would be destroyed during the construction phase and when senior SSEN management were asked specific questions regarding compensation, I was fudged off or ignored with any direct response!

After the second 'consultation' in March 2025, where I was left feeling so low, I felt I had to make the monumental decision to put my farm on the market because economically and for my own well being I could not live with the decimation of my farm or the idyllic life I have been used to for over 50 years! I can honestly say this last 15 months of my life has been the most frustrating and galling experience and I hold no one in SSEN that I have come across in this whole debacle with any regard whatsoever!

**Bruce Farquharson**



## **12. Bonita Maclean**

I live alone in a farmhouse within spitting distance of the proposed TKUP route. I run a very modest holiday let within my home which enables me to afford to live here.

I am very worried that I will lose business as a result of the overhead line - both during the construction phase and subsequently when the pylons are looming above the local beautiful landscape.

I have consistently engaged with the SSEN consultations but the whole process has made me feel powerless. At no point has anyone from SSEN visited me to see how the line will impact on my business/livelihood.

Questions I have receive conflicting answers - even the distance my home is from the line is difficult to get a clear idea of. I am extremely worried about adverse health effects and can't believe that it is even legal to put such concerns outside the scope of the planning application process. It has been the case that each time the community challenges the planned line on legitimate points SSEN simply move the goalposts.

I feel that we are rushing headlong into a time when the landscape will be ruined and then it will be too late to do anything about it.

My livelihood is at risk and I can't get any clear answers to reassure me that I will receive any compensation whatsoever for loss of business.

I have a constant nagging worry regarding the TKUP overhead line development - it is harming my and my neighbours' ability to enjoy a peaceful and productive life.

**Bonny Maclean**

### **13. Jane Ling**

There are a number of areas which are of concern to me both with regard to the construction but about living with a giant pylon around 200 metres from my living room window. My immediate concerns are with regard to the construction and the disturbances we will have to face. The A94 is already much busier since the construction of the new Tay crossing with the road also becoming much faster. This means it is more hazardous to access and exit the bottom of our road. I am concerned about the length of the working day and the disturbance during construction as I understand in other areas this can also be 7 days a week. At the moment the plans suggest that traffic will not come up Jericho but I am worried that this may change and living with no pavement this is a safety concern, not to mention any damage from vibration that may affect our property.

Long term there are a number of concerns not least of all the visual disturbance, I will be looking directly at the pylon from my living room window, there seems to have been no attempt to plan the pylons to be away from our properties. Our houses in Jericho are amongst the most affected on the route. I am worried about how this will affect the long term value of the property. One of my neighbours is currently trying to sell and they have had no viewings, this may or may not have had an effect. My partner and I have worked all our lives to pay off our mortgage with the intention of downsizing and having some capital left over towards our pension. This is likely to have a severe financial impact on these plans.

I am concerned about the increased noise from the pylons, the A94 is a busy noisy road which is increasing and the last thing we need is for more noise to be added to this. I understand that the wires from the pylons can hum in the wet and wind. We are in a bit of a wind tunnel as part of the Strathmore Valley and it is windy a lot.

I am also worried about the effects of the proximity of the pylons on our broadband and telephone signals, I understand that this can limit the signal. We already have very poor broadband and pay extra to have unlimited data for our phones, if this is affected this could affect my ability to work as I have a job which is 100% online.

And last but not least there are still the fears about the health risks, there still seems to be no concrete evidence that living in close proximity to these monster pylons is 100% safe.

My personal story involves sleepless nights worrying about the future and long term what this will mean for us.

**Jane Ling**

## 14. Eleanor Russell

Ever since I first heard about the monster pylons, it has caused me great anxiety. When the glossy brochures, emails from TKUP come in, I find them difficult to understand. To me it was a lot of waffle! It took a long time with two site visits by SSEN to establish where the pylons were going to be placed. In fact, in many of the brochures that SSEN produced Jericho is not even in them!

I have one going at the back of my house, 275 m away, the other will be at the side of my house, again very close, at 300 m. We, the residents of Jericho, have tried to liaise with SSEN to get them to move the pylon at the back of Jericho further back but they say this is not possible. The reason given was exceedingly long winded and difficult to understand!

The cottages at Jericho were built for weavers over 200 years ago. When my husband and I bought Jericho, 45 years ago, our cottage was a listed building. The listing has been removed but we had to keep the front of the cottage the same as it had been 200 years ago! Sadly, this does not count as an historical building.

I worry about my future. I am an elderly widow and know that I may have to move into Forfar when I am no longer able to drive or need to go into Care. My home has already devalued due to the pylons. Who is going to want to buy a house with two humongous pylons next to it? There is no compensation for homeowners.

Strathmore Valley is one of the best arable areas in Scotland. The fields next to me grow potatoes, peas, barley, wheat and sometimes cauliflower! Two fields have sheep in them at the moment. The pylons will have a catastrophic effect on agricultural.

It is also one of the most beautiful areas of Scotland. The pylons are going straight through Strathmore Valley and will have an irreversible impact on the landscape, subsequently, having an impact on tourism that Angus relies on.

Although research has been undertaken into the health hazards of living beside pylons nothing conclusive has yet been proven but, I do believe it has an impact on mental health. It is already impacting mine!

Living in the country my Wi-Fi is not strong. I believe that the pylons will have a negative impact on my Wi-Fi. I already have five boosters in my home. My iPhone, iPad and TV are essential to my well being, especially living on my own. I wear hearing aids and I believe that the pylons will be noisy at times, especially when it is windy. I wonder what effect this will have on my hearing?

The road at Jericho is owned by Angus Council. It is single track leading to two farm tracks. I am very worried about the heavy construction vehicles going up and down the road. There is no room for two cars passing each other, one must reverse! Down the centre of the road is the water main feeding Jericho and Douglastown. It has burst several times over the years, the last being in August this year.

Being in the country I see a lot of wildlife and birds at Jericho. I enjoy sitting in my summer house watching the deer in the field along with the birds and insects coming to feed in my garden. The pylons will impact on the wildlife and birds and I will be sad not to enjoy them as I do at the moment.

It makes me angry that the government has not explored the alternatives of underground or subsea cabling. Financial comparisons are based on outdated cost comparisons.

I am disappointed that ELECTED local councillors, members of the Scottish government and members of the UK government are not allowed to express their thoughts or discuss any aspect of SSEN's proposals with their constituents.

I have nothing positive to say about the monster pylons. They will have a catastrophic consequence for the local environment, communities, farming, businesses, tourism, and homeowners like me. This will leave a lasting legacy of mass industrialisation masquerading as "green energy" for generations to come.

**Eleanor Russell**

## 15. Fiona Troughton

“We’re making them Tall, so we don’t Fry everyone’s Hair”

“What’s Wrong with you People?”

So, our journey started with SSEN. These comments were said to me by SSEN staff members at a local consultations in 2023/4, and set the tone for the community engagement with us ever since.

The original Preferred route for Section B was south of us here at Lochty, probably reflecting the route of the A90 south which would make sense. Due to landowner pressure however, it has been moved further north and closer to the protected area around the Caterthun hillforts and the Angus Glens, where is already host to another recently upgraded 400kv line. The jumbled justification for moving the route, a “complex matrix of measurements”, has led to the current situation where many more folk will be directly affected, ancient woodland chopped down and a special environment through the Dunswood to Fern shallow valley is to be ruined.

The homes on either side of Lochty wood are approximately 400 m apart but make up our rural hamlet of Lochty; 8 cottages with their incredible Caterthun viewpoint to the north, enjoyed by over 20 inhabitants as well as visitors from the local towns who come out to park in the layby and enjoy that view.

Our home, along with the farm are on the north side of the wood, where horse and sheep graze, people walk dogs and babies in prams, forage in the Autumn and meet up with their neighbours, either in the wood or along our lane connecting many more small farmsteads and cottages dotted along the said Coe Road. All of these, as well as the wider community up on the Menmuir ridge will see the pylons all day every day. The Coe Road which is a tiny unclassified lane will be changed beyond recognition as it is the proposed access route for the local pylon construction traffic. Indeed our home now is called Layby C33-16 in the proposed road maps.

SSEN Consultation documents argue that chopping a 90 m swathe through Lochty wood along with a number of the ancient roadside beech trees down will allow the cheapest, straightest, technically easiest line in Section B, route 4a despite bulldozing through many Ofgem and NPF4 policies intended to protect local environment and people. SSEN state that Kirkside of Lochty and Lochty cottages constrain the alignment with “very close proximity and open views” within 90 m to the LOD, with the pylons “large scale and prominent features” for us. (Consultation Document Sept 2024 Ref:LT455)

The visual impact will be significant. Within the same said document SSEN state “the property would offer open views to the south towards the alignment” and yet despite this, the RVAA embedded in the EIA is incomplete and wrong. Best practise in this situation should have a 4 part professional assessment, involving a house visit to see the layout of rooms. Despite hosting senior SSEN land and community managers as well others, including MSPS, who could see clearly our garden faces east-south-west, the drive-by consultants doing the RVAA indicate our house faces north east and we would be screened by garden vegetation from the line of 60 m towers and associated ironmongery in view from early morning to last thing at night. These would be double the height of our garden boundary vegetation. The measuring of the distance between pylon to middle of the house does not adhere to best practise either to accommodate the garden or curtilage, and despite them quoting 213m from pylon to house in the RVAA, in the operational wet noise data figures they measure 165m to the house which will equate to approximately 100m to areas of the garden that are in daily use by us and our family, as well as the wider community when the garden is open to the public. If the line moves to the extent of the LOD, this figure is 119m from pylon to house and is one of the closest in the data set to bear the construction and operational noise.

So, our community is divided physically by having the new route suddenly and surprisingly announced last summer 2024. Not only will we look at the line all day, we will have to live under it every day whether driving, dog walking and pram pushing, or visiting a neighbour. We are also divided emotionally with neighbour pitted against neighbour as the line was refined further away from the original route. It now lies within the Lochty “pinch point” and the landscape setting of the Caterthuns. Somehow this has been ignored by the attempts of others to protect other minor local sites which lie within their own farmland.

Our own home here has a nationally recognized garden (Scottish Field: March 2024, English Garden: June 2023, Garden News: June 2024) and is seen as “an exemplary plot (within the grounds of a) 200 year old manse, which sits amid a swathe of farmland in a tiny hamlet in the Angus countryside”. We will now no longer be able to be open to the public for garden and charity events due to the health risks if the powerlines are so close overhead the outer garden areas. We have very young grandchildren who all live in city homes but escape to us here at Lochty for a fresh safe environment. This will no longer happen as we cannot allow the health risk of childhood cancers to impact our family from the very close proximity of the 400 kV line.

This is our retirement home bought after years of working hard, now difficult to sell and worth considerably less than when bought 10 years ago.

There are no mitigations offered to us here at Lochty, bar “stabilising a visually cohesive roadside” and compensatory planting of trees somewhere, after a 5 year predicted build project involving construction traffic all over this part of Angus on our tiny lanes and squinty bridges a well-known feature of this area.

Nor has there been any mention of a compensatory package for the loss in value to our home. We will be pursuing financial redress as a matter of the utmost urgency if this project goes ahead. It is unbelievable that SSEN commit to community grants, but NOT to the families and householders expected to live by and “host” these pylons with electricity being transported along the wires almost overhead.

If this project undertaken by a large energy company can be so poorly managed with multiple flaws in their processes and methodology, how can the Scottish Govt give the planning consent KNOWINGLY without further proper scrutiny and discussion with those most affected. It would be the right and fair thing to do. Those that need to move, should then be helped to do so.

Thank you for reading this. It is important. Future generations will be witness to the integrity and respect for our land and people shown by you Ministers for the Scottish Government with this and other associated projects in for planning approval.

**Fiona Troughton**

## **16. Richard Martin**

These pylons are the industrialisation of the whole countries countryside. An eyesore to those who live near them and anyone visiting.

There are other ways to send electric cables south , e.g., underground or in pipes, already installed, in the North Sea.

When costing for this , although the planners say overhead lines are the cheapest, they have not costed alternatives.

There are already OHLs in Scotland along with solar panels on farmland destroying the Scottish countryside.

**STOP THESE ABSURD PYLONS NOW.**

Remember, although they are not on your doorstep today, tomorrow you might be next for monster pylons.

**Richard Martin**

## 17. Name Withheld

I have long admired rural Angus for its outstanding and unspoilt natural beauty. Indeed, it was the love of the area's landscapes that brought us to settle here a couple of years ago. Within a few days of moving to the new house, we received a communication from SSEN stating that a development was being proposed within 10 miles of us. We didn't understand the significance of this communication. A year or so later, a rumour was circulating that we might be getting some pylons in front of the house. I wasn't delighted about this, but accepting of it, still not understanding the full significance. A few months later, a kind neighbour knocked on my door to ask whether I was aware of the proposals. Yes, I was aware, I told her, but after a brief conversation, it became apparent I didn't know the first thing about the proposals. The projected line, she informed me, had been moved yet further back since the last rumour I had heard. Now, these pylons, which were not to be of a standard size but about 2 or 3 times larger, were being pushed further into the foothills of the Cairngorms, obscuring the uninterrupted views for miles. I went into a state of shock for some months, and I don't believe that feeling has ever left me. Life is demanding enough without a project of this magnitude landing on your doorstep, a highly coveted doorstep, which I believed would become our forever home.

I have had to rethink my plans to renovate the house. My property will lose its value if the project is approved. Not only are we facing the prospect of losing everything that matters to us, we are also facing financial ruin if we are forced to sell at a loss; or be unable to sell, and face becoming trapped in an industrialised landscape. We are not being offered any form of compensation for these losses. This forms an unacceptable burden on the communities housing an infrastructure from which we will see no benefits: only losses.

I cannot understand why so little consideration is being given to our genuine concerns about the wildlife habitats that would be irrevocably damaged; the agricultural industry which is facing unaccounted impacts; our cultural heritage which is more than mere monuments: our rural landscapes are intrinsic to the character of the area; the effects EMF exposure has on the health and safety of residents close to the alignment; pylon noise pollution once the line is operational (I am extremely susceptible to white noise, and I cannot bear the hum emitted from smaller pylons carrying a much lower charge than the proposed mega pylons); and many other matters. The fact that our Net Zero aims have climate change issues at their heart, begs the question: why is SSEN proposing to do so much damage to our natural environment, when there are other less damaging alternatives? Why have SSEN not considered using HVDC cabling, for example? Why are they presenting us with the most destructive solution to improving our infrastructure as the only solution? How can we refer to this as 'green' energy if it requires the widescale destruction of our green spaces?

As my understanding and awareness of the proposals have increased, it has become more apparent that SSEN have been deceptive in their presentation. It took a well-informed neighbour with connections to landowners (who had received more communications from SSEN about the project) to raise my awareness of this travesty against our countryside. Why was I not properly informed as an affected resident? The consultation processes were not widely advertised. Again, it was the community who kept me informed, not SSEN. Even having attended a consultation event, and given them my email address, I did not receive any communications from SSEN. This enforces the notion that their consultation events were more 'top-down' information-giving sessions rather than designed to employ any meaningful engagement with the residents housing the proposed infrastructure. This hardly evokes any confidence that they would do their duty and due diligence when it comes to managing a project of this scale should it go ahead. I have no belief that that SSEN would employ sufficient mitigation measures because they have lost their credibility in their lack of transparency throughout the course of their proposals. A new plantation of saplings several miles away from a felled ancient woodland with veteran trees, for example, does little to mitigate the loss in carbon capture and essential wildlife habitat. The scale of proposed destruction is so unprecedented, what mitigation measures could suitably be employed? None. The solution? Abandon these mindless proposals, and seek genuinely green alternatives with climate change values at their core.

I have ongoing health issues which have been exacerbated further by the prospect of these dire proposals. My mental health has suffered as a direct result of the proposals. We moved away from the

city in search of a peaceful corner. The idea that we may now look out onto a prison wall of pylons has been a source of stress and anxiety. I would like to note that my concerns for our countryside are not limited to our corner of it: I'm not just a NIMBY. I find it extremely alarming that these proposals to decimate prime lands have been made at all, never mind a 119km stretch of it. It remains shocking and unbelievable. And yet this is happening.

The proposal is at complete odds with any climate change aims, so the fact that SSEN keep quoting these as part of their pathway to 2030 is ridiculous. If SSEN and the Scottish Government had any genuine concerns regarding climate change, they would be finding less destructive solutions to make it happen. It wouldn't require any pioneering on their part: the technologies are already in existence, and in use: in fact, as part of a related project, south of the border in Yorkshire, they are employing underground HVDC because it seems they do value their green spaces, the wildlife, and the people who use them.

I am deeply saddened that I am now in the position where I have to fight to protect the countryside I love and value, not just for me, but the many future generations to come. Surely, this is something which we should be able to rely on the Government to do.

**Name Withheld**

## 18. Edward Troughton

### **FINANCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL RUIN or CLEARANCES IN ANOTHER GUISE**

My wife and I have lived in Angus since 1995. We rented for 13 years at Kinnaird Park whilst bringing up our 4 children. Once they had left home, we always knew we wanted to buy our dream home close to the Angus Glens which we love so much. We found the retirement dream in Kirkside of Lochty which not only gave us the space and views of the glens and surrounding country it also gave us the magnificent and renowned garden designed by feted plants woman, Irene Mackie.

We have now spent 10 years here and made it our own and my wife, Fi, has put her own very special stamp on the garden so that in her and its own right is now lauded as one of the most wonderful gardens in Angus – visited by many. One of the keys to this garden is the very fact that it does not just take in the garden boundaries – but wider landscape to both the west and east. To the east the hedges are cut in such a way as to give views to the open fields stretching out towards Blackhall and to the west the views are over the willow hedge stretching out over the sheep field towards Dunswood and the setting sun. This western view is often commented on as one of the mysteries and delights of this special garden – utilising the vista of an open and gorgeous landscape.

And then now we have the Kintore to Tealing 400kV OHL. When we were told by the neighbouring farmer in July 2024 that the line was to come between us and Lochty cottages we could not have been more surprised and upset. Why? Because – as you will see in all the papers submitted by SSEN – the preferred corridor and route were always some way to the south of us – going back to 2023 and before. Yes, we were concerned about the route and the need for these OHLs to be going over land rather than sea – but had not ‘lobbied’ for them to be moved as such – just stopped or delayed for a proper debate to be had. Then very precipitously we had the corridor widened between Lochty and Fern and the line placed at a point that hadn’t been considered at all (as far as we knew) before July 2024. We now know that this move was because of pressure from residents and landowners from the Careston area to move it north – away from houses and community. Imagine our horror to read this – when it has landed in one of the most unspoilt narrow valleys in Angus – from Blackhall through to Fern and a very tight knit community which has some 50 houses in close proximity. The sense of injustice is hard to explain – but perhaps the fact that we had far, far less time to take this on board, gather our facts and object at the so called consultations (which were no such thing as we were being spoken to – not listened to) – when others had years to gather their facts, lobby hard and win the day. SSEN listened to their impassioned pleas and not ours – and so without proper explanation we have had this OHL foisted on our community – away from the declared SSEN preferred option. This is akin to a tragic game of musical chairs. The residents and landowners on route 4a are the ones who were left stranded when the music stopped.

This has divided communities and caused massive ill feeling between real people and families who have been living side by side in harmony for generations. Not now.

Mention of dividing communities raises the severe and recognised pinch point where the OHL goes between Kirkside of Lochty and Lochty cottages. There is barely 500 metres between the two groups of houses. For Lochty cottages (a group of 8 cottages) this is particularly devastating as they were all bought for their northerly view towards the Angus Glens and the historic Caterthuns – a view now completely obliterated by the line of pylons going from east to west across their view. SSEN have told these residents that this is not an issue and that they do not reach the Residential Visual Amenity (RVAA) threshold. Why? Because the front of their houses are south facing and hence SSEN claim they will not be impacted by the infrastructure at all – completely and disingenuously ignoring that it is the back of these houses where the picture windows are set. It is because of the view from the back of these houses that they were bought in the first place. It is just one of so many things that SSEN have done – in the hope that the ECU will turn a

blind eye. I implore the Scottish Ministers to not turn a blind eye, for the Reporter to come and see for themselves just exactly what is going on here at Lochty and Dunswood. It is not what you are being told in the planning submission by SSEN.

To reiterate. Kirkside of Lochty is our retirement nest egg. It is what we rely on for the future in terms of value. We have had professional valuers to our house who now proclaim that the house is worth at least 40% less than it was two years ago. This is financially ruinous to us and is causing both my wife and I considerable mental distress and causing us failing health at a time when we are needed to help look after the five grandsons we now have. We will not be able to have those grandsons to our garden because of the health risks of EMFs. SSEN have glibly told us that the values will rise again once these 60m towers and lines have been erected – they quote the Beaulieu to Denny line. But if you read the small print, that may be the case for properties that are outwith 500 metres from the line – but this is not the case for properties that are within 200m – which we are (the garden is within 150metres).

Landowners have been liaised with closely the whole way. They have been kept informed and told by SSEN that they will get handsomely compensated for loss of earnings and value and will get money for ‘hosting’ the towers. Homeowners have been treated with disdain and barely disguised ridicule for having the temerity to object to these lines destroying the natural heritage of Angus. We are the last people to be told anything. We do not get spoken to about compensation – even though many face financial ruin. This could have been so different. All SSEN needed to do was speak to us and not ignore us. Say they understand and talk compensation. By not doing so they have caused themselves untold fighting into the future.

This has destroyed my financial planning, is destroying my health and my relations with neighbours.

**This is Highland Clearances under another name.** Normal and decent folk along the length and breadth of the OHL are frightened by the power of the mighty SSEN, feel they do not have a voice – and if they dare to speak up, they are not listened to. People are bowed under the pressure – there is an imbalance of power (all SSEN) and risk (all homeowners and land owners). The power and financial gain is all in the hands of the mighty SSEN and the risk, health consequences and financial loss is all on the proud but bowed residents along the whole Kintore to Tealing OHL. They are quietly leaving – causing untold misery. The Highland Clearances are here again under another guise. Do the Scottish Ministers have any understanding at all of this?

I urge the ECU to act now before it is too late. Generations to come will not be kind to those that allow these monstrosities to carve through our beautiful landscape.

**Edward Troughton**

## 19. Lesley and Alan Joiner

My husband and I are owners of a small amount of land at Dunswood, Menmuir, by Brechin. DD9 6SF.

In late July 2024 we were instructed that a late decision had been taken to widen the route to take account of stakeholder feedback and as a result we now find ourselves completely wrapped by a pylon to the southeast at approximately 200m, a further pylon on our land at 212m southwest of our home with the pylons continuing to traverse our land across the front (west) of our property. Our main outlook faces West and we have a Conservatory to the south. The property is surrounded on three sides by woodland and so we have no peripheral views. Despite senior members of the Project Team visiting on multiple occasions; in essence they are 'turning a blind eye' to the constraints here at Dunswood in order to push the project through. It has been highlighted by planning lawyers that it must be the very best route, from a planning perspective, not the cheapest and easiest. Sadly these principals have not been adhered to.

Over the 30 years plus, since we bought this land, we have improved the quality of the arable land (40 acres) planted a wide variety of broadleaf trees (75 acres) created a wetland and utilised 20 acres of rough pasture to graze our Highland Cattle Fold. We have created a wildlife habitat second to none, including the planting of wildlife hedgerows approximately 15 years ago.

*'The site comprises a mosaic of habitats including 'Ancient Woodland of Long Established Plantation Origin and Native Woodland on the Native Woodland of Scotland; grassland; wetland; and arable land. The woodland habitats include Birch, Alder and Grey Willow which form UK biodiversity Action Plan Woodland Priority Habitats. There are mature roadside Beech and planted native woodland at Dunswood. The Ancient and Native Woodland Areas form a constraint to development and construction, within the footprint of the Ancient and Native Woodland, should be avoided. Mature and over mature trees should be retained and root protection areas suitably protected.'*

**Emma O'Shea, MCIEEM, BSc, PG Dip Env MGMT Ecological Consultant.**

These very trees, which it has been advised, must be protected are indeed to be felled under construction as SSEN propose to remove 45m of (approximately 11) mature Ancient Beech Trees adjacent to the land proposed for development.

To say we have been shoddily treated by SSEN is an understatement. They have not thoroughly assessed the route and people such as ourselves are suffering as a consequence.

No Bat Population or Red Listed Squirrel population has been identified according to the TKUP application and yet again this is a blatant falsehood as Dunswood is heavily populated with both and we, as owners of the land, have evidence to prove the existence of these Protected and Red Listed Species.

We are apoplectic, distressed and heartbroken by the decision to build these pylons on such a highly revered stretch of land.

My Mental Health has suffered terribly due to this proposal and indeed I have been medicated by my GP for Stress and Insomnia. My fear is that should construction start, my Mental Health will suffer further and my husband and I will be forced from the home we so love, as living within a 'Building Site' is incomprehensible. We will essentially be forced from our home; I liken it to The Highland Clearances.

My husband and I are also terribly concerned about the likelihood of Cancers from the EMF's of the line. A recent review of literature by the Scientific Committee for Health, Environment and Emerging Risks identified evidence that exposure To EMFs from pylons carried an increased risk of Leukaemia, Motor Neurone Disease and Alzheimer's Disease. Other recent literature shows an increased risk in male/female breast and brain cancer. This, for various reasons, terrifies me and nothing is being done to mitigate this risk as my husband and I will be almost living under the line. Once again, when this was raised with SSEN, they showed no significant interest or concern in addressing these issues.

As a landowner hugely impacted by this project, I'd have hoped SSE would, at the very least, respond to all emails sent but this has not happened. They are dismissive and irresponsible and sadly have an 'answer ' for everything despite their responses often being far from the truth.

Balfour Beatty, who, we have been regularly assured, will be circumspect at all times, were forced upon us using Section 10 regulations and were disruptive to the community as the ecologists were late in arriving preventing the Drill Rigs to enter the field until an ecology 15 minute 'assessment' was conducted. This created havoc on the narrow no through road on which we live. They tramped across the field instead of using the end rig through which the Drill Rig entered. Furthermore, such is the close proximity to our home, I heard every expletive imaginable used by Balfour Beatty employees. None of this bodes well for development if and when they are granted permission. All the surveys being undertaken, presumptively assume, that the project will go ahead.

To conclude, no-one out with this debacle will ever understand how stressful this last year has been for us. It is making both my husband and I unwell and I fear the consequences of that. This line could be undergrounded or taken subsea but SSEN refuse to even acknowledge these options.

**Lesley and Alan Joiner**

## 20. Ralph Pace

In the early spring of 2023, I was at peace with the world. Forty years of hard work, of saving every penny and sacrificing every comfort, had finally borne fruit. I had built my own home. My life felt complete, balanced, and full of quiet joy. Our granddaughter was due to be born in April, and only God knows the dreams I carried for her. I saw her sitting beside me at the piano, small fingers finding their first notes. I saw her in the garden, hands deep in the soil, learning the rhythms of the seasons, the names of the flowers, the quiet patience of growing things. I imagined the laughter, the warmth, the simple happiness of days spent together.

One day, we thought, a small cottage might be built on a piece of our garden ground. Our children could move into the house, and together we would keep watch over the home that had taken a lifetime to create. Everything seemed so perfectly set, the threads of our future gently woven and glowing with promise. There were endless possibilities. Perhaps, in time, we might even downsize and move closer to the children, using the small equity we had earned to ease into a peaceful retirement.

Nature too seemed to rejoice with us. The Scottish wildcats had returned, captured on our camera for the first time, bringing a thrill of wonder. The pine martens had eaten the chickens again, but that was part of the balance of things. I had built Sharon a squirrel feeder, and the little creatures were already busy preparing for summer. The propagator was pulled from the shed, ready for the first seeds of spring. Down at the West Water, the otters had come back, sleek and playful as ever. Our garden and the surrounding woods had become a sanctuary after the great storms that had laid so many forests low.

Then, one morning in March 2023, I woke to find it all shattered. Every dream, every hope, smashed into dust, tiny fragments of a life that could never be pieced back together. There is no cruelty greater than this: to destroy everything a person has ever believed in. That hard work is rewarded. That sacrifice has meaning. That democracy protects those who live by decency and effort. In a single moment, none of those things were true.

Our lives were thrust into a corridor of hopelessness, disbelief, and despair. The TKUP transmission corridor, only one hundred and seventy metres from my home, would bring towers fifty-seven metres high. Four hundred volts would hum and shimmer through the air, spilling over my boundary. The most beautiful view in Angus, the gateway to the Glens, would be stolen forever. My home became unsellable. We were trapped. Everything we had worked for vanished overnight.

Then began the fight, a desperate struggle to save our homes, our farms, our countryside. Life as we knew it stopped. Every waking hour became consumed with letters, meetings, and campaigns. We believed, still, that someone would listen, that fairness would find a voice. But when we went to Parliament, the Scottish Government laughed at us. They made it clear that our lives, our communities, our homes were of little importance. What mattered was profit, speed, and cutting costs. The burden would be ours to bear.

Our granddaughter was born amidst it all. I heard the words I had prayed never to hear again: "Leave Grandad, he's busy fighting for our home." The same words my own children had once heard when I was working every hour God sent, far from home. The corridor had already stolen our financial security. Now it was stealing my time, the most precious thing of all.

When SSEN's consultations began, our communities came with hope. People turned up in good faith, ready to engage, ready to be heard. That hope died quickly. We realised these were not consultations at all, but mere information sessions about decisions long since made. There was no compassion, no

understanding. Scorn was poured upon us whenever we mentioned our homes. Questions were met with silence, and truth seemed to dissolve in the air.

Weeks turned into months, and months into years, and it became heartbreakingly clear that nothing mattered but the relentless march to impose this disaster upon us. We dutifully reported habitats of protected species, only to learn the true meaning of mitigation, a word that now seemed to mean simply, we do not care. Each consultation hall became heavy with grief. The staircases, the floors, even the air seemed soaked with the tears of broken people. In my sixty-five years, I had never seen so much sorrow. I had seen war, loss, and disappointment, but this was something else entirely. These were tears of betrayal.

When you are betrayed by your own government, by those who are meant to protect you, those tears cut deeper. They do not dry. They leave a dull ache in the chest that never fades, the slow, constant throb of a wounded heart.

After two and a half years, we are exhausted. Many friends have drifted away, perhaps tired of hearing about pylons and SSEN, or too uncomfortable to visit a home stripped of its worth. It is like living with an unspoken illness; people avoid you because they no longer know what to say. We had already lost our first home in Zimbabwe. I told my wife, "Don't worry. No man loses two homes in one lifetime." I told her we were fighting a just fight, that truth, reason, and law would prevail, that democracy still had meaning, that all we needed to do was prove how wrong this was and that justice would surely follow.

Now, the placards and banners are being packed away. The keyboards fall silent. And we cling, still, to the faint hope that justice and fairness might find a way back into this world. We hope for the best, though our hearts prepare for the worst. And when the noise fades, I lift my eyes once more to the hills. I search their quiet slopes for a glimpse of what the future might hold. For somewhere within their shadow lies the truth of who we were, and all that we have lost. Our lives and our dreams now rest in the hands of a few who do not care.

**Ralph Pace**

## **21. Ralph Young**

### **Personal Statement – Black Fox Barn**

My wife and I built our home, Black Fox Barn, after many years of planning, saving, and searching for the right place in the Angus countryside. We wanted a house that would be warm, efficient, and in harmony with its setting, sympathetic to the rural character around Inchbare. We spent years navigating planning rules to build a house that would fit naturally into the woodland. Every element was chosen to minimise its footprint and complement the landscape.

We had only been living here a short time when news of the Kintore–Tealing 400 kV overhead line (TKUP) proposal emerged. The planned route would run directly between our home and the Angus Glens, placing industrial-scale towers in the very view that defines this landscape. To see a line of 57-metre pylons imposed across an area of such natural beauty, and so close to a home we designed with such care to blend in, is both heartbreaking and incomprehensible.

We are also deeply concerned about the impact TKUP will have on wildlife. We regularly see red squirrels, deer, herons, and even sea eagles, and from Auchenreoch Wood behind us we've photographed pine martens and Scottish wildcats, clear evidence of how rich and alive this landscape is.

We followed every rule and principle of planning and good design when building our home. We did everything expected of residents who wish to live responsibly in the countryside. Yet this proposal, which would dominate the skyline and threaten the woodland habitat that sustains such remarkable wildlife, undermines the very values that local planning policy is supposed to protect.

We even went to the bother of inviting SSEN representatives (as part of their much vaunted "consultation") to our home to try to make them understand just how severe the impact would be. We were met with nothing but weak excuses, obfuscation, and a complete lack of understanding. It was very clear that they had chosen the route based on the fastest and most profitable option and that they felt it was a done deal. It was a consultation in name only.

We built Black Fox Barn to be part of the landscape, not to fight against it. I ask that the decision-makers consider what will be lost here, not just for us, but for the environment and for Angus itself.

**Ralph Young**

## **22. William Taylor**

I am writing to object to the application for the construction of overhead power lines between Kintore & Tealing, application reference number ECU00005225.

My main objection is the damage these pylons and overhead cables will do to the local environment and the natural beauty along the proposed route.

SSEN suggest that overhead cables is the only option available to them, but this is not the case they can bury the power cables, this is already the practice for power cables coming from existing offshore wind sites, an example being the cables landed ashore at Carnoustie where the power cables remain underground for several miles until reaching the SSEN substation.

Cables can also be laid offshore from the windfarms and brought onshore to where the power is needed negating the need for hundreds of miles of overhead power cables.

If these overhead power lines really do have to be constructed then they should follow the route of existing power cables and pylons, from where I live in Fern Angus there are already existing high voltage power lines to the East & West so why do SSEN feel the need to make an entirely new route?

I hope you will take my objection seriously and lobby the Scottish government to refuse to give permission for the construction of this overhead power line.

**William Taylor**

## **23. Ewan Carnegie**

My name is Ewan Carnegie and I have been working as a self-employed gardener for over 25 years in some beautiful gardens across Angus. One of which I consider to be one of the most beautiful and wildlife friendly of all - Kirkside of Lochty.

This beautiful place has countless birds, many rare and some protected such as Herons, Waxwings, Nut Hatch, Bramblings, Red Kites, Buzzards and several different species of Owl, all of which call this and the surrounding woodlands their home. The proposed plan for monster pylons nearby, application ECU00005255, will undoubtedly have a huge and devastating effect on much of this wildlife, not to mention the untold damage it will have on all nature in the surrounding area.

The garden of this property has featured in magazines and over the years has been opened to the public for various charity events. One of the charities Pitt-Hopkins is very close to my heart, my Niece suffers from this terrible syndrome. Seeing her there with my family in such a beautiful place not only gave us so much joy but raised a large amount of money for the Pitt-Hopkins charity. Sadly, I fear these fundamental local events will never happen again if the proposed plans are passed. The untold damage this will cause will be far reaching and irreparable.

This simply should not be allowed to happen.

**Ewan Carnegie**

## **24. Emma Troughton**

Kirkside of Lochty has always been a special place for our family — a quiet haven where our boys, Kit and Gus, can run free, climb trees, and explore the woods without the constant noise and pace of city life. It's where they've learned to love nature and where we've all found a sense of calm that's hard to come by elsewhere.

The thought of high-voltage transmission lines running so close — almost over the garden where they play — fills me with worry. As a mother, I can't ignore the potential health risks or the change it would bring to what has always felt like a safe and nurturing environment.

Lochty's rural charm and peace are what draw us back, time and again. To lose that — to see it turned into somewhere we'd hesitate to bring the children — would be heartbreaking. It's not just the view or the landscape that would be lost, but the sense of sanctuary and connection that has always made this place home.

**Emma Troughton**