

Powering your future



A high voltage overhead line, similar to the one needed in Dumfries and Galloway

Dumfries and Galloway Strategic Reinforcement Project

Background

Every minute of every day families and businesses across south west Scotland are using electricity. Whether it's lighting our homes, powering shops and offices or just having a well-deserved cuppa, we expect it instantly at the flick of a switch. It's our job at SP Energy Networks to make sure it's always there whenever you need it.

SP Energy Networks is part of the ScottishPower Group, and we own and manage the network of overhead lines and cables which bring electricity to your home or business. Nearly 83,000 people in the region rely on us, and, as modern life adapts to the use of more and more new technology, we need to make sure we keep pace.

Inside this newsletter

- An overview of the project
- A fold out map with dates and venues of public exhibitions
- How you can make your views known
- How to contact us directly

FAST FACT:

The Dumfries and Galloway project could allow us to remove more than 130km of existing overhead lines.

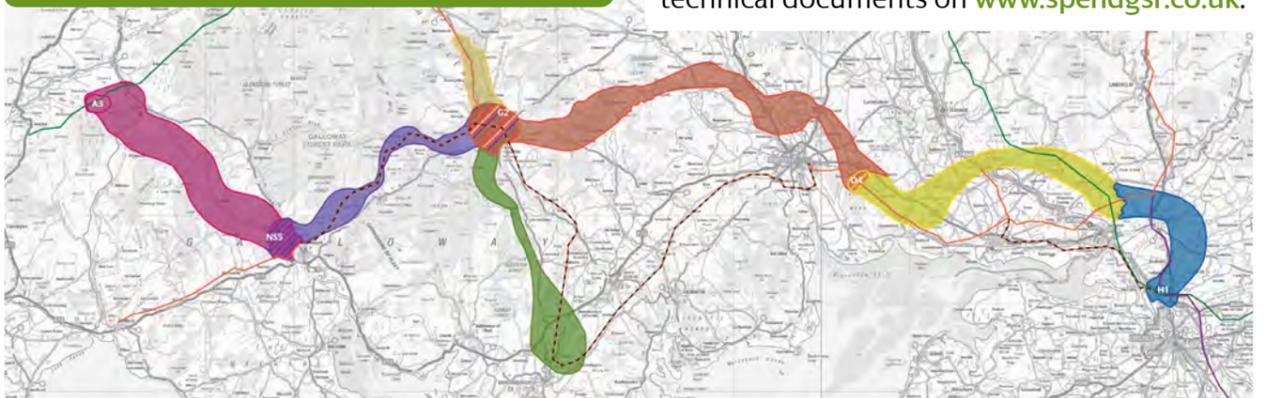
Some of the electricity system in Dumfries and Galloway is more than eighty years old and nearing the end of its life. Although it's served communities well, it needs to be modernised so that it is fit for people now and in future generations.

At the same time, the area is generating more electricity and at Auchencrosh, in South Ayrshire, an undersea cable comes ashore which transmits electricity to and from Northern Ireland.

We have a duty to modernise the system, make it more resilient for local homes and businesses and give it the extra capacity it needs.

TALK TO US:

Call us on 0800 157 7353 or email on dgsr@communityrelations.co.uk, or better still come and see us in person. See inside for details of exhibitions and other ways to contact us.



Our plans

We need to replace much of the area's ageing 132kV system with a new high voltage overhead line of up to 400kV stretching from Auchencrosh to Harker, in Cumbria. In other places we will replace old 132kV lines with new ones at the same voltage. We also need to build four new substations; at Auchencrosh, Newton Stewart, Glenlee and Dumfries.

We've identified a broad corridor of land between Auchencrosh and Harker within which the new overhead line could be built, as well as broad siting areas within which the substations could be built. We refer to these as our preferred corridor and preferred siting areas for substations. We'd like to know what you think of them.

Have your say:

We're carrying out public consultation from June 8 until July 24.

See inside for a map, more information and details of public exhibitions we're holding in June. There's lots more information and technical documents on www.spendgsr.co.uk.

Why do we need a new overhead line?



Dumfries and Galloway is an area rich in energy from renewable sources. As well as wind farms, there are a number of hydro-electric power stations, together known as Galloway Hydros. At Auchencrosh, electricity is exported and imported via a subsea cable from Northern Ireland.

The electricity transmission system in the area (the towers and substations which ultimately deliver electricity to homes and businesses) was originally built in the 1930s, to connect the hydro-electric power stations.

Times are different now and the system is nearing the end of its life. It needs replacing to make sure supplies to local homes and businesses are reliable for decades to come.

Also, because the system is only 132kV it is operating at full capacity. This will soon start to hamper our ability to transmit electricity from the places where it is generated to the places where it is needed.

NEEDS MUST:

Read the Background to Need Case document on the project website for more information.

A like-for-like replacement of what's there already isn't really an option. Analysis and studies to date suggest that the existing transmission system doesn't meet the needs of the future. SP Energy Networks has a statutory duty as part of its transmission licence to provide capacity for new renewable generation in the areas we serve.

Building a new line of up to 400kV and replacing parts of the old 132kV line will extend and reinforce the transmission system from Auchencrosh, through Dumfries and Galloway, to Harker.

It will also allow more potential green energy sources to connect when they are developed in future. This is important for the UK and Scotland, as both governments have set tough targets to increase the amount of renewable energy we all use and so create a sustainable energy-secure future.

And it means we can take down more than 130km of old electricity lines completely, including some in or near environmentally sensitive areas.

How we chose our preferred corridor and areas

We want to keep any impact on the area's natural and built heritage, including the people who live and work here, to a minimum.

That means balancing the technical demands of the project with the needs of people, the environment and the economy.

To identify our preferred corridor and substation siting areas, first we had to examine a large study area, identifying all the places with high environmental value. We also considered the presence of existing overhead lines, particularly the opportunity to remove them in some places.

This gave us a number of possible corridors and siting areas for the new substations. Each was assessed for its impact on views, the character of the landscape, biodiversity, cultural heritage and the way the land is used at the moment. Balancing all these factors helped us choose areas we feel have the least impact on people and the environment, while still meeting the project's technical needs.



Where is our preferred corridor? The public consultation

In general terms, it runs west to east from the northern part of Arecleoch Forest, near Auchencrosh, in South Ayrshire, to Harker, north of Carlisle, in Cumbria.

Two shorter corridors head north to Kendoon, and south to Tongland, near Kirkcudbright.

The combined total length is approximately 175km, or 109 miles.

You can see our full preferred corridor overleaf, together with our preferred siting areas for the new substations. The actual line could be built anywhere within this corridor, but this will be the subject of another round of public consultation next year, following the outcome of this one.

GET THE DETAIL:

You can offer comments on any of the corridors we considered. The details are in our Routeing and Consultation Document. This and many other important documents are available online or at one of our exhibitions.



What we would like your views on

- Overall comments on the project
- Comments on the preferred corridor and preferred substation siting areas
- What you think about the potential removal of existing overhead lines in some areas
- Any other factors you would like us to consider, for instance your views on other corridors or siting areas we considered. We would particularly like your views on your local area, for example, areas you use for recreation, local environmental features you would like us to consider, and any plans you may have to build anything in our preferred corridor

We will publish the results of this consultation later this year and we will give you another chance to comment on more detailed proposals next year.

Existing overhead lines near Harker substation



How to make your views known



Our initial consultation will run from June 8 to July 24. There are lots of ways you can make a comment:

Come and meet us

We're holding nine public exhibitions along our preferred corridor where you can look at maps, see our plans, talk to members of the project team and pick up a feedback form. The dates and venues are listed overleaf. We've chosen places so that everyone living within a kilometre either side of the corridor should only be a short distance from their nearest event by car or public transport.

Visit the project website www.spendgsr.co.uk

There is lots more information on www.spendgsr.co.uk and you can give us your comments online too. Scan our barcode and it will take you straight there or visit www.spendgsr.co.uk.



Call us

Call our Freephone number 0800 157 7353 and ask us to send you a feedback form. Lines are open during normal office hours. Outside these hours you can leave a message, but please remember we'll need your name and address.

Write to us

Email us at dgsr@communityrelations.co.uk or write to FREEPOST SPEN DGSR

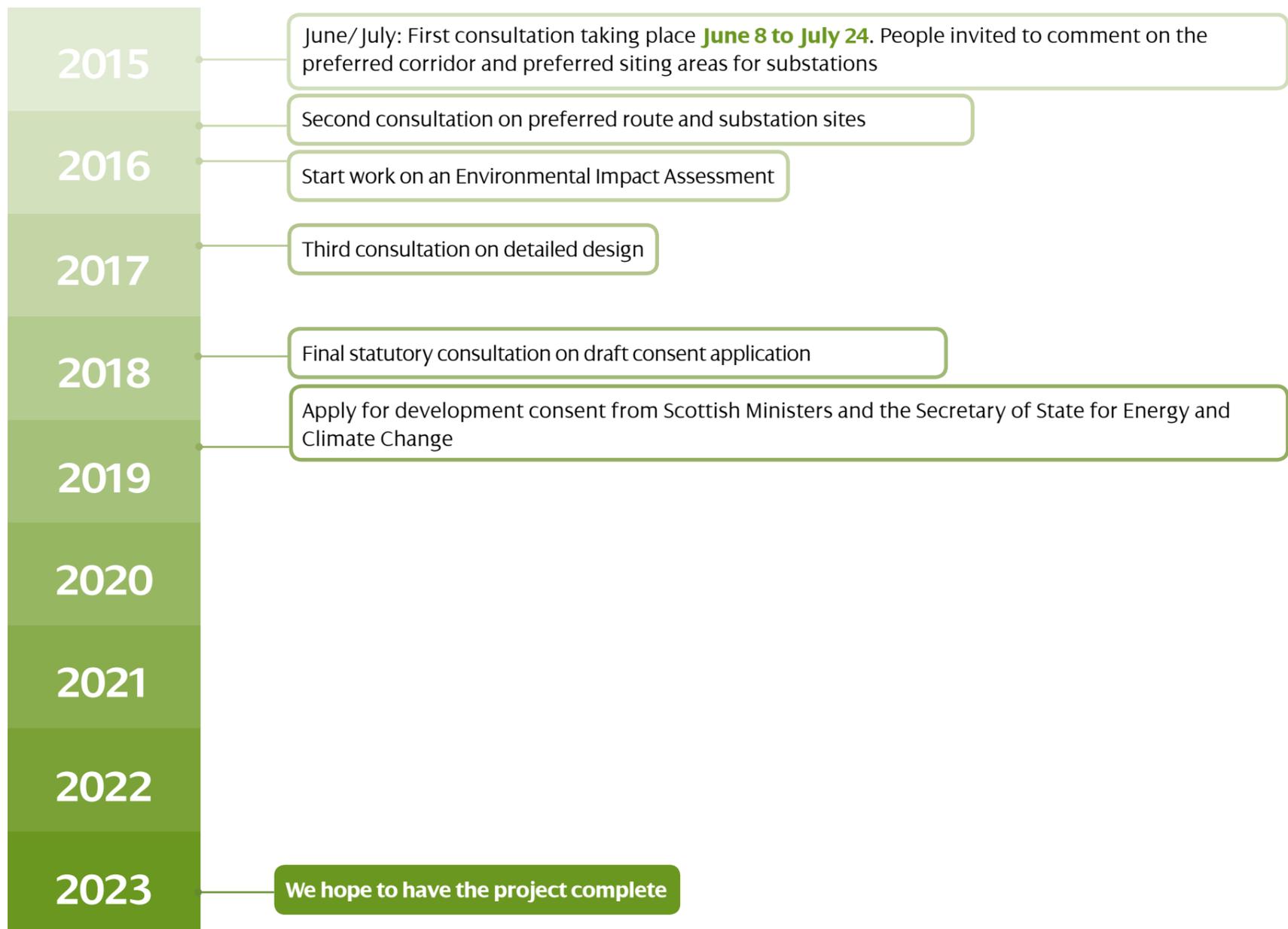


Project Timeline

There will be lots more chances to make comments on the project as it develops. Why not sign up for updates via www.spendgsr.co.uk to make sure we can let you know when? Here is a list of the milestones we're aiming for at the moment.

NEXT STEPS:

As we refine our project we'll carry out more detailed environmental and technical surveys. Our land representatives will soon start contacting landowners. For more information please contact us.



Key project documents

Project documents providing more information about the Dumfries and Galloway Strategic Reinforcement Project include:

- Background to Need Case (for more detail on why the project is required)
- SP Energy Networks: Approach to Routeing Transmission Infrastructure
- Routeing and Consultation Document

Contact the project team:

Freephone:

0800 157 7353

Email:

dgsr@communityrelations.co.uk

Post:

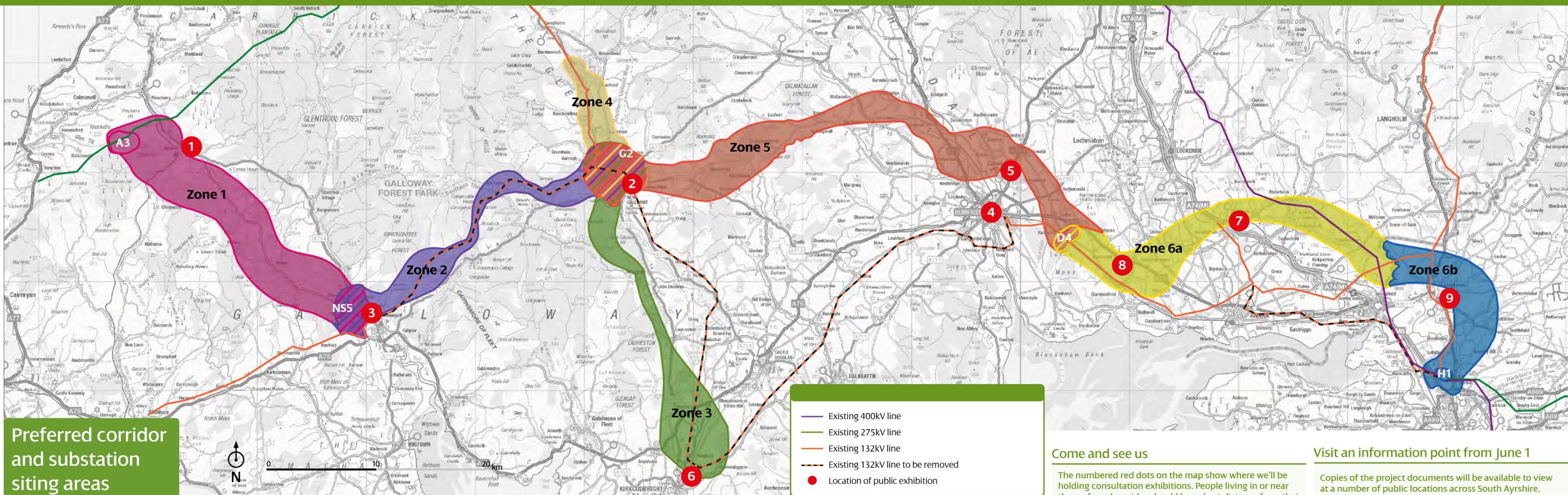
FREEPOST SPEN DGSR

GETTING HOLD OF THE PROJECT DOCUMENTS:

Documents are available on www.spendgsr.co.uk, or you can view them at an information point in one of a number of public locations.

If you would like a large text or alternative version of this document please contact us on **0800 157 7353** or go to our website www.spendgsr.co.uk.

Dumfries and Galloway Strategic Reinforcement Project



Preferred corridor and substation siting areas

- Existing 400kV line
- Existing 275kV line
- Existing 132kV line
- Existing 132kV line to be removed
- Location of public exhibition

Come and see us

The numbered red dots on the map show where we'll be holding consultation exhibitions. People living in or near the preferred corridor should be a short distance from their nearest exhibition by car or public transport.

- Just drop in any time during the hours mentioned.
- Tuesday June 9, 2pm until 8pm**
Barrhill
Barrhill Memorial Hall, Main Street, KA26 0PP
 - Wednesday June 10, 2pm until 8pm**
New Galloway
New Galloway Town Hall, High Street, DG7 3RL
 - Thursday June 11, 2pm until 8pm**
Newton Stewart
McMillan Hall, Dashwood Square, DG8 6EQ
 - Tuesday June 16, 2pm until 8pm**
Dumfries
Cairndale Hotel, English Street, DG1 2DF
 - Wednesday June 17, 2pm until 8pm**
Locharbriggs
Locharbriggs Community Centre, Auchencrieff Road, DG1 1UX
 - Thursday June 18, 2pm until 8pm**
Kirkcubright
Kirkcubright Community Centre, St Marys Wynd, DG6 4JN
 - Tuesday June 23, 2pm until 8pm**
Ecclefechan
Ecclefechan Village Hall, Ecclefechan, DG11 3DR
 - Wednesday June 24, 2pm until 8pm**
Carrutherstown
Hetland Hall Hotel, Carrutherstown, DG1 4JX
 - Thursday June 25, 2pm until 8pm**
Longtown
Longtown Community Centre, Arthuret Road, CA6 5SJ

Visit an information point from June 1

- Copies of the project documents will be available to view at a number of public locations across South Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway and Cumbria from June 1.
- Opening times vary. Please check before setting off to avoid disappointment.
- Annan Customer Service Centre (DG)**, High Street, Annan, DG12 6AQ. Tel: 030 33 33 3000.
 - Ballantrae Library**, The Hall, Ballantrae, KA26 0NB. Tel: 01465 831521.
 - Cumbria County Council offices**, reception area, The Courts, Carlisle, CA3 8NA. Normal office hours.
 - Dalry Library**, Main Street, St. John's Town of Dalry, DG7 3UP. Tel: 01644 430234.
 - Dumfries Planning Office**, Kirkbank, English Street, Dumfries, DG1 2HS. Normal office hours.
 - Gretna Library**, Central Avenue, Gretna, DG16 5AQ. Tel: 01461 338000.
 - Kirkcubright Customer Service Centre (DG)**, High Street, Kirkcubright, DG6 4JG. Tel: 01557 332516.
 - Lochthorn Library (north Dumfries)**, Edinburgh Road, Dumfries, DG1 1UF. Tel: 01387 265780.
 - Lockerbie Customer Service Centre (DG)**, 31-33 High Street, Lockerbie, DG11 2JL. Tel: 01576 203380.
 - Longtown Library**, Lochinvar Centre, Longtown, Cumbria, CA6 5UG. Tel: 01228 791638.
 - Newton Stewart Library**, Church Street, Newton Stewart, DG8 6ER. Tel: 01671 403450.
 - Stranraer Planning Office**, Ashwood House, Sun Street, Stranraer, DG9 7JJ. Normal office hours.
- Check our website for more venues www.spendgsr.co.uk

Zone 1: Auchencrosh to Newton Stewart

The corridor starts at our preferred siting area for a new substation at Auchencrosh (site A3), in the northern part of Arecleoch Forest. It heads south east, passing south of Barrhill, before roughly following the route of the B7027 to end at our preferred siting area for a new substation near Newton Stewart (site NS5).

Zone 2: Newton Stewart to Glenlee

From the preferred siting area for a new substation near Newton Stewart (see Zone 1 for details), the preferred corridor passes north of Newton Stewart before turning north east, following the existing 132kV overhead line through Galloway Forest towards our preferred siting area for a substation for Glenlee (site G2).



Zone 3: Glenlee to Tongland

From the preferred siting area for the new Glenlee substation (see Zone 2 for details), the preferred corridor heads south through plantation forests at Cairn Edward Hill and Laurieston Forest to connect to the existing substation at Tongland. This section will involve a new overhead line of 132kV supported on steel towers. It means we can take down 33km of existing 132kV line and towers between Tongland and Glenlee, some of which crosses Loch Ken, which is designated as an important site for birds.

Zone 4: Glenlee to Kendoon

From the preferred siting area for a new substation for Glenlee (see Zone 2 for details), our preferred corridor heads north, following the existing 132kV overhead line to Kendoon. This section will involve a new 132kV overhead line supported on steel towers. Our work here will allow us to rationalise the existing 132kV network in this area.

What if you can't make it to an exhibition?

Don't worry, there are lots of places you can see the information, maps and documents and feed back your comments.

Visit our project website at www.spendgsr.co.uk

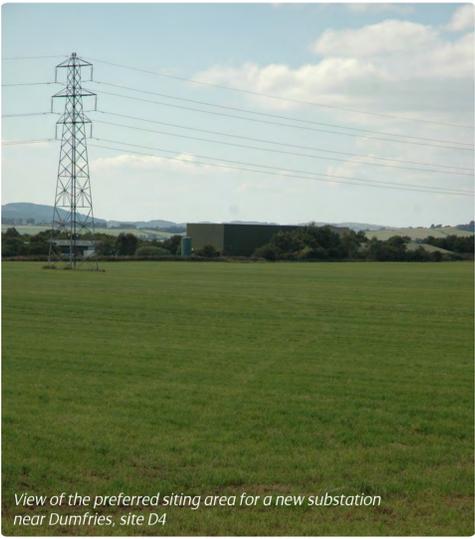
Send an email to dgsr@communityrelations.co.uk

Call our Freephone number 0800 157 7353. Lines are open Monday to Friday, 9am until 5:30pm, except bank holidays.

Write to our freepost address at: FREEPOST SPEN DGSR

Zone 5: Glenlee to Dumfries

From our preferred siting area for a new substation at Glenlee (see Zone 2 for details), the preferred corridor passes New Galloway and St John's Town of Dalry, and north of Dunscore. Here it turns south eastwards to pass north of Locharbriggs before finishing at our preferred siting area for a new substation near Dumfries (site D4).



Zone 6a: Dumfries to English border

From our preferred siting area for a new substation near Dumfries (see Zone 5 for details), the preferred corridor travels south east following the route of the existing 132kV line and the A75 for a short distance. At Carrutherstown it turns north east to pass north of Ecclefechan before heading slightly southwards to cross the border into England, north east of Gretna. This section will involve a new high voltage overhead line of up to 400kV supported on steel towers. Our work here means we can take down around 15km of existing 132kV line from Chapelcross to the border. This line, which passes north of Annan and south of Gretna, can be seen from the Solway Estuary.

Zone 6b: English border to Harker

The final section of preferred corridor enters England, passing north and east of Longtown before turning south to link up to the existing high voltage National Grid substation at Harker, in Cumbria, site H1. It is not proposed to build a new substation at H1, however the existing Harker substation may need to be modified or extended. As our project develops we will be able to give you more information and, if necessary, ask for your views in a future round of consultation. This section will involve a new overhead line of up to 400kV supported on steel towers. Our work here means we may be able to take down around 8.5km of existing 132kV line close to the Solway Estuary between the border and Harker.

View an interactive map online at www.spendgsr.co.uk