

PROJECT SUMMARY

An Introduction to the Project

The 400kV overhead transmission line from Beauly to Denny has been consented and is under construction. Applications for planning consent to develop the required substations were made under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to the relevant planning authorities. An application was made to Falkirk Council to develop a substation on land owned by Scottish Power Transmission (SPT) at Torwood Mire near Denny in September 2005 (Denny North Substation).

The site for the Denny North Substation currently forms a strategic junction in the existing electrical transmission network where five 275kV transmission overhead lines converge. There is also a 132kV transmission line which passes in close proximity to the proposed Denny North site. The site currently contains 275kV cable sealing end compounds and underground power and fibre optic cables.

Although a formal EIA was not required for the project at the time of application under the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2008, the inclusion of Denny North Substation as an integral part of the Beauly to Denny 400kV overhead transmission line project has meant that substantial environmental impact assessment work has been carried out including the production of an Environmental Statement (ES) within which the substation featured.

The Project Overview:

Recognising the potential significant adverse ecological effects on the existing raised bog, and because there was no alternative feasible site, SPT in consultation with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has placed an emphasis on minimising the potential impacts and defining mitigation and offset measures.

The consent conditions for the project require the reinstatement of the remaining part of Torwood Mire and the production of an agreed Habitat Management Plan. In response to this SPT has prepared a Code of Construction Practice for the project that includes both Peat and Habitat Management Plans.

Areas of peatland and bog will be restored as compensation for the areas of bog lost. In order to achieve this it is essential to make use of an area of land adjoining the proposed Denny Substation site to the south.

It is the planning application for this land that is the subject of this consultation exercise.

Description of the Application Site

The Application Site

The application site in question is an area of approximately 5.25 hectares that is marked as Areas 6 and 7 in Figure 1.

This land is ideal because it fulfills the following requirements. These are:

- no significant environmental constraints
- good ground conditions that lend themselves to reuse of peat
- short and easy access from main site
- landowner agreement

What are the Objectives?

The objectives are to:

- 'marry' this area into the existing site and the rest of Torwood Mire
- ensure peat is re-used in an area where ecological benefits can be delivered
- promote re-use of the material
- avoid the disposal of peat to landfill
- promote use of best practice and to ensure that benefit is made from experience on other sites in re-using materials for ecological enhancement
- seek to:
 - create a naturalistic mosaic of habitats
 - promote the restoration of bog and/or wet heath communities
 - integrate the new habitats with those in adjoining areas

The prime objective is to restore an area of peatland that will include wet heath, dry heath and marshy grassland as show in Figure 2 as Area D.

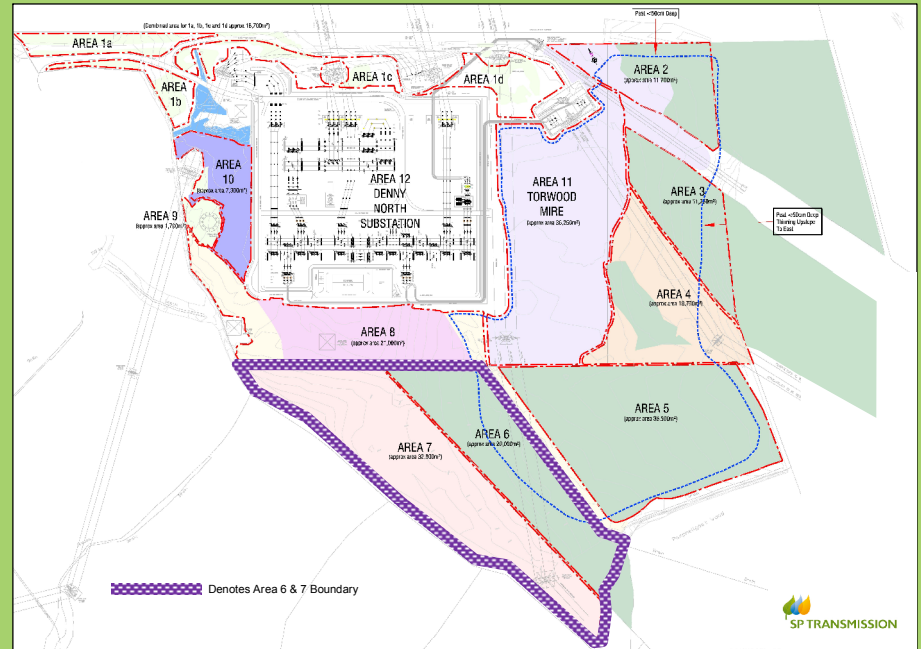


Figure 1: Plan showing Areas 6 & 7 - Neutral Grassland

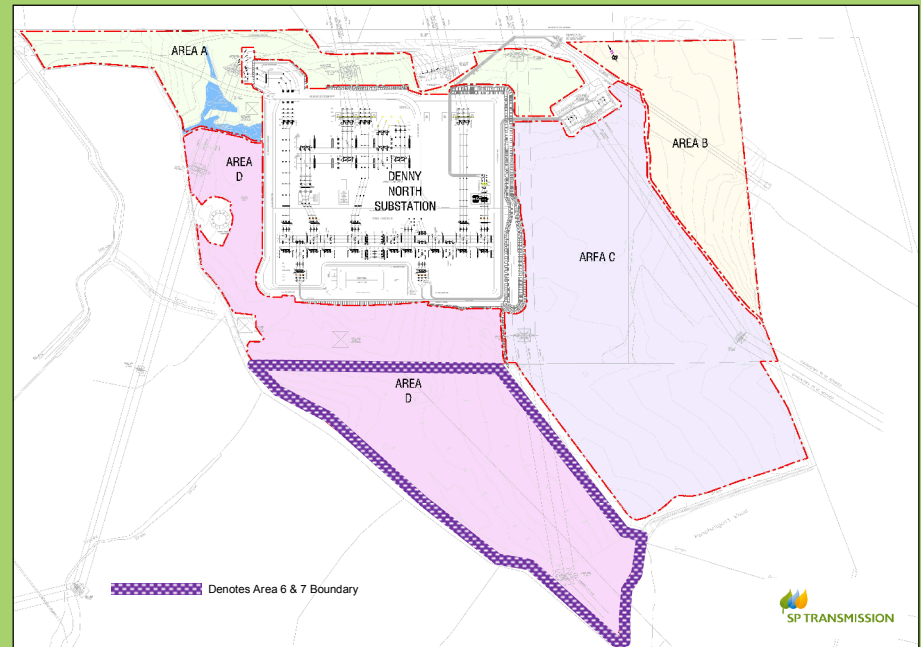


Figure 2: Plan showing Areas 6 & 7 included within Area D as a Restored Peatland Mosaic



Figure 3: Current view of Area 6 (spruce plantation) next to Area 7 grassland

THE PROPOSALS

It is proposed that in Area 6 (Figure 3) the spruce plantation will be felled and the area restored as peatland (mosaic of bog and wet heath). Fen peat can be placed in this area. Area 7 (Figure 4) is to be 'levelled' off in the southern corner with a retaining bund of glacial till excavated from the substation site. Fen peat can be used to cover this area. A settlement lagoon/SUDS pond will also be made from glacial till to capture any drainage water coming out from the new peatland. Fen turfs composed of wet and dry heath will be used to cap off any peat laid down (Figure 5).



Figure 4: Current View of Area 7 grassland



Figure 5: How Area 7 might look as a mix of wet and dry heath after construction

HAVE YOUR SAY

As part of our consultation process SPT want to give you the opportunity to comment on the proposals prior to a planning application being submitted to Falkirk Council.

Information on these proposals will be provided during our exhibition at **Denny Baptist Church on 15th November 2012 between the hours of 3pm and 7pm**

CONTACT US

If you wish to make a representation on this proposal you can do so by contacting us at the following email and postal address **no later than Friday 11th January 2013**

Email: beauly-dennyprojectmanager@scottishpower.com

Write to: Beauly Denny Project Manager
 Scottish Power Energy Networks
 New Alderston House
 Dove Wynd
 Bellshill, ML4 3FF

A copy of the public information leaflet is available on Scottish Power's website:

http://www.spenetworks.co.uk/serving_our_customer/s/performance.asp?NavID=1&SubNavID=3

SP Energy Networks own and operate the network of cables and power lines that transport electricity to around 3.5 million homes in the south of Scotland, Cheshire, Merseyside, North Shropshire and North Wales. It is our role to operate and maintain the electrical supply system in these areas. We operate in a regulated environment where our regulator Ofgem sets targets covering a 5 year period. Our assets and transmission and distribution licenses are owned by three wholly owned subsidiaries: SP Transmission, SP Distribution and SP Manweb

Denny North Substation: Proposed Peatland Restoration Area

