

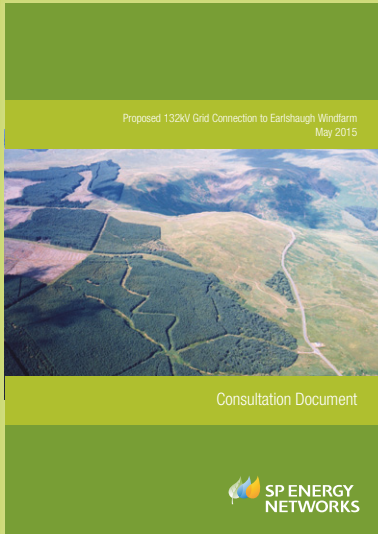
# Consultation

Considerable environmental planning has been undertaken to minimise the environmental impact of the proposals and as part of our consultation process we want to give you the opportunity to comment on the current proposals.

A Consultation Document has been prepared providing details of the initial stages of work undertaken to identify a Preferred Route alignment for the grid connection. This has involved the review of key environmental features of the Study Area, identification of alternative routes and analysis of route options. From the outset, SPEN has focused on reducing the environmental impact of the proposed development, whilst remaining technically and economically viable.

A copy of the Consultation Document has been made available for public review during normal working hours at the following locations:

- ▶ Moffat Library, Town Hall, High Street, Moffat DG10 9HF.
- ▶ Peebles Library, High Street, Peebles EH45 8AG
- ▶ Dumfries and Galloway Council, Planning and Environment Services, Kirkbank, English Street Dumfries, DG1 2HS.
- ▶ Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newton St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0SA.



The Consultation Document can also be accessed and is available to download on the ScottishPower Energy Networks website:

- ▶ [http://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/earlshaugh\\_windfarm\\_grid\\_connection.asp](http://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/earlshaugh_windfarm_grid_connection.asp)

If you wish to make any comments on this proposal you can do so by contacting us at the following email and postal address no later than Monday 31st August 2015.

- ▶ [EarlshaughGC@SPEnergyNetworks.com](mailto:EarlshaughGC@SPEnergyNetworks.com)  
or by writing to:
- ▶ Earlshaugh GC Project Manager, Scottish Power EnergyNetworks, Ochil House, 10 Technology Avenue, Hamilton International Technology Park, Blantyre, G72 0HT.

Please note that any comments made during this Consultation Stage are not representations to The Scottish Government Energy Consents and Deployment Unit, who will determine any subsequent application for consent. Following the submission of the Section 37 Application, interested parties will have the opportunity to make representations to the Scottish Government on these proposals.

## Proposed 132kV Grid Connection to Earlshaugh Windfarm



Consultation Leaflet – We'd like to find out what you think

# The Project

SP Energy Networks (SPEN), through its transmission licence holder Scottish Power Transmission Plc (SPT) proposes to construct a new 132kV grid connection in the Scottish Borders and Dumfries and Galloway. As the transmission licence holder, SPT is obliged to provide this connection, which is required to allow the proposed Windfarm at Earlshaugh to input to the electricity network.

Consultation at this route selection stage follows the approach adopted by SPEN to line routing and is part of the ongoing engineering design, technical development, and environmental review of the proposed development. The eventual route selected for the grid connection will take into account views expressed during this Consultation Stage.

A Proposed Route will then be carried forward to a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), the results of which will be reported in an Environmental Statement. The Environmental Statement will support the Section 37 application under the Electricity Act 1989 to Scottish Government for consent to construct and operate the grid connection.

# Proposed Design

Our proposal involves an overhead line connection on lattice steel towers for the majority of the route, with sections underground when exiting the proposed Windfarm and linking to Moffat Substation.



L7 (C) Lattice Tower (double circuit arrangement).

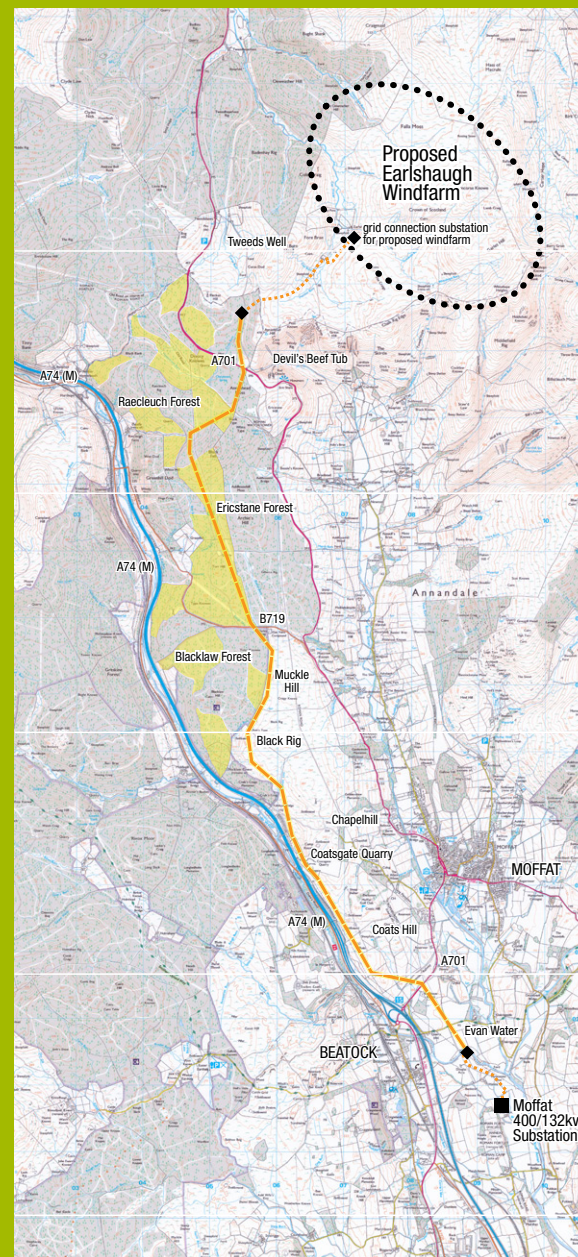
The proposed overhead line will be a 132kV single circuit on a lattice steel tower of the L7(C) series. The tower design has been determined following a detailed review of the engineering and technical requirements for the connection. Towers will be approximately 27m in height and may be extended or reduced to ensure adherence with minimum safety clearances. The average span between towers will be approximately 250m and the associated wayleave corridor 40m to either side of the route. A short section of the proposed grid connection will be underground when exiting the proposed Windfarm and linking to Moffat Substation. This will use oil free cables contained in a trench approximately 1.5-2.0m wide and 1.3m depth.

# Preferred Route Option




At this Consultation Stage, the Preferred Route to the north of Moffat Substation crosses the Evan Water and passes to the east of Lochhouse Tower to cross the A701. The route then passes to the west of Coats Hill and follows the alignment of the existing 400kV overhead line parallel to the A74 (M). The route then crosses Coatsgate Quarry and rises to an area of rough grassland to the east of Blacklaw Forest and crosses the B719 to the west of an existing Gas Valve Compound. The route then passes through the coniferous plantation of Raecleuch Forest following existing fire breaks and forest compartment divisions wherever possible, crossing the A701 to the north to reach the proposed Windfarm at Earlshaugh.

The total length of this new grid connection will be approximately 16.5 km.

# Preferred Route Option



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- KEY**
-  Preferred Route Corridor.
  -  Proposed underground cable route (indicative only).
  -  Area of recent tree felling / replanting of commercial forest.

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