

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 Routeing 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.

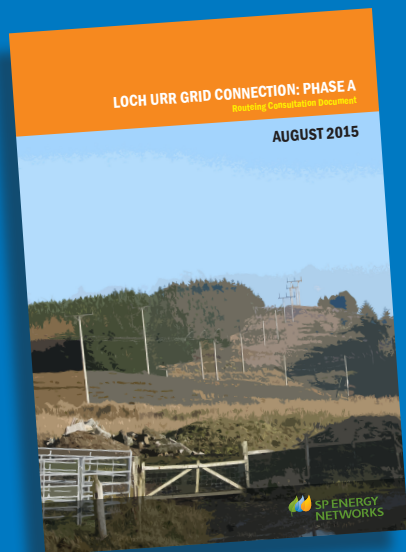
A copy of the Routeing Consultation Document will be made available for public review during normal working hours at the following public locations and Consultation Events:

Dalmellington Community Library, 1 Townhead, Dalmellington, Ayr KA6 7QZ

Dalry Library, Main Street, St. John's Town of Dalry, Castle Douglas, DG7 3UP

Consultation Event 1: Tuesday 18th August 2015, Lagwyne Village Hall, Carsphairn.

Consultation Event 2: Wednesday 19th August 2015, Glencairn Memorial Institute, Moniaive.



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

www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/community_consultation.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 Wednesday 30th September 2015.

LochUrrKendoonNorth@scottishpower.com

or by writing to:

**Loch Urr and Kendoon North Project Manager,
Scottish Power Energy Networks, Ochil House,
10 Technology Avenue, Hamilton International
Technology Park, Blantyre G72 0HT**

Proposed 132kV Grid Connection to the Loch Urr Windfarm



Consultation Information Leaflet

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.

The eventual route selected for the grid connection will take into account views expressed during this Consultation Stage, and a Proposed Route will then be identified and carried forward to the Environmental Impact Assessment, and the Section 37 Application.

The Project

Scottish Power Energy Networks has received a request to provide grid connections for three windfarms in Dumfries and Galloway. A new substation is also required to connect these developments to the grid. Benbrack and Quantans Hill wind farms would connect to the new substation by underground cable and Loch Urr windfarm would connect via an overhead line supported by wood poles.

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.

Proposed OHL Design

Our proposal involves an overhead line connection on wood pole structures, with some short sections potentially underground when the route requires so for operational or health and safety reasons. The proposed overhead line will be a 132kV single circuit on a 'Trident' wood pole design. The wood pole design has been selected following a detailed review of the engineering and technical requirements.

The Trident design of wood poles is formed of two principal pole types; a single pole and an 'H' pole configuration. For single poles, the nominal height of the wood poles is likely to be 15m, with a maximum above-ground height of 22m and a minimum above-ground height of 10m. The spacing between the poles will vary but will generally be 120m, with a maximum span length of 150m.

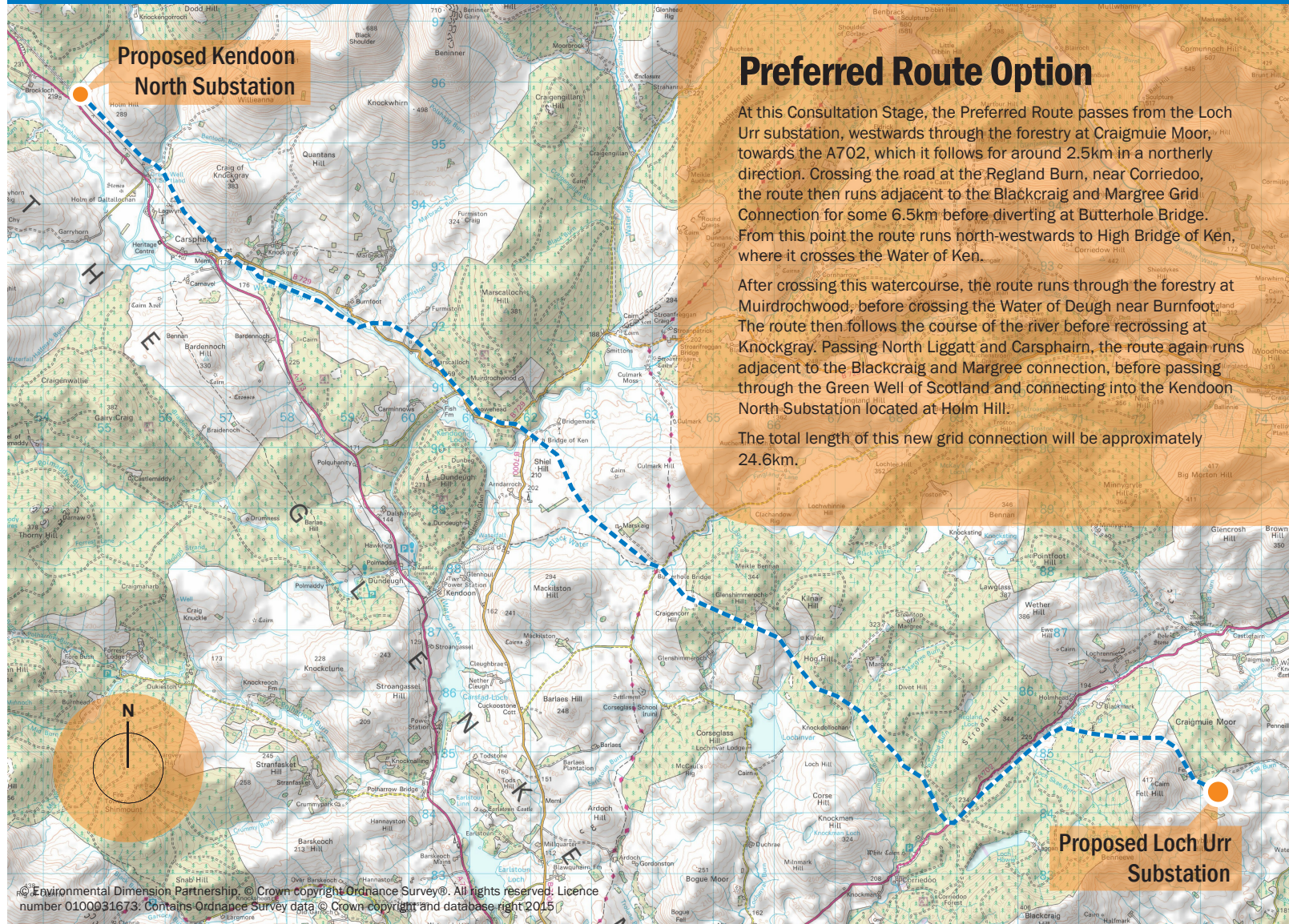
For the 'H' pole configuration, the height will again be between 10m and 22m, and span lengths will vary depending on topography and altitude, with poles being closer together at high altitudes to counteract the effects of greater exposure to wind and weather events. The height and distance between poles will be determined after the detailed line survey.



Trident Design Single Pole (left) & 'H' Pole (right)

Proposed Substation Design

The proposed Kendoon North collector substation would have an area of approximately 100m x 80m and would be a 'GIS' substation, of similar appearance to that shown. The Loch Urr overhead line would connect into the substation, which would also serve as the connection point for the proposed Benbrack and Quantans Hill windfarms. The connections from these windfarms are to be provided as underground cable by the windfarm operators.



Preferred Route Option

At this Consultation Stage, the Preferred Route passes from the Loch Urr substation, westwards through the forestry at Craigmuir Moor, towards the A702, which it follows for around 2.5km in a northerly direction. Crossing the road at the Regland Burn, near Corriedoo, the route then runs adjacent to the Blackcraig and Margree Grid Connection for some 6.5km before diverting at Butterhole Bridge. From this point the route runs north-westwards to High Bridge of Ken, where it crosses the Water of Ken.

After crossing this watercourse, the route runs through the forestry at Muirdrochwood, before crossing the Water of Deugh near Burnfoot. The route then follows the course of the river before recrossing at Knockgray. Passing North Liggatt and Carsphairn, the route again runs adjacent to the Blackcraig and Margree connection, before passing through the Green Well of Scotland and connecting into the Kendoon North Substation located at Holm Hill.

The total length of this new grid connection will be approximately 24.6km.