



Proposed Extension to the Substation at Crystal Rig

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SPT is required under the Electricity Act 1989 and under the terms of its Electricity Supply Licence 'to *develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission*'. In carrying out the proposed development, SPT will be complying with its statutory requirements.

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 proposals prior to a planning application being submitted to East Lothian and Scottish Borders Councils. Contact details for comments are provided at the end of this public information leaflet.

The Proposed Development

The development will involve the construction of a proposed extension to the existing 400kV grid substation at Crystal Rig, located almost entirely within East Lothian, but with a small section crossing into the adjacent Scottish Borders authority area.

The substation extension works will comprise:

- Earthworks to accommodate the substation;
- Substation equipment;
- An access road around the inside of the perimeter;
- A perimeter fence surrounding the substation compound;
- An external perimeter walkway;
- A 20m high (max.) earth bund surrounding the substation on three sides; and
- An extension to the existing drainage.

This project falls within the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006, and under the Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009 is classed as Major Development. However, the proposed substation extension does not fall within the scope of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 because the substation will not be involved in the production of electricity, but its transmission.

The footprint of the proposed substation, including the earth bund, is also considered not to be in a particularly environmentally sensitive or vulnerable location. Regardless of this, SPT, on the basis of its mindfulness towards local people and the environment is undertaking an environmental appraisal of the proposed works, and is preparing an environmental report in support of its application for consent.

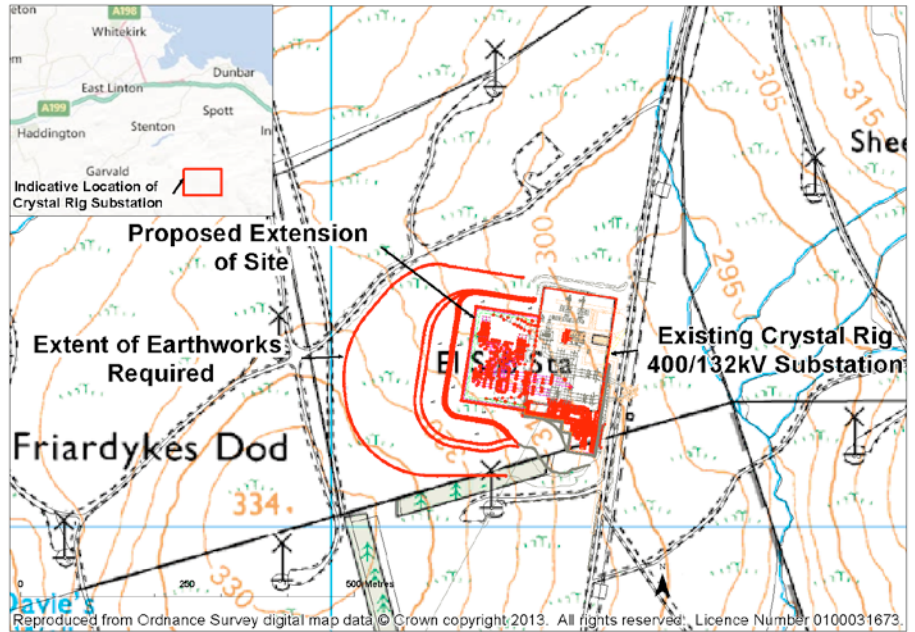
The Environment

The site proposed for development includes open rough grassland, sloping downhill from south west to north east, from approximately 320m to 305m above sea level. The immediate surroundings also include rough grassland, as well as access tracks and drainage channels associated with the Crystal Rig Wind Farm turbines. The area includes no woodland although extensive tracts are present to the south. The proposed location lies between the headwaters of the Tay Burn and Mossy Burn. No sites designated for their ecological importance are present, the nearest being approximately 2km away.

The site is located adjacent and partially within the Lammermuir Hills, a regionally designated Special Landscape Area due to its landscape quality.

There are no National Trails or Long Distance Footpaths in the area although walking in the Lammermuir Hills is a popular recreational activity using existing rights of way, which includes the Herring Road Heritage Path, a former trade route.

There is a low potential for buried archaeological remains to be present in the general vicinity based on previous studies associated with the wind farm and the findings of trial trenching undertaken for the existing substation.



Public Consultation

Public Exhibitions

May 2013 – All 1200 – 2000hrs

21st May

Spott Village Hall (unmanned)

22nd May

Spott Village Hall (members of the project team in attendance)

The consultation and exhibition is there to present the project and allow you to ask questions to members of the project team and make comments on the proposals. Your feedback is a vital part in the planning process.

Contact

If you wish to provide comment or make a representation on this proposal you can do so by contacting us at the following email and postal address no later than Friday 19th July 2013.

crystalrig.projectmanager@scottishpower.com

Or by writing to

Crystal Rig Project Manager,
ScottishPower EnergyNetworks, 3rd Floor Ochil House, 10 Technology Avenue, Hamilton International Technology Park, Blantyre, G72 0HT.

Please note that any comments made during this consultation are not representations to the local planning authority. Following the submission of the planning application, interested parties will have a further opportunity to make representations to the planning authority on these proposals.

This public information leaflet is also available on the Internet at:

http://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/serving_our_customers/performance.asp



Both images show the existing substation at Crystal Rig