

# Environmental Report (continued)

The Environmental Report will accompany the two new planning applications for the proposed development being submitted to East Lothian and Scottish Borders Councils. A Pre-Application Consultation Report, and Design and Access Statement will also accompany the applications.



# 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 prior to the new planning applications being made to East Lothian and Scottish Borders Councils for consent to construct the Crystal Rig Substation Extension.

You can see these proposals by visiting our Exhibition at:

- ▶ Spott Village Hall (Spott, EH42 1RJ): 24th & 25th April 2017 between the hours of 12 noon to 8pm.

SPT staff and environmental consultants will be available at the Exhibition to discuss the proposals on Tuesday 25th April 2017.

A copy of the Environmental Report providing further details of the proposed development and specialist environmental assessments is available to view on the Internet at:

- ▶ [https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/community\\_consultation.aspx](https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/community_consultation.aspx)  
Direct access can be made to the website by scanning the QR code with your smartphone.



# Comments

If you wish to make any comments on this proposal, you can do so by contacting us at either the following email or postal address no later than Friday 16th June 2017.

- ▶ [crystalrigprojectmanager@spenergynetworks.co.uk](mailto:crystalrigprojectmanager@spenergynetworks.co.uk)  
or by writing to:

▶ Crystal Rig 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 are not representations to the Local Planning Authority, who will determine the subsequent planning applications for consent. Following the submission of the planning applications, interested parties will have the opportunity to make representations to East Lothian and Scottish Borders Councils on these proposals.

# Crystal Rig 400kV Substation Extension



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



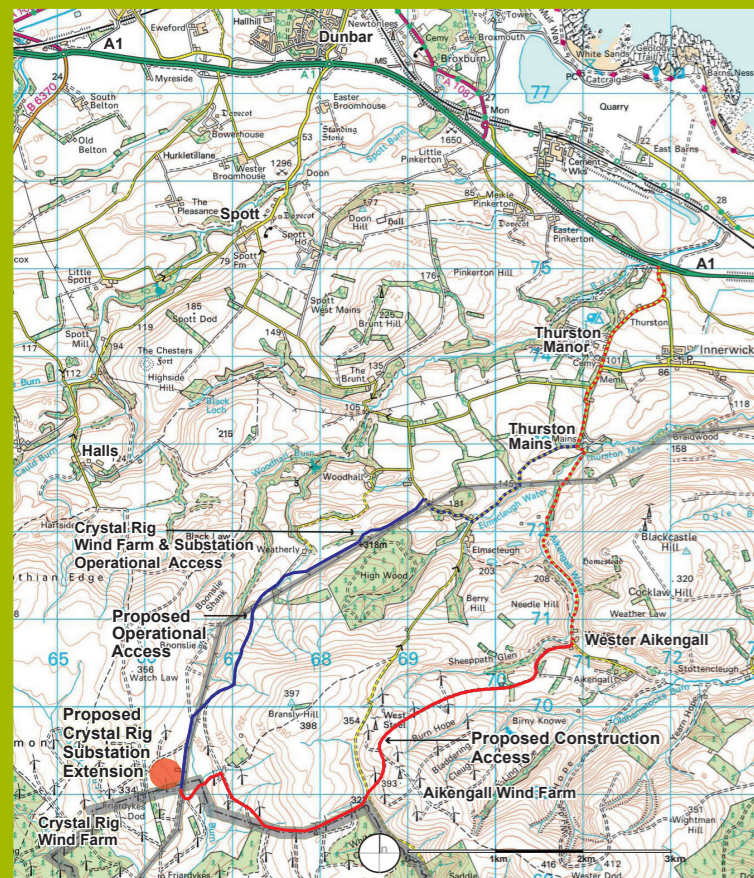
# Project Need

SP Energy Networks (SPEN), through its transmission licence holder Scottish Power Transmission plc (SPT), proposes to construct an extension to the existing 400kV Crystal Rig Substation located approximately 10km south of Dunbar. The extension is required to allow the proposed Neart na Gaoithe (NNG) offshore wind farm to connect to the electricity network.

SPT has a statutory duty “to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission” under section 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended by the Utilities Act 2000). It is also subject to licence conditions requiring it to enter into an agreement with the system operator to carry out works and obtain consents necessary to facilitate connections for generators.

To comply with its statutory and licence obligations, SPT must provide the proposed NNG wind farm with a connection to the existing transmission system.

The proposed NNG wind farm is located in the Outer Forth Estuary. Development consents for the NNG wind farm were granted in September and October 2014. Subsequently RSPB sought a judicial review of two of the consents granted by Scottish Ministers. The two decisions were found to be unlawful and quashed in July 2016. Scottish Ministers have reclaimed (appealed) against the decision to reduce the consents and a judgement is expected later in 2017.



Location and Proposed Operational and Temporary Construction Access Routes

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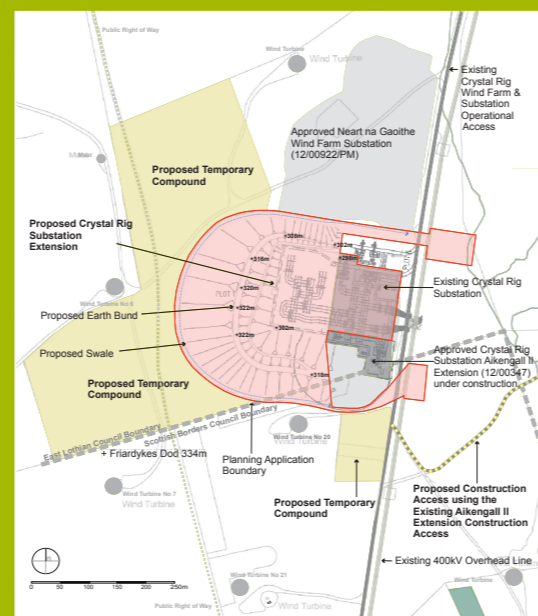
# Proposed Development

The proposed Crystal Rig Substation Extension is located within East Lothian and Scottish Borders, the site straddling the administrative boundary between the two Council areas. Planning permission was obtained from both Councils to construct the Crystal Rig Substation Extension in 2013.

Since obtaining the planning permissions, new electrical engineering safety clearance standards have been introduced which require the Substation Extension electrical compound area to be increased in size from 95m x 137m to 100m x 144m (an increase overall of 5m in width x 7m in length).

In addition, the proposed development construction method has identified the requirement for an enlarged temporary compound area primarily for the storage of material and management of surface water in accordance with best practice guidelines. A construction programme of approximately 21 months is currently considered necessary for the proposed Crystal Rig Substation Extension.

The earthworks to accommodate the amended electrical compound area have been rechecked by SPT engineers and will retain the approved ridgeline



Proposed Crystal Rig Substation Extension, Access and Temporary Construction Compounds

alignment and top of slope heights as approved under the planning permissions in 2013. The earth bund will retain the majority of the cut-and-fill excavated materials on site, with only unsuitable material removed off site.

To the south of the existing Crystal Rig Substation, an extension to allow the connection of Aikengall II wind farm is currently under construction. A new temporary construction access road has been established to facilitate the development. It is now considered that this road would provide a more appropriate route for traffic engaged in the construction of the Crystal Rig Substation Extension.

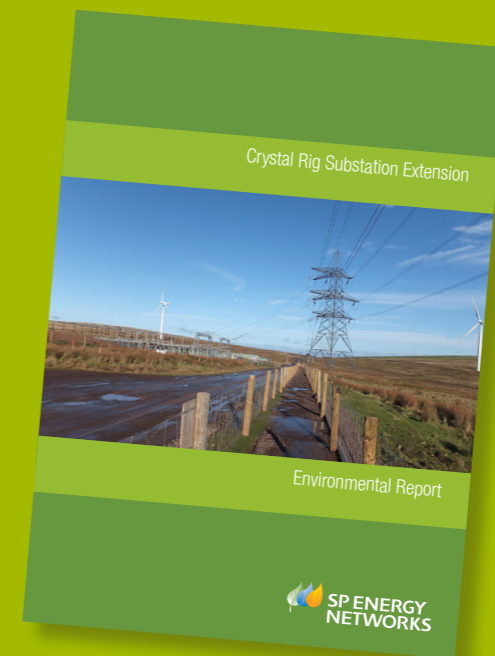
A dedicated route for construction traffic will minimise any potential conflicts associated with traffic engaged in carrying out the onshore works associated with the NNG offshore. It will also ensure that any potential traffic conflicts with operational traffic using the existing access road to the Crystal Rig Substation Extension originally proposed for use by all traffic shall therefore be used for operational purposes only.

# Environmental Report

Environmental specialists have undertaken an assessment of the proposed amendments to the Crystal Rig Substation Extension. The findings are detailed in an Environmental Report covering the following topics: Landscape and Visual; Heritage; Ecology; and Hydrology.

On review, the environmental effects are either Minor or represent No Change to those as reported in the Environmental Report, which accompanied the two approved planning applications in 2013. No Significant environmental effects are therefore predicted by the amended proposals.

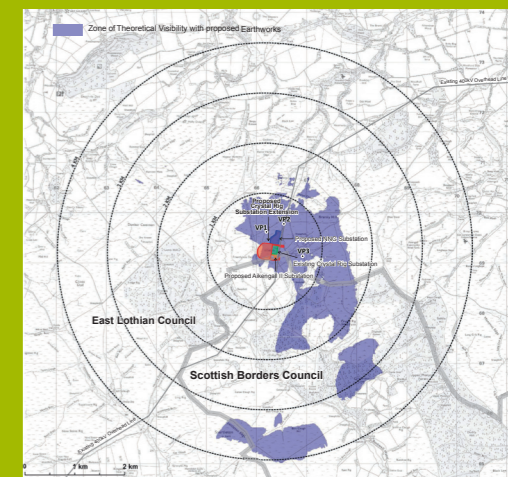
As agreed with the Council, potential Traffic and Transport effects shall be handled as for the previous planning permissions by imposing conditions on any consent, such as the requirement for a Traffic Management Plan.



Viewpoint 1\_Watch Law Access Track Example photomontage of the proposed Substation Extension.



The Environmental Report is available to view on the internet (see Consultation Section for details).



Zone of Theoretical Visibility with proposed Earthworks