



Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade Project

Summary of Feedback from Second Round of Pre-Application Consultation
(PAC) October-November 2025

February 2026

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Executive summary

This report summarises the second round of pre-application consultation (PAC) carried out by SP Energy Networks for the proposed new Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade project.

SP Energy Networks carried out its first round of pre-application public consultation with local residents and stakeholders from Monday 27 January 2025 to Thursday 17 April 2025. This included six drop-in public exhibitions:

- Newarthill Community Facility, Newarthill, Wednesday 29 January 2025
- Muirfield Community Centre, Cumbernauld, Thursday 30 January 2025
- Pather Community Centre, Wishaw, Friday 31 January 2025
- Gartcosh Social Club, Gartcosh, Tuesday 4 February 2025
- Bonnybridge Community Education Centre, Bonnybridge, Wednesday 5 February 2025
- Glenmavis Community Facility, Glenmavis, Thursday 6 February 2025

At the request of North Lanarkshire Council, an additional drop-in event was held at the Gartcosh Social Club on Thursday 27 March 2025 to consult on the plans for the Easterhouse substation.

Following the first round of consultation, we continued talking to stakeholders and conducting technical and environmental studies.

A second round of pre-application public consultation took place from Monday 27 October 2025 to Friday 21 November 2025 for local people to give their views on the updated, more detailed proposals, including the proposed tower locations and access arrangements. As before, these public consultation exhibitions were held in locations close to the proposed new infrastructure. Following a request from local residents during the first round of consultation, we held an additional event in Dunipace in the second round of consultation. The final list of consultation exhibitions was:

- Netherton Community Centre, Wishaw, Tuesday 28 October 2025
- Bonnybridge Community Education Centre, Bonnybridge, Wednesday 29 October 2025
- Glenmavis Social Club, Glenmavis, Thursday 30 October 2025
- Newarthill Community Facility, Newarthill, Monday 3 November 2025
- Cumbernauld New Town Hall, Cumbernauld, Tuesday 4 November 2025
- Gartcosh Social Club, Gartcosh, Wednesday 5 November 2025
- Dunipace Parish Church Hall, Dunipace, Friday 7 November 2025

The exhibitions were attended by a total of 55 people. All events took place from 2pm to 7pm.

We received 18 responses to the second round of consultation, with comments on the proposed route and design, public engagement, community improvements, the cumulative impact of projects, the environmental impact and construction impact. Table 1 in this report details SP Energy Networks' responses to the comments received.

As a summary, this report will provide:

- an overview of the project and the consultation process;
- a summary of the feedback received during the consultation period;
- the methodology used to analyse the feedback received; and
- the next steps in the process.

1 Introduction

1.1 Need for the project

Scotland is producing more clean, green energy than ever before, and we need to strengthen the electricity transmission network so we can get it to the homes, schools and businesses that need it.

The UK and Scottish Governments are committed to increasing the use of renewable energy and have targets to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 in Scotland and 2050 in the UK.

Our planning work with the National Energy System Operator (NESO) has identified that, for these targets to be met, the capacity of the high-voltage electricity transmission network between Denny and Wishaw needs to be increased. This can be best achieved by extending some substations to accommodate extra equipment, increasing the voltage of some existing overhead lines and installing a new overhead transmission line between Bonnybridge and a point near Glenmavis, where it will be joined to an existing overhead line, which will allow the additional green energy to get to where it is needed.

The existing electricity transmission network in central Scotland was built in the 1920s. Since then, it has grown and evolved to meet the region's industrial needs and serve its expanding population.

Today, the existing electricity network in Falkirk and Lanarkshire includes overhead lines operating at 275,000 volts (275kV) and 132kV, transporting energy through the region and serving local communities through grid supply points (GSPs) at Bonnybridge, Cumbernauld, Easterhouse, Newarthill, Denny North and Wishaw.

The Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade project includes extending substations, upgrading three existing overhead lines from 275kV to 400kV and building the proposed new overhead transmission line between Bonnybridge and a point near Glenmavis. This will include a "spur" to Cumbernauld Substation, allowing us to remove the existing 132kV overhead line between Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld.

1.2 The role of SP Energy Networks

SP Energy Networks is part of the Scottish Power Group. It is responsible for the transmission and distribution of electricity in central and southern Scotland and, through SP Manweb and SP Electricity North West, the distribution networks in North Wales and North West England. SP Energy Networks' role is to maintain, operate and invest in our network to secure a safe, reliable and economic service for current and future consumers, including homes, schools and businesses in our local communities.

Its transmission networks are the backbone of the electricity system in its area, carrying large amounts of electricity at high voltages across long distances. The distribution networks are local networks, which take electricity from the transmission grid and bring it into the heart of communities. SP Energy Networks' transmission network in Scotland consists of over 150 substations, more than 4,500km of overhead lines and more than 600km of underground cables.

1.3 The proposed scheme

In the first round of PAC, we consulted local people about our preferred route for the new overhead line – a corridor within which the line could be installed. The preferred route from

Bonnybridge substation crosses the Antonine Wall before passing east of Rough Castle, west of Slamannan Plateau and across part of Palacerigg Country Park before joining the existing XX overhead line route near Glenmavis. We also consulted on proposed extensions to existing substations and on increasing the voltage of some existing overhead lines.

In this second round of consultation, we consulted on our proposed detailed alignment for the new overhead line, including proposed locations for new transmission towers (pylons), access routes and working areas; proposed substation extensions; and proposed upgrading works to existing overhead lines. These are:

- construction of a new double-circuit 275kV/400kV overhead line running north–south from the Bonnybridge 275kV substation to a point near Glenmavis in North Lanarkshire, where it will connect to the existing 275kV overhead line (known as the XX route) that runs between the Easterhouse and Newarthill 275kV substations;
- a “spur” from the new overhead line to Cumbernauld Substation (approximately 750m) and removal of the existing 11km 132kV overhead line (CB route) between the Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld substations;
- extending our existing substations at Bonnybridge, Denny North, Cumbernauld and Wishaw, and internal works at the Easterhouse and Newarthill substations, so we can install additional electrical equipment and carry out drainage, access and security fencing works where required;
- installing new transformers at the Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld substations;
- replacing the conductors (wires) and associated equipment on existing overhead lines so we can operate them at 400kV:
 - Newarthill to Wishaw (XR route) – 16km
 - Newarthill to Easterhouse (XX route) – 15.4km
 - Denny North to Bonnybridge (ZG route) – 4km
- alterations to the overhead lines where they enter the substations (to connect them to the new equipment);
- moving the existing XX overhead line further away from residential properties at Grantown Gardens, Glenmavis, through a new “tee-in” arrangement to the proposed new overhead line; and
- undergrounding two sections of the existing 132kV overhead line (AA route) between Bonnybridge and Bathgate, where it is crossed by the proposed new overhead line.

1.4 Identifying the proposed scheme

SP Energy Networks worked with environmental consultants to identify potential routes for the new overhead line between Bonnybridge and the existing Easterhouse–Newarthill overhead line near Glenmavis. SP Energy Networks appraised each option for its impact using a range of criteria, including local views, the character of the landscape, biodiversity, cultural heritage, flood risk and other land uses.

The proposed route leaves the Bonnybridge substation and crosses the Antonine Wall at a location that minimises potential effects on this World Heritage Site. It passes east of Rough Castle, using the topography of the landscape and screening, provided by existing trees, to reduce visibility.

It then passes west of the Slamannan Plateau Special Protection Area (SPA) and crosses Palacerigg Country Park. SP Energy Networks has undertaken an extensive assessment of the route and cannot avoid crossing the park, owing to the need to avoid the SPA and

nearby homes on the edge of Cumbernauld. SP Energy Networks is committed to minimising disruption and intends to use the landscape and mature trees to screen the new line from views as much as possible.

Further details on the site selection methodology can be found in our document “Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade Preferred Route Option Update Report”, which is available on our project website: https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/userfiles/file/DWNO_PROUR.pdf.

2 Approach to pre-application consultation

2.1 Legislation and guidance

SP Energy Networks intends to submit three applications to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU), under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 and Section 57 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended), for the:

- proposed new overhead line and associated works;
- uprating of ZG route from 275kV to 400kV, the extension of the Denny North and Bonnybridge substations and associated works; and
- uprating of XX route and XR route from 275kV to 400kV, internal works at the Easterhouse and Newarthill substations and the extension of Wishaw Substation.

The proposed extension to Cumbernauld Substation will be subject to a separate application to North Lanarkshire Council under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).

2.2 Statutory and licence responsibilities

As a transmission licence holder for central and southern Scotland, SP Energy Networks is required under Section 9(2) of the Electricity Act 1989 to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical transmission system.

SP Energy Networks also has a duty under Section 38 of Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 to have regard to the desirability of the preservation of amenity, the natural environment, cultural heritage, landscape and visual quality. SP Energy Networks also considers the effect of work on communities when putting forward proposals for new electricity lines and other transmission development.

As a result of the above, SP Energy Networks is required to identify electrical connections that meet the technical requirements of the electricity system, which are economically viable and cause, on balance, the least disturbance to the environment and the people who live, work and enjoy recreation within it.

2.3 SP Energy Networks' commitment to engagement

Stakeholder engagement, including public involvement, is an important component of the Scottish planning and consenting system. Legislation and government guidance aim to ensure that the public, local communities, statutory and other consultees, and interested parties have an opportunity to have their views considered throughout the planning process.

Striking the right balance can be challenging, and in seeking to achieve this, SP Energy Networks recognises the importance of consulting effectively on proposals and being transparent about the decisions reached. SP Energy Networks is keen to engage with key stakeholders, including local communities and others who may have an interest in the project. This engagement process begins at the early stages of the development of a project and continues into construction once consent has been granted.

2.4 Approach to consultation

The strategy for consultation on the Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade project was designed to ensure that stakeholders:

- were made aware of the proposals in a timely manner;

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Summary of feedback from second round of pre-application consultation

- had access to project information and understood its development;
- had access to the project team to ask questions directly on the project; and
- could put forward their own views and be confident that issues raised would be considered.

The formal Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) submitted to North Lanarkshire Council set out a description of the development in general terms, including maps to identify the site, and set out SP Energy Networks' proposals for undertaking PAC for the substation development.

Following submission of the application for planning permission to North Lanarkshire Council, the local authority will carry out further consultation with stakeholders, while the public will have the opportunity to submit representations. Additionally, following the Section 37 applications to the ECU, the Scottish Government will consult with stakeholders, and again the public will have the opportunity to submit representations.

Consultees were informed at the time of the PAC process that representations at that time did not remove the right or the potential need to comment on the final application once it is made to the planning authority.

3 Pre-application consultation

3.1 Consultation strategy

SP Energy Networks attaches great significance to the effects its works may have on the environment and local communities and is always keen to hear the views of local people to help it develop the project in the most appropriate way.

The overall objective of the consultation process is to ensure that all parties with an interest in the Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade project have access to up-to-date information and are provided with clear and easy ways in which to shape and inform SP Energy Networks' proposals at the pre-application stage. Key issues identified through this process are being recorded and presented to decision-makers to assist the consents process.

As part of the consultation strategy, SP Energy Networks held two rounds of consultation events for the public, stakeholders and consultees to view the proposals and provide feedback. The first round took place from January to April 2025 and the second round from October to November 2025.

SP Energy Networks used a range of communication channels to publicise and promote the consultations, which are detailed in the following sections of this document. Respondents were also able to give feedback in different formats, depending on their own preference:

- Email: info@dennywishaw.co.uk
- Freepost: FREEPOST DENNY WISHAW UPGRADE
- Freephone: 0800 4702376
- Online via the dedicated project website:
https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/denny_wishaw.aspx
- Face-to-face or in writing at a public consultation exhibition

To strengthen the accessibility of materials, SP Energy Networks added all project documents to the Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade project website and emailed stakeholders with those details. This allowed local stakeholders who were otherwise unable to attend the public consultation drop-in exhibitions to still actively engage with the project in a meaningful way. This created a two-way feedback loop, which remained open for the duration of the consultation period.

3.2 How we consulted

SP Energy Networks wished to consult with relevant stakeholders during both rounds of consultation and gain their views on the proposals. These stakeholder groups included:

- elected members of Falkirk Council and North Lanarkshire Council, Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) whose constituencies are within the project area;
- community councils in the project area;
- national statutory consultees, such as NatureScot and SEPA;
- known local interest and community groups operating in the project area;
- fisheries; and
- local residents, businesses and the general public.

The first consultation period ran from Monday 27 January 2025 until Thursday 17 April 2025. SP Energy Networks held six public drop-in exhibitions (details of which were included in all issued project communications):

- Newarthill Community Facility, Newarthill, Wednesday 29 January 2025
- Muirfield Community Centre, Cumbernauld, Thursday 30 January 2025
- Pather Community Centre, Wishaw, Friday 31 January 2025
- Gartcosh Social Club, Gartcosh, Tuesday 4 February 2025
- Bonnybridge Community Education Centre, Bonnybridge, Wednesday 5 February 2025
- Glenmavis Community Facility, Glenmavis, Thursday 6 February 2025

At the request of North Lanarkshire Council, an additional consultation event was held at the Gartcosh Social Club to consult on the plans for the Easterhouse Substation on 27 March 2025 from 2pm to 7pm.

Further details of the first round of consultation are included in the “Round One Feedback Report” on the SP Energy Networks Website:

<https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/userfiles/file/Denny-Wishaw-Central-Upgrade-R1-PAC-Report.pdf>

The second consultation period ran from Monday 27 October 2025 until Friday 21 November 2025. SP Energy Networks held seven public drop-in exhibitions (details of which were included in all issued project communications):

- Netherton Community Centre, Wishaw, Tuesday 28 October 2025
- Bonnybridge Community Education Centre, Bonnybridge, Wednesday 29 October 2025
- Glenmavis Social Club, Glenmavis, Thursday 30 October 2025
- Newarthill Community Facility, Newarthill, Monday 3 November 2025
- Cumbernauld New Town Hall, Cumbernauld, Tuesday 4 November 2025
- Gartcosh Social Club, Gartcosh, Wednesday 5 November 2025
- Dunipace Parish Church Hall, Dunipace, Friday 7 November 2025

A total of 55 people visited the seven events. These included local residents, business owners, local community groups and representatives from the Scottish Government and North Lanarkshire Council.

Organisations whose representatives attended the event included:

- Scottish Government;
- Bean Goose Advisory Group (BGAG);
- North Lanarkshire Council;
- Cumbernauld Model Flying Club; and
- Cumbernauld Park Run.

The events provided stakeholders with the opportunity to learn more about the project, discuss the proposals with the project team and provide feedback to SP Energy Networks on the updated project design. Project team members were available at the events to discuss the proposals and answer any questions.

Prior to the start of the consultation, a notification was sent via email or letter to the stakeholders listed above advising them of the consultation, inviting them to the events and seeking their views on the proposals. The project team also contacted directly affected landowners individually.

A project leaflet explaining the proposals, the purpose of the consultation and the process for submitting feedback was produced and distributed to approximately 9,500 properties (residential and business) within a defined 1km radius of the project site, including the communities close to the overhead line routes and associated infrastructure. This was the principal form of direct communication with the local community. A copy of the leaflet can be found in Appendix A.

To promote the consultation, SP Energy Networks placed formal newspaper advertisements in the *Falkirk Herald*, *Cumbernauld News* and *Wishaw Press* newspapers over the weeks commencing 13 October and 20 October 2025. The advert introduced the consultation with some high-level information about the project, including the proposals, details of the drop-in event and how feedback could be submitted. A QR code linking to the project website was also included on the adverts. A copy of the advert can be found in Appendix B.

The project leaflet, newspaper notice, project plans, FAQs, general information about the project and the consultation, and the feedback form were made available on a dedicated project website: https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/denny_wishaw_proposal.aspx.

To make the website as accessible as possible, most communications created for the consultation included a QR code that linked to the home page of the website. The website remained live following the consultation to ensure stakeholders could find out more and stay up to date on project developments.

A feedback form was made available in hard copy and online. It included five questions in relation to the project proposals and an additional section that asked for demographic data, including title, name, address, telephone number, email address, whether the respondent was responding on behalf of an organisation and which public exhibition they attended (if any).

The five project questions were:

Q1. Proposed new overhead line between Bonnybridge and Glenmavis

We need to install a new double circuit 275kV/400kV overhead line, running north–south from the Bonnybridge 275kV substation to a point near Glenmavis in North Lanarkshire, where it will connect to the existing 275kV overhead line (known as XX Route) that runs between the Easterhouse and Newarthill 275kV substations.

A “spur” from the new overhead line to Cumbernauld Substation (approximately 750m) will allow us to remove the existing 11km, 132kV overhead line (CB route) between the Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld substations.

Please let us have any comments on the proposed route for the new overhead line, removal of the CB route and anything you would like us to take into account when developing our plans.

Q2. Substation extensions

We need to extend our substations at Denny North, Wishaw, Cumbernauld and Bonnybridge to accommodate new equipment, so we can operate the transmission network at 400kV. We can add new equipment at Easterhouse and Newarthill substations without extending them.

Which proposed substation extension do you wish to comment on?

- a. Denny North
- b. Bonnybridge

- c. Cumbernauld
- d. Wishaw
- e. Easterhouse
- f. Newarthill

Please put your comments in the box below.

Q3. Please let us have any comments about our proposed reconductoring and increase in voltage from 275kV to 400kV of the existing overhead lines in the wider area, as identified in our consultation materials.

Q4. How did you find out about the project and the consultation?

- a. Advert
- b. Leaflet
- c. Website
- d. Media coverage
- e. Social media
- f. Word of mouth
- g. Other (please specify)

Q5. Do you have any comments about our public consultation, or any other comments you would like to make?

3.3 Summary of feedback

Stakeholders could submit feedback in various methods, as outlined in our consultation strategy. All feedback received as part of the consultation was analysed by members of the project team.

Respondents were made aware via a data protection statement that any comments they made could be made available to certain bodies for the purposes of the consultation and for creating reports. This included the Scottish Government and relevant planning authorities.

SP Energy Networks will continue to review comments in the context of the development of the project at each stage.

A total of 18 feedback forms were submitted during this second consultation period via hard copy forms sent to the FREEPOST address, online via the website feedback form and by email. Comments received over the consultation period raised concerns, including:

- site selection;
- community engagement;
- the wider impact of infrastructure developments;
- environmental and biodiversity impacts;
- overhead lines and pylons;
- the cable route and undergrounding;
- traffic management; and
- construction impacts.

The hardcopy documents received through the FREEPOST address were collected, scanned and securely saved on the project's SharePoint. The response forms were then transcribed into the project CRM database, using an interface which mirrored that used by the public for online responses.

Emails received in the project mailbox, which were categorised as consultation feedback, were separated from general correspondence. Emails were securely saved on the project's SharePoint and manually transcribed into the analysis database. Each consultation response was acknowledged and given a unique identification number. Where provided by the respondent, contact details were recorded and included in a distribution list, so that respondents could receive future project updates.

3.4 Topics raised during the consultation

The consultation feedback submitted to SP Energy Networks has been considered by the project team as part of the design development, in addition to feedback from key statutory and non-statutory consultees and the findings from the detailed technical and environmental studies that have been undertaken. SP Energy Networks received consultation responses from statutory consultees, including the Coal Authority, in this second round of consultation.

Table 1 summarises the key themes that arose during the second round of PAC as well as SP Energy Networks' response to these themes.

3.5 SP Energy Networks' response to the feedback

The comments received as feedback will be considered by SP Energy Networks and will help to shape the project as the detailed design continues. The key themes that arose in the comments have been summarised below with a response from SP Energy Networks.

Table 1: Summary of the key feedback themes received during the consultation and responses from SP Energy Networks.			
Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
Needs case	Government policy Respondents supported energy strategies.	"The project aligns with my views on regional and national energy strategies, ensuring sustainable infrastructure growth and enhanced grid resilience."	Noted. The UK is committed to achieving net zero emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050, with a target of 40GW of electricity – enough to power every home in the UK – to come from offshore wind by 2030. We are in the middle of a transformation, with the electricity we use moving away from centralised generation towards multiple smaller-scale renewable sources, both on- and offshore, that are geographically distributed. This huge change means we need to upgrade the UK's electricity transmission infrastructure to accommodate the increasing amount of power flowing through the network from where it is produced to the homes, businesses, hospitals and public services that need it.
	Support for the scheme Respondents agree with the need to upgrade the national grid and see the need for the project.	"This project has my full support and positive approval for the Denny to Wishaw electrical extension project." "I totally agree with increasing the national grid from 275 kV to 400 kV significantly enhances efficiency, capacity, and stability, making the system more economically and	Noted. The electricity transmission network in central Scotland was first built in the 1920s. Since then, it has grown and evolved to meet the region's industrial needs and serve its expanding population. Our work with the NESO has identified that, for the UK to meet its net zero carbon emissions targets, we need to reinforce the network between Denny and Wishaw to add capacity to transmit the additional green energy. This reinforcement includes upgrading some existing overhead lines from 275kV to 400kV and building the proposed new overhead transmission

		<p>technically sustainable in the long term.”</p> <p>“No comment, happy with the proposals.”</p> <p>“On the Slamannan Plateau South to the XX Overhead Line Route I welcome the consideration that to avoid the uprated XX route crossing housing in Glenmavis.”</p> <p>“Seems like a good idea.”</p> <p>“It is needed.”</p> <p>“Pleased to see improvements to the delivery of electricity within our area.”</p> <p>“If this is essential then go ahead.”</p>	<p>line between Bonnybridge and a point near Glenmavis, allowing the additional green electricity to flow into the wider transmission network.</p>
	<p>Opposition to the scheme</p> <p>Respondents expressed concern about the location of masts and the use of overhead lines.</p>	<p>“As the planned route for the new line has adverse impacts on the land that my family own and SPEN isn’t willing to either alter the locations of the proposed masts or have a small section of the line be underground, I have to say I</p>	<p>The routeing of overhead lines is a complex process, requiring a balance to be struck between statutory obligations, engineering requirements, economic viability, the environment and people who live, work or enjoy leisure time in the area.</p> <p>Established guidelines for routeing transmission overhead lines are in place, which combine in-depth environmental studies with technical and economic factors. A key part of this is consultation with landowners, stakeholders and the public to inform the development of the project.</p>

		am strongly against the new line.”	<p>You can find out more about how we develop routes in the <i>Approach to Routeing and Environmental Impact Assessment</i> document, which is available to view on our Proposed Route page.</p> <p>You can find detailed information specific to the routeing of the proposed new Bonnybridge to Glenmavis overhead line in the <i>Routeing and Consultation Document</i> and the <i>Preferred Route Option – Update Report</i>, which explain how the original proposals have been modified since 2021. Please see the Our Proposed Route page.</p> <p>SP Energy Networks will consider undergrounding a 132kV, 275kV or 400kV overhead line, or section of that line, in particular circumstances where no suitable route for an overhead line can be identified.</p>
	Site selection Respondents requested alternative site selections.	“The land over which the connection at Glenmavis is proposed is owned by Pinwhinnie Property Company Ltd. The proposed route of the overhead line will have a significant negative impact on the future development of the land. Whilst I fully appreciate the necessity for the proposed upgrades to take place, our recommended route for this has not been accepted by SPEN.”	SP Energy Networks responded to the landowner’s representative, advising the landowner’s suggested alternative route was not feasible given it crossed the same corridor as a gas pipeline.
Consultation	Consultation events	“We commend the responsible planning, environmental consideration,	SP Energy Networks’ consultation approach uses our website, a leaflet drop, newspaper adverts and public consultation events, offering multiple options to obtain project information and offer feedback.

	<p>Respondents felt satisfied with the project's consultation, although they suggested a stronger advertisement would have been preferable.</p>	<p>and consultation undertaken throughout the process.”</p> <p>“The Public consultation has been good, and continue to feed through the local councillor.”</p> <p>“Thank you for making us welcome and listening [to] and understanding our comments.”</p> <p>“I would suggest a more aggressive consultation awareness strategy (digital and post) or at the very least a later ‘mop up’ public session.”</p> <p>“I found the people at Cumbernauld were helpful but not all that well informed. They seemed unaware of the impacts we highlighted and of the blockages to footpaths from the town to the park.”</p> <p>“Well organised, although I don't think it's been well advertised.”</p> <p>“No problems at all. I spoke to your staff at the open day and was very happy with the</p>	<p>In all, the first round of consultation comprised seven drop-in events, followed by a second round involving seven consultation events. Two final events shall be held early in 2026. SP Energy Networks' website contains full details on the proposed project in addition to how the general public can comment on the project. A project leaflet explaining the proposals, the purpose of the consultation and the process for submitting feedback was produced and distributed to approximately 9,500 properties (residential and business) within a defined 1km radius of the project site, including the communities close to the overhead line routes and associated infrastructure. The leaflet advertised the public consultation events and provided a summary of the project.</p> <p>In addition to the two rounds of PAC, SP Energy Networks has continued to engage with stakeholders and landowners throughout the project development process.</p> <p>We will be hosting a final feedback session in early 2026 and will contact stakeholders promptly ahead of the event. Notices will also be placed in relevant newspapers to advertise the event.</p>
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		<p>information I received and the welcoming nature of them.”</p> <p>“Very helpful and interesting staff at Bonnybridge.”</p> <p>“I attended previous public consultations on the proposals and so did not attend this round. The one I attended previously was very informative and well run.”</p>	
	<p>Community engagement</p> <p>Respondents suggested how to engage with the community and what should be promoted.</p>	<p>“Promote that you are not affecting the parking or access to the woodland walks to the west.”</p> <p>“We need a point of contact to work with.”</p> <p>“Despite living next to proposed route and where likely access to existing pylons did not receive any documentation issued to other residents in Glenmavis, and having attended previous consultation in Community Centre earlier in the year.”</p>	<p>The Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade project contact centre (Freephone, email and Freepost address) has remained available throughout the project’s lifetime, and we have continued to respond to enquiries and comments from local communities and stakeholders. All project information has also been available on the project website throughout.</p> <p>All properties (residential and business) within a 1km radius of the proposed development, including the communities close to the overhead line routes and associated infrastructure, received a project leaflet which outlined the proposals, the purpose of the consultation and the process for submitting.</p> <p>SP Energy Networks is considering design options for the proposed drainage associated with the extension of Cumbernauld Substation. Should any temporary access arrangement be required for the purposes of construction, to the area used as car parking off Forest Road and the adjacent core path, to the west of Cumbernauld Substation, this shall be confirmed within the planning application to extend Cumbernauld Substation.</p>

<p>Community benefit</p>	<p>Community benefits</p> <p>Respondents believe the project will benefit the community.</p>	<p>“Look forward to the benefits this extension will bring to communities and the wider energy network.”</p>	<p>SP Energy Networks has a dedicated community benefits team that will work in parallel with the project to develop community benefit plans. All suggestions for community benefits submitted during all rounds of consultation will be passed to that team.</p>
	<p>Improvement to the existing area and facilities</p> <p>Respondents outlined that the community would welcome the replacement of the footbridge near Balblair Road and the resurfacing of footpaths at Balblair Road and adjacent to A73 Stirling Road to Dykhead Road.</p>	<p>“The timber footbridge near the top left of the map at one pylon location is in a serious state of disrepair – replacement would be a great community benefit and would be very much welcomed by residents – the path is a right of way yet bizarrely Broompark Crescent residents are responsible for its maintenance ... As with the bridge – surfacing both sections [of the footpath at Balblair Road past playpark to Broompark Crescent, and between the footbridge running north of the estate and adjacent to the A73 Stirling Road to Dykhead Road] which is very much in the area where SPEN will be working would be</p>	<p>Noted, thank you for the suggestion.</p>

		appreciated by the community.”	
<p>Cumulative impact</p>	<p>Inter-project cumulative impact (i.e. other regional projects)</p> <p>Respondents expressed concern about the volume of overhead lines in the area.</p>	<p>“This increase is massive. There has been no viable consideration given to the over pollution of the area by placing multiple high voltage lines across the countryside.”</p>	<p>The project comprises a new 19km overhead line (OHL) between Bonnybridge substation, spurring off into Cumbernauld Substation and Glenmavis, where the new OHL shall tee into the existing XX OHL. The project includes the removal of the existing 132kV OHL, known as CB route, which runs between Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld. Therefore, between Cumbernauld and Bonnybridge, the existing 132kV OHL shall be removed and a new 275/400kV OHL shall be built. The remaining section of the new OHL between Cumbernauld and Glenmavis measures approximately 6.5km. Other elements of the project include upgrading existing OHLs from 275kV to 400kV, extending existing substations and constructing an electrical plant within existing substations.</p> <p>SP Energy Networks will consider undergrounding a 132kV, 275kV or 400kV OHL, or a section of that line, under the following circumstances, where no suitable route for an OHL can be identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • within a National Park or an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) or a National Scenic Area (NSA); • within areas of regional or local character and amenity importance, whether or not subject to landscape or scenic designation, which are considered not to have the capacity to accommodate an OHL; • where the likely visual impact on residential areas or areas of historic importance or other areas is very significant; • where the likely visual impact on a publicly accessible and recognised view or prospect visited and enjoyed by a large number of people within an area of importance for its scenic beauty, character, amenity or historical importance, which may include such features as listed buildings and conservation areas, is very significant;

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • where, from a review of the relevant environmental information, it is concluded that the combination of likely adverse effects is very significant and that this cannot be satisfactorily avoided, reduced or offset by an alternative OHL route; • where technical constraints are such that no suitable OHL route can be identified. <p>In this instance, these factors are not applicable.</p>
	<p>Intra-project cumulative impact (i.e. impact of infrastructure combined)</p> <p>Respondents support the upgraded transmission network but expressed concern about the cumulative impact of development in the area.</p>	<p>“This development represents a significant step forward in strengthening Scotland’s transmission network, improving reliability, and facilitating the transition to renewable energy sources.”</p> <p>“Define to the public that your project is not connected in any way to housing development.”</p> <p>“We have previously explained that we have already completed phase one of a housing development attached to Glenmavis alongside Dawn Homes as the developer, and that by locating 3 new masts in their intended location right through the main artery of our land, this will have a</p>	<p>SP Energy Networks can confirm the DWNO project is not connected to any proposed residential development or any other development.</p> <p>As detailed above, the project is driven by the UK and Scottish Governments’ commitment to increasing the use of renewable energy and associated targets to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions. To contribute to these targets, the capacity of the high-voltage electricity transmission network between Denny and Wishaw needs to be increased.</p> <p>The existing XX overhead line (OHL) over-sails residential properties at Eden Court and runs in close proximity to dwellings at Alnwick Crescent. The three new masts shall allow XX route to be reconfigured, repositioning XX to the east of Eden Court and further north from Alnwick Crescent.</p>

		material impact on the desirability and in turn value of our land and may actually put the entire project in jeopardy.”	
People	<p>Health and safety</p> <p>Respondents expressed concern about road safety for the project’s duration.</p>	<p>“The new planned road entrance onto Forrest road, this is very close to the slip road on the other side and is the site of a number of close calls and incidents. Drivers speed up heading east due to the hill and combined with a ‘blind’ slip road and very poor lighting the current design proposal will increase this risk.”</p> <p>“Our records indicate that within the linear route identified for the Denny to Wishaw Network upgrade there are recorded coal mining features present at surface and shallow depth including mine entries, coal workings and reported surface hazards. These features may pose a potential risk to surface stability and public safety. The Coal Authority is of the</p>	<p>SP Energy Networks works to very strict health and safety requirements when designing our transmission equipment (including the Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004).</p> <p>The position of the proposed vehicle access to the substation extension shall be assessed by North Lanarkshire Council’s Transport Planners, as part of the assessment of the application for planning permission.</p>

		<p>opinion that building over the top of, or in close proximity to, mine entries should be avoided wherever possible, even after they have been capped.”</p>	
	<p>Disruption Respondents expressed concerns about the noise of infrastructure and construction, as well as the disruption to public access and traffic.</p>	<p>“I would like to understand the finer details such as access, noise, traffic impact and such on works required at Towers – XX020.”</p> <p>“I would like to raise a query regarding [any] noise increase the upgrade may cause ... I am concerned that the upgrade of the equipment could increase the noise omitted, to an unacceptable level.”</p> <p>“The proposed route will cross the parkrun course in 3 places: 1. Between WB022 and WB023, 2. Between WB021A and WB021B, 3. Between WB021 and WB020. We hold our event weekly at 9.30am and are on-site 7.30am–11am.”</p>	<p>In our projects, SP Energy Networks strives to make sure any work we do keeps disturbance to the natural and built environment and the people who live in it, work in it or enjoy it to a minimum.</p> <p>As part of our proactive approach, we are conducting front-end engineering analysis to identify the safest and least disruptive access routes – prioritising both workforce logistics and community wellbeing.</p> <p>The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process considers and proposes mitigation not only to the permanent impact of a development but also to the temporary impact any development may have during construction. This includes a full assessment of noise and vibration and the impact of the scheme on communities and on the local and private road network.</p> <p>Existing pylon (tower) XX020 shall be repositioned approx. 245m to the east and renamed XX020A. The repositioning of which shall be further from residential properties.</p> <p>Existing and proposed temporary accesses shall be used for the construction of towers. It is proposed to use existing access to the north of Eden Court and Glamis Crescent, in addition to proposed temporary accesses to the north and south of tower XX020A. The existing and proposed access tracks are detailed on the interactive map on SP Energy Networks’ DWNO webpage.</p> <p>The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), which shall accompany the applications for Section 37 consent, will include a noise</p>

			<p>chapter, explaining the technical details around noise output, identifying mitigation measures if required. In addition, a Traffic and Movement chapter will detail required construction traffic. The applications shall also be accompanied by a Traffic Management Plan (TMP).</p> <p>SP Energy Networks acknowledges that the Palacerigg Country Parkrun uses existing access tracks, some of which shall be required during construction of the overhead line, whilst some are in close proximity to where temporary accesses will be constructed. SPT and our contractor are fully willing to engage with Parkrun to assist in agreeing on a temporary course route, which shall meet the health and safety needs of all parties.</p>
<p>Environment</p>	<p>Environmental impact</p> <p>Respondents expressed concern about tree-felling, and the protection of historical and wildlife areas.</p>	<p>“We need to better understand the impact of tree-felling.”</p> <p>“The new power lines and towers are much more substantial than what is there now and we need an 80m wide access Swathe. This requires the removal of some fairly big trees as well as smaller willows and hawthorn. It will also require for trees not to be allowed to grow tall in the path.”</p> <p>“I hope historical and wildlife areas are left untouched.”</p> <p>“Protect Rough Castle Fort.”</p>	<p>With regard to the impact on wildlife and ecology, the proposal will be supported by an EIA, which will fully consider impacts on ecology, and the proposal will accord with the National Planning Policy 4 requirements to enhance biodiversity. SP Energy Networks will comply with Schedule 9 responsibilities as set out in the Electricity Act 1989 when balancing the development requirements against impacts on fauna.</p> <p>The EIA will include details of Biodiversity Net Gain proposals such as landscaping and restoration.</p> <p>The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), which shall accompany the applications for Section 37 consent, will include a Forestry and Woodland chapter, which shall comprehensively detail forestry impact in addition to the proposed area of compensatory planting.</p> <p>The proposed overhead line shall over-sail the “Antonine Wall, Rough to Lime Road and Field System” Scheduled Monument, which is approx. 322m east of the “Antonine Wall, Rough Castle Fort, Annexe and Military Way” Scheduled Monument. No pylons are proposed on any part of the Antonine Wall Scheduled Monument.</p>

			<p>The DWNO project involves the removal of the existing overhead line CB 132kV route, positioned on the eastern side of Rough Castle Roman Fort. Existing pylon (tower CB035) is currently located on the “Antonine Wall, Rough Castle Fort, Annexe and Military Way” Scheduled Monument. The removal of CB035 shall require Scheduled Monument Consent via Historic Environment Scotland.</p> <p>The EIAR shall include a Cultural Heritage and Ecology chapter explaining efforts to minimise impact and any proposed mitigation.</p>
	<p>Biodiversity impact</p> <p>Respondents expressed concern about replanting and the impact the development has on wildlife and its habitat.</p>	<p>“There is nothing in the briefing materials to highlight what is planned by way of replanting and impact to wildlife and its protection in Palacerigg country park.”</p> <p>“Just hope wildlife isn’t in any danger.”</p> <p>“No consideration has been given to the flight path of migrating birds ... or the destruction of natural habitats.”</p>	<p>Please see the above response regarding our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which will be conducted accordingly.</p> <p>The EIAR shall include a section on ornithology, detailing the findings of survey results and any required mitigation.</p>
	<p>Coal</p> <p>Response from the Coal Authority</p>	<p>“Where new structures or buildings are proposed in areas of past coal mining activity consideration should be given to the risks posed to these by past coal mining activity. If features are present which have</p>	<p>With regard to former coal mining, SPT’s contractor have undertaken a comprehensive Ground Investigation, which includes a Mining Risk Assessment. Furthermore, the Coal Authority have been consulted as part of the consultation process for the project.</p>

		<p>implication[s] for layout of surface development, such as mine entries, relocation away from these features would be preferable. However, if this is not possible a robust engineering solution would need to be designed to ensure the safety and stability of the development. Where development, as part of this upgrade, is proposed in areas where our records indicate that coal mining features are present at surface and shallow depth any formal submission should be supported by a Coal Mining Risk Assessment.”</p>	
Indicative design	Visual impact Respondents expressed concern about the size of the infrastructure.	“No consideration has been given to ... the visual impact of these huge structures.”	The visual impact of our proposed project is considered in our Preferred Route Option Update Approach. You can access this here: https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/userfiles/file/DWNO_PROUR.pdf .
	Overhead lines (pylons)	“I had raised the point at a previous consultation regarding the routing of additional pylons to the west	The proposed overhead line (OHL) requires to be positioned to the north-western side of Bonnybridge substation, in order to connect to the existing ZG OHL, positioned at the north-west corner of the substation. Furthermore, proposed downloads from the new OHL shall connect to

	<p>Respondents expressed concern about the plan for the XX020 tower, the location of the proposed overhead lines and the placement of pylons near Bonnybridge Substation and at Broompark Crescent.</p>	<p>of the Bonnybridge substation. This involves new pylon infrastructure being built closer to the housing to the west of the substation, which will connect into the new substation extension. I asked why this infrastructure could not be built to the west of the substation near to the route of existing pylon infrastructure. This would take the pylons further away from existing and planned domestic housing to the benefit of residents' safety and protecting amenity and still allow appropriate connection to the new substation extension within the confines of the current SP Energy Networks site.”</p> <p>“What is not particularly clear is whether the existing Towers – XX020 will be removed and decommissioned.”</p> <p>“The proposed location of the overhead lines is detrimental to our intention for the land that we own and as the</p>	<p>where the substation shall be extended. Connecting downleads on the eastern side of the substation would not be feasible given two existing OHLs enter the substation on the eastern side.</p> <p>Existing pylon (tower) XX020 shall be repositioned approx. 245m to the east and renamed XX020A. The repositioning of which shall be further from residential properties.</p> <p>The two pylons (towers) to the north/north-east of Broompark Crescent are XX024 and XX025. XX024 shall be accessed via an existing access, running along the edge of the adjacent golf course. It is proposed to access tower XX025 from a temporary access on the western side of the A73 between tower XX025 and the dwelling to the north.</p>
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		<p>intention was residential development, having the kV of the overhead lines increased will undoubtedly have detrimental impacts with planning.”</p> <p>“Concern expressed @ consultation that access to pylons will be across private land north of Broompark Crescent that residents are responsible for maintenance – damaged previously by contractors painting pylons.”</p> <p>“The conclusion is that the project indicated will not cause interference to BT’s current and presently planned radio network. Please note for the following towers that fall within 100 metres of one of our links however as they are further enough away from the active/planned radio links either to the side or the link runs way above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• WID14059 ZG002• WID14059 ZD095	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WID14059 ZD095A • WID14059 XR033 	
		BT requires 100m minimum clearance from any structure to the radio link path.”	BT have confirmed the details on tower locations within 100m of active/planned radio links is for information only. Should there be any design change to the proposed overhead line, BT have asked to be consulted.
	<p>Cable route – undergrounding</p> <p>Respondents prefer underground cabling and have questioned the cable route.</p>	<p>“Would have preferred underground cabling rather than pylons but recognise cost implications.”</p> <p>“Put the cables underground.”</p> <p>“I feel this route is taking the wrong route across unspoilt countryside.”</p> <p>“These lines should be going underground.”</p>	<p>Under the Electricity Act 1989, SP Energy Networks is required to consider technical, economic and environmental matters, and reach a balance between them.</p> <p>High-voltage, high-capacity overhead lines are the proven choice for the bulk transmission of electricity throughout the world based on economy and reliability.</p> <p>SP Energy Networks will consider undergrounding a 132kV, 275kV or 400kV overhead line, or a section of that line, in particular circumstances where no suitable route for an overhead line can be identified. You can find out more about this in our Approach to Routeing and Environmental Impact Assessment (opens in a new window) document, which is available on our website.</p>
Construction	<p>Traffic management</p> <p>Respondents expressed concern about traffic management measures at Fannyside Road, Forrest Road,</p>	<p>“Consider the condition and type of road that Fannyside Road is during the works. [It’s] a floating road and single track.”</p> <p>“Think carefully around traffic management on Forrest Road.”</p> <p>“As part of your design can you address the surface</p>	These suggestions are noted. Traffic and transport impacts will be considered in the Environmental Impact Assessment, including a traffic management plan.

	<p>Bonnybridge, Falkirk and Beam Road.</p>	<p>water run off that comes onto Forrest Road from the existing entrance.”</p> <p>“The substation is en-route from Bonnybridge to Falkirk and any roadworks cause considerable hold ups and inconvenience to residents. Please minimise the use of traffic controls on this section by ensuring efficient use of time to make required changes.”</p> <p>“What level of road/traffic disruption will this cause?”</p> <p>“Beam Road will have massive amounts of heavy traffic on it if construction begins, where are the mitigating measures for road users?”</p>	
	<p>Construction impact</p> <p>Respondents felt that further consultation and information sharing at the construction</p>	<p>“The biggest concern will be during the construction with the large amount of material that is required to be removed off site. Clear public consultation around the construction phase is essential, as the house developer to the east has</p>	<p>The EIA process considers and proposes mitigation not only to the permanent impact of a development but also the temporary impact any development may have during construction. This includes a full assessment of noise and vibration and the impact of the scheme on communities and on the local and private road network.</p> <p>SPT’s contractor MSI has compiled a “Constructability and Access Assessment” which details the following: “CB Route Dismantling – To provide a clear corridor for the new WB Route, the existing 132kV OHL CB Route must be decommissioned, dismantled and removed from the</p>

	<p>phase would be beneficial.</p>	<p>caused a lot of ill will in the community and this although not connected will have an adverse effect on your project.”</p> <p>“We need to better understand the impact of ... decommissioning, construction and excavation, tower erection, fitting of wires and reinstalment.”</p> <p>“Access to the park will be impacted by work at the substation and works in general – there is significant footfall from Abronhill and South Cumbernauld to Palacerigg park which needs to be protected.”</p>	<p>site. This involves removing all hardware, including conductors and fittings, dismantling towers and removal of foundations to a depth of 1.5m.</p> <p>“Existing SPT wayleaves will be primarily used to provide access to a point at each tower location along the CB Route. Where these tracks stop being suitable for heavy construction plant, low ground bearing plant, including a tracked excavator, tracked dumper and associated cutting equipment, will be offloaded and taken to the tower location individually.</p> <p>“The conductor and all fittings and fixtures are removed from the overhead line, leaving only the tower remaining. Two legs are cut, and a tracked excavator is used to pull the tower over into a segregated landing zone within the span of the line. When the tower is down, it can be cut into smaller sections and removed from the site by tracked dumper. The tower foundations are excavated and removed to a depth of 1.5m below ground level.</p> <p>“Where possible, existing SPT wayleaves will be used to provide access to CB Towers for dismantling works.”</p> <p>Tower construction</p> <p>“Prior to the erection of each tower, a stone crane pad and laydown area shall be created to provide a stable working platform for lifting operations. Tower steelwork is transported via Hi-ab wagon and placed within dedicated laydown areas ready for assembly. Sections are then assembled on the ground in preparation for sequential lifting operations.”</p> <p>Foundation – Lattice towers</p> <p>“Subject to ground conditions encountered during GI works, a typical arrangement at each tower comprises a raft foundation with neck</p>
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			<p>extension for each of the 4 lattice tower legs. Dependent on ground conditions, alternative piled or rock anchor solution shall be selected.”</p> <p>Pad and column</p> <p>“Foundation is excavated to a typical depth of 4m.”</p> <p>Rock anchor</p> <p>“Anchors are considered if suitable hard rock is encountered up to a depth of 2.5m and is proven to have sufficient frictional and lateral resistance.”</p> <p>Wiring operation</p> <p>“Prior to wiring operations, Equi-Potential Zones (EPZ) pulling positions shall be identified and levelled by 20t excavator. Trackway panels shall be deployed by flatbed wagons and fixed into position. Winches and cable drums shall then be deployed via Hi-ab flatbed wagon in readiness for pulling operation. Light pilot bond shall be pulled out along the section of line in preparation of wiring operations utilising a tracked machine.</p> <p>“Major items of plant required include a 20t excavator for site preparation, flatbed wagon to transport conductor and plant to location and Hagglund (or similar) for running out pilot bonds. A puller/tensioner with ancillary equipment for pulling operations and a telehandler for mounting conductor drums.</p> <p>“While the use of existing access tracks will be required for construction, access to Palacerigg Country Park will be maintained.”</p>
	<p>Construction timeline</p> <p>Respondents expressed concern about</p>	<p>“There was also a large discrepancy in the estimates of how long the project would take in Palacerigg Country</p>	<p>Construction will be carried out on the proposed overhead line (WB route) between Glenmavis and Cumbernauld between April 2029 and February 2030. On this section of the overhead line are 23 towers.</p>

Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade
Summary of feedback from second round of pre-application consultation

	the discrepancies in the project's timeline.	Park from 6 months to 2 years.”	A tower foundation takes approx. two weeks to construct. A tower build takes approx. one week. Stringing a section of overhead electric line shall take a maximum of two weeks but would be dependent on the distance between the terminal towers (pylons).
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4 Next steps

SP Energy Networks will now conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Following completion of the EIA, SP Energy Networks will prepare a detailed development and design proposal and hold a final feedback event in early 2026 to inform local people and stakeholders about how we have addressed issues raised during PAC.

SP Energy Networks intends to submit three applications to the Scottish Government's ECU, under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 and Section 57 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) for the:

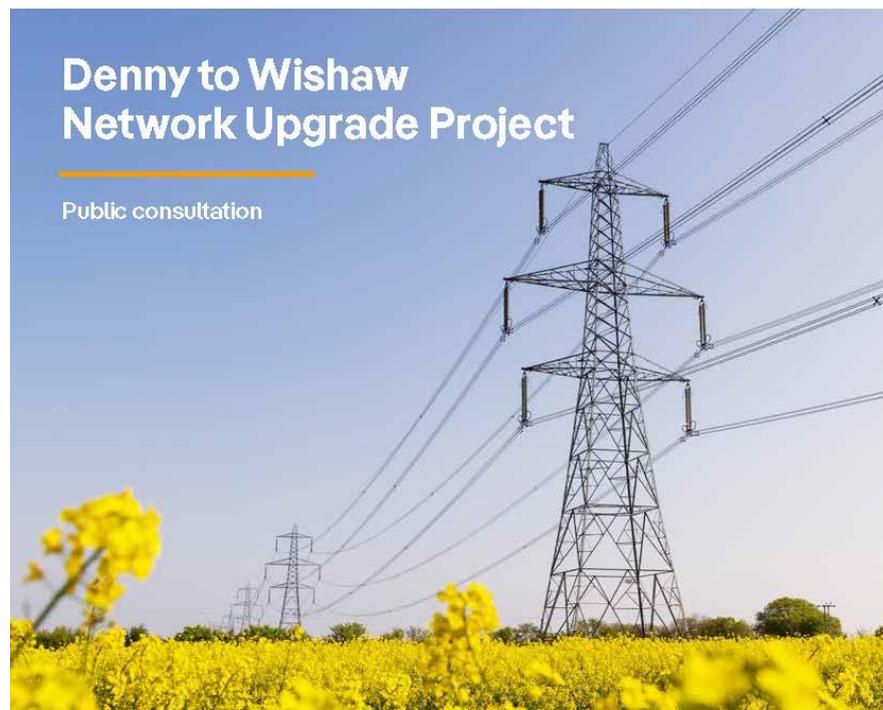
- proposed new overhead line and associated works;
- upgrading of ZG route from 275kV to 400kV, the extension of the Denny North and Bonnybridge substations and associated works; and
- upgrading of XX route and XR route from 275kV to 400kV, internal works at the Easterhouse and Newarthill substations and the extension of Wishaw Substation.

The proposed extension to Cumbernauld Substation will be subject to a separate application to North Lanarkshire Council under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).

Stakeholders will have another opportunity to provide further feedback on the proposals to the ECU and North Lanarkshire Council once applications have been submitted. Comments received by the consenting authorities will inform their decisions and any conditions that may be attached to those decisions.

Appendices

Appendix A: Project leaflet



Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade Project

Public consultation

Scotland is producing more clean, green energy than ever before, and we need to strengthen the electricity transmission network so we can get it to the homes, schools and businesses that need it.

The UK and Scottish Governments are committed to increasing the use of renewable energy and have targets to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 in Scotland and 2050 in the UK.

To help make this happen, we need to increase the capacity of the transmission network between Denny and Wishaw. This includes extending some electricity substations, increasing the voltage of some existing overhead lines, and installing a new overhead transmission

line between Bonnybridge and a point near Glenmavis, where it will be joined to an existing overhead line – allowing the additional green energy to get to where it's needed.

We consulted local people on our plans in February 2025. We are now holding a further public consultation so local people can give us their views on our updated plans.

This leaflet tells you about our proposals, where to find more information and how you can comment.

Our public consultation runs from Monday 27 October to Friday 21 November 2025.



Why is this project needed?

The electricity transmission network in central Scotland was first built in the 1920s. Since then, it has grown and evolved to meet the region's industrial needs and serve its expanding population.

Today, the existing electricity network in Falkirk and Lanarkshire includes overhead lines operating at 275kV (275,000 volts) and 132kV (132,000 volts), which transport energy through the region and also serve local communities through Grid Supply Points (GSPs) at Bonnybridge, Cumbernauld, Denny North, Easterhouse, Newarthill and Wishaw.

SP Energy Networks (SPEN) is responsible for the transmission and distribution of electricity in central and southern Scotland. We have an obligation to maintain, operate and invest in our network to secure a safe, reliable and economic service for current and future customers.

Our planning work with the National Energy System Operator (NESO) has identified that, for the UK to meet its net-zero carbon emissions targets, we need to reinforce the network between Denny and Wishaw so it has extra capacity to transmit the additional green energy. This reinforcement includes upgrading some existing overhead lines from 275kV to 400kV and building the proposed new overhead transmission line between Bonnybridge and a point near Glenmavis.



What does the project involve?

The Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade Project includes:

- construction of a new double-circuit 275kV/400kV overhead line running north-south from Bonnybridge 275kV substation to a point near Glenmavis in North Lanarkshire, where it will connect to the existing 275kV overhead line (known as XX route) that runs between the Easterhouse and Newarthill 275kV substations;
- a 'spur' from the new overhead line to Cumbernauld substation (approximately 750m) and removal of the existing 11km 132kV overhead line (CB route) between Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld substations;

- extending our existing substations at Bonnybridge, Denny North, Cumbernauld and Wishaw, and internal works at Easterhouse and Newarthill substations, so we can install additional electrical equipment and carry out drainage, access and security fencing works where required;
- installing new transformers at Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld substations;
- replacing the conductors (wires) and associated equipment on existing overhead lines so we can operate them at 400kV, as follows:
 - Newarthill to Wishaw (XR route) – 16km
 - Newarthill to Easterhouse (XX route) – 15.4km
 - Denny North to Bonnybridge (ZG route) – 4km
- alterations to the overhead lines where they enter the substations (to connect them to the new equipment);
- moving the existing XX overhead line further away from residential properties at Grantown Gardens, Glenmavis, through a new 'tee-in' arrangement to the proposed new overhead line and
- undergrounding of two sections of the existing 132kV overhead line (AA route) between Bonnybridge and Bathgate, where it is crossed by the proposed new overhead line.



What will the new overhead line look like?

The new overhead line will be carried on steel lattice towers (pylons). The towers will have three arms on each side, and each arm will carry a set of conductors (wires).

This is because there will be a circuit on each side of the towers, and each circuit has three sets of wires. The towers are made of galvanised steel. They are grey in colour and become duller in appearance after about 18 months.

The towers have a standard height of 46 metres but can go up to 63 metres where required to ensure electrical safety clearance to the ground. They are placed approximately 300 metres apart, but the exact distance between them will vary depending on the landscape and any obstacles, such as roads, rivers and railway lines.



Public consultation

Our public consultation runs from Monday 27 October to Friday 21 November 2025.

SPEN attaches great importance to the effect our work may have on the environment and local communities. We want to hear what local people think about our plans, to help us develop the project in the best way.

Please come along to one of our public exhibitions, where you can see our plans in more detail and ask questions of the project team.



Date	Location
Tuesday 28 October, 2pm to 7pm	Netherton Community Centre , Old Manse Road, Wishaw ML2 0EP
Wednesday 29 October, 2pm to 7pm	Bonnybridge Community Education Centre , Bridge Street, Bonnybridge FK4 1AA
Thursday 30 October, 2pm to 7pm	Glenmavis Social Club , Quarryside Street, Glenmavis ML6 0PS
Monday 03 November, 2pm to 7pm	Newarthill Community Facility , High Street, Newarthill ML1 5JU
Tuesday 04 November, 2pm to 7pm	Cumbernauld New Town Hall , Bron Way, Cumbernauld G67 1DZ
Wednesday 05 November, 2pm to 7pm	Gartcosh Social Club , Beard Crescent, Eastgate, Gartcosh G69 8AT
Friday 07 November, 2pm to 7pm	Dunipace Parish Church Hall , 175 Stirling Street, Dunipace, Denny FK6 6JR

All project documents are on our project website, where you can also fill in an online feedback form.

If you don't have internet access, you can call our Freephone number to ask any questions you may have, or request a personal call back from a member of the project team. We can also send you a paper feedback form and a

freepost envelope so you can complete it and return it to us free of charge.

At this stage, your comments are not representations to the planning authorities. When we submit applications for development consent in the future, you will be able to make formal representations at that stage.



What happens next?

Once pre-application consultation is complete and feedback received on our proposals, we will complete a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The EIA Report will be submitted with our consent applications.

SP Energy Networks intends to submit three applications to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 and section 57 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended), as follows:

- for the proposed new overhead line and associated works;
- for the uprating of ZG route from 275kV to 400kV, the extension of Denny North and Bonnybridge substations and associated works; and

- for the uprating of XX route and XR route from 275kV to 400kV, internal works at Easterhouse and Newarthill substations and the extension of Wishaw substation.

The proposed extension to Cumbernauld substation will be subject to a separate application to North Lanarkshire Council under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.



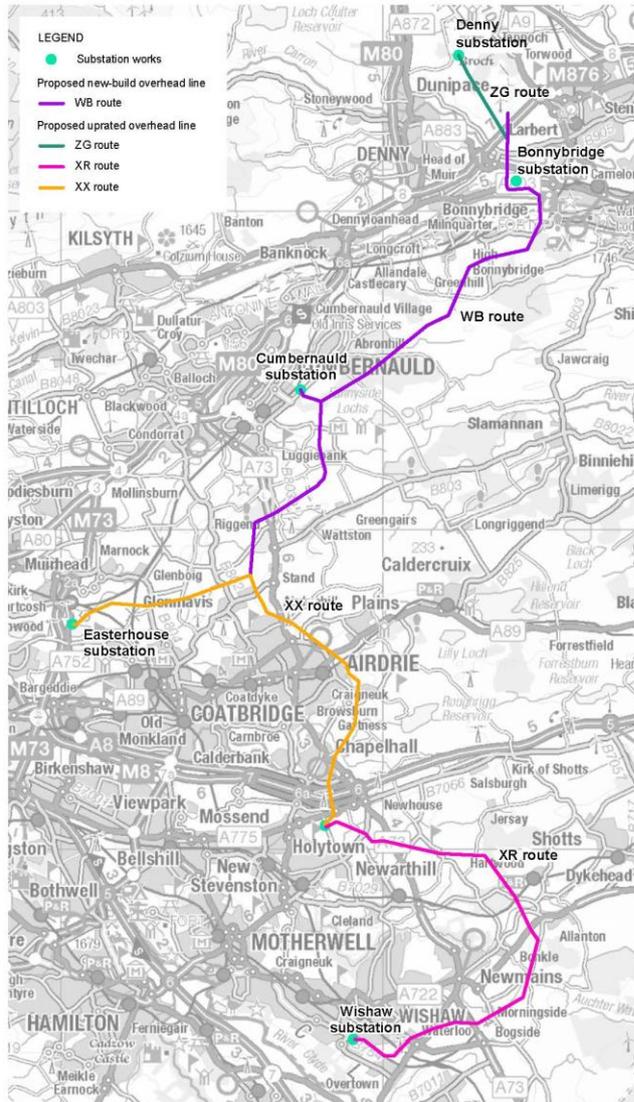
 **How to contact us**

Website: www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/denny_wishaw.aspx
Email: Info@dennywishaw.co.uk
Freephone: **0800 470 2376**
Freepost: **FREEPOST DENNY WISHAW UPGRADE**



Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade

Summary of feedback from second round of pre-application consultation



Our proposed route

The map shows our proposed route for the new overhead line, the existing overhead lines to be updated and the substations we need to extend.

SP Energy Networks worked with environmental consultants to identify potential routes for the new overhead line between Bonnybridge and the existing Easterhouse-Newarthill overhead line near Glasgow.

We assessed each option for its impact on a range of criteria including local views, the character of the landscape, biodiversity, forestry, cultural heritage, flood risk and other land uses. Our proposed route is the one that we believe achieves the best balance between our technical requirements and minimising the impact on the environment and the people who live, work and enjoy spending their time in the area.

The new line leaves Bonnybridge substation and crosses the Antonine Wall at a location that minimises potential effects on the World Heritage Site. It passes west of River Castle, using dips in the landscape and screening provided by existing trees to reduce visibility in the landscape.

The route then passes west of the Samanran Plateau Special Protection Area (SPA) and crosses Paisley Country Park. We don't avoid crossing the park because of the need to avoid the SPA and nearby homes on the edge of Cumbernauld, but we will use the landscape and multiple trees to screen the new line from views as much as possible.

A spur from the new line to Cumbernauld substation allows us to remove the existing 110kV overhead line (OB route) in its entirety between Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld.

The route then avoids the Community Growth Areas and planned development north of Airdrie and east of the A73, before terminating at a point near Glasgow where it joins onto the existing Easterhouse-Newarthill overhead transmission line. A new 'tie-in' section will be created at this point, allowing us to move the existing 100kV overhead line away from residential properties at Granttown Gardens and Eden Court.

Following feedback received in our previous consultation in February 2023, and further technical and environmental assessments, we have now developed a detailed design and alignment for the new overhead line, including locations for tower, access routes and working areas, and detailed designs for the substation extensions. We have also identified access points and working areas for the existing overhead lines to be updated in voltage.

Detailed impact can be viewed at our public exhibitions and on our project website, where you can also view and download documents with more information about the project.



Appendix B: Newspaper advert

Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade



We'd like your views!

Scotland is producing more clean, green energy than ever before, and we need to strengthen the transmission network between Denny and Wishaw so we can get it to the homes, schools and businesses that need it.

To do this we need to build a new 400,000-volt (400kV) overhead transmission line between our substation at Bonnybridge and a point near Glenmavis, where it would join on to an existing overhead line. We also plan to move the existing line further away from houses at Glenmavis.

A 'spur' from the new line to Cumbernauld substation will also allow us to remove the existing 132kV overhead line between Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld.

We will also need to increase the voltage of three existing overhead lines from 275kV to 400kV, and upgrade our substations at Denny North, Bonnybridge, Cumbernauld, Easterhouse, Newarthill and Wishaw.

We consulted on our plans in February 2025. We are now asking for comments on our updated plans to help us develop the project in the best way.

Please come along to one of our public exhibitions to see our plans in more detail and ask questions of the project team.

You can also find more information on our website: https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/denny_wishaw.aspx

Date	Location
Tuesday 28 October, 2pm to 7pm	Netherton Community Centre , Old Manse Road, Wishaw ML2 0EP
Wednesday 29 October, 2pm to 7pm	Bonnybridge Community Education Centre , Bridge Street, Bonnybridge FK4 1AA
Thursday 30 October, 2pm to 7pm	Glenmavis Social Club , Quarryside Street, Glenmavis ML6 0PS
Monday 03 November, 2pm to 7pm	Newarthill Community Facility , High Street, Newarthill ML1 5JU
Tuesday 04 November, 2pm to 7pm	Cumbernauld New Town Hall , Bron Way, Cumbernauld G67 1DZ
Wednesday 05 November, 2pm to 7pm	Gartcosh Social Club , Beard Crescent, Eastgate, Gartcosh G69 8AT
Friday 07 November, 2pm to 7pm	Dunipace Parish Church Hall , 175 Stirling Street, Dunipace, Denny FK6 6JR

You can leave comments on the website, and you can also contact us in the following ways:

Phone: 0800 470 2376

Email: info@dennywishaw.co.uk

Post: FREEPOST DENNY WISHAW UPGRADE



At this stage, your comments are not representations to the consenting/planning authorities. When we make applications for development consent in the future, you will be able to make formal representations at that stage.

Our public consultation runs from Monday 27 October to Friday 21 November 2025.

Appendix C: Exhibition panels

About SP Energy Networks



We all expect electricity to be available at the flick of a switch, 24 hours a day.

In southern and central Scotland, the job of making sure that happens belongs to SP Energy Networks (SPEN). In fact we have a statutory duty to do it.

SPEN operates, maintains and develops the network of cables, overhead lines and substations which transport electricity to homes and businesses in southern and central Scotland, and onwards to where it's needed further afield.

The high-voltage electricity transmission network, which operates at up to 400,000 volts, is managed by SP Transmission plc, a wholly-owned subsidiary of SPEN.

We take electricity generated from wind farms, power stations and imports, and transport it through our transmission network – over 3,700 km of overhead lines, over 600 km of underground cables and more than 150 substations – to local distribution networks, where the voltage is reduced for use in homes and businesses.

Electricity in our changing world



Scotland is a world leader in the fight against climate change.

Our country has a target of Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 – meaning that Scotland's contribution to climate change will end, definitively, in one generation.

We are in the middle of a transformation, with the energy we use increasingly coming from cleaner, greener sources, as many new renewable generators replace fossil-fuelled power stations.

At the same time, demand for electricity will grow rapidly over the next few years, with electric vehicles replacing petrol and diesel, and increased electrification of heating, industry and transport networks.

This huge change means we need to upgrade Scotland's electricity transmission network, so we can get this increasing amount of energy from where it's produced – often in different locations from before – to the homes, businesses, hospitals and public services that need it.

Much of the transmission network was constructed more than five decades ago so, as well as needing to grow to support a wider spread of renewable generation and storage, we also need to modernise and increase capacity in the system to support a robust and reliable UK wide network.

What is the **Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade Project?**



The electricity transmission network in central Scotland was first built in the 1920s. Since then it has grown and evolved to meet the region's industrial needs and serve its expanding population.

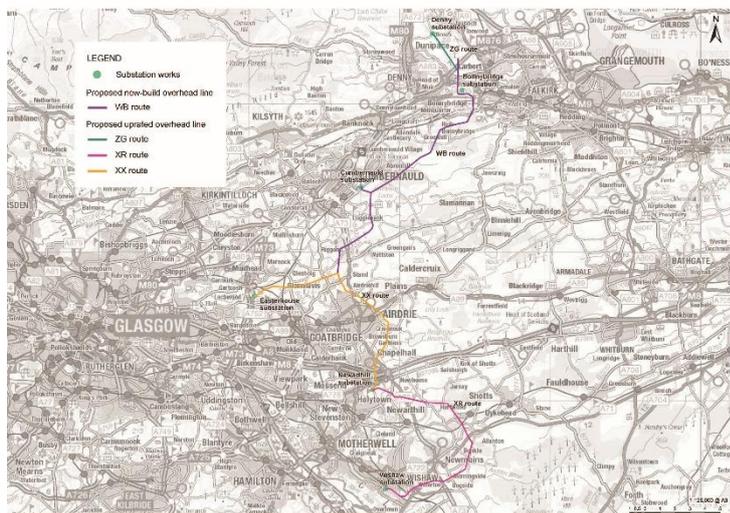
Today, the existing electricity network in Falkirk and Lanarkshire includes overhead lines operating at 275kV (275,000 volts) and 132kV (132,000 volts), which transport energy through the region and also serve local communities through Grid Supply Points (GSPs) at Bonnybridge, Cumbernauld, Easterhouse, Newarthill, Denny North and Wishaw.

Our planning work with the National Energy System Operator (NESO) has identified that, for the UK to meet its Net Zero carbon emissions targets, we need to reinforce the network between Denny and Wishaw so it has extra capacity to transmit the additional green energy.

This reinforcement includes:

- Upgrading some existing overhead lines from 275kV to 400kV (most of the UK transmission network already operates at 400kV);
- Building a new 275kV/400kV overhead transmission line between Bonnybridge and a point near Glenmavis; and
- Extending the existing substations at Bonnybridge, Denny North, Cumbernauld and Wishaw, and internal works at Easterhouse and Newarthill, to house new transformers and other equipment.

New transmission line between Bonnybridge and Glenmavis



The proposed new overhead line will run from Bonnybridge substation to a point near Glenmavis, where it will connect to the existing Easterhouse-Newarhill overhead line.

The route crosses the Antonine Wall at a location that minimises effects on the World Heritage Site. It passes east of Rough Castle and then west of the Slamannan Plateau Special Protection Area (SPA), and crosses Palacerigg Country Park. We can't avoid crossing the park because of the need to avoid the SPA and nearby homes on the edge of Cumbernauld, but we will use the landscape and mature trees to screen the new line from views as much as possible.

A 'spur' from the new line to Cumbernauld substation will allow us to remove the existing 11km 132kV overhead line (CB route) in its entirety between Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld.

The proposed route then avoids the Community Growth Areas and planned development north of Airdrie and east of the A73, before terminating at a point near Glenmavis where it joins on to the existing Easterhouse-Newarhill overhead transmission line.

A new 'tee-in' section will be created at this point, allowing us to move the existing XX overhead line away from residential properties at Granttown Gardens and Eden Court.

What will the **new overhead line** look like?



The proposed new overhead line will be carried on steel lattice towers (pylons).

The towers will have three arms on each side, and each arm will carry a set of conductors (wires).

This is because there will be a circuit on each side of the towers, and each circuit has three sets of wires.

The towers are made of galvanised steel. They are grey in colour and become duller in appearance after about 18 months.

The towers have a standard height of 46 metres, but can go up to 63 metres where required to ensure electrical safety clearance to the ground. They are placed approximately 300 metres apart, but the exact distance between them will vary depending on the landscape and any obstacles such as roads, rivers and railway lines.

How did you select a route for the overhead line?



The routing of overhead lines is a complex process, requiring a balance to be struck between statutory obligations, engineering requirements, economic viability and potential effects on the environment and local communities.

We are following established guidelines for routing transmission overhead lines, which combine in-depth environmental studies with technical and economic factors. A key part of this is consultation with landowners, stakeholders and the public to inform the development of the project.

SPEN worked with environmental consultants to identify potential routes for the new overhead line between Bonnybridge and Glenmavis, which we first published in 2021.

We appraised each option for its impact on a range of criteria including local views, the character of the landscape, biodiversity, forestry, cultural heritage, flood risk, geology, and other land uses, and then consulted local people on our preferred option in February-April 2025.

Following feedback received in our previous consultation, and further technical and environmental assessments, we have now developed a detailed design and alignment for the new overhead line, including locations for towers, access routes and working areas, and detailed designs for the substation extensions. We have also identified access points and working areas for the existing overhead lines to be upgraded in voltage.

You can find more information in the Routing and Consultation Document on our project website, along with the Preferred Route Option – Update Report which explains how we have modified our proposals since 2021.

Changes to existing substations and overhead lines



The project includes extending or altering our existing substations at Bonnybridge, Denny North, Cumbernauld, Wishaw, Newarthill and Easterhouse so we can install additional electrical equipment and carry out associated landscaping, drainage, access and fencing works where required.

Some existing overhead lines will require minor alterations or diversions where they enter the substations, to connect them to the new equipment.

We will also need to replace the conductors (wires) and associated equipment on the following overhead lines so we can increase their voltage from 275kV to 400kV:

- Newarthill to Wishaw (XR route) – 16km
- Newarthill to Easterhouse (XX route) – 15.4km
- Denny North to Bonnybridge (ZG route) – 4km

The project also provides an opportunity to move the existing XX overhead line further away from residential properties at Grantown Gardens, Glenmavis, through a new 'tee-in' arrangement to the proposed new overhead line.

It will also allow us to remove the existing 11km 132kV overhead line (CB route) between Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld, and to underground two sections of the existing 132kV overhead line (AA route) between Bonnybridge and Bathgate, where it is crossed by the proposed new overhead line.

You can view plans of each substation site, showing the proposed changes, and maps of the overhead lines, [here](#) and on our website.

Upgrading our overhead lines



When we increase the voltage of overhead electricity transmission lines from 275,000 volts to 400,000 volts (275kV to 400kV), we may need to replace the existing conductors (wires), earth wire, insulators and other equipment.

In order to do this, we will usually need access to each existing tower (pylon). We work closely with landowners, occupiers, local councils and stakeholders to decide how and where to install temporary access routes and working areas, when to carry out the work and how best to reinstate the land when we've finished. Sometimes we may need to put up temporary masts to keep the power flowing while we replace equipment.

The pictures below show some examples of how we refurbish towers and replace conductors, insulators and other essential components and equipment.



Supporting the communities we serve



We are on a mission to develop a safe, secure and resilient network that's ready for Net Zero, to tackle climate change and build a cleaner future for the communities we serve.



By upgrading our network to enable decarbonisation, we are unlocking long-term benefits for everyone – from a cleaner air to a more reliable supply of energy.



Communities that host new infrastructure will have access to funding for initiatives bringing lasting social, economic or environmental benefits.



We will help communities develop robust project plans that will turn their ambitions into reality.



From 2018 to 2021, we delivered our £20m Green Economy Fund, which directly funded projects that support Scotland's green energy strategy and Net Zero targets.

- 35 projects including heat, transport, local energy systems and education
- Carbon savings of 637 tCO₂
- 88 new jobs created and 647 supported indirectly



Our £5m Net Zero Fund was launched in 2022 to provide guidance and support to communities in vulnerable situations, and contribute to the national Net Zero objectives.

- 16 tailored community workshops
- 16 project feasibility reports
- Funding for 27 projects, including energy saving upgrades to community buildings and electric vehicles supporting vulnerable communities

In March 2025, the UK government published guidance on community benefit funds for transmission infrastructure. The guidance sets out the recommended level of funding for eligible onshore electricity transmission infrastructure projects.

We want to hear your views!



**Our public consultation runs from Monday
27 October 2025 to Friday 21 November 2025.**

SPEN attaches great importance to the effect our work may have on the environment and local communities.

We first consulted on the Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade Project proposals in 2021, and then consulted on our preferred route for the new overhead line in February-April 2025.

We would now like your views on our detailed route for the new overhead line, the proposed substation alterations and proposed changes to existing overhead lines.

You can find more information, project documents and an online feedback form at our project website:

www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/denny_wishaw.aspx



You can also contact us to ask any questions or give us your comments:

Email: info@dennywishaw.co.uk

Freephone: **0800 470 2376**

Freepost: **FREEPOST DENNY WISHAW UPGRADE**

What happens next?



Once pre-application consultation is complete and feedback received on our proposals, we will complete a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The EIA Report will be submitted with our consent applications.

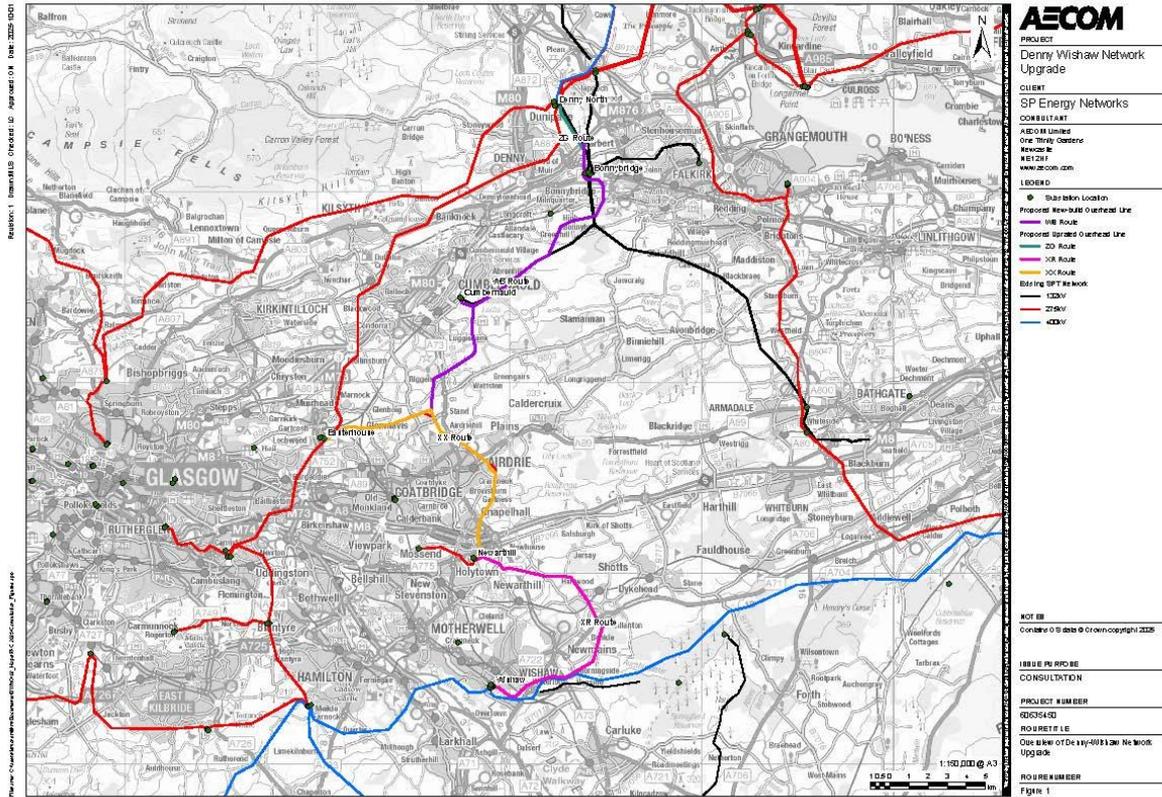
SP Energy Networks intends to submit three applications to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 and section 57 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended), as follows:

- for the proposed new overhead line and associated works;
- for the uprating of ZG route from 275kV to 400kV, the extension of Denny North and Bonnybridge substations and associated works; and
- for the uprating of XX route and XR route from 275kV to 400kV, internal works at Easterhouse and Newarthill substations and the extension of Wishaw substation.

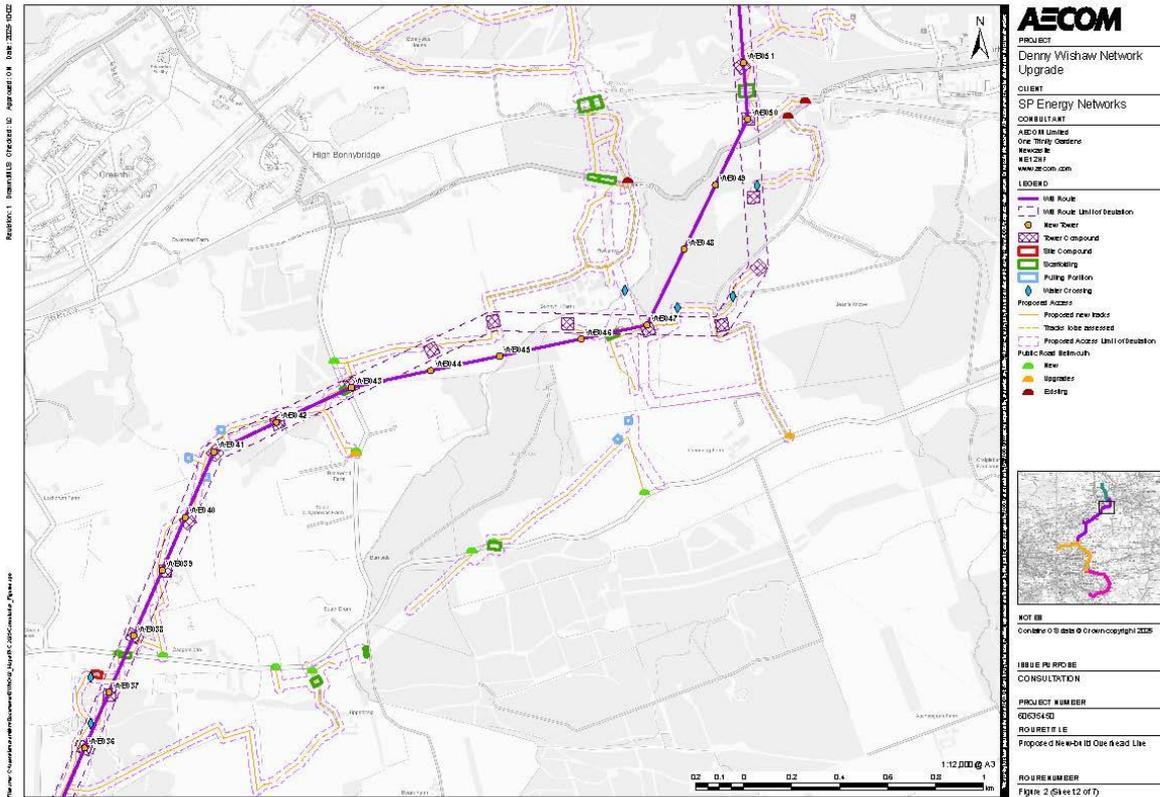
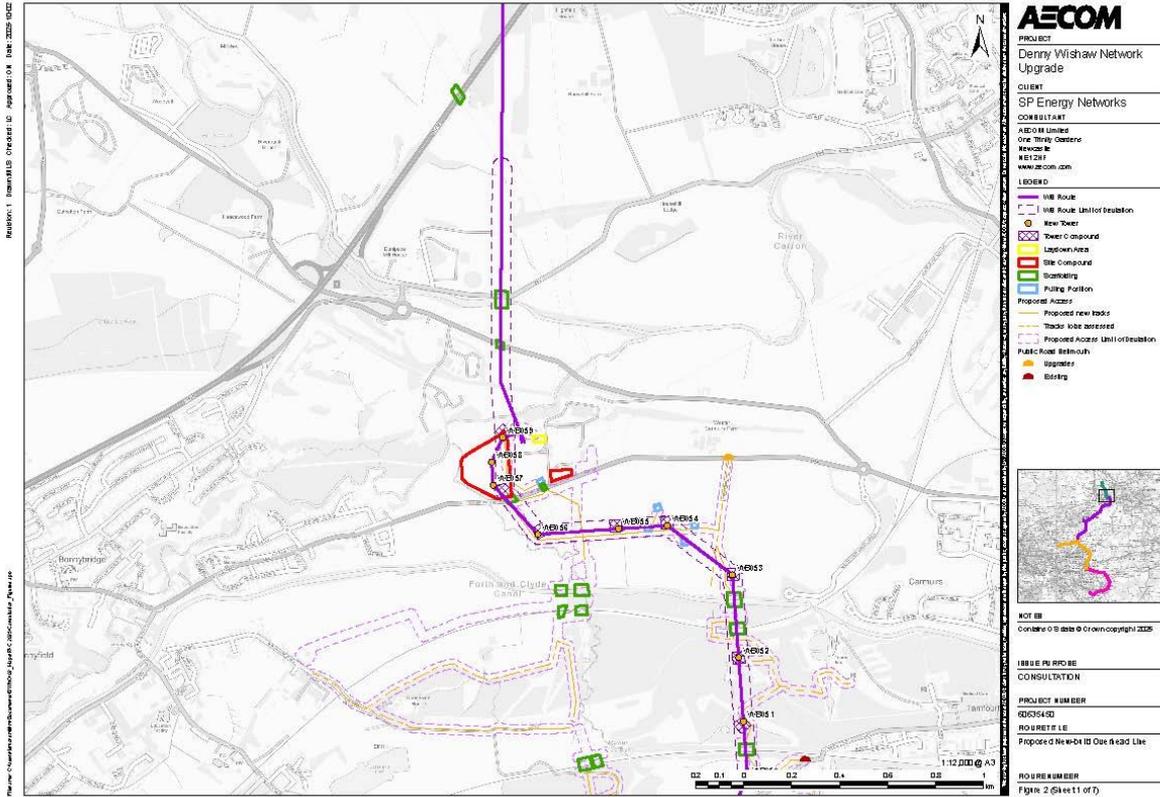
The proposed extension to Cumbernauld substation will be subject to a separate application to North Lanarkshire Council under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

At this stage, your comments are not representations to the planning authorities. When we submit applications for development consent in the future, you will be able to make formal representations at that stage.

Appendix D: Red line boundary and proposed route



Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade
 Summary of feedback from second round of pre-application consultation

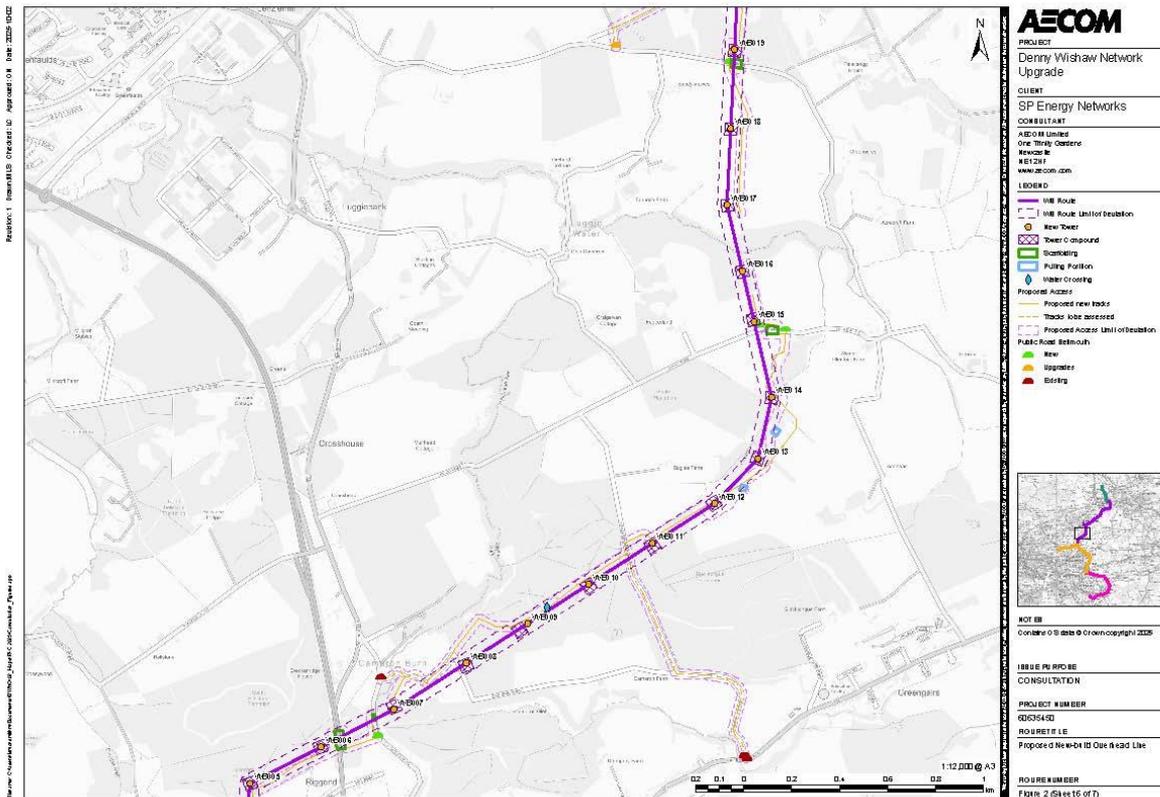
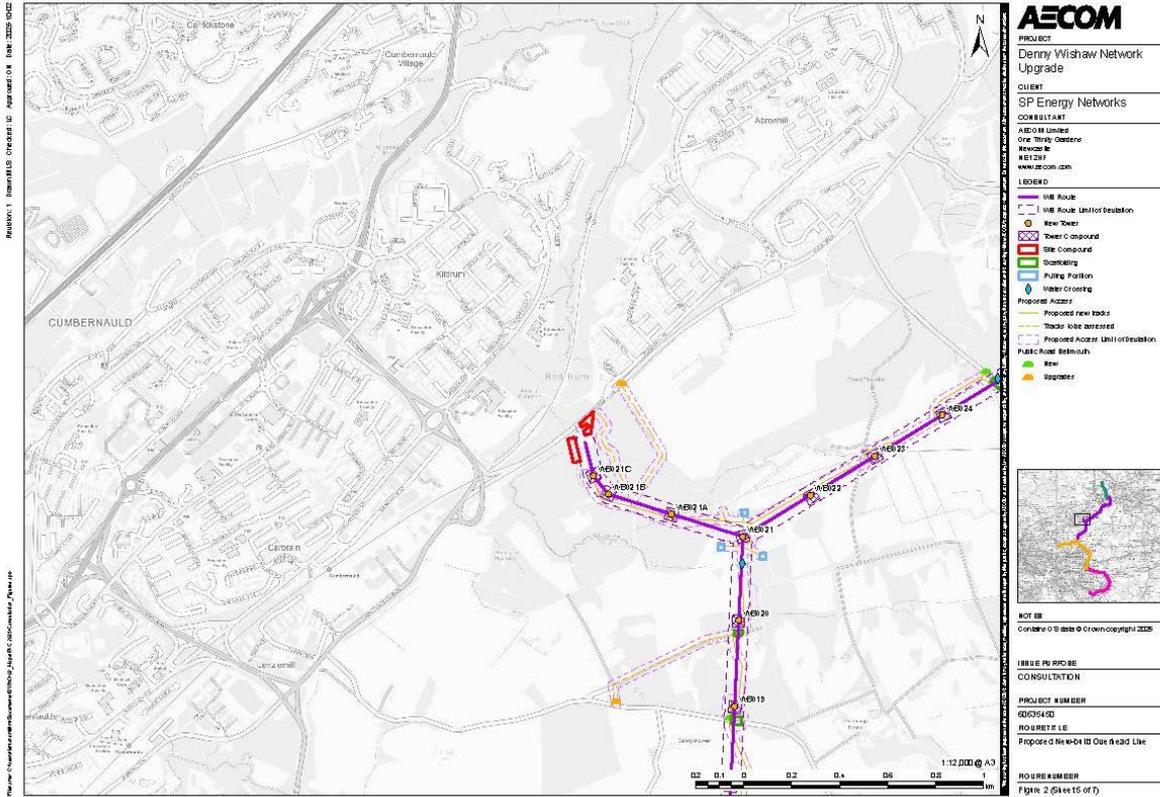


Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade

Summary of feedback from second round of pre-application consultation



Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade
 Summary of feedback from second round of pre-application consultation



Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade
 Summary of feedback from second round of pre-application consultation

