



Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade Project

Pre-Application Consultation Report

June 2026

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01. Executive summary

1 Executive summary

This report summarises the pre-application consultation (PAC) carried out by SP Energy Networks in relation to proposals by its wholly owned subsidiary SP Transmission plc for the Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade (DWNO) project (the Project), including:

- New build overhead line (OHL):
 - The construction of approximately 19km of a new 275/400 kilovolt (kV) OHL (known as the “WB route”) between Bonnybridge Substation and an existing OHL (known as the “XX route”) north of Glenmavis, with a connection to Cumbernauld Substation.
- The uprated OHLs:
 - The uprating of approximately 4km of an existing OHL between Denny North Substation and Bonnybridge Substation from 275 to 400kV (known as the “ZG route”) and ancillary OHL span between existing towers (ZG001A and ZCS062A).
 - The installation of two new towers with two new OHL spans as part of a reconfiguration of connections to Denny North Substation.
 - The uprating of approximately 15km of an existing OHL between Easterhouse and Newarthill Substations from 275 to 400kV (XX route) and the installation of one new tower (XX048A).
 - The uprating of approximately 16km of an existing OHL between Newarthill and Wishaw Substations from 275 to 400kV (known as the “XR route”) and the installation of two new towers (XR001A and XR001T). Tower XR001T will be a temporary bypass tower, to allow the circuit to remain in operation while the new tower (XR001A) is constructed.
- Ancillary works:
 - The removal of approximately 11km of an existing 132kV OHL between Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld Substation (known as the “CB route”).
 - The undergrounding of two sections of the existing 132kV OHL between Bonnybridge and Bathgate, where it is crossed by the proposed new OHL (known as the “AA route”).
 - Diversions to SP Distribution plc (SPD) infrastructure.
- Substation extensions:
 - Denny North Substation
 - Bonnybridge Substation
 - Cumbernauld Substation
 - Wishaw Substation.

The above proposals will be the subject of three applications to the Scottish Ministers for consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 and deemed planning permission under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. The proposed extension to Cumbernauld Substation will be subject to an application to North Lanarkshire Council for planning permission under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

The internal substation works at Denny North, Easterhouse, Newarthill and Wishaw substations are within existing operational areas. SP Energy Networks initially applied to Falkirk and North Lanarkshire councils for Certificates of Lawfulness to confirm that the works can take place. The application to Falkirk Council was determined with the works deemed lawful. However, the same works were also approved under extant planning permission (Ref: 05/0913/FUL). The applications to North Lanarkshire Council were withdrawn, as these works are required independently of DWNO.

SP Energy Networks carried out three rounds of PAC for this project.

The first round of PAC with local residents and stakeholders took place from Monday 27 January 2025 to Thursday 17 April 2025. This included drop-in public events at Newarthill, Cumbernauld, Wishaw, Gartcosh, Bonnybridge and Glenmavis. 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 give local people a further opportunity to comment on the Project. The events were attended by a total of 99 people, and all events took place at 2pm to 7pm, 4pm to 8pm or 3.15pm to 7pm.

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

A second round of PAC took place from Monday 27 October 2025 to Friday 21 November 2025, to allow local people to give their views on the updated, more detailed proposals, including the proposed tower locations for the new OHL, and access arrangements. As before, these public consultation events were held in locations close to the proposed new infrastructure. These locations included Newarthill, Cumbernauld, Wishaw, Gartcosh, Bonnybridge and Glenmavis. Following a request from local residents during the first round of consultation, SP Energy Networks held an additional event in Dunipace during the second round of consultation. The events were attended by a total of 55 people. All events took place from 2pm to 7pm.

The third and final round of PAC took place in February 2026, at which SP Energy Networks presented its near-final proposals and explained how feedback received in the previous rounds of consultation had been taken into account in the development of the Project proposals. The events took place at Cumbernauld New Town Hall on Tuesday 24 February, from 2pm to 7pm, and at Bonnybridge Community Education Centre on Wednesday 25 February, from 2pm to 7pm, and were attended by a total of 37 people.

Across the PAC process, SP Energy Networks received a total of 42 formal pieces of feedback. For the first round of consultation, this consisted of a total of 24 pieces of feedback, and for the second round of consultation, this involved 18 pieces of feedback. Issues raised by consultees included the proposed route and design, public engagement, visual impact, community improvements, the cumulative effect of projects, environmental and heritage impact, construction footprint, local economy consequences, property values, health and safety, and traffic. At each stage of the PAC process, SP Energy Networks directly engaged with communities to address the concerns outlined in their feedback and took their comments into account when developing its proposals, where possible. Table 5 (see Section 4.6) in this report details SP Energy Networks' responses to the comments received at all stages of the PAC.

SP Energy Networks carried out a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the Project to ensure that the potential effect of the Project is fully considered and appropriately addressed.

As a summary, this report provides:

- 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.

02.

Introduction

2 Introduction

2.1 The need for the Project

Scotland is producing more clean, green energy than ever before, and SP Energy Networks needs to strengthen the electricity transmission network so it 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.

SP Energy Networks' 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 (OHL) and installing a new overhead transmission line between Bonnybridge and a point near Glenmavis, where it will be joined to an existing OHL, 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 North Lanarkshire includes OHLs operating at 275kV and 132kV, transporting energy through the region and serving local communities through grid supply points (GSP) at Bonnybridge, Cumbernauld, Easterhouse, Newarthill, Denny North and Wishaw.

The Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade project includes extending substations, upgrading three existing OHLs 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, which will allow SP Energy Networks to remove the existing 132kV OHL between Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld.

2.2 The role of SP Energy Networks

SP Energy Networks is part of the ScottishPower Group. SP Energy Networks is the trading name for Scottish Power Energy Network Holdings Limited, which owns and operates the electricity transmission and distribution networks in central and southern Scotland through its wholly owned subsidiaries SP Transmission plc (SPT) and SP Distribution plc (SPD) and, through SP Manweb and SP Electricity North West, the distribution networks in North Wales and North West England. SPT is the holder of a transmission licence. SP Energy Networks' role is to maintain, operate and invest in the network to secure a safe, reliable and economic service for current and future consumers.

Its transmission network is the backbone of the electricity system in its licence 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 OHLs and more than 600km of underground cables.

As transmission licence holder for southern Scotland, SPT is required under Section 9(2) of the Electricity Act 1989 to:

- develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission; and
- facilitate competition in the supply and generation of electricity.

SPT is required to provide for new electricity generators wishing to connect to the transmission system in its licence area, to make its transmission system available for these purposes and to ensure that the system is fit for purpose through appropriate reinforcements to accommodate the contracted capacity.

Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 imposes a further statutory duty on SPT in formulating relevant proposals, including proposals for substations and for the installation of overhead and underground transmission lines:

- (a) to “have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest”;
- (b) to “do what [it] reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects”; and
- “[...] avoid, so far as possible, causing injury to fisheries or to the stock of fish in any waters.”

SPT’s “Schedule 9 Statement” (Appendix A) sets out how it will meet the duty placed upon it under Schedule 9.

SPT 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, SPT 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 both the environment and the people who live, work and enjoy recreation within it.

2.3 The proposed works

The Project relates to uprating the voltage of parts of the overhead electricity transmission network between Denny and Wishaw from 275kV to 400kV, with associated infrastructure improvements, in order to get more energy from where it is produced in northern Scotland to where it is needed in central Scotland and beyond. The relevant transmission lines with a proposed uprating as part of this project include the existing XR, XX and ZG routes.

This project also proposes the construction of a new double-circuit 275kV/400kV OHL (WB route) running north–south from the Bonnybridge 275kV substation to a point near Glenmavis in North Lanarkshire, where it will connect to the existing 275kV OHL (XX route) that runs between the Easterhouse and Newarthill 275kV substations.

Alongside this, the Project proposes a “spur” from the new OHL to Cumbernauld Substation (approximately 750m) and removal of the existing 11km, 132kV OHL (CB route) between the Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld substations.

The Project seeks to extend Cumbernauld Substation to support with the uprating of existing OHLs from 275kV to 400kV, with associated infrastructure improvements. The Cumbernauld Substation extension will involve the following construction and connectivity works:

- installation of one 275kV bus section circuit breaker;
- two 275/33kV, 90-megavolt-ampere (MVA) dual-wound transformers;
- one air-insulated switchgear (AIS) disconnecting circuit breaker; and
- vehicular access, earthworks, drainage proposals, erection of boundary security fence and associated works.

To install additional electrical equipment and carry out drainage, access and security fencing works where required, the Project proposes an extension to the existing substations at Bonnybridge, Denny North, Cumbernauld and Wishaw.

Additionally, SP Energy Networks proposes installing new transformers at the Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld substations.

To support the uprating of OHLs, SP Energy Networks proposes replacing the conductors (wires) and associated equipment on existing OHLs to operate them at 400kV. This reconductoring is broken down into three routes:

- 16km of OHLs running from Newarthill to Wishaw (XR route);
- 15.4km of OHLs running from Newarthill to Easterhouse (XX route); and
- 4km of OHLs running from Denny North to Bonnybridge (ZG route).

Alterations to the OHLs where they enter the substations (to connect them to the new equipment) are also included as part of this proposal.

Through a new “tee-in” arrangement to the proposed new OHL, SP Energy Networks has proposed moving the existing XX OHL further away from residential properties at Grantown Gardens, Glenmavis.

The Project proposes to underground two sections of the existing 132kV OHL (AA route) between Bonnybridge and Bathgate, where it is crossed by the proposed new OHL.

An existing 132kV OHL between the Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld substations (CB route), approximately 11km in length, shall be removed as part of the Project.

Lastly, diversions to distribution infrastructure are also required as part of the Project.

SP Energy Networks intends to submit applications to the Scottish Ministers via the Scottish Government’s Energy Consents Unit (ECU) for consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 and deemed planning permission under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for:

- New build overhead line (OHL):
 - The construction of approximately 19km of a new 275/400 kilovolt (kV) OHL (WB route) between Bonnybridge Substation and an existing OHL (XX route) north of Glenmavis, with a connection to Cumbernauld Substation.
- The uprated OHLs:
 - The uprating of approximately 4km of an existing OHL between Denny North Substation and Bonnybridge Substation from 275 to 400kV (ZG route) and ancillary OHL span between existing towers (ZG001A and ZCS062A).
 - The installation of two new towers with two new OHL spans as part of a reconfiguration of connections to Denny North Substation.

- The uprating of approximately 15km of an existing OHL between Easterhouse and Newarthill Substations from 275 to 400kV (XX route) and the installation of one new tower (XX048A).
- The uprating of approximately 16km of an existing OHL between Newarthill and Wishaw Substations from 275 to 400kV (XR route) and the installation of two new towers (XR001A and XR001T). Tower XR001T will be a temporary bypass tower, to allow the circuit to remain in operation while the new tower (XR001A) is constructed.
- Ancillary works:
 - The removal of approximately 11km of an existing 132kV OHL between Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld Substation (CB route).
 - The undergrounding of two sections of the existing 132kV OHL between Bonnybridge and Bathgate, where it is crossed by the proposed new OHL (AA route).
 - Diversions to SP Distribution plc (SPD) infrastructure.
- Substation extensions:
 - Denny North Substation
 - Bonnybridge Substation
 - Cumbernauld Substation
 - Wishaw Substation.

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

2.4 Identifying the proposed WB OHL route

The identification of the proposed new-build WB OHL route (between Bonnybridge and the existing Easterhouse–Newarthill OHL near Glenmavis) followed SPEN's established *Approach to Routeing and Environmental Impact Assessment*, which sets out the process for developing new electricity transmission infrastructure in line with statutory duties under the Electricity Act 1989 and the Holford Rules. SP Energy Networks appraised the route against other route options and considered a range of factors, including landscape, local views, cultural heritage, proximity to residents, land use, forestry, biodiversity, peatland, flood risk, archaeology and technical feasibility.

The Holford Rules informed the approach throughout, guiding the avoidance of areas of high amenity value, minimising visual impact, reducing the need for angle towers and avoiding the creation of wirescapes. SPEN's starting point was an OHL solution, as this typically provides the most appropriate balance of environmental, technical and economic considerations. Undergrounding the route between Bonnybridge and Glenmavis was not considered necessary, although opportunities to underground existing assets where they interact with the new line were examined.

Multiple route options were developed, assessed and refined, leading to the identification of a preferred route option, which was subsequently modified following further technical studies and consultation feedback. More details on alternatives explored can be found in Chapter 3 (Evolution of Design and Alternatives) of the EIA report.

Phase 1 comprised a routing study to identify a technically feasible and economically viable 400kV OHL route that would, on balance, cause the least disturbance to the environment and local communities. This resulted in the *2021 Preferred Route Option*, which was published for consultation. Feedback from Phase 1 Consultation, further technical work and the widening of the Project's scope (see Section 4.1 and Appendix K) informed the Modified Preferred Route Option, reported in 2025.

Phase 2 involved detailed engineering and EIA studies undertaken in parallel, leading to the development of a proposed route alignment and associated works. Consultation during Phase 2 provided further stakeholder and landowner input, resulting in additional refinements to the alignment. Through this iterative process, the proposed new-build WB OHL route was identified, balancing environmental considerations, technical feasibility, statutory obligations and feedback received during consultation.

The proposed route leaves 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 the marginal western edge of the SPA on the south side of Fannyside Road and thereafter 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 predominantly 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 practicable.

Further details on the site selection methodology for the Project can be found in SP Energy Network's *Denny–Wishaw Network Upgrade: Preferred Route Option Update Report (December 2024)*, which is available here:

https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/userfiles/file/DWNO_PROUR.pdf and provided as a supporting document to the applications.

2.5 The proposed changes

In response to feedback received during all stages of the PAC, a number of changes were made to the Project. These changes, informed by stakeholder, landowner and statutory consultee engagement, are outlined below:

- micrositing new towers to reduce visual impact;
- moving tower WB021B by approximately 60 metres south-east to avoid Japanese knotweed, which will be treated on site;
- altering the red line boundary of Cumbernauld Substation to include two small areas of trees that would be affected by soil excavation works to create the new substation platform (these trees will be felled and the area will be allowed to regenerate naturally). In addition, the drainage plan was updated in consultation with North Lanarkshire Council; and
- updating site drainage plans in consultation with North Lanarkshire Council.

In addition to the above changes, SP Energy Networks committed to working with the organisers of Palacerigg Country Parkrun to minimise any impact on the event during construction works.

Consultation also included engagement with individual landowners. At Glenmavis, a landowner expressed concern that the proposed OHL connection would have a significant negative impact on the future development potential of land owned by Pinwhinnie Property Company Ltd. While acknowledging the need for the proposed upgrades, the landowner put forward an alternative route that they considered preferable. SP Energy Networks considered the alternative route but ultimately found it was not feasible for the reasons set out in Table 5 (see Section 4.6) of this report and in Chapter 3 (Evolution of Design and Alternatives) of the EIA report.

Landowner dialogue also revealed the existence of part-implemented planning permission (Ref: P/09/0409/FUL) at land to the north of Greenrig Farm, Bonnyhill Road, Falkirk. Planning permission was granted on 20 December 2013 for *Erection of Farm Shop, Stables, Bunk House, Chalets, Toilet Block, Formation of Caravan Site and Erection of Manager's House*. Given the existence of the extant consent, the OHL alignment between towers WB047–WB051 was realigned to the west, to allow for the above planning permission to be implemented in full.

Further landowner dialogue identified the opportunity to minimise impact upon the agricultural working area at Bonnyhill Farm and to pull the proposed WB OHL further away from farm buildings/house. In turn, towers WB043 and WB048 were marginally realigned to the south to ensure the above.

Further requests were also considered during consultation. These included requests for the new WB OHL to enter Bonnybridge Substation from the east. However, this is not possible, as the new line must connect to existing infrastructure on the opposite side of the substation. Requests for the new line to follow the existing CB OHL route were also examined, but this is not feasible as it would affect the Slamannan Plateau SPA, potentially resulting in habitat loss.

03. Approach to pre- application consultation

3 Approach to pre-application consultation

3.1 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 taken into account throughout the planning and consenting process.

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 development of a project and continues into construction once consent has been granted.

3.2 Legislation and guidance

In May 2025, the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) published *Electricity Act 1989 Pre-Application Consultation and Engagement Guidance for Electricity Transmission Line Projects Which Require Environmental Impact Assessment* (S37 PAC Guidance). The PAC process for the Project has been undertaken in accordance with the S37 PAC Guidance. The earlier 2022 guidance (*Electricity Act 1989 – Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Sections 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989*) was followed for all stages undertaken prior to May 2025.

DWNO was initiated before the updated S37 PAC Guidance came into effect. Following discussions between SP Energy Networks and the ECU, it was agreed that projects already in progress are not required to comply with the new guidance but continue on the basis of the earlier 2022 guidance. However, given the scale and national significance of DWNO, SP Energy Networks has adopted the updated guidance as a proportionate approach, demonstrating its commitment to a thorough and transparent PAC process.

Alongside government guidance, the PAC process was also undertaken in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 and Planning Circular 3/2022: Development Management Procedures.

3.3 Consultation strategy and approach

The strategy for consultation was designed to ensure that stakeholders were consulted on the proposed OHL works and substation extensions as a single, integrated project, with all elements considered together despite being subject to different consenting routes and applications.

The guiding principles were that local residents and stakeholders:

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

SP Energy Networks submitted a Proposal of Application Notice (PoAN) to North Lanarkshire for the proposed extension to Cumbernauld Substation (North Lanarkshire Council Reference: 24/01293/PAN). The formal PoAN sets out a description of the development in general terms, including a map to identify the site. The PoAN also sets out SP Energy Networks' proposals for undertaking PAC for the substation development and associated works, including information regarding when such consultation is to take place, with whom and what form it will take.

The PoAN confirmed the site address as follows:

- Cumbernauld: the existing Cumbernauld Substation (approx. grid reference NS 77453 74401)

The PoAN detailed how SPT can be contacted, including postal address details, an email address and a telephone number.

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.

The PoAN also detailed how SPT can be contacted, including postal address details, an email address and a telephone number.

SP Energy Networks used a range of communication channels and materials to publicise and promote the PAC on the Project, which are detailed in the following sections of this report. 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 470 2376
- Online via the dedicated project website:
https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/denny_wishaw.aspx
- In person or in writing at the public consultation event.

Consultees were informed during the PAC process that any representations made at that stage were not representations to the consenting or planning authorities and did not remove the right, or potential need, to comment on the final applications. SP Energy Networks advised that once the final applications for development consent were submitted, there would be an opportunity to make formal representations at that time.

3.4 Statement of compliance: Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

In relation to its application to North Lanarkshire Council under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for the proposed extension of Cumbernauld Substation, SP Energy Networks outlines how its approach to PAC aligns with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 in Tables 1 and 2, respectively.

Table 1: Compliance with the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

Reference	Requirement	Compliance	PAC reference
Section 35A (1)	Before submitting an application for planning permission for a development of a class prescribed under this section, the prospective applicant is, subject to the following provisions of this section, to comply with Section 35B.	Complied with as set out below under Section 35B.	N/A
Section 35B (2)	The prospective applicant is to give notice (to be known as a “Proposal of Application Notice” or PoAN) to the planning authority that an application for planning permission for the development is to be submitted.	The PoAN (Ref: 24/01293/PAN) was submitted to North Lanarkshire on 19 December 2024.	Appendix B
Section 35B (3)	A period of at least 12 weeks, but no more than 18 months, must elapse between giving the notice and submitting any such application.	The application is anticipated to be submitted on 5 June 2026, which is more than 12 weeks but less than 18 months from the submission of the PoAN.	N/A

Reference	Requirement	Compliance	PAC reference
Section 35B (4)(a)–(d)	A PoAN must contain the following information: a. a description in general terms of the development to be carried out; b. if the site at which the development is to be carried out has a postal address, that address; c. a plan showing the outline of the site at which the development is to be carried out and sufficient to identify that site; and d. details as to how the prospective applicant may be contacted and corresponded with.	The PoAN included all of the required information and was submitted to North Lanarkshire Council on 19 December 2024. (a) The PoAN included the following description of the development: extension to electricity substation, including installation of one 275kV bus section circuit breaker, two 275/33kV 90MVA dual-wound transformers, one AIS disconnecting circuit breaker, vehicular access, earthworks, drainage proposals, erection of boundary security fence and associated works. (b) The location for the development was described as follows: The existing Cumbernauld Substation (approx. grid reference NS 77453 74401). (c) A plan showing the outline of the site was attached to the PoAN. The plan used a red outline to show the extent of the proposed extension. (d) Contact details for Alan Graham at SP Energy Networks were provided on the PoAN form.	Appendix B
Section 35B (7)	The planning authority may, provided that they do so within the period of 21 days after receiving the proposal of application notice, notify the prospective applicant that they require (either or both)— (a) that the proposal of application notice be given to persons additional to those specified	The planning authority did not prescribe further consultees or additional consultation in addition to that described under Regulation 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (Table 2).	

Reference	Requirement	Compliance	PAC reference
	under subsection (5) (specifying in the notification who those persons are), (b) that consultation additional to any required by virtue of subsection (5)(b) be undertaken as regards the Proposed Development (specifying in the notification what form that consultation is to take).		
Section 35C	(1) A person who, before submitting an application for planning permission for a development, is required to comply with section 35B and who proceeds to submit that application is to prepare a report (a “pre-application consultation report”) as to what has been done to effect such compliance. (2) A pre-application consultation report is to be in such form and include such content as may be prescribed.	Compliance with Section 35C is through this PAC report, which contains the information specified under Regulation 7B of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (Table 2).	

3.5 Statement of compliance: Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013

Table 2: Compliance with the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013

Reference	Requirement	Compliance	PAC reference
Regulation 6	A proposal of application notice must, in addition to those matters required by section 35B(4) of the Act, also contain an account of what consultation the applicant intends to undertake (including information as to when such consultation is to take place, with whom and what form it will take).	A PoAN that included all of the required information was submitted to North Lanarkshire Council in December 2024.	Appendix B
Regulation 7 (1)	The prospective applicant is to consult as respects a proposed application every community council any part of whose area is within or adjoins the land where the proposed development is situated and in doing so is to give a copy of the proposal of application notice to the community council.	The following community councils were identified as having boundaries in, or adjacent to, the proposed area where the infrastructure may be situated, and received a copy of the PoAN: Local: Greenfaulds & Luggiebank CC Adjoining: Carbrain & Hillcrest CC, Condorrat CC, Craigmarloch CC, Dullatur CC, Glenmavis CC, Kildrum CC, Kilsyth CC, Seafar & Ravenswood CC and Stepps & District CC. No contact details are available for the following community councils: Abronnhill & Arns CC Banton & Kelvinhead CC	Appendix B

Reference	Requirement	Compliance	PAC reference
		Greengairs CC Westerwood CC	
Regulation 7 (2)(a)	The prospective applicant is to hold at least two public events where members of the public may make comments to the prospective applicant as regards the Proposed Development.	Three rounds of public consultation have been held, each including drop-in public events where members of the public could make comments to the prospective applicant as regards the Proposed Development. Local people and stakeholders were notified of the events through the mechanisms described in Section 4 of this report. The public consultation events were as follows: First round of consultation • Newarthill Community Facility, Newarthill, Wednesday 29 January 2025, 2pm to 7pm • Muirfield Community Centre, Cumbernauld, Thursday 30 January 2025, 4pm to 8pm • Pather Community Centre, Wishaw, Friday 31 January 2025, 2pm to 7pm • Gartcosh Social Club, Gartcosh, Tuesday 4 February 2025, 2pm to 7pm • Bonnybridge Community Education Centre, Bonnybridge, Wednesday 5 February 2025, 3.15pm to 7pm • Glenmavis Community Facility, Glenmavis, Thursday 6 February 2025, 2pm to 7pm • an additional event in Gartcosh: Gartcosh Social Club, Thursday 27 March 2025, 2pm to 7pm	Appendices E4, F4 and G3, and Section 4

Reference	Requirement	Compliance	PAC reference
		Second round of consultation - Netherton Community Centre, Wishaw, Tuesday 28 October 2025, 2pm to 7pm - Bonnybridge Community Education Centre, Bonnybridge, Wednesday 29 October 2025, 2pm to 7pm - Glenmavis Social Club, Glenmavis, Thursday 30 October 2025, 2pm to 7pm - Newarthill Community Facility, Newarthill, Monday 3 November 2025, 2pm to 7pm - Cumbernauld New Town Hall, Cumbernauld, Tuesday 4 November 2025, 2pm to 7pm - Gartcosh Social Club, Gartcosh, Wednesday 5 November 2025, 2pm to 7pm - Dunipace Parish Church Hall, Dunipace, Friday 7 November 2025, 2pm to 7pm Third round of consultation - Cumbernauld New Town Hall, Cumbernauld, Tuesday 24 February 2026, 2pm to 7pm - Bonnybridge Community Education Centre, Bonnybridge, Wednesday 25 February 2026, 2pm to 7pm	
Regulation 7 (2)(b) and Regulation 7 (2A)	The prospective applicant is to publish in a local newspaper circulating in the locality in which the proposed development is situated— (i) a notice in respect of the first public event containing the information specified in paragraph (2A) , and	Notices containing the required information were published in the Cumbernauld News, Falkirk Herald and Wishaw Press in one consecutive week prior to each round of consultation events. The notices were published on the below dates: PAC 1 SP Energy Networks placed formal	Appendices E4, F4 and G3

Reference	Requirement	Compliance	PAC reference
	(ii) a further notice in respect of the final public event containing the information specified in sub-paragraphs (a) to (c) and (e) of paragraph (2A). (2A) The information is: (a) a description of, and the location of, the proposed development, (b) details as to how (including by what electronic means) further information may be obtained concerning the proposed development, (c) the date and place of the public event, (d) a statement explaining how, and by when, persons wishing to make comments to the prospective applicant relating to the proposal may do so, and (e) a statement that comments made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the planning authority and if the prospective applicant submits an application there will be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the planning authority.	newspaper advertisements in the Falkirk Herald (23 January 2025), Cumbernauld News (22 January 2025) and Wishaw Press (22 January 2025). In line with a request from North Lanarkshire Council, SP Energy Networks held an additional event in Gartcosh, and placed a further advertisement in the Airdrie and Coatbridge Advertiser (19 March 2025). PAC 2 SP Energy Networks placed formal newspaper advertisements in the Falkirk Herald (16 and 23 October), Cumbernauld News (15 and 22 October), Wishaw Press (15 and 22 October) and Airdrie and Coatbridge Advertiser (15 and 22 October). PAC 3 SP Energy Networks placed formal newspaper advertisements in the Airdrie and Coatbridge Advertiser, Cumbernauld News and Wishaw Press on 4 February 2026, and in the Falkirk Press on 5 February 2026. Copies of the notices are included in the appendices to this report. The notices include the points required by Regulation 7 (2A).	
Regulation 7 (3)	A public event held by the prospective applicant in accordance with paragraph (2)(a) is not to be held earlier than 7 days after notification of the date and place of the public event is given under paragraph (2)(b)(i) or (ii), as the case may be, and the final public event must be held at least 14 days after the	Notices advertising the first public event were published in the aforementioned local newspapers on Wednesday 22 January and Thursday 23 January 2025 and the first public event was held on Wednesday 29 January 2025, which was 7 days after the notification of the date and place of the	Appendices E4, F4 and G3

Reference	Requirement	Compliance	PAC reference
	first public event.	first public event. Notices advertising the second public event were published in the aforementioned local newspapers on the weeks commencing 13 October and 20 October 2025 and the second public event was held on Tuesday 28 October 2025, which was more than 7 days after the notification of the date and place of the first public event. The final public event(s) took place on Tuesday 24 February and Wednesday 25 February 2026, which is more than 14 days after the first public event in October 2025.	
Regulation 7 (4)	The prospective applicant must at the final public event provide feedback to members of the public in respect of comments received by the prospective applicant as regards the Proposed Development.	Material presented at the final public event(s) included information explaining how the Project proposals had been refined following comments received from members of the public and stakeholders. This included updates to the drainage plan and altering the boundary line for the substation extension.	Appendix G2
Regulation 7B	A pre-application consultation report must contain— (a) the dates on which, and places where, public events were held as required in accordance with regulation 7(2), (b) a description of— (i) any additional consultation or notification required by the planning authority in relation to the proposed	This document and its appendices constitute a PAC report, addressing all points listed under Regulation 7B.	Regulation 7B(a): Section 4 Regulation 7B(b): Section 4 Regulation 7B(c): Appendix I Regulation 7B(d): Section

Reference	Requirement	Compliance	PAC reference
	application under section 35B(7) of the Act, (ii) any additional steps taken by the prospective applicant to consult with members of the public as regards the Proposed Development, (c) a list of bodies, groups and organisations who were consulted by the prospective applicant, (d) evidence as to how the prospective applicant carried out the activities described under sub-paragraphs (a), (b) and (c), (e) copies of: (i) any materials sent to consultees, (ii) any materials provided to those attending a public event, and (iii) any visual presentation shown or displayed at a public event, (f) photographs of any display boards or models at public events, (g) confirmation as to whether consultees and attendees at public events were informed that pre-application consultation does not remove the right or the potential need to comment on the final application once it is made to the planning authority, (i) a summary of: (i) the written responses to consultations, and (ii) views raised at public events, including an indication of the number of written responses received and the number of persons who attended the public events,		4 Regulation 7B(e)(i): Appendices E1, E2, E3, F1, F2, F3, G2, G5 and G6 Regulation 7B(e)(ii): Appendices C, D, E6, E7, F6, F7, G1 and G8 Regulation 7B(e)(iii): Appendices F8 and G9 Regulation 7B(f): E6, E7, F6, F7, G6 and G8 Regulation 7B (g): Appendices E3, E4, E5, E6, F3, F4, F5, F6, G1, G2 and G3 Regulation 7B(i)(i): Section 4.6 Regulation 7B(i)(ii): Section 4 Regulation 7B(j): Section 4.6 Regulation 7B(k): Section 4.6

Reference	Requirement	Compliance	PAC reference
	(j) an explanation of how the prospective applicant took account of views raised during the pre-application consultation process, and (k) an explanation of how members of the public were given feedback on the prospective applicant's consideration of the views raised during the pre-application consultation process.		

3.6 Table of guidance compliance: *Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit Pre-Application Consultation and Engagement Guidance for Electricity Transmission Line Projects Which Require Environmental Impact Assessment (May 2025)*

In relation to the applications to the Scottish Ministers for consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989, SP Energy Networks outlines how its approach to PAC aligns with the guidance of the *Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit Pre-Application Consultation and Engagement Guidance for Electricity Transmission Line Projects Which Require Environmental Impact Assessment (May 2025)* and *Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (February 2022)* in Tables 3 and 4, respectively.

Table 3: Compliance with the *Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit Pre-Application Consultation and Engagement Guidance for Electricity Transmission Line Projects Which Require Environmental Impact Assessment (May 2025)*

Guidance	Compliance with guidance	PAC reference
1. <i>The dates on which, and places where, public events were held for each stage of the Project development</i>	The public consultation events were as follows: First round of consultation - Newarthill Community Facility, Newarthill, Wednesday 29 January 2025, 2pm to 7pm - Muirfield Community Centre, Cumbernauld, Thursday 30 January 2025, 4pm to 8pm - Pather Community Centre, Wishaw, Friday 31 January 2025, 2pm to 7pm - Gartcosh Social Club, Gartcosh, Tuesday 4 February 2025, 2pm to 7pm - Bonnybridge Community Education Centre, Bonnybridge, Wednesday 5 February 2025, 3.15pm to 7pm - Glenmavis Community Facility, Glenmavis, Thursday 6 February 2025, 2pm to 7pm - an additional event in Gartcosh: Gartcosh Social Club, Thursday 27 March 2025, 2pm to 7pm Second round of consultation - Netherton Community Centre, Wishaw, Tuesday 28 October 2025, 2pm to 7pm - Bonnybridge Community Education Centre, Bonnybridge, Wednesday 29 October 2025, 2pm to 7pm - Glenmavis Social Club, Glenmavis, Thursday 30 October 2025, 2pm to 7pm - Newarthill Community Facility, Newarthill, Monday 3 November 2025, 2pm to 7pm	PAC 1: Appendices E4 and E5 PAC 2: Appendices F4 and F5 Final information events: Appendices G2 and G3 Section 4

Guidance	Compliance with guidance	PAC reference
	- Cumbernauld New Town Hall, Cumbernauld, Tuesday 4 November 2025, 2pm to 7pm - Gartcosh Social Club, Gartcosh, Wednesday 5 November 2025, 2pm to 7pm - Dunipace Parish Church Hall, Dunipace, Friday 7 November 2025, 2pm to 7pm Third round of consultation - Cumbernauld New Town Hall, Cumbernauld, Tuesday 24 February 2026, 2pm to 7pm - Bonnybridge Community Education Centre, Bonnybridge, Wednesday 25 February 2026, 2pm to 7pm	
2. <i>The original PAC strategy plus any updates or modifications</i>	PAC for this project commenced before May 2025, when the ECU published its <i>Pre-Application Consultation and Engagement Guidance for Electricity Transmission Line Projects Which Require Environmental Impact Assessment</i> , which requested a PAC strategy. However, SP Energy Networks had set out its PAC strategy as outlined in its first PAC feedback report. This was then re-addressed within SP Energy Networks' PAC feedback report for the second round of PAC. (See Sections 3.3 and 4.1 of this PAC report for the current PAC strategy.)	Appendix C, Appendix D, Section 3.3 and Section 4.1
3. <i>A summary of the in-person and online consultation</i>	This document and its appendices constitute a PAC report, providing an in-depth summary of the entire PAC that has been conducted. This includes three rounds of public consultation, each involving drop-in public events where members of the public could make comments to the prospective applicant as regards the Proposed Development. The Executive Summary provides a brief outline of the three rounds of consultation, and the fourth section of the report summarises each round of consultation in turn.	Section 4
4. <i>A description of any additional consultation or notification required by the ECU in relation to the proposed application [and] any additional steps taken by the TO [transmission owner] to consult with members of the public as regards the proposed development</i>	No additional consultation or notification was required by the ECU. However, following a request from North Lanarkshire Council, SP Energy Networks held an additional public exhibition in Gartcosh during the first round of PAC and advertised this in the Airdrie and Coatbridge Advertiser (19 March 2025). For the second round of consultation, the Airdrie and Coatbridge Advertiser was included in the local newspapers in which the public exhibitions were advertised.	Section 4

Guidance	Compliance with guidance	PAC reference
5. <i>A list of bodies, groups and organisations who were consulted by the TO</i>	These groups included: - statutory and non-statutory consultees, including community councils, NatureScot and SEPA; - known interest and community groups operating in the Project area; - fisheries; - elected members of North Lanarkshire Council, Members of Parliament (MP) and Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSP) whose constituencies were within the North Lanarkshire Council and Falkirk Council areas; and - local residents, businesses and the general public.	Appendix I
6. <i>Evidence as to how the TO carried out the activities</i>	This document and its appendices constitute a PAC report, providing an in-depth summary of how SP Energy Networks carried out its consultation and related activities. This included three rounds of PAC, each involving drop-in public events where members of the public could make comments to the prospective applicant on the Proposed Development. More specific evidence as to how this activity was carried out is explained in Section 4, which breaks down activities for each round of consultation.	Section 4
7. <i>A statement advising the consultation and engagement has been completed in accordance with the PAC strategy</i>	This table of compliance, combined with both the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 statement of compliance and the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 statement of compliance, indicates that the consultation and engagement for this project have been completed in accordance with the PAC strategy (as outlined in Section 3.3).	Sections 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7
8. <i>Representative samples of materials sent to consultees, e.g.:</i>	Copies of all materials available for consultees during the Project's engagement process are appended to this PAC report.	a) PAC 1 Leaflets: Appendix E4 Banners: Appendix E7 Feedback form: Appendix E6 PAC 2 Leaflets: Appendix F4
a. <i>materials provided to those attending a public event</i> b. <i>visual representations</i> c. <i>photographs of any display boards or</i>		

Guidance	Compliance with guidance	PAC reference
<i>models at public events</i>		Banners: Appendix F7 EMF document: Appendix H Feedback form: Appendix F5 Final information events Banners: Appendix G1 EMF document: Appendix H b) PAC 2 Visual representation material: Appendix F9 Final information event Visual representation material: Appendix G9 c) PAC 1 Event photographs: Appendix E8 PAC 2 Event photographs: Appendix F8 Final information event Event photographs: Appendix G8

Guidance	Compliance with guidance	PAC reference
9. <i>Confirmation that consultees and attendees at public events were informed that PAC does not remove the right or the potential need to comment on the Section 37 application once it is submitted to the ECU</i>	It was made clear to event attendees that, at this stage, comments were not representations to the consenting/planning authorities, and that when SP Energy Networks submits applications for development consent in the future, parties will be able to make formal comments to the respective consenting/planning authorities. This was communicated through project materials, such as the Project leaflet, newspaper advertisement, feedback form and a Project banner (available in the appendices of this report).	PAC 1: Appendices E4, E5, E6 and E7 PAC 2: Appendices F4, F5, F6 and F7 Final information event: Appendices G1, G2 and G3
10. <i>A summary of the written responses to consultations, and views raised at public events, including an indication of the number of written responses received and the number of persons who attended the public events:</i> a. <i>an explanation of how the TO took account of views raised during all stages of the PAC process</i> b. <i>an explanation of what modifications have been made and what modifications have not been made and for what reasons</i>	Section 4 of this PAC report outlines the feedback received at each stage of consultation, views raised at public events and statistics in relation to attendance and feedback received. SP Energy Networks took account of all views raised during each stage of the PAC process. Following each round of consultation, a feedback report was developed, bringing together all feedback received during that stage and providing SP Energy Networks with the opportunity to consider this feedback in developing more detailed designs (available in the appendices of this report). In considering feedback, SP Energy Networks has outlined what modifications have been made and what suggestions have not been progressed, including reasoning for each. This is outlined in a feedback response table, which has been completed at each stage of consultation in the aforementioned feedback report and shared on the Project website. Members of the public were given feedback on SP Energy Networks' consideration of views raised through the feedback reports, which were published at each stage of the consultation on the Project website.	Summary of consultation: Section 4 a) PAC 1 feedback report: Appendix C PAC 2 feedback report: Appendix D Final feedback and responses: Section 4.6 b): PAC 1 feedback report: Appendix C PAC 2 feedback report: Appendix D Final feedback and modifications: Sections 2.5 and 4.6 c)

Guidance	Compliance with guidance	PAC reference
<i>in response to public feedback</i> c. <i>An explanation of how members of the public were given feedback on the prospective TO's consideration of the views raised during the PAC process</i>		PAC 1 feedback report: Appendix C PAC 2 feedback report: Appendix D

3.7 Table of guidance compliance: *Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (February 2022)*

Table 4: Compliance with the *Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit Good Practice Guidance for Applications under Section 36 and 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (February 2022)*

Activity	Guidance	Compliance with guidance	PAC reference
PAC events	The applicant is expected to hold at least two public consultation events prior to submitting the application. The final public event should be held at least 14 days after the first public event. The public events are to give members of the public the opportunity to make comments to	This project featured three rounds of PAC, with a total of 16 public events, providing interested parties with the opportunity to make comments to SP Energy Networks regarding the proposed development. For the second and final rounds of consultation, SP Energy Networks provided feedback to members of the public in respect of any changes made to the proposed development as a result of feedback that was	PAC 1: Appendices E4, E5 and E6 PAC 2: Appendices F4, F5 and F6

Activity	Guidance	Compliance with guidance	PAC reference
	the applicant as regards the proposed development. At the final public event, the applicant should provide feedback to members of the public in respect of comments received by the applicant as regards the proposed development.	gathered. If any changes were unable to be carried forward, the reason for this was also provided. The public consultation events were as follows: First round of consultation • Newarthill Community Facility, Newarthill, Wednesday 29 January 2025, 2pm to 7pm • Muirfield Community Centre, Cumbernauld, Thursday 30 January 2025, 4pm to 8pm • Pather Community Centre, Wishaw, Friday 31 January 2025, 2pm to 7pm • Gartcosh Social Club, Gartcosh, Tuesday 4 February 2025, 2pm to 7pm • Bonnybridge Community Education Centre, Bonnybridge, Wednesday 5 February 2025, 3.15pm to 7pm • Glenmavis Community Facility, Glenmavis, Thursday 6 February 2025, 2pm to 7pm • Additional event in Gartcosh: Gartcosh Social Club, Thursday 27 March 2025, 2pm to 7pm Second round of consultation • Netherton Community Centre, Wishaw, Tuesday 28 October 2025, 2pm to 7pm • Bonnybridge Community Education Centre, Bonnybridge, Wednesday 29 October 2025, 2pm to 7pm • Glenmavis Social Club, Glenmavis, Thursday 30 October 2025, 2pm to 7pm • Newarthill Community Facility, Newarthill, Monday 3 November 2025, 2pm to 7pm • Cumbernauld New Town Hall, Cumbernauld, Tuesday 4 November 2025, 2pm to 7pm • Gartcosh Social Club, Gartcosh, Wednesday 5 November 2025, 2pm to 7pm	Final information events: Appendices G2 and G3

Activity Guidance	Compliance with guidance	PAC reference
	- Dunipace Parish Church Hall, Dunipace, Friday 7 November 2025, 2pm to 7pm Third (final) round of consultation - Cumbernauld New Town Hall, Cumbernauld, Tuesday 24 February 2026, 2pm to 7pm - Bonnybridge Community Education Centre, Bonnybridge, Wednesday 25 February 2026, 2pm to 7pm	
Notice of PAC events At least seven days before holding a public event, the applicant should publish on the applicant's website and in a local newspaper circulating in the locality in which the proposed development is situated a notice containing: - a description of, and the location of, the proposed development; - details as to where further information may be obtained concerning the proposed development; - the date and place of the public event; - a statement explaining how, and by when, persons wishing to make comments to the applicant relating to the proposal may do so; and - a statement that comments made to the applicant are not representations to the Scottish Ministers and if the applicant submits an application there will be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the Scottish Ministers.	Notices containing the required information were published in the Cumbernauld News, Falkirk Herald and Wishaw Press in one consecutive week prior to each round of consultation events. The notices were published on the below dates: PAC 1 SP Energy Networks placed formal newspaper advertisements in the Falkirk Herald (23 January 2025), Cumbernauld News (22 January 2025) and Wishaw Press (22 January 2025). In line with a request from North Lanarkshire Council, SP Energy Networks held an additional event in Gartcosh, and placed a further advertisement in the Airdrie and Coatbridge Advertiser (19 March 2025). PAC 2 SP Energy Networks placed formal newspaper advertisements in the Falkirk Herald (16 and 23 October), Cumbernauld News (15 and 22 October), Wishaw Press (15 and 22 October) and Airdrie and Coatbridge Advertiser (15 and 22 October) during the weeks commencing 13 October and 20 October 2025. PAC 3 SP Energy Networks placed formal newspaper advertisements in the Airdrie and Coatbridge Advertiser, Cumbernauld News and Wishaw Press on 4 February 2026, and in the Falkirk Press on 5 February 2026. Each newspaper advertisement set out the Project description, the event location, date and time, details on where to find further information, a statement explaining how people could submit feedback and a note confirming that comments made to SP Energy Networks	PAC 1: Appendix E5 PAC 2: Appendix F5 Final information events: Appendix G3

Activity Guidance	Compliance with guidance	PAC reference
	were not representations to the planning/consenting authority, and that there would be an opportunity to submit formal representations at a later stage.	
Details of PAC events	The applicant should provide the following details at the public event and publish these details on the applicant's website: • a description of the development to be carried out; • a plan showing the outline of the site at which the development is to be carried out and sufficient to identify that site; and • details as to how the applicant may be contacted and corresponded with.	The Project website was regularly updated throughout the Project's life cycle and included all relevant information, such as a description of the development, maps and plans showing the various components of the Project and details on how to contact the Project team. This information was also presented across event materials, including project banners, printed maps and visualisations. PAC 1 Appendices E7 and E9 PAC 2 Appendices F7, F9 and F10 Final information events Appendices G1 and G9
Content of public event and PAC report	The applicant is expected to prepare a pre-application consultation report ("PAC Report") setting out what has been done to accord with the guidance set out above. The PAC Report should be submitted with the application. The PAC Report should contain the following information: - the dates on which and places where public events were held; - a description of any additional steps taken by the applicant to consult with members of the public regarding the development; - a list of bodies, groups and organisations that were consulted by the applicant and a description of how they were consulted;	This document and its appendices constitute a PAC report, addressing all points listed under this guidance. - Section 4 - Section 4 - Appendix I - Section 4 PAC 1: Appendices E4, E6, E7 and E9 PAC 2: Appendices F3, F5, F6, F8 and F9

Activity	Guidance	Compliance with guidance	PAC reference
	d) a description of any materials sent to consultees and materials provided to those attending public events; e) copies of any visual presentation shown or displayed at a public event, and photographs of any display boards or models at public events; f) confirmation as to whether consultees and attendees at public events were informed that pre-application consultation does not remove the right or the potential need to comment on the final application once it is made to the Scottish Ministers; g) a summary of the written responses to consultations and views raised at public events, including an indication of the number of written responses received and the number of persons who attended the public events; h) an explanation of how the applicant took account of views raised during the pre-application consultation process; and i) an explanation of how members of the public were given feedback on the applicant's consideration of the views raised during the pre-application consultation process.		Final information events: Appendices G1, G2 and G9 e) PAC 1 Appendices: E7, E8 and E9 PAC 2 Appendices F8, F9 and F10 Final information event: Appendices G1 and G8 f) PAC 1 Appendices: E4, E5, E6 and E7 PAC 2 Appendices F4, F5, F6 and F7 Final information events: Appendices G1, G2 and G3 g) Section 4

Activity	Guidance	Compliance with guidance	PAC reference
			h) Sections 2.5 and 4.6
			i) Section 4.6

04. Pre- application consultation

4 Pre-application consultation

4.1 Consultation strategy

SP Energy Networks attaches great significance to the effects its works may have on the environment and local communities and is very 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 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 PAC for the public, stakeholders and consultees to provide comments on the proposals, and a further third round of PAC at which SP Energy Networks presented its detailed proposal and how feedback received in the PAC process had been taken into account. Reports summarising feedback received during the two rounds of PAC are appended to this report (Appendices C and D) and can be viewed on the SP Energy Networks project website here:

https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/denny_wishaw_proposal.aspx.

An earlier version of the Project, involving a preferred route for a proposed new 400kV OHL between Bonnybridge and a point near Glenmavis, was consulted on in May and June 2021 (the 2021 Project). However, following this early consultation, emerging network requirements meant that SP Energy Networks needed to widen the Project scope and modify the preferred route. The original proposal did not proceed, and SP Energy Networks introduced a new project in 2025, starting the PAC process again. For clarity, this report refers to the PAC carried out from 2025 on the new scheme. A summary of the 2021 Project, the feedback received at the time and changes made to the proposed WB OHL preferred route can be found in Appendix K.

The strategy and first round of consultation for this project commenced before May 2025, when the ECU published its *Pre-Application Consultation and Engagement Guidance for Electricity Transmission Line Projects Which Require Environmental Impact Assessment*, which requested a PAC strategy. However, SP Energy Networks had set out its PAC strategy as outlined in the first PAC feedback report. This meant that the time placed between newspaper advertisements and events was in line with previous guidance. This strategy was then re-addressed in SP Energy Networks' PAC feedback report for the second round of PAC, and a 21-day period between newspaper advertisement and the event was implemented for the third round of pre-application consultation. SP Energy Networks added all project documents to the Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade project website and emailed details to stakeholders and residents who had provided their email addresses. This allowed local stakeholders (Appendix I) who were otherwise unable to attend the public consultation drop-in events to still actively engage with the Project in a meaningful way. This created a feedback loop, which remained open for the duration of the consultation period.

4.2 First round of consultation

The first consultation period ran from Monday 27 January to Thursday 17 April 2025. SP Energy Networks consulted with relevant stakeholders and sought their views on the proposals. The stakeholder groups (Appendix I) that were identified included:

- statutory and non-statutory consultees, including community councils, NatureScot and SEPA;
- known interest and community groups operating in the Project area;
- fisheries;
- elected members of North Lanarkshire and Falkirk councils, Members of Parliament (MP) and Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSP) whose constituencies were within the North Lanarkshire Council and Falkirk Council areas; and
- local residents, businesses and the general public.

Prior to the start of the consultation, notifications were sent via email or letter (Appendices E1, E2 and E3) to the stakeholders listed above advising them of the consultation, inviting them to the public event and seeking their views on the proposals.

A Project leaflet explaining the proposals, the purpose of the consultation and the process for submitting feedback was prepared and distributed to approximately 9,500 addresses (residential and business) within a 1km radius of the Project site, including the communities close to the OHL 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 E4.

To promote the consultation, SP Energy Networks placed formal newspaper advertisements in the Falkirk Herald, Cumbernauld News and Wishaw Press newspapers on the 22 and 23 of January 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 in the advert. Copies of the newspaper advertisements can be found in Appendix E5.

The Project leaflet (Appendix E4), newspaper advertisement (Appendix E5), Project plans/drawings (Appendix E9), Project FAQs (Appendix J), 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 homepage 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 (Appendix E6) 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 event 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?

The closing date for submitting responses to SP Energy Networks was 11.59pm on Thursday 17 April 2025. Following this date, the consultation information remained accessible on the Project website and available to download.

It was made clear to event attendees that, at this stage, comments were not representations to the consenting/planning authorities, and that when SP Energy Networks submits applications for development consent in the future, parties will be able to make formal comments to the respective consenting/planning authorities. This was communicated through project materials, such as the Project leaflet, newspaper advertisement, feedback form and a Project banner (Appendices E4, E6, E6 and E7).

SP Energy Networks held six public drop-in events (details of which were included in all issued project communications):

- Newarthill Community Facility, Newarthill, Wednesday 29 January 2025, 2pm to 7pm
- Muirfield Community Centre, Cumbernauld, Thursday 30 January 2025, 4pm to 8pm
- Pather Community Centre, Wishaw, Friday 31 January 2025, 2pm to 7pm
- Gartcosh Social Club, Gartcosh, Tuesday 4 February 2025, 2pm to 7pm
- Bonnybridge Community Education Centre, Bonnybridge, Wednesday 5 February 2025, 3.15pm to 7pm
- Glenmavis Community Facility, Glenmavis, Thursday 6 February 2025, 2pm to 7pm.

At the request of North Lanarkshire Council, an additional consultation event was held at the Gartcosh Social Club on 27 March 2025 from 2pm to 7pm to provide a further opportunity for local people to view and comment on the proposals. This was featured in the Airdrie and Coatbridge Advertiser on 19 March 2025 (Appendix E5).

At the events, stakeholders had the opportunity to view the Project proposals and talk to members of the Project team to discuss any questions or concerns they had. The materials made available at the events included eight pull-up banners, which provided details on each aspect of the proposals, hard copies of maps and relevant project documents. A copy of the banners can be found in Appendix E7, and photos of the events can be found in Appendix E8. The events were attended by 99 people, including local community representatives, business owners and landowners, as well as local residents. The events provided an opportunity to gather feedback from attendees, and those in attendance were asked to submit their comments via the feedback forms provided at the event or online (Appendix E6). Event attendance varied and is broken down below:

- Newarthill Community Facility, 15 attendees;
- Muirfield Community Centre, 13 attendees;
- Pather Community Centre, 15 attendees;
- Gartcosh Social Club, 1 attendee;
- Bonnybridge Community Education Centre, 25 attendees; and
- Glenmavis Community Facility, 30 attendees.

Organisations whose representatives attended the events included:

- Greenhill Historical Society
- Scottish Canal;
- Bean Goose Advisory Group (BGAG)
- Roots
- Cleland Community Council
- North Lanarkshire Council.

4.3 Second round of consultation

Following the first round of consultation, SP Energy Networks reviewed and considered the feedback received and continued to talk to stakeholders and conduct technical and environmental assessments. The proposals were refined to take account of this feedback and the results of these assessments. The updated plans that were shown at the second round of consultation included changes at Cumbernauld Substation and to the OHL in relation to:

- amending the proposed route to avoid areas with planning consent for new development;
- micro-siting new towers to reduce visual impact;

- moving tower WB021B by approximately 60 metres south-east to avoid Japanese knotweed, which will be treated on-site;
- altering the red line boundary of Cumbernauld Substation to include two small areas of trees that would be affected by soil excavation works to create the new substation platform (these trees will be felled and the area will be allowed to regenerate naturally); and
- updated site drainage plans in consultation with North Lanarkshire Council.

SP Energy Networks also considered requests for the new line (WB route) to enter Bonnybridge Substation from the east, but this is not possible, as it needs to connect to existing infrastructure on the other side of the substation. Additionally, SP Energy Networks considered requests for the new line to follow the existing CB OHL route, but this is not possible, as it would affect the Slamannan Plateau Special Protection Area (SPA), potentially causing habitat loss. Lastly, SP Energy Networks outlined its commitment to work with the organisers of Palacerigg Country Parkrun to minimise impact on the event during construction works.

During this consultation, SP Energy Networks was asking for:

- comments about the proposed changes to the OHLs, including tower location and increase in voltage;
- comments about the proposed changes to the substation extension; and
- any wider comments consultees had.

The second consultation period ran from Monday 27 October 2025 to Friday 21 November 2025. SP Energy Networks wished to consult with relevant stakeholders to provide an update on the consultation and proposals following the first round of consultation and to ask for any further feedback they had.

These groups included:

- statutory and non-statutory consultees, including community councils, NatureScot and SEPA;
- known interest and community groups operating in the Project area;
- fisheries;
- elected members of North Lanarkshire and Falkirk councils, Members of Parliament (MP) and Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSP) whose constituencies were within the North Lanarkshire Council and Falkirk Council areas; and
- local residents, businesses and the general public.

Prior to the start of consultation, notifications were sent via email or letter (Appendices F1, F2 and F3) to the stakeholders listed above advising them of the consultation, inviting them to the public event and seeking their views on the proposals to accord with regulation 7B(c) and (e) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (see Table 2 (Section 3.5).

A Project leaflet explaining the proposals, the purpose of the consultation and the process for submitting feedback was prepared and distributed to approximately 9,500 properties (residential and business) within a 1km radius of the Project site, including the communities close to the OHL routes and associated infrastructure. This was the principal form of direct communication with the respective communities. A copy of the leaflet can be found in Appendix F4.

To promote the consultation, SP Energy Networks placed formal newspaper advertisements in the Falkirk Herald (16 and 23 October 2025), Cumbernauld News (15 and 22 October 2025), Wishaw Press (15 and 22 October 2025) and Airdrie and Coatbridge Advertiser (15 and 22 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 advertisements. A copy of the advertisement can be found in Appendix F5.

The Project leaflet (Appendix F4), newspaper notice (Appendix F5), project plans/drawings (Appendix F10), FAQs (Appendix J), 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.

All of the information presented at the second round of consultation was also available on the website. A copy of the event banners can be found in Appendix F7, and photos of the events can be found in Appendix F8. To make the website as accessible as possible, most materials created for the consultation included a QR code that linked to the homepage of the website. The website has remained live following the consultation to ensure stakeholders can access the Project details and stay up to date on project developments.

A feedback form was made available in hard copy and online (see Appendix F6). It included five questions relating to the Project proposals and an additional section that asked for demographic data, including title, name, address, telephone number, email address, if the respondent was responding on behalf of an organisation and if they had attended the public event.

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?

The closing date for submitting responses to SP Energy Networks was 11.59pm on Friday 21 November 2025. Following this date, the consultation information remained accessible on the Project website and available to download.

It was made clear to event attendees that, at this stage, comments were not representations to the consenting/planning authorities, and that when SP Energy Networks submits applications for development consent in the future, parties will be able to make formal comments to the respective consenting/planning authorities. This was communicated through project materials, such as the Project leaflet, newspaper advertisement, feedback form and a Project banner (Appendices F4; F5; and F6). SP Energy Networks held seven public drop-in events (details of which were included in all issued project communications):

- Netherton Community Centre, Wishaw, Tuesday 28 October 2025, 2pm to 7pm
- Bonnybridge Community Education Centre, Bonnybridge, Wednesday 29 October 2025, 2pm to 7pm
- Glenmavis Social Club, Glenmavis, Thursday 30 October 2025, 2pm to 7pm
- Newarthill Community Facility, Newarthill, Monday 3 November 2025, 2pm to 7pm
- Cumbernauld New Town Hall, Cumbernauld, Tuesday 4 November 2025, 2pm to 7pm
- Gartcosh Social Club, Gartcosh, Wednesday 5 November 2025, 2pm to 7pm
- Dunipace Parish Church Hall, Dunipace, Friday 7 November 2025, 2pm to 7pm.

A total of 55 people visited the seven events. These included local residents, business owners, local community groups and representatives of the Scottish Government and North Lanarkshire Council. The events provided an opportunity to gather feedback from attendees, and those in attendance were asked to submit their comments via the feedback forms provided at the event or online. Event attendance varied and is broken down below:

- Netherton Community Centre, 7 attendees;
- Bonnybridge Community Education Centre, 24 attendees;
- Glenmavis Social Club, 5 attendees;
- Newarthill Community Facility, 0 attendees;
- Cumbernauld New Town Hall, 17 attendees;
- Gartcosh Social Club, 2 attendees; and
- Dunipace Parish Church Hall, 1 attendee.

Organisations whose representatives attended the event included:

- Scottish Government
- Bean Goose Advisory Group (BGAG)
- North Lanarkshire Council
- Cumbernauld Model Flying Club
- Palacerigg Country Parkrun.

4.4 Topics raised during the consultation

In total, 42 formal pieces of feedback were received across the two rounds of consultation. For the first round of consultation, this included 24 pieces of formal feedback, and for the second round of consultation, this included 18 pieces of feedback. This feedback was submitted via email correspondence, hard copy feedback forms and online feedback forms. In terms of oral feedback, those in attendance at the events were asked to submit their comments via the feedback forms provided at the event or online. The main concerns regarding this proposal for both rounds of consultation involved:

- the need for the Project;
- community engagement;
- effect on local residents;
- environmental repercussions;
- indicative design of the proposal;
- cultural heritage; and
- traffic.

During the second round of consultation, the following themes also emerged:

- community benefit;
- cumulative impact of infrastructure; and
- construction of the Project.

Project team members explained that visual impact, landscaping, screening, construction traffic and noise would all be considered in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report, which would also recommend whether any mitigation measures were required.

The team also explained that a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) would be agreed with the local planning authorities prior to any construction works, to minimise the impact of vehicle movements wherever possible.

Other points made included that community benefit funding could be available in relation to the new substation assets, but the Project team explained that (at the time) this was still subject to discussion and approval with the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem, the energy industry regulator). Also, the SP Energy Networks community liaison team would remain in contact with local community representatives throughout the Project to discuss and agree on how any future community benefit funding might be implemented. Table 5 (see Section 4.6) summarises the key themes that arose during the consultation process as well as SP Energy Networks' response to these themes.

4.5 Final information events

SP Energy Networks held two final information events (PAC 3) in Cumbernauld (Cumbernauld New Town Hall, Bron Way, Cumbernauld, Tuesday 24 February, 2pm to 7pm) and Bonnybridge (Bonnybridge Community Education Centre, Bridge Street, Bonnybridge, Wednesday 25 February,

2pm to 7pm). These information events provided SP Energy Networks with the opportunity to explain how feedback from earlier consultation and engagement had been considered in the final proposals, ahead of submitting the consent applications.

SP Energy Networks selected Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld as the locations for the final events because they had attracted the majority of attendees at events in the previous rounds of consultation. SP Energy Networks sent A5 postcards (Appendix G2) with full details of the events, how to contact them and where to find more information to all addresses within 1km of the proposed new OHL and the existing substations included within the Project. Banners displaying updated project information were available at the event (Appendix G1), as were updated project drawings (Appendix G4) and photos of the event taking place (Appendix G8).

These information events were also advertised in the Airdrie and Coatbridge Advertiser, Cumbernauld News and Wishaw Press newspapers on 4 February 2026, and in the Falkirk Press newspaper on 5 February 2026 (Appendix G3). Prior to the information events taking place, all information to be presented at the events was also published on the Project website:

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

It was made clear to event attendees that, at this stage, comments were not representations to the consenting/planning authorities, and that when SP Energy Networks submits applications for development consent in the future, parties will be able to make formal comments to the respective consenting/planning authorities. This was communicated through project materials such as the banners, project postcard and newspaper advertisement (Appendices G1, G2 and G3, respectively).

At the events, the central themes discussed with community members and attendees included community benefit, environmental impact, the practical implications of the Project proposals through construction and SP Energy Networks' coordination with Palacerigg Country Parkrun. Some attendees also attended simply to understand what the final proposals looked like.

In terms of community benefit, attendees were advised to contact SP Energy Networks' Community Benefit team directly at communitybenefits@spenergynetworks.co.uk. Further information on the approach to community benefits is detailed on SP Energy Network's website: https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/community_benefits_funding.aspx. The page provides an overview of SP Energy Networks' Community Benefit Funding Programme, explaining its purpose, how it supports communities located near electricity transmission infrastructure and the principles behind the funding. It outlines the types of grants available, who is eligible and the themes projects should align with. The page also describes the application process, key dates, the areas currently eligible and opportunities for communities to engage through workshops and feedback. It includes links to further guidance, delivery plans, FAQs and contact details for the Community Benefit Funding team.

In relation to the environmental effects of the proposal, SP Energy Networks advised that their proposals will be supported by an EIA. The EIA will assess potential effects across a range of environmental topics, including (but not limited to) ecology, landscape and visual effects, cultural heritage, forestry, the water environment, traffic and transport, noise and vibration, and socioeconomic considerations. The assessment will demonstrate how the proposal adheres to the requirements of National Planning Policy Framework 4, including the objective to protect and enhance biodiversity. The EIA report details the findings of the EIA, setting out the evolution of the design and consideration of alternatives, the likely significant effects and proposed mitigation measures. This includes biodiversity net gain proposals, such as landscaping and restoration; an

assessment of forestry impacts and proposed compensatory planting; and consideration of ornithology informed by survey work, with any necessary mitigation clearly identified. Cumulative effects and a schedule of mitigation are also provided, alongside a summary of the overall environmental findings.

Additionally, 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.

Regarding the practical implications of construction, attendees were advised that the EIA process considers and (where appropriate) proposes mitigation for not only the permanent effects of a development but also the likely temporary effects during construction. This includes an assessment of noise and vibration and the impact of the scheme on communities and on the local and private road network.

Lastly, SP Energy Networks endeavours to work collaboratively with Palacerigg Country Parkrun to identify an alternative and safe route during the period of works affecting this organisation.

4.6 SP Energy Networks' response to the feedback received

The comments received as feedback have been considered by SP Energy Networks and have helped to shape the detailed design of the Project. Table 5 summarises key themes and feedback received across all three stages of the PAC (PAC 1, PAC 2 and the final information events), together with SP Energy Networks' consideration of those views. For each stage of consultation, key themes and feedback relevant to that stage were considered by SP Energy Networks. With reference to the first round of consultation, this consideration can be found in Appendix C, and for the second round of consultation, this is available in Appendix D.

Table 5: 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	<i>"The Project aligns with my views on regional and national energy strategies, ensuring sustainable infrastructure growth and enhanced grid resilience."</i>	Noted. The UK and Scottish governments have set legally binding targets to reach net zero in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and 2045 in the Climate Change Act 2008 and Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, respectively. The UK is committed to achieving net zero emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050, with a target of 40 gigawatts (GW) of electricity – enough to power every home in the UK – to come from offshore wind by 2030.
	Some respondents supported energy strategies and others questioned the need for further transmission infrastructure.	<i>"Who exactly is this expansion serving? We require a greener usage of energy, not more power and endless expense."</i>	
	Reference can be made to Chapter 5 (Planning Policy Context) of the EIA report.		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 SP Energy Networks needs to upgrade the UK's electricity transmission infrastructure to accommodate the increasing amount of power flowing through the network

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
			from where it is produced to the homes, businesses, hospitals and public services that need it. Decarbonisation of the energy sector is a central pillar of both governments' net zero strategies, meaning the way in which energy is generated, transported and used is undergoing transformational change. Traditional fossil-fuel-based forms of generation are being retired and replaced by renewable and low-carbon sources of energy generation, including on- and offshore wind, as well as being supported by increased interconnection with Europe. Offshore wind is a critical component of the UK Government's energy strategy, with targets to increase installed capacity from around 10GW today to 40GW by 2030 and then increased to 50GW by 2030. Similarly, in Scotland, the Scottish Government's Offshore Wind Policy Statement identifies a target of up to 11GW of installed offshore wind capacity in Scottish waters by 2030. These on- and offshore wind targets were most recently reaffirmed in the Scottish Government's <i>Green Industrial Strategy</i>, which was published in September 2024. SP Energy Networks' planning work with the National Energy System Operator (NESO) has identified that, for the UK to meet its net zero carbon emissions targets, SP Energy Networks needs to reinforce the network between Denny and Wishaw, so it has extra capacity to transmit the additional energy. This reinforcement includes uprating the existing XX, XR and ZG overhead lines (OHL) from 275kV to 400kV, to increase their capacity, and building the proposed new overhead transmission

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
			line between Bonnybridge and a point near Glenmavis, enabling the additional green electricity to flow into the wider transmission network. The Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade (DWNO) is needed because the high-voltage transmission network in central Scotland will soon be at full capacity – and so will be unable to accommodate the clean, green renewable energy we will all need in future. It will link up existing transmission lines and allow approximately an additional 1,000 megawatts (MW) of green energy to flow through the electricity transmission network, helping Scotland and the UK meet net zero climate change targets.
	Support for the scheme Some respondents agreed with the need to upgrade the national grid and see the need for the Project.	<i>"This project has my full support and positive approval for the Denny to Wishaw electrical extension project."</i> <i>"I totally agree with increasing the national grid from 275kV to 400kV significantly enhances efficiency, capacity, and stability, making the system more economically and technically sustainable in the long term."</i> <i>"No comment, happy with the proposals."</i> <i>"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."</i>	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. SP Energy Networks' work with NESO has identified that, for the UK to meet its net zero carbon emissions targets, SP Energy Networks needs to reinforce the network between Denny and Wishaw to add capacity to transmit the additional green energy. This reinforcement includes uprating the existing XX, XR and ZG OHLs from 275kV to 400kV and building the proposed new overhead transmission line between Bonnybridge and a point near Glenmavis, allowing the additional green electricity to flow into the wider transmission network.

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
		<i>"Seems like a good idea."</i> <i>"It is needed."</i> <i>"Pleased to see improvements to the delivery of electricity within our area."</i> <i>"If this is essential then go ahead."</i> <i>"This development represents a significant step forward in strengthening Scotland's transmission network, improving reliability, and facilitating the transition to renewable energy sources."</i>	
	Opposition to the scheme Some respondents expressed concern about the location of towers and the use of OHLs.	<i>"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 towers or have a small section of the line be underground, I have to say I am strongly against the new line."</i> <i>"I am getting in touch to object to the plan upgrade section going along Palacerigg. Please can you send me the process to raise this objection."</i> <i>"I have not seen any scientific evidence yet that these are required from the information you have provided so far... I have not seen any economic evidence that shows these will make any difference"</i>	The routing of OHLs 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. Established guidelines for routeing transmission OHLs are in place. These 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. You can find out more about how SP Energy Networks develops routes in the <i>Approach to Routeing and Environmental Impact Assessment Document</i>, which is available to view here: https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/userfiles/file/Denny_to_Wishaw_Network_Upgrade_Routeing_and_Consultation.pdf. You can find detailed information specific to the routeing of the proposed new <i>Bonnybridge to Glenmavis OHL in the Routeing</i>

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
			and Consultation Document (https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/userfiles/file/Denny_to_Wishaw_Network_Upgrade_Routeing_and_Consultation.pdf) and the Preferred Route Option Update Report (December 2024) (https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/userfiles/file/DWN_O_PROUR.pdf), which explain how the original proposals have been modified since 2021. For more information, please see the "Our Proposed Route" webpage here: https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/denny_wishaw_our_preferred_route.aspx. The reports are also provided as supporting documents to the applications. SP Energy Networks will consider undergrounding a 132kV, 275kV or 400kV OHL, or section of that line, in particular circumstances where no suitable route for an OHL can be identified. The topic of undergrounding is discussed in more detail later in this table and in Chapter 3 (Evolution of Design and Alternatives) of the EIA report. At this stage, your comments are not representations to the consenting/planning authorities. When SP Energy Networks submits applications for development consent in the future, you will be able to make formal comments to the respective aforementioned consenting/planning authorities at that stage. SP Energy Networks' planning work with NESO has identified that, for the UK to meet its net zero carbon emissions targets, SP Energy Networks needs to reinforce the network between Denny and Wishaw, so it has extra capacity to transmit additional green energy. You can find more information about the economic case for the Project here:

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
			https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/denny_wishaw_project_need_case.aspx . Additionally, DWNO has been identified by Ofgem as a critical network reinforcement project that qualifies for Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment (ASTI). You can find Ofgem's report listing ASTI projects here: https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-12/ASTI_decision_doc_-_Final_Published.pdf .
	Site selection Some respondents requested alternative site selections. Reference can be made to Chapter 3 (Evolution of Design and Alternatives) of the EIA report.	<i>"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."</i>	SP Energy Networks responded to the landowner's representative, advising the landowner's suggested alternative route was not feasible for health and safety reasons, given it crossed the same corridor as a gas pipeline. Also, ground investigations undertaken in the vicinity show areas of made ground, and areas of historic mining activity, including mine shafts and mining voids, exist in the locale. Existing dwellings are located to the south.
Consultation	Consultation events Some respondents felt satisfied with the Project's consultation, although they suggested a stronger advertisement and clearer maps would have been preferable.	<i>"We commend the responsible planning, environmental consideration, and consultation undertaken throughout the process."</i> <i>"The public consultation has been good, and continues to feed through the local councillor."</i> <i>"Thank you for making us welcome and listening [to] and understanding our comments."</i>	SP Energy Networks' consultation approach uses its website, a leaflet drop, newspaper advertisements and public consultation events, offering multiple options to obtain project information and offer feedback. SP Energy Networks initially consulted on the proposals in 2021. Since then, SP Energy Networks has updated the plans and made modifications in results to consultation feedback, and the first round of consultation ran from January to April 2025. This comprised seven drop-in events, followed by a second round

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
		<i>"I would suggest a more aggressive consultation awareness strategy (digital and post) or at the very least a later 'mop up' public session."</i> <i>"I found the people at Cumbernauld were helpful but not all that well informed. They seemed unaware of the impacts SP Energy Networks highlighted and of the blockages to footpaths from the town to the park."</i> <i>"Well organised, although I don't think it's been well advertised."</i> <i>"No problems at all. I spoke to your staff at the open day and was very happy with the information I received and the welcoming nature of them."</i> <i>"Very helpful and interesting staff at Bonnybridge."</i> <i>"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."</i> <i>"I attended the Bonnybridge meeting and felt that the maps provided were insufficient and arduous to read."</i> <i>"The personnel in attendance at Bonnybridge were professional, helpful and friendly in answering my questions."</i>	involving seven consultation events. Two final information events were then held in February 2026. At the time of each consultation, SP Energy Networks' website contained full details of the proposals in addition to how the general public could 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 OHL routes and associated infrastructure. The leaflet advertised the public consultation events and provided a summary of the Project. The consultation events were also published in the Falkirk Herald, Cumbernauld News and Wishaw Press newspapers. This same process was followed for all three rounds of consultation. Large-scale maps printed at A0 size were available to view at the public events, where members of the Project team were also available to answer detailed questions. An interactive map continues to be available on the Project website, allowing people to zoom in on specific locations. This can be found at: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/98c8c9668558469faf59f5f7fbf14c39. In addition to the two rounds of PAC, SP Energy Networks has continued to engage with stakeholders and landowners throughout the Project development process. The DWNO contact centre (freephone, email and freepost address) has also remained available throughout, and SP Energy Networks has continued to respond to enquiries and comments from local

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
		<i>"I would invite SPEN to consider whether the consultations undertaken thus far are likely to be judged compliant come the time and, if that is considered unlikely, I would suggest that they revisit those previously non-complaint steps to re-run those now as appropriate"</i>	communities and stakeholders. All project information has also been available on the Project website throughout. SP Energy Networks hosted two final information events (PAC 3) in February 2026 and contacted stakeholders promptly ahead of each event. A postcard containing details of the proposals, the purpose of the final information events and how to contact SP Energy Networks regarding the proposals was distributed to approximately 9,500 addresses within a 1km radius of the works. Notices were placed in the Falkirk Herald, Cumbernauld News and Wishaw Press newspapers to advertise the event. SP Energy Networks has undertaken two rounds of consultation, as well as final information sessions, for the DWNO project, which comprised: • Round one: 6 consultation events; • Round two: 7 consultation events; and • Final information period: 2 events. The two periods of consultation ran from Monday 27 January 2025 to Thursday 17 April 2025, and from Monday 27 October 2025 to Friday 21 November 2025. During the periods of consultation, those with an interest in the Project have had the opportunity to pass comment and raise questions via an electronic feedback form on the Project website, or alternatively in person at consultation events or by contacting SP Energy Networks directly through its freephone number, email address or freepost address.

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
			The final information events (PAC 3) took place on Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25 February 2026. SP Energy Networks holds the view that the PAC requirements have been satisfied.
	Community engagement Some respondents suggested how to engage with the community and highlighted what should be promoted.	<i>"Promote that you are not affecting the parking or access to the woodland walks to the west."</i> <i>"We need a point of contact to work with."</i> <i>"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."</i> <i>"For the initial round SPEN did a leaflet drop to affected addresses to advertise your public consultation event dates and locations. The card that was posted through my door arrived only after the Glenmavis event had taken place however."</i>	The DWNO project contact centre (freephone, email and freepost address) has remained available throughout the Project's lifetime, and SP Energy Networks has continued to respond to enquiries and comments from local communities and stakeholders. All project information has also been available on the Project website throughout. All properties (residential and business) within a 1km radius of the proposed development, including the communities close to the OHL routes and associated infrastructure, received a project leaflet that outlined the proposals, the purpose of the consultation and the process for submitting. Notwithstanding this, all members of the public who attended consultation events were provided with feedback forms to offer comment/raise questions. 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 taken into account throughout the planning process. SP Energy Networks recognises the importance of consulting effectively on proposals and being transparent about the

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
Community benefits			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 development of a project and continues into construction once consent has been granted. SP Energy Networks would like to extend its apologies that some parties did not receive the leaflet advertising the initial round of consultation until after the Glenmavis event. In this instance, SP Energy Networks offered interested parties direct calls with the Project team, ensured all event materials were available online and guided parties towards providing feedback via email or an online form.
	Community benefits Some respondents believed the Project would benefit the community.	<i>"Look forward to the benefits this extension will bring to communities and the wider energy network."</i>	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.
	Improvement to the existing area and facilities Some 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 the A73	<i>"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</i>	Noted, thank you for the suggestion. This has been passed to SP Energy Networks' community benefits team.

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
Cumulative impact	(Stirling Road to Dykhead Road).	<i>to the A73 (Stirling Road to Dykhead Road)] which is very much in the area where SPEN will be working would be appreciated by the community."</i>	
	Intra- and inter-project cumulative impact (i.e. impact of infrastructure combined) Some respondents expressed concern about the volume of OHLs in the area and the cumulative impact of development. Reference can be made to Chapter 16 (Cumulative Effects) of the EIA report.	<i>"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."</i> <i>"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 material impact on the desirability and in turn value of our land and may actually put the entire project in jeopardy."</i> <i>"Define to the public that your project is not connected in any way to housing development."</i>	The Project comprises a new 19km 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 the "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 uprating the existing XX, XR and ZG OHLs from 275kV to 400kV; extending existing substations at Bonnybridge, Denny North, Cumbernauld and Wishaw; and constructing electrical plant within existing substations. As outlined in the <i>Approach to Routeing and Environmental Impact Assessment</i> document on the Project website (https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/userfiles/file/SPEN_Approach_to_Routeing_Document_2nd_version.pdf), 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: • within a National Park or a National Landscape (formerly known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)) or a National Scenic Area (NSA);

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			• 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; • 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; and • where technical constraints are such that no suitable OHL route can be identified. In this instance, these factors are not applicable. For more information, please see response below, regarding undergrounding. SP Energy Networks can confirm that DWNO is not connected to any proposed residential development or any other development.

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			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. The existing XX OHL oversails residential properties at Eden Court and runs in close proximity to dwellings at Alnwick Crescent. The three new towers shall allow XX route to be reconfigured, repositioning XX to the east, away from dwellings at Eden Court and further north from Alnwick Crescent.
	Health and safety Some respondents expressed concern about road safety and electric and magnetic fields (EMF) for the Project's duration.	<i>"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."</i> <i>"The Project will have major health implication[s] to the housing and people living close and nearby as studies have shown links to cancer."</i> <i>"This is cause for major concern regarding health please be accurate to the public of the fallout of these high voltage pylons and explain exactly what the voltage will entail."</i>	SP Energy Networks works to very strict health and safety requirements when designing transmission equipment (including the Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004). Response to Forrest Road comment 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. Although the environmental assessment for Traffic and Movement undertaken for the proposed Cumbernauld Substation shows no significant environmental effects are forecast, proposed additional mitigation measures are detailed in the CTMP, to plan and execute construction in a safe and efficient manner while protecting the public highway. Please see Chapter 11 (Traffic and Movement) of the EIA report for more information.

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People			SP Energy Networks complies with the guidelines on exposure to EMFs published by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), which have been adopted as UK Government policy. The UK electricity industry designs all new equipment to comply with the guidelines. Full information can be found at https://emfs.info/. A Project EMF assessment will be prepared and submitted as part of the applications for consent.
	Disruption Some respondents expressed concerns about the noise of infrastructure and construction, as well as the disruption to public access, traffic, local businesses and economies and impact on property value.	<i>"I would like to understand the finer details such as access, noise, traffic impact and such on works required at Towers – XX020."</i> <i>"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."</i> <i>"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."</i> <i>"The route will cause visual impact and be a detriment to business & health especially within our property. It will also have an effect on our property values."</i> <i>"I wanted to double check we would be impacted by the works. If we are, can you confirm if there will be power cuts, and when these are likely to be starting?"</i>	SP Energy Networks strives to make sure any work keeps disturbance to the natural and built environment and the people who live in it, work in it or enjoy it to a minimum. SP Energy Networks recognises that the potential visual impact of transmission infrastructure may be an issue for local communities and individuals, and its approach to routeing and siting new electricity infrastructure is to use the landscape to reduce visual effects wherever possible, and to maximise the distance of the final project from properties wherever possible. Potential effects on individual properties from this project are considered as part of the detailed routeing and siting stage. More information can be found in the <i>Denny–Wishaw Network Upgrade: Preferred Route Option Update Report (December 2024)</i>, available here: https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/userfiles/file/DWNO_PR_OUR.pdf. There is no evidence that new electricity transmission infrastructure has a detrimental effect on property values. A 2024 report by BiGGAR Economics found no adverse effects on property prices following construction of the Beauly–Denny

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			overhead transmission line. This report can be found on the Scottish Renewables website: https://www.scottishrenewables.com/publications/1714-house-prices-impact-of-beaully-denny-grid-infrastructure. As part of its proactive approach, SP Energy Networks is conducting front-end engineering analysis to identify the safest and least disruptive access routes – prioritising both workforce logistics and community wellbeing. The EIA process considers and (where appropriate) proposes mitigation for not only the permanent effects of a development but also the likely temporary effects 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. Existing tower XX020 shall be repositioned about 245m to the east and renamed XX020A. This repositioning means the tower shall be further from residential properties. 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' Denny to Wishaw Network upgrade webpage, available here: https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/denny_wishaw_our_preferred_route.aspx. The EIA report, which shall accompany the applications for consent, includes a chapter on noise and vibration (Chapter 12)

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			that explains the technical details around noise output and identifies mitigation measures if required. Where noise mitigation is required, a triple GZTACSR 400mm² (Upas sized) conductor will be used as part of the embedded mitigation to reduce noise levels to an acceptable level (no significant adverse effects). In addition, Chapter 11 (Traffic and Movement) of the EIA report details required construction traffic and suitable traffic management measures as mitigation. The applications shall also be supported by Traffic Management Plans. SP Energy Networks acknowledges that the Palacerigg Country Park Parkrun uses existing access tracks, some of which shall be required during construction of the OHL/down-taking of the existing CB route, while some are in close proximity to where temporary accesses will be constructed. SPT and its contractor shall engage with Parkrun to assist in agreeing on a temporary course route, which shall meet the health and safety needs of all parties. The proposed OHL route will cross the Parkrun course in three places: 1. between towers WB020 and WB021; 2. between towers WB021A and WB021B; and 3. between towers WB022 and WB023. During the period of construction, the use of the current Parkrun route would not be feasible on health and safety grounds, and SP Energy Networks apologises for this inconvenience. SP Energy Networks is working to submit applications for consent

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Environment			for the OHL to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) in June 2026. The applications will be determined, at the earliest, within 12 months. Thereafter, SP Energy Networks shall be required to discharge pre-construction planning conditions. Once discharged, construction can commence on the proposed 19km OHL. SP Energy Networks currently estimates that construction works at pylons WB020-WB023 will take place in the first three months (Q1) of 2028. Impact on property value is not a material planning consideration and therefore would not be considered in the assessment of the Project.
	Environmental impact Some respondents expressed concern about tree-felling and the protection of historical and wildlife areas. Reference can be made to Chapter 7 (Cultural Heritage), Chapter 8 (Biodiversity) and Chapter 14 (Forestry) of the EIA report.	<i>"We need to better understand the impact of tree-felling."</i> <i>"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."</i> <i>"I hope historical and wildlife areas are left untouched."</i> <i>"The route will cause impact on established & protected wildlife and ecological environments"</i>	The proposed OHL route is the outcome of a rigorous routeing and consultation assessment, which identifies a preferred route based on minimising environmental impact. With regard to the impact on wildlife and ecology, the proposal is supported by an EIA, which fully considers 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. The EIA includes details of biodiversity net gain proposals, such as landscaping and restoration.

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
		<i>especially those surrounding Palacerigg Country Park and surrounding agricultural land."</i> <i>"I have not seen any scientific or other evidence that there will be no environmental or ecological damage from the evidence you have provided so far as there [is] plenty of information about the environment and ecology in the area."</i>	The EIA report, which shall accompany the applications for consent, includes a forestry and woodland chapter (Chapter 14), which comprehensively details the forestry impact resulting from construction and operational phases, in addition to the proposed area of compensatory planting. The proposed OHL shall oversail the "Antonine Wall, Rough Castle to Lime Road and Field System" Scheduled Monument, which is about 322m east of the "Antonine Wall, Rough Castle Fort, Annexe and Military Way" Scheduled Monument. No towers are proposed on any part of the Antonine Wall Scheduled Monument. The DWNO involves the removal of the existing OHL CB 132kV route, positioned on the eastern side of Rough Castle Roman Fort. The existing tower (CB035) is currently located on the "Antonine Wall, Rough Castle Fort, Annexe and Military Way" Scheduled Monument. SP Energy Networks has obtained the first Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) for the removal of CB035, from Historic Environment Scotland (HES). A second application for SMC, shall be submitted to HES in due course. The EIA report includes cultural heritage, biodiversity and forestry chapters (Chapters 7, 8 and 14, respectively) that explain efforts to minimise impact and any proposed mitigation. SP Energy Networks believes the proposed route for the new OHL best balances its licence obligations

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			and environmental considerations and continues to work with statutory bodies and local stakeholders to look at how to mitigate potential impacts. The cultural heritage mitigation measures prioritise avoidance of impacts through design, with no works within scheduled monuments and use of exclusion zones. Where impacts cannot be avoided, archaeological evaluation and monitoring during construction will identify and record remains, with excavation where preservation in situ is not possible, all under an agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI). Protective fencing, condition surveys and reinstatement of historic features will be implemented, while Scheduled Monument Consent and consultation with relevant authorities ensure appropriate management, supported by an Archaeological Clerk of Works. Further details can be found in Chapter 7 (Cultural Heritage) and Chapter 17 (Schedule of Mitigation) of the EIA report. The biodiversity mitigation measures focus on avoiding, minimising and managing ecological impacts throughout the Project. An Ecological Clerk of Works oversees compliance, exclusion zones, surveys and training, and construction activities are tightly controlled to prevent habitat damage, pollution, disturbance to wildlife and the spread of invasive species. Sensitive habitats – such as bogs, woodlands and watercourses – are protected

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
			through careful design, reinstatement and monitoring. A range of species-specific measures, which are supported by licensing where required, address bats, badgers, great crested newts, red squirrels, otter, water vole, barn owl and key bird species, including seasonal restrictions, exclusion zones, supervised works and habitat enhancements. Additional route-specific actions include installing bird flight diverters on OHLs and restoring vegetation and peatland after works, ensuring long-term ecological protection across all project components. Further details can be found in Chapter 8 (Biodiversity) and Chapter 17 (Schedule of Mitigation) of the EIA report. With regards forestry, consideration was given to the need for an extended management felling of trees beyond the proposed 80m-wide felling corridor for the new OHL, which is good forestry practice and represents embedded mitigation. Further details can be found in Chapter 14 (Forestry) and Chapter 17 (Schedule of Mitigation) of the EIA report. More information about how SP Energy Networks appraised routeing and siting options for the proposed new infrastructure can be found in the <i>Denny-Wishaw Network Upgrade: Preferred Route Option Update Report (December 2024)</i>, which is available here:

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
			https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/userfiles/file/DWN_O_PROUR.pdf. The existing towers (CB route), which shall be dismantled as part of this project, are on average 33m in height, and the height of the proposed towers will be on average 44m to 45m, requiring an 80m wayleave corridor and associated tree felling. SP Energy Networks is working to partially reuse the CB wayleave corridor for the proposed OHL, helping to minimise tree felling. To ensure necessary safety clearance under OHLs and to ensure a means of access for any necessary maintenance, tree planting under OHLs is not feasible.
	Cultural heritage Some respondents highlighted concerns about the impact on local cultural heritage. Reference can be made to Chapter 7 (Cultural Heritage) of the EIA report.	<i>"Very concerned about the height and number of huge pylons which will not only blight our beautiful country but also intrude on the Rough Castle World Heritage Site."</i> <i>"Protect Rough Castle Fort."</i>	Please see the above response regarding EIA, with particular reference to Chapter 7 (Cultural Heritage) of the EIA report. This chapter provides an assessment of the likely significant effects on heritage assets (including archaeological remains, historic buildings and historic landscapes) arising from the Construction and Operational Phases of the various components of the Project. The assessment of baseline conditions identified limited evidence of previously recorded heritage assets within the sites, with the exception of the Antonine Wall World Heritage Site (WHS). Owing to its linear nature, both the CB

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
			route and the WB route cross the WHS on a north–south alignment. Works associated with the CB route include the removal of a tower and the OHL currently oversailing the WHS, while the WB route will introduce a new OHL crossing but no new infrastructure within the WHS. Archaeological potential across the Project components is considered low, largely reflecting previous ground disturbance (including industrial activity and commercial forestry) and the marginal character of some areas, such as wet or boggy land. The assessment of impacts did not identify any significant residual effects during either the Construction or Operational Phases. A Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), undertaken in accordance with UNESCO guidance, concluded that the WB route would result in a Minor Negative Impact on the WHS, while the decommissioning of the CB route would result in a Moderate Positive Impact. SP Energy Networks takes its environmental responsibilities very seriously, and in formulating proposals for electricity transmission infrastructure it is subject to duties under Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 including: <i>(a) to “have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of</i>

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
			<i>protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest"; and</i> <i>(b) to "do what [it] reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects."</i>
	Biodiversity Some respondents expressed concern about replanting and the impact the development will have on wildlife and its habitat. Reference can be made to Chapter 8 (Biodiversity) of the EIA report.	<i>"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."</i> <i>"Just hope wildlife isn't in any danger."</i> <i>"No consideration has been given to the flight path of migrating birds [...] or the destruction of natural habitats."</i> <i>"We are keen to conserve the UK's last wintering flock of taiga bean geese. We would like to ensure your upgrading works can be confined to the months between March and early September when the geese are in Scandinavia. We are also concerned that geese are not discouraged from using habitual feeding areas adjacent to your route. Consideration should be given to undergrounding this section."</i>	Please see the above response regarding the EIA report, which has been conducted accordingly. This report will be published on SP Energy Networks' website following the submission of its applications. With regards tree replanting and impact to wildlife, the EIA report contains chapters on biodiversity and forestry (Chapters 8 and 14, respectively). SP Energy Networks is committed to compensatory tree planting, which is referenced in the forestry chapter. It is standard practice to address the requirements of compensatory planting via a planning condition with the ECU and the local Planning Authority, which is expected in this instance. Any environmental impact on ecology and associated mitigation is detailed in Chapter 8 (Biodiversity) of the EIA report. The biodiversity chapter in the EIA report includes a section on ornithology, detailing the findings of survey results and any required mitigation. Prior to the EIA report, a routing

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
			study was conducted to establish the preferred route of the proposed new-build OHL, taking account of environmental sensitivities, including landscape, ecology and ornithology. As part of this exercise, and to later inform the EIA for the Proposed Development, SP Energy Networks commissioned AECOM to conduct bird surveys across two non-breeding seasons and one breeding season. The removal of the CB route, part of which goes through the Slamannan Plateau SPA, is programmed to be undertaken between August and December 2028. This element of works requires to be undertaken in advance of the new OHL being constructed. The proposed OHL has purposely been routed around the SPA in order to avoid impact upon the taiga bean geese using the Slamannan Plateau for feeding.
	Coal Response from the Coal Authority Reference can be made to Chapter 10 (Ground Conditions) of the EIA report.	<i>"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 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</i>	With regard to former coal mining, SPT's contractor has undertaken a comprehensive ground investigation and will undertake a mining risk assessment. Furthermore, the Coal Authority has been consulted as part of the consultation process for the Project. The ground investigations informed the Project's routeing exercise.

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
		<i>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."</i> <i>"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 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."</i>	
	Visual impact Some respondents expressed concern about the size of the infrastructure.	<i>"No consideration has been given to [...] the visual impact of these huge structures."</i> <i>"The increase size of masts will blight the landscape. Having examined the detailed map I can see that no amount of tree shielding will suffice."</i>	As part of the EIA, an assessment of potential landscape and visual impacts has been undertaken in accordance with <i>Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd edition)</i> (GLVIA3). This identifies potential impacts and relevant mitigation measures, including the development of a landscape plan. The visual assessment undertaken as part of the EIA includes representative viewpoints and will

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
Indicative design		Reference can be made to Chapter 6 (Landscape and Visual) of the EIA report.	determine the degree of anticipated change to visual amenity experienced. The visual impact of SP Energy Networks' proposed project is considered in <i>Preferred Route Option Update Report (December 2024)</i>, available here: https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/userfiles/file/DWN_O_PROUR.pdf.
	Bonnybridge Substation	<i>"The proportionate increase in local usage due to substation expansion does not present cause for concern."</i>	Noted.
	Cumbernauld Substation	<i>"The substation at Cumbernauld already has made a substantial impact on the areas it is located. If this substation is increased in size & capacity it will further impact the environment & surrounding wildlife and protected environment."</i>	With regard to the potential impact on wildlife and ecology, the Project is supported by an EIA, which fully considers impacts on ecology, and the proposal will accord with the National Planning Framework 4 Policy 3 requirements to enhance biodiversity. The assessment in Chapter 8 (Biodiversity) of the EIA report considers construction impacts on Important Ecological Features (IEF), taking account of embedded mitigation, and identifies where additional mitigation is required. Following this, impacts on potential Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE) are scoped out and not

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
	(Biodiversity) of the EIA report.		considered further. The main impacts remaining relate to direct habitat loss, loss of minor bat roosts, disturbance to bats, habitat fragmentation, and disturbance to protected and notable species during construction. It is concluded that there are no likely operational impacts, and that construction effects are localised and not significant in EIA terms and can be managed through mitigation and enhancement measures. 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. The final drainage design required for the Cumbernauld Substation extension will not impact the area of car parking off Forest Road and the adjacent core path, to the west of Cumbernauld Substation.
	Overhead lines (towers) Some respondents expressed concern about the plan for the XX020 tower, the location of the proposed OHLs and the placement of towers near Bonnybridge Substation	<i>"I had raised the point at a previous consultation regarding the routing of additional pylons to the west 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 east of the</i>	The routing of OHLs 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. Established guidelines for routing transmission OHLs are in place that combine in-depth environmental studies with technical and economic factors. A key part of this is

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
	and at Broompark Crescent.	<i>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."</i> <i>"What is not particularly clear is whether the existing towers – XX020 – will be removed and decommissioned."</i> <i>"The proposed location of the overhead lines is detrimental to our intention for the land that we own and as the intention was residential development, having the kV of the overhead lines increased will undoubtedly have detrimental impacts with planning."</i> <i>"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."</i> <i>"The upgrade of the route should follow already established pathways and network routes."</i>	consultation with landowners, stakeholders and the public to inform the development of the Project. You can find out more about this in SP Energy Networks' <i>Approach to Routeing and Environmental Impact Assessment</i> document, available here: https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/userfiles/file/SPEN_Approach_to_Routeing_Document_2nd_version.pdf Throughout the routeing process, SP Energy Networks 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 and other land uses. The proposed route is the one that SP Energy Networks believes achieves the best balance between technical requirements and minimising the impact on the environment and the people, who live, work and enjoy spending time in the area. The proposed OHL requires to be positioned to the north-western side of Bonnybridge Substation, in order to connect to the existing ZG OHL, which is positioned at the north-west corner of the substation. Furthermore, proposed downloads from the new OHL shall connect to where the substation shall be extended. Connecting downloads on the eastern side of the substation would not be feasible

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
		<i>"The line is passing over historical places of interest + wetlands for conservation, peat lands, farmland etc."</i>	given that two existing OHLs enter the substation on the eastern side. Existing tower XX020 shall be repositioned about 245m to the east and renamed XX020A. This repositioning shall take the tower further from residential properties. The two 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. SP Energy Networks believes the final proposals for the new OHL best balance its licence obligations and environmental considerations and continues to work with statutory bodies and local stakeholders to look at how to mitigate potential impacts. More information can be found in the <i>Denny-Wishaw Network Upgrade: Preferred Route Option Update Report (December 2024)</i>, available here: https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/userfiles/file/DWNO_PRO UR.pdf.
	Clearance for radio link	<i>"BT requires 100m minimum clearance from any structure to the radio link path."</i>	SP Energy Networks acknowledges BT's confirmation that the information provided on tower locations within 100 m of active or planned radio links is for information only. SP

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
	Response from British Telecommunications (BT)	<i>"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:</i> • WID14059 ZG002 • WID14059 ZD095 • WID14059 ZD095A <i>WID14059 XR033."</i>	Energy Networks also notes BT's request that, should any design changes to the proposed OHL arise, BT is to be re-consulted. SP Energy Networks will ensure that BT is notified accordingly if any such changes occur.
	Cable route – undergrounding Some respondents prefer underground cabling and have questioned the cable route. Reference can be made to Chapter 3 (Evolution of Design and Alternatives), para 3.4 of the EIA report.	<i>"Would have preferred underground cabling rather than pylons but recognise cost implications."</i> <i>"Put the cables underground."</i> <i>"I feel this route is taking the wrong route across unspoilt countryside."</i> <i>"These lines should be going underground."</i>	Under the Electricity Act 1989, SP Energy Networks is required to consider technical, economic and environmental matters, and reach a balance between them. High-voltage, high-capacity OHLs are the proven choice for the bulk transmission of electricity throughout the world, based on economy and reliability. SP Energy Networks will consider undergrounding a 132kV, 275kV or 400kV OHL, or a section of that line, in particular circumstances where no suitable route for an OHL can be identified.

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
			Although underground cables reduce permanent visual impact, they require extensive land-take, multiple trenches, vegetation removal, watercourse crossings and additional above-ground infrastructure, resulting in greater impacts on habitats, archaeology, soils, water and land use. Engineering assessments showed that an underground alternative would require 18 single-core 400kV cables in six trenches with a 70–80m working corridor, plus joint bays, link boxes and reactive compensation equipment, increasing both environmental effects and substation footprints. Undergrounding is also significantly more expensive, with construction costs 5 to 10 times higher and whole-life costs around 4.5 times higher than an equivalent OHL. Overall, having regard to statutory duties, technical constraints, environmental impacts and cost, SP Energy Networks does not consider an underground cable route to be a feasible alternative. You can find out more about this in SP Energy Networks' <i>Approach to Routing and Environmental Impact Assessment</i> document, available here: https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/userfiles/file/SPEN_Approach_to_Routing_Document_2nd_version.pdf and in Chapter 3 (Evolution of Design and Alternatives) of the EIA report.

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
	Traffic management Some respondents expressed concern about traffic management and road measures, with particular concern focusing on Fannyside Road, Forrest Road and Beam Road. Reference can be made to Chapter 11 (Traffic and Movement) of the EIA report.	<i>"Consider the condition and type of road that Fannyside Road is during the works. [It's] a floating road and single track."</i> <i>"Think carefully around traffic management on Forrest Road."</i> <i>"As part of your design can you address the surface water run off that comes onto Forrest Road from the existing entrance?"</i> <i>"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."</i> <i>"What level of road/traffic disruption will this cause?"</i> <i>"Beam Road will have massive amounts of heavy traffic on it if construction begins. Where are the mitigating measures for road users?"</i> <i>"Safety concerns regarding the new road/entrance on Forest Road."</i> <i>"Increased road traffic."</i>	These suggestions are noted. Traffic and transport impacts are considered in Chapter 11 (Traffic and Movement) of the EIA report. The EIA process considers and (where appropriate) proposes mitigation for not only the permanent effects of a development but also the likely temporary effects during construction. The EIA report outlines mitigation through a CTMP, which defines routes, access and traffic management arrangements, working hours, and measures to reduce disruption, including vehicle scheduling, road condition surveys, cleaning protocols, driver standards and liaison with communities and emergency services. Chapter 11 also includes an assessment of noise and vibration and the impact of the scheme on communities and on the local and private road network. Furthermore, Traffic Management Plans, which seek to ensure safety associated with vehicle activity, shall be submitted with the forthcoming applications for consent. For a project of this size, there will always be some temporary disruption during construction. SP Energy Networks will work closely with affected landowners and local communities to ensure clear communication of the timing of proposed work.

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
Construction		<i>"We all have dreadful memories of the constant disruption caused when Bonnybridge Substation was linked to the Wind Farm near Carronbridge. Our roads still bear the scar."</i>	The proposed vehicular access/egress on Forest Road is needed to accommodate the delivery of the proposed transformers. It requires planning permission and shall therefore form part of the planning application to be assessed by North Lanarkshire Council, in consultation with its internal roads, parking and active travel department, which shall scrutinise the design and traffic/pedestrian safety matters associated with the proposed road. The existing Cumbernauld Substation where the CB route connects to influenced routeing in that the proposed WB OHL requires to connect into Cumbernauld Substation.
	Construction impact Some respondents expressed concern about public access during the construction period and felt that further consultation and information sharing at the construction phase would be beneficial.	<i>"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 caused a lot of ill will in the community and this, although not connected, will have an adverse effect on your project."</i> <i>"We need to better understand the impact of [...] decommissioning, construction and excavation, tower erection, fitting of wires and reinstalment."</i> <i>"Access to the park will be impacted by work at the substation and works in general – there is</i>	The EIA process considers and (where appropriate) proposes mitigation for not only the permanent effects of a development but also the likely temporary effects during construction. Temporary construction effects would be managed through a suite of mitigation measures set out in full in Chapter 17 (Schedule of Mitigation) of the EIA report. These include (but are not limited to) construction management controls through the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP); archaeological monitoring, protective fencing and controlled excavation; ecological supervision, pre-construction surveys, exclusion zones and pollution-prevention measures; lighting controls, dust suppression and general habitat protection; and early landscape planting and bunding where feasible.

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
		<i>significant footfall from Abronhill and South Cumbernauld to Palacerigg park which needs to be protected."</i>	Collectively, these measures are designed to avoid, prevent, reduce or offset temporary impacts during the construction phase. Construction noise and vibration will be minimised by applying Best Practicable Means under BS 5228, keeping equipment well maintained and fitted with noise-control measures, using quieter plant where possible and briefing staff to adopt quiet working practices. Site layout, terrain and stockpiles will be used to provide screening, supported by temporary acoustic enclosures for static plant, alongside ongoing community liaison. The construction programme for the uprated OHLs will also be managed to ensure noise exceedances do not occur for 10 or more days within any 15-day period, or for more than 40 days within any six consecutive months. For the Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld substation works, a Construction Noise Management Plan (CNMP) will set out specific measures, such as reduced equipment use, lower-noise alternatives and acoustic barriers to ensure compliance with BS 5228. SPT's contractor will comply a "Constructability and Access Assessment", which details the following: <i>"CB route dismantling</i> <i>To provide a clear corridor for the new WB route, the existing 132kV OHL CB route must be decommissioned, dismantled and removed from the site. This involves</i>

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
			<i>removing all hardware, including conductors and fittings, dismantling towers and removal of foundations to a minimum depth of approximately 1.5m below ground level.</i> <i>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.</i> <i>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 minimum depth of 1.5m below ground level.</i> <i>Where possible, existing SPT wayleaves will be used to provide access to CB Towers for dismantling works.</i> WB route tower construction <i>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</i>

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
			<i>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.</i> <i>Foundation – Lattice towers</i> <i>Subject to ground conditions encountered during GI [ground inspection] works, a typical arrangement at each tower comprises a raft foundation with neck extension for each of the 4 lattice tower legs. Dependent on ground conditions, alternative piled or rock anchor solution shall be selected.</i> <i>Pad and column</i> <i>Foundation is excavated to a typical depth of 4m.</i> <i>Rock anchor</i> <i>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.</i> <i>Wiring operation</i> <i>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</i>

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
			<i>operation. Light pilot bond shall be pulled out along the section of line in preparation of wiring operations utilising a tracked machine.</i> <i>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.</i> <i>While the use of existing access tracks will be required for construction, access to Palacerigg Country Park will be maintained."</i> Construction of the proposed OHL will take place within Palacerigg Country Park, specifically six pylons and associated temporary access tracks. A small section of the proposed substation extension shall also be constructed within the country park. Throughout construction, access to Palacerigg Country Park from Forest Road shall be maintained for residents of Abrohill, South Cumbernauld and elsewhere. Should specific paths within the country park require to be closed during construction, this would be for a temporary period of time only.
			Construction timeline <i>"There was also a large discrepancy in the estimates of how long the Project would take in</i> Construction is expected to be carried out on the proposed OHL (WB route) between Glenmavis and Cumbernauld

Key theme	Subthemes	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
	Some respondents expressed concern about the discrepancies in the Project's timeline.	<i>Palacerigg Country Park from 6 months to 2 years."</i> <i>"Once the works for the detailed planning permissions have concluded am I right in thinking there will be no plant and disruption on site until work starts in earnest in 2027/28?"</i>	between April 2029 and February 2030. On this section of the OHL, there are 23 towers. A tower foundation takes about two weeks to construct. A tower build takes about one week. Stringing a section of overhead electric line should take a maximum of two weeks, but this would be dependent on the distance between the terminal towers. Although access to the wider Palacerigg Country Park will remain open, certain paths within the park may require to be closed for a temporary period of time, during construction. The longer duration detailed above relates to that of the wider project, as opposed to the duration of construction works within Palacerigg Country Park. It is estimated that the planning application for the Cumbernauld substation extension, will be determined around October 2026, followed by a requirement to discharge planning conditions. Construction associated with the substation extension will not impact the existing Parkrun route. With regards to the proposed construction works of pylons WB020-WB023, SP Energy Networks currently estimates this will take place in Q1 of 2028.

05. Next steps

5 Next steps

SPT intends to submit three applications to the Scottish Ministers via the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) for consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 and deemed planning permission under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for:

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

Separate representations will be invited in respect of each of these Section 37 applications, in line with statutory requirements. The consenting authority will then invite representations from local people and stakeholders before deciding on whether to grant Section 37 Consent, and to inform them of any conditions that may be required under the consent.

SPT also intends to submit one application to North Lanarkshire Council under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for the proposed extension to Cumbernauld Substation.

The planning authority will then invite representations from local people and stakeholders before deciding on whether to grant planning permission, and to inform them of any conditions that may be required under this permission.

06.

Appendices

6 Appendices

6.1 Appendix A: SP Transmission Limited Statement on Preservation of Amenity in accordance with Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989

Schedule 9 Statement

SP TRANSMISSION LIMITED

Statement on Preservation of Amenity
in accordance with Schedule 9
of the Electricity Act 1989

Statement on Preservation of Amenity & Fisheries in Scotland in Accordance with Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989

1 Introduction

SP Transmission Limited ("SP Transmission") has a duty under Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 ("the Act") to have regard to the preservation of amenity.

This requires the relevant licence holder, when formulating proposals relating to the construction or extension of electric lines or the carrying out of other works in connection with the transmission or supply of electricity, to take account of the effects the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside, on any flora, fauna, buildings or objects of historical interest and sites and structures of archaeological interest. It is also required to take reasonable actions to mitigate the effects of its proposals on amenity.

This Statement sets out how SP Transmission will carry out these duties in developing and maintaining its network.

2 Background

SP Transmission Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Scottish Power UK plc and holds an electricity transmission licence for Central and Southern Scotland. Its transmission network includes around 4000 circuit kilometres, both overhead and underground, and is operated at voltages of 132 kV and above.

Its authorised area include sites of national and international nature conservation, and many protected historic and archaeological sites and buildings, as well as dense housing and some heavily industrialised areas, particularly bordering on the Firth of Forth and the River Clyde.

SP Transmission has a statutory duty to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission. It needs to take this and other statutory duties into account, including those relating to preservation of amenity, when developing and carrying out investment projects.

This statement deals only with those environmental obligations falling under Schedule 9 of the Act. SP Transmission has a number of other environmental requirements and has a range of policies and procedures to meet these that are not covered here. Additional information on the environmental performance of the businesses in the ScottishPower group is reported annually within its corporate environmental report.

3 Statutory Requirements

The Act says that a licence holder, when formulating 'relevant proposals':

"(a) shall have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geographical or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest; and

(b) shall do what he reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects." (Schedule 9, 1(1))

'Relevant proposals' mean any proposals:

"... (b) for the installation (whether above or below ground) of an electric line; or

(c) for the execution of any other works for or in connection with the transmission or supply of electricity." (Schedule 9, 1(3))

In addition, in respect of Scotland, the Act prescribes that:

"... A licence holder... shall avoid, so far as is possible, causing injury to fisheries or to the stock of fish in any waters." (Schedule 9, 3(3))

SP Transmission's guidelines for meeting its Schedule 9 obligations are set out overleaf.

SP TRANSMISSION'S SCHEDULE 9 GUIDELINES

Where any of our operations or any proposed developments or projects comprise a "relevant proposal" we will observe the following guidelines:

1. Established Need

We will seek to construct new lines or substations only where the existing infrastructure cannot be upgraded to meet security of supply requirements, or where an increase in demand for electricity transportation capacity is foreseen which cannot be satisfied by other means or where new connections to customers are required.

2. Designated Areas for Amenity

We will pay due regard to the need to preserve and maintain amenity, particularly within the areas of the greatest landscape, wildlife or cultural amenity, such as National Parks, National Scenic Areas, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other national or international designated areas.

For new transmission infrastructure we will investigate the possibility of alternative routes or sites outwith the designated area. For existing networks and where there is a requirement for infrastructure inside the designated area we will seek to minimise the impact of its presence through the sensitive routing and siting of structures. In such cases we will consult with those groups most likely to be affected at an early stage.

3. Seek to Minimise the Impact of New Infrastructure

We will seek to minimise the effects of new transmission infrastructure at or near both designated sites and also other sites valued for their general amenity, such as areas of archaeological interest, battlefields, local nature reserves, playing fields and water bodies. We will take into account the significance of sites valued for their amenity through consultation with statutory bodies and local authorities.

4. Mitigate the Adverse Effects of Works

Where works are likely to have an adverse effect on amenity, we will carry out our activities in such a way as to reduce the impact of these activities to the practicable minimum.

Where planned works would have a high impact on amenity, we will consult with statutory bodies, local authorities and relevant landowners to help us identify, assess and carry out measures to mitigate the impact so far as is reasonably practicable.

5. Environmental Assessments

We will carry out environmental assessments in accordance with relevant legislation prior to developing proposals for new lines or plant.

6. Protection of Fisheries

In the preparation of plans and programmes we will seek to avoid, so far as is possible, causing injury to fisheries or to the stock of fish in any waters within our licensed area.

7. Training and Awareness

We will promote environmental awareness amongst staff through appropriate training and dissemination of information. We will also make contractors aware of the relevant parts of this statement, and take steps to audit their compliance with it.

8. Review of the Schedule 9 statement

We intend to review our Schedule 9 statement at least every 5 years.

6.2 Appendix B: Cumbernauld Substation Extension: Proposal of Application Notice

PROPOSAL OF APPLICATION NOTICE	
Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (Section 35B) The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (Regulations 4 -7) To be completed for all developments within the national or major categories of development	
Name of Council	North Lanarkshire Council
Address	Department of Planning & Environment
	Fleming House, 2 Tryst Road
	Cumbernauld
	G67 1JW
Proposed development at [Note 1]	The existing Cumbernauld Substation (approx. grid reference NS 77453 74401)
Description of proposal [Note 2]	EXTENSION TO ELECTRICITY SUBSTATION INCLUDING INSTALLATION OF ONE 275KV BUS SECTION CIRCUIT BREAKER, TWO 275/33KV 90MVA DUAL WOUND TRANSFORMERS, ONE AIS DISCONNECTING CIRCUIT BREAKER, VEHICULAR ACCESS, EARTHWORKS, DRAINAGE PROPOSALS, ERECTION OF BOUNDARY SECURITY FENCE AND ASSOCIATED WORKS.
Notice is hereby given that an application is being made to	
[Note 3]	North Lanarkshire Council
Council by [Note 4]	SP Transmission (PLC)
Of [Note 5]	Scottish Power Headquarters, 320 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5AD
In respect of [Note 6]	Public Consultation Event
To take place on [Note 7]	Thursday 30 th January, 4pm to 8pm Muirfield Community Centre, 1a South Muirhead Road, Cumbernauld, G67 1AX

[Note 8] The following parties have received a copy of this Proposal of Application Notice

Please see accompanying report for details.

Community Councils:

Local:

No contact details are available for the following Community Councils
Greenfaulds & Luggiebank CC

Adjoining:

North Lanarkshire

Carbrain & Hillcrest CC - carbrain.hillcrest.cc@gmail.com

Condorrat CC - contact@condorrat.org.uk

Craigmarloch CC - Craigmarlochcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Dullatur CC - info@dullatur.org

Glenmavis CC - glenmaviscommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Kildrum CC - hello@kildrum.org.uk

Kilsyth CC - bill.craik@gmail.com

Seafar & Ravenswood CC - ccseafarravenswood@gmail.com

Steps & District CC - secretary.sdcc@gmail.com

No contact details are available for the following Community Councils

Abronnill & Arns CC

Banton & Kelvinhead CC

Greengairs CC

Westerwood CC

Ward Councillors:

Council	Ward	Name	Position	Email
North Lanarkshire	Cumbernauld South	William Goldie	Councillor	goldiew@northlan.gov.uk
North Lanarkshire	Cumbernauld South	Peter McDade	Councillor	mcdadepe@northlan.gov.uk
North Lanarkshire	Cumbernauld South	James McPhilemy	Councillor	mcphilemyja@northlan.gov.uk
North Lanarkshire	Cumbernauld North	Danish Ashraf	Councillor	ashrafd@northlan.gov.uk
North Lanarkshire	Cumbernauld North	Gordon Currie	Councillor	curriego@northlan.gov.uk
North Lanarkshire	Cumbernauld North	Tom Fisher	Councillor	fishert@northlan.gov.uk
North Lanarkshire	Cumbernauld North	Alan Masterton	Councillor	mastertona@northlan.gov.uk
North Lanarkshire	Cumberland East	Claire Barclay	Councillor	barclaycl@northlan.gov.uk
North Lanarkshire	Cumberland East	Barry McCulloch	Councillor	mccullochba@northlan.gov.uk
North Lanarkshire	Cumberland East	Adam Smith	Councillor	smithada@northlan.gov.uk
North Lanarkshire	Cumberland East	Tom Johnston	Councillor	johnstont@northlan.gov.uk

[Note 9] For further details contact Alan Graham - a.graham@spenergynetworks.co.uk

on telephone number

+44 (0)7552266171

And/or at the following address

55 Fullarton Drive, Cambuslang, G32 8FA

[Note 10] I certify that I have attached a plan outlining the site

Signed	Alan Graham
On behalf of	SP Energy Networks Ltd
Date	19/12/2024

PROPOSAL OF APPLICATION NOTICE

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997
Regulation 6 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE

[Note 1] – Insert postal address or location of proposed development
[Note 2] – Insert description in general terms of the development to be carried out.
[Note 3] – Insert Council name.
[Note 4] – Insert name of applicant and/or agent
[Note 5] – Insert applicant's and/or agent's postal address
[Note 6] – Insert form of consultation the prospective applicant proposes to undertake e.g. public meeting
[Note 7] – Insert date and venue of consultation
[Note 8] – Insert list of those groups who have been invited to attend
[Note 9] – Insert details as to how the prospective applicant/agent can be contacted (incl. name, address and tel. no)
[Note 10] – Attach plan that outlines the location of the proposed development and is sufficient to identify the site

Pre-application Consultation (PAC)

Where PAC is required, the prospective applicant must, under sections 35B(1) and (2) (of the Act), provide to the planning authority a 'Proposal of Application Notice' at least 12 weeks (section 35B(3)) prior to the submission of an application for planning permission. The Proposal of Application Notice must include the information set out in section 35B(4) and in regulation 6, namely:

- i) a description in general terms of the development to be carried out;* ii) the postal address of the site at which the development is to be carried out, if available iii) a plan showing the outline of the site at which the development is to be carried out and sufficient to identify the site;
- iv) detail as to how the prospective applicant may be contacted and corresponded with; and
- v) an account of what consultation the prospective applicant proposes to undertake, when such consultation is to take place, with whom and what form it will take.

* You should provide an outline of the proposal's characteristics, and the identification of its category (e.g. Major development). Any subsequent application needs to be recognisably linked to what was described in the proposal of application notice.

Submission of an Application after Pre-application Consultation Notice

The submission of the proposal of application notice starts the PAC processing clock. After a minimum of 12 weeks, having carried out the statutory requirements and any additional requirements specified by the planning authority, an applicant can submit the application along with the required written Pre-application Consultation

Report. Information in relation to the proposal of application notice must also be placed by the planning authority on the list of applications required under section 36A and regulation 21.

Additional consultation activity (responding to the Proposal of Application Notice)

The applicant is required to indicate in the proposal of application notice what consultation will be undertaken in addition to the statutory minimum. The planning authority must respond within 21 days of receiving the Notice to advise the applicant whether the proposed PAC is satisfactory or if additional notification and consultation above the statutory minimum is required in order to make it binding on the applicant. In doing so, planning authorities are to have regard to the nature, extent and location of the proposed development and to the likely effects, both at and in the vicinity of that location, of its being carried out (section 35B(8)). Additional consultation requirements should be proportionate, specific and reasonable in the circumstances. If there is no response to the proposal of application notice by the planning authority within 21 days, only the statutory minimum PAC activities will be required.

Scottish Ministers expect planning authorities to develop and maintain up to date lists of bodies and interests with whom applicants should consult in particular types of case. These lists should be available to applicants, who can draft proposal of application notices in light of that information. Further advice on planning community engagement activity can be found in Planning Advice Note 81: Community Engagement – Planning With People.

Minimum consultation activity

Consultation with community councils - Under regulation 7 an applicant must consult every community council any part of whose area is within or adjoins the land where the proposed development is situated. This includes community councils in a neighbouring planning authority.

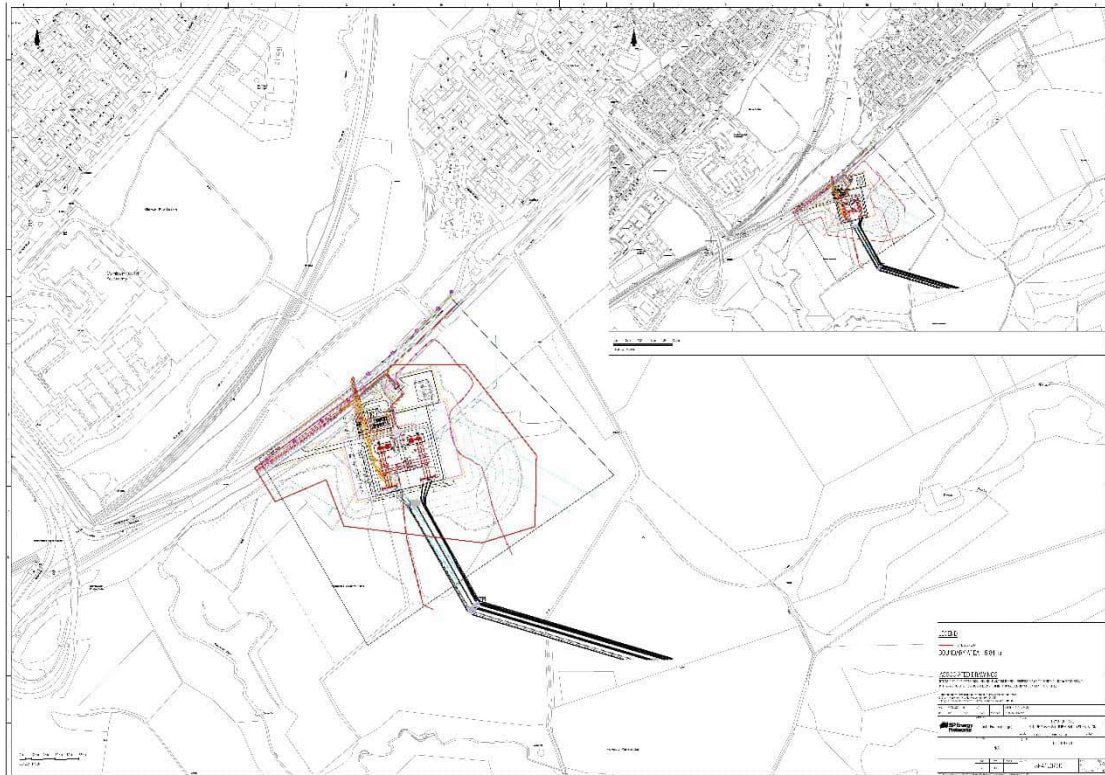
The public event - Regulation 7 also requires the holding of at least two public event for members of the public where they can make comments to the prospective applicant on their proposals. This 'public event' must be advertised at least 7 days in advance in a newspaper circulating in the locality of the proposed development. The advertisement for the public event must include:

- a description of, and the location of, the proposed development;
- details as to where further information may be obtained concerning the proposed development; the date and place of the public event;
- a statement explaining how, and by when, persons wishing to make comments to the prospective applicant relating to the proposal may do so; and
- a statement that comments made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the planning authority. If the applicant submits an application there will be an opportunity to make representations on that application to the planning authority.

Applicants will gain less from poorly attended or unrepresentative PAC events and should ensure that processes are put in place that will allow members of the community to participate meaningfully in any public event. The public event should be reasonably accessible to the public at large, including disabled people. It may be appropriate for the public event to take place over a number of dates, times and places. Applicants should ensure that individuals and community groups can submit written comments in response to the newspaper advertisement.

There is a need to emphasise to communities that the plans presented to them for a proposed planning application may alter in some way before the final proposal is submitted as a planning application to the planning authority. Even after PAC, and once a planning application has been submitted to the planning authority, communities should ensure that any representations they wish to make on the proposal are submitted to that authority as part of the process of considering the planning application.

Any personal data that you have been asked to provide on this form will be held and processed in accordance with Data Protection Legislation.



6.3 Appendix C: PAC 1 feedback report

Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)



Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade

**Proposed Network Upgrade between
Denny and Wishaw.**

**Summary of Feedback from First Round
of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)
January – April 2025.**

September 2025

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Executive summary

This report summarises the first round of pre-application consultation carried out by SP Energy Networks (SPEN) for the proposed new Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade project. The scheme involves:

- 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 existing substations at Bonnybridge, Denny North, Cumbernauld, Wishaw and Easterhouse to install additional electrical equipment and carry out associated landscaping, drainage, access and fencing works where required;
- Installing new transformers at Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld substations;
- Replacing the conductors (wires) and associated equipment on existing overhead lines to 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
- 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

SPEN carried out pre-application consultation with local residents and stakeholders from Monday 27 January 2025 until Thursday 17 April 2025, which included six drop-in events at:

- Newarthill Community Facility on Wednesday 29 January from 2pm to 7pm
- Muirfield Community Centre on Thursday 30 January from 4pm to 8pm
- Pather Community Centre on Friday 31 January from 2pm to 7pm
- Gartcosh Social Club on Tuesday 04 February from 2pm to 7pm
- Bonnybridge Community Education Centre on Wednesday 05 February from 3:15pm to 7pm
- Glenmavis Community Facility on Thursday 06 February from 2pm to 7pm

An additional consultation event was held at the Gartcosh Social Club to consult on the plans for the Easterhouse Substation on the 27 March 2025 from 2pm to 7pm.

The comments received will help to shape the detailed design of the project. Revised designs will be shared with the public during a second round of pre-application consultation.

SP Energy Networks will submit consent applications to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989, and will carry out a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposals to ensure that potential effects of the development on the environment are considered in detail, including mitigation where required.

This report will provide:

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- 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
- Next steps in the process

1. Introduction

1.1 The need for the Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade

The Network Options Assessment (NOA) is carried out every year by National Grid as the Energy Systems Operator (ESO) to determine what, if any, additional capacity will be required and economically justified to ensure current and future energy generation can flow from where it is produced to where it is needed.

Much of the electricity transmission network in Scotland is between 50 and 100 years old. It has grown and evolved to meet industrial needs and serve the expanding population, but the network in southern and central Scotland will soon be at full capacity and unable to accommodate all the clean, green renewable energy required in the future.

The assessment identified that the construction of new overhead lines from Bonnybridge, to Glenmavis, replacement of existing infrastructure, expansion of Bonnybridge, Denny North, Cumbernauld, Wishaw and Easterhouse substations, and associated infrastructure is required.

This project will enhance the transmission infrastructure in the central belt of Scotland and is critical in facilitating the economic integration of renewable generation and helping Scotland and the UK reach legislated net zero targets.

1.2 The role of SP Energy Networks (SPEN)

SP Energy Networks is part of the ScottishPower Group. It is responsible for the transmission and distribution of electricity in central and southern Scotland, and, through SP Manweb, the distribution network in North Wales and part of North West England. SPEN's role is to maintain, operate and invest in our network to secure a safe, reliable, and economic service for current and future consumers.

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. SPEN's transmission network in Scotland consists of over 150 substations, more than 4,500km of overhead lines and more than 600km of underground cables.

As transmission licence holder for southern Scotland, SPEN is required under Section 9(2) of the Electricity Act 1989 to:

- Develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission; and
- Facilitate competition in the supply and generation of electricity.

SPEN is required to provide for new electricity generators wishing to connect to the transmission system in its licence area, to make its transmission system available for these purposes and to ensure that the system is fit for purpose through appropriate reinforcements to accommodate the contracted capacity.

Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 imposes a further statutory duty on SPEN to take account of the following factors in formulating proposals for the installation of overhead transmission lines:

- "(a) to have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features or special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest; and

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- (b) to do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effects which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects."

SPEN's 'Schedule 9 Statement' sets out how it will meet the duty placed upon it under Schedule 9. The Statement also refers to the application of best practice methods to assess the environmental impacts of proposals and to identify appropriate mitigation measures.

As a result of the above, SPEN 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 both the environment and the people who live, work and enjoy recreation within it.

1.3 The proposed scheme

The proposals for the Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade seek to construct a new double-circuit 275kV / 400kV overhead line, running from Bonnybridge 275kV substation to a point near Glenmavis in North Lanarkshire. In addition to this, the scheme also seeks:

- 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 existing substations at Bonnybridge, Denny North, Cumbernauld, Wishaw and Easterhouse to install additional electrical equipment and carry out associated landscaping, drainage, access and fencing works where required;
- Installing new transformers at Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld substations;
- Replacing the conductors (wires) and associated equipment on existing overhead lines to 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
- 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

SPEN's plans will help to better distribute energy, getting more energy from where it's produced and directing it to where it's needed.

1.4 Identifying the proposed scheme

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

The preferred route leaves Bonnybridge substation and crosses the Antonine Wall at a location that minimises potential effects on the World Heritage Site. It passes east of Rough

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Castle, using dips in the landscape and screening, provided by existing trees, to reduce visibility in the landscape.

It then passes west of the Slamannan Plateau Special Protection Area (SPA) and crosses Palacerigg Country Park. SPEN has undertaken extensive assessment on the route and cannot avoid crossing the park due to the need to avoid the SPA and nearby homes on the edge of Cumbernauld. SPEN is committed to minimising disruption and intended to use the landscape and mature trees to screen the new line from views as much as possible.

Further detail 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

SPEN shall apply to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 for Section 37 consent and for deemed planning permission under Section 57 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, to construct the overhead lines. For the substation extensions, SPEN shall submit planning applications to Falkirk Council and North Lanarkshire Council under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

2.2 SPEN's statutory and licence responsibilities

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

SPEN 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. SPEN 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, SPEN 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 SPEN's 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 taken into account throughout the planning process.

Striking the right balance can be challenging, and in seeking to achieve this, SPEN recognises the importance of consulting effectively on proposals and being transparent about the decisions reached. SPEN 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 development of a project and continues into construction once consent has been granted.

2.4 Consultation Strategy and approach

Whilst there are no formal pre-application requirements for consultation in seeking Section 37 consent/deemed planning permission, SPEN is embracing best practice as outlined in the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) Best Practice Guidance (July 2022). This guidance encourages applicants to engage with stakeholders and the public in order to develop their proposals in advance of such applications being made. Therefore, prior to the submission, SPEN is carrying out consultation with stakeholders and the public.

Following the submission of application for Section 37 consent and deemed planning permission, the Scottish Government ECU will, on behalf of Scottish Ministers, carry out further consultation with the public and stakeholders.

The strategy for consultation was designed to ensure that stakeholders:

- Were made aware of the proposals in a timely manner;
- Had access to project information and understood its development; and

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- Could put forward their own views and be confident that issues raised would be considered.

The formal Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) submitted to Falkirk Council and North Lanarkshire Council set out a description of the development in general terms, including maps to identify the site, and set out SPEN's proposals for undertaking pre-application consultation for the substation development.

SPEN 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_proposal.aspx
- Face-to-face or in writing at public consultation exhibitions

3. Pre-Application Consultation

3.1 Consultation Strategy

SPEN attaches great significance to the effects its works may have on the environment and local communities and is very 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 SPEN's 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, SPEN will hold two rounds of public consultation events for the public, stakeholders and consultees to provide comments on the proposals.

For the first round of consultation, SPEN sought feedback from consultees on the following:

- Views on the preferred route for the new overhead line
- Views on the expansion of Bonnybridge 400kV, Cumbernauld 275V, Denny North 400kV, Wishaw 400kV, and Easterhouse 275kV substations
- Comments about the proposed changes to, and upgrading of, existing overhead lines
- Any wider comments consultees have

3.2 How we consulted

The consultation period ran from Monday 27 January 2025 until Thursday 17 April 2025.

SPEN wished to consult with relevant stakeholders and gain their views on the identified proposed route as well as the alternatives considered. These groups included:

- Elected members of North Lanarkshire Council and Falkirk Council areas, Members of Parliament (MP) and Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) whose constituencies are within the North Lanarkshire Council and Falkirk Council areas
- Local community councils
- Known local interest and community groups operating in the project area
- Local residents, businesses and the general public.

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 public events and seeking their views on the proposals.

A project leaflet explaining the proposals, the purpose of the consultation and the process for submitting feedback was prepared and distributed to approximately 24,874 properties (residential and business) within a defined 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, SPEN placed formal newspaper advertisements in the *Falkirk Herald* and *Cumbernauld News* and *Wishaw Press* newspapers over the 22nd and 23rd of January. The advert introduced the consultation with some high-level information about the project including the proposals, details of the drop-in event and the ways in which 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.

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To make the website as accessible as possible, most communications created for the consultation included a QR code that linked through to the home page of the website. The website remained live following the consultation to ensure stakeholders can 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 demographic data including title, name, address, telephone number, email address, asking if the respondent is responding on behalf of an organisation, and which public exhibition they attended (if any).

The five project related questions were:

1. Proposed new overhead line between Bonnybridge and Glenmavis:

We need to install 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), will allow us to remove the existing 11km 132kV overhead line (CB route) between Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld substations. Please let us have any comments on the preferred 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.

2. Substation extensions

We need to extend five substations to accommodate new equipment, so we can operate the transmission network at 400kV (400,000 volts). Which proposed substation extension do you wish to comment on?

- a. Denny North
- b. Bonnybridge
- c. Cumbernauld
- d. Easterhouse
- e. Wishaw

Please put your comments in the box below.

3. 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.
4. 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
5. Do you have any comments about our public consultation, or any other comments you would like to make?

The closing date for submitting responses to SPEN was midnight on Friday 28 February 2025, but this was extended to Thursday 17 April 2025 to take account of the additional Gartcosh public exhibition on 27 March 2025. Following the closing date, the consultation information has remained accessible on the project website and available to download.

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SPEN held six public events for the consultation. At the events, stakeholders had the opportunity to drop in to view the project proposals and talk to members of the project team to discuss any questions or concerns that they had. The materials made available at the events included eight pull up banners which provided detail on each aspect of the proposals, hard copies of maps and relevant project documents. A copy of the banners can be found in Appendix C.

The events were attended by 99 people, including local community representatives, business owners and landowners, as well as local residents, as follows:

- Newarthill Community Facility, Wednesday 29 January from 2pm to 7pm (15 attendees)
- Muirfield Community Centre, Cumbernauld, Thursday 30 January from 4pm to 7pm (13 attendees)
- Pather Community Centre, Wishaw, Friday 31 January from 2pm to 7pm (15 attendees)
- Gartcosh Social Club, Tuesday 04 February from 2pm to 7pm (1 attendee)
- Bonnybridge Community Education Centre, Wednesday 05 February from 3.15pm to 7pm (25 attendees)
- Glenmavis Community Facility, Thursday 06 February from 2pm to 7pm (30 attendees)

Following a request from North Lanarkshire Council, an additional (seventh) consultation event was held at the Gartcosh Social Club with particular reference to the plans to extend Easterhouse Substation. The event took place on the 27 March 2025 from 2pm to 7pm following readvertisement. There were no attendees.

Organisations whose representatives attended the events included:

- Greenhill Historical Society
- Scottish Canals
- Bean Goose Advisory Group (BGAG)
- Roots
- Cleland Community Council
- North Lanarkshire Council

3.3 Summary of feedback

Stakeholders could submit feedback in various methods as outlined in Section 2.4. 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.

SPEN will continue to review comments in the context of the development of the project at each stage.

A total of 24 feedback forms were submitted during the 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 a range of concerns, including health and safety, some concerns regarding the location of substations, the overhead line cable route, health and safety, and environmental 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, utilising an interface which mirrored that used by

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the public for online responses. These were then imported into the analysis database via CSV.

Emails received in the project mailbox which were categorised as consultation feedback were separated from the general correspondence. Emails were securely saved on the project's SharePoint and manually transcribed into the analysis database. Each consultation response was sent a standard acknowledgement in the form of an automated response for internet and email submissions, and given a unique identification number. Where provided by the respondent, contact details were recorded and added to the communication database so respondents could receive project updates.

3.4 Topics raised during the consultation

Table 1 (see 3.5 below) summarises the key themes that arose during the first round of pre-application consultation as well as SPEN's response to these themes.

Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

3.5 SPEN's response to the feedback

The comments received as feedback will be considered by SPEN 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 SPEN.

Table 1 Summary of the key feedback themes received during the consultation and responses from SPEN

Key theme	Example comments	SPEN response
Environmental and biodiversity impact	The route will cause impact on established & protected wildlife and ecological environments especially those surrounding Palacerigg Country Park and surrounding agricultural land.	With regard to the impact on wildlife and ecology, the proposal will be supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which will fully consider impacts on environment, ecology and land use. 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. The EIA will include details of Biodiversity Net Gain proposals. SPEN believes the preferred route for the new overhead line best balances its licence obligations and environmental considerations, and continues to work with statutory bodies and local stakeholders to look at how to mitigate potential impacts. More information about how SPEN appraised routing and siting options for the proposed new infrastructure can be found in the <i>Denny-Wishaw Network Upgrade Preferred Route Option Update Report (December 2024)</i> , which is available on the project website.
	We are keen to conserve the UK's last wintering flock of taiga bean geese. We would like to ensure your upgrading works can be confined to the months between March and early September when the geese are in Scandinavia. We are also concerned that geese are not discouraged from using habitual feeding areas adjacent to your route. Consideration should be given to undergrounding this section.	The removal of CB route, part of which goes through the Slamannan Plateau Special Protection Area (SPA), is programmed to be undertaken between August 2028 and December 2028. This element of works requires to be undertaken in advance of the new overhead line being constructed. The proposed OHL has purposefully been routed around the SPA in order to avoid impact upon the Taiga Bean Geese using the Slamannan Plateau for feeding.

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Cultural heritage	Very concerned about the height and number of huge pylons which will not only blight our beautiful country but also intrude on the Rough Castle World Heritage Site.	SPEN takes its environmental responsibilities very seriously, and in formulating proposals for electricity transmission infrastructure is subject to duties under Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989: "(a) to have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest; and, (b) to do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects." SPEN believes the preferred route for the new overhead line best balances its licence obligations and environmental considerations, and continues to work with statutory bodies and local stakeholders to look at how to mitigate potential impacts. More information about how SPEN appraised routing and siting options for the proposed new infrastructure can be found in the <i>Denny-Wishaw Network Upgrade Preferred Route Option Update Report (December 2024)</i> , which is available on the project website.
Visual impact	The increase size of masts will blight the landscape. Having examined the detailed map I can see that no amount of tree shielding will suffice	As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) an assessment of potential landscape and visual impacts will be undertaken in accordance with Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd edition) (GLVIA3). This will identify potential impacts and relevant mitigation measures including the development of a landscape plan. The visual assessment undertaken as part of the EIA includes representative viewpoints and will determine the degree of anticipated change to visual amenity experienced.
Impact on local community	The route will cause visual impact and be a detriment to business & health especially within our property. It will also have an effect on our property values.	We recognise that the potential visual impact of transmission infrastructure may be an issue for local communities and individuals, and our approach to routing and siting new electricity infrastructure is to use the landscape to reduce visual effects wherever possible, and to maximise the distance of the final project from properties, wherever possible. Potential effects on individual properties from this project are considered as part of the detailed routing and siting stage. More information can be found in the <i>Denny-Wishaw Network Upgrade Preferred Route Option Update Report (December 2024)</i> , which is available on the project website. There is no evidence that new electricity transmission infrastructure has a detrimental effect on property values. A recent report by BIGGAR Economics found no adverse effects on property prices following construction of the Beaulieu-Denny overhead transmission line. This report can be found on the Scottish Renewables website at https://www.scottishrenewables.com/publications/1714-house-prices-impact-of-beaulieu-denny-grid-infrastructure

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Impact on traffic	Safety concerns regarding the new road/entrance on Forest Rd	The proposed vehicular access/egress requires planning permission and shall therefore form part of the planning application to be assessed by North Lanarkshire Council Planners, in consultation with their Internal Roads department, who shall scrutinise the design and traffic/pedestrian safety matters associated with the proposed road. Furthermore, a Traffic Management Plan, which seeks to ensure safety associated with vehicle activity, shall be submitted with the forthcoming planning application.
	Increased road traffic	For a project of this size there will always be some temporary disruption during construction. We will work closely with affected landowners and local communities to ensure clear communication of the timing of proposed work.
	We all have dreadful memories of the constant disruption caused when Bonnybridge substation was linked to the Wind Farm near Carronbridge. Our roads still bear the scar.	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. Traffic and Transport impacts will also be considered in the EIA including a traffic management plan.
Overhead line route	The upgrade of the route should follow already established pathways and network routes	We appraised each option for its impact on a range of criteria including local views, the character of the landscape, biodiversity, forestry, cultural heritage and flood risk and other land uses. Our preferred route (a swathe of land within which an overhead line could be installed), is the one that we believe achieves the best balance between technical requirements and minimising the impact on the environment and the people, who live, work and enjoy spending time in the area. More information can be found in the <i>Denny-Wishaw Network Upgrade Preferred Route Option Update Report (December 2024)</i> , which is available on the project website.
	The line is passing over historical places of interest + wet lands for conservation, peat lands, farm land etc.	The routing 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. Established guidelines for routing 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. SPEN believes the preferred route for the new overhead line best balances its licence obligations and environmental considerations, and continues to work with statutory bodies and local stakeholders to look at how to mitigate potential impacts. More information about

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Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

		how SPEN appraised routing and siting options for the proposed new infrastructure can be found in the <i>Denny-Wishaw Network Upgrade Preferred Route Option Update Report (December 2024)</i> , which is available on the project website.
Impact on human health	The project will have major health implication to the housing and people living close and nearby as studies have shown links to cancer.	SP Energy Networks complies with the guidelines on exposure to Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs) published by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), which have been adopted as UK Government policy. The UK electricity industry designs all new equipment to comply with the guidelines. Full information can be found at https://emfs.info/
	This is cause for major concern regarding health please be accurate to the public of the fall out of these high voltage pylons and explain exactly what the voltage will entail	
Cumbernauld substation	The substation at Cumbernauld already has made a substantial impact on the areas it is located. If this substation is increased in size & capacity it will further impact the environment & surrounding wildlife and protected environment	With regard to the potential 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. The EIA will include details of Biodiversity Net Gain proposals.
Bonnybridge substation	The proportionate increase in local usage due to substation expansion does not present cause for concern.	Noted.
Need for the project	Who exactly is this expansion serving? We require a greener usage of energy, not more power and endless expense.	The UK and Scottish Governments have set legally binding targets to reach net zero in greenhouse gas emissions and end their contributions to climate change by 2050 and 2045 in the Climate Change Act 2008 and Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 respectively. Decarbonisation of the energy sector is a central pillar of both governments' net zero strategies meaning the way in which energy is generated, transported and used is undergoing transformational change. Traditional fossil fuel-based forms of generation are being retired and replaced by renewable and low carbon sources of energy generation including onshore and offshore wind as well as being supported by increased interconnection with Europe. Offshore wind is a critical component of the UK Government's energy strategy with targets to increase installed capacity from around 10 gigawatts (GW)

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Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade
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		today to 40GW by 2030 and then increased to 50GW by 2030. Similarly in Scotland, the Scottish Government's Offshore Wind Policy Statement identifies a target of up to 11 GW of installed offshore wind capacity in Scottish Waters by 2030. These onshore and offshore wind targets were most recently reaffirmed in the Scottish Government's Green Industrial Strategy published in September 2024. 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 energy. This reinforcement includes upgrading some existing overhead lines from 275kV to 400kV to increase their capacity, and building the proposed new overhead transmission line between Bonnybridge and a point near Glenmavis, enabling the additional green electricity to flow into the wider transmission network. The Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade is needed because the high-voltage transmission network in central Scotland will soon be at full capacity – unable to accommodate all the clean, green renewable energy we will all need in future. It will link up existing transmission lines and allow an additional 1,000MW (megawatts) of green energy to flow through the electricity transmission network, helping Scotland and the UK meet Net Zero climate change targets.
Quality of consultation	Public consultation was poorly advertised/marketed with little notice to those who would be impacted!	We first consulted on our draft proposals in 2021. Since then we have updated the plans and from January to April 2025, we held a first round of pre-application consultation on the revised proposals. Prior to both of these consultation periods, the consultation events were advertised in local newspapers, and a leaflet was sent to homes and businesses in the local area. In addition to this Pre-Application Consultation, SPEN has continued to engage with stakeholders and landowners throughout the project development process. The Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade contact centre (Freephone, email and Freepost address) has also remained available throughout, 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.
	I attended the Bonnybridge meeting and felt that the maps provided were insufficient and arduous to read.	Large-scale maps printed at A0 size were available to view at the public exhibitions, where members of the project team were also available to answer detailed questions. An interactive map is also available on the project website, allowing people to zoom in on specific locations. This can be found at: https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/98c8c9668558469faf59f57bf14c39/

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Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

	The personnel in attendance at Bonnybridge were professional, helpful and friendly in answering my questions.	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 taken into account throughout the planning process. Striking the right balance can be challenging, and in seeking to achieve this, SPEN recognises the importance of consulting effectively on proposals and being transparent about the decisions reached. SPEN 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 development of a project and continues into construction once consent has been granted.
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Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

4. Next steps

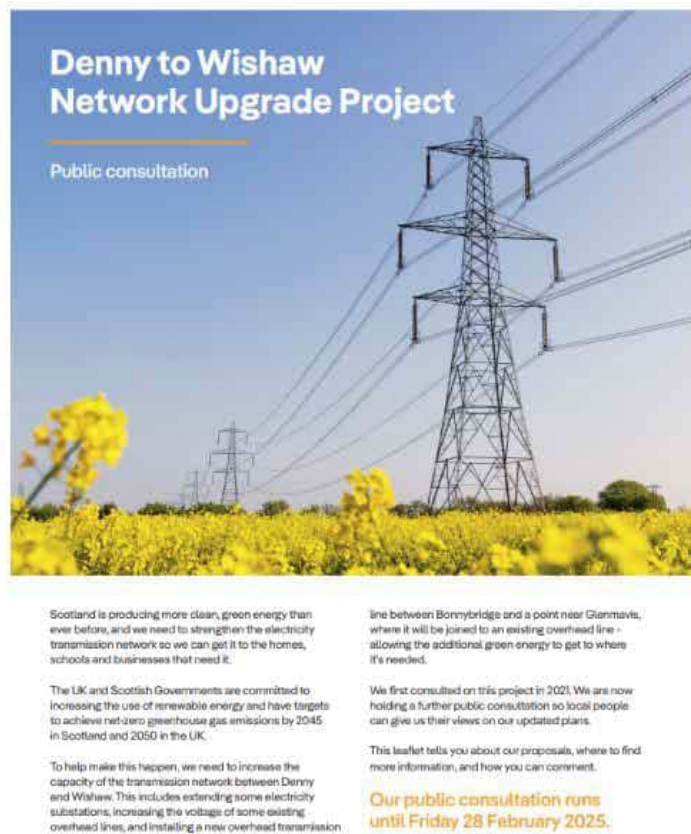
Following the first round of the pre application consultation, SPEN will develop a detailed design for the substation layout, taking into account the comments received from the public. These revised proposals will be presented at a second round of consultation.

Once the second round of consultation is complete, SPEN will carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Following completion of the EIA, SPEN will prepare a detailed development and design proposal and submit an application to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989. Additional planning applications will also be submitted to both Falkirk Council and North Lanarkshire Council. The Councils will then invite representations from local people and stakeholders before deciding whether to grant planning permission, and to inform any conditions that may be required under permission.

Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

5. 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 first consulted on this project in 2021. 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 until Friday 28 February 2025.

Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)



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, Easterhouse, Newarthill, Coatbridge 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 110kV overhead line (CB route) between Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld substations;

- Extending our existing substations at Bonnybridge, Denny North, Cumbernauld, Wishaw and Easterhouse so we can install additional electrical equipment and carry out associated landscaping, drainage, access and 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
- 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.

Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)



Public consultation

Our public consultation runs from Monday 27 January to Friday 28 February 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
Wednesday 29 January, 2pm to 7pm	Newarthill Community Facility , High Street, Newarthill ML1 5JU
Thursday 30 January, 4pm to 8pm	Muirfield Community Centre , 1a South Muirhead Road, Cumbernauld G67 1AX
Friday 31 January, 2pm to 7pm	Pather Community Centre , Caledonian Road, Pather, Wishaw ML2 9HZ
Tuesday 04 February, 2pm to 7pm	Gartcosh Social Club , Beard Crescent, Eastgate, Gartcosh G69 6AT
Wednesday 05 February, 5:30pm to 7pm	Bonnybridge Community Education Centre , Bridge Street, Bonnybridge FK4 1AA
Thursday 06 February, 2pm to 7pm	Glenmavis Community Facility , 107 Coatbridge Road, Glenmavis ML6 0NU

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.

Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)



What happens next?

Following this public consultation we will develop 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 will publish a report summarising the feedback received and how this has influenced our proposals.

We will then carry out a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment and hold a further round of public consultation, so that people can give us their views on the detailed route alignment and substation proposals.

After considering that additional feedback we will finalise our proposals and submit applications for consent.

For the proposed new overhead line, alterations to existing overhead lines and the increase in voltages, we need to submit applications to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989. The applications will be considered by the Scottish Ministers.

For the substation extensions, we need to submit planning applications to Falkirk Council and North Lanarkshire Council under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).

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.



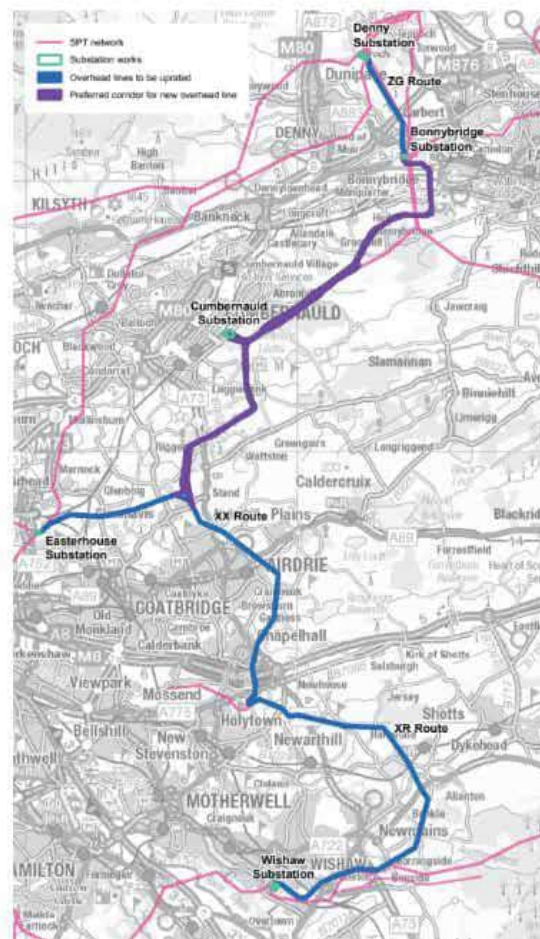


How to contact us

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 First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)





Our preferred route

The map shows our preferred route for the new overhead line, the existing overhead line to be updated and the substation to be replaced.

SP Energy Networks will endeavour to consider the following potential issues for the new overhead line corridor:

- The existing overhead line corridor is a mix of overhead and underground lines.
- The new overhead line corridor will be a mix of overhead and underground lines.
- The new overhead line corridor will be a mix of overhead and underground lines.

Our preferred route is a mix of overhead and underground lines. The overhead lines will be a mix of overhead and underground lines. The underground lines will be a mix of overhead and underground lines.

The preferred route is a mix of overhead and underground lines. The overhead lines will be a mix of overhead and underground lines. The underground lines will be a mix of overhead and underground lines.

A new 110kV overhead line will be built to replace the existing 110kV overhead line. The new overhead line will be a mix of overhead and underground lines.

The preferred route is a mix of overhead and underground lines. The overhead lines will be a mix of overhead and underground lines. The underground lines will be a mix of overhead and underground lines.

However, the final decision of the preferred route and the alternative route will be made by the Planning and Construction Committee of our parent company, along with the Planning and Construction Committee of our parent company, along with the Planning and Construction Committee of our parent company.



Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

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 help make this happen 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.

There would be a 'spur' from the new line to Cumbernauld substation, allowing us to remove the existing 132kV overhead line between Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld.

We will also need to increase the voltage of some existing overhead lines from 275kV to 400kV, and carry out substation improvement works at Denny North, Bonnybridge, Cumbernauld, Easterhouse and Wishaw.

We consulted on our initial plans in 2021. 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

Wednesday 29 January, 2pm to 7pm:
Newarthill Community Facility, High Street, Newarthill ML1 5JU

Thursday 30 January, 4pm to 8pm:
Muirfield Community Centre, 1a South Muirhead Road, Cumbernauld G67 1AX

Friday 31 January, 2pm to 7pm:
Pather Community Centre, Caledonian Road, Wishaw ML2 9HZ

Tuesday 04 February, 2pm to 7pm:
Gartcosh Social Club, Beard Crescent, Eastgate, Gartcosh G69 8AT

Wednesday 06 February, 2pm to 7pm:
Bonnybridge Community Education Centre, Bridge Street, Bonnybridge FK4 1AA

Thursday 06 February, 2pm to 7pm:
Glenmavis Community Facility, 107 Coatbridge Road, Glenmavis ML6 0NJ

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 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 until Friday 28 February 2025.

Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

Appendix C: Exhibition boards

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 3700 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




**SP Energy
Networks**



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.

Our network is also crucial to the delivery of wider renewable energy objectives, due to its position in an area of outstanding renewable resource and our geographical location. We have a unique role in connecting renewable energy and transferring it from Scotland into England and Wales, benefiting stakeholders, society and the fight against climate change.

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 Denny, Bonnybridge, Cumbernauld, Easterhouse, Newarthill, Coatbridge and Wishaw.

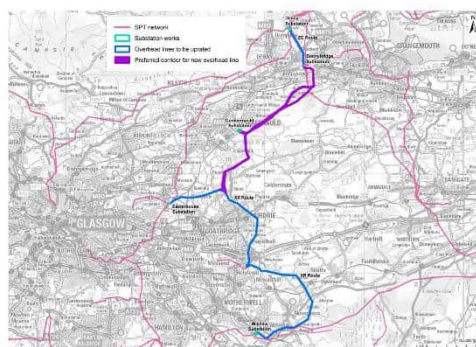
Our planning work with the National Energy System Operator (NESO) has identified that, for the UK to meet its Net Zero carbon emissions targets, we need to reinforce the network between Denny and Wishaw so it has extra capacity to transmit the additional green energy.

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, Wishaw and Easterhouse to house new 400kV transformers and other equipment.

Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

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-Newarthill overhead line.

Our preferred 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 preferred 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-Newarthill 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 Crantown 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.

Our preferred route (a swathe of land within which an overhead line could be installed), 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.

You can find full details of the preferred route and the alternatives we considered, our routing strategy and the findings of our options appraisal process, 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 our existing substations at Bonnybridge, Denny North, Cumbernauld, Wishaw 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.

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.

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.



Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

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.



To make sure that local communities benefit from this transition, we have been funding community projects that boost social, economic and environmental wellbeing.



That is how we do our part at making this transition fair for everyone.



From 2019 to 2021, we delivered over £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
- 58 new jobs created and 647 supported indirectly



Our ESm 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.

- Tailored Community Workshops to explore solutions to local Net Zero challenges
- Project Planning and Feasibility Support to develop robust project plans
- Funding Net Zero community initiatives which support vulnerable groups of people

The UK Government is also developing guidance for Community Benefit Funding for communities that host new transmission infrastructure projects.

We are awaiting publication of this guidance, but we want to be ready to start delivering for our communities when it's in place.

We have shared our initial proposal in our Community Benefit Consultation and incorporated community funding into our RIIO-T3 Business Plan, which will be published in December 2024.

You can find out more on our website at www.spenetworks.co.uk/communityfunding

Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

We want to
hear your views!





Our public consultation runs from Monday 27 January 2025 to Friday 28 February 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 now we want to hear what local people think about our updated plans, to help us develop the project in the best way.

Please give us your views on our preferred route for the proposed new overhead line, the proposed substation extensions 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?





Following this public consultation we will develop 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 will publish a report summarising the feedback received and how this has influenced our proposals. We will then carry out a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment and hold a further round of public consultation, so that people can give us their views on the detailed route alignment and substation proposals.

After considering that additional feedback we will finalise our proposals and submit applications for consent.

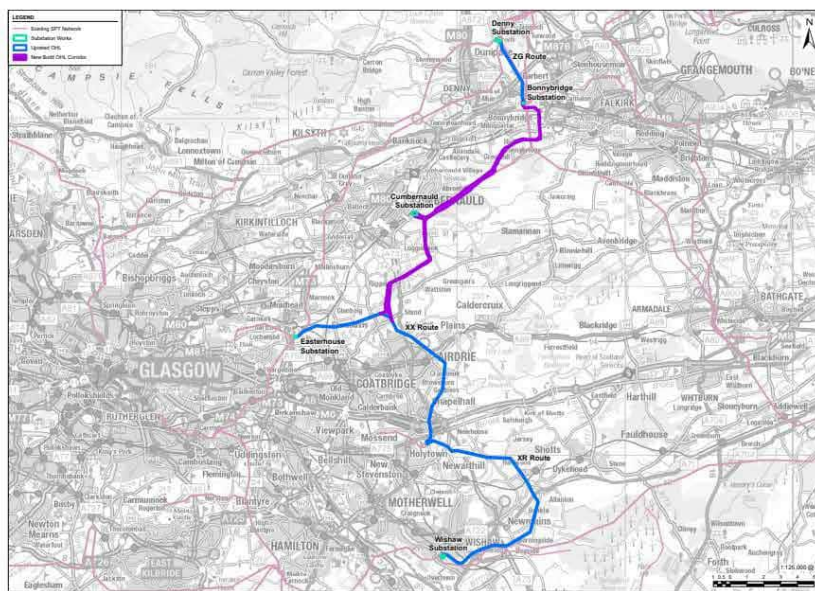
For the proposed new overhead line, alterations to existing overhead lines and the increases in voltage, we need to submit applications to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989. The applications will be considered by the Scottish Ministers.

For the substation extensions, we need to submit planning applications to Falkirk Council and North Lanarkshire Council under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).

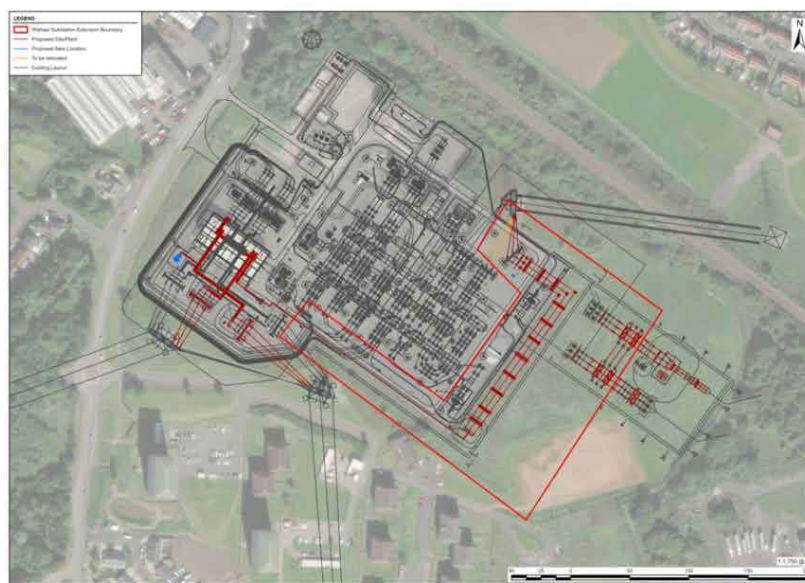
At this stage, your comments are not representations to the planning authorities. When we submit applications for development consent in the future, you will be able to make formal representations at that stage.

Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

Appendix D: Red line boundary and proposed route

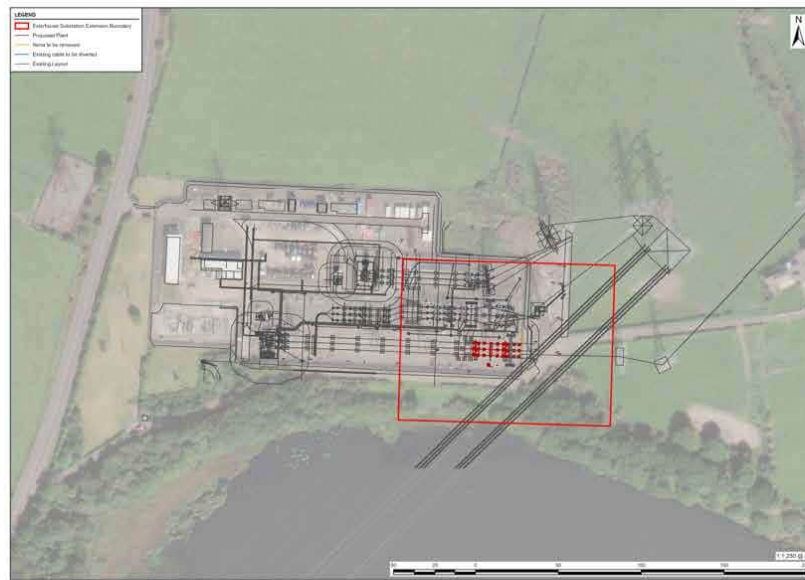


Wishaw Substation



Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade
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Easterhouse Substation



Denny North



Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

Cumbernauld Substation



Bonnybridge Substation



6.4 Appendix D: PAC 2 feedback report

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



Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade Project

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

February 2026

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

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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, uprating 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 uprating 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

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

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;

Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade
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.

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

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.

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

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

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Summary of feedback from second round of pre-application consultation

- 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.

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

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

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		technically sustainable in the long term." "No comment, happy with the proposals." "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." "Seems like a good idea." "It is needed." "Pleased to see improvements to the delivery of electricity within our area." "If this is essential then go ahead."	line between Bonnybridge and a point near Glenmavis, allowing the additional green electricity to flow into the wider transmission network.
	Opposition to the scheme Respondents expressed concern about the location of masts and the use of overhead lines.	"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	The routing 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. Established guidelines for routing 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.

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

		am strongly against the new line."	You can find out more about how we develop routes in the <i>Approach to Routing and Environmental Impact Assessment</i> document, which is available to view on our Proposed Route page. You can find detailed information specific to the routing of the proposed new Bonnybridge to Glenmavis overhead line in the <i>Routing 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. 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.
	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.

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

	Respondents felt satisfied with the project's consultation, although they suggested a stronger advertisement would have been preferable.	and consultation undertaken throughout the process." "The Public consultation has been good, and continue to feed through the local councillor." "Thank you for making us welcome and listening [to] and understanding our comments." "I would suggest a more aggressive consultation awareness strategy (digital and post) or at the very least a later 'mop up' public session." "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." "Well organised, although I don't think it's been well advertised." "No problems at all. I spoke to your staff at the open day and was very happy with the	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. In addition to the two rounds of PAC, SP Energy Networks has continued to engage with stakeholders and landowners throughout the project development process. 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.
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Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade
Summary of feedback from second round of pre-application consultation

		information I received and the welcoming nature of them." "Very helpful and interesting staff at Bonnybridge." "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."	
	Community engagement Respondents suggested how to engage with the community and what should be promoted.	"Promote that you are not affecting the parking or access to the woodland walks to the west." "We need a point of contact to work with." "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."	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. 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. 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.

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Community benefit	Community benefits Respondents believe the project will benefit the community.	"Look forward to the benefits this extension will bring to communities and the wider energy network."	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.
	Improvement to the existing area and facilities 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.	"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	Noted, thank you for the suggestion.

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		appreciated by the community."	
Cumulative impact	Inter-project cumulative impact (i.e. other regional projects) Respondents expressed concern about the volume of overhead lines in the area.	"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."	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 uprating existing OHLs from 275kV to 400kV, extending existing substations and constructing an electrical plant within existing substations. 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: • 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;

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			• 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. In this instance, these factors are not applicable.
	Intra-project cumulative impact (i.e. impact of infrastructure combined) Respondents support the upgraded transmission network but expressed concern about the cumulative impact of development in the area.	"This development represents a significant step forward in strengthening Scotland's transmission network, improving reliability, and facilitating the transition to renewable energy sources." "Define to the public that your project is not connected in any way to housing development." "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	SP Energy Networks can confirm the DWNO project is not connected to any proposed residential development or any other development. 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. 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.

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		material impact on the desirability and in turn value of our land and may actually put the entire project in jeopardy."	
People	Health and safety Respondents expressed concern about road safety for the project's duration.	"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." "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	SP Energy Networks works to very strict health and safety requirements when designing our transmission equipment (including the Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004). 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.

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		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."	
	Disruption Respondents expressed concerns about the noise of infrastructure and construction, as well as the disruption to public access and traffic.	"I would like to understand the finer details such as access, noise, traffic impact and such on works required at Towers – XX020." "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." "The proposed route will cross the parkrun course in 3 places: 1. Between WVB022 and WVB023, 2. Between WVB021A and WVB021B, 3. Between WVB021 and WVB020. We hold our event weekly at 9.30am and are on-site 7.30am–11am."	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. 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. 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. 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. 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. The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), which shall accompany the applications for Section 37 consent, will include a noise

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			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). 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.
Environment	Environmental impact Respondents expressed concern about tree-felling, and the protection of historical and wildlife areas.	"We need to better understand the impact of tree-felling." "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." "I hope historical and wildlife areas are left untouched." "Protect Rough Castle Fort."	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. The EIA will include details of Biodiversity Net Gain proposals such as landscaping and restoration. 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. 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.

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			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. The EIAR shall include a Cultural Heritage and Ecology chapter explaining efforts to minimise impact and any proposed mitigation.
	Biodiversity impact Respondents expressed concern about replanting and the impact the development has on wildlife and its habitat.	"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." "Just hope wildlife isn't in any danger." "No consideration has been given to the flight path of migrating birds ... or the destruction of natural habitats."	Please see the above response regarding our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which will be conducted accordingly. The EIAR shall include a section on ornithology, detailing the findings of survey results and any required mitigation.
	Coal Response from the Coal Authority	"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	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.

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		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."	
Indicative design	Visual impact	"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

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	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.	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." "What is not particularly clear is whether the existing Towers – XX020 will be removed and decommissioned." "The proposed location of the overhead lines is detrimental to our intention for the land that we own and as the	where the substation shall be extended. Connecting downloads on the eastern side of the substation would not be feasible given two existing OHLs enter the substation on the eastern side. 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. 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.
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		intention was residential development, having the kV of the overhead lines increased will undoubtedly have detrimental impacts with planning." "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." "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: • WID14059 ZG002 • WID14059 ZD095	
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		• 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.
	Cable route – underground Respondents prefer underground cabling and have questioned the cable route.	"Would have preferred underground cabling rather than pylons but recognise cost implications." "Put the cables underground." "I feel this route is taking the wrong route across unspoilt countryside." "These lines should be going underground."	Under the Electricity Act 1989, SP Energy Networks is required to consider technical, economic and environmental matters, and reach a balance between them. High-voltage, high-capacity overhead lines are the proven choice for the bulk transmission of electricity throughout the world based on economy and reliability. 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 Routing and Environmental Impact Assessment (opens in a new window) document, which is available on our website.
Construction	Traffic management Respondents expressed concern about traffic management measures at Fannyside Road, Forrest Road,	"Consider the condition and type of road that Fannyside Road is during the works. [It's] a floating road and single track." "Think carefully around traffic management on Forrest Road." "As part of your design can you address the surface"	These suggestions are noted. Traffic and transport impacts will be considered in the Environmental Impact Assessment, including a traffic management plan.

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	Bonnybridge, Falkirk and Beam Road.	water run off that comes onto Forrest Road from the existing entrance." "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." "What level of road/traffic disruption will this cause?" "Beam Road will have massive amounts of heavy traffic on it if construction begins, where are the mitigating measures for road users?"	
	Construction impact Respondents felt that further consultation and information sharing at the construction	"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	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. 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

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	phase would be beneficial.	caused a lot of ill will in the community and this although not connected will have an adverse effect on your project." "We need to better understand the impact of ... decommissioning, construction and excavation, tower erection, fitting of wires and reinstalment." "Access to the park will be impacted by work at the substation and works in general – there is significant footfall from Abrohill and South Cumbernauld to Palacerigg park which needs to be protected."	site. This involves removing all hardware, including conductors and fittings, dismantling towers and removal of foundations to a depth of 1.5m. "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. "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. "Where possible, existing SPT wayleaves will be used to provide access to CB Towers for dismantling works." Tower construction "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." Foundation – Lattice towers "Subject to ground conditions encountered during GI works, a typical arrangement at each tower comprises a raft foundation with neck
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			extension for each of the 4 lattice tower legs. Dependent on ground conditions, alternative piled or rock anchor solution shall be selected." Pad and column "Foundation is excavated to a typical depth of 4m." Rock anchor "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." Wiring operation "Prior to wiring operations, Equip-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. "Major items of plant required include a 20t excavator for site preparation, flatbed wagon to transport conductor and plant to location and Haggund (or similar) for running out pilot bonds. A puller/tensioner with ancillary equipment for pulling operations and a telehandler for mounting conductor drums. "While the use of existing access tracks will be required for construction, access to Palacerigg Country Park will be maintained."
	Construction timeline Respondents expressed concern about	"There was also a large discrepancy in the estimates of how long the project would take in Palacerigg Country	Construction will be carried out on the proposed overhead line (VWB route) between Glenmavis and Cumbernauld between April 2029 and February 2030. On this section of the overhead line are 23 towers.

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	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;
- 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).

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.