



# **Dalquhandy Wind Farm Grid Connection**



# Welcome

---

Welcome to this public exhibition regarding our proposals to construct a new 132 kilovolt (kV) overhead line (OHL) supported by wood poles to connect the consented Dalquhandy wind farm to the existing Coalburn substation, approximately 2.5 km north east of Coalburn.

## **This exhibition provides information on:**

- The design principles that are used to identify a route for a new overhead line;
- How a Preferred Route has been identified;
- Where the Preferred Route is located; and
- What feedback we would like at this stage.

## **Who we are**

---

SP Energy Networks (SPEN) is part of the Scottish Power group and owns and operates the network of cables, overhead power lines and substations transporting electricity to customers in central and southern Scotland.

**SP Transmission plc (SPT) is a regulated electricity network business owned by SPEN, with the following responsibilities under the Electricity Act 1989:**

- To develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical system of electricity transmission
- To facilitate competition in the generation and supply of electricity; and
- To offer non-discriminatory terms for connection to the transmission system, both for new generation and for new sources of electricity demand.

Under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989, SP Energy Networks is required to seek consent from the Scottish Ministers for the construction of any non-exempted overhead line operating at a voltage greater than 20 kilovolts (kV). Electricity networks like this provide a physical link between electricity generators and electricity users.

Throughout the life of our projects, we aim to work positively with local communities and keep people informed about what we are doing. This is particularly important when we are developing a proposal and want to understand what local people think about our plans.

## **Questions**

---

- Do you have any comments regarding the rationale for the project?
- Do you have any comments regarding the approach to selection of the preferred route?
- Are there any factors, or environmental features, that you consider may have been overlooked during the routing process?
- Do you have any other comments about the preferred route?



# Project Need

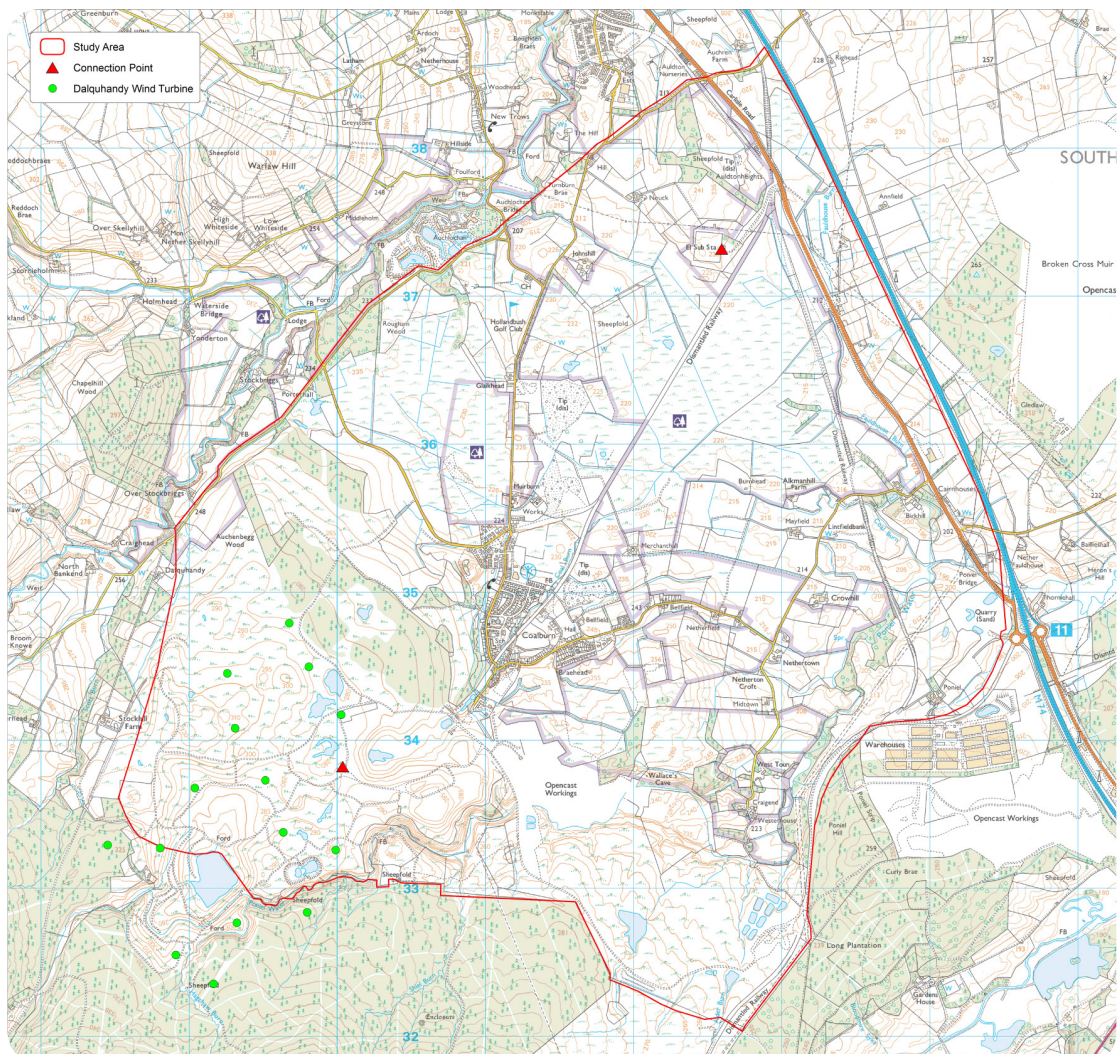
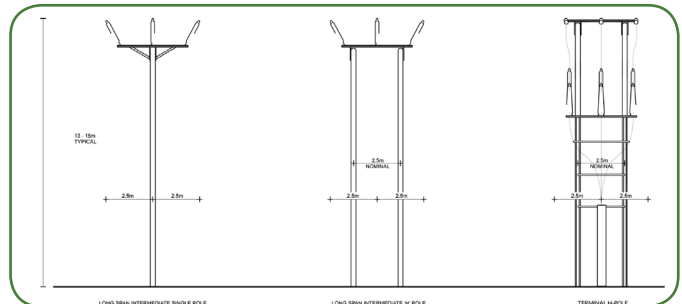
## What's the Need?

SP Transmission has received a Grid Connection Application from the developers of the Dalquhandy wind farm. Dalquhandy wind farm was consented by South Lanarkshire Council in February 2016.

The proposed grid connection will comprise an overhead line which will run from a substation on the Dalquhandy wind farm site to the existing Coalburn substation, approximately 2.5 km north east of Coalburn.

The map below shows the location of Dalquhandy wind farm and Coalburn substation.

The image below shows the typical wood pole structure designs. Wood poles would typically be 15 m in height and would have an average span length of between 130 m to 155 m.



# Routeing Guidance

---

The Holford Rules are used to guide the routeing process. These rules were first established in 1959 by Sir William Holford and continue to inform transmission line routeing in the UK

## Rule 1:

At the outset, plan the general route so that it avoids altogether, if possible, the major areas of highest amenity value or international and national designation

## Rule 2:

Ensure that the route also avoids smaller areas of high amenity value or scientific interest, by deviation; provided that this can be done without using too many angle towers to change direction



*Typical wood pole overhead line  
(Image courtesy of LUC)*

## Rule 3:

Where possible, choose the most direct line, with no sharp changes of direction

## Rule 4:

Select tree and hill backgrounds in preference to sky background



*View of existing wood pole overhead line south of Coalburn,  
South Lanarkshire*

## Rule 5:

Select open valleys with woods, where the apparent height of the towers will be reduced and the views of the line will be broken by trees



*View of existing wood pole overhead line, within valley  
at Chirmorie, south of Barrhill*

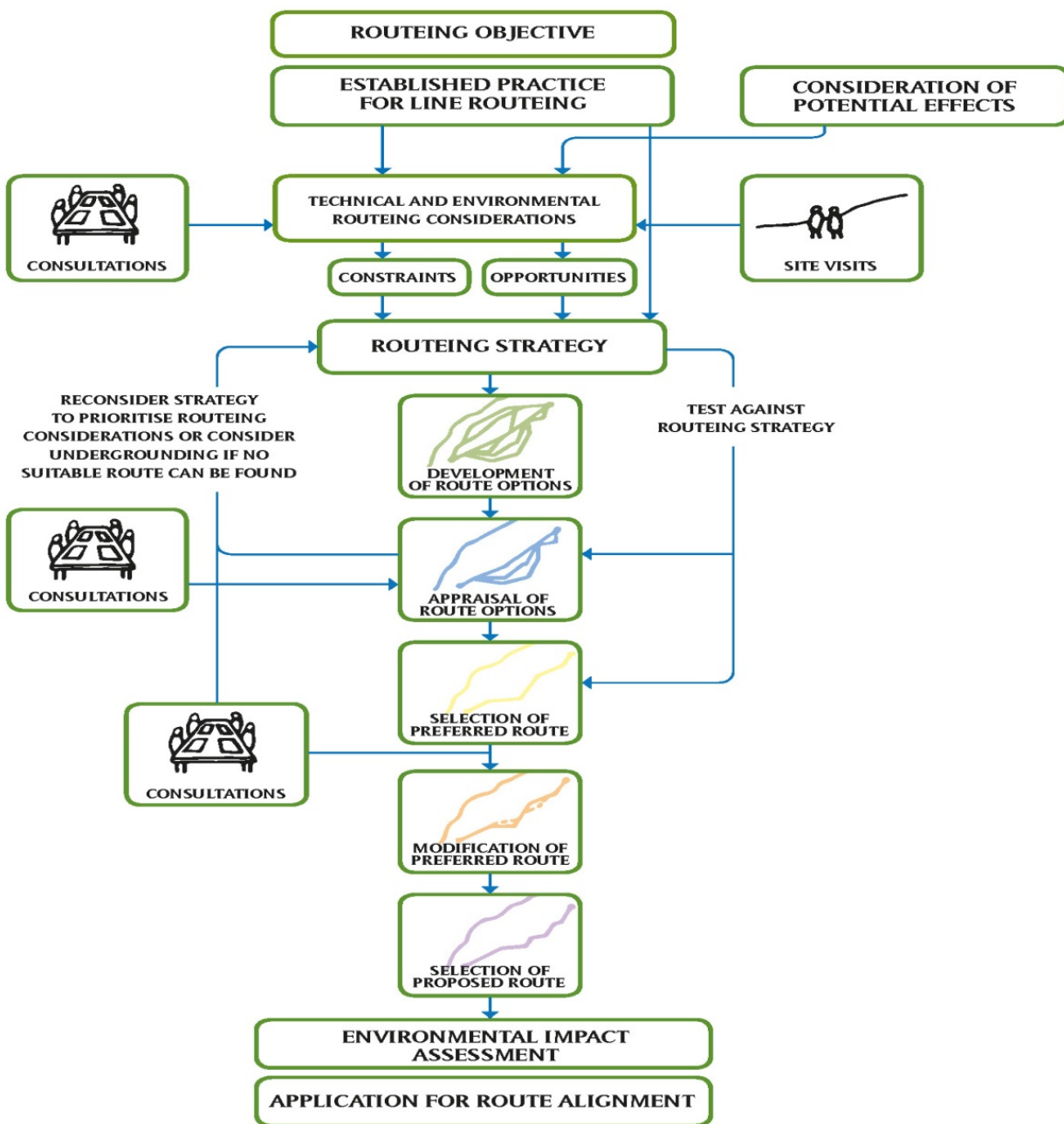
## Rule 6:

In country which is flat and sparsely planted, keep the higher voltage lines as far as possible independent of smaller lines and other masts so as to avoid a concentration or 'wirescape'

## Rule 7:

Approach urban areas through industrial zones where they exist and, if this is not possible, consider undergrounding any lower voltage lines



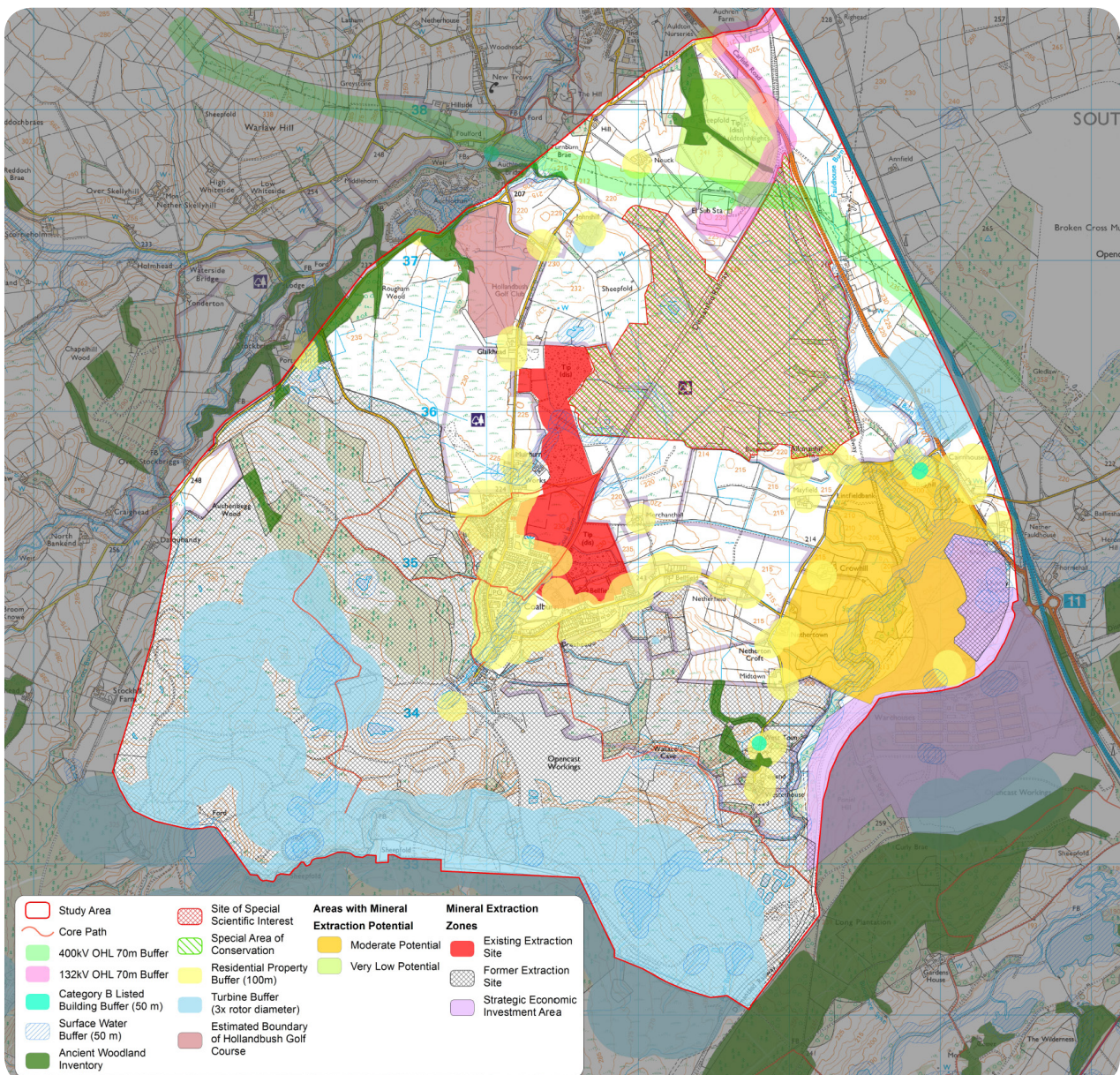


# Technical and Enviromental Routeing Considerations

The initial study area was defined as the area between the Dalquhandy wind farm to the south and the existing Coalburn substation to the northeast. The main environmental and technical constraints in the area between these two points are:

- residential dwellings in and around Coalburn;
- the Coalburn Moss Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI);
- water bodies, including Poniel Water, Coal Burn and Fauldhouse Burn;
- areas of designated ancient woodland;
- various proposed and existing wind farm developments; and
- existing mineral extraction consents for Auchlochan Bing and Bellfield Bing.

The map below shows the location of the study area and key environmental and technical constraints.





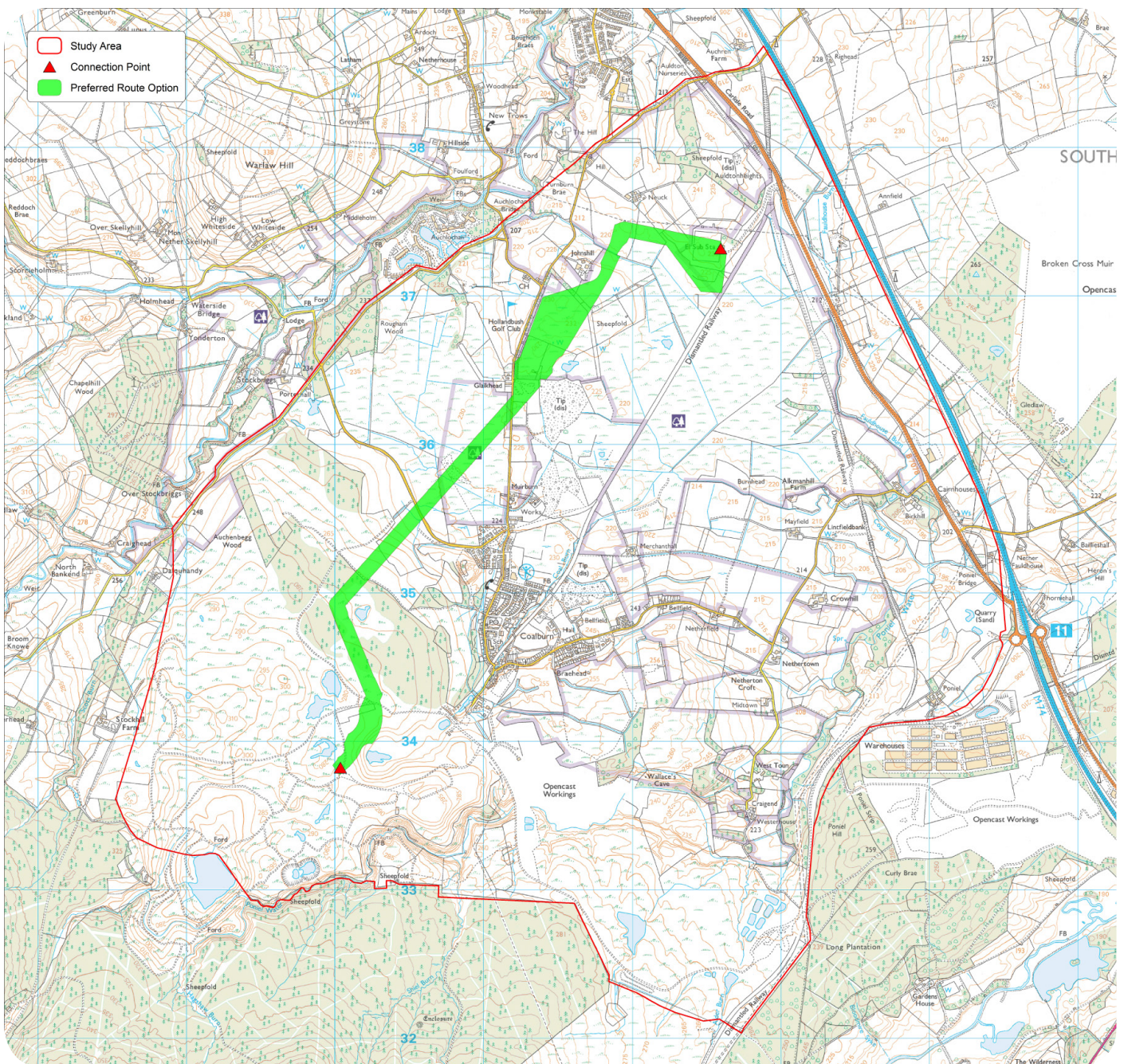
# Route Options and Preferred Route

A number of possible route options were identified through analysis of the environmental and technical constraints within the study area. This approach focussed on avoiding or minimising interaction with the key environmental and socio-economic constraints.

The route options were analysed and compared, and a Preferred Route was identified, as illustrated below.



- The Preferred Route would have a lesser impact in terms of visual amenity and landscape impacts;
- The Preferred Route lies at a distance from the western boundary of Coalburn and avoids Coalburn Moss SAC;
- The Preferred Route would have a lesser impact on cultural heritage features in the eastern part of the study area.







# What Happens Now?

---

## Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to find out about our proposals for the Dalquhandy wind farm grid connection OHL. Your comments are valuable to us in the next steps of this project.

A Routeing Strategy Consultation Document on the preferred route was published in May 2017. An electronic copy of this can be found on the project website:

[www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/dalquhandy\\_wind\\_farm\\_grid\\_connection.aspx](http://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/dalquhandy_wind_farm_grid_connection.aspx)

Please provide comments to us by **30th June 2017**.

Please note that any comments made during the Consultation Stage are not representations to The Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, who will determine any subsequent application for consent.

Following the submission of the Section 37 Application, interested parties will have the opportunity to make representations to the Scottish Government on these proposals.

## What Happens Next?

Following this consultation, it is possible that some changes to the Preferred Route will be suggested as a result of the emergence of new information. The suggested changes would be evaluated and, if necessary, subjected to additional consultation.

Once we have received all comments on the Preferred Route for the proposed Dalquhandy wind farm grid connection, we will confirm the location of the Proposed Route.

The Proposed Route will then be taken forward for further assessment and consultation as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. The EIA will be submitted to the Scottish Government as part of an application for section 37 consent under the Electricity Act 1989. The application will be developed for submission in 2018.

# Dalquhandy Wind Farm Grid Connection Project



Thank you for taking the time to attend this information event. In order to record your views and improve the effectiveness of our consultation, please complete this short feedback form.

**Consultation event location:-** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:-** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your contact details** - Please use BLOCK CAPITALS to ensure we can contact you about any updates.

Full name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

*By providing your contact details, you consent to SP Energy Networks contacting you in relation to the above project. Your details will not be used for any other purpose.*

## About the event

How did you find out about the event?

Is there anything you think we could do to improve the format of events like this?

## About the project

Do you have any comments regarding the rationale for the project?





**Do you have any comments regarding the approach to the selection of the preferred route?**

**Are there any factors or environmental features you consider may have been overlooked or given either insufficient or too much consideration during the routing process?**

**Do you have any other comments about the preferred route of the overhead line?**

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this feedback form. Please hand your completed form in at the event or alternatively by one of the methods below:**

**Post:** Colin Wylie, Community Liaison Manager, Ochil House, 10 Technology Avenue,  
Hamilton International Technology Park, Blantyre, G72 0HT

**Email:** [DalquhandyConnectionProject@spenergynetworks.co.uk](mailto:DalquhandyConnectionProject@spenergynetworks.co.uk)

**Closing Date for feedback is: 30th June 2017**

**The feedback form all information provided at the event can also be downloaded on the dedicated website:**  
[www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/dalquhandy\\_wind\\_farm\\_grid\\_connection.aspx](http://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/dalquhandy_wind_farm_grid_connection.aspx)

Any information given on this comments form may be used and published as part of SP Energy Networks consultation report. By completing this comments form you consent to SP Energy Networks using this information for these purposes. By providing contact details you consent to SP Energy Networks contacting you in relation to this proposal. Your details will not be used for any other purpose. If you wish your comments to remain anonymous, please tick the box at the end of this form. Please note that comments made to SP Energy Networks are not representations to the Scottish Government as consenting authority at this stage. The opportunity for lodging representations will be when the application is formally submitted to the Scottish Government for formal consideration.

☐

