



Eastern Green Link 4

**Proposed New High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) electrical link
connecting Fife, Scotland with Norfolk, England**

Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report

October 2025

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Executive summary

Eastern Green Link 4 (EGL4) is a proposed new high-voltage direct current (HVDC) electrical link connecting Fife in Scotland with Norfolk in England. It is being developed jointly by SP Energy Networks and National Grid Electricity Transmission.

This report summarises the pre-application consultation (PAC) carried out by SP Energy Networks for the Scottish elements of the project, involving:

- a proposed new converter station at Westfield, Ballingry;
- underground cables linking the converter station to the proposed landfall site at Kinghorn; and
- subsea cables within Scottish territorial waters.

SP Energy Networks carried out its first round of PAC with local residents and stakeholders on its initial proposals from Monday 8 April 2024 to Friday 10 May 2024. This included three drop-in public exhibitions: in Ballingry on Tuesday 23 April, in Auchtertool on Wednesday 24 April and in Kinghorn on Thursday 25 April.

Following consideration of feedback received, along with further technical and environmental assessments, SP Energy Networks published refined proposals and held a second round of PAC from Monday 12 May 2025 to Friday 6 June 2025. Similar to the first round of consultation, three drop-in public exhibitions were held on Tuesday 13 May, Wednesday 14 May and Thursday 15 May 2025 in Auchtertool, Ballingry and Kinghorn, respectively.

A final feedback event took place on Thursday 7 August 2025 in Kinghorn to present detailed proposals and demonstrate how responses received from the community and other stakeholders had influenced the development of project plans.

EGL4 is one of four similar projects being developed in partnership between SP Energy Networks and National Grid Electricity Transmission that will significantly increase the capacity of the electricity network between Scotland and England. EGL1 and EGL2 have already been consented and are moving towards construction, and EGL3 and EGL4 (this project) are in the development and assessment stage.

Western Link, a similar project linking Hunterston on the west coast of Scotland with Connah's Quay in North Wales, is already in operation.

1 Introduction

1.1 Need for the East Link Green 4 Project

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. As the country shifts away from traditional forms of fuel to heat homes, charge vehicles and power businesses, there is greater need for clean electricity.

The UK Government is also aiming for every home in the country to be powered by offshore wind and has set a 50GW offshore wind connections target by the early 2030s. Much of the new onshore and offshore wind generation is in or around Scotland, and the existing electricity network does not have enough capacity to transmit all the additional clean, green energy from where it is produced to where it is needed.

EGL4 is one of many new transmission upgrades that are planned in the UK to help reach these targets. The need for these projects has been identified through the Network Options Assessment (NOA), which is carried out every year by the National Electricity Systems Operator (NESO) 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.

1.2 The role of SP Energy Networks

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 and 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 proposals

EGL4 is a new HVDC electrical link that will connect Fife in Scotland with Norfolk in England. HVDC is the most efficient way to transmit large amounts of electricity over long distances. Converter stations are needed at each end to change the direct current (DC) electricity to and from alternating current (AC) electricity, so it can be used in our homes and businesses.

A major investment developed in partnership between SP Energy Networks and National Grid Electricity Transmission, EGL4 will be able to transmit up to 2GW of clean, green renewable energy – enough to power around 1.5 million homes. It is made up of three parts:

- a 530km subsea HVDC cable between Kinghorn, Fife and Anderby Creek, Lincolnshire;
- a 16.3km underground cable from Kinghorn to a new converter station at Westfield, near Ballingry, Fife; and
- a 100km underground cable from Anderby Creek to a new converter station near Walpole, Norfolk.

1.4 Purpose of this pre-application consultation report

This report provides an overview of the PAC activities carried out during the development of the Scottish elements of our proposals, and summarises the feedback received from local residents and stakeholders and how this has informed and influenced the iterative design of the scheme.

The report will be submitted alongside our consent applications. Examples of consultation materials are included as appendices.

2 Approach to pre-application consultation

2.1 Legislation and guidance

SP Energy Networks will be applying to Fife Council for planning permission in principle (PiP) under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for the proposed converter station, and full planning permission for the DC underground cable from the mean low water springs (MLWS) at the landfall site to the converter station and for the AC underground cable from the converter station to Westfield Substation.

SP Energy Networks is carrying out a voluntary Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which will accompany the planning applications.

The Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 and the Town and Country (Development Management Procedures) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 set out a number of requirements for PAC, with which SP Energy Networks has complied, as set out in the Statement of Compliance in Section 3 of this report.

The proposed marine cable within Scottish territorial waters will be subject to a separate marine licence application to the Scottish Government's Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) and will be supported by a marine environmental appraisal. There are separate PAC requirements for marine licensing (under the Marine Licensing (Pre-Application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 and a PAC report will also support that application.

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, co-ordinated 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 considers the effect of work on communities when putting forward proposals for new 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 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 development of a project and continues into construction once consent has been granted.

2.4 Approach to consultation

The strategy for consultation on EGL4 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;
- had access to the project team to ask questions directly about the project; and
- could put forward their own views and be confident that issues raised would be considered.

3 Statement of compliance

3.1 Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

Reference	Requirement summary	Compliance	PAC reference
Section 35A (1)	Prior to submitting an application, an applicant must comply with Section 35B	Complied with as set out below under Section 35B. Not a legal requirement but best-practice guidance.	N/A
Section 35B (2)	The prospective applicant must give notice (a proposal of application notice (PoAN)) to the relevant planning authority that an application is to be submitted.	The PoAN was submitted to Fife Council on 8 April 2025.	Appendix D
Section 35B (3)	A period of at least 12 weeks, but no more than 18 months, must elapse between the giving of the notice and submitting the application.	The application is anticipated to be submitted in Q4 2025, which is more than 12 weeks but less than 18 months from the submission of the PoAN.	N/A
Section 35B (4)(a)–(d)	A PoAN must contain the following information: a. a general description of the development to be carried out; b. the provision of a postal address for the site (if one applies); c. a plan showing the outline of the site at which the development is to be	Please see copy of PoAN, included in Appendix D which demonstrated that the information required was submitted. (a) The PoAN included the following description of the development: “Onshore parts of a subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Scotland and England comprising new converter station, approximately 14km of underground DC cable and less than 1km of AC cable to connect to Westfield Substation.”	Appendix D

carried out and sufficient to identify the site (if one applies); and

d. contact details for the prospective applicant.

(b) The location for the development was described as follows: "Converter station located on land east of Westfield Substation, south of the B9097. The underground cable extends from the converter station across predominantly agricultural land to a landfall north of Kinghorn." No postal address applies.

(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 site.

(d) Contact details for Claire Duffy of SP Energy Networks were provided on the PoAN form.

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 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 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 (see table below).

N/A

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 (see table below).

3.2 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013

Reference	Requirement	Compliance	PAC reference
Regulation 6	The PoAN must contain an account of the consultation the applicant intends to undertake (in addition to including information as to when such consultation is to take place, with whom and what form it will take).	The PoAN described the consultation to be undertaken as: “Two rounds of in-person drop-in events. First round of events on 13 to 15 May inclusive at Auchtertool Village Hall, Benarty Centre and Kinghorn Community Centre. 2nd round of events in late July/early August.” Feedback was also available outwith the events via the website.	Appendix D

Regulation 7 (1)	The prospective applicant is to consult every community council any part of whose area is within or adjoins the land where the Proposed Development is situated and provide a copy of the PoAN.	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: Kinghorn, Burntisland, Kirkcaldy West, Auchtertool, Cardenden, Benarty and Lochgelly Community Councils.	
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: Round 1 (2024), informal consultation: Tuesday 23 April, 2pm–7pm: Benarty Centre, Ballingry Wednesday 24 April, 9am–12.30pm: Auchtertool Village Hall Thursday 25 April, 3.30pm–7.30pm: Kinghorn Community Centre Round 2 (2025), statutory consultation: Tuesday 13 May, 2pm–7pm: Auchtertool Village Hall Wednesday 14 May, 2pm–7pm: Benarty Centre, Ballingry	Appendices A and B

		Thursday 15 May, 2pm–7pm: Kinghorn Community Centre	
		Round 3 (2025), feedback event:	
		Thursday 7 August, 2pm–7pm: Kinghorn Community Centre	
Regulation 7 (2)(b)	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) below, and (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,	Notices containing the required information were published in the <i>Fife Free Press</i>, <i>Glenrothes Gazette</i> and <i>The Courier</i> newspapers in two consecutive weeks prior to each round of consultation events. Copies of the notices are included in the appendices to this report. The notices include the points required by para. (2A).	Appendices A, B and C

(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.

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 first public event.

Notices advertising public events in each round of consultation were published in local newspapers for two consecutive weeks prior to the events taking place, as described above.

The final public event(s) took place in August 2025, which is more than 14 days after the previous public event in May 2025.

Appendices A, B and C

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.	Appendix C
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 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,	This document and its appendices constitute a PAC report, addressing all points listed under Regulation 7B. (b)(i) No additional consultation was requested by Fife Council.	N/A

(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 subparagraphs (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,

(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.

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 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 EGL4 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 recorded and presented to decision-makers to assist the consents process.

As part of the consultation strategy, SP Energy Networks held three rounds of consultation events for the public, stakeholders and consultees to view the proposals and provide feedback. The first non-statutory round took place in April 2024 and the second statutory round in May 2025. A final feedback event was held in August 2025 to provide feedback to members of the public on how comments and responses received during the consultations had influenced development of the proposals.

SP Energy Networks used a range of communication channels to publicise and promote the consultation events, 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: egl4@communityrelations.co.uk
- Freepost: FREEPOST SPEN EGL4
- Freephone: 0800 021 7890
- Online via the dedicated project website: egl4@communityrelations.co.uk
- Face-to-face or in writing at public consultation exhibitions

4.2 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 Fife Council, Members of Parliament (MP) and Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) whose constituencies are within the Fife Council 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.

First round of consultation

The first (informal) consultation period ran from Monday 8 April until Friday 10 May 2024. SP Energy Networks held three public drop-in exhibitions (details of which were included in all issued project communications) to introduce the project to local people and stakeholders, and to seek their comments and feedback on the preferred sites for the landfall point, converter station and underground cable route:

- Tuesday 23 April, 2–7pm: Benarty Centre, Flockhouse Avenue, Ballingry, KY5 8JH
- Wednesday 24 April, 9am–12.30pm: Auchtertool Village Hall, Main Street, Auchtertool, KY2 5XW

- Thursday 25 April, 3.30–7.30pm: Kinghorn Community Centre, Rossland Place, Kinghorn, KY3 9SS

A total of 180 people attended the three events (35 at Ballingry, 23 at Auchtertool and 122 at Kinghorn).

A total of 54 feedback forms were submitted during the consultation period via hard copy forms sent to the FREEPOST address, online via the feedback form and by email to the project inbox, providing comments on a variety of topics, including impact on wildlife, the cable route and benefits for the local community.

Feedback was also received from statutory stakeholders and local interest groups, whom the project team engaged with directly.

Full details of the first round of consultation are included in the [SPEN EGL4 Round One Feedback Report](#) on the SP Energy Networks website, and attached as Appendix A to this report.

Second round of consultation

The second (statutory) consultation period ran from Monday 12 May until Friday 6 June 2025. SP Energy Networks held three public drop-in exhibitions (details of which were included in all issued project communications) to present the proposed sites for the landfall point and converter station and proposed alignment for the underground cable route (including proposed access, drainage and compound arrangements), and how the plans had evolved following the first round of consultation:

- Tuesday 13 May, 2–7pm: Auchtertool Village Hall, Main Street, Auchtertool, KY2 5XW
- Wednesday 14 May, 2–7pm: Benarty Centre, Flockhouse Avenue, Ballingry, KY5 8JH
- Thursday 15 May, 2–7pm: Kinghorn Community Centre, Rossland Place, Kinghorn, KY3 9SS

A three-dimensional (3D) model of the landfall, cable corridor and converter station site was available to view at the events. Visitors were able to interact with the model and zoom in on different locations to view the project from different angles. Animation of the landfall horizontal directional drill (HDD) and cable installation were also available to watch.

A total of 74 people visited the three events (19 at Auchtertool, 7 at Ballingry and 48 at Kinghorn). This included representatives from Fife Council, Auchtertool Community Trust and The Ecology Centre.

A total of 13 feedback forms were submitted during the consultation period via hard copy forms sent to the FREEPOST address, online via the feedback form and by email to the project inbox, providing comments on a variety of topics, including potential impact on wildlife and the environment, proximity of the landfall site to local residents, the proposed cable route and benefits for the local community.

Full details of the second round of consultation are included in the [EGL4 Round Two Feedback Report](#) on the SP Energy Networks project website, and attached as Appendix B to this report.

Third round of consultation

A final feedback event (second statutory PAC event) was held on Thursday 7 August 2025 at Kinghorn Community Centre, where SP Energy Networks presented information on how it had considered comments received in developing its plans and to

provide a further opportunity for people to discuss the offshore and onshore proposals with the project team.

The event was attended by 35 people.

Exhibition panels that were presented at the final feedback event (in addition to those displayed at the second round of consultation events) can be found on the SP Energy Networks project website [here](#) and are also attached as Appendix C to this report. The two additional exhibition panels explained how SP Energy Networks had updated its plans and made changes to the project design following feedback received, along with additional commitments to work with local people and stakeholders to deliver community benefits.

4.3 Promoting the consultations

Prior to the start of each round of consultation, a notification was sent by 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, either in person or via telephone to discuss the emerging project proposals.

For the first two rounds of consultation, a project leaflet explaining the proposals, the purpose of the consultation and the process for submitting feedback was produced and distributed to approximately 4,100 properties (residential and business) within a defined radius of the project site, including the communities of Ballingry, Kinghorn and Auchtertool. This was the principal form of direct communication with the local community.

For the third round of consultation (the final feedback event), an A5 postcard was sent to the same approximately 4,100 recipients with full details of the event, how to contact SP Energy Networks and where to find more information. A copy of the postcard can be found in Appendix C.

SP Energy Networks placed formal newspaper advertisements in the *Fife Free Press*, *Glenrothes Gazette* and *The Courier* newspapers for two consecutive weeks prior to each round of consultation. The newspapers chosen were identified as the correct local newspapers for the project and were agreed with Fife Council. The advert described the project proposals, details of the drop-in events, the ways in which feedback could be submitted, a statement that comments made at this stage were not representations to the consenting authorities and details on how to find further information, including a QR code linking to the project website.

Feedback forms were made available in hard copy and online for the first and second rounds of consultation. The feedback forms asked for responses to questions relating to the project proposals and an additional section that asked demographic data, including title, name, address, telephone number, email address, if the respondent is responding on behalf of an organisation and if they attended any of the public exhibitions.

At the public events, a range of information was made available, including printed maps to give a visual interpretation of what the site could look like, which were displayed on tables at the venues. There were also exhibition boards displayed across the room that provided detail on each aspect of the proposals.

A 3D model of the landfall, cable corridor and converter station site was also available at the first and second rounds of consultation. Visitors were able to interact with the model and zoom in on different locations to view the project from different angles. Animation of the landfall HDD and cable installation were also available to watch.

All consultation information and documents have been made available throughout on the dedicated project website:

https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/eastern_green_link_4.aspx.

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

4.4 Consultation feedback

Stakeholders and members of the public could submit feedback via hard copy forms sent to the FREEPOST address, online via the feedback form or by email to the project inbox.

Respondents were made aware via a data protection statement that any comments they provided 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 has continued to review comments in the context of the development of the project at each stage.

Feedback was also received from statutory stakeholders and local interest groups, whom the project team engaged with directly.

All feedback received as part of the consultation was analysed by members of the project team. The hardcopy documents received through the FREEPOST address were collected, scanned and securely saved on the project's SharePoint. The full responses were then manually transcribed into the analysis database and checked for accuracy.

Emails received in the project mailbox that were categorised as consultation feedback were separated from the general correspondence. Email feedback was securely saved on the project's SharePoint, manually transcribed into the analysis database and checked for accuracy. The sender of each email was sent a standard acknowledgement in the form of an automated response.

Once all responses were included in the analysis database, they were 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.

4.5 Topics raised during pre-application 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.

For a detailed description of the first and second rounds of consultation, including comments received from statutory consultees and members of the public, and SP Energy Networks' responses to the issues raised, please see the Summary of Feedback reports published following the first and second rounds of consultation. These are attached to this report as Appendices A and B.

Below are tables drawn from these reports which summarise the themes raised and SP Energy Networks' responses to them.

No additional themes or issues were raised in the final consultation event – the feedback event in August 2025 – that goes beyond the themes and issues covered in Tables 1 and 2.

Table 1: Summary of key themes raised in first round of consultation (April–May 2024) and SP Energy Networks’ response (May 2025)

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Networks’ response
Preferred cable routes	“May I suggest that the Routeing Corridor is reduced in with and that the cables laid as far to the eastern edge of the corridor as possible.” “Routeing the cables as far east, within the designated corridor at Newbigging, would not only minimise disruption for residents, but would also shorten the route, thereby saving you costs.” “The proposed route should be within the area already identified for this consultation and not be situated further to the west, where it would conflict with FLS [Forestry and Land Scotland] land.” “Ideally the route should be situated outwith FLS [Forestry and Land Scotland] land to the west of the search area/corridor (i.e. between the new planting and the Lochgelly Raceway).” “The western side of the corridor does come close to the edge of Kinghorn, so whilst the underground cable does minimise some of the electric and magnetic fields (EMF) that overhead power lines would produce, the cable should still be routed well away from Kinghorn itself and the other houses and settlements along the route.”	Based on the preferred route corridor, between landfall at Kinghorn and the converter station at Westfield (as presented at the April 2024 consultation), the design team have developed and assessed multiple cable route alignments to determine an end-to-end preferred cable route within the broad cable corridor. The preferred cable route alignment, to be presented at the consultation events in May 2025, includes the cable trench, haul roads, trenchless crossings, topsoil and subsoil storage bunds and drainage, as well as locations for construction compounds and access routes for construction vehicles. Each of the designed options was considered against engineering, environmental and economic criteria as part of a balanced assessment and took cognisance of all feedback received to date. To support the design development and assessment, various surveys (both intrusive and non-intrusive) have taken place in the form of ground investigation (boreholes, trial pits, etc.) and ecology/environmental surveys. This work is carried out to determine the “red line boundary”, which encapsulates the proposed scheme and provides a defined area for EIA and planning purposes. Newbigging The area to the east of Newbigging, between Tiel Burn and the B925, is heavily constrained due to challenging topography and high-risk

Table 1: Summary of key themes raised in first round of consultation (April–May 2024) and SP Energy Networks’ response (May 2025)

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Networks’ response
	“The area is already a popular walking area – close to the Fife Pilgrim way – therefore the screening and land //reclamation// is very important.” “The rail link into the Westfield site is not operational at this time, and could have been used as the route for the cable. This would have allowed the cable to come ashore at Buckhaven and reduced the impact on the coastal path.”	geology associated with the site of a historical quarry. Options to the east of the scoping boundary were considered but ruled out due to the challenging topography, mature trees and suspected large area of made ground. A92 The crossing of the A92 was identified as a significantly constrained area of the cable route corridor with large zones of historical coal mining, including a mine entry located south of the road and the presence of shallow bedrock and made ground. Additionally, there is a large elevation difference either side of the A92. There is an existing underpass to the west of the cable route corridor that provides vehicular access, below the A92, to the woodland plantation to the north, which was considered as a potential crossing point. However, after reviewing as-built records for the underpass, it was not considered a viable option as a buried cable would likely compromise the structures integrity whilst surface-mounted options could present a security risk for the cable. A separate location approximately 120m to the east of the underpass was taken forward as the preferred option with the proposed cable route moving west to the western extent of the cable route immediately north of the A92. Kinghorn Further design development work has meant that the construction work adjacent to Kinghorn can be moved east as far away as engineering allows, away from the residential properties. The point related to

Table 1: Summary of key themes raised in first round of consultation (April–May 2024) and SP Energy Networks’ response (May 2025)

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Networks’ response
		screening the construction works at the landfall is noted and will be considered as part of the EIA. There will be no impact on the coastal path due to the cables being installed via trenchless technology such as HDD. Buckhaven was considered as a potential landfall location but was ruled out on marine technical grounds as it was not possible to route the marine cables to this landfall. Further details can be found in the Consultation Document produced as part of the first round of consultation.
Landscape and visual impact	“The proximity of the proposed site to Auchtertool and the potential to cause considerable disruption to the local area, including increased traffic, noise and unsightly building works and storage areas.” “We simply do not trust your reassurances that such a building [converter station] will be hidden away from eyes with trees and such.” “This would appear to be a good use of land which has a long tradition of industrial use.” “It would seem to be an appropriate site, close to the existing sub-station and within [sic] a developing industrial area. No residential home close by and rural so screening will blend well with the existing landscape.”	As part of the 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. It is acknowledged that the buildings proposed are large in scale and it will not be possible to fully screen from every location around the site.

Table 1: Summary of key themes raised in first round of consultation (April–May 2024) and SP Energy Networks’ response (May 2025)

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Networks’ response
Construction impact	“Access to Kirkcaldy and Kinghorn will be disrupted. This is important as there are no shops or services in Auchtertool and residents need to travel to the nearest towns. I was told this disruption would last for about 2 years!” “For the duration of this project local people will be impacted by increased traffic, long periods of noise, unsightly building work and restricted access to roads and pathways.” “The area would be adversely [sic] affected by the construction and future maintenance works required. Traffic is already congested, highlighted by any incidents.” “I am worried about potentially heavy vehicles causing damage and mess to roads and pavements.” “Could there be any impact from drilling/vibration on neighbouring properties?” “Noise disruption in Kinghorn during works and access via Long Craig’s Terrace isn’t suitable.” “This project will cause considerable disruption to the local area including increased traffic, noise and unsightly building works and storage areas.”	To reduce the impact of the development on the local road network, trenchless road crossings such as the use of HDDs are proposed. This allows the roads to remain open whilst the construction works are underway. The EIA process considers and proposes mitigation to not only the permanent impact of a development but also the temporary impact a 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. In line with the guidance set out on the Fife Council website, construction works taking place near residential properties will be limited to: • Monday to Friday – 8am to 6pm • Saturday – 8am to 1pm • Sunday and public holidays – No working Contractors will be bound to the above. Where there is a requirement to work longer hours, such as the landfall HDD, there will be prior agreement with the council to carry out those specific works. Construction and operational traffic As part of the EIA, a traffic and transport assessment will be carried out to understand the impact of the required construction traffic on the existing local road network. This will also consider the cumulative impacts of any other developments in progress in proximity to the

Table 1: Summary of key themes raised in first round of consultation (April–May 2024) and SP Energy Networks’ response (May 2025)

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Networks’ response
		proposed scheme. Where necessary, the assessment will identify measures required to mitigate the impact of the proposed scheme, including road safety measures and traffic management. Access to the Kinghorn landfall site is proposed to be taken directly from the A921. Noise and vibration As part of the EIA, baseline noise monitoring is being undertaken and noise modelling is proposed to formally establish the operational noise characteristics of the proposed converter station and underground cable works. These details will form part of the supporting information for the planning application to be submitted to Fife Council. Where noise mitigation is required to address noise levels in excess of adopted standards, this will be implemented prior to the commissioning of the development. Traffic and transport impacts will also be considered in the EIA, including a traffic management plan.
Environmental impact	“This will not increase biodiversity and will not be of benefit to the surrounding area.” “The landfall site will obviously affect the popular Fife Coastal Footpath, so care should be taken to minimise disruption to sensitive areas.” “This cable route without doubt will damage some very complicated and ancient countryside, underground tunnels,	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 accord with Schedule 9 responsibilities as set out in the Electricity Act 1989 when balancing the development requirements against impacts on fauna.

Table 1: Summary of key themes raised in first round of consultation (April–May 2024) and SP Energy Networks’ response (May 2025)

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Networks’ response
	ancient monuments and ancient pathways will be forever lost.” “Although the intention is to screen the large buildings with woodland planting etc., is there any other environmental risks involved such as radiation pollution [sic] likely to be emanating from the site due to the conversion process?” “You will be aware of the need to avoid disturbance to all wildlife, including damage to the sea bed, and to noise and magnetic pollution which upsets sea mammals and fish.” “Without carrying out a full Marine Environmental Survey there is no way of telling what damage will be done to marine flower and fauna.”	The EIA will include details of Biodiversity Net Gain proposals, such as landscaping around the converter station, restoration of hedgerows along the cable route and potential areas for additional woodland planting in the vicinity of the converter station site. The proposed landfall location is situated in fields to the east of Kinghorn. The landfall will allow the marine cables to come onshore and run up to Westfield. There is no requirement for any permanent structures above ground at the landfall, and the cables will go out to sea via HDD under the cliffs. A temporary construction compound will be required during this work, following which the land will be reinstated. There will be no interaction between the HDD and the coastal path, and this will remain open and unaffected by the HDD. The proposed cable route, landfall and converter station all avoid sites designated for historical interest. No emissions apart from heat will be produced from the converter station. In addition to the onshore EIA, a detailed marine environmental appraisal is also underway and will support the marine licence application. The marine environmental appraisal includes details of the marine survey which has been undertaken for the full length of the marine cable. The survey includes benthic sampling, videos along the cable route and geophysical and geotechnical surveys.

Table 1: Summary of key themes raised in first round of consultation (April–May 2024) and SP Energy Networks’ response (May 2025)

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Networks’ response
Proximity to residential properties	“I feel this site is far to [sic] close to many new homes and the town in general, the implementation of such a converter station situated in this location poses substantial risk to the local community.” “The proposal to build this converter station in an area of high deprivation, already suffering from the after effects of post industrialisation, and less inclined or able to organise or engage to protest this project is unethical in terms of a social justice approach.” “The preferred landfall site is simply TOO CLOSE to the town of Kinghorn, literally right on our doorstep, where people swim, cycle, play, rest and relax.” “Despite the rationale for a shorter distance between the converter station and Kinghorn, this is NOT enough to justify doing this project in an area that encroaches in the communities [sic] immediate surroundings.” “Our concerns include the impact on our new business which is opening soon at our property which is in close proximity to the proposed entrance to the Converter Station, the view we will now have from our house window with a building up to 28.5m high” “I am still very concerned and dismayed about the proximity of the proposed site to Auchtertool, in particular, Newbigging where I have lived for 25 years.”	The proposed converter location is to the east of an existing electricity substation (Westfield) and in a location which also includes an energy recovery facility and a now closed coal mine. Westfield was chosen as the site of the EGL4 converter station because it is a strong point on our existing transmission network which is closest to the Fife coast. The Westfield substation is currently a 275kV substation but will be replaced in the future with a 400kV substation. We need to have suitable network connectivity at the substation to provide the strongest support for the HVDC link. Westfield substation is the only substation in this area that provides this level of network connectivity and security, with four circuit infeeds to provide the resilience needed to keep electricity moving. Kinghorn was chosen as the landfall site following assessment of a number of potential options along the Fife coast, including Lower Largo, Largo Bay and Buckhaven. Bringing the cables ashore at Kinghorn allows a shorter onshore cable route to Westfield (around 14km from Kinghorn compared to around 29km from Largo Bay) and avoids centres of population, thereby minimising disturbance to local communities and the environment. The proposed landfall location is situated in fields to the northeast of Kinghorn. The landfall will allow the marine cables to come onshore and run up to Westfield. There is no requirement for any permanent structures above ground at the landfall and the cables will go out to sea

Table 1: Summary of key themes raised in first round of consultation (April–May 2024) and SP Energy Networks’ response (May 2025)		
Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Networks’ response
	“Slightly concerned regarding side effect of having a 600000 volt cable so close to my home.”	via an HDD under the cliffs. A temporary construction compound will be required during this work, following which the land will be reinstated. The cable route between the landfall at Kinghorn and the converter station at Westfield has been developed to maximise distances to properties, where possible.
Community benefits	“There appear to be no benefits to the local residents. It would seem the only people who will benefit from this are local farmers, the Government, SP Energy and consumers in England. Therefore disruption to our local community should be avoided.” “Seriously need to consider community benefit in relation to this project, e.g. coastal path upgrade and consideration for road upgrade between Kinghorn and Kirkcaldy as part of HDD traffic mitigation.” “The whole community would prefer this to be abandoned. It is only of benefit to large power companies and of no benefit to the people of Fife.” “Will be of no benefit to the people living in and around the affected areas (as I understand it the energy will be transferred to Norfolk where they can enjoy lower bills than we do here, despite us living closer to where the energy is generated.)”	As a regulated business, SP Energy Networks must ensure that all projects are delivered to provide best value to UK bill payers. Energy policy in the UK is a reserved matter to UK Ministers, and we have been working closely with both the UK Government, other regulated transmission owners and key stakeholders on the framework for delivering formal community benefit to those communities hosting electricity transmission schemes. Further guidance from the UK Government has recently been published, and we will continue to keep communities affected by this scheme updated on progress with this matter.

Table 2: Summary of key themes raised in second round of consultation (May–June 2025) and responses from SP Energy Networks (August 2025)

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
Preferred cable routes	"I have looked at the proposed route and would like to ensure that it will not affect Minto woodland. This area is currently having £100,000 spent on it to upgrade grass paths to semibond surface. This should be complete by June 14 2025. This allows more usage access especially disabled access. Can you assure us these routes will remain intact?"	The Minto Woodland will not be impacted by the cable route. SP Energy Networks will use an HDD underneath the woodland and so there will be no impact on the newly created woodland or footpaths.
Converter station	"I think this is a good location for the converter station and encourage the landscaping and tree planting." "Our concerns include the impact on our new business which is opening soon at our property which is in close proximity to the proposed entrance to the Converter Station, the view we will now have from our house window with a building up to 28.5m high."	As part of the 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. It is acknowledged that the buildings proposed are large in scale and that it will not be possible to fully screen from every location around the site. The visual assessment undertaken as part of the EIA includes representative viewpoints and will determine the degree of anticipated change to visual amenity experienced. Visualisations will be produced for the converter station at

Table 2: Summary of key themes raised in second round of consultation (May–June 2025) and responses from SP Energy Networks (August 2025)

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
		the viewpoint locations to provide an understanding of the potential visual effects.
Ecology and biodiversity	"I am concerned about the impact of the landfall construction on wildlife in the area." "I have looked at the proposed route and would like to ensure that it will not affect an area called Minto woodland." "The wildlife in the local areas will obviously be disrupted." "I am concerned about the marine environment. The seals, dolphins and porpoises could be vulnerable as could the ecosystems under water which ensure our coast is rich in life and diversity." "I hope there will be minimum disruption to the coastal path at the landfall site. Engaging with Fife Coast & Countryside Trust is paramount."	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 around the converter station, restoration of hedgerows along the cable route and potential areas for additional woodland planting in the vicinity of the converter station site. In addition to the onshore EIA, a detailed marine environmental appraisal is also underway and will support the marine licence application. The marine environmental appraisal includes details of the marine survey which has been undertaken along the full length of the marine cable. The survey includes benthic sampling, videos along the cable route and geophysical and geotechnical surveys. The proposed landfall location is situated in fields to the east of Kinghorn. The landfall will allow the marine cables to

Table 2: Summary of key themes raised in second round of consultation (May–June 2025) and responses from SP Energy Networks (August 2025)

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
		come onshore and run up to Westfield. There is no requirement for any permanent structures above ground at the landfall site, and the cables will go out to sea via an HDD under the cliffs. A temporary construction compound will be required during this work, following which the land will be reinstated. There will be no interaction between the HDD and the coastal path, and this will remain open and unaffected throughout the works.
Impact due to construction	"Concerned about the upheaval at the time of construction with traffic and machinery."	The 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. Noise and vibration Baseline noise monitoring is being undertaken, and noise modelling is proposed to formally establish the operational noise characteristics of the proposed converter station and underground cable works. These details will form part of the supporting information for the planning application to Fife Council. At the Kinghorn landfall site there will be a need for 24/7 working for a short period during HDD operations, which will create some noise and vibration. Where noise

Table 2: Summary of key themes raised in second round of consultation (May–June 2025) and responses from SP Energy Networks (August 2025)

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
		mitigation is required to address noise levels in excess of adopted standards, this will be implemented prior to commissioning of the development. Traffic and transport impacts will also be considered in the EIA, including a traffic management plan.
Impact on local community	"We have concerns with the value of our property decreasing and the difficulty of selling it once the Converter Station is in place." "It is to be hoped that there will be no disruption to the working farms in this area." "Could you provide information on the overall estimated costs of EGL4 and when the construction might begin? Also the number of jobs created." "Can you please confirm [...] improvements will be made to the boundary with residential properties which has been sadly neglected over many years by the farmer."	It should be noted that there is currently no compensation for the potential impact of the connection on views from individual properties. However, we recognise that the visual impact of transmission infrastructure may be an issue for many local communities and individuals, and our approach is to maximise the distance of the final project from properties, wherever possible. Individual properties have been mapped out and considered as part of the detailed routeing and siting. For a project of this size there will always be some temporary disruption during construction. We will work closely with the affected landowners and local communities to ensure clear communication of the timing of proposed work. The overall costs associated with the project will be known once key contractors are appointed. Our sister project EGL1 is valued at £2.5bn.
Visual impact	"I am pleased this is an underground cable."	Noted.

Table 2: Summary of key themes raised in second round of consultation (May–June 2025) and responses from SP Energy Networks (August 2025)

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
Safety	"I would be concerned at fire risk at the converter station."	SP Energy Networks works to very strict health and safety requirements when designing our transmission equipment (including The Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004 issued by Scottish Ministers). All converter stations are operated in line with rigorous UK and international fire safety standards (such as BS 9999, Code of Practice for fire safety in the design, management and use of buildings). The buildings are constructed primarily of non-combustible materials to reduce the potential for build-up and spread of fire. The converter station is subdivided into fire compartments that are separated from each other either by distance or by fire walls. An area-wide fire alarm and detection system is provided for all buildings of the converter station. This includes advanced fire detection and suppression systems, as well as strict operational protocols to minimise the risk and ensure the safety of the public, our staff and contractors, and our infrastructure.
Community benefits	"The Fife Coastal Path would benefit from upgrades at a number of locations in the Kirkcaldy/Kinghorn area. One would be an upgrade to the Pettycur Bay Beach Ramp between Kinghorn and Burntisland beaches." "We would like to certainly work with SP Energy Networks on community projects. We have a	Noted, thank you for the suggestion. SP Energy Networks will discuss this with the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust. 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

Table 2: Summary of key themes raised in second round of consultation (May–June 2025) and responses from SP Energy Networks (August 2025)

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
	community engagement day with SP Energy which was excellent.” “It is to be hoped that a substantial donation will be made from SPEN to Benarty Primary School St Kenneth’s Primary School along the lines of donations we received from the Windfarm at Kinglassie + Exxon Mobil at/near Auchtertool. These are deprived communities and need investment and jobs. Hopefully locals will gain something through employment. Reportedly 4–5000 jobs were created during the construction of the Blyth converter station.” “Perhaps SPEN could donate to the local museum and provide wildlife cameras for children to spot badgers, deer and the otters and bats?” “An investment by SPEN would give back to the community and ensure the disruption to the wildlife habitats is recoverable. Around £200,000 to the Ecology Centre would help with their work and education programme.” “Liaise with Fife Coast & Countryside Trust regarding upgrades to the Fife Coastal Path between Kinghorn and Kirkcaldy.”	benefits submitted during all rounds of consultation will be passed to that team.

Table 2: Summary of key themes raised in second round of consultation (May–June 2025) and responses from SP Energy Networks (August 2025)

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
	"Kinghorn Community Centre needs an energy efficiency upgrade." "SPEN should give something back to the community by enhancing the coastal path so that cycles, pushchairs and wheelchairs can access it more easily." "Could you provide more detail on when funding for Community Groups will be available next year?" "My priorities for benefit projects would be for pedestrian path upgrades."	
Quality of consultation	"I think the public consultation has been wholly inadequate. 3 separate drop-in sessions in May 2025 and in 2024 are not adequate for a project of this scale and the impact on the local communities and the wildlife habitat in the surrounding areas, both farmland/woodland and coastal/undersea." "There was a lot of information which was clear. There didn't seem to be any thoughts around pending community benefits with the electricity pumped south."	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 Eastern Green Link 4 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.

5 How consultation feedback has influenced scheme design

Following feedback received in our public consultations, and further environmental and technical assessments, we have refined and updated our plans.

5.1 Westfield converter station

We have increased the amount of woodland planting around the proposed converter station site and added areas of wildflower meadow. These changes will help screen the site, reduce its visual effects and increase biodiversity.

We have developed a detailed landscape masterplan showing areas of planting around the converter station, both to aid screening and to improve biodiversity in the area. We have created visualisations showing how this might look in years to come. We are also undertaking a full assessment of potential landscape and visual impacts as part of our EIA, which will be submitted with our planning application.

Westfield converter station will be made up of large warehouse-type buildings and outside electrical equipment. The total converter station footprint will be approximately 250m × 350m in size with buildings up to 28.5m in height, to accommodate the equipment needed. We will also need temporary construction and parking areas, and underground cables to connect the converter station to the existing substation.

5.2 Underground cable route

We have continued detailed discussions with landowners and stakeholders and have made some minor changes to the “red line boundary”, mainly for access routes and working areas. These have been checked environmentally and technically and do not result in any additional landowners being affected.

The underground cable route needs to cross the Minto Woodlands, but instead of digging a trench we will use trenchless methods (i.e. HDD) to pass safely underneath without affecting trees or footpaths. We will need temporary compounds for drilling equipment either side of the woods, but there will be no need for access to the woods or footpaths.

5.3 Marine cable landfall point

Our detailed design work has enabled us to move the HDD compound north-east, further away from the homes to the south at Kinghorn, to reduce disturbance to local residents. No work on the beach or on the cliffs will be required. We will design the HDD compound site to ensure the drill works are carried out sensitively both for the residents and for wildlife, including overwintering birds and seals.

5.4 Community benefits

New guidance means SP Energy Networks will now have dedicated community benefit funding for this project, and we will also work with colleagues at Westfield Substation to see how we can maximise our contribution. We have had some great ideas for projects and initiatives in which the community benefit funding can be targeted, and we will be talking to local organisations about how and where we can help.

Appendices

Appendix A: Round one feedback report



Proposed new High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) subsea electrical link that will connect Fife in Scotland with Norfolk in England.

Summary of feedback from first round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) 2024

May 2025

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Executive Summary

This report summarises the first round of pre-application consultation carried out by SP Energy Networks for the northern elements of the proposed Eastern Green Link 4 (EGL4) project in 2024.

EGL4 is a new High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) subsea electrical link that will connect Fife in Scotland with Norfolk in England. It is being developed in partnership between SP Energy Networks and National Grid Electricity Transmission, and is made up of three parts:

- A 500km subsea HVDC cable between Kinghorn, Fife, and South Humber, Lincolnshire (the marine scheme);
- A 14km underground cable from the landfall at Kinghorn to a new converter station at Westfield, near Ballingry, Fife, where EGL4 will connect to the existing electricity transmission network via Westfield substation (the Scottish onshore scheme); and
- A 100km underground cable from South Humber to a new converter station near Walpole, Norfolk (the English onshore scheme).

SP Energy Networks held a pre-application consultation focused on the Scottish onshore scheme with local residents and stakeholders in Fife from Monday 8 April to Friday 10 May 2024, which included three drop-in public exhibitions on Tuesday 23, Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 April 2024. Leaflets were sent to over 4,000 residents, businesses and local interest groups prior to the events. Consultation materials were also available on the SP Energy Network's website for those unable to attend the events.

The feedback received has helped to shape the design of the project. Revised designs were shared with the public during the second round of pre-application consultation, which took place in May 2025.

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
- Next steps in the process

1. Introduction

1.1. The need for the Eastern Green Link 4 (EGL4) project

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. As the country shifts away from traditional forms of fuel to heat homes, charge vehicles and power businesses, there is greater need for clean electricity.

The UK Government has also set ambitious targets for offshore wind aiming to have 50GW offshore wind connections target by the early 2030s. Much of the new onshore and offshore wind generation is in or around Scotland, and the existing electricity network does not have enough capacity to transmit all the additional clean, green energy from where it's produced to where it's needed.

EGL4 is one of many new transmission upgrades that are planned in the UK to help reach these targets. The need for these projects has been identified through the Network Options Assessment (NOA), which is carried out every year by National Electricity Systems Operator (NESO) 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.

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, the distribution network in North Wales and part of Northwest England. SP Energy Network's 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 Network's 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 proposals

EGL4 is one of four Eastern Green Link HVDC projects that will significantly increase the capacity of the electricity network between Scotland and England. Western Link, a similar HVDC project linking Hunterston on the west coast of Scotland with Connah's Quay in North Wales, is already in operation. EGL1 and EGL2 have already been consented and are moving towards construction, and EGL3 and EGL4 (this project) are in the development and assessment stage.

EGL4 is a major investment proposal by SP Energy Networks in partnership with National Grid Electricity Transmission, and is made up of three parts:

Eastern Green Link 4

Summary of feedback from first round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

- A 500km subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) cable between Kinghorn, Fife, and South Humber, Lincolnshire
- A 14km underground cable from Kinghorn to a new converter station at Westfield, near Ballingry, Fife
- A 100km underground cable from South Humber to a new converter station near Walpole, Norfolk.

HVDC is the most efficient way to transmit large amounts of electricity over long distances. Converter stations are needed at each end to change the DC (direct current) electricity to and from AC (alternating current) electricity, so it's safe to use in our homes and businesses.

Once operational, EGL4 will be able to transmit up to 2GW of clean, green, renewable energy, enough to power around 1.5 million homes.

2. Approach to Pre-Application Consultation

2.1. Legislation and guidance

SP Energy Networks will be applying to Fife Council for planning permission in principle (PiP) under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for the proposed converter station, and full planning permission for the DC underground cable from the Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) at the landfall site to the converter station and for the AC underground cable from the converter station to Westfield Substation.

SP Energy Networks will carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment, which will accompany the planning applications.

The marine cable within Scottish territorial waters will be subject to a separate application to the Scottish Government's Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) and will be supported by a marine environmental appraisal.

2.2. SP Energy Network's 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, co-ordinated 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 considers the effect of work on communities when putting forward proposals for new 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 Network'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 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 development of a project and continues into construction once consent has been granted.

2.4. Approach to consultation

The strategy for consultation on EGL4 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
- Could put forward their own views and be confident that issues raised would be considered.

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 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 EGL4 project have access to up-to-date information and are provided with clear and easy ways in which to shape and inform SP Energy Network'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, SP Energy Networks will be holding two rounds of consultation events for the public, stakeholders and consultees to view the proposals and provide feedback. The first round took place in April 2024 and the second round took place in May 2025. A further report will be published covering the second round of consultation.

For the first round of consultation, SP Energy Networks sought feedback on the following:

- Views on the preferred landfall site;
- Views on the preferred converter station site;
- Views on the onshore and offshore cable routes (presented as cable corridors to be refined); and
- Any wider comments that consultees might have.

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: egl4@communityrelations.co.uk
- Freepost: FREEPOST SPEN EGL4
- Freephone: 0800 021 7890
- Online via the dedicated project website: egl4@communityrelations.co.uk
- Face-to-face or in writing at public consultation exhibitions

3.2. How we consulted

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

- Elected members of Fife Council, Members of Parliament (MP) and Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) whose constituencies are within the Fife Council 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; and

- Local residents, businesses and the general public.

The consultation period ran from Monday 8 April 2024 until Friday 10 May 2024. SP Energy Networks held three public drop-in exhibitions for the consultation:

- **Tuesday 23 April, 2-7pm:** Benarty Centre, Flockhouse Avenue, Ballingry, KY5 8JH
- **Wednesday 24 April, 9am – 12:30pm:** Auchtertool Village Hall, Main Street, Auchtertool, KY2 5XW
- **Thursday 25 April, 3:30pm – 7:30pm:** Kinghorn Community Centre, Rossland Place, Kinghorn, KY3 9SS

The event venues, dates and times were included in all issued project communications. A total of 180 people visited the three events (35 people attended the Ballingry event, 23 attended Auchtertool, and 122 attended Kinghorn).

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 initial early stage (scoping) 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.

A project leaflet explaining the proposals, the purpose of the consultation and the process for submitting feedback was produced and distributed to approximately 4,100 properties (residential and business) within a defined radius of the project site, including the communities of Ballingry, Kinghorn and Auchtertool. 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 *Fife Free Press* and *Glenrothes Gazette* newspapers for two consecutive weeks (w/c 8 April 2024 and w/c 15 April 2024). 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.

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

The seven project related questions were:

- 1) Do you have any comments on our preferred site for the converter station?
- 2) We have identified a swathe of land within which we could install underground cables between Westfield and Kinghorn. We would particularly like to hear your views on your local area e.g. areas you use for recreation, local environmental features you would like us to consider, and any plans you may have to build anything along the route.
- 3) Please let us have any comments you may have about our preferred landfall site or the alternatives we considered.

- 4) Please let us know if you have any comments you would like us to take into account on our preferred marine cable route.
- 5) How did you find out about the project and the consultation? *Multiple choice options provided were: advert, leaflet, website, media coverage, social media, word of mouth, other.*
- 6) Do you have any comments about our public consultation?
- 7) Are there any other comments you would like to make?

The closing date for submitting responses to SP Energy Networks was midnight on Thursday 9 May 2024. Following this date, the consultation information remained accessible on the project website and available to download.

At the public events, a range of information was made available including printed maps to give a visual interpretation of what the site could look like, which were displayed on tables at the venues. There were also 10 exhibition boards displayed across the room which provided detail on each aspect of the proposals. A copy of the boards can be found in Appendix C.

A 3D model of the landfall, cable corridor and converter station site was also available. Visitors were able to interact with the model and zoom in to different locations to view the project from different angles. Animation of the landfall HDD and cable installation were also available to watch.

The project leaflet, newspaper notice, project plans, FAQs, general information about the project and the consultation, the exhibition boards, and the feedback form were made available on a dedicated project website:

https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/eastern_green_link_4.aspx.

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

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 provide 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 54 feedback forms were submitted during the consultation period via hard copy forms sent to the FREEPOST address, online via the feedback form, and email to the project inbox, providing comments on a variety of topics, including impact on wildlife, the cable route and benefits for the local community.

Feedback was also received from statutory stakeholders and local interest groups, whom the project team engaged with directly.

The hardcopy documents received through the FREEPOST address were collected, scanned and securely saved on the project's SharePoint. The full responses were then manually transcribed into the analysis database and checked for accuracy.

Emails received in the project mailbox which were categorised as consultation feedback were separated from the general correspondence. Email feedback was securely saved on the project's SharePoint, manually transcribed into the analysis database and checked for accuracy. Each email was sent a standard acknowledgement in the form of an automated response.

Once all responses were included in the analysis database, they were 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

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 response from the following statutory consultees:

- Fife Council – Fife Council provided two detailed pre-application advice responses which provide information on the converter station and on the cable corridor. The pre-application advice responses include information on planning history and assess a number of issues against the Development Plan. These issues include;
 - Principle of Development
 - Contribution to Renewable Energy Supply
 - Community and Economic Benefits
 - Natural Heritage including impact on Trees, Protected Species, Wildlife Habitats and Protected Sites such as SSSI, Wildlife Sites, Ramsar Sites and Special Protection Areas
 - Amenity Impact
 - Transportation/Road Safety
 - Impact on railway line
 - Built Heritage/Visual Impact on Character of Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas – Archaeology
 - Core Paths
 - Archaeology
 - Visual Impact
- Historic Environment Scotland – identified Raith Park and Beveridge Park Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape and one scheduled monument adjacent to the cable corridor, highlighted the need for a Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for the converter station to be produced and identified the proximity of two listed buildings and one scheduled monument to the converter station.
- NatureScot – confirmed the proximity of designated sites to the proposals including the Outer Firth of Forth and St Andrews Bay Complex Special Protection Area (SPA),

the Firth of Forth Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Loch Leven SPA, Camilla Loch SSSI, Holl Meadows SSSI and Carriston Reservoir SSSI, provided comments on whether there is the potential for likely significant effects on each of these sites and highlights the need to consider coastal vulnerability in detailed design work.

- SEPA – confirmed receipt of the consultation material and that they would provide a response to Fife Council when consulted at the EIA Scoping stage.
- Scottish Water – provided a list of precautions to protect Scottish Water assets during development activities
- Scottish Forestry – confirmed that the cable route is likely to minimise any impact on forestry interests. Highlighted that National Planning Framework 4 specifies that woodland removal should be avoided wherever possible and if removal is required, compensatory planting is required.

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

3.5. SP Energy Network's response to the feedback

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	Example comments	SP Energy Network's response
Preferred cable routes	"May I suggest that the Routing Corridor is reduced in width and that the cables laid as far to the eastern edge of the corridor as possible." "Routing the cables as far east, within the designated corridor at Newbigging, would not only minimise disruption for residents, but would also shorten the route, thereby saving you costs." "The proposed route should be within the area already identified for this consultation and not be situated further to the west, where it would conflict with FLS [Forestry and Land Scotland] land." "Ideally the route should be situated outwith FLS [Forestry and Land Scotland] land to the west of the search area/corridor (i.e. between the new planting and the Lochgelly Raceway)." "The western side of the corridor does come close to the edge of Kinghorn, so whilst the underground cable does minimise some of the EMF that overhead power lines would produce, the cable should still be routed well away from Kinghorn itself and the other houses and settlements along the route." "The area is already a popular walking area - close to the Fife Pilgrim way - therefore the screening and land //reclamation// is very important." "The rail link into the Westfield site is not operational at this time, and could have been used as the route for the cable. This would have allowed the cable to come ashore at Buckhaven and reduced the impact on the coastal path."	Based on the preferred route corridor, between landfill at Kinghorn and the converter station at Westfield (as presented at the April 2024 consultation), the design team have developed and assessed multiple cable route alignments to determine an end-to-end preferred cable route within the broad cable corridor. The preferred cable route alignment, presented at the consultation events in May 2025, includes the cable trench, haul roads, trenchless crossings, topsoil and subsoil storage bunds and drainage, as well as locations for construction compounds and access routes for construction vehicles. Each of the designed options were considered against engineering, environmental and economic criteria as part of a balanced assessment and took cognisance of all feedback received to date. To support the design development and assessment various surveys (both intrusive and non-intrusive) have taken place in the form of ground investigation (boreholes, trial pits etc) and ecology/environmental surveys. This work is carried out to determine the 'red line boundary' which encapsulates the proposed scheme and provides a defined area for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and planning purposes.

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Network's response
		Newbigging The area to the east of Newbigging, between Tiel Burn and the B925 is heavily constrained due to challenging topography and high-risk geology associated with the site of a historical quarry. Options to the east of the scoping boundary were considered but ruled out due to the challenging topography, mature trees, and suspected large area of made ground. A92 The crossing of the A92 was identified as a significantly constrained area of the cable route corridor with large zones of historical coal mining, including a mine entry located south of the road and the presence of shallow bedrock and made ground. Additionally, there is a large elevation difference either side of the A92. There is an existing underpass to the west of the cable route corridor that provides vehicular access, below the A92, to the woodland plantation to the north which was considered as a potential crossing point. However, after reviewing as-built records for the underpass it was not considered a viable option as a buried cable would likely compromise the structures integrity whilst surface mounted options could present a security risk for the cable. A separate location approximately 120m to the east of the underpass was taken forward as the preferred option with the proposed cable route moving west to the western extent of the cable route immediately north of the A92. Further design development work has meant that the construction work adjacent to Kinghorn can be moved east as far away as engineering allows, away from the residential properties.

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Network's response
		The point related to screening the construction works at the landfill is noted and will be considered as part of the EIA. There will be no impact on the coastal path due to the cables being installed via trenchless technology such as horizontal directional drill (HDD). Buckhaven was considered as a potential landfill location but was ruled out on marine technical grounds as it was not possible to route the marine cables to this landfill. Further details can be found in the Consultation Document produced as part of the first round of consultation.
Landscape and visual impact	"The proximity of the proposed site to Auchtertool and the potential to cause considerable disruption to the local area including increased traffic, noise and unsightly building works and storage areas." "We simply do not trust your reassurances that such a building [converter station] will be hidden away from eyes with trees and such." "This would appear to be a good use of land which has a long tradition of industrial use." "It would seem to be an appropriate site, close to the existing sub-station and within [sic] a developing industrial area. No residential home close by and rural so screening will blend well with the existing landscape."	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. It is acknowledged that the buildings proposed are large in scale and it will not be possible to fully screen from every location around the site.

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Network's response
Construction impact	"Access to Kirkcaldy and Kinghorn will be disrupted. This is important as there are no shops or services in Auchtertool and residents need to travel to the nearest towns. I was told this disruption would last for about 2 years!" "For the duration of this project local people will be impacted by increased traffic, long periods of noise, unsightly building work and restricted access to roads and pathways." "The area would be adversely [sic] affected by the construction and future maintenance works required. Traffic is already congested, highlighted by any incidents." "I am worried about potentially heavy vehicles causing damage and mess to roads and pavements." "Could there be any impact from drilling/vibration on neighbouring properties?" "Noise disruption in Kinghorn during works and access via Long Craig's Terrace isn't suitable." "This project will cause considerable disruption to the local area including increased traffic, noise and unsightly building works and storage areas."	To reduce the impact of the development on the local road network trenchless road crossings such as the use of HDDs are proposed. This allows the roads to remain open whilst the construction works are underway. The EIA process considers and proposes mitigation to not only the permanent impact of a development but also the temporary impact a 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. In line with the guidance set out on the Fife Council website, construction works taking place near residential properties will be limited to: - Monday to Friday – 08:00 to 18:00 - Saturday – 08:00 to 13:00 - Sunday and Public Holidays – No working Contractors will be bound to the above. Where there is a requirement to work longer hours, such as the landfill HDD, there will be prior agreement with the council to carry out those specific works. Construction and Operational Traffic: As part of the EIA, a traffic and transport assessment will be carried out to understand the impact of the required construction traffic on the existing local road network. This will also consider the cumulative impacts of any other developments in progress in proximity to the proposed scheme. Where necessary, the assessment will identify measures required to mitigate the impact of the

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Network's response
		proposed scheme including road safety measures and traffic management. Access to the Kinghorn landfill site is proposed to be taken directly from the A921. Noise and vibration: As part of the EIA, baseline noise monitoring is being undertaken and noise modelling is proposed to formally establish the operational noise characteristics of the proposed converter station and underground cable works. These details will form part of the supporting information for the planning application to be submitted to Fife Council. Where noise mitigation is required to address noise levels in excess of adopted standards, this will be implemented prior to commissioning of the development. Traffic and Transport impacts will also be considered in the EIA including a traffic management plan.

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Network's response
Environmental Impact	"This will not increase biodiversity and will not be of benefit to the surrounding area." "The landfill site will obviously affect the popular Fife Coastal Footpath, so care should be taken to minimise disruption to sensitive areas." "This cable route without doubt will damage some very complicated and ancient countryside, underground tunnels, ancient monuments and ancient pathways, will be forever lost." "Although the intention is to screen the large buildings with woodland planting etc, is there any other environmental risks involved such as radiation pollution [sic] likely to be emanating from the site due to the conversion process?" "You will be aware of the need to avoid disturbance to all wildlife, including damage to the sea bed, and to noise and magnetic pollution which upsets sea mammals and fish." "Without carrying out a full Marine Environmental Survey there is no way of telling what damage will be done to marine flower and fauna."	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 accord 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 around the converter station, restoration of hedgerows along the cable route and potential areas for additional woodland planting in the vicinity of the converter station site. The proposed landfill location is situated in fields to the east of Kinghorn. The landfill will allow the marine cables to come onshore and run up to Westfield. There is no requirement for any permanent structures above ground at the landfill and the cables will go out to sea via a horizontal directional drill (HDD) under the cliffs. A temporary construction compound will be required during this work following which the land will be reinstated. There will be no interaction between the HDD and the coastal path and this will remain open and unaffected by the HDD. The proposed cable route, landfill and converter station all avoid sites designated for historical interest. No emissions apart from heat will be produced from the converter station.

Eastern Green Link 4
Summary of feedback from first round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Network's response
		In addition to the onshore EIA, a detailed marine environmental appraisal is also underway and will support the Marine Licence application. The marine environmental appraisal includes details of the marine survey which has been undertaken for the full length of the marine cable. The survey includes benthic sampling, videos along the cable route and geophysical and geotechnical surveys.
Proximity to residential properties	"I feel this site is far to [sic] close to many new homes and the town in general, the implementation of such a converter station situated in this location poses substantial risk to the local community." "The proposal to build this converter station in an area of high deprivation, already suffering from the after effects of post industrialisation, and less inclined or able to organise or engage to protest this project is unethical in terms of a social justice approach." "The preferred landfill site is simply TOO CLOSE to the town of Kinghorn, literally right on our doorstep, where people swim, cycle, play, rest and relax." "Despite the rationale for a shorter distance between the converter station and Kinghorn, this is NOT enough to justify doing this project in an area that encroaches in the communities immediate surroundings."	The proposed converter location is to the east of an existing electricity substation (Westfield) and in a location which also includes an energy recovery facility and a now closed coal mine. Westfield was chosen as the site of the EGL4 converter station because it is a strong point on our existing transmission network which is closest to the Fife coast. The Westfield substation is currently a 275kV substation but will be replaced in the future with a 400kV substation. We need to have suitable network connectivity at the substation to provide the strongest support for the HVDC link. Westfield substation is the only substation in this area that provides this level of network connectivity and security, with four circuit infeeds to provide the resilience needed to keep electricity moving.

Eastern Green Link 4
Summary of feedback from first round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Network's response
	"I am still very concerned and dismayed about the proximity of the proposed site to Auchtertool, in particular, Newbigging where I have lived for 25 years." "Slightly concerned regarding side effect of having a 600000 volt cable so close to my home."	Kinghorn was chosen as the landfill site following assessment of a number of potential options along the Fife coast, including Lower Largo, Largo Bay and Buckhaven. Bringing the cables ashore at Kinghorn allows a shorter onshore cable route to Westfield (around 14km from Kinghorn compared to around 29km from Largo Bay) and avoids centres of population, thereby minimising disturbance to local communities and the environment. The proposed landfill location is situated in fields to the northeast of Kinghorn. The landfill will allow the marine cables to come onshore and run up to Westfield. There is no requirement for any permanent structures above ground at the landfill and the cables will go out to sea via a horizontal directional drill under the cliffs. A temporary construction compound will be required during this work following which the land will be reinstated. The cable route between the landfill at Kinghorn and the converter station at Westfield has been developed to maximise distances to properties, where possible.

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Network's response
Community benefits	"There appear to be no benefits to the local residents. It would seem the only people who will benefit from this are local farmers, the Government, SP Energy and consumers in England. Therefore disruption to our local community should be avoided." "Seriously need to consider community benefit in relation to this project, e.g. coastal path upgrade and consideration for road upgrade between Kinghorn and Kirkcaldy as part of HDD traffic mitigation." "The whole community would prefer this to be abandoned. It is only of benefit to large power companies and of no benefit to the people of Fife." "Will be of no benefit to the people living in and around the affected areas (as I understand it the energy will be transferred to Norfolk where they can enjoy lower bills than we do here, despite us living closer to where the energy is generated)"	As a regulated Business, SP Energy Networks must ensure that all projects are delivered to provide best value to UK bill payers. Energy policy in the UK is a reserved matter to UK Ministers and we have been working closely with both the UK Government, other regulated transmission owners and key stakeholders on the framework for delivering formal community benefit to those communities hosting electricity transmission schemes. Further guidance from UK Government has recently been published and we will continue to keep communities affected by this scheme updated on progress with this matter.

4. Next Steps

Following the first round of the pre application consultation, SP Energy Networks have developed a detailed design for the landfall point, converter station and cable route, including locations for access routes and working areas, taking into account the comments received from the public. A second round of consultation took place in May 2025 to share the updated proposals. A further report will be published covering the second round of consultation.

SP Energy Networks has developed a route alignment for the underground cables taking into consideration the comments raised during consultation. Sensitive locations have been identified by the community. In these instances, SP Energy Networks has considered the issues raised in the feedback along with relevant environmental, technical and engineering considerations. Further desk-based technical and environmental assessment and site visits were carried out to consider sensitive areas within the corridor and also potential routes for the underground cables. The final selection looked to balance each of the aforementioned issues and considerations that resulted in a proposed route alignment for the underground cables that is technically feasible, minimises potential impacts on the community and on the environment.

The proposed route alignment was the focus of the second round of consultation along with the converter station site design and the landfall construction. Once the second round of consultation is complete, SP Energy Networks will conclude an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Following completion of the EIA, SP Energy Networks will prepare a detailed development and design proposal and submit planning applications to Fife Council. SP Energy Networks will be applying to Fife Council for planning permission in principle (PiP) under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for the proposed converter station, and full planning permission for the DC underground cable from Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) at the landfall site to the converter station and for the AC underground cable from the converter station to Westfield Substation.

For the marine cables, our marine environmental consultants conduct a separate environmental appraisal which assesses the potential impact of the project on the marine environment, shipping and navigation, commercial fisheries and other marine users. The appraisal will accompany an application to the Scottish Government Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) for a licence to install the marine cables.

The Council and MD-LOT will then invite representations from local communities and stakeholders before deciding whether to grant planning permission and the marine licence, and to inform any conditions that may be required under permission.

5. Appendices

5.1. Appendix A: Project Leaflet



Scotland is producing more clean, green energy than ever before, and we need to strengthen the transmission network so we can get it to the homes, schools and businesses that need it. One of the ways we increase capacity is by building new infrastructure to transmit more electricity securely and reliably.

Eastern Green Link 4 (EGL4) is a new High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) electrical link that will connect Fife in Scotland with Norfolk in England.

The EGL4 project will play a key role in the fight against climate change, and the UK's transition to Net Zero. It is one of many new transmission upgrades that are planned across the UK.

We want to hear your views!

Our public consultation runs until Friday 10 May 2024.

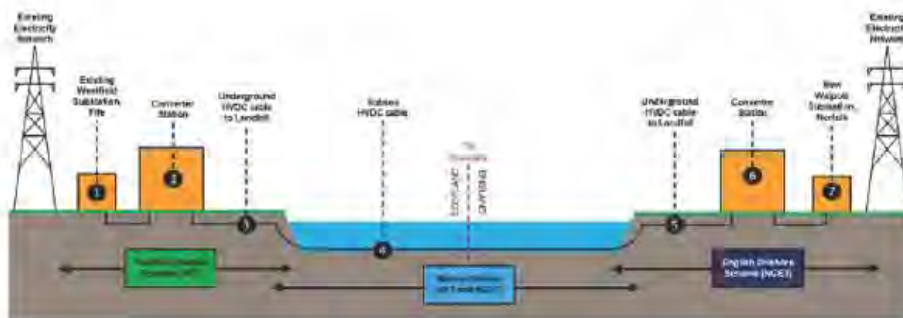
This leaflet tells you about our proposals, where to find more information, and how you can give us your views.

What is EGL4?

EGL4 is a major investment developed in partnership between SP Energy Networks and National Grid Electricity Transmission, and is made up of three parts:

- A 500km subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) cable between Kinghorn, Fife, and South Humber, Lincolnshire
- A 14km underground cable from Kinghorn to a new converter station at Westfield, near Ballingry, Fife
- A 100km underground cable from South Humber to a new converter station near Walpole, Norfolk

HVDC is the most efficient way to transmit large amounts of electricity over long distances. Converter stations are needed at each end to change the DC (direct current) electricity to and from AC (alternating current) electricity, so it's safe to use in our homes and businesses.



Why is Eastern Green Link 4 needed?

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

As the country shifts away from traditional forms of fuel to heat homes, charge vehicles and power businesses, there is greater need for clean electricity. By the end of this decade, the UK Government also aims for every home in the country to be powered by offshore wind and has set a 50GW offshore wind connections target by the early 2030s.

Much of the new offshore and onshore wind is in or around Scotland, and the existing electricity network does not have enough capacity to transmit all the additional clean, green energy from where it's produced to where it's needed.

EGL4 will be able to transmit up to 2GW of clean, green renewable energy – enough to power around 1.5 million homes. It is one of four Eastern Green Link HVDC projects that will significantly increase the capacity of the electricity network between Scotland and England.

Western Link, a similar HVDC project linking Hunterston on the west coast of Scotland with Connahs Quay in North Wales, is already in operation. EGL1 and EGL2 have already been consented and are moving towards construction, and EGL3 and EGL4 (this project) are in the development and assessment stage.

HVDC: how it works

Over the next decade predicted renewable and non-renewable electricity generation will place a considerable pressure on the network and how electricity is delivered to homes and businesses.

Over the coming decade renewable energy will continue to make a major contribution to the UK energy mix. In addition, other new generation will be developed as ageing power stations reach the end of their operational lives.



Subsea HVDC technology has a number of advantages when transmitting electricity in large volumes – it is particularly effective at the long distance transmission of large volumes of electricity.



AC electricity can have its voltage increased or decreased using transformers, making it safe to use in our homes, businesses, schools and hospitals.

But to transmit electricity over long distances it is more efficient to use HVDC, which operates at a fixed voltage, requires fewer conductors (cables or wires) and incurs less power loss than AC networks.

AC electricity is converted into HVDC electricity using specialised equipment at a converter station. The HVDC electricity can then be transmitted over long distances – hundreds of kilometres – via underground and subsea cables to a second converter station, where it is converted back to AC to flow in to the local electricity network.

By doing this, projects like EGL4 can remove 'bottlenecks' on the existing transmission network while reducing the need for more onshore power lines and associated infrastructure.

Marine cable route

Our preferred route for the subsea cables has been developed through careful environmental and technical assessment of potential route options, in consultation with Scottish shipping and fisheries organisations and environmental bodies. It takes into account protected and designated areas and infrastructure such as pipelines, cables, wrecks and military considerations. You can find detailed information and maps on our website and at our consultation events.



Public consultation

Our public consultation runs until Friday 10 May 2024

SP Energy Networks 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 proposed landfall and converter station sites, and onshore and offshore cable routes, to help us develop the project in the best way. Please come along to one of our public exhibitions, where you can see our plans in more detail and ask questions of the project team.

Date	Location
Tuesday 23 April 2pm – 7pm	Benarty Centre, Flockhouse Avenue, Ballingry KY5 8JH
Wednesday 24 April 9.00am – 12.30pm	Auchtertool Village Hall, Main Street, Auchtertool KY2 5XW
Thursday 25 April 3.30pm – 7.30pm	Kinghorn Community Centre, Rossland Place, Kinghorn KY3 9SS

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



How to contact us

Website: https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/eastern_green_link_4.aspx
 Email: egl4@communityrelations.co.uk
 Freephone: 0800 021 7890
 Freepost: FREEPOST SPEN EGL4



What happens next?

Following this first round of consultation we will develop a detailed design for the landfall, converter station and cable route, including locations for access routes and working areas. We will publish a report summarising the feedback received in this first round of consultation and how this has influenced our plans. We will then carry out a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and hold a second round of public consultation on the detailed designs.

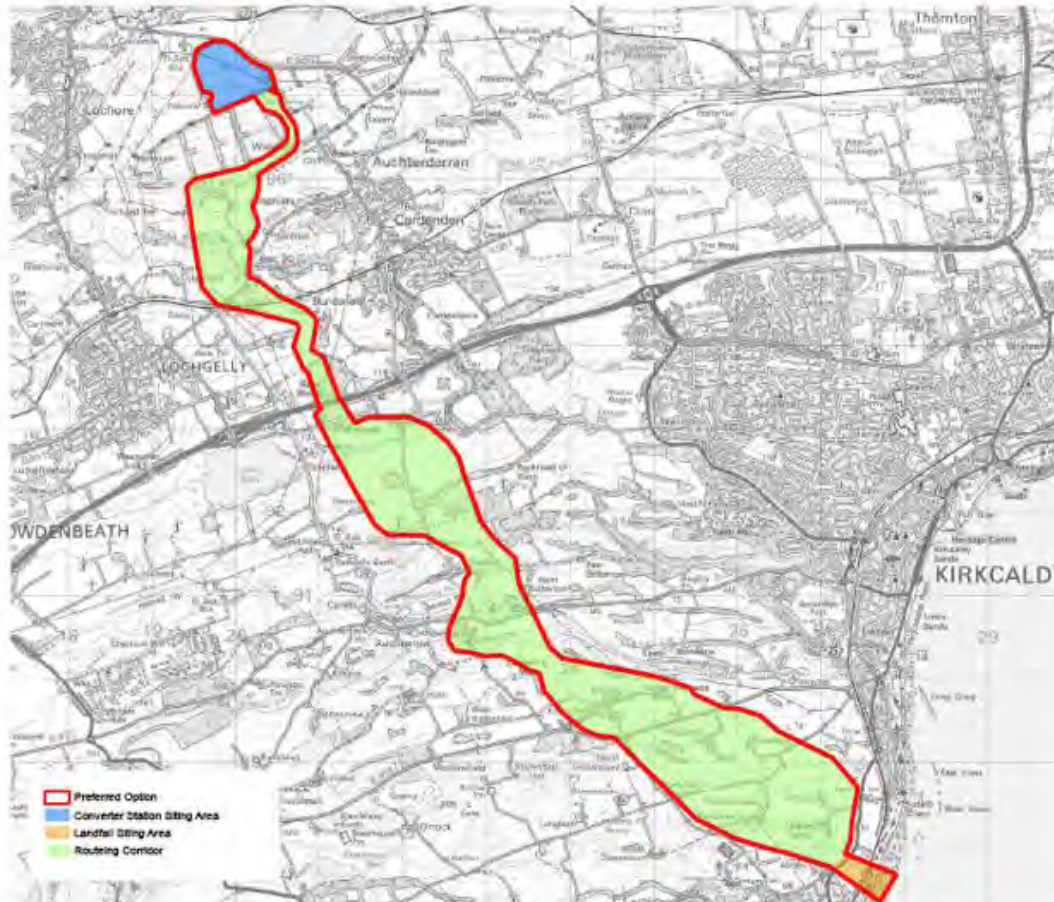
SP Energy Networks will be applying to Fife Council for planning permission in principle (PIP) under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for the proposed

converter station, and full planning permission for the DC underground cable from the Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) at the landfall site to the converter station and for the AC underground cable from the converter station to Westfield Substation. The EIA Report will accompany the planning application to Fife Council.

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

Eastern Green Link 4

Summary of feedback from first round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)



Onshore work in Fife – what's required?

Converter station

We need to build a new converter station close to the existing substation at Westfield, so that AC electricity from the transmission network can be converted to HV DC for sea onward transmission via the underground and subsea cables.

The converter station will be made up of large warehouse-type buildings and outside electrical equipment. The total converter station footprint will be approximately 250m x 350m in size with buildings up to 28.5m in height, to accommodate the equipment needed. We will also need temporary construction and parking areas, and underground cables to connect the converter station to the existing substation. Our plans will include landscaping and tree-planting to help screen the site, reduce its visual effects and increase biodiversity.



Existing converter station at Blyth, Northumberland

Landfill

We are proposing to bring the subsea cables ashore at Kirkcaldy, south of Kirkcaldy, where they will be joined to underground cables in a buried pit. Once installation is complete, the ground will be reinstated and no permanent above-ground infrastructure will be visible.

We selected Kirkcaldy as the landfill site after careful appraisal of a number of potential options along the Fife coast, including at Largo Bay and Buckhaven. Bringing the cables ashore at Kirkcaldy allows a shorter onshore cable route to Westfield (around 14km from Kirkcaldy compared to around 20km from Largo Bay) and avoids centres of population, thereby minimising disturbance to local communities.

The subsea cables will be installed at the landfill site below ground using Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) to minimise any impact on the sensitive coastal environment and protected sites, and avoiding disturbance to the sea-haul-out area to the north.

Onshore cable route

Our preferred route for the underground cables between the converter station at Westfield and the landfill point at Kirkcaldy is approximately 14km in length, running mainly through rural areas to the south of the A92, and on the margins of scattered settlements to the north of the A92.

The preferred route avoids designated areas including Camilla Loch SSSI, Bath Park and Boweridge Park Garden. It will cross under the A92, the Fife Circle Railway Line and watercourses using trenchless technology such as HDD. This technology may also be used to pass safely under other features such as large areas of woodland if we cannot route around them.

We recognise that construction work can cause temporary inconvenience and disturbance, but we believe our preferred route will keep this to a minimum. Once the cables are installed the land will be reinstated and there will be no visible above-ground infrastructure.



Underground cable installation during construction

5.2. Appendix B: Newspaper advert

Eastern Green Link 4 Project



We'd like your views!

Scotland is producing more clean, green energy than ever before, and we need to strengthen the transmission network so we can get it to the homes, schools and businesses that need it. One of the ways we increase capacity is by building new infrastructure to transmit more electricity securely and reliably.

Eastern Green Link 4 (EGL4) is a new High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) subsea electrical link that will connect Fife in Scotland with Norfolk in England. The EGL4 project will play a key role in the fight against climate change, and the UK's transition to Net Zero.

We have identified a preferred route for the onshore cables between a landfall point on the coast near Kinghorn and Westfield, near Ballingry, where we need to build a new converter station close to the existing substation.

We are holding three public exhibitions where you can view our plans and talk to the project team. You can also find more information on our website https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/eastern_green_link_4.aspx



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

Phone: 0800 021 7890
Email: egl4@communityrelations.co.uk
Post: FREEPOST SPEN EGL4

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

Public exhibitions

Date	Location
Tuesday 23 April 2.00pm – 7.00pm	Benarty Centre, Flockhouse Avenue, Ballingry KY5 8JH
Wednesday 24 April 9.00am – 12.30pm	Auchtertool Village Hall, Main Street, Auchtertool KY2 5XW
Thursday 25 April 3.30pm – 7.30pm	Kinghorn Community Centre, Rossland Place, Kinghorn KY3 9SS

Our public consultation runs until Friday 10 May 2024.

5.3 Appendix C: Exhibition banners

About SP Energy Networks



 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 this happens belongs to SP Energy Networks. In fact we have a statutory duty to do it.

SP Energy Networks operates, maintains and develops the network of cables, overhead lines and substations which transport electricity to homes, schools and businesses in our local communities, and onwards to where it's needed further afield.

The high-voltage electricity transmission network, is managed by SP Transmission plc, a wholly-owned subsidiary of SP Energy Networks.

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 our local distribution networks, where the voltage is reduced for use in homes and businesses.

Eastern Green Link 4

Summary of feedback from first round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)



The image is a vertical banner with a green background. At the top, the text "Electricity in our changing world" is written in a bold, green, sans-serif font. Below the text is a photograph of a blue and white electric vehicle charging station (EVSE) with the "evolt" logo. The station is situated in a rural landscape with a body of water and hills in the background. The bottom half of the banner is a solid green area containing white text and a small circular logo with a stylized flame or leaf design.

Electricity in our changing world



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

As the country shifts away from traditional forms of fuel to heat homes, charge vehicles and power businesses, there is greater need for clean electricity.

By the end of this decade, the UK Government also aims for every home in the country to be powered by offshore wind and has set a 50GW offshore wind connections target by the early 2030s.

Much of the new offshore and onshore wind is in or around Scotland, and the existing electricity network does not have enough capacity to transmit all the additional clean, green energy from where it's produced to where it's needed.

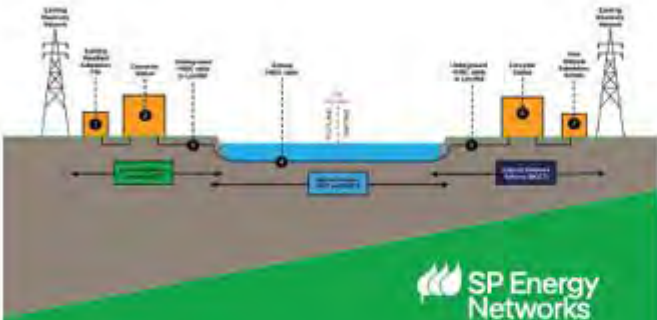
Eastern Green Link 4 (EGL4) is being developed in partnership between SP Energy Networks and National Grid Electricity Transmission and is one of four similar projects that will significantly increase the capacity of the electricity network between Scotland and England. EGL1 and EGL2 have already been consented and are moving towards construction, and EGL3 and EGL4 (this project) are in the development and assessment stage.

Western Link, a similar project linking Hunterston on the west coast of Scotland with Conneha Quay in North Wales, is already in operation.

Eastern Green Link 4

Summary of feedback from first round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

Eastern Green Link 4 (EGL4): what's involved



 SP Energy Networks



EGL4 is a new High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) electrical link that will connect Fife in Scotland with Norfolk in England. It will be able to transmit up to 2GW of clean, green renewable energy – enough to power around 1.5 million homes.

EGL4 is made up of three parts:

- A 500km subsea HVDC cable between Kinghorn, Fife, and South Humber, Lincolnshire
- A 14km underground cable from Kinghorn to a new converter station at Westfield, near Bellingry, Fife
- A 100km underground cable from South Humber to a new converter station near Walpole, Norfolk

Eastern Green Link 4

Summary of feedback from first round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

What is HVDC and why do we use it?

Over the coming decade renewable energy will continue to make a major contribution towards decarbonisation. In addition, offshore gas generation will be developed as ageing power stations reach the end of their operational lives.



The electricity transmission network plays a key role in transporting electricity across the UK, bringing it from generators to homes and businesses. The network moves electricity at high voltages from generators such as power stations or wind farms to towns and cities.

However HVDC technology has a number of advantages when transferring electricity in large volumes – it is particularly effective at the long distance transmission of large volumes of electricity.



In everyday life we use Alternating Current (AC) electricity, which can have its voltage increased or decreased using transformers, making it safe to use in our homes, schools, businesses, and hospitals.

But to transmit large volumes of electricity over long distances it is more efficient to use High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC), which operates at a fixed voltage, requires fewer conductors (cables or wires) and incurs less power loss than AC networks.

AC electricity is converted into HVDC electricity using specialised equipment at a converter station. The HVDC electricity can then be transmitted over long distances – hundreds of kilometres – via underground and subsea cables to a second converter station, where it is converted back to AC to flow into the local electricity network.

By doing this, projects like EGL4 can remove 'bottlenecks' on the existing transmission network while reducing the need for more onshore overhead or underground power lines and associated infrastructure.

Westfield converter station



Existing converter station at Blyth, Northumberland



Computer visualisation of proposed Westfield converter station



Converter stations are needed at each end of an HVDC link to change the DC electricity to and from AC electricity, so it's safe to use in our homes and businesses.

The converter station will be made up of large warehouse-type buildings and outside electrical equipment. The total converter station footprint will be approximately 250m x 350m in size with buildings up to 28.5m in height, to accommodate the equipment needed. We will also need temporary construction and parking areas, and underground cables to connect the converter station to the existing substation. Our plans will include landscaping and tree-planting to help screen the site, reduce its visual effects and increase biodiversity.

Westfield is the starting point for EGL4 because it is a strong point on our existing transmission network which is closest to the Fife coast. The Westfield substation is currently a 275kV substation but will be rebuilt in the future as a 400kV substation. We need to have suitable network connectivity at the substation to provide the strongest support for the HVDC link. Westfield substation is the only substation in this area that provides this level of network connectivity and security, with four circuit infeeds to provide the resilience needed to keep the electricity moving.

Kinghorn landfall point



We are proposing to bring the subsea cables ashore at Kinghorn, south of Kirkcaldy, where they will be joined to underground cables in a buried pit. Once installation is complete, the ground will be reinstated and no permanent above-ground infrastructure will be visible.

We selected Kinghorn as the landfall site after careful appraisal of a number of potential options along the Fife coast, including at Largo Bay and Buckhaven. Bringing the cables ashore at Kinghorn allows a shorter onshore cable route to Westfield (around 14km from Kinghorn compared to around 29km from Largo Bay) and avoids centres of population, thereby minimising disturbance to local communities and the environment.

The subsea cables will be installed at the landfall site below ground using Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD). This is a trenchless technology that reduces excavation to minimise any impact on the sensitive coastal environment and protected sites, and avoiding disturbance to the seal haul-out area to the north.



Underground cable route



We have identified a swathe of land between the converter station site at Westfield and the landfall point at Kinghorn within which underground cables could be installed.

We will need a 'working width' of approximately 40 metres within this swathe, and we are consulting local people on where within the swathe this should go to help shape our ongoing design and assessment.

Our preferred route is approximately 14km in length, running mainly through rural areas to the south of the A92, and on the margins of scattered settlements to the north of the A92.

The preferred route avoids designated areas including Camilla Loch SSSI, Raith Park and Beveridge Park Garden. It will cross under the A92, the Fife Circle Railway Line and watercourses using trenchless technology (such as HDD). This trenchless technology may also be used to pass safely under other features such as large areas of woodland if we cannot route around them.



Cross-section of typical working width for HVDC cable installation

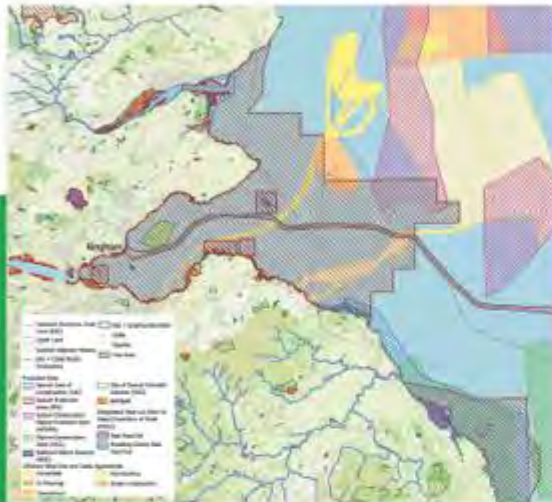


HVDC cable installation

Eastern Green Link 4

Summary of feedback from first round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

Marine cable route



Our preferred route for the subsea cables has been developed through careful environmental and technical assessment of potential route options, in consultation with Scottish shipping and fisheries organisations and environmental bodies.

It takes into account protected and designated areas and infrastructure such as pipelines, cables, wrecks and military considerations.

The marine cables will be installed by special cable-laying vessels (pictured below). They will be buried in the sea bed or covered by rock armour throughout their length to protect them from accidental damage.



Eastern Green Link 4

Summary of feedback from first round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

**We want to
hear your views!**



 **SP Energy
Networks**



**Our public consultation runs until Friday 10
May 2024.**

SP Energy Networks 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 EGL4 project in the best way.

Please give us your views on our preferred converter station site, underground cable route, landfall point and marine cable route, and anything you would like us to take into account – such as site access – to help us develop our plans.



You can find more information, project documents and an online feedback form at our project website:
www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/eastern_green_link_4.aspx

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

Email: egl4@communityrelations.co.uk

Freephone: 0800 021 7890

Freepost: FREEPOST SPEN EGL4

What happens next?



 SP Energy
Networks



Following this first round of consultation we will develop more detailed designs for the landfall point, converter station and cable route, including locations for access routes and working areas.

We will publish a report summarising the feedback received in this first round of consultation and how this has influenced our plans. We will then carry out a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and hold a second round of public consultation on the detailed designs.

SP Energy Networks will be applying to Fife Council for planning permission in principle (PIP) under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for the proposed converter station, and full planning permission for the DC underground cable from the Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) at the landfall site to the converter station and for the AC underground cable from the converter station to Westfield Substation. The EIA Report will accompany the planning application to Fife Council.

The marine cable will be subject to a separate application to the Scottish Government's Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT).

Appendix B: Round two feedback report



Eastern Green Link 4

Proposed New High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC)
electrical link connecting Fife, Scotland with Norfolk,
England

Summary of feedback from second round of
Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) – May 2025

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Executive Summary

This report summarises the second round of pre-application consultation events carried out by SP Energy Networks for a proposed new High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) electrical link connecting Fife in Scotland with Norfolk in England.

SP Energy Networks carried out its first round of pre-application public consultation with local residents and stakeholders from Monday 8 April to Friday 10 May 2024, which included three drop-in public exhibitions on Tuesday 23, Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 April 2024 to consult on initial proposals.

Since then, we have continued talking to stakeholders and conducting technical and environmental studies. A second round of pre-application public consultation took place from Monday 12 May to Friday 6 June for local people to give their views on the updated proposals. As before, three drop-in public exhibitions were held on Tuesday 13, Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 May 2025 in Auchtertool, Ballingry and Kinghorn, respectively.

1 Introduction

Need for the Project

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. As the country shifts away from traditional forms of fuel to heat homes, charge vehicles and power businesses, there is greater need for clean electricity.

The UK Government is also aiming for every home in the country to be powered by offshore wind and has set a 50GW offshore wind connections target by the early 2030s. Much of the new onshore and offshore wind generation is in or around Scotland, and the existing electricity network does not have enough capacity to transmit all the additional clean, green energy from where it's produced to where it's needed.

EGL4 is one of many new transmission upgrades that are planned in the UK to help reach these targets. The need for these projects has been identified through the Network Options Assessment (NOA), which is carried out every year by National Electricity Systems Operator (NESO) 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.

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 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.

The Proposals

Last year, we consulted local people about our preferred converter station site at Westfield, near Ballingry, our preferred landfall site near Kinghorn (where the subsea cables would come ashore), and our preferred onshore underground cable route between them. Second time round, we consulted on our detailed plans for the converter station site, underground cable route, marine cable route and landfall site.

In summary, EGL4 is a major investment developed in partnership between SP Energy Networks and National Grid Electricity Transmission, and is made up of three parts:

- A 530km offshore High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) cable between Kinghorn, Fife, and Anderby Creek, Lincolnshire
- A 16.4km underground cable from Kinghorn to a new converter station at Westfield, near Ballingry, Fife
- A 100km underground cable from Anderby Creek to a new converter station near Walpole, Norfolk

HVDC is the most efficient way to transmit large amounts of electricity over long distances. Converter stations are needed at each end to change the direct current (DC) electricity to and from alternating current (AC) electricity, so it's safe to use in our homes and businesses.

2. Approach to Pre-Application Consultation

Legislation and guidance

SP Energy Networks will be applying to Fife Council for planning permission in principle (PIP) under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for the proposed converter station, and full planning permission for the DC underground cable from the Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) at the landfall site to the converter station and for the AC underground cable from the converter station to Westfield Substation.

SP Energy Networks is carrying out an Environmental Impact Assessment, which will accompany the planning applications.

The marine cable within Scottish territorial waters will be subject to a separate marine licence application to the Scottish Government's Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) and will be supported by a marine environmental appraisal.

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, co-ordinated 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 considers the effect of work on communities when putting forward proposals for new 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.

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

Approach to consultation

The strategy for consultation on EGL4 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
- 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.

3. Pre-Application Consultation

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 EGL4 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 in April 2024 and the second round in May 2025.

SP Energy Networks used a range of communication channels to publicise and promote the consultation events, 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: egl4@communityrelations.co.uk
- Freepost: FREEPOST SPEN EGL4
- Freephone: 0800 021 7890
- Online via the dedicated project website: egl4@communityrelations.co.uk
- Face-to-face or in writing at public consultation exhibitions

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 Fife Council, Members of Parliament (MP) and Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) whose constituencies are within the Fife Council area
- Community councils in the project area
- National statutory consultees such as NatureScot and SEPA
- Known local interest and community groups operating in the project area
- Fisheries; and
- Local residents, businesses and the general public.

The first consultation period ran from Monday 8 April until Friday 10 May 2024. SP Energy Networks held three public drop-in exhibitions (details of which were included in all issued project communications):

- Tuesday 23 April, 2-7pm: Benarty Centre, Flockhouse Avenue, Ballingry, KY5 8JH

- Wednesday 24 April, 9am-12:30pm: Auchtertool Village Hall, Main Street, Auchtertool, KY2 5XW
- Thursday 25 April, 3:30-7:30pm: Kinghorn Community Centre, Rossland Place, Kinghorn, KY3 9SS

Further details of the first round of consultation are included in the [SPEN EGL4 Round One Feedback Report](#) on the SP Energy Networks website.

The second consultation period ran from Monday 12 May until Friday 6 June 2025. SP Energy Networks held three public drop-in exhibitions (details of which were included in all issued project communications):

- Tuesday 13 May, 2-7pm: Auchtertool Village Hall, Main Street, Auchtertool, KY2 5XW
- Wednesday 14 May, 2-7pm: Benarty Centre, Flockhouse Avenue, Ballingry, KY5 8JH
- Thursday 15 May, 2-7pm: Kinghorn Community Centre, Rossland Place, Kinghorn, KY3 9SS

A total of 74 people visited the three events (19 at Auchtertool, 7 at Ballingry and 48 at Kinghorn). This included representatives from Fife Council, Auchtertool Community Trust and The Ecology Centre.

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

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

A project leaflet explaining the proposals, the purpose of the consultation and the process for submitting feedback was produced and distributed to approximately 4,100 properties (residential and business) within a defined radius of the project site, including the communities of Ballingry, Kinghorn and Auchtertool. 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 *Fife Free Press*, *Glenrothes Gazette*, and *The Courier* newspapers for two consecutive weeks (w/c 21 May 2025 and w/c 28 May 2025). The advert described the project proposals, details of the drop-in events, the ways in which feedback could be submitted, a statement that comments made at this stage were not representations to the consenting authorities, and details on how to find further information, including a QR code linking to the project website. A copy of the advert can be found in Appendix B.

A feedback form was made available in hard copy and online. It included seven questions in relation to the project proposals and an additional section that asked demographic data including title, name, address, telephone number, email address, if the respondent is responding on behalf of an organisation and if they attended any of the public exhibitions. The seven project related questions were:

- 1) Do you have any comments on our preferred site for the converter station?
- 2) Do you have any comments on our proposed underground cable route?
- 3) Please let us have any comments you may have about our preferred landfill site.
- 4) We are consulting with marine users, including fisheries and shipping organisations, about our preferred subsea cable route, but please let us know if you have any comments you would like us to take into account

- 5) How did you find out about the project and the consultation? *Multiple choice options provided were: advert, leaflet, website, media coverage, social media, word of mouth, other.*
- 6) Do you have any comments about our public consultation?
- 7) Are there any other comments you would like to make; for example, your priorities for community benefit projects?

The closing date for submitting responses to SP Energy Networks was midnight on Friday 6 June 2025. Following this date, the consultation information remained accessible on the project website and available to download.

At the public events, a range of information was made available including printed maps to give a visual interpretation of what the site could look like, which were displayed on tables at the venues. There were also 10 exhibition boards displayed across the room which provided detail on each aspect of the proposals. A copy of the boards can be found in Appendix C.

A 3D model of the landfall, cable corridor and converter station site was also available. Visitors were able to interact with the model and zoom in to different locations to view the project from different angles. Animation of the landfall HDD and cable installation were also available to watch.

The project leaflet, newspaper notice, project plans, FAQs, general information about the project and the consultation, the exhibition boards, and the feedback form were made available on a dedicated project website:

https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/eastern_green_link_4.aspx.

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

Summary of feedback

Stakeholders could submit feedback in various methods as outlined previously. 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 provide 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 13 feedback forms were submitted during the consultation period via hard copy forms sent to the FREEPOST address, online via the feedback form, and email to the project inbox, providing comments on a variety of topics, including impact on wildlife, the cable route and benefits for the local community.

Feedback was also received from statutory stakeholders and local interest groups, whom the project team engaged with directly.

The hardcopy documents received through the FREEPOST address were collected, scanned and securely saved on the project's SharePoint. The full responses were then manually transcribed into the analysis database and checked for accuracy.

Emails received in the project mailbox which were categorised as consultation feedback were separated from the general correspondence. Email feedback was securely saved on the project's SharePoint, manually transcribed into the analysis database and checked for accuracy. The sender of each email was sent a standard acknowledgement in the form of an automated response.

Once all responses were included in the analysis database, they were 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.

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 the following statutory consultees:

- Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) – agrees with the approach of avoiding environmentally sensitive areas where possible and we are glad to see that mitigation hierarchy has been applied as the Scottish Offshore Approach avoids the Firth of Forth Banks Complex Nature Conservation Marine Protected Area (NCMPA). The consultee indicated that they are seeking further information on the project and its cable crossings plans. In addition to that, the consultee has also sought clarity on presence and avoidance of Annex I habitat and if other routes were considered for this portion of the cable and confirmation of the methodology for the route proposal. They added that if cable crossings are located within areas of Annex I habitat, they would ask if it is possible to change the location of these crossings to stop the unavoidable need for cable protection and permanent alteration of these habitats.
- The Coal Authority – requests that consideration be given posed by past coal mining activity to the project works proposed and a Coal Mining Risk Assessment prepared for those parts of the project in the defined Development High Risk Area where groundworks are required for underground cabling and structures.
- RYA Scotland – had no further comments and are happy with the proposals.
- NATS Safeguarding – stated that the proposed development has been examined from a technical safeguarding aspect and does not conflict with our safeguarding criteria.
- Network Rail – requests that any works under the railway to be subject to further discussion and agreement with Network Rail. Stated that as the proposed cables run under the railway owned by Network Rail installation, operations, maintenance and renewals will be subject to legal agreement. Construction works will need to be undertaken in a safe manner and that details of all changes in ground levels, laying of foundations and operation of mechanical plant in proximity to the railway must be submitted to Network Rail for approval prior to work commencing on site.
- ScotWays – identified that the onshore works interact with a number of recorded rights of way and other routes used for recreation and/or active travel. Suggests that public rights of way should be added to the list of environmental constraints and considerations as although rights of way can and do coincide with designated core paths, this is not necessarily always the case. Recommend contacting Fife Council's access team regarding managing public access during works. Look forward to commenting on the Access Management Plan that may be developed as part of the planning application process.
- Scottish Forestry – notes and welcomes the intention to avoid woodland either by installing cables alongside or under forested areas where possible. States that Scottish Government policy is opposed to the permanent removal of woodland. Sets out requirements for infrastructure felling, restocking requirements, enforcement and compensatory planting.

- BT – have looked at the proposals with respect to Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) and related problems to BT point-to-point microwave radio links. Concludes that the project should not cause interference to BT's current and presently planned radio network.

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

SP Energy Networks' response to the feedback

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	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
Preferred cable routes	"I have looked at the proposed route and would like to ensure that it will not affect Minto woodland. This area is currently having £100,000 spent on it to upgrade grass paths to semibond surface. This should be complete by June 14 2025. This allows more usage access especially disabled access. Can you assure us these routes will remain intact?"	The Minto Woodland will not be impacted by the cable route. SP Energy Networks will use a horizontal directional drill (HDD) underneath the woodland and so there will be no impact on the newly created woodland or footpaths.
Converter station	"I think this is a good location for the converter station and encourage the landscaping and tree planting" "Our concerns include the impact on our new business which is opening soon at our property which is in close proximity to the proposed entrance to the Converter Station, the view we will now have from our house window with a building up to 28.5m high"	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. It is acknowledged that the buildings proposed are large in scale and it will not be possible to fully screen from every location around the site. The visual assessment undertaken as part of the EIA includes representative viewpoints and will determine the degree of anticipated change to visual amenity experienced. Visualisations will be produced for the converter station at the viewpoint locations to provide an understanding of the potential visual effects.
Ecology and biodiversity	"I am concerned about the impact of the landfill construction on wildlife in the area" "I have looked at the proposed route and would like to ensure that it will not affect an area called into woodland" "The wildlife in the local areas will obviously be disrupted"	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.

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
	"I am concerned about the marine environment. The seals, dolphins and porpoises could be vulnerable as could the ecosystems under water which ensure our coast is rich in life and diversity." "I hope there will be minimum disruption to the coastal path at the landfill site. Engaging with Fife Coast & Countryside Trust is paramount"	The EIA will include details of Biodiversity Net Gain proposals such as landscaping around the converter station, restoration of hedgerows along the cable route and potential areas for additional woodland planting in the vicinity of the converter station site. In addition to the onshore Environmental Impact Assessment a detailed marine environmental appraisal is also underway and will support the Marine Licence application. The marine environmental appraisal includes details of the marine survey which has been undertaken along the full length of the marine cable. The survey includes benthic sampling, videos along the cable route and geophysical and geotechnical surveys. The proposed landfill location is situated in fields to the east of Kinghorn. The landfill will allow the marine cables to come onshore and run up to Westfield. There is no requirement for any permanent structures above ground at the landfill site and the cables will go out to sea via an HDD under the cliffs. A temporary construction compound will be required during this work following which the land will be reinstated. There will be no interaction between the HDD and the coastal path and this will remain open and unaffected throughout the works.
Impact due to construction	"Concerned about the upheaval at the time of construction with traffic and machinery"	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. Noise and vibration: Baseline noise monitoring is being undertaken, and noise modelling is proposed to formally establish the operational noise characteristics of the proposed converter station and underground cable works. These details will form part of the supporting information for the planning application to Fife Council. At the

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
		Kinghorn landfill site there will be a need for 24/7 working for a short period during HDD operations, which will create some noise and vibration. Where noise mitigation is required to address noise levels in excess of adopted standards, this will be implemented prior to commissioning of the development. Traffic and Transport impacts will also be considered in the EIA including a traffic management plan.
Impact on local community	"We have concerns with the value of our property decreasing and the difficulty of selling it once the Converter Station is in place" "It is to be hoped that there will be no disruption to the working farms in this area." "Could you provide information on the overall estimated costs of EGL4 and when the construction might begin? Also the number of jobs created" "Can you please confirm [...] improvements will be made to the boundary with residential properties which has been sadly neglected over many years by the farmer"	It should be noted that there is currently no compensation for the potential impact of the connection on views from individual properties. However, we recognise that the visual impact of transmission infrastructure may be an issue for many local communities and individuals and our approach is to maximise the distance of the final project from properties, wherever possible. Individual properties have been mapped out and considered as part of the detailed routing and siting. For a project of this size there will always be some temporary disruption during construction. We will work closely with the affected landowners and local communities to ensure clear communication of the timing of proposed work. The overall costs associated with the project will be known once key contractors are appointed. Our sister project EGL1 is valued at £2.5bn.
Visual impact	"I am pleased this is an underground cable"	Noted.
Safety	"I would be concerned at fire risk at the converter station"	SP Energy Networks works to very strict health and safety requirements when designing our transmission equipment (including The Building (Scotland) Regulations 2004 issued by Scottish Ministers). All converter stations are operated in line with rigorous UK and international fire safety standards (such as BS 9999, Code of Practice for fire safety in the design, management and use of buildings). The buildings are constructed primarily of non-combustible materials to reduce the potential for build-up and spread of fire. The converter station is subdivided into fire compartments and are separated from each other either by distance or by fire walls.

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
		An area wide fire alarm and detection system is provided for all buildings of the converter station. This includes advanced fire detection and suppression systems, as well as strict operational protocols to minimise the risk and ensure the safety of the public, our staff and contractors, and our infrastructure.
Community benefits	"The Fife Coastal Path would benefit from upgrades at a number of locations in the Kirkcaldy / Kinghorn area. One would be an upgrade to the Pettycur Bay Beach Ramp between Kinghorn and Burntisland beaches" "We would like to certainly work with SP Energy Networks on community projects. We have a community engagement day with SP Energy which was excellent" "It is to be hoped that a substantial donation will be made from SPEN to Bannatyne Primary School St Kenneth's Primary School along the lines of donations we received from the Windfarm at Kirkglassie + Exxon Mobil at near Auchtertool. These are deprived communities and need investment and jobs. Hopefully locals will gain something through employment. Reportedly 4-5000 jobs were created during the construction of the Blyth converter station" "Perhaps SPEN could donate to the local museum and provide wildlife cameras for children to spot badgers, deer and the otters and bats?" "An investment by SPEN would give back to the community and ensure the disruption to the wildlife habitats is recoverable. Around £200,000 to the Ecology Centre would help with their work and education programme." "Liaise with Fife Coast & Countryside Trust regarding upgrades to the Fife Coastal Path between Kinghorn and Kirkcaldy." "Kinghorn Community Centre needs an energy efficiency upgrade"	Noted, thank you for the suggestion. SP Energy Networks will discuss this with the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust. 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.

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
	"SPEN should give something back to the community by enhancing the coastal path so that cycles, pushchairs and wheelchairs can access it more easily." "Could you provide more detail on when funding for Community Groups will be available next year?"²⁶ "My priorities for benefit projects would be for pedestrian path upgrades."	
Quality of consultation	"I think the public consultation has been wholly inadequate. 3 separate drop-in sessions in May 2025 and in 2024 are not adequate for a project of this scale and the impact on the local communities and the wildlife habitat in the surrounding areas, both farmland/woodland and coastal/undersea."²⁷ "There was a lot of information which was clear. There didn't seem to be any thoughts around pending community benefits with the electricity pumped south"²⁸	In addition to the two rounds of Pre-Application Consultation, SP Energy Networks has continued to engage with stakeholders and landowners throughout the project development process. The Eastern Green Link 4 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.

4. Appendices

Appendix A: Project Leaflet



Scotland is producing more clean, green energy than ever before, and we need to strengthen the transmission network so we can get it to the homes, schools and businesses that need it. One of the ways we increase capacity is by building new infrastructure to transmit more electricity securely and reliably.

Eastern Green Link 4 (EGL4) is a new High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) electrical link that will connect Fife in Scotland with Norfolk in England. It will play a key role in the fight against climate change, and the UK's transition to Net Zero.

Last year we consulted local people about our preferred converter station site at Westfield, near Ballingry, our preferred landfall site near Kinghorn (where the subsea cables would come ashore), and our preferred onshore underground cable route between them.

We are now consulting on our detailed plans for the converter station site, underground cable route and landfall site.

We want to hear your views!

Our public consultation runs until Friday 06 June 2025.

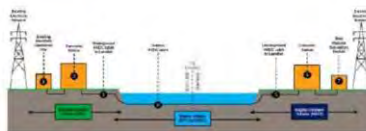
This leaflet tells you about our plans, where to find more information, and how you can give us your views.

What is EGL4?

EGL4 is a major investment developed in partnership between SP Energy Networks and National Grid Electricity Transmission, and is made up of three parts:

- A 350km offshore High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) cable between Kingham, Fife, and South Humber, Lincolnshire
- A 54km underground cable from Kingham to a new converter station at Wintfield, near Baldry, Fife
- A 100km underground cable from South Humber to a new converter station near Walsby, Norfolk

HVDC is the most efficient way to transmit large amounts of electricity over long distances. Converter stations are needed at each end to change the direct current (DC) electricity to and from alternating current (AC) electricity, so it's safe to use in our homes and businesses.



Why is EGL4 needed?

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.

As the country shifts away from traditional forms of fuel to wind, solar, and other renewable energy sources, there is a growing need for clean electricity. By the end of this decade, the UK Government also aims for every home in the country to be powered by offshore wind and have an 8,000MW offshore wind connection target for the early 2030s.

Much of the new offshore and onshore wind is in or around Scotland, and the existing electricity network does not have enough capacity to transmit all the additional clean, green energy from where it's produced, to where it's needed.

EGL4 will be able to transmit up to 3,000MW of clean, green electricity energy – enough to power around 1.5 million homes. It is one of four Eastern Green Link HVDC projects that will significantly increase the capacity of the electricity network between Scotland and England.

Western Link, a similar HVDC project linking Fife to the west coast of Scotland with Carnoustie, is in North Wales, is already in operation. EGL3 and EGL2 have already been completed and are moving towards construction, and EGL1 and EGL4 are the next in the development and construction stages.

Converter station

We need to build a new converter station close to the existing substation at Wintfield, so that AC electricity from the transmission network can be converted to HVDC for safe, efficient transmission via the underground and subsea cables.

The converter station will be made up of large, weather-resistant buildings and outside electrical equipment. The total converter station footprint will be approximately 250m x 500m in size with buildings up to 35m in height, to accommodate the equipment needed. We will also need temporary construction and parking areas, and underground cables to connect the converter station to the existing substation. Our plans will include landscaping and tree planting to help screen the site, reduce its visual effects and screen biodiversity.

Following the first round of public consultation in May 2024, our design team has been carrying out detailed site investigations, boreholes and other initiatives aiming to determine the best location within our preferred site for the converter station, construction compounds and earthworks.

These have helped to identify the proposed station area for buildings and equipment, requirements for the levelling of the site and the best location for the temporary construction compound.

Permanent and temporary site accesses from the B9007 have been designed and funding locations identified. Extensive material removal during levelling works will be required on site where possible, including the removal of construction vehicle movements. Existing woodland will be retained and additional planting will take place to connect the site. We will also create new wetland habitat through drainage works, and look at opportunities for further biodiversity net gain (BNG) on surrounding land.



Public consultation

Our public consultation runs until Friday 06 June 2025

Project documents are available on our website, where you can also fill in an online feedback form. Alternatively, we can also send you a paper feedback form and a feedback envelope so you can complete it and return it to us free of charge.

SP Energy Networks 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 proposed landfill and converter station site, and onshore and offshore cable routes, to help us develop the project in the best way. Please come along to one of our public consultations, where you can see our plans in more detail and ask questions of the project team.

Date	Venue
Tuesday 12 May 3pm - 7pm	Auchincloss Village Hall, Main Street, Auchincloss KY15 5DW
Wednesday 14 May 3pm - 7pm	Barnard Castle, Barnard Castle Avenue, Barnard KY15 5LH
Thursday 15 May 3pm - 7pm	Kingham Community Centre, Rossland Place, Kingham KY15 9GB



How to contact us

Website: <https://www.spenenergynetworks.co.uk/energy/transition-green-link-4.aspx>
Email: egl4@communityrelations.co.uk
Freephone: 0800 027 7995
Freepost: FREEPOST SPEN EGL4



What happens next?

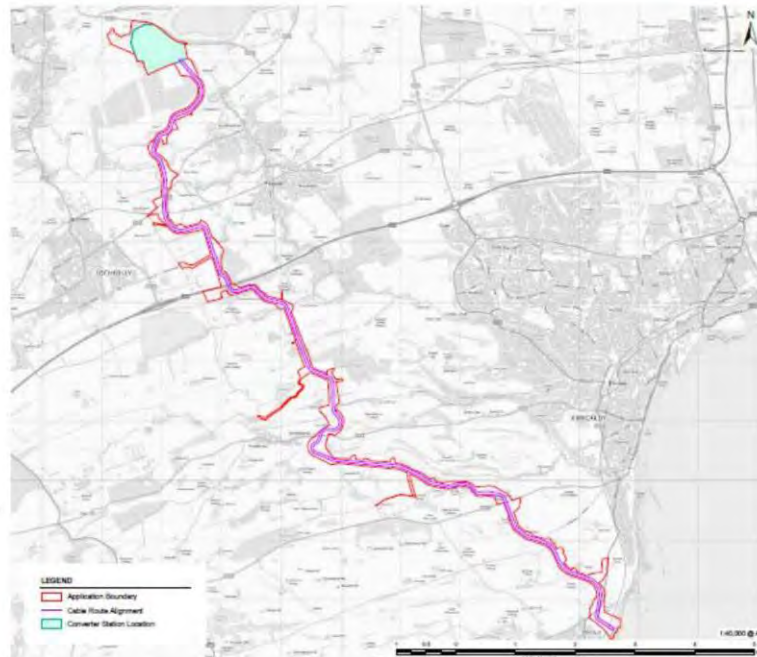
Once our pre-application consultation is complete and feedback received on the converter station, landfill and cable routes is detailed, the DA will be submitted. The reason of the DA has been agreed with the Council and will involve the construction of the project and the landscape, ecology, water and flooding, cultural heritage, air, noise and impacts, water, geology and resources. The DA will be considered and submitted as part of the planning application in autumn 2025.

SP Energy Networks will be working to the Council for planning permission in partnership (PP) under the Town and Country Planning (Development) Act 1990 for the proposed converter station and for planning permission for the DC underground cables from Fife to Low Water (Settling 24) and the landfill site to the converter station and for

the AC underground cables from the converter station to Wintfield Substation. The DA Report will accompany the application to the Council.

For the marine cables, our marine environmental consultants conduct a separate assessment and report which assesses the potential impact of the project on the marine environment, shipping and navigation, commercial fisheries and other marine uses. The report will accompany an application to the Scottish Government Marine Planning and Licensing Committee (MPLC) for a licence to install the marine cables.

As the design, your comments are not representative of the planning authority or PPLD. When we submit an application for development consent in future, you will be able to make formal representations at that stage.



Landfall

We are proposing to bring the onshore cables ashore at Clighen, south of Wierfield where they will be joined to underground cables in a tunnel. Once installation is complete, the ground will be reinstated to its permanent above ground infrastructure will be visible.

We assessed Clighen as the landfall site after careful appraisal of a number of potential options along the Fife coast, including at Largo Bay and Southwemy. Bringing the cables ashore at Clighen allows a shorter onshore cable route to Wierfield (around 5.4km from Clighen compared to around 28km from Largo Bay) and avoids crossing of potentially busy waterways.

The onshore cables will be installed at the landfall site below ground using horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) to minimise any impact on the sensitive coastal environment and protected sites, and resulting disturbance to the local fish and sea to the north. No works on the beach or cliffs will be required.

Following the first round of consultation in 2024, our detailed design work has enabled us to move the proposed HDD compound to the north-east of the preferred site, further away from houses to the south of Clighen.

Further work will focus on the design of the HDD compound site to ensure the drill works are carried out as sustainably as possible both for the residents and for the environment and wildlife (including seals and overwintering birds). This will be driven by the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which will be undertaken following the completion of the consultation and before the submission of the planning application.

Marine cable route

Our preferred route for the marine cables has been developed through careful environmental and technical assessment of proposed construction, from internationally further design and technical requirements and environmental studies. It takes into account protected and designated areas and infrastructure such as aquaculture, fishing, and other maritime activities. You can find detailed information and maps across website and all our consultation events.

SP Energy Networks has carried out further, and published marine surveys to look at the route through water to ensure the route is safe. The surveys provide data on the geology and ecology in the marine environment. Following consultation of the survey, marine technical specialists developed a route for the marine cables which takes account of all ground conditions such as overlapping rock and areas of high shelling, fishing and environmental sensitivity.

Onshore cable route

Our preferred route for the underground cables between the converter station at Wierfield and the landfall point at Clighen is approximately 5.4km in length, running mainly through rural areas to the south of the A77, and on the margin of scattered settlements to the north of the A77.

The preferred route avoids designated areas including Cambo Loch SSSI, Fife Park and Dunsinane Park Garden. It will cross under the A77, the Fife Cycle Railway Line and watercourses using trenchless technology (such as HDD). The trenchless technology will also be used to pass safely under other features such as large areas of woodland where we cannot install any structures.

Following last year's public consultation, our design team made up of engineering and environmental specialists has developed a detailed route alignment for the underground cables within the preferred route corridor. Including locations for construction compounds and access routes for construction vehicles. The route includes the cable trench, tapered storage ducts, fuel tank and storage.

This design work includes knowledge and other technical surveys to assess the suitability of the land along the route, and technical assessments of how and where to cross beneath roads, railways, lines, watercourses and woodlands. Ecologists have also advised the route to identify potential habitats for protected species including badgers, otters and bats. The 'technical boundary' shown on the map allows for a small amount of deviation in the route, so we can make adjustments to allow for any environmental sensitivities that may be discovered at the time of project construction.

We will use HDD technology to drill beneath Fife's woodlands to ensure no impact on the recently planted woodland and new footpaths. The HDD will split the cable duct from a compound on one side of the woodland, emerging in a second similar compound on the other side of the woodland. No access is envisaged to the woodland or footpath areas for these works.

We recognise that construction work can cause temporary inconvenience and disturbance, but we believe our preferred route will keep this to a minimum. Once the cables are installed the land will be reinstated and there will be no visible above ground infrastructure.



Appendix B: Newspaper Advert

Eastern Green Link 4 Project



We'd like your views!

Scotland is producing more clean, green energy than ever before, and we need to strengthen the transmission network so we can get it to the homes, schools and businesses that need it. One of the ways we increase capacity is by building new infrastructure to transmit more electricity securely and reliably.

Eastern Green Link 4 (EGL4) is a new High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) subsea electrical link that will connect Fife in Scotland with Norfolk in England. The EGL4 project will play a key role in the fight against climate change, and the UK's transition to Net Zero.

Last year we consulted local people about our preferred converter station site at Westfield, near Ballingry, our preferred landfall site near Kinghorn (where the subsea cables would come ashore), and our preferred onshore underground cable route between them. We are now consulting on our detailed plans.

Our public consultation runs until Friday 06 June 2025.

We are holding three public exhibitions where you can view our plans and talk to the project team. You can also find more information on our website https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/eastern_green_link_4.aspx



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

Phone: 0800 021 7890
Email: egl4@communityrelations.co.uk
Post: FREEPOST SPEN EGL4

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.

Public exhibitions

Date	Location
Tuesday 13 May 2.00pm – 7.00pm	Auchtertool Village Hall, Main Street, Auchtertool KY2 5XW
Wednesday 14 May 2.00pm – 7.00pm	Benarty Centre, Flockhouse Avenue, Ballingry KY5 8JH
Thursday 15 May 2.00pm – 7.00pm	Kinghorn Community Centre, Rossland Place, Kinghorn KY3 9SS

Appendix C: Exhibition panels

About SP Energy Networks



SP Energy Networks operates, maintains and develops the network of cables, overhead lines and substations which transport electricity to homes, schools and businesses in our local communities, and onwards to where it's needed further afield.

Our high-voltage transmission network takes electricity generated from wind farms, power stations and imports, and transports it through over 3700 km of overhead lines, over 600 km of underground cables and more than 150 substations, to our local distribution networks, where the voltage is reduced for use in homes and businesses.

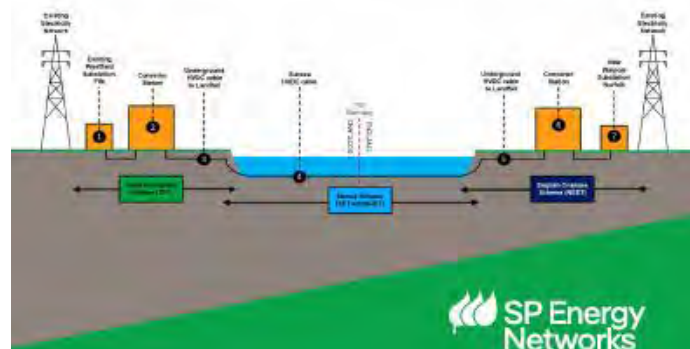
The UK and Scottish Governments are committed to increasing the use of renewable energy and have targets to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emission by 2045 in Scotland and 2050 in the UK.

By the end of this decade, the UK Government also aims for every home in the country to be powered by offshore wind and has set a 50GW offshore wind connections target by the early 2030s.

Much of the new offshore wind energy is in or around Scotland, but the existing electricity network does not have enough capacity to transmit all the additional clean, green energy from where it's produced to where it's needed.

Eastern Green Link 4 (EGL4) is being developed in partnership between SP Energy Networks and National Grid Electricity Transmission and is one of four similar projects that will significantly increase the capacity of the electricity network between Scotland and England.

Eastern Green Link 4 (EGL4): what's involved



EGL4 is a new High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) electrical link that will connect Fife in Scotland with Norfolk in England. It will be able to transmit up to 2GW of clean, green renewable energy – enough to power around 1.5 million homes.

EGL4 is made up of three parts:

- A 530km subsea HVDC cable between Kinghorn, Fife, and Anderby Creek, Lincolnshire
- A 16.4km underground HVDC cable from Kinghorn to a new converter station at Westfield, near Ballingry, Fife
- A 100km underground HVDC cable from Anderby Creek to a new converter station near Walpole, Norfolk

In everyday life we use Alternating Current (AC) electricity, which can have its voltage increased or decreased using transformers, making it safe to use in our homes, schools, businesses, and hospitals.

But to transmit large volumes of electricity over long distances it is more efficient to use HVDC, which operates at a fixed voltage, requires fewer conductors (cables or wires) and incurs less power loss than AC networks.

AC electricity is converted into HVDC electricity using specialised equipment at a converter station. The HVDC electricity can then be transmitted over long distances via underground and subsea cables to a second converter station, where it is converted back to AC to flow into the local electricity network.

By doing this, projects like EGL4 can remove 'bottlenecks' on the existing transmission network while reducing the need for more onshore overhead or underground power lines and associated infrastructure.

Westfield converter station



Proposed new converter station



Existing converter station at Blyth, Northumberland



Converter stations are needed at each end of an HVDC link to change the DC electricity to and from AC electricity, so it's safe to use in our homes and businesses.

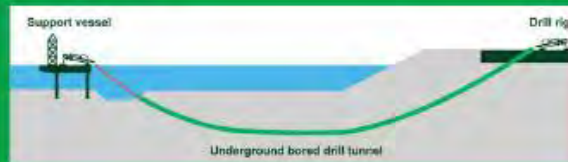
The converter station will be made up of large warehouse-type buildings and outside electrical equipment. The total converter station footprint will be approximately 250m x 350m in size with buildings up to 28.5m in height, to accommodate the equipment needed. We will also need temporary construction and parking areas, and underground cables to connect the converter station to the existing substation. Our plans will include landscaping and tree-planting to help screen the site, reduce its visual effects and increase biodiversity.

Westfield is the starting point for EGL4 because it is a strong point on our existing transmission network which is closest to the Forth coast. The Westfield substation is currently a 275kV substation but will be rebuilt in the future as a 400kV substation. We need to have suitable network connectivity at the substation to provide the strongest support for the HVDC link. Westfield substation is the only substation in this area that provides this level of network connectivity and security, with four circuit infeeds to provide the resilience needed to keep the electricity moving.

Kinghorn landfall point



We propose to bring the subsea cables ashore below ground at Kinghorn, south of Kirkcaldy, using Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) to minimise any impact on the sensitive coastal environment and protected sites, and avoiding disturbance to the seal haul-out area to the north. No works on the beach or cliffs will be required.



Following the first round of consultation in 2024, further design work has enabled us to move the proposed HDD compound to the north-east of the proposed site near Kinghorn, further away from homes to the south.

Further work will focus on the design of the HDD compound site to ensure the drill works are carried out as sensitively as possible both for the residents and for the environment and wildlife (including seals and overwintering birds). This will be driven by the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which will be completed following the consultation and before the submission of the planning application.

The subsea cables will be joined to underground cables in a buried pit. Once installation is complete, the ground will be reinstated and no permanent above-ground infrastructure will be visible.

Underground cable route



Our proposed route for the underground cables between the converter station at Westfield and the landfall point at Kinghorn is approximately 16.4km in length, running mainly through rural areas to the south of the A92, and on the margins of scattered settlements to the north of the A92.

The proposed route avoids designated areas including Camilla Loch SSSI, Raith Park and Beveridge Park Garden. It will cross under the A92, the Fife Circle Railway Line, Minto Woodlands and watercourses using trenchless technology (such as HDD) to avoid or minimise disturbance.

Following last year's public consultation, our design team has developed a detailed route alignment for the underground cables within the preferred route corridor, including locations for construction compounds and access routes for construction vehicles. The route includes the cable trench, topsoil storage bunds, haul road and drainage. The design work included boreholes and other intrusive surveys to assess the suitability of the land along the route, and technical assessments of how and where to cross beneath roads, railway lines, watercourses and woodlands. Ecologists have also walked the route to identify potential habitats for protected species including badgers, otters and bats.

The 'red line boundary' (shown on the map) allows for a small amount of deviation in the route, so we can make adjustments to allow for any environmental sensitivities that may be discovered at the time of project construction.

Underground cable installation



We will need a 'working width' of approximately 40 metres along the cable route, so we have enough space to excavate a trench for the cables and store topsoil and subsoil alongside it, and allow vehicles to pass up and down.

Once the trench has been excavated we will install protective ducts within it, through which the cables will be pulled.

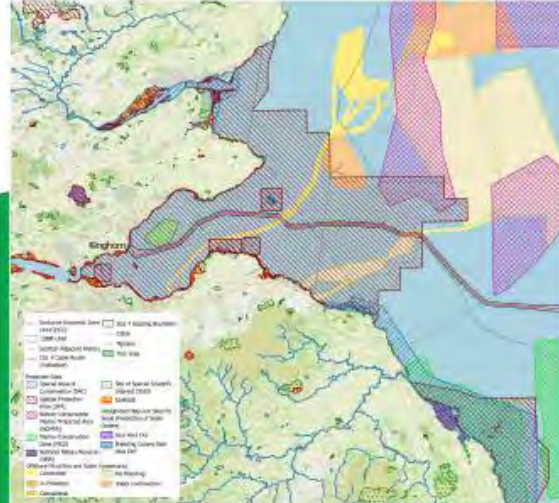


Where the cable route crosses roads, railway lines, watercourses and sensitive areas (such as Minto Woodlands), we will use HDD to pass safely underneath without disturbing the surface environment. This involves establishing a compound for the HDD rig, from which it will drill beneath the area before emerging at another smaller compound on the other side.

We recognise that construction work can cause temporary inconvenience and disturbance, but we believe our proposed route will keep this to a minimum. Once the cables are installed the land will be reinstated and there will be no visible above-ground infrastructure.



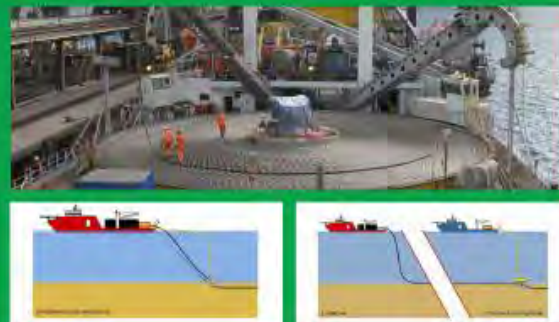
Marine cable route



Our proposed route for the subsea cables has been developed through careful environmental and technical assessment of potential route options, in consultation with Scottish shipping and fisheries organisations and environmental bodies.

Following benthic and geotechnical marine surveys, which gathered data on the geology and ecology in the marine environment, marine technical consultants developed a route for the cables which takes into account protected and designated areas and infrastructure such as pipelines, cables, wrecks and military considerations. Wherever possible the route seeks to avoid difficult ground conditions, such as outcropping rock, and areas of high shipping, fishing and environmental sensitivity.

The marine cables will be installed by special cable-laying vessels (pictured below). The cables will be buried in the sea bed or covered by rock armour throughout their length to protect them from accidental damage.



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 clean electricity, we are unlocking long-term benefits for everyone - from a cleaner air to secure reliable supply of energy.	 Our commitment to local networks ensures all those across the country enjoy the benefits of a safe, secure, reliable, economic and environmentally friendly.	 We will help communities develop robust project plans that will overcome any barriers to reality.
 From 2018 to 2025, we delivered over £100m from the 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 637tCO₂ • 63 households created and 647 supported indirectly	 Our Skills and Zero Fund was launched in 2022 to provide guidance and support to communities in vulnerable locations, and contribute to a national Net Zero objectives. • 16 tailored community workshops • 16 project feasibility reports • Funding for 17 projects, including energy saving upgrades to community buildings and electric vehicles supporting vulnerable communities	

In March 2025, the UK government published guidance on community benefit funds for transmission infrastructure. The guidance sets out the recommended level of funding for eligible onshore electricity transmission infrastructure projects, including £530,000 for a new converter station or substation.

Applications for project planning and feasibility support will open in 2026, but discussions can start now!



We want to hear your views!



Our public consultation runs until Friday 06 June 2025.

SP Energy Networks 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 EGL4 project in the best way.

Please give us your views on our proposed converter station site, underground cable route, landfall point and marine cable route, and anything you would like us to take into account – such as site access – to help us develop our plans.



You can find more information, project documents and an online feedback form at our project website:
www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/eastern_green_link_4.aspx

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

Email: egl4@communityrelations.co.uk

Freephone: 0800 021 7890

Freepost: FREEPOST SPEN EGL4

What happens next?

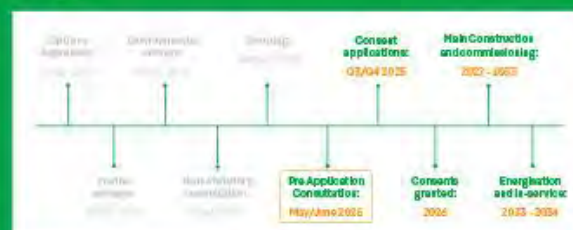


Following pre-application consultation we will complete a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which will assess the potential impact of the project on landscape, ecology, water and flooding, cultural heritage, traffic and transport, noise, geology and tourism. The EIA will be completed and submitted as part of the planning application in autumn 2025.

SP Energy Networks will be applying to Fife Council for planning permission in principle (PIP) under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for the proposed converter station, and full planning permission for the DC underground cable from Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) at the landfall site to the converter station and for the AC underground cable from the converter station to Westfield Substation.

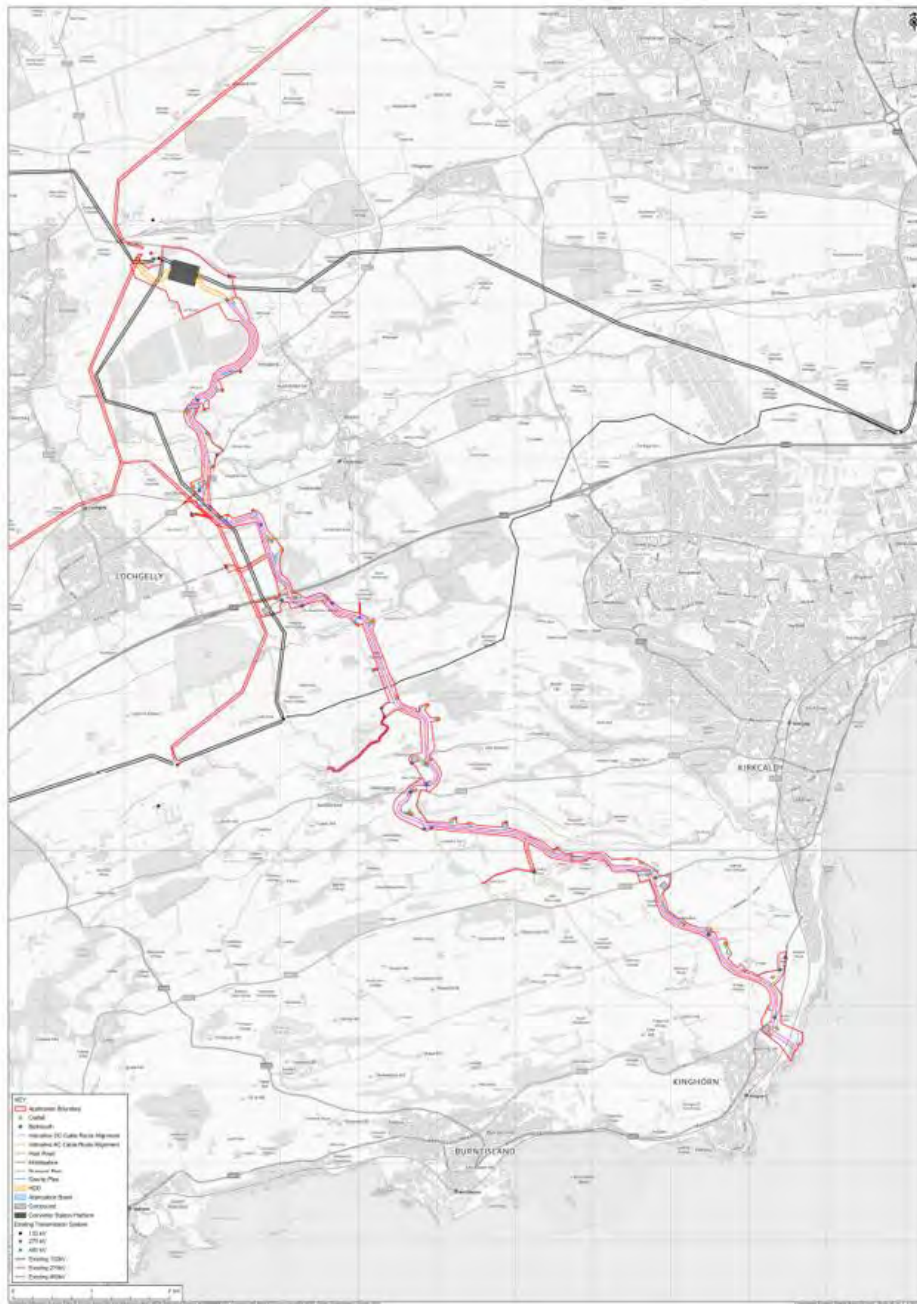
For the marine cables, our marine environmental consultants conduct a separate environmental appraisal which assesses the potential impact of the project on the marine environment, shipping and navigation, commercial fisheries and other marine users. The appraisal will accompany an application to the Scottish Government Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) for a licence to install the marine cables.

At this stage, your comments are not representations to the planning authority or MD-LOT. When we make an application for development consent in future, you will be able to make formal representations at that stage.



1.1.1 Onshore Scheme

1.1.1 Onshore Scheme



1.1.2 Marine Cable Route



Appendix C: Additional materials for final feedback event

Our updated plans



Following feedback received in our public consultations, and further environmental and technical assessments, we have refined and updated our plans.

Westfield converter station: We have increased the amount of woodland planting around the proposed converter station site, and added areas of wildflower meadow (see plan above).

These changes will help screen the site, reduce its visual effects and increase biodiversity.

Westfield converter station will be made up of large warehouse-type buildings and outside electrical equipment. The total converter station footprint will be approximately 250m x 350m in size with buildings up to 28.5m in height, to accommodate the equipment needed. We will also need temporary construction and parking areas, and underground cables to connect the converter station to the existing substation.

Underground cable route: we have continued detailed discussions with landowners and stakeholders and have made some minor changes to the 'red line boundary,' mainly for access routes and working areas. These have been checked environmentally and technically and do not result in any additional landowners being affected.

Marine cable landfall point: Our detailed design work has enabled us to move the Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) compound north-east, further away from the homes to the south at Kinghorn, to reduce disturbance to local residents. No work on the beach or on the cliffs will be required.

You said, we listened...



Feedback received during Pre-Application Consultation has helped us make a number of changes to the project design, and to make some additional commitments:

You said...	We listened...
Please don't dig up or damage Minto woodland, the new footpaths or newly-planted trees.	The underground cable route needs to cross Minto woodland, but instead of digging a trench we will use Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) to pass safely underneath without affecting trees or footpaths. We will need temporary compounds for drilling equipment either side of the woods, but we won't need access to the woods or footpaths.
At Kinghorn, please can you move the HDD compound to minimise disturbance to local residents?	Our detailed design work has enabled us to move the HDD compound north-east, further away from the homes to the south at Kinghorn. No work on the beach or on the cliffs will be required. We will design the HDD compound site to ensure the drill works are carried out sensitively both for the residents and for wildlife, including overwintering birds and seals.
Can you do anything to reduce the visual impact of the converter station?	We have developed a detailed landscape masterplan showing areas of planting around the converter station, both to aid screening and to improve biodiversity in the area. We have created visualisations showing how this might look in years to come. We are also undertaking a full assessment of potential landscape and visual impacts as part of our environmental impact assessment that will be submitted with our planning application.
We want to see some community benefits, improvements to Fife Coastal Path and support for local schools.	New guidance means SP Energy Networks will now have dedicated community benefit funding for this project, and we will also work with colleagues at Westfield substation to see how we can maximise our contribution. We have had some great ideas for projects and initiatives in which the community benefit funding can be targeted, and we will be talking to local organisations about how and where we can help.

Eastern Green Link 4 Project



Eastern Green Link 4 (EGL4) is a new High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) electrical link that will connect Fife in Scotland with Anderby Creek in Lincolnshire, England.

It will form part of the UK electricity transmission network and will play a key role in the fight against climate change, and the UK's transition to Net Zero.

The proposed marine cables will come ashore at Kinghorn, Fife, and will be connected by underground cables to a new converter station at Westfield, near Ballingry.

SP Energy Networks consulted local people on our proposals in 2024 and 2025, and we are now holding a final Pre Application Consultation feedback event before finalising consent applications:

Date

Thursday 07 August
2.00pm – 7.00pm

Location

Kinghorn Community Centre, Rossland Place, **Kinghorn**, KY3 9SS

Further information about the project can be found at our project website:
www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/eastern_green_link_4.aspx

Persons wishing to provide comments on the proposed electricity submarine cables between Kinghorn and Anderby Creek can do so by writing to the prospective applicant at:

egl4@communityrelations.co.uk

or **FREEPOST SPEN EGL4**. Comments should be dated and should clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return email or postal address of those making comment.

At this stage, your comments are not representations to the Scottish Ministers or Local Planning Authority. If we do make applications for marine licences/planning permission in future, you will be able to make formal representations to the Scottish Ministers or Local Planning Authority at that stage.

SP Energy Networks Holdings Ltd, (company registration number SC389555, with its Registered Office at 320 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, Scotland, G2 5AD) proposes licensable marine activity with the installation of new submarine electricity cables from Kinghorn, Fife (327365, 687702) to a point where the cables enter English Waters (583559, 6199984). The proposed offshore infrastructure requires consent and marine licences from the Scottish Ministers under the Electricity Act 1989, Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. The proposed onshore scheme requires consent from Fife Council under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

This notice advertises Pre-Application Consultation events required under Regulation 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 and Regulation 7 of the Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013.



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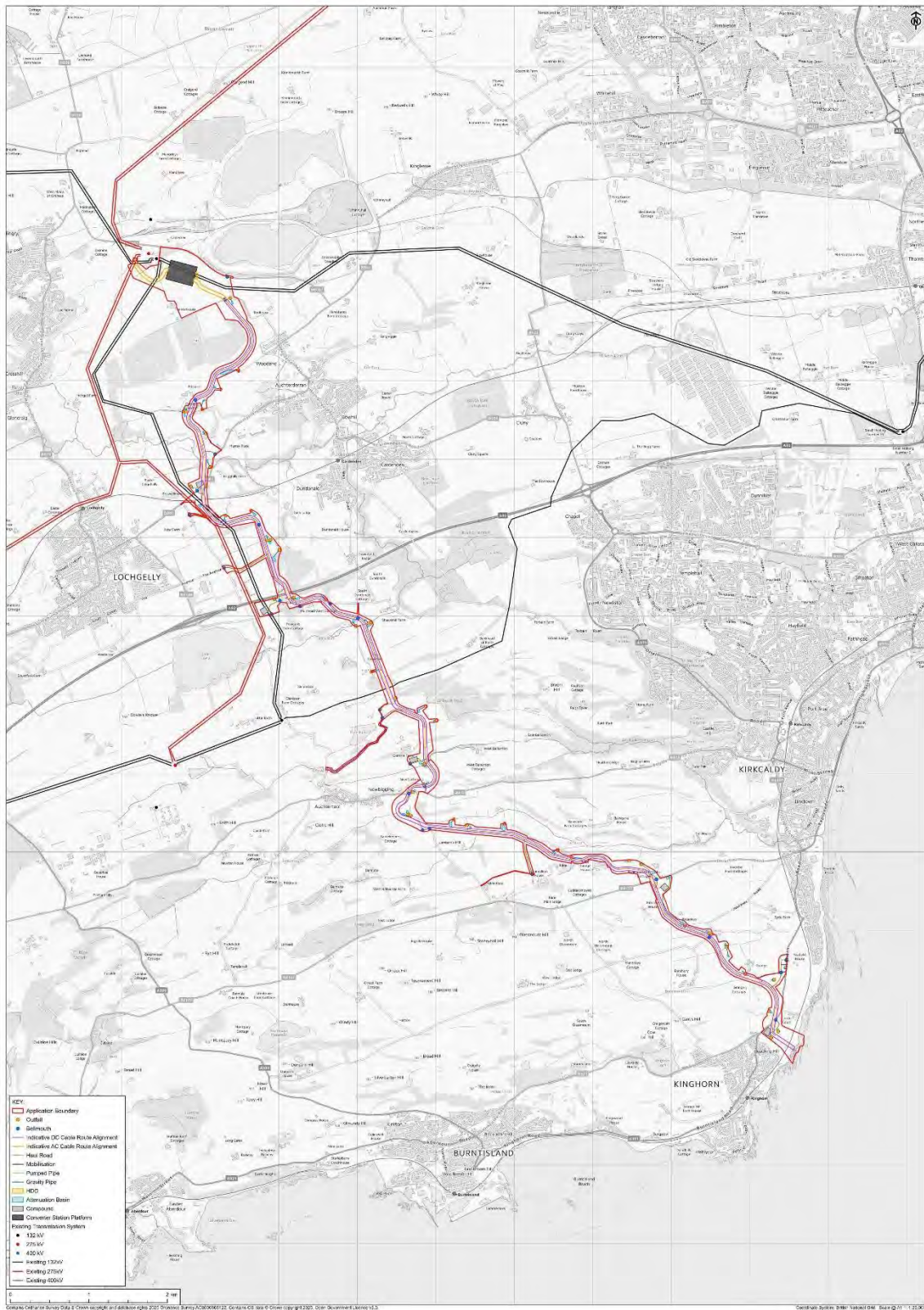
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Appendix D: Proposal of application notice

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	Fife Council
Address	Fife House
	North Street
	Glenrothes
	KY7 5LT
Proposed development at [Note 1]	Converter station located on land east of Westfield Substation, south of the B9097. The underground cable ex-tends from the converter station across predominantly agricultural land to a landfall north of Kinghorn.
Description of proposal [Note 2]	Onshore parts of a subsea High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link between Scotland and England comprising new converter station, approximately 14km of underground DC cable and less than 1km of AC cable to connect to Westfield Substation.
Notice is hereby given that an application is being made to [Note 3] Fife Council by [Note 4] SP Energy Networks	
Of [Note 5]	SP Energy Networks, Land and Planning, 55 Fullarton Drive, Glasgow, G32 8FA
In respect of [Note 6]	Two rounds of in person drop in events
To take place on [Note 7]	First round of events on 13th to 15th May inclusive at Auchtertool Village Hall, Benarty Centre and Kinghorn Community Centre. 2nd round of events in late July/early August
[Note 8] The following parties have received a copy of this Proposal of Application Notice	
Kinghorn, Burntisland, Kirkcaldy West, Auchtertool, Cardenden, Benarty and Lochgelly Community Councils	
[Note 9] For further details contact egl4@communityrelations.co.uk	
on telephone number	0800 021 7890
And/or at the following address	Address above
[Note 10] I certify that I have attached a plan outlining the site	
Signed	Claire Duffy
On behalf of	SP Energy Networks
Date	08/04/2025

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.