



Kincardine North Substation

**Proposed new high-voltage electricity
substation and associated works**

**Summary of feedback from second round
of pre-application consultation**

November 2025

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Executive summary

This report summarises the second round of pre-application consultation (PAC) carried out by SP Energy Networks (SPEN) and is focused on the proposed new Kincardine North high-voltage substation. Reference is also included to the proposed overhead line connections and a proposed increase in voltage to the existing overhead electricity transmission line in the area from 275,000 volts (275kV) to 400kV. The consultation provided information about both proposals. This report has been prepared in the context of the application seeking planning permission for the proposed substation and ancillary works.

SPT carried out PAC with local residents and stakeholders from Monday 25 November 2024 to Friday 20 December 2024, which included one drop-in event at Kincardine Community Centre on Wednesday 27 November 2024.

This followed the first round of consultation, which took place from Tuesday 18 June 2024 to Friday 19 July 2024 and included one drop-in event at Kincardine Community Centre on Tuesday 18 June 2024.

The comments received as part of the consultation helped to shape the detailed design of the proposals.

While substation development does not fall under the schedules of development set out within the Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, SPEN elected to carry out a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposals to ensure that the potential effects of the substation on the local area are considered in detail.

This report provides:

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

Introduction

1.1 The need for the Kincardine North Substation 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.

The Network Options Assessment (NOA) is carried out every year by the National Energy 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.

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

The assessment identified that the construction of a new 400kV substation in the Kincardine area, and the associated uprating of several circuits on the overhead line network that currently run at 275kV to 400kV, is required.

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

1.2 The role of SP Energy Networks (SPEN)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPEN’s “Schedule 9 Statement” sets out how it will meet the duty placed upon it under Schedule 9.

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

1.3 The proposed substation

The proposals for Kincardine North are required to increase the voltage of overhead lines in the Kincardine area from 275kV to 400kV, in order to get more energy from where it is produced to where it is needed.

There are existing overhead lines in this area that need to be connected to the proposed new Kincardine North 400kV substation, located south-west of Kilbagie, which will allow SPEN to increase its voltage and strengthen the network. This will involve altering the existing overhead line arrangement and redirecting the existing network into and out of the proposed new substation with new spans of overhead line and associated pylons.

Once the new substation is operational, SPEN will decommission the existing Longannet 275kV substation, which is at the end of its operational life and cannot be upgraded. The proposed substation will be the long term replacement of the existing Longannet 275kV substation on the network.

The Proposed Development comprises the construction of a new 400kV substation to be known as Kincardine North (KINN) and associated access roads (including internal roads), drainage and landscaping (including ecological enhancement).

The following associated construction and connectivity works are required:

- two 400/275kV transformers, two shunt reactors and two containerised automatic voltage regulators;
- SF6-free gas insulated busbar (GIS) routed across the site to connect the switchgear to each circuit;
- a new permanent access route to the substation from Hawkhill Road, a separate temporary access route from the A876 for transformer deliveries (to be reinstated after construction), plus internal access roads and parking; and
- a new 3m steel palisade fence and internal fencing around the live compound to ensure safety and security.

SPEN will also need to connect the proposed new Kincardine North Substation to the existing Kincardine 275kV substation by installing underground cables between them. The proposed cables were included in the first round of consultation but were not included in the second round of consultation and will now be subject to a separate planning process in due course.

1.4 Identifying the proposed substation site

The preferred site chosen for the proposed substation is on land 700m north of Hawkhill Farm, to the south-west of where the existing overhead lines cross each other near Kilbagie.

The site was selected because there are already overhead lines there that will allow SPEN to reconfigure them and uprate the voltage from one location, minimising the need to build new overhead lines.

Working with environmental consultants, SPEN appraised the site against other potential locations and considered a range of factors, including landscape, proximity to residents, land use, forestry, biodiversity, peatland, flood risk, archaeology and technical difficulty. The other locations assessed were just to the north-east, south-east and south-west of the overhead line crossing. These included the former Paper Mill site, land west of the A876, the existing Kincardine 275kV substation site and the Longannet area.

The preferred site has fewer environmental challenges. Additionally, the existing overhead lines already cross the preferred site and, as such, will require the fewest number of new overhead line spans and underground cables to be constructed, providing the lowest-cost solution and minimising environmental impacts.

Further detail on the site selection methodology can be found in our document *Kincardine North 400kV Substation Site Selection*, which is available on our project website: https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/kincardine_north_substation.aspx.

2 Approach to the pre-application consultation

2.1 Legislation and guidance

SPEN will be applying to Fife Council and Clackmannanshire Council for planning permission for the Kincardine North Substation development under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. We will submit applications to both councils because the proposed site is within the Fife Council area, while the proposed access route from the A876 is within the Clackmannanshire Council area.

Separately, we will also submit applications to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit, under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989, for the proposed changes to the overhead lines and the uprating in voltage.

Because the substation will operate at 400kV/132kV, it is classified as a national development in terms of the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework 4. This means that an applicant must carry out PAC and submit both a report on this PAC and a Design and Access Statement with the application seeking planning permission for the substation.

2.3 SPEN's commitment to engagement

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

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

2.4 Consultation strategy and approach

The pre-application consultation process for the proposed substation has been undertaken in accordance with Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997; The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 and Planning circular 3/2022: development management procedures.

Following submission of the application for planning permission to both Fife and Clackmannanshire councils, each local authority will carry out further consultation with the public and stakeholders.

Consultees were informed at the time of the pre-application consultation process that representations at that time did not remove the right or the potential need to comment on the final applications once they are made to the planning authorities in relation to the substation, and separately to the Scottish Ministers once the applications seeking consent for the overhead line works are submitted.

The strategy for consultation was designed to ensure that stakeholders:

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

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

The formal Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) submitted to Fife Council and Clackmannanshire Council on 8 May 2024 and revised on 29 May 2024 set out a description of the development in general terms, including maps to identify the site, and set out SPEN's proposals for undertaking PAC for the substation development, including information as to when such consultation is to take place, with whom and what form it will take.

The PAN confirmed the site address of Land approximately 700m north of Hawkhill Farm, Hawkhill, Kincardine, east of the A876 and address details explaining how SPT can be contacted, including postal address details, an email address and telephone number.

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

- Email: kincardine@communityrelations.co.uk
- Freepost: FREEPOST SPEN KINN
- Freephone: 0800 4702376
- Online via the dedicated project website:
www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/kincardine_north_substation.aspx
- Face-to-face or in writing at the public consultation exhibition

3 Pre-application consultation

3.1 Consultation strategy

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

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

As part of the consultation strategy, SPEN held two rounds of PAC for the public, stakeholders and consultees to provide comments on the proposals. Details from the first round of consultation are appended to this report and can be viewed on the SPEN project web page at https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/kincardine_north_substation.aspx

3.2 Second round of consultation

Following the first round of consultation, which took place between Tuesday 18 June and Friday 19 July 2024, SPEN reviewed and considered the feedback received, and continued to talk to stakeholders and conduct technical and environmental assessments. The proposals were refined to take account of this feedback and the results of these assessments. (See Appendix A for a summary of feedback from the first round of consultation.)

The updated plans that were shown at the second round of consultation included:

- where the proposed new substation would sit within the site;
- proposed landscaping and tree-planting to help screen the development;
- proposed drainage and access arrangements; and
- the location of the new battery storage site (a third-party proposal) in relation to our proposals.

During this consultation, SPEN was asking for:

- views on the preferred site for the proposed substation, which included more detailed plans on aspects such as landscaping and tree-planting;
- views on the proposed access route for the substation;
- comments about the proposed changes to the overhead lines, including pylon location and increase in voltage; and
- any wider comments consultees had.

3.3 How we consulted

The consultation period ran from Monday 25 November to Friday 20 December 2024.

SPEN wished to consult with relevant stakeholders to provide an update on the consultation and proposals following the first round of consultation and to ask for any further feedback they had. These groups included:

- elected members of Fife Council and Clackmannanshire Council areas, Members of Parliament (MP) and Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSP) whose constituencies were within the Fife Council and Clackmannanshire Council areas;
- local community councils;
- known local interest and community groups operating in the project area; and
- local residents, businesses and the general public.

Prior to the start of the consultation, a notification was sent via email (see Appendix B) to the stakeholders listed above advising them of the consultation, inviting them to the public event and seeking their views on the proposals. See Appendix C, D and E to accord with regulation 7B c and e of Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013.

A project leaflet explaining the proposals, the purpose of the consultation and the process for submitting feedback was prepared and distributed to approximately 3,300 properties (residential and business) within a defined radius of the project site, including the communities of Kincardine and Clackmannan and the settlement of Kennet. This was the principal form of direct communication with the local community. A copy of the leaflet can be found in Appendix C.

To promote the consultation, SPEN placed formal newspaper advertisements in the *Alloa Advertiser*, *Dunfermline Press*, *The Central Fife Times* and *The Courier* newspapers for two consecutive weeks (w/c 11 November 2024 and w/c 18 November 2024). The advertisement provided the details of 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 advertisements. A copy of the advertisement can be found in Appendix D.

The project leaflet, newspaper notice, project plans, FAQs, general information about the project and the consultation, and the feedback form were made available on a dedicated project website: www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/kincardine_north_substation.aspx. All of the information presented at the first round of consultation was also available on the website. To make the website as accessible as possible, most materials created for the consultation included a QR code that linked through to the home page of the website. The website has remained live following the consultation to ensure stakeholders can access the project details and stay up to date on project developments.

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

The six project-related questions were:

1. Do you have any comments on our preferred site for the substation, including proposed landscaping and tree-planting?
2. Please let us have any comments you may have about our proposed access routes.
3. Do you have any comments about the proposed changes to the overhead lines, including new pylon locations and the proposed increase in voltage?
4. 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.]*

5. Do you have any comments about our public consultation?
6. Are there any other comments you would like to make?

The closing date for submitting responses to SPEN was midnight on Friday 20 December 2024. Following this date, the consultation information will remain accessible on the project website and available to download.

SPEN held one public event for the consultation on Wednesday 27 November 2024. The event was held at Kincardine Community Centre, Anderson Lane, Kincardine, FK10 4SF, and took place between 2pm and 7pm. The venue, date and time were detailed in all project communications that had been issued.

At the events, stakeholders had the opportunity to drop in to view the project proposals and talk to members of the project team to discuss any questions or concerns they had. The materials made available at the events included 10 pull-up exhibition panels that provided details on each aspect of the proposals, hard copies of maps and relevant project documents. A copy of the exhibition panels can be found in Appendix E and a photograph of them at a consultation event can be found in Appendix G.

The event was attended by 36 people, including representatives from Kincardine Community Council, West Fife Woodland, landowners and local residents.

3.4 Summary of feedback

Stakeholders could submit feedback in various methods, as outlined in Section 2.4. All feedback received as part of the consultation has been reviewed by members of the project team.

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

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

Six feedback forms were submitted in total during the consultation period, all via hard-copy forms sent to the FREEPOST address. No other method of feedback submission was used. There were no objections to the proposals, but the comments received included concern about the proximity to houses, potential health impacts related to overhead lines, traffic concerns, impact on trees, the overhead line route, health and safety, environmental impacts and community benefits.

These hard-copy documents were collected, scanned and securely saved on the project's SharePoint. The response forms were then transcribed into the project database before being coded and analysed.

3.5 Topics raised during the consultation

Table 1 (see Section 3.6) summarises the key themes that arose during the second round of PAC as well as SPEN's response to these themes.

3.6 SPEN's response to the feedback

The comments received as feedback will be considered by SPEN. The key themes that arose in the comments are a summary of the written and verbal feedback received from the drop in events and have been summarised below with a response from SPEN, in accordance with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013

Key theme	Example comments	SPEN response
Impact on human health	Radiation from pylons causing health problems for residents in village. Danger of electromagnetic radiation from pylons + cables has been known since at least the 1950s with risk to health of people living nearby. Health concerns over increase in voltage. The increase in the overhead lines grid cause more of a cancer risk to the village. There has already in the past been a high cancer risk in the streets near pylons and cables.	As an industry, we have worked with independent health professionals over several decades to support extensive research to identify any connection between the presence of electric and magnetic fields (EMF) generated by overhead lines and ill health. This research is ongoing but the balance of the evidence to date indicates that EMFs do not cause disease. An independent commission produced guidelines around the siting of electricity infrastructure in 1998. SPEN's overhead lines comply with UK Government policy, which is based on this guidance and was reaffirmed in 2009. The website www.emfs.info offers further details on this. For reference, the guidance states that the levels required to achieve compliance are as follows: • Electric field: 9kV/m • Magnetic field: 360 microtesla Environmental Impact Assessment in relation to the substation proposal has been completed, and is reported in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report. This confirms that electricity transmission substations, such as the Proposed Development, do not produce very large fields themselves (generally less than a microtesla). The Environmental Impact Assessment Report concludes that no significant effects on human health are likely as a result of the proposed substation. SPEN is happy to provide further information and help where we can. This can include home visits and measurement of electric and magnetic fields if appropriate. Separate Environmental Impact Assessment will be completed for the proposed overhead line works, taking account of the applicable legislation, policy and guidance. This will be reported in Environmental Impact Assessment Report to be submitted as part of the application seeking consent for the overhead line works

Proximity to residential areas	The site is too close to houses and small, quiet village.	The site is not immediately adjacent to residential properties. The nearest property is approximately 130m to the east. Properties at Broomknow Drive are approximately 235m to the south-west. In both cases, extensive screening in the form of mature broadleaf trees exists. The process and justification for siting the proposed development at this location is set out in the EIA, taking account of technical and environmental factors. As a regulated business, SPEN is required to balance the technical, environmental and economic aspects of a proposal before promoting it and has applied this approach to conclude that this site is the appropriate location for the development.
Impact on local community	At local level would be nice to compensate local community in some way for disturbance. I would like to know what financial benefits or employment benefits to local community. There would also be a decrease in property values for people living nearby. House values would be negatively affected. No mention of compensation for decrease in house prices or health issues caused by this plan.	As an electricity network operator, SPEN plays a key role in enabling the country's transition to net zero. We want that to be a fair transition, and we are committed to taking our communities on that journey with us. That is why we developed our community funds dedicated to supporting our communities and their low-carbon ambitions. Our Transmission Net Zero Fund and Green Economy Fund have been designed to accelerate decarbonisation and empower our communities to realise their net zero ambitions. By funding innovative, community-led projects, we are enabling communities to adopt greener energy solutions – from electrifying transport and installing low-carbon technology to creating warmer and more energy efficient community spaces. These projects not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combating climate change but also lead to economic benefits like energy cost savings and job creation, alongside social benefits like improved health and well-being. We will shape our future Community Benefit Funding plans by the lessons we learnt from these funds alongside stakeholder feedback we have received to develop funds that are fit for purpose and aligned to community needs and aspirations. We have included community benefit funding proposals as part of our RIIO-T3 Business Plan, which we submitted to Ofgem, our regulator, in December 2024. RIIO-T3 (Revenues = Incentives + Innovation + Outputs – Transmission 3) is a regulatory framework used by Ofgem to set price controls for the electricity

		transmission operators like us. The RIIO-T3 price control period will run from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2031. This period is designed to ensure that transmission network companies can plan and invest in their infrastructure to meet future demands, support innovation and deliver reliable services, while keeping costs fair for consumers. The scale and scope of our Community Benefit Funding plans will be determined by the UK Government's guidance, which is yet to be published. We expect the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to publish guidance on community benefits for electricity transmission network infrastructure ahead of the start of RIIO-T3 Price Control. We are working with contractors to identify employment opportunities at the local level where possible for the current project proposals. The impact on property prices is not a material consideration in the decision-making process. We recognise that the visual impact of an overhead line may be an issue for many local communities and individuals, and SPEN's approach is to maximise the distance of the final route from properties wherever possible and minimise the number of pylons required. This has been achieved in this instance. Screening in the form of earth bunds and new planting will offer some visual mitigation in views from ground level but the nature of the overhead line supports means it is not possible to fully screen the development.
Traffic	It would cause extra traffic going through the village.	Construction of the proposed development will result in a temporary increase in the number of vehicle movements on the road network. We will agree a traffic management plan with the local authorities before construction begins, to minimise disturbance and inconvenience to local people. Once operational, the proposed development would be operated remotely and therefore would generate negligible vehicles movements other than for maintenance, inspections or repairs.
Environmental impact	There are many aged trees on Hawkhill Road. I am concerned about damage	All environmental considerations, including the impact on the local trees, wildlife and landscape, have been assessed as part of our EIA, including how we intend to mitigate any potential effects. This will be published and made publicly available as part of the planning application.

	that could be caused in road works. It takes away a greenfield site affecting the environmental area, wildlife, historic monuments, destroys the landscape and loss of trees.	The site is not subject to any allocation or designation in either Fife or Clackmannanshire's local development plans and would be classed as countryside and so subject to policies pertaining to development in the countryside. It benefits from close proximity to the existing overhead lines and from existing access. It is generally distant from environmental designations or constraints as well as residential properties, and there is recent precedent with regard to planning decisions regarding other energy infrastructure, which makes it preferable in environmental and planning terms.
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4 Next steps

Feedback to the first round of consultation was provided in the event leaflet for the second event, setting out what changes had been incorporated. Hard copies of the feedback report were printed and provided at the second PAC drop in event.

Feedback from the second consultation event is included in this report.

Following the completion of the second round of consultation, SPEN has carried out an EIA in respect of the proposed substation development. Separate EIA will be carried out in relation to the overhead line proposals.

Following completion of the EIA, SPEN prepared a detailed development and design proposal and will submit a planning application under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 to both Fife Council and Clackmannanshire Council. This is because the proposed site is within the Fife Council area, while the proposed access route from the A876 is within the Clackmannanshire Council area.

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

We will also submit applications to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit, under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989, for the proposed changes to the overhead lines and uprating in voltage. Separate representations will be invited for these works.

Appendices

Appendix A: Summary of feedback from first round of pre-application consultation



Kincardine North Substation

Proposed new high voltage electricity substation, upgrades to transmission lines and associated works.

Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

Kincardine North substation
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

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Kincardine North substation
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

Executive summary

This report summarises the first round of pre-application consultation carried out by SP Energy Networks (SPEN) for the proposed new Kincardine North high-voltage substation, overhead line connections and a proposed increase in voltage to the existing overhead electricity transmission line in the area from 275,000 volts (275kV) to 400,000 volts (400kV).

SPEN carried out pre-application consultation with local residents and stakeholders from Monday 17 June 2024 until Friday 19 July 2024, which included one drop-in event at Kincardine Community Centre on Tuesday 18 June 2024.

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

Whilst substation development does not fall under the schedules of development set out within the Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, SPEN elected to carry out a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposals to ensure that potential effects of the substation on the local area are considered in detail.

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

Kincardine North substation
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

1. Introduction

1.1. The Need for the Kincardine North Project

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

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

The assessment identified that the construction of a 400kV Substation in the Kincardine area, and the associated uprating of several circuits on the overhead line network that currently run at 275kV to 400kV, is required.

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

1.2. The role of SP Energy Networks (SPEN)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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- “(a) to have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features or special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest; and
- (b) to do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effects which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects.”

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

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

1.3. The proposed substation

The proposals for Kincardine North seek to increase the voltage of the overhead lines in the Kincardine area from 275kV to 400kV, in order to get more energy from where it's produced to where it's needed.

There are existing overhead lines in this area that need to be connected to the proposed new Kincardine North 400kV substation which will allow SPEN to increase their voltage and strengthen the network.

Once the new substation is operational, SPEN will decommission the existing Longannet 275kV substation, which is at the end of its operational life and cannot be upgraded.

The project will also involve the following associated construction and connectivity works:

- Two 400/275kV transformers, two shunt reactors and two containerised Automatic Voltage Regulators
- SF6-free Gas Insulated Busbar (GIS) routed across the site to connect the switchgear to each circuit
- A new permanent access route to the substation from Hawkhill Road, a separate temporary access route from the A876 for transformer deliveries, plus internal access roads and parking
- A new 3m high steel palisade fence and internal fencing around the live compound to ensure safety and security

We will also need to connect the proposed new Kincardine North substation to the existing Kincardine 275kV substation by installing underground cables between them, but this will be subject to a separate planning process in due course and no longer forms part of this consultation.

1.4. Identifying the proposed substation site

The preferred site chosen for the proposed substation is on land 700 metres north of Hawkhill Farm, to the south west of where the existing overhead lines cross each other near Kilbagie.

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The site was selected because there are already overhead lines there which will allow SPEN to reconfigure them and uprate the voltage from one location, minimising the need to build new overhead lines.

Working with environmental consultants, SPEN appraised the site against other potential locations considering a range of factors including landscape, proximity to residents, land use, forestry, biodiversity, peatland, flood risk, archaeology and technical difficulty. The other locations assessed were just to the north-east, south-east and south-west of the overhead line crossing; the former Paper Mill site; land west of the A876; the existing Kincardine 275kV substation site; and the Longannet area.

The preferred site has fewer environmental challenges. Additionally, the existing overhead lines already cross the preferred site therefore will require the least amount of new overhead lines and underground cables to be constructed, providing the lowest cost solution and minimising environmental impacts.

Further detail on the site selection methodology can be found in our document *Kincardine North 400kV Substation Site Selection*, which is available on our project website:
https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/kincardine_north_substation.aspx

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2. Approach to Pre-Application Consultation

2.1 Legislation and guidance

SPEN will be applying to Fife Council and Clackmannanshire Council for planning permission for the Kincardine North substation development under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended. We will submit applications to both councils because the proposed site is within the Fife Council area, while the proposed access route from the A876 is within the Clackmannanshire Council area.

We will also need to submit applications to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989, for the proposed changes to the overhead lines and the uprating in voltage.

Because the substation will operate at 400kV/132kV, it is classified as a national development in terms of the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework 4. This means that an applicant must carry out pre-application consultation and submit both a report on Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) and a Design and Access Statement with the application.

2.2 SPEN's statutory and licence responsibilities

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

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

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

2.3 SPEN's commitment to engagement

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

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

2.4 Consultation Strategy and approach

Whilst there are no formal pre-application requirements for consultation in seeking Section 37 consent/deemed planning permission, SPEN is embracing best practice as outlined in the

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Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) Best Practice Guidance (July 2022). This guidance encourages applicants to engage with stakeholders and the public in order to develop their proposals in advance of such applications being made. Therefore, prior to the submission, SPEN is carrying out consultation with stakeholders and the public.

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

The strategy for consultation was designed to ensure that stakeholders:

- Were made aware of the proposals in a timely manner;
- Had access to project information and understood its development; and
- Could put forward their own views and be confident that issues raised would be considered.

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

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

- Email: kincardine@communityrelations.co.uk
- Freepost: FREEPOST SPEN KINN
- Freephone: 0800 4702376
- Online via the dedicated project website:
www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/kincardine_north_substation.aspx
- Face-to-face or in writing at public consultation exhibitions

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3. Pre-Application Consultation

3.1 Consultation Strategy

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

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

As part of the consultation strategy, SPEN will holding two rounds of public consultation events for the public, stakeholders and consultees to provide comments on the proposals.

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

- Views on the preferred site for the substation
- Views on the access route for the substation
- Comments about the changes to the overhead lines
- Any wider comments consultees have

3.2 How we consulted

The consultation period ran from Monday 17 June 2024 until Friday 19 July 2024.

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

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

Prior to the start of the consultation, a notification was sent via email or letter to the stakeholders listed above advising them of the consultation, inviting them to the public event and seeking their views on the proposals.

A project leaflet explaining the proposals, the purpose of the consultation and the process for submitting feedback was prepared and distributed to approximately 2,300 properties (residential and business) within a defined radius of the project site, including the communities of Kincardine and Clackmannan and the settlement of Kennet. This was the principal form of direct communication with the local community. A copy of the leaflet can be found in Appendix A.

To promote the consultation, SPEN placed formal newspaper advertisements in the *Alloa Advertiser*, *Dunfermline Press* and *The Courier* newspapers for two consecutive weeks (w/c 03 June 2024 and w/c 10 June 2024). The advert introduced the consultation with some high level information about the project including the proposals, details of the drop-in event and

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the ways in which feedback can be submitted. A QR code linking to the project website was also included on the adverts. A copy of the advert can be found in Appendix B.

The project leaflet, newspaper notice, project plans, FAQs, general information about the project and the consultation and the feedback form were made available on a dedicated project website: www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/kincardine_north_substation.aspx. To make the website as accessible as possible, most communications created for the consultation included a QR code that linked through to the home page of the website. The website remained live following the consultation to ensure stakeholders can find out more and stay up to date on project developments.

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

The six project related questions were:

- 1) Do you have any comments on our preferred site for the substation?
- 2) Please let us have any comments you may have about our proposed access routes.
- 3) Do you have any comments about the proposed changes to the overhead lines, including new pylon locations and the proposed increase in voltage, or the proposed new underground cables?
- 4) 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.*
- 5) Do you have any comments about our public consultation?
- 6) Are there any other comments you would like to make?

The closing date for submitting responses to SPEN was midnight on Thursday 18 July 2024. Following this date, the consultation information will remain accessible on the project website and available to download.

SPEN held one public event for the consultation on Tuesday 18 June 2024. The event was held at Kincardine Community Centre, Anderson Lane, Kincardine, FK10 4SF, and took place between 2pm and 7pm. The venue, date and time was detailed in all project communications that had been issued.

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

The event was attended by 57 people, including representatives from Kincardine Community Council, the Coalfield Regeneration Trust and landowners, as well as local residents.

3.3 Summary of feedback

Stakeholders could submit feedback in various methods as outlined in Section 2.4. All feedback received as part of the consultation was analysed by members of the project team. Respondents were made aware via a data protection statement that any comments they made could be made available to certain bodies for the purposes of the consultation and for creating reports. This included the Scottish Government and relevant planning authorities.

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

Four feedback forms were submitted during the consultation period via hard copy forms sent to the FREEPOST address, online via the feedback form and email. There were no objections to the proposals, but the comments received raised some concerns regarding the location of the substation, the overhead line cable route, health and safety, and environmental impacts.

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

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

3.4 Topics raised during the consultation

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

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3.5 SPEN's response to the feedback

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

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

Key theme	Example comments	SPEN response
Impact on wildlife	There are many roe deer who inhabit that land. Also I believe there are tawny owls. Surely these should be protected.	The proposed site location minimises the need for new spans of overhead line and their subsequent related impact on habitat caused by the required wayleave corridor. The proposal will also be supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment which will fully consider impacts on ecology and the proposal will accord with the National Planning Policy 4 requirements to enhance biodiversity. SPEN will accord with Schedule 9 responsibilities as set out in the Electricity Act 1989 when balancing the development requirements against impacts on fauna such as those mentioned.
	This proposed installation will undoubtedly and ruthlessly evict these species into a surrounding area which does not hold the same required habitat as currently exists on the present site. This will undoubtedly result in their decline and death.	There are no statutory ecological designations (Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)) or Local Wildlife Sites present at or immediately adjacent to the Proposed Development. The Firth of Forth SPA and SSSI is located approximately 600m south of the site at its closest point. The Proposed Development will result in the permanent loss of land, however, the site comprises agricultural land and is therefore considered likely to be of low ecological value. Desk studies and site surveys will be undertaken to evaluate the ecological potential of the site including records searches as well as habitat and protected species surveys. An assessment of potential ecological impacts will be undertaken in accordance with the Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA). This will identify potential impacts and relevant mitigation measures and will include consideration of the site in relation to the Firth of Forth SPA and any potential linkages between it and the site. Through the design of the Proposed Development it is proposed to maximise opportunities for biodiversity enhancement for example use of native species within landscape planting.
Preferred substation site	Kincardine has too many pylons and electrical installations. As the electricity is coming from up north, the substations and proposed pylons should be located there.	The proposed development will be a key element of the grid network in the UK as it evolves to address recognised NetZero requirements and is located strategically to minimise new spans of overhead line.
	Hawkhill Farm is the wrong site for this development due to the risk posed from mining works in the area and the additional impact on the village through rising ground	SEPA flood maps suggest the site is subject to surface water flooding. The site is not classified as prime agricultural land. SPEN is aware of the legacy mining context of the site and is confident this can be addressed by appropriate civil engineering solutions.

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	water which is already managed to full capacity, the risk of flood through climate change and rising tide water, the risk of the dam breaching its banks.	
	The Longannet site offers a more suitable area for this development, outside the town, with appropriate road infrastructure in place already, no loss of farm land. A risk of tidal flooding that can be managed with no risk of other flood areas.	The published Substation Site Selection Report (www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/kincardine_north_substation.aspx#tablist1-tab4) sets out all of the considered site options, including Longannet and explains that the proposed site is, on balance, the most appropriate location for the development. Economic considerations are one factor in reaching this conclusion, as ultimately there is a cost to the UK bill payer and for this reason SPEN look to promote the least cost option.
Impact on local community	What can Kincardine expect in return as there will be an influx of workers disrupting the village.	As a regulated Business, SPT 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. We are awaiting further guidance from UK Government and will continue to keep communities affected by this scheme updated on progress with this matter, as and when further information becomes available.
	[The proposals...] will undoubtedly result in a detrimental effect on residents' quality of living, property values, etc	As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment 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.
Impact on traffic	The proposed access route would incur a heavy, negative, traffic impact on what is currently a single carriageway, a quiet country lane and a national cycle route.	SPEN propose to create a temporary alternative access route on the north side of Hawkhill Road for pedestrians and cyclists, as well as improving passing places for construction traffic. Traffic management during construction is also likely to form part of the approach.
	There is no doubt that an increase in road traffic both during the installation phase and its operation thereafter will bring further pressure on to an already faltering road	Discussions are ongoing with Transport Scotland to safely utilise the existing bellmouth to the southbound lane of the A876 for construction traffic. This would include a temporary deceleration lane during the construction period. Construction of the Proposed Development will result in a temporary increase in the number of vehicle movements on the road network. Once operational the Proposed Development would be operated remotely and therefore would generate negligible vehicles movements other than for maintenance, inspections or repairs.

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	infrastructure however, as an aside to this, there is no suggestion that Kincardine village and the surrounding area will benefit in any way from this project.	
Impact on human health	I can see no assessment on the impact on human health.	Both our existing and proposed infrastructure will comply with Government guidelines. We will also be undertaking an electric and magnetic fields (EMFs) assessment as part of the EIA for this project.
	The impact of the upgrade on the village inhabitants of the proposed electric and magnetic fields would incur a higher risk to health from both overhead and underground cabling.	There has been a lot of research into whether electric and magnetic fields have any effect on health, and over £300m has been invested in investigating this issue around the world. Research still continues but the balance of scientific evidence to date suggests that EMFs do not cause disease.
	All health issues must have an independent health assessment reported on for transparency.	We have dedicated EMF resources to assist the public and to provide further information, including, if appropriate, home visits and measurement of electric and magnetic fields. Copies of the leaflet "EMFs – the facts" were available at our public consultation events. We also directed people to the website www.emfs.info for further information.
	Moving the project to outside the village would reduce the negative impact to human health.	Electric fields are produced by voltage. Magnetic fields are produced by current. Collectively they are known as EMFs. EMFs are present wherever electricity is used in the home; for example, fields are produced by vacuum cleaners, mobile phones and the wiring inside a house. They are also produced by electricity transmission and distribution equipment. SPEN follows the advice of independent experts and all overhead lines comply with UK Government Policy, which is based upon adoption of the 1998 guidelines published by the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). This policy was reaffirmed in a Written Ministerial Statement in October 2009. The ICNIRP 'reference levels' for the public are: • 100 microteslas for magnetic fields • 5000 volts per metre for electric fields • SPEN believes that compliance with the above reference levels ensures the appropriate level of protection for the public fields. SPEN has dedicated EMF resources to assist the public and to provide further information, including, if appropriate, home visits and measurement of fields. • It is the policy of the electricity industry to follow these independent exposure guidelines. A Code of Practice, published jointly by industry and the then Department

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		for Energy and Climate Change, sets out all the practical details needed to apply the exposure limits. All exposures in homes already comply with the ICNIRP guidelines. The electricity industry designs all new equipment to comply with the Government guidelines as set out in the Code of Practice. Further information can be found at www.emfs.info
Local impact	Many aspects of this project and its long term overall impact have not been fully considered, directly as a result of political pressure to achieve previously set out goals, timescales, and costs which may in reality be unachievable. Existing electrical infrastructure makes it theoretically the "lowest cost, easy option" however it is also abundantly clear that no real consideration has been given to other equally important aspect of the project.	The justification for siting the proposed development at this location is set out in the published Substation Site Selection Report available at www.spenergy/networks.co.uk/pages/kincardine_north_substation.aspx#tabist1-tab4). As a regulated business, SPEN is required to balance the technical, environmental and economic aspects of a proposal before promoting it and has applied this approach to conclude that this site is the appropriate location for the development.
Noise impact	Many Kincardine residents already have serious concerns over the noise omitted from the Clackmannan Crossing bridge as a result of its continuing increase in use. This new proposal will most definitely add to an already worsening problem.	Baseline noise monitoring is being undertaken and noise modelling is proposed to formally establish the operational noise characteristics of the proposed substation and overhead line works. These details will form part of the supporting information for the Section 37 application to the Scottish Government for the overhead lines and to Fife Council for the planning application for the substation. Where noise mitigation is required to address noise levels in excess of adopted standards, this will be implemented prior to commissioning of the development.

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4. Next Steps

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

Once the second round of consultation is complete, SPEN will carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Following completion of the EIA, SPEN will prepare a detailed development and design proposal and submit a planning application to both Fife Council and Clackmannanshire Council. The Councils will then invite representations from local people and stakeholders before deciding whether to grant planning permission, and to inform any conditions that may be required under permission.

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5. Appendices

Appendix A: Project Leaflet



Powering Scotland Towards Net Zero

Kincardine North Substation Project

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.

Renewable energy is replacing older fossil-fuelled power stations. At the same time, demand for electricity is growing through increased electrification of heating, industry and transport networks, and electric vehicles are replacing petrol and diesel.

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.

This huge change means we need to upgrade Scotland's electricity transmission network, so we can get this increasing amount of energy from where it's produced to where it's needed.

To help make this happen we need to build a new substation just north of Kincardine in Fife – close to where existing overhead lines cross each other – so we can increase the voltage of those lines from 275kV (275,000 volts) to 400kV, to strengthen the electricity transmission network and guarantee secure energy supplies for the future.

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

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Why is this substation needed?

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

We need to increase the voltage of the overhead lines in this area from 275kV to 400kV so we can get more energy from where it's produced to where it's needed.

Connecting the existing overhead lines to a new Kincardine North 400kV substation south-west of Kilbagie (close to where the existing lines cross each other) will allow us to increase their voltage and strengthen the network for the future, with only minimal changes to the lines themselves.

Once operational, this will also allow us to decommission the old Longannet 275kV substation, which is at the end of its operational life and cannot be upgraded.

The proposed new substation at Kincardine North will have a key role in enabling Scotland and the UK to meet Net Zero emissions targets while ensuring that power flows efficiently through the system in central Scotland.

What does the project involve?

The proposed new Kincardine North substation will have similar equipment to SPEN's Kilmarnock South substation, pictured on the front of this leaflet.

This will include:

- A new 400kV SF6-free Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation building, which will house electrical switchgear, plant and ancillary equipment (89m x 33m), and a smaller distribution substation building and back-up generator
- Two 400/275kV transformers, two shunt reactors and two containerised Automatic Voltage Regulators
- SF6-free Gas Insulated Busbar (GIB) routed across the site to connect the switchgear to each circuit.
- A new permanent access route to the substation from Hawkhill Road, a separate access route from the A876 for transformer deliveries, plus internal access roads and parking
- A new 3m high steel palisade fence and internal fencing around the live compound to ensure safety and security.

Why did you choose this site?

Our preferred site for the proposed new substation is on land about 700 metres north of Hawkhill Farm, just to the south-west of the Kilbagie Crossing (where the existing overhead lines cross each other).

We selected this site because the overhead lines are already there, and it allows us to reconfigure them and uprate the voltage from one location, minimising the need to build new overhead lines.

We worked with environmental consultants to appraise this site against other potential locations for the new substation, considering factors including the landscape, proximity to residents, land use, forestry, biodiversity, peatland, flood risk, archaeology and technical difficulty.

The other locations we assessed were just to the north-east, south-east and south-west of the overhead line crossing; the former Paper Mill site; land west of the A876; the existing Kincardine 275kV substation site; and the Longannet area.

Our preferred site has fewer environmental challenges than some of the other locations, including a lower risk of flooding. Because the existing overhead lines already cross the site, it also requires the least amount of new overhead lines and underground cables to be constructed, providing the lowest cost solution for consumers. It is also possible to access the site from the A876 main road, minimising disturbance to local residents.

You can find more information about the site selection process in our document Kincardine North 400kV Substation Site Selection, which is available on our project website.

Overhead line changes

We will need to 'turn in' the existing XL, ZC(N) and ZC(S) overhead lines to the proposed new substation so they can be uprated from 275kV to 400kV. To connect them to the new substation we will need to erect 12 new towers (pylons) and divert the lines in to the site. This will also allow us to remove three existing pylons and some of the overhead wires that currently cross the site.

There will also be a slight reconfiguration of the existing overhead lines at the proposed new substation, joining one side of ZC(S) Route and one side of XL Route to provide a 275kV overhead line between Kincardine 275kV Substation and Easterhouse 275kV Substation.

We will also need to connect the proposed new Kincardine North substation to the existing Kincardine 275kV substation by installing an underground cable between them.

Kincardine North Substation Summary of second round PAC feedback

Kincardine North substation
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)



Kincardine North Substation Summary of second round PAC feedback

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We want to hear your views

Our public consultation runs until Friday 18 July 2024.

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

Please come along to our public exhibition where you can see our plans in more detail and ask questions of the project team:

Tuesday 18 June, 2pm to 7pm:
Kincardine Community Centre, Anderson Lane,
Kincardine, FK10 4SF.

All project documents are also on our project website, where you can also fill in an online feedback form. If you don't have internet access, you can call our Freephone number to ask any questions you may have, or request a personal call back from a member of the project team. We can also send you a paper feedback form and a Freepost envelope so you can complete it and return it to us free of charge.

What happens next?

Following the first round of consultation we will develop a detailed design for the substation layout, including locations for buildings, access routes and working areas. We will publish a report summarising the feedback received and how this has influenced our proposals.

We will carry out a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment, and hold further consultation, before we finalise our proposals and submit a planning application under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) to both Fife Council and Clackmannanshire Council. This is because the proposed site is within the Fife Council area, while the proposed access route from the A876 is within the Clackmannanshire Council area.

We will also need to submit applications to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989, for the proposed changes to the overhead lines and uprating in voltage.



How to contact us

Email: kincardine@communityrelations.co.uk

You can call us **free of charge** on: 0800 470 2376

You can write to us **free of charge** at: FREEPOST SPEN KINN

You can find more information about the project on our website:

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

Kincardine North substation
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

Appendix B: Newspaper Advert

Kincardine North Substation 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.

To help make this happen we need to build a new substation just north of Kincardine in Fife – close to where existing overhead lines cross each other at Kilbagie – so we can increase the voltage of those lines from 275kV (275,000 volts) to 400kV, to strengthen the electricity transmission network and guarantee secure energy supplies for the future.

We will also need to alter the overhead lines slightly to connect them to the proposed new Kincardine North substation, and install underground cables between the new substation and the existing Kincardine substation.

The project will play a key role in the fight against climate change, and the UK's transition to Net Zero, as renewable energy replaces old fossil-fuelled power generation.

We are now asking local people and stakeholders what they think about our plans, to help us develop the project in the best way.

Please come along to our public exhibition on Tuesday 18 June, from 2pm to 7pm, at Kincardine Community Centre, Anderson Lane, Kincardine, FK10 4SF, to see our plans in more detail and ask questions of the project team.

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

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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.



Our public consultation runs until Thursday 18 July 2024.

Kincardine North substation
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

Appendix B: Newspaper Advert

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Our public consultation runs until Thursday 18 July 2024.

Kincardine North substation
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

Appendix B: Exhibition Boards

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 that happens belongs to SP Energy Networks (SPEN). In fact we have a statutory duty to do it.

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

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

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

Kincardine North substation
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

Electricity in our changing world



 **SP Energy
Networks**



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

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

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

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

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

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

Kincardine North substation
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

Why do we need a new substation at Kincardine North?



Much of the electricity transmission network in Scotland is between 50 and 100 years old.

It has grown and evolved to meet industrial needs and serve the expanding population, but the network in central Scotland will soon be at full capacity – unable to accommodate all the clean, green renewable energy we will all need in future.

We need to increase the voltage of the overhead lines in this area from 275kV to 400kV so we can get more energy from where it's produced to where it's needed.

Connecting the existing overhead lines to a new Kincardine North 400kV substation south-west of Kilbagie (close to where the existing lines cross each other) will allow us to increase their voltage and strengthen the network for the future, with only minimal changes to the lines themselves.

Once operational, this will also allow us to decommission the old Longannet 275kV substation, which is at the end of its operational life and cannot be upgraded.

The proposed new substation at Kincardine North will have a key role in enabling Scotland and the UK to meet Net Zero emissions targets while ensuring that power flows efficiently through the system in central Scotland.

Kincardine North substation
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

What does the project involve?



 SP Energy
Networks



The new Kincardine North substation will include:

- A new 400kV SF6-free Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation building, which will house electrical switchgear, plant and ancillary equipment (89m x 33m), and a smaller distribution substation building and back-up generator
- Two 400/275kV transformers, two shunt reactors and two containerised Automatic Voltage Regulators
- SF6-free Gas Insulated Busbar (GIS) routed across the site to connect the switchgear to each circuit
- A new permanent access route to the substation from Hawkhill Road, a separate access route from the A876 for transformer deliveries, plus internal access roads and parking
- A new 3m high steel palisade fence and internal fencing around the live compound to ensure safety and security
- A new underground cable connection to the existing Kincardine 275kV substation.

An example of a similar SPEN substation is Kilmarnock South, pictured above.

Kincardine North substation
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

How did you select this site for the substation?



SP Energy Networks



Our preferred site for the proposed new substation is on land about 700 metres north of Hawkhill Farm, just to the south-west of where the existing overhead lines cross each other near Kilbagie.

We selected this site because the overhead lines are already there, and it allows us to reconfigure them and upgrade the voltage from one location, minimising the need to build new overhead lines.

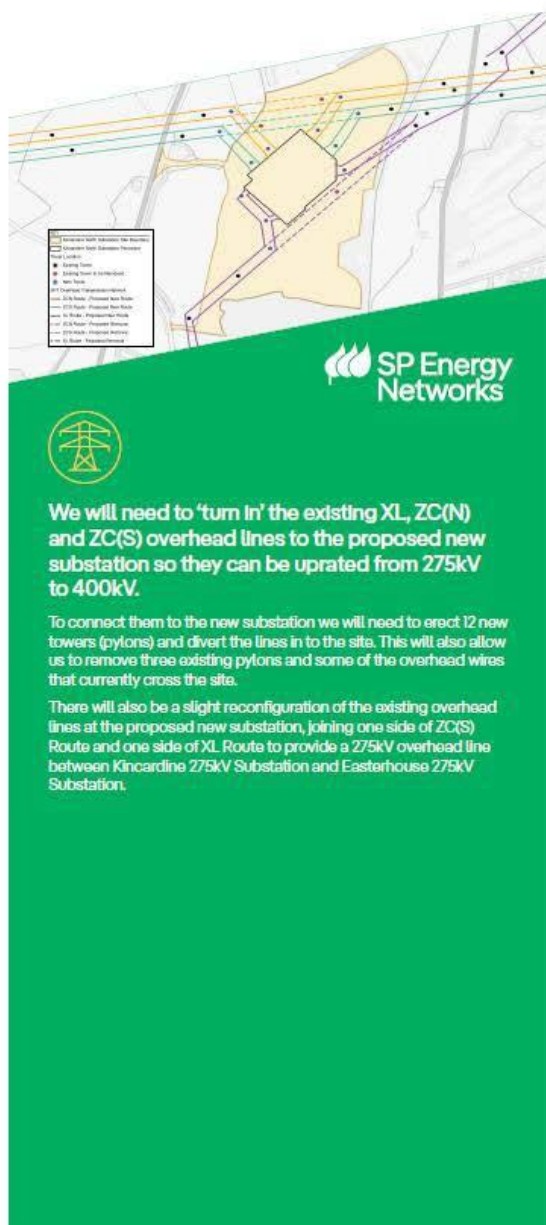
We worked with environmental consultants to appraise this site against other potential locations for the new substation, considering factors including landscape, proximity to residents, land use, forestry, biodiversity, peatland, flood risk, archaeology and technical difficulty.

The other locations we assessed were just to the north-east, south-east and south-west of the overhead line crossing; the former Paper Mill site; land west of the A876; the existing Kincardine 275kV substation site; and the Longannet area.

Our preferred site has fewer environmental challenges than some of the other locations, including a lower risk of flooding. Because the existing overhead lines already cross the site, it also requires the least amount of new overhead lines and underground cables to be constructed, providing the lowest cost solution for consumers.

You can find more information about how we chose this site in our Kincardine North 400kV Substation Site Selection Report, available on our project website.

Overhead line changes



Kincardine North substation
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

We want to
hear your views!



**Our public consultation event will run until
Friday 18 July 2024.**

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

We want to hear what local people think about our plans, to help us develop the project in the best way.

Please give us your views on our preferred site for the substation, the other options we considered, the proposed underground cable and the proposed changes to overhead lines. Please also let us know if there is anything else you would like us to consider, such as site access.

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



[www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/
kincardine_north_substation.aspx](http://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/kincardine_north_substation.aspx)

How to contact us

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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.

Kincardine North substation
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

What happens next?



Following the first round of consultation we will develop a detailed design for the substation layout, including locations for buildings, access routes and working areas, and the underground cable route to Kincardine 275kV substation.

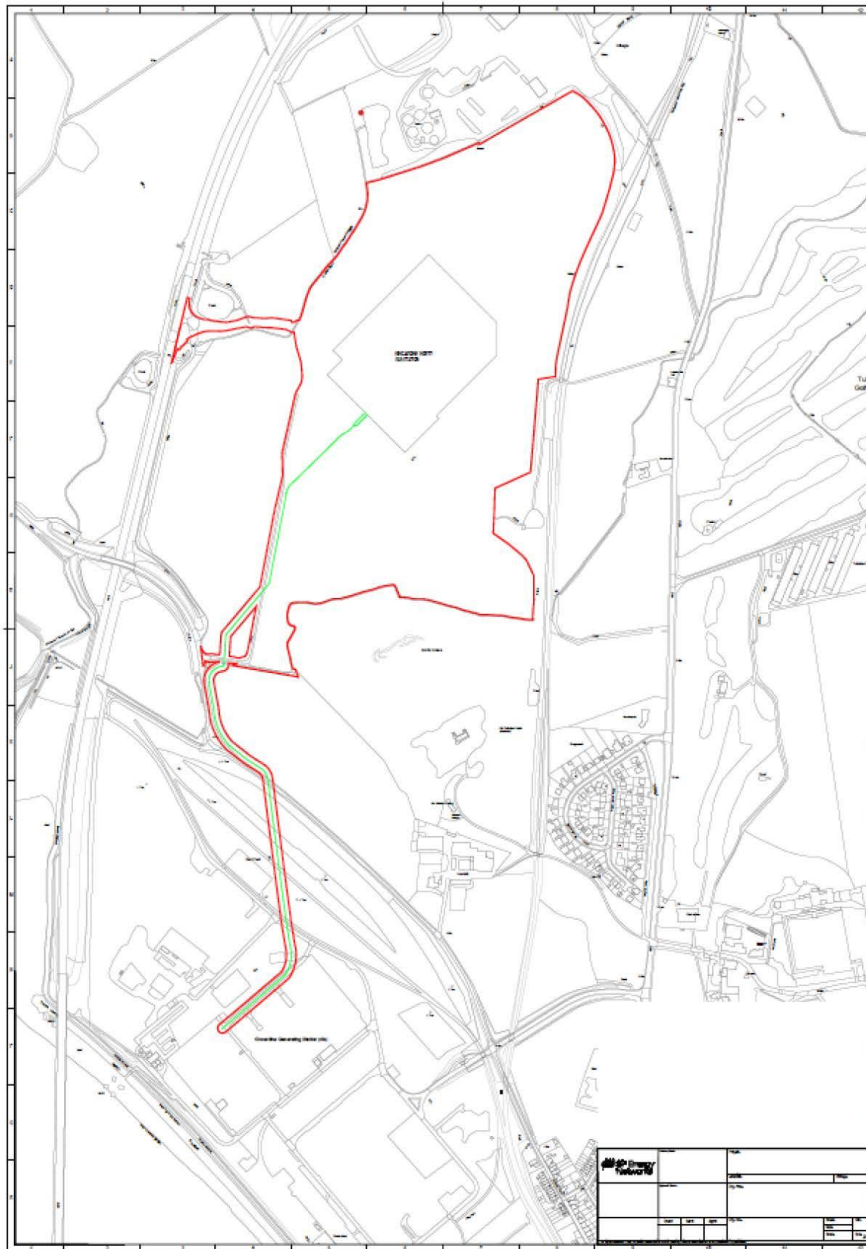
We will publish a report summarising the feedback received and how this has influenced our proposals.

We will carry out a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment, and hold further consultation, before we finalise our proposals and submit a planning application under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) to both Fife Council and Clackmannanshire Council. This is because the proposed site is within the Fife Council area, while the proposed access route from the A876 is within the Clackmannanshire Council area.

We will also need to submit applications to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989, for the proposed changes to the overhead lines and uprating in voltage.

Kincardine North substation
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

Appendix D: Red Line Boundary



Appendix B: Draft stakeholder email (19 November 2024)

SUBJECT: Public consultation on proposed new Kincardine North substation and associated overhead line works

SP Energy Networks (SPEN) is holding a second round of public consultation on plans for a new electricity substation north of Kincardine in Fife and works to the existing overhead lines, which will connect to it

The new Kincardine North substation is needed because the high-voltage transmission network in central Scotland will soon be at full capacity – unable to accommodate all the clean, green renewable energy we will all need in future.

We need to increase the voltage of the existing overhead lines in the area from 275kV (275,000 volts) to 400kV (400,000 volts) so we can get more energy from where it's produced to where it's needed.

Connecting the existing overhead lines to a new Kincardine North 400kV substation south-west of Kilbagie (close to where the existing lines cross each other) will allow us to increase their voltage and strengthen the network for the future, with only minimal changes needed to the lines themselves.

We held a first round of public consultation in June and July 2024 on our plans for the new substation, alterations to the overhead lines and road improvements. **We are now holding a second round of consultation on our updated plans until Friday 20 December 2024.** The consultation is being advertised in local newspapers, and a leaflet about our plans is being sent to homes and businesses in the local area.

You can find further information and project documents on our project website www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/kincardine_north_substation.aspx or by coming to our **drop-in event on Wednesday 27 November, 2pm to 7pm, at Kincardine Community Centre, Anderson Lane, Kincardine, FK10 4SF**, where you can see more detailed plans and ask questions of the project team.

Feedback received during this public consultation will help SPEN develop detailed plans before we submit planning applications to Fife Council and Clackmannanshire Council. We will also need to submit applications to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit for the proposed changes to the overhead lines and uprating in voltage. At this stage, comments received are not representations to the planning authorities. When we make an application for development consent in future, you will be able to make formal representations at that stage.

If you have any questions please call the project information Freephone line on 0800 470 2376, email kincardine@communityrelations.co.uk or write to us at FREEPOST SPEN KINN (no stamp required).

Kind regards

Kincardine North Community Relations Team

Appendix C: Project leaflet



Kincardine North Substation Project

Public Consultation

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.

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.

To help make this happen we need to build a new substation just north of Kincardine In Fife – close to where existing overhead lines cross each other – so we can increase the voltage of those lines from 275kV (275,000 volts) to 400kV, to strengthen the electricity transmission network and guarantee secure energy supplies for the future.

In June this year we consulted local people on our initial proposals, and since then we have continued talking to stakeholders and conducting technical and environmental studies.

We have now refined our plans and we are holding a second round of public consultation so local people can give us their views. This leaflet tells you about our plans, where to find more information, and how you can give us your views.

Our public consultation runs until Friday 20 December 2024.

Kincardine North Substation

Summary of second round PAC feedback



Why do we need a new substation?

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

We need to increase the voltage of the overhead lines in this area from 275kV to 400kV so we can get more energy from where it's produced to where it's needed.

Connecting the existing overhead lines to a new Kincardine North 400kV substation south-west of Kilbagie (close to where the existing lines cross each other) will allow us to increase their voltage and strengthen the network for the future, with only minimal changes to the lines themselves.

Once operational, this will also allow us to decommission the old Longannet 275kV substation, which is at the end of its operational life and cannot be upgraded.

The proposed new substation at Kincardine North will have a key role in enabling Scotland and the UK to meet Net Zero emissions targets while ensuring that power flows efficiently through the system in central Scotland.

What does the project involve?

The proposed new Kincardine North substation will have similar equipment to SPEN's Kilmarnock South substation, pictured on the front of this leaflet. This will include:

- A new 400kV SF6-free Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation-building, which will house electrical switchgear, plant and ancillary equipment (89m x 33m), and a smaller distribution substation building and back-up generator.
- Two 400/275kV transformers, two shunt reactors and two controlled Automatic Voltage Regulators.
- SF6-free Gas Insulated Busbar (GIB) routed across the site to connect the switchgear to each circuit.
- A new permanent access route to the substation from Heston, via a separate temporary access route from the A876 for transformer deliveries (to be reinstated after construction), plus internal access roads and parking.
- A new 3m high concrete palisade fence and internal fencing around the live compound to ensure safety and security.

Why did you choose this site?

Our preferred site for the proposed new substation is on land about 700 metres north of Hawkhill Farm, just to the south-west of the Kilbagie Crossing (where the existing overhead lines cross each other).

We selected this site because the overhead lines are already there, and it allows us to reconfigure them and uprate the voltage from one location, minimising the need to build new overhead lines.

We worked with environmental consultants to appraise the site against other potential locations for the new substation, considering factors including the landscape, proximity to residents, land use, forestry, biodiversity, peatland, flood risk, archaeology and technical difficulty.

You can find more information about the site selection process in our document Kincardine North 400kV Substation Site Selection, which is available on our project website.

Our updated plans

Since our previous consultation in June, we have refined our plans to take account of feedback received and further technical assessments. The plan opposite shows where the proposed new substation would sit within the site, along with proposed landscaping and tree-planting to help screen the development, plus drainage and access arrangements. The plan also shows the location of the new battery storage site in relation to our proposals.

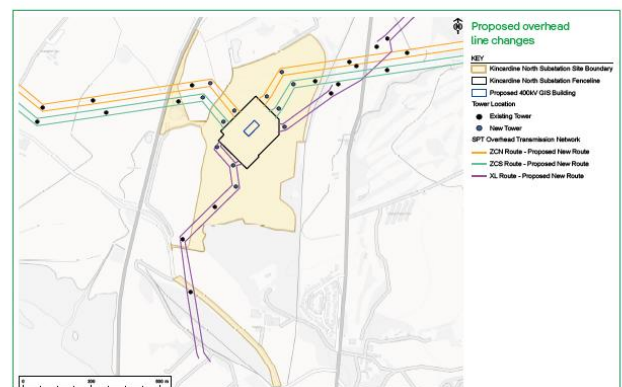
Overhead line changes

We will need to 'turn in' the existing XL, ZC(N) and ZC(S) overhead lines to the proposed new substation so they can be upgraded from 275kV to 400kV. To connect them to the new substation we will need to erect 12 new towers (pylons) and divert the lines in to the site. This will also allow us to remove three existing pylons and some of the overhead wires that currently cross the site.

There will also be a slight reconfiguration of the existing overhead lines at the proposed new substation, joining one side of ZC(S) Route and one side of XL Route to provide a 275kV overhead line between Kincardine 275kV Substation and Easterhouse 275kV Substation.

We will also need to connect the proposed new Kincardine North substation to the existing Kincardine 275KV substation by installing underground cables between them, but this will be subject to a separate planning process in due course and no longer forms part of this consultation.

The plan opposite shows how the existing overhead lines will change.





We want to hear your views

Our public consultation runs until Friday 20 December 2024.

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

Please come along to our public exhibition where you can see our plans in more detail and ask questions of the project team:

Wednesday 27 November, 2pm to 7pm:
Kincardine Community Centre, Anderson Lane,
Kincardine FK10 4SF

All project documents are also on our project website, where you can also fill in an online feedback form. If you don't have internet access, you can call our Freephone number to ask any questions you may have, or request a personal call back from a member of the project team. We can also send you a paper feedback form and a Freepost envelope so you can complete it and return it to us free of charge.



How to contact us

You can email us at:

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You can find more information about the project on our website:

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

What happens next?

Following this second round of consultation we will develop a detailed design for the substation layout, including proposed locations for buildings, access routes and working areas. We will publish a report summarising the feedback received and how this has influenced our proposals.

We will carry out a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment before we finalise our proposals and submit a planning application under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) to both Fife Council and Clackmannanshire Council. This is because the proposed site is within the Fife Council area, while the proposed access route from the A876 is within the Clackmannanshire Council area.

We will also need to submit applications to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989, for the proposed changes to the overhead lines and uprating in voltage.

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



Appendix D: Newspaper advertisement

Kincardine North Substation Project



We'd like your views!

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We will also need to alter the overhead lines slightly to connect them to the proposed new Kincardine North substation.

The project will play a key role in the fight against climate change, and the UK's transition to Net Zero, as renewable energy replaces old fossil-fuelled power generation.

We consulted local people about our initial plans in June 2024. We are now asking for comments on our more detailed plans for the substation, overhead line works and temporary access proposals, to help us develop the project in the best way.

Please come along to our public exhibition to see our plans in more detail and ask questions of the project team:

Wednesday 27 November, 2pm to 7pm

**Kincardine Community Centre
Anderson Lane, Kincardine, FK10 4SF**

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Our public consultation runs until Friday 20 December 2024.

Appendix E: Exhibition panels

About SP Energy Networks



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Why do we need a new substation at Kincardine North?



Much of the electricity transmission network in Scotland is between 50 and 100 years old.

It has grown and evolved to meet industrial needs and serve the expanding population, but the network in central Scotland will soon be at full capacity – unable to accommodate all the clean, green renewable energy we will all need in future.

We need to increase the voltage of the overhead lines in this area from 275kV to 400kV so we can get more energy from where it's produced to where it's needed.

Connecting the existing overhead lines to a new Kincardine North 400kV substation south-west of Kilbagie (close to where the existing lines cross each other) will allow us to increase their voltage and strengthen the network for the future, with only minimal changes to the lines themselves.

Once operational, this will also allow us to decommission the old Longannet 275kV substation, which is at the end of its operational life and cannot be upgraded.

The proposed new substation at Kincardine North will have a key role in enabling Scotland and the UK to meet Net Zero emissions targets while ensuring that power flows efficiently through the system in central Scotland.

What does the project involve?



The new Kincardine North substation will include:

- A new 400kV SF₆-free Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation building, which will house electrical switchgear, plant and ancillary equipment (89m x 33m), and a smaller distribution substation building and back-up generator
- Two 400/275kV transformers, two shunt reactors and two containerised Automatic Voltage Regulators
- SF₆-free Gas Insulated Busbar (GIS) routed across the site to connect the switchgear to each circuit
- A new permanent access route to the substation from Hawkhill Road, a separate access route from the A876 for transformer deliveries and construction vehicles, plus internal temporary access roads and parking
- A new 3m high steel palisade fence and internal fencing around the live compound to ensure safety and security.

An example of a similar SPEN substation is Kilmarnock South, pictured above.

We will also need a new underground cable connection between the new substation and the existing Kincardine substation, but this will be subject to a separate planning process and no longer forms part of this consultation.

Our plans for the substation site



Our preferred site for the proposed new substation is on land about 700 metres north of Hawkhill Farm, just to the south-west of where the existing overhead lines cross each other near Kilbagie.

We selected this site because the overhead lines are already there, and it allows us to reconfigure them and uprate the voltage from one location, minimising the need to build new overhead lines.

We worked with environmental consultants to appraise this site against other potential locations for the new substation, considering factors including landscape, proximity to residents, land use, forestry, biodiversity, peatland, flood risk, archaeology and technical difficulty.

The other locations we assessed were just to the north-east, south-east and south-west of the overhead line crossing; the former Paper Mill site; land west of the A876; the existing Kincardine 275kV substation site; and the Longannet area.

Our preferred site has fewer environmental challenges than some of the other locations, including a lower risk of flooding. Because the existing overhead lines already cross the site, it also requires the least amount of new overhead lines and underground cables to be constructed, providing the lowest cost solution for consumers.

Following our first round of consultation we have developed our plans to include proposed landscaping, tree-planting and drainage as shown above.

Our plans also include improvements to Hawkhill Road and a temporary access route from the A876 for construction vehicles and transformer deliveries.



Overhead line changes



We will need to 'turn in' the existing XL, ZC(N) and ZC(S) overhead lines to the proposed new substation so they can be updated from 275kV to 400kV.

To connect them to the new substation we will need to erect 12 new towers (pylons) and divert the lines in to the site. This will also allow us to remove three existing pylons and some of the overhead wires that currently cross the site.

There will also be a slight reconfiguration of the existing overhead lines at the proposed new substation, joining one side of ZC(S) Route and one side of XL Route to provide a 275kV overhead line between Kincardine 275kV Substation and Easterhouse 275kV Substation.



We want to hear your views!



Our second round of public consultation runs until Friday 20 December 2024.

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

We want to hear what local people think about our plans, to help us develop the project in the best way.

Our first round of consultation took place in June and July 2024. We are now asking for your views on our updated plans for the substation site and access arrangements, and the proposed changes to overhead lines.

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



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

How to contact us

Email: kincardine@communityrelations.co.uk

You can call us free of charge on: 0800 470 2376

You can write to us free of charge at: FREEPOST SPEN KINN

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.

What happens next?



Following the second round of consultation we will develop a detailed design for the substation layout, including locations for buildings and equipment, landscaping, drainage and access arrangements.

We will publish a report summarising the feedback received and how this has influenced our proposals.

We will carry out a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment, and hold further consultation, before we finalise our proposals and submit a planning application under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) to both Fife Council and Clackmannanshire Council. This is because the proposed site is within the Fife Council area, while the proposed access route from the A876 is within the Clackmannanshire Council area.

We will also need to submit applications to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989, for the proposed changes to the overhead lines and uprating in voltage.

Supporting the communities we serve



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



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



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



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



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

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



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

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

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

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

We have shared our initial proposal in our Community Benefit Consultation and incorporated community funding into our R10-T3 Business Plan, which will be published in December 2024.

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

Upgrading our overhead lines



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

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

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



Appendix F: Feedback form from second round of pre-application consultation



Kincardine North Substation and associated overhead line works

Public Consultation Feedback Form



The last day for submitting feedback is Friday 20 December 2024.

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.

Renewable energy is replacing older fossil-fuelled power stations. At the same time, demand for electricity is growing through increased electrification of heating, industry and transport networks, and electric vehicles are replacing petrol and diesel.

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.

This huge change means we need to upgrade Scotland's electricity transmission network, so we can get this increasing amount of energy from where it's produced to where it's needed.

To help make this happen we need to build a new substation just north of Kincardine in Fife – close to where existing overhead lines cross each other near Kilbaggie – so we can increase the voltage of those lines from 275kV (275,000 volts) to 400kV, to strengthen the electricity transmission network and guarantee secure energy supplies for the future.

We will also need to alter the overhead lines at Kilbaggie to connect them to the proposed new substation.

This is our second round of consultation. Your views will help us refine our proposals before we apply for planning permission, and for consent to alter the overhead lines and increase their voltage.

About You

Please provide the information requested below. Fields marked with an * are compulsory.

Title: _____ First name:*

Surname:*

Are you responding on behalf of an organisation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, which one: _____

Address:*

Postcode:_____ Telephone: _____

Email (if you would like to receive project updates): _____

Did you attend our public exhibition at Kincardine? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Keeping your details safe

SP Energy Networks is committed to respecting your privacy and will comply with all applicable data protection and privacy laws. We're consulting you to get your views on our plans for Kincardine North substation, so we may need to share your information with certain other bodies for the purposes of the consultation and for creating reports. These are: other ScottishPower Group companies; third party service providers, contractors or advisors who provide services to us; and relevant planning authorities.

More information

More information about the project and the consultation process can be found in the project leaflet and on the consultation website
https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/kincardine_north_substation.aspx



Have your say

You can submit your comments in a number of ways

1. Complete this feedback form and return it to us by post for free (just put it in an envelope and write **FREEPOST SPEN KINN** on the envelope in a single line. Nothing else is needed); or
2. Complete the online version of the form on our website https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/kincardine_north_substation.aspx
3. Email us your comments at kincardine@communityrelations.co.uk; or
4. Call us free of charge on FREEPHONE: 0800 470 2376

What we are consulting on

This is our second public consultation on the project. In this consultation, we'd like to know:

- Your views on our preferred site for the proposed new substation, including proposed access routes;
- Your views on our proposed changes to the overhead lines, including pylon locations and increasing the voltage;
- If you have comments about any of the alternatives we considered;
- If you have any comments about the consultation process;
- Any other factors you would like us to consider. 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.

We will publish a report of the second round of public consultation, explaining how we have taken account of feedback received when developing our plans.



Q1. Our preferred site for the proposed new substation

Our preferred site for the proposed new Kincardine North substation is on land close to where the existing overhead lines cross each other near Kilbagie. The substation will include a new 400kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation building, which will house electrical switchgear, plant and ancillary equipment (89m x 33m), and a smaller distribution substation building and back-up generator. It will also include outdoor electrical equipment, car parking, security fencing and landscaping.

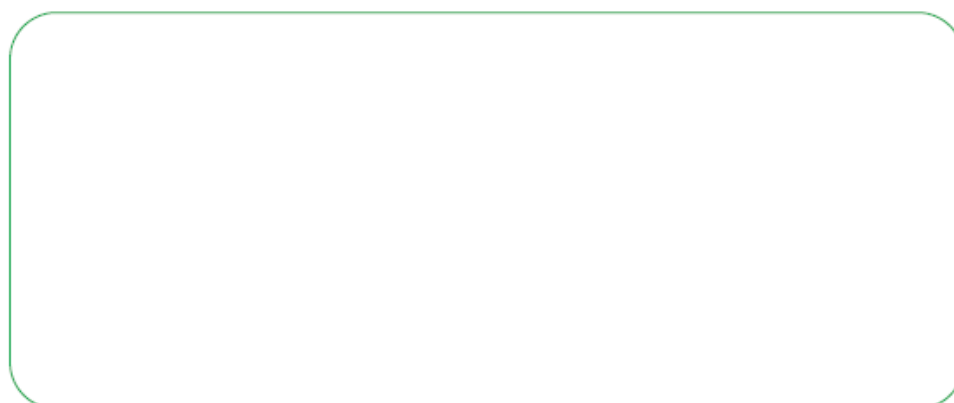
Since the first round of consultation we have developed more detailed plans, including potential locations for landscaping and tree-planting.

Do you have any comments on our plans for the substation, including proposed landscaping and tree-planting?

Q2. Our proposed access routes for Kincardine North substation

We propose to create a new permanent site access route from Hawkhill Road, and a separate temporary access from the A876 for construction traffic and transformer deliveries.

Please let us have any comments you may have about our proposed access routes.

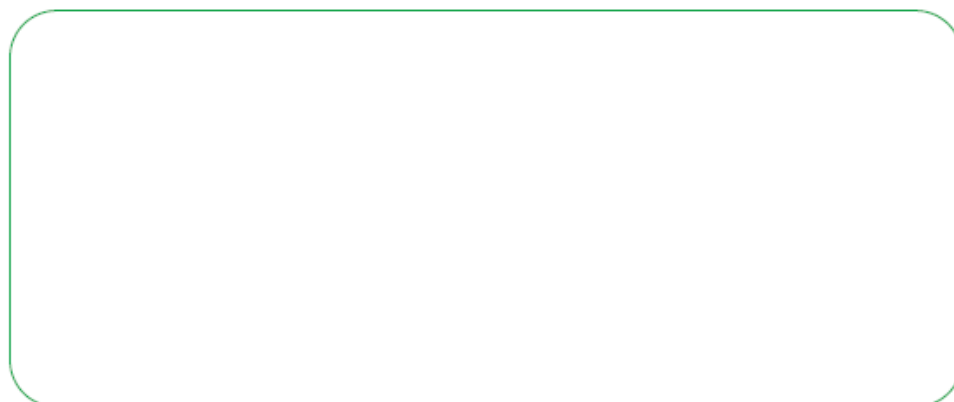


Q3. Overhead line changes

We will need to 'turn in' the existing XL, ZC(N) and ZC(S) overhead lines to the proposed new substation so they can be uprated from 275kV to 400kV. To connect them to the new substation we will need to erect 12 new towers (pylons) and divert the lines in to the site. This will also allow us to remove three existing pylons and some of the overhead wires that currently cross the site.

There will also be a slight reconfiguration of the existing overhead lines at the proposed new substation, joining one side of ZC(S) Route and one side of XL Route to provide a 275kV overhead line between Kincardine 275kV Substation and Easterhouse 275kV Substation.

Do you have any comments about the proposed changes to the overhead lines, including new pylon locations and the proposed increase in voltage?



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

- ☐ Advert ☐ Leaflet ☐ Website ☐ Media coverage ☐ Social media ☐ Word of mouth
☐ Other, please specify:

Q5. Do you have any comments about our public consultation?

Q6. Are there any other comments you would like to make?

Thank you

Please return the completed form to us by **no later than Friday 20 December 2024**.

You can post your completed form to **FREEPOST SPEN KINN**, or comment online at our project website https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/kincardine_north_substation.aspx

Following the second round of consultation we will refine our plans for the substation site and access routes. We will publish a report summarising the feedback received and how this has influenced our proposals.

We will carry out a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment before we finalise our proposals and submit a planning application under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) to both Fife Council and

Clackmannanshire Council. This is because the proposed site is within the Fife Council area, while the proposed access route from the A876 is within the Clackmannanshire Council area.

We will also need to submit applications to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989, for the proposed changes to the overhead lines and uprating in voltage.

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

Appendix G: Exhibition panels used at public consultation events

