How to make your views known?

Our consultation will run for four weeks from **17th May until 14th June 2021**. The closing date for you to send your responses to us is midnight on Monday 21st June 2021. Following this date, the information will remain accessible online and available to download.

Please find below the best ways to find out more or talk to us.

Visit the online virtual exhibition from 17th May 2021: www.KnockodharOHL.co.uk

In normal circumstances, we would engage with communities face-to-face through drop-in public exhibitions, however, given current social distancing restrictions this is not possible. Therefore, we have prepared an online virtual consultation to replicate the in-person village hall experience. Here you can see detailed maps, read about the proposals, download the project information as a pdf, and provide feedback via the online survey and questionnaire.

Visit the website: www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/KnockodharOHL

Our dedicated website has lots more information. You can view or download all the project documents, including this leaflet, on the website.

Email us: KnockodharOHL@spenergynetworks.co.uk

What happens next?

SP Energy Networks places great importance on the effect its work may have on the environment and local communities and is keen to hear the views of local people to help develop the project in the best way. Informed by the consultation responses, SP Energy Networks will confirm the proposed route for the Knockodhar 132kV Connection Project.

Reflecting the proposed route, SP Energy Networks intend to submit a Screening Opinion request to the Energy Consents Unit in Summer 2021 to confirm whether or not the proposed development requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The proposed route will then progress to identification of an overhead line alignment, including individual wood pole positioning which will be informed by the Environmental Appraisal, detailed engineering ground surveys and discussions with landowners.

This alignment, including all ancillary temporary development e.g. temporary access tracks, will be included in the application for Section 37 Consent and deemed planning permission which we anticipate being submitted in Summer 2022. The Section 37 application will be submitted to the Scottish Ministers via the Energy Consents Unit; South Ayrshire Council will be notified as a statutory consultee to the proposed development as well as being asked to comment on the application prior to submission via the Simplified Notification process.

SP Energy Networks will consult fully with affected landowners and occupiers on all aspects of the Knockodhar 132kV Connection Project and will give them an opportunity to connect on proposals as they progress.

Thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet.

SP ENERGY NETWORKS

The Knockodhar 132kV Connection Project

Public Consultation Leaflet

Background

The proposed Knockodhar Wind Farm by REG Knockodhar Limited is located in a commercial forestry plantation approximately 3.5 kilometres (km) south west of Barr in South Ayrshire. It comprises 32 wind turbines.

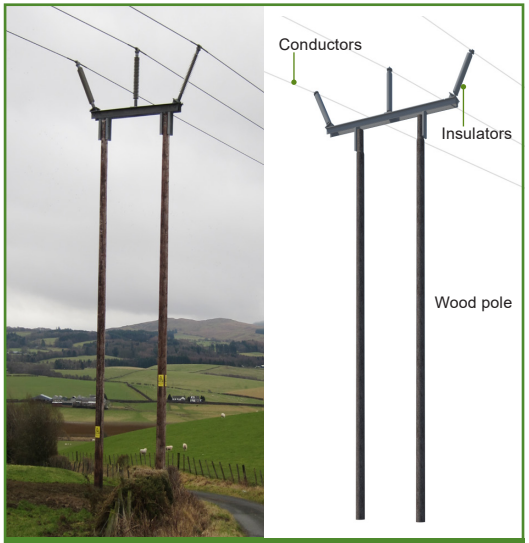
To meet its licence obligations to connect the Knockodhar Wind Farm to the grid, SP Energy Networks is proposing a new 132 kilovolt (kV) overhead line (OHL) to connect the proposed Knockodhar Wind Farm to the transmission grid system at the Mark Hill substation in South Ayrshire. This new connection will be approximately 2km in length and supported on wood poles. The location of the start and end point of the connection is shown on the plan overleaf. The preferred route for the overhead line is also shown on the plan.

SP Energy Networks is part of the ScottishPower Group of companies and owns three regulated businesses in the UK. These businesses are 'asset-owner' companies holding the regulated assets and Electricity Transmission and Distribution licenses of ScottishPower. As part of this, SP Energy Networks operates, maintains and develops the network of cables, overhead lines and substations which transport electricity to connected homes and businesses in Southern and Central Scotland.

SP Energy Networks has a legal duty to keep its network up-to-date to safeguard electricity supplies. SP Energy Networks also has a duty to provide a connection for new generation to the wider electricity transmission network.

What will the Overhead Line look like?

The 132kV overhead line will be supported on Trident double 'H' wood poles which average between 11 metres (m) and 16m in height above ground. Opportunities to use single poles will be taken where possible, subject to further technical assessment. The section of OHL between the wood poles is known as the 'span'. Span lengths between the wood poles will average between 80m and 110m. The Trident 'H' wood poles are dark brown in colour when newly constructed and weather over the years to a light grey. They include two wood pole structures to support the conductors. For technical reasons, a section of underground cable approximately 500 metres in length will also form part of the connection as it enters Mark Hill substation.



Typical Trident 132kV 'H' wood pole

Routeing

SP Energy Networks has been working with independent environmental consultants to identify options for potential routes for the proposed overhead line. Our objective is to identify a route for the overhead line which meets 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.

Following an established best practice methodology for routeing overhead lines, four route options were identified for the overhead line. These were appraised against environmental criteria, including local landscape character and views, cultural heritage and biodiversity, to identify the preferred route. SP Energy Networks are committed to engaging with stakeholders, including local communities, through the consultation process and your feedback will be used to review the routeing findings and inform the next steps.

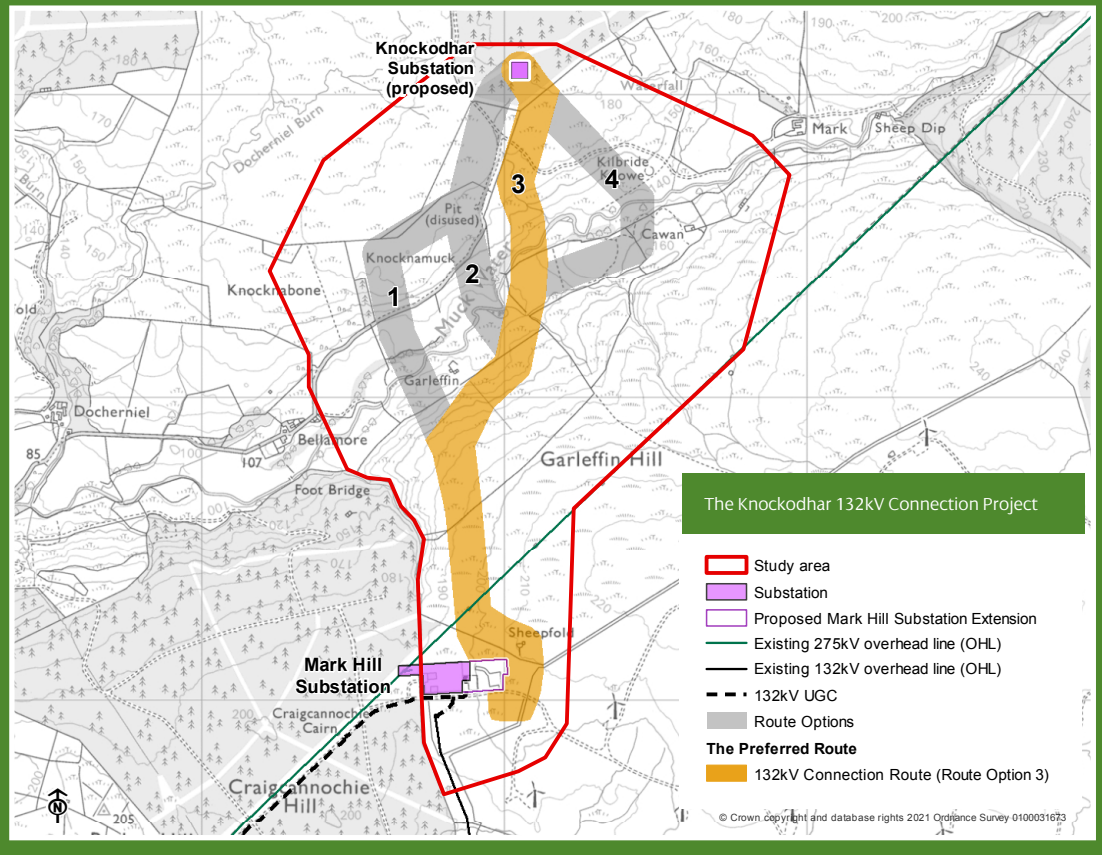
More information about the process we have followed to identify and appraise route options to select the preferred route can be found in our Routeing and Consultation Document (April 2021). This is available on the project website, www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/KnockodharOHL

Routeing Methodology

- **A** Identification of Routeing Study Area
- **B** Desk Based Surveys and Mapping of Routeing Considerations
- **C** Identification of Route Options
- **D** Mapping of Appraisal Considerations and Environmental Appraisal of Route Options
- **E** Technical Review
- **F** Identification of Preferred Route
- **G** Consultation

Proposed Route for Environmental Appraisal

The Knockodhar 132kV Connection Project



What we would like your views on?

As part of the consultation we would particularly like your views on:

1. The preferred route for the Knockodhar 132kV Connection Project
2. Any of the alternative route options we considered during the routeing process
3. Any other issues, suggestions or feedback you would like us to consider. We would particularly like to hear your views on your local area, for example areas you use for recreation, local environmental features you would like us to consider, and any plans you may have to build in proximity to the preferred route.

Please note comments at this stage are informal comments to SP Energy Networks and are made to allow SP Energy Networks to determine whether changes to the preferred route are necessary. An opportunity to comment formally to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit will follow at a later stage in the process following submission of the Section 37 application.