Lorg Wind Farm Grid Connection

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Report on Consultation

November 25

Land & Planning

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Term	Definition
BTO	British Trust for Ornithology Scotland
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ECU	Energy Consents Unit
HER	Historic Environment Record
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
kV	Kilo-volt
m	metres
OFCOM	The Office of Communications
OFWAT	Water Services Regulation Authority
OHL	Overhead line
RAF	Royal Air Force
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage (now called NatureScot)
SOAN	Scottish Outdoor Access Network
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest

GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
EIA Regulations	The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2000
Electricity Act	The Electricity Act 1989
Holford Rules	Guidelines developed by the late Lord Holford in 1959 for routeing overhead lines
Initial Study Area	Broad search area subsequently refined to identify the Route Option Area
DE Route	The 132 kV overhead line which the Lorg Wind Farms would connect with
Kilo-volt	Capacity of an electricity power line
Overhead Line	An electric line in the open air and above ground level
Preferred Route	The Preferred Route identified through this routeing study process, which is yet to be subject to non-statutory consultation
Proposed Route	The amended Proposed Route following non-statutory consultation. The route which would go forward to Environmental Impact Assessment
Route Option Area	Area within which a number of feasible route options can be identified prior to appraisal
Section 37 (s37) application	An application for development consent under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of this document

1.1.1 This document has been prepared by WSP on behalf of Scottish Power Energy Network (SPEN) to present the findings of the pre-application consultation on the Lorg Wind Farm Connection Project. SPEN intends to submit an application for consent under Section 37 (s37) of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct a new 17.5 km 132 kV Trident wood pole Overhead Line (OHL) between Lorg Wind Farm (currently in planning) and the proposed Holm Hill substation (which is being consented separately by SPEN).

1.1.2 SPEN 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). 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 more than 150 substations, more than 3,700 km of overhead lines and more than 600 km of underground cables.

1.1.3 The pre-application consultation for the Lorg Wind Farm Grid Connection Project was undertaken during April – June 2024, following the publication of the Routeing Consultation Report (April 2017)[1]. As part of the pre-application consultation, consultation with stakeholders and the public on the Preferred Route was undertaken in April – July 2017.

1.1.4 Specifically, the purpose of this report is to:

- Document the consultation process undertaken on the Preferred Route and revised Proposed Route.
- Detail the responses received to date from statutory and non-statutory consultees and members of the public.
- Discuss the key issues raised during the consultation.
- Demonstrate how the comments received during the consultation have been taken into consideration.

1.2 Background to the consultation

1.2.1 SPEN is applying to the Scottish Government's Energy Consent Unit (ECU) under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended), seeking consent to construct and operate a new 17.5 km 132 kV Trident wood pole OHL between Lorg Wind Farm (currently under consideration) and the proposed Holm Hill 132/33 kV Substation (which is being consented separately by SPEN).

1.2.2 This is to satisfy their legal duty to provide grid connections to new electricity generating developments. As a transmission licence holder, SPEN is required under the Electricity Act 1989 "*to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission*."

1.2.3 In accordance with the Electricity Act 1989, the project routeing objective is:

"To identify a technically feasible and economically viable route for an overhead transmission line that meets the technical requirements of the electricity network and causes, on balance, the least disturbance to the environment and the people who live, work and recreate with in it."

[1] Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) *Proposed 132kV Grid Connection to Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms Routeing Consultation Report (April 2017)*. Available Online at: www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/userfiles/file/Lorg_Longburn_Routeing_Consultation_Pt1.pdf [Accessed: August 2025]

1.2.4 A route options study identified and appraised a series of route options and resulted in the selection of a Preferred Route for the OHL. This study was reported in a Routeing Consultation Report (April 2017), which was used to inform consultees of the initial proposals and enable them to provide feedback and comment on the Preferred Route.

1.2.5 In response to feedback gathered during the 2017 consultation, the Preferred Route was amended, resulting in the Proposed Route, which was presented at a second consultation in 2024. The purpose of this second consultation was to demonstrate how views and feedback had influenced the design and to invite any additional comments on the Proposed Route. Amendments included the removal of the spur to Longburn Wind Farm, as this was no longer required, and extending the route by approximately 150 m to accommodate a revised Holm Hill Substation location.

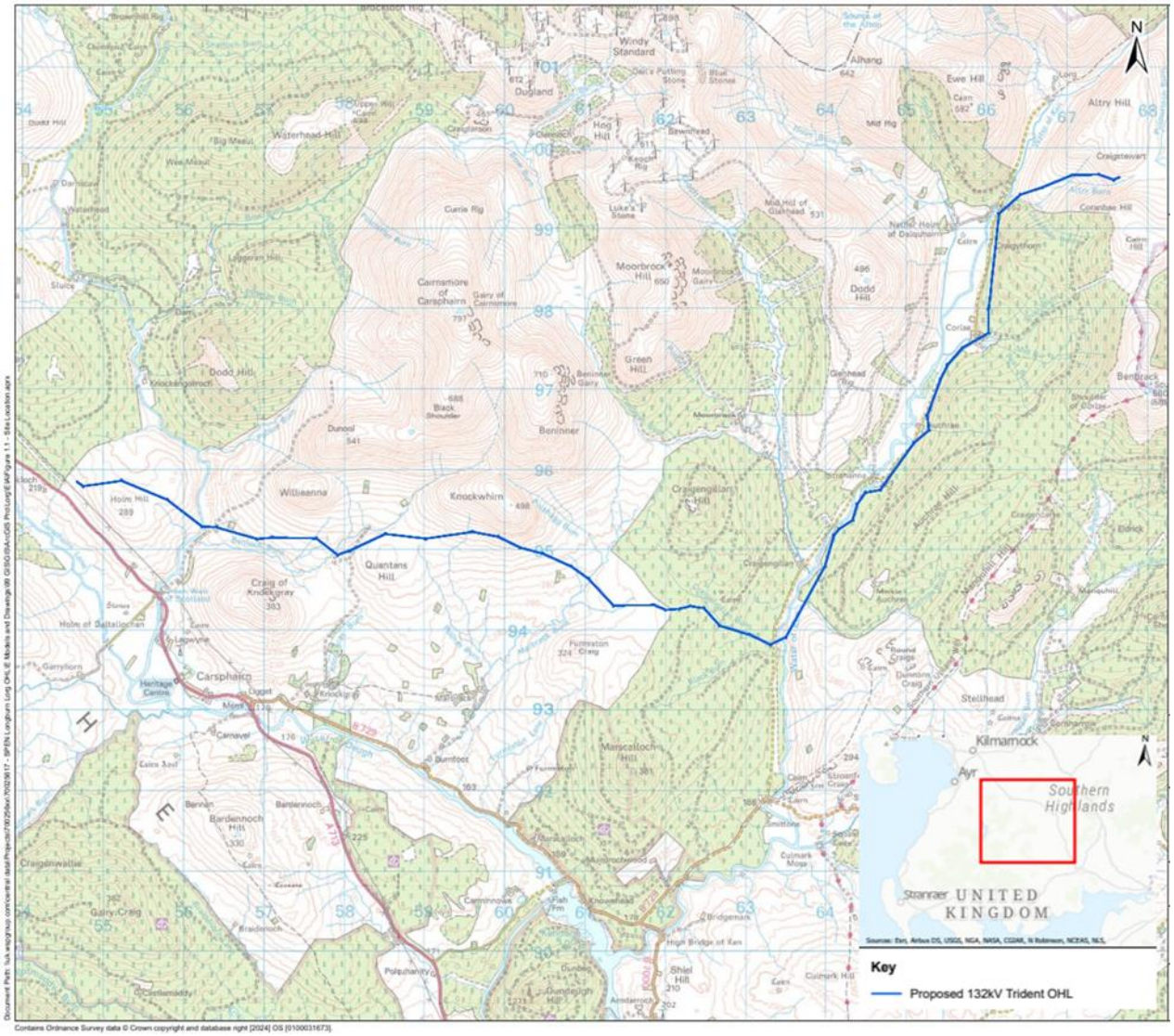
2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Proposed Development

2.1.1 The connection to Lorg Wind Farm follows a request from the Wind Farm developer for a connection to the electricity transmission network. SPEN, as a transmission licence holder for the South of Scotland, is obliged to offer a connection for any such request.

2.1.2 As such, the grid connection is proposed as a new 132 kV OHL in Dumfries and Galloway to connect the proposed Lorg Wind Farm to the electricity network. It would connect to the DE Route at a T-in point (at the western end of the route) to the north-west of Carsphairn, Dumfries and Galloway, as illustrated in **Plate 2.1** below. From here, a 132 kV OHL would be installed, supported by 'Trident' wood poles, to the Lorg Wind Farm Connection Point.

Plate 2.1: Lorg Wind Farm Grid Connection Location



2.2 Design Elements

2.2.1 The key elements of the design include:

- trident wood poles to carry single circuit lines operating at 132 kV. They would be of 'H' pole design to withstand greater ice and wind loadings typically experienced in altitudes above 200 m. Typical heights of the Trident wood poles, including insulators, would be up to 15.1 m in height; and
- a terminal to connect into the DE route, where the OHL terminates into a substation or onto an underground cable section via a cable sealing end.

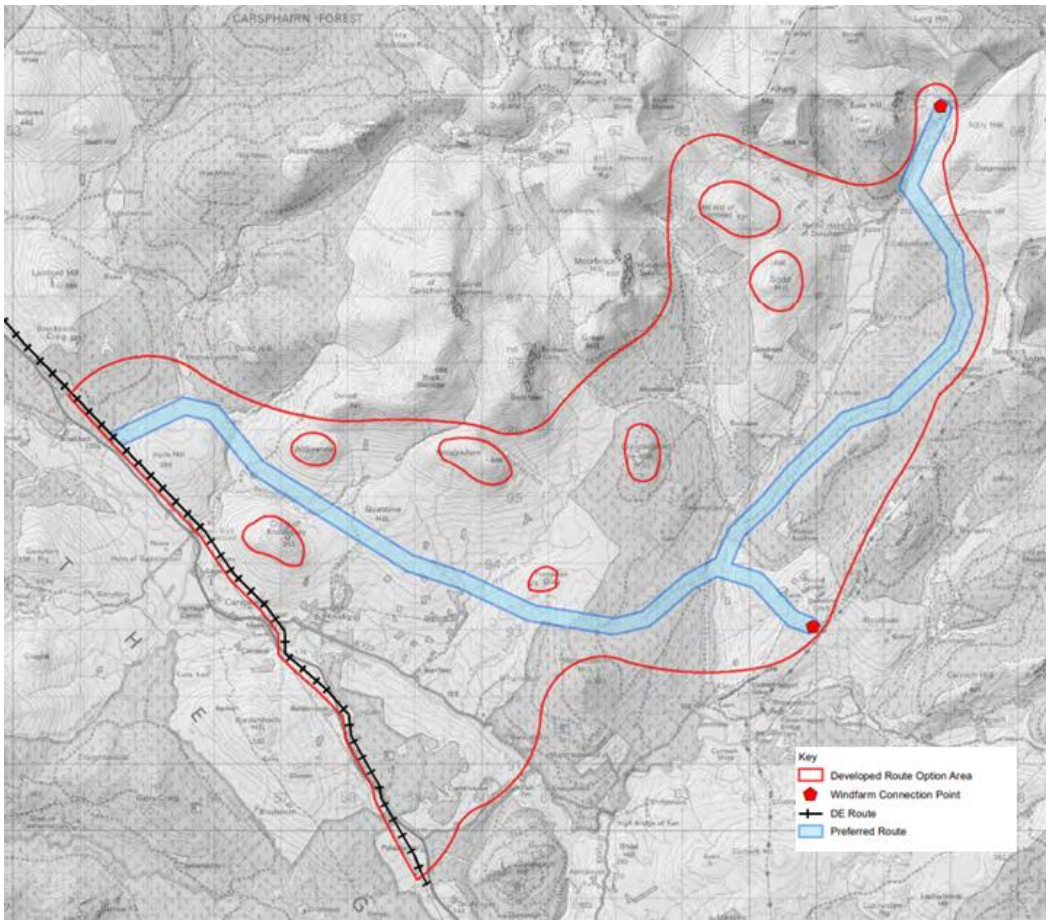
2.3 Design Development

Routeing Process

2.3.1 A routeing exercise was undertaken in 2017, comprising a review of environmental, technical and economic considerations and the established step-by-step routeing principles to identify and appraise potential route options. The objective was to identify a route which meets the technical requirements of the electricity system, which is economically viable and causes, on balance, the least disturbance to the environment and the people who live, work and enjoy recreation within it. This process resulted in identifying a Preferred Route. The approach to and outcome of the routeing process are detailed in the Routeing Consultation Report (April 2017), available via SPEN's website.

2.3.2 The Preferred Route is shown in **Plate 2.2** below.

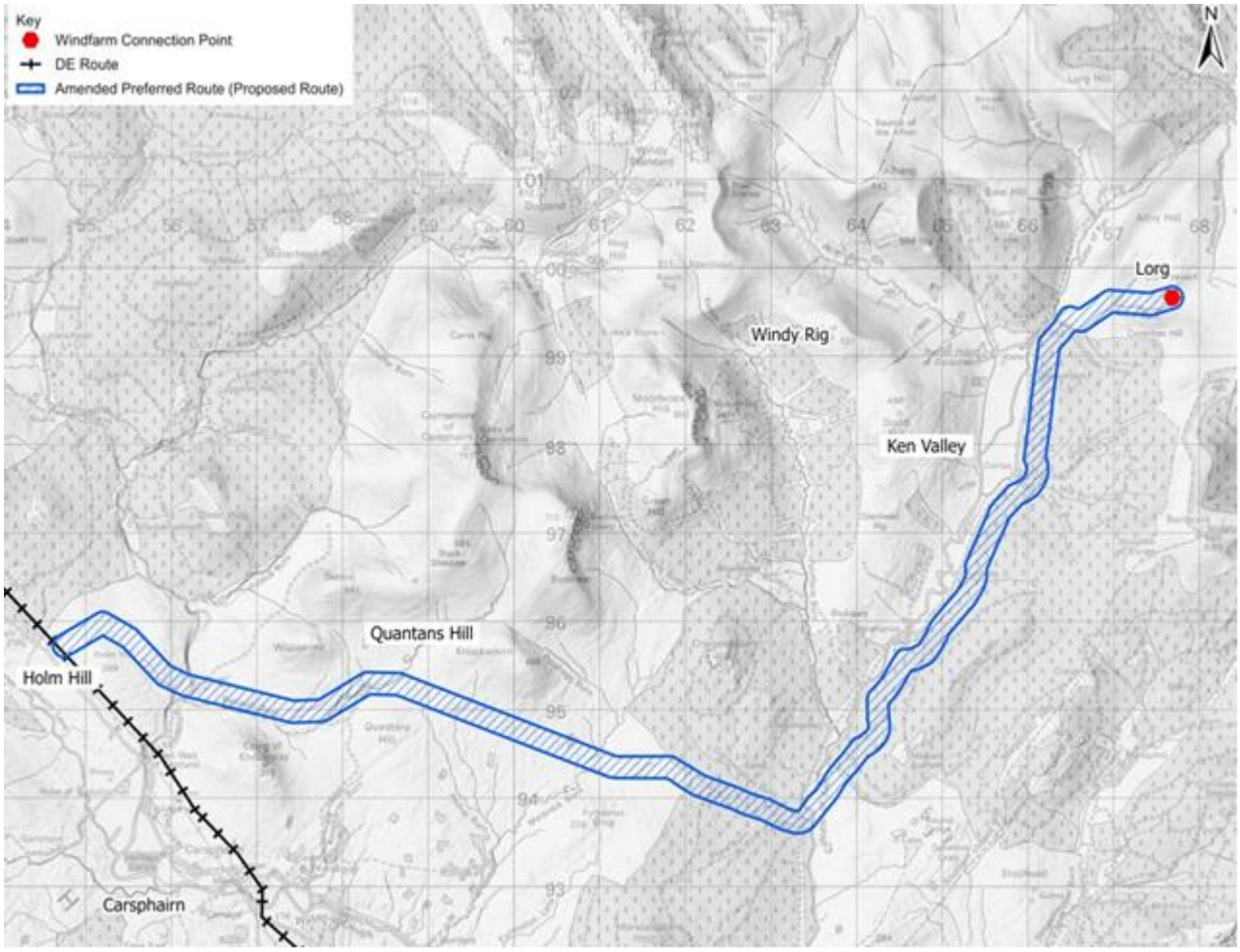
Plate 2.2 - Preferred Route



The Proposed Route

2.3.3 Following feedback received from stakeholders and the public on the Preferred Route in 2017, the route was amended and presented in consultation as the Proposed Route. Modifications to the Preferred Route included the removal of the spur to the Longburn Wind Farm, as this was no longer required, and the extension of the route in the west by circa 150 m to the proposed Holm Hill Substation. The location of the Proposed Route is shown in **Plate 2.3**.

Plate 2.3: Proposed Route



2.3.4 Further details of the changes made to the Preferred Route following the 2017 consultation can be found in the Amendments to the Preferred Route report available via SPEN's website[2] and **Chapter 2**: **Route Selection and Alternatives** of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). Following these modifications, SPEN subsequently presented the Proposed Route to stakeholders and the public in the 2024 pre-application consultation.

[2] Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) Proposed 132kV Grid Connection to Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms Amendments to the Preferred Route (Nov 2017). Available Online at: www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/userfiles/file/Lorg_LongburnGrid%20RouteingPreferredRouteAmendments_Issue_fig_LR.pdf [Accessed : August 2025]

3 ENGAGEMENT TO DATE

3.1 Consultation Approach

3.1.1 Stakeholder and public involvement are an important component of the Scottish planning system. Legislation and government guidance aim to ensure that the public, local communities, statutory consultees, other representative groups and interested parties have an opportunity to have their views considered throughout the planning process.

3.1.2 SPEN aims to ensure effective, inclusive and meaningful engagement with the public, local communities, statutory and other consultees and interested parties. As outlined in SP Energy Network's Approach to Routeing and Environmental Impact Assessment[3], a number of steps to stakeholder engagement are required to be undertaken. The engagement process begins at the early stages of development to ensure that the project balances the views of stakeholders and communities with SPEN's statutory obligations.

3.1.3 All consultation took place before the publication of the Pre-Application Consultation and Engagement Guidance For Electricity Transmission Line Projects Which Require Environmental Impact Assessment (May 2025)[4]. SPEN's approach to effective engagement has resulted in the guidance bring broadly met. For comparison:

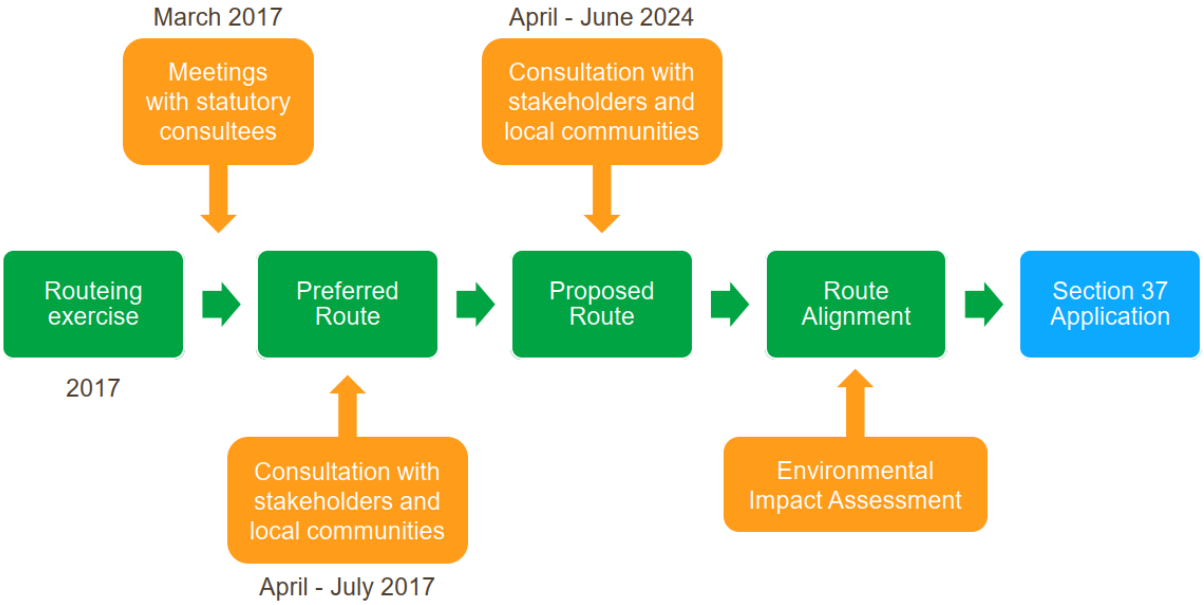
- **PAC Consultation Event 1 – Route Assessment** (2017) included two in-person public events on consecutive days, rather than one event as required. There was no online consultation option, which was not commonplace in 2017, when the consultation was carried out. However, it is considered that, in having two in-person events on two consecutive days, sufficient consultation was carried out to gain feedback on the Preferred Route.
- **PAC Consultation Event 2** (2024) included one in-person public event and one online consultation event, which are considered to be in compliance with the May 2025 guidance. The new guidance further proposes PAC Event 3 to provide a presentation of the finalised proposal before the Application. This event was not planned into the 2024 consultation strategy as consultation was completed prior to publication of the guidance. However, as the overall consultation strategy is considered to be broadly in alignment with the most recent guidance, this is not considered to be a significant limitation to the consultation carried out to support the Proposed Development.
- **PAC Report and Consideration of Responses** All responses have been recorded, analysed and considered in the project development. This has been captured and recorded within this report in line with the newly published guidance.

3.1.4 **Figure 3.1** below shows how the consultation approach supports the route development process.

[3] Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) Approach to Routeing and Environmental Impact Assessment (2020). Available online at: www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/userfiles/file/SPEN_Approach_to_Routeing.pdf [Accessed: August 2025]

[4] Available at: https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2025/05/electricity-act-1989-pre-application-consultation-engagement-guidance-electricity-transmission-line-projects-require-environmental-impact-assessment/documents/electricity-act-1989-pre-application-consultation-engagement-guidance-electricity-transmission-line-projects-require-environmental-impact-assessment/electricity-act-1989-pre-application-consultation-engagement-guidance-electricity-transmission-line-projects-require-environmental-impact-assessment/govscot%3Adocument/electricity-act-1989-pre-application-consultation-engagement-guidance-electricity-transmission-line-projects-require-environmental-impact-assessment.pdf

Figure 3.1: Consultation Approach



3.2 Meetings with Statutory consultees

3.2.1 Prior to the development of the Preferred Route, meetings were offered to the statutory consultees to discuss the proposals and to identify issues before the Preferred Route was established. Meetings were held in March 2017 with The Scottish Government ECU, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) (now NatureScot) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). Historic Environment Scotland (HES) chose to use e-mail correspondence alone.

3.3 Wider public consultation on the Preferred Route

3.3.1 Following the meetings with statutory consultees, a wider consultation was undertaken over a period of 12 weeks from 12 April to 7 July 2017, with public exhibitions held on 25 and 26 April 2017. The Routeing Consultation Report (April 2017), developed in advance of the consultation, was used to inform consultees of the proposals and used alongside online and printed communication materials, enabling them to provide feedback and comment on the Preferred Route.

3.3.2 A range of materials was produced in 2017 for consultation to help respondents understand the proposals and submit informed comments. It was stated on the feedback form that comments made to SPEN during this consultation stage were not representations to the Scottish Government as the consenting authority, and the opportunity for lodging representations will be when the application is formally submitted to the Scottish Government for formal consideration.

3.4 Consultation materials and channels for promotion

Exhibition boards

3.4.1 Six exhibition boards were displayed at the information event and provided background to the project; an overview of the routeing process, design and construction; information on environmental and technical considerations; development and appraisal of route options; details of the Preferred Route and next steps. A copy of the exhibition boards can be found in Appendix B: Exhibition Boards (2017).

Information leaflets

3.4.2 An information leaflet was created to provide a summary of the project, including purpose; map showing the Preferred Route; what the OHL would look like and how to have your say. The leaflet was available in physical format at the in-person event and at Dumfries and Galloway Council offices in Dumfries. An online version was also created and is available to download via the website. A copy of the leaflet can be found in **Appendix C: Information Leaflet (2017).**

Website

3.4.3 Information about the consultation was published on SPEN's website: www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/lorg_wind_farm.aspx

The webpage provided:

- an overview of the Preferred Route
- dates of the consultation
- details about the in-person events
- background information on the proposal via a link to the information leaflet
- contact details to provide feedback or for further queries

3.5 Raising awareness

Stakeholder letters

3.5.1 A letter was sent via email and hard copy mail-out to representative groups, including statutory consultees, non-statutory consultees and local community councils, as outlined in **Table 3.1.**

3.5.2 The letter encouraged participation in the consultation process and provided an overview of the project; details of the in-person consultation events; details of where to access a hard copy of the Routing Consultation Report (April 2017); and how to provide feedback or request further information. The letters were sent on 10 April 2017, ahead of the first consultation event. A copy of the letters can be found in **Appendix D: Stakeholder Letters (2017).**

3.5.3 Consultees received additional information with the hard copy letter mail-out:

- statutory consultees and Carsphairn Community Council received a hard copy of the information leaflet **(see Section 3.4.2),** a hard copy of the Routeing Consultation Report (April 2017), as well as a copy of each in CD format;
- non-statutory consultees received a hard copy of the information leaflet and a copy of the Routeing Consultation Report (April 2017) in CD format; and
- all other consultees received only a hard copy of the leaflet.

3.5.4 A reference copy of the Routeing Consultation Report (April 2017) was provided at the Dumfries and Galloway Council offices in Dumfries for public viewing. It was also made available to view and download via the SPEN website.

Public notices

3.5.5 Advertisements providing notice of the consultation, availability of further information and dates and times of the Public Exhibition were placed in the Galloway News and the Galloway Gazette on 13 and 21 April 2017, respectively. The public notice contained:

- an overview of the project;
- date, time and location of the in-person event;
- contact details to contact the project team or request further information; and

- link to the website.

3.5.6 A copy of the public notice can be found in **Appendix E: Public Notices (2017).**

3.6 Consultation events

In-person events

3.6.1 Public Exhibitions were held on Tuesday 25 April 2017 and Wednesday 26 April 2017 at Lagwyne Village Hall, Carsphairn, from 14:00 – 18:00. The Wednesday event was planned to coincide with another SP Energy Networks event to maximise the number of attendees. There were 7 attendees at the Tuesday event and 18 attendees at the Wednesday event.

3.6.2 Exhibition boards **(see Section 3.4.1)** were displayed to enable the community to find out more about the Preferred Route and ask any questions to a member of Project Team. Hard copies of the information leaflet were also available **(see Section 3.4.2).** Visitors to the event were encouraged to submit their feedback via a feedback form **(see Section 3.7.1).**

3.7 Responding to the Consultation

Feedback form

3.7.1 Those who attended the in-person event could submit their feedback via a feedback form. The form included four open-ended questions about the project and two questions inviting feedback on the event itself. A copy of the feedback form can be viewed in **Appendix F: Feedback form (2017).**

Other responses

3.7.2 A dedicated mailbox (Lorg-LongburnConnection@spenergynetworks.co.uk) was used during the consultation period as a means of contacting the Project Team and gathering feedback on the Preferred Route.

3.7.3 In addition to the email address, respondents could send their comments via post to:

Lorg and Longburn Grid Connection Project Manager

Land & Planning Team

SP Energy Networks

3rd Floor, Ochil House

10 Technology Avenue

Hamilton International Technology Park

Blantyre G72 0HT

Table 3.1: List of consultees contacted directly during consultation on the Preferred Route

Consultees	
Statutory consultees	
Scottish Government ECU	SEPA
Dumfries and Galloway Council	Scottish Natural Heritage
HES	
Non-statutory consultees	
Association of Salmon Fishery Board	Marine Scotland

Consultees	
The Coal Authority	RSPB Scotland
Defence Infrastructure Organisation	Scottish Water
Forestry Commission Scotland	Scottish Wildlife Trust
Other consultees	
British Horse Society	NATS Safeguarding
British Trust for Ornithology Scotland (BTO)	Nuclear Safety Directorate (NSD)
BT	OFCOM
Civil Aviation Authority - Airspace	OFWAT
Dumfries and Galloway Badger Network	RAF
Dumfries and Galloway Bat Group	Ramblers Association (Scotland)
Dumfries and Galloway Raptor Study Group	Red Squirrels in Scotland (South-west Scotland)
Galloway Fisheries Trust	Scottish Badgers
Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust	Scottish Outdoor Access Network (SOAN)
Garden History Association	Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays)
Health and Safety Executive	Sustrans Scotland
JNCC (for Geological Conservation Review)	The Crown Estate
John Muir Trust	The Woodland Trust
Mountaineering Council of Scotland	Transport Scotland
National Farmers Union	Visit Scotland
National Trust for Scotland	
Local Community Councils	
Carsphairn Community Council	Tynron Community Council
Dalry Community Council	Penpont Community Council
Glencairn Community Council	Sanquhar Community Council
Landowners	

3.8 How feedback has informed the Proposed Route selection

3.8.1 SPEN carefully considered the feedback received on the Preferred Route. Based on the consultation responses received in 2017, the Preferred Route was modified, and a Proposed Route was developed. The key issues raised during the Preferred Route consultation and subsequent action taken are shown below in **Table 3.2**.

Table 3.2: Key issues raised during Consultation on the Preferred Route (2017)

Key issue	Action taken
Impact on commercial forestry plantations. This relates both to forestry loss and the impacts on forestry harvesting operations, including health and safety implications.	All routes through the commercial forestry blocks have been amended to reduce the impact on forestry operations and reduce forestry loss, as outlined below: • The route from Quantans Hill to the Lorg-Longburn Junction moved further north; and

Key issue	Action taken
	• The route up the Ken Valley moved further down the slope.
The area is sensitive with respect to cultural heritage assets.	An Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) has been produced, which details archaeological mitigation measures, including a presumption in favour of the avoidance of impacts to heritage assets through micrositing. Pre-construction archaeological recording of heritage assets to be impacted, where impact cannot be avoided. All mitigation measures for heritage impacts are outlined in **Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology** of the EIAR.
Management of watercourse crossings, peat, biosecurity, public and private water supplies.	The route has been moved further to the north of Marsalloch Hill which further removes it from one private water supply for which concern was raised. All surface water body crossings are subject to Controlled Water Activities Consent[5] and subject to SEPA approval. Infrastructure would also be microsited where possible to avoid deeper areas of peat. All mitigation measures for hydrology are outlined in **Chapter 10: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology, and Soils** of the EIAR, **Appendix 10.2: Soil and Peat Management Plan** and **Appendix 3: Private Water Supply Risk Assessment..**
The route would affect recreational paths, including core paths.	This would be taken into consideration prior to construction to minimise impacts on these recreational areas. Where possible, recreational paths would be kept open during construction, and diversions put in place for any recreational routes which need to be closed.
Potential impacts on curlews on the southern slopes of Quantans Hill.	The route has been amended to pass to the north of Quantans Hill.
Concern raised regarding visual impacts from the Knockengorroch Festival site (established festival which takes place annually).	The route around Holm Hill has been amended to reduce the visual impact from this site. This includes moving the OHL alignment further away from the festival site in order to reduce visual impacts.

3.8.2 A summary of all responses received on the Preferred Route is shown in **Appendix A: Consultation response summary – Preferred Route consultation (2017).**

[5] The CAR Regulations are due to be repealed in full on 1 November 2025. From that date, water activities will be controlled by the Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018 as amended by the Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2025.

4 CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED ROUTE

4.1.1 Feedback gathered on the Preferred Route during the 2017 consultation informed the development of the Proposed Route. The Proposed Route was presented to stakeholders and the public in 2024. The purpose of the Proposed Route consultation was to demonstrate how the views and feedback on the Preferred Route have been considered and influenced the design of the Proposed Route for the Lorg Wind Farm 132 kV OHL grid connection. Members of the public were invited to provide comments on this Proposed Route.

4.1.2 This Chapter outlines the materials, communication channels, and events utilised during the 2024 consultation on the Proposed Route.

4.2 Consultation materials and channels for promotion

4.2.1 A range of materials was produced for consultation to help respondents understand the proposals and submit informed comments. It was stated in the consultation information and on the feedback form that comments made during this consultation stage were not representations to the Scottish Government ECU, who will determine any subsequent application for consent. Further, following the submission of a Section 37 Application, interested parties will have the opportunity to lodge representations to the Scottish Government on the proposals.

4.2.2 The consultation was promoted via printed and online communication channels in addition to in-person events to raise awareness and encourage participation.

Exhibition boards

4.2.3 Boards were displayed at the information event, which included the routeing process and strategy, what the OHLs would look like, how they would be constructed, key constraints considered, the development and appraisal of route options and details on how the Preferred Route was altered following feedback from previous engagement with stakeholders and the public. The boards included maps of the environmental features, route options and the Proposed Route. A copy of the exhibition boards can be found in **Appendix H: Exhibition Boards (2024).**

Information leaflets

4.2.4 An information leaflet was created to provide a summary of the project, including purpose, how the Preferred Route was altered, map of the Proposed Route, what the OHL would look like and how to have your say. The leaflet was available in physical format at the in-person event. An online version was also created and available to download via the website. A copy of the leaflet can be found in **Appendix I: Information Leaflet (2024).**

Website

4.2.5 Information about the consultation was published on SPEN's website:

www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/lorg_wind_farm titled 'Lorg Wind Farm Grid Connection'.

The webpage provided:

- an overview of the proposal;
- dates of the consultation;
- details about the in-person and online events;
- background information on the proposal via a link to the information leaflet;
- full details of the proposal via a link to the Routeing Consultation Report (April 2017); and
- contact details to provide feedback or for further queries.

4.3 Raising Awareness

Stakeholder letters

4.3.1 A letter was sent via email to more than 45 representative groups, including statutory consultees, non-statutory consultees and local community councils, as outlined in **Table 3.1**.

4.3.2 The letter encouraged participation and provided an overview of the project, consultation event details and how to provide feedback or request further information. The first letter was sent on 17 April 2024, ahead of the first consultation event. A second letter was sent on 8 May 2024 ahead of the online consultation event. A copy of the letters can be found in Appendix **I**.

Public notices

4.3.3 Advertisements were placed in the Galloway Gazette on 12 April 2024 and 10 May 2024, and made available on SPEN's website in advance of the in-person event and online events. The public notice contained:

- an overview of the project
- date, time and location of the in-person event
- date, time and how to register for the online event
- contact details to contact the project team or request further information
- link to the website

4.3.4 A copy of the public notices can be found in **Appendix E: Public Notices (2017).**

4.4 Consultation Events

In-person event

4.4.1 The first consultation event was held in-person in Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn, on 24 April 2024. Boards (as outlined in **Section 4.2.3**) were displayed in an exhibition style for the community to find out more about the Proposed Route and ask any questions to a member of Project Team. Visitors to the event were encouraged to submit their feedback via a feedback form (see **Section 4.5.1**).

Online event

4.4.2 A second rescheduled event was held online on 17 May 2024 via MS Teams. Interested parties could sign up for the event via SPEN's website. The event provided a further opportunity to get more information on the Proposed Route, speak to a member of the Project Team and understand next steps.

4.4.3 A copy of the online consultation event presentation is provided in **Appendix L: Online Event Presentation.**

4.5 Responding to the Consultation

Feedback form

4.5.1 Those who attended the in-person event could submit their feedback via a feedback form. The form included four open-ended questions about the project and two questions inviting feedback on the event itself. A copy of the feedback form can be viewed in **Appendix M: Feedback form (2024)**

Other responses

4.5.2 A dedicated mailbox (lorg-connections@spenergynetworks.co.uk) was used during the consultation period as a means of contacting the Project Team and gathering feedback on the Proposed Route.

4.5.3 In addition to the email address, respondents could send their comments via post to:

Scottish Power, Lorg Project Manager,

55 Fullarton Drive, Glasgow, G32 8FA

5 RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

5.1.1 This Chapter outlines the responses received to the consultation on the Proposed Route in April – June 2024. A total of 12 responses were received to the consultation. Three respondents submitted feedback via the feedback form available at the in-person consultation event, and nine provided feedback via email.

5.1.2 Thirteen people attended the in-person consultation event. Two people registered for the online event but did not attend. The presentation was recorded and sent to those who registered.

5.2 Response analysis and methodology

5.2.1 All 12 written responses received via the feedback form and email were logged to ensure all comments were collated.

5.2.2 The written responses required further analysis to enable the categorisation of comments into topics. These topics were then analysed quantitatively to identify the most frequently recurring areas of comment, and actions addressing comments within each topic were provided.

5.3 Comments on the Proposed Route

5.3.1 The number of comments made by the 12 respondents totalled 68 comments. These comments were categorised into 25 topics.

5.3.2 The topics and corresponding responses from SPEN are summarised in **Table 5.1**. The topics are listed in order of frequency, starting with the most frequently occurring topic. The number of comments corresponding to each topic is outlined in the table.

Table 5.1: Topics raised during consultation on the Proposed Route (2024)

Topic	Nature of comments received	Total no. of comments	SPEN Response
Proximity of OHLs to residences	Concern about the proximity of OHLs to residences.	8 comments	SPEN acknowledge that the route has moved closer to residential properties along the Ken Valley. This change was considered in the Amendments to the Preferred Route report and was actioned to reduce impacts on commercial forestry. Although the change would have short term visual impact, it is unlikely to be significant in the long term once recent native woodland planting matures and because properties generally face towards the valley, with the line passing 'behind' them. It is also worth noting that the proposed route would be located further from these residential properties than the existing 11 kV OHL, and that it is proposed to partly underground the existing 11 kV OHL to contribute to reducing the impact of the proposed 132 kV OHL line. The proposed route is considered to be the best option for reducing impacts on forestry without significantly increasing impacts on residential receptors.
Impact on residents	General concern about impacts on residents (non-specific)	7 comments	SPEN is committed to ensuring that the proposed overhead lines would have no detrimental impact on the way of life for people living in the local community.
Route changes	Query as to why the route was changed	5 comments	The route was amended to address concerns raised during consultation on the Preferred Route in 2017: • The route was moved from the south of Quantans Hill to the north to protect the wildlife habitat for birds; • The route was altered to minimise potential visual impacts on tourists attending the Knockengorroch annual festival; • Through the Ken Valley, the route was amended to minimise potential impacts on commercial forestry in relation to the use of forestry plant in the vicinity of the overhead lines; • SPEN removed the spur to Longburn Wind Farm, which is no longer required; and • The western end of the route has been extended by approximately 150 m to accommodate the revised Holm Hill substation location.
Economics	Concern that economics were prioritised over residents when it came to project decision making	5 comments	SPEN has a legal duty under the Electricity Act 1989 to provide grid connections to new electricity generating developments. Under the Electricity Act 1989, SPEN is required to consider environmental, technical and economic considerations, and to reach a balance between them.

Topic	Nature of comments received	Total no. of comments	SPEN Response
			In developing route options for Lorg Wind Farm, SPEN conducted a detailed appraisal to understand all potential impacts. In accordance with the Holford Rules, which provides guidance to best minimise visual impact, a route was determined which best balances environmental, technical, community and economic considerations. Involving the local community in the project is extremely important to us, so that we can understand and address your concerns. Engaging with key stakeholders and local communities has further helped establish this balance.
Visual impact	Concern about visual impact on the landscape	4 comments	The detailed routeing selection process undertaken ensures consideration is given to the landscape. The EIAR submitted alongside the Section 37 planning application specifically considers potential impacts on landscape and visual amenity.
Private water supplies	Concern that the project would **adversely** impact private water supplies	4 comments	SPEN is required to submit a Section 37 application to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit. The Section 37 shall be accompanied by an EIAR. The EIAR shall be required to demonstrate how the proposed OHL would not have an **adverse** impact on private water supplies serving residential properties.
Infrastructure	Concern that local infrastructure cannot support the project e.g. road capacity during construction	4 comments	The finalised details of traffic volumes are not available at this stage in project. However, the Section 37 application is accompanied by a Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan, which the Principal Contractor would adopt and develop to minimise disruption to the local road network and other road users.
Consultation feedback	Question as to how feedback will be used	3 comments	Feedback from the consultation has been considered to refine the project for the Section 37 application.
Proximity of OHLs to roads	Concern about the proximity of OHLs to roads	3 comments	The Section 37 application is accompanied by a Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan, which the Principal Contractor would adopt and develop to minimise disruption during construction.
Underground cabling	Question regarding practicality of any underground cabling	3 comments	It is proposed to partly underground the existing 11 kV OHL to contribute to reducing the impact of the proposed 132 kV OHL line, however this is not being delivered as part of this S37 application. The existing 11 kV OHL was required to be underground for technical purposes, these works would be undertaken by SPD.
Consultation events	Commented that they expected more from the consultation events e.g. tea and coffee	2 comments	These comments have been noted and will be considered for future consultation events.

Topic	Nature of comments received	Total no. of comments	SPEN Response
Personal consultation	Commented that they would have appreciated personal consultation	2 comments	An in-person and online event was held to provide all members of the local community an opportunity to meet the project team and ask any questions. A project email address was also provided on all consultation and advertising materials.
Health related implications	Concern that project could have health related implications	2 comments	The impacts on population and human health for a development of this nature and scale are limited and are linked to other topics such as noise, air quality and hydrology (private water supplies). It is not anticipated that any of these topics is likely to give rise to likely significant effects on human health. A Construction Environmental Management Plan has been produced, which details measures which should be put in place during construction to limit health and environmental impacts.
Proximity to other Wind Farms	Concern that Wind Farm is too close to other Wind Farms	2 comments	It is feasible to route overhead lines through Wind Farms.
Geography of the glen	Concern that the geography of the glen cannot support the project	2 comments	SPEN's routeing objective guides the process of identifying and assessing options and is used to test the outcomes and conclusions of the process to ensure that an appropriate balance between engineering requirements, economic viability, the environment and people has been achieved. The routeing report undertaken confirmed that a proposed OHL is feasible within the geographical context.
Further changes to planning	Concern that further changes to planning could occur	2 comments	Were the proposal were to change again, SPEN would undertake consultation (to include local residents) to explain the reasons for such changes.
No further comment	Consultee states they have no comment to make on the proposals	2 comments	No response required.
Route preference	Preference of the Preferred Route presented during the 2017 consultation.	1 comment	SPEN carefully considered the feedback received on the Preferred Route in 2017. Based on the comments received from the local community and statutory consultees, the Preferred Route was modified to address concerns, including potential impacts on commercial forestry, wildlife habitats, and visual impacts on tourists attending the Knockengorroch annual festival.
Multiple grid connection projects	Concern about multiple Wind Farm and grid connection developments in the area	1 comment	The routeing exercise undertaken by SPEN seeks to minimise cumulative impact with neighbouring proposals. Notwithstanding this, SPEN is bound by the terms of the Transmission license to provide a network connection for Wind Farm developers.
Substation location	Concern about the position of the substation being an eyesore in the landscape	1 comment	The proposed 132 kV Holm Hill substation was consulted on separately in August - September 2024. Stakeholders and members of the public were able to submit their feedback on the proposed substation at local consultation events and via the contact details that were provided. The consultation dates were advertised in the local newspaper.

Topic	Nature of comments received	Total no. of comments	SPEN Response
Peat	Concern about impact on peat sections	1 comment	Mitigation would be put in place during the construction of the 11 kV OHL to reduce the impact to peat habitats. This mitigation includes production of a Soil and Peat Management Plan (SPMP) and micro siting of development where possible to avoid more sensitive peat habitats.
Noise	Concern about noise	1 comment	Best practice noise mitigation measures would be put in place to minimise construction noise. A Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan has been produced which outlines these measures, which would be adhered to at all times during construction.
Construction	Concern about impacts during construction	1 comment	The Section 37 application is accompanied by a Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan, which the Principal Contractor would adopt and develop to minimise disruption during construction. A CEMP has also been produced, which details measures which would be followed during construction to minimise environmental impacts.
New residents	Concern about deterring potential future residents and property owners	1 comment	SPEN acknowledge that the route has moved closer to residential properties along the Ken Valley. This change was considered in the Amendments to the Preferred Route report and was actioned to reduce impacts on commercial forestry. Although the change would have short term visual impact, it was unlikely to be significant in the long term once recent native woodland planting matures and because properties generally face towards the valley, with the line passing 'behind' them. It is also worth noting that the proposed route would be located further from these residential properties than the existing 11 kV OHL, and that it is proposed to partly underground the existing 11 kV OHL to contribute to reducing the impact of the proposed 132 kV OHL line. The proposed route is considered to be the best option for reducing impacts on forestry without significantly increasing impacts on residential receptors.
Supportive of project	General support for the proposed grid connection	1 comment	SPEN has a legal duty under the Electricity Act 1989 to provide grid connections to new electricity generating developments, such as the planned Lorg Wind Farm, and we appreciate your feedback and support throughout the process.

6 NEXT STEPS

6.1 EIA and Section 37 Application

6.1.1 SPEN will continue to keep communities up to date via the project website as its proposals move forward. This Consultation Report has been submitted alongside the EIAR as part of the S37 application. As part of the S37 application process, the Scottish Government ECU will undertake further consultation with statutory and non-statutory consultees on the proposals and use the content of the EIA Report to inform the decision-making process. Other consultation measures required as part of the S37 process include advertising the submission of the application and EIA Report in the press and making the EIA Report publicly available on its project website. This provides the opportunity for members of the public to make representations to the ECU on the proposals.

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7 APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix A: Consultation response summary – Preferred Route consultation (2017)

Consultee	Summary of feedback	Action taken
Statutory Consultees		
Energy Consents	Response received: 29 March 2017 Pre-consultation Response: No issues with the preferred route.	None, noted.
Dumfries and Galloway Council Planning	Response received: 29 March 2017 Pre-consultation Response: No issues with the preferred route.	None, noted.
Dumfries and Galloway Council Archaeologist	Response received: 4 July 2017 Provided advice on elements needed to be covered in the EIA report. Topics to be scoped in.	Advice has been taken into consideration within EIAR and should be reviewed prior to construction.
SEPA	Response received: 29 March 2017 Pre-consultation Response: No issues with the preferred route. Recommendations provided on construction practices with respect to watercourse crossings, peat, American Signal Crayfish, private water supplies, and borrow pits.	Recommendations on construction practices have been incorporated within the EIAR.
Scottish Natural Heritage	Response received: 29 March 2017 and 9 January 2018 Pre-consultation Response: No issues with the preferred route. Survey methodologies discussed and collision risk would be a consideration. Detailed comments will be provided when the EIA has been completed and is issued for formal consultation.	Survey methodologies have been adhered to, and collision risk discussed in the EIAR.
HES	Response received: 21 March 2017 Pre-consultation Response: Craigengillan Cairn: The current intention is that when the forestry is clear-felled it will be restocked, allowing a 20 m buffer from the scheduled area. This being the case, it appears likely that as long as the proposed OHL does not come any closer than this, it is unlikely to have a significant impact on the cairn or its setting. However, we would recommend that the detail of the current long term forestry plan for this area is checked and taken into account in considering this.	Advice has been taken into consideration within EIAR and should be reviewed prior to construction.

Consultee	Summary of feedback	Action taken
	Stroanfreggan Fort: the proposed OHLs do not come any closer than the wind turbines in the current layout for the scheme	
Non-statutory consultees		
Association of Salmon Fishery Board	No response	N/A
British Horse Society	No response	N/A
British Trust for Ornithology Scotland (BTO)	No response	N/A
BT	No response	N/A
Civil Aviation Authority - Airspace	No response	N/A
Defence Infrastructure Organisation	Response received: 27 June 2017 No safeguarding issues. Any structure over 18 m requires aviation warning lighting.	. N/A as pole height would be up to 15.1 m
Dumfries and Galloway Bat Group	No response	N/A
Dumfries and Galloway Raptor Study Group	No response	N/A
Forestry Commission Scotland	Response received: 18 April 2017 and 2 August 2017 Queried why Lorg could not be connected to Route C to the north, as it would reduce environmental impact and cost. The route passes through large areas of commercial forestry, which would have a significant effect both on hectarage of forestry loss and on forestry operations, including health and safety implications. Acts against the achievement of the Scottish Government's wider objectives around the expansion of Woodland cover in Scotland. It also presents landscaping issues, which can result in further woodland losses, to be mitigated. C4 would have huge impacts on commercial forestry (C3 would have none). B4 is the worst alignment from a forestry perspective through this section. Strongly urge SPEN to liaise at an early stage with FCS and Woodland owners and managers to review and agree on the best detailed alignments and associated infrastructure required. Such consideration should consider existing	All routes through forestry have been moved to both reduce the potential effects on area of forestry loss and impact on forestry operations. Landowners have been consulted and their feedback taken on board.

Consultee	Summary of feedback	Action taken
	woodland boundaries and windfirm edges, existing road infrastructure and existing long term forest plans for the areas in question. If such an approach is adopted, some of the potential impacts of this project could be significantly reduced or mitigated. FCS would be happy to support such engagement.	
Galloway Fisheries Trust	No response	N/A
Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust	No response	N/A
Health and Safety Executive	No response	N/A
JNCC (for Geological Conservation Review)	No response	N/A
John Muir Trust	No response	N/A
Marine Scotland	Guidelines produced by MSS provided which outline potential impacts on fisheries related issues associated with onshore Wind Farms and transmission lines.	Recommendations have been incorporated within the EIAR and should be reviewed prior to construction.
Mountaineering Scotland	No response	N/A
National Farmers Union	No response	N/A
National Trust for Scotland	No response	N/A
NATS Safeguarding	No response	N/A
Nuclear Safety Directorate (HSE)	No response	N/A
OFCOM	No response	N/A
RAF	No response	N/A
Ramblers Association (Scotland)	No response	N/A
Red Squirrels in Scotland (South-west Scotland)	No response	N/A
RSPB Scotland	No response	N/A

Consultee	Summary of feedback	Action taken
Scottish Badgers	No response	N/A
Scottish Outdoor Access Network (SOAN)	No response	N/A
Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays)	Response received: 10 July 2017 Consult core paths plans as rights of way and recreational routes would be affected.	To be taken into consideration prior to construction.
Scottish Water	Response received: 5 June 2017 and 19 January 2018 Within Carsfad reservoir catchment and drinking water protected area. Water quality and quantity in the area must be protected. Also, the preferred route lies within the Benlock Burn catchment and just below the intake. Working in close proximity to an intake, even if just downstream, could potentially have an impact, therefore mitigation may be required to ensure there is no damage to this asset. Precautions to protect drinking water supplies provided. SW assets plans need to be obtained and protected.	Recommendations have been incorporated within the EIAR and should be reviewed prior to construction.
Scottish Wildlife Trust	No response	N/A
Sustrans Scotland	No response	N/A
The Coal Authority	No response	N/A
The Crown Estate	No response	N/A
The Woodland Trust	No response	N/A
Transport Scotland	No response	N/A
Visit Scotland	No response	N/A
Local Community Councils		
Carsphairn Community Council	No response	N/A
Dalry Community Council	No response	N/A
Glencairn / Moniave Community Council	No response	N/A
Tynron Community Council	No response	N/A

Consultee	Summary of feedback	Action taken
Penpont Community Council	No response	N/A
Sanquhar Community Council	No response	N/A
Landowners		
Landowner	Response received: 21 April 2017 Can the route avoid a newly planted woodland area (plan provided).	The route has been amended to avoid this woodland.
Landowner	Response received: 24 April 2017 Concerned about alignment through the forest effectively sterilising forestry compartments and timber stacking locations.	Route amended to reduce the potential for forestry sterilisation and impact on forestry operations.
Landowner	Response received: 24 April 2017 Concerned about alignment through the forest effectively sterilising forestry compartments.	Route amended to reduce potential for forestry sterilisation and impact on forestry operations.
Landowner	Response received: 9 May 2017 Moving line behind Quantans Hill would help their diversification. Concerned about property devaluation. Moving route further north would protect the view of Cairnsmore. Moving route further north would avoid Curlews and black and red grouse on southern side of Quantans Hill and on the core path. Why is undergrounding not considered (apart from cost). Construction would be disruptive to their family and business.	Route amended to pass to the north of Quantans Hill. Discussions will be held with the landowner regarding minimisation of disturbance.
Landowner	Response received: 26 April 2017 All potential Wind Farm proposals should be co-ordinated at an earlier stage with a view to consider how to obtain connection to the grid and is there is sufficient capacity on the grid. The preferred route goes across four March dykes/fences, which area sacrosanct boundaries between livestock farms. There is a good case for keeping unadulterated hill farmland free of manmade infrastructure. I object to the preferred route.	Discussions will be held prior to construction with the landowner regarding measures to ensure boundaries between livestock farms are maintained.
Landowner	Response received: 6 May 2017 I would like it to go as near as you can along the bottom of Knockwhirn and north of the grass field which is one of our few silage fields.	The route has been moved further north and does not impact the silage field.

Consultee	Summary of feedback	Action taken
Landowner	Response received: 31 May 2017 Line running through a number of blocks of commercial forestry, sterilizing the route and upslope compartments due to access. Access lower in the valley is preferable, less forestry loss, more constructable and maintainable and arguably less visually intrusive.	Route amended to reduce potential for forestry sterilisation and impact on forestry operations.
Landowner	Response received: 20 July 2017 The proposed connection route through the middle of commercial forestry would represent a **significantly adverse** impact on business operations. From our point of view, the proposed route couldn't be in a worse location.	Route amended to reduce potential for forestry sterilisation and impact on forestry operations.
General Public		
Member of the public	Response received: 24 April 2017 Concerned about visual impact from the Knockengorroch Festival site, where an established festival takes place annually.	Route amended to minimise the visual impact from this location.
Member of the public	Response received: 29 May 2017 On the mailing list for Wind Farm consultations, but was not made aware of this project.	N/A
Member of the public	Response received: 25 April 2017 A sensible route, in my opinion and which has my support.	None, noted.
Member of the public	Response received: 26 April 2017 It would be better if there were a joined-up approach to OHL routeing rather than piecemeal. It was nice to see that this route has taken properties into consideration leading to a route whose residential impact is lesser. This seems a least worst option if we have to see more OHLs.	None, noted.
Member of the public	Response received: 26 April 2017 A fuller approach seems to have been taken this time. I would support the preferred route as it avoids many of the environmental constraints.	None, noted.

Consultee	Summary of feedback	Action taken
Member of the public	Response received: 26 April 2017 Seemed very logical going by environmental, topographical, wildlife and residences. Make good the new roadways when construction is completed.	Recommendations have been incorporated within the EIAR.
Member of the public	Response received: 30 June 2017 As a community, do not wish to see Wind Farm proliferation in the area. Should be possible to take grid connection away from Scenic area and Southern Upland Way to connect in the north or west away from human habitation. Good that the route does not run down the B729 or near their farm, but concerned about works on the hillside of Marsalloch Hill affecting water supplies. Would prefer line to be further away from the hill. Need plenty of room either side in case of line collapse and to avoid forest fires. Also monitor the grass underneath to make sure it doesn't get too long and flammable.	Route moved further to the north at Marsalloch Hill.
Member of the public	Response received: 24 January 2018 Concerned about the potential impact on the private water supply for the residence and visual impact to the side and rear of the property.	Recommendations have been incorporated within the EIAR and should be reviewed prior to construction to seek to minimise visual impact and protect the private water supply.
Member of the public	Response received: 24 January 2018 No concerns with the route however land ownership was queried.	Land ownership to be reviewed.

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7.2 Appendix B: Exhibition Boards (2017)

Proposed 132kV Grid Connection to Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms

SP ENERGY NETWORKS

Welcome to our Exhibition

About Scottish Power Energy Networks

Scottish Power Energy Network (SPEN) holds the electricity distribution licence for southern Scotland.

Project Background

SPEN has a legal duty under the Electricity Act 1989 to provide grid connections to new electricity generating developments and has been approached by the developers for Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms to provide a grid connection to the wider electricity transmission network.

The wind farms are located near Carsphairn in Dumfries and Galloway.

In response to this, SPEN is proposing to construct a new 132kV wood pole overhead line between the wind farms and a suitable point on the new DE Route transmission line through the Glenkens, which is currently under construction.

Have Your Say

We are asking for your feedback on the Preferred Route for the new 132kV connection.

Forms are available at this event to provide your feedback.

Speak to a member of the team for more information.

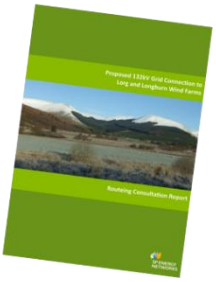
Purpose of the Consultation

We are consulting with statutory consultees, non-statutory consultees and the general public to ensure that all available information, views and opinions have been gathered and considered in the selection of the Preferred Route for the overhead line.

The process we followed to identify the Preferred Route is summarised in the following boards and detailed in the accompanying Routeing Consultation Report.

The purpose of this consultation event is to provide information on the project and to get your feedback on the Preferred Route for the Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms 132kV grid connection.

Following the consultation we will arrive at a Proposed Route that will go through to planning application stage.

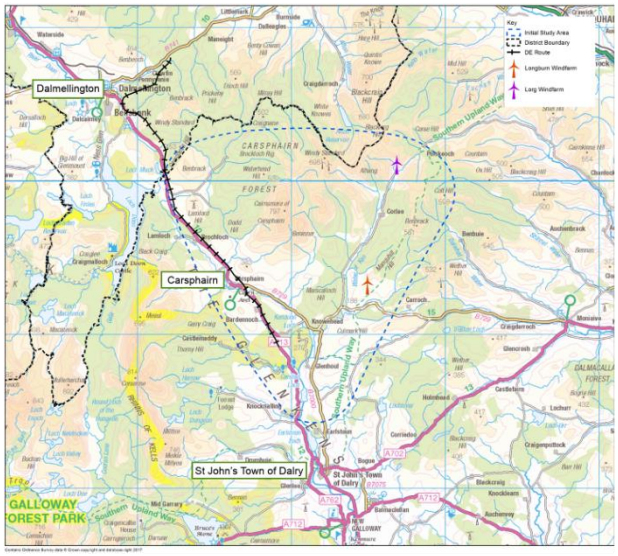


Planning and Consent

New electricity lines exceeding 20kV require planning consent from the Scottish Ministers under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.

SPEN takes the view that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be required for the Proposed Route.

An Environmental Statement / EIA Report will be produced and submitted with the relevant consent application. There will be further opportunity to comment on the application once it has been submitted.



The project location and initial study area

Proposed 132kV Grid Connection to Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms

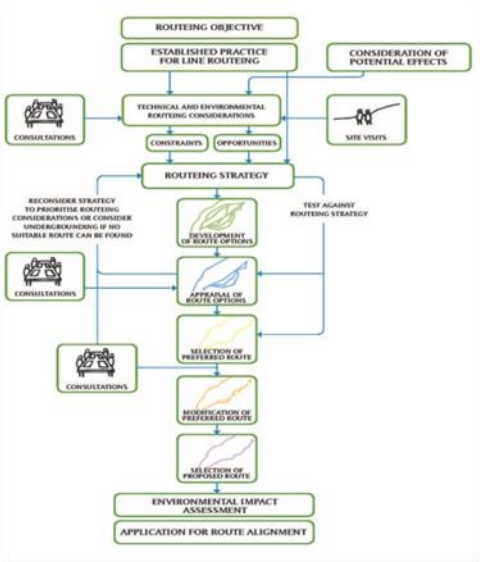
SP ENERGY NETWORKS

The Routeing Process

Under the Electricity Act 1989, SPEN is required to consider environmental, technical and economic considerations, and to reach a balance between them. This means that the Proposed Route would be the one, selected after an appraisal of a number of route options, which balances technical feasibility and economic viability with the least disturbance to people and the environment.

Following engagement with relevant stakeholders, including local communities, professional judgement is used to establish the balance.

The following chart illustrates the process flow which SPEN adopts for overhead line routeing and which has been applied to this project.



Established Practice for Line Routeing

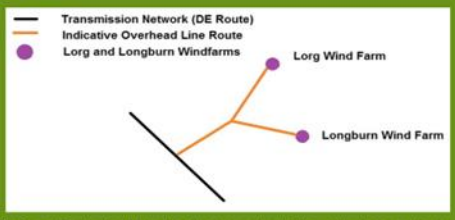
The main guidelines used for routeing high voltage overhead lines are the 'The Holford Rules' which were updated in 2003.

Designing route options in accordance with the Holford Rules involves developing routes that best fit the landscape and that minimise effects on visual amenity, whilst avoiding wherever possible areas of high environmental value. These areas generally include areas of natural and cultural heritage value designated at a national, European or international level as these are afforded the highest levels of policy protection.

Guidelines have also been produced by the Forestry Commission for the design of woodlands. These include a section on the design of open spaces in the forest, which discusses how overhead line wayleaves can be integrated into the forest layout.

Routeing Strategy

The aim is to identify a preferred overhead line route to join the Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms connection points and to then take a common overhead line to connect to the DE Route.



The Preferred Route should be the shortest route which avoids steep gradients, altitudes above 500m and wind turbine technical constraints, and either avoids or minimises potential impacts to environmental factors.

To limit adverse effects on visual amenity, wherever possible routes will follow the grain of the landscape, avoiding high ground and ridgelines and generally following valleys so that the lines and poles are seen against a hill or forest backdrop. In doing this, care will be taken to avoid or minimise effects on areas of high amenity and environmental value. This strategy has been devised specifically for this project.

What will it look like?

Trident Single Pole

Trident 'H' Poles

Trident wood poles carry single circuit lines operating at 132kV. There are two types of Trident wood pole; 'Single' poles and 'H' poles. 'H' poles are used for 'extreme environments' (above 200m) as they are subject to greater ice and wind loadings, whereas 'Single' poles are typically used at lower altitudes. Given that the study area is mostly above 200m it is anticipated that the 'H' pole configuration is most likely to be used throughout.

There are three types of pole, Intermediate (pole is part of a straight line section); Angle (where the overhead line changes direction); and Terminal (where the overhead line terminates into a substation or on to an underground cable section via a cable sealing end).

Typical heights are approximately 13m above-ground height, with a range between 10m and 22m. Typical distances (or spans) between trident wood poles at altitudes above 200m are 50–75m for 'Single' poles and 120-155m for the 'H' pole configuration.

How will it be constructed?

- A temporary construction compound area will be constructed as a lay down area for plant, equipment and staff welfare
- Access will be created to the pole locations
- Pole foundations will be constructed
- Poles will be hoisted into position
- Conductors strung between poles
- Reinstatement of pole sites and removal and reinstatement of temporary infrastructure sites

Terminal 'H' Pole

Proposed 132kV Grid Connection to Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms

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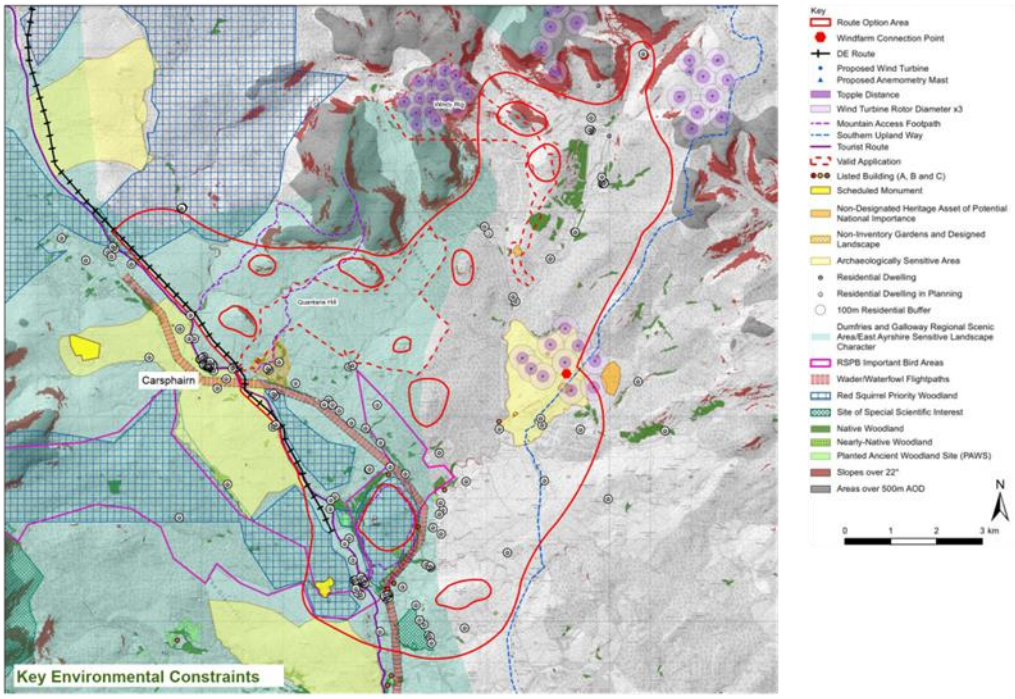
Strategic Environmental Constraints



Key constraints taken into account include:

People: views and visual amenity

- Settlements & residential properties (with 100 m buffer)

Landscape

- Galloway Hills Regional Scenic Area
- Knockgray Park - designed landscape

Cultural Heritage

- Scheduled Monuments
- Listed buildings
- Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (Dumfries & Galloway Council designation)

Ecology & Ornithology and Peat

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Native and ancient woodland
- Red squirrel priority woodland
- Suitable habitat for otter, pine marten, bat and water vole
- RSPB Birdlife Important Bird Area
- Birds of conservation importance (including black grouse, red kite, goshawk, osprey, hen harrier, peregrine falcon, merlin, curlew, barn owl, nightjar and crossbill)
- Peat and wetland habitats

Recreation and Tourism

- Southern Upland Way
- A713 Galloway Tourist Route
- Mountain access footpaths to Cairnsmore of Carsphairn
- Local heritage paths
- Carsphairn Heritage Centre
- Polmaddy settlement
- Dundeugh Hill forest walks
- The Green Well of Scotland
- Galloway Forest Park

Land Use

- Commercial forestry
- Main watercourse crossing
- Agricultural uses

Technical constraints

- Maximum altitude of 500m
- Maximum gradient of 22 degrees
- Other overhead lines through the site
- Proximity to proposed wind turbines

Proposed 132kV Grid Connection to Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms

SP ENERGY NETWORKS

Development & Appraisal of Route Options

Development of Route Options

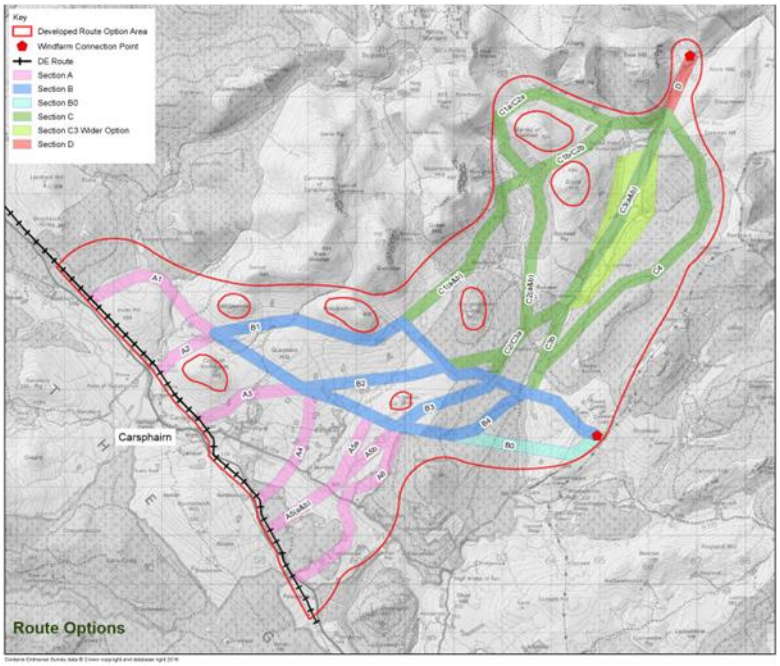
A series of route options were developed using the following:

- Routeing guidance for overhead lines
- Environmental and technical considerations
- Routeing strategy

This involved designing potential routes in accordance with the Holford Rules (see box), always seeking to best fit the landscape and minimise effects on visual amenity, whilst avoiding wherever possible areas of high environmental value.

A hierarchy of importance was applied to the constraints, as follows:

1. Avoid residential properties, scheduled monuments, listed buildings and other heritage assets of potentially national significance
2. Avoid or minimise distance travelled through Archaeologically Sensitive Areas; RSPB Bird Sensitive Areas; SSSIs, red squirrel priority woodlands, designed landscape, native & nearly-native woodland and 100m buffer to residential properties
3. Seek to avoid effects on the setting of nationally important cultural heritage assets
4. Where possible, avoid or limit the distance travelled through Regional Scenic Areas, planted ancient woodland sites, main waterfowl flight-paths, forested areas and peat areas.



Overhead Line Routeing Guidance

The "Holford Rules"

Rule 1: Avoid altogether, if possible, the major areas of highest amenity value, by so planning the general route of the line in the first place, even if the total mileage is somewhat increased in consequence.

Rule 2: Avoid smaller areas of high amenity value, or scientific interests by deviation; provided that this can be done without using too many angle towers, i.e. the more massive structures which are used when lines change direction.

Rule 3: Other things being equal, choose the most direct line, with no sharp changes of direction and thus with fewer angle towers (less important for wood pole lines)

Rule 4: Choose tree and hill backgrounds in preference to sky backgrounds wherever possible; and when the line has to cross a ridge, secure this opaque background as long as possible and cross obliquely when a dip in the ridge provides an opportunity. Where it does not, cross directly, preferably between belts of trees

Rule 5: Prefer moderately open valleys with woods where the apparent height of towers will be reduced, and views of the line will be broken by trees

Rule 6: In country which is flat and sparsely planted, keep the high voltage lines as far as possible independent of smaller lines, converging routes, distribution poles and other masts, wires and cables, so as to avoid a concentration or 'wirescape'

Design Techniques for Forest Management Planning (2014): Design of internal open spaces: The aim should be to link the open areas together to form a network and for the design of the edges of the open spaces to reflect the character of the landscape and the other shapes being used in the forest.

Route Option Appraisal

Once the route options were developed, a detailed appraisal was undertaken to compare the likely environmental effects of each option.

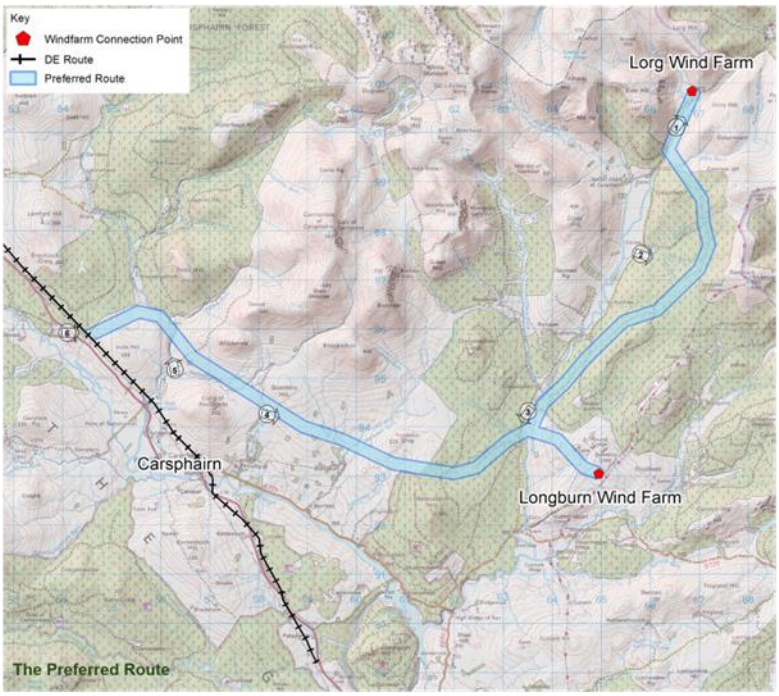
Because there were so many potential options, they were divided into sections to make a clear comparison possible. For each section, a comparison table was drawn up looking at the effect on different aspects of the environment (including people) and a Preferred Route was identified that, on balance, had the least effect.

The outcome of this Preferred Route is shown on the following board. This route balances environmental, technical and economic considerations.

Proposed 132kV Grid Connection to Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms

SP ENERGY NETWORKS

The Preferred Route



The Preferred Route runs south from the Lorg connection point along the Water of Ken valley for about a kilometre, then obliquely uphill into the forestry plantation on the western slopes of Benbrack. From there, it runs through the plantations on the side of the valley for some 6 km, mainly following existing forestry tracks and fire-breaks, dropping back down to the valley floor south of Craigengillan where it joins the connection from Longburn Wind Farm.

The combined route then follows the shallow side valley of the Black Burn, again mainly following existing tracks and fire-breaks through forestry, to cross the ridge just north of Marsalloch Hill. From there, it runs west along the edge of the rough grazing north of Marbrack and below Quantans Hill, then north of Craig of Knockgray and Holm Hill to join the DE route at the edge of the forestry near Brockloch.






Proposed 132kV Grid Connection to Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms

SP ENERGY NETWORKS

The Next Steps

Have Your Say

Involving the local community in the project is extremely important to us. Talking to you will help us understand the issues and your concerns.

As you can see from the schematic below, there are still a number of stages to go through, including further consultation of the Proposed Route. This first stage of consultation begins by finding out your views on which route corridor you prefer and whether there are any sensitive areas. Your views will help inform the next stages in our decision making.

You can submit your comments at our exhibition using the feedback forms, or send your comments to the address below:

Lorg and Longburn Project Manager
Ochil House
10 Technology Avenue
Hamilton International Technology Park
Blantyre
G72 0HT

Or alternatively please e-mail us at: **Lorg-LongburnConnection@spenergynetworks.co.uk**

Copies of the Routing Consultation Report and the Leaflet are available to download at:

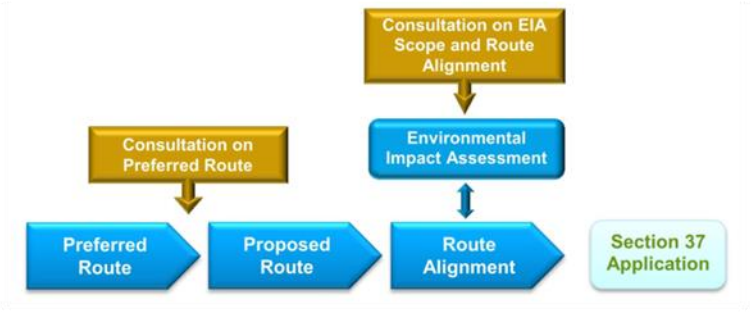
www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/lorg__longburn_wind_farms_grid_connection.aspx

Leaflets and feedback forms are available for you to take away today. You can submit your comments on this stage of consultation until **7th July 2017**.

The Next Steps

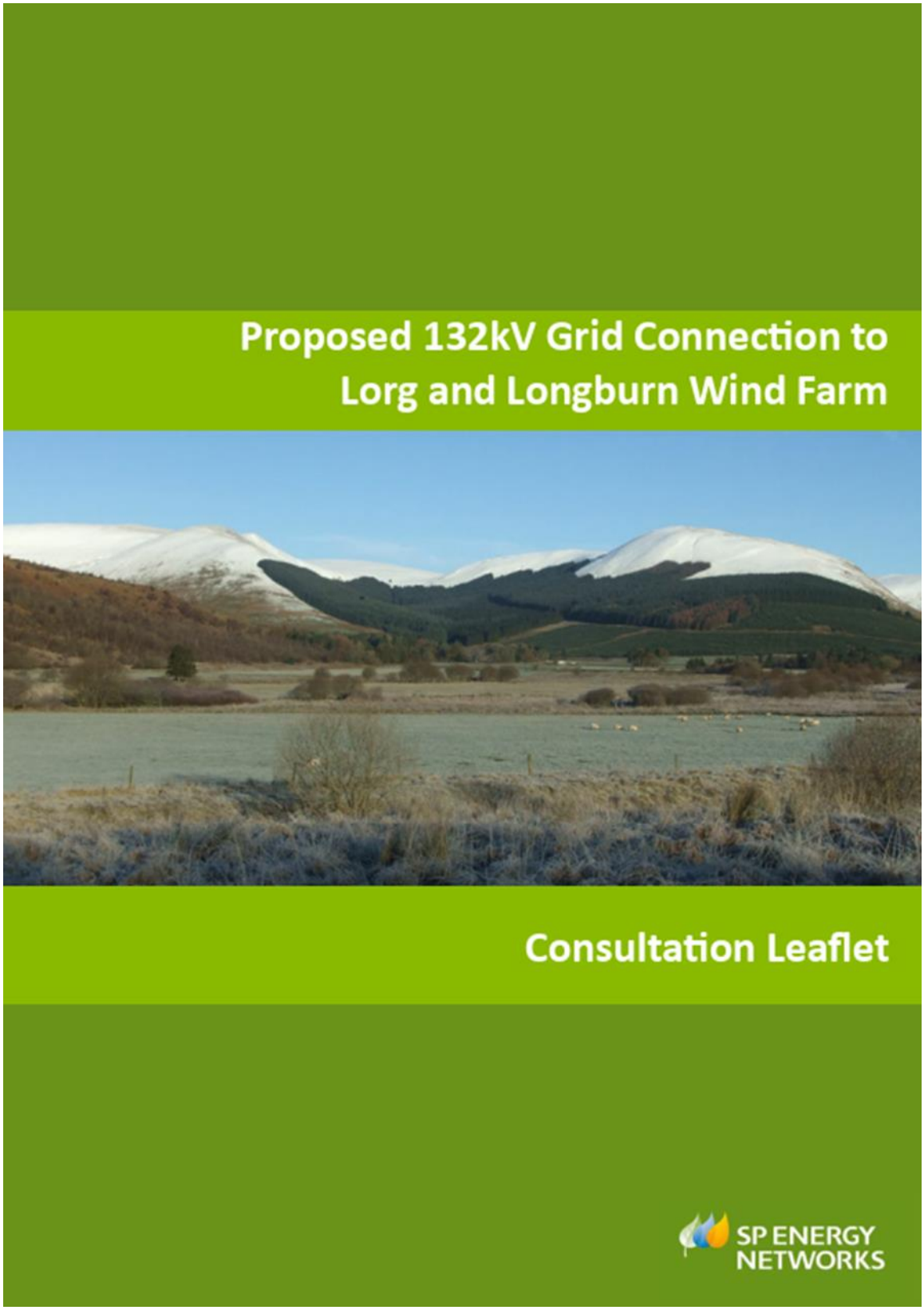
We are currently at the 'Consultation on Preferred Route' stage in the schematic below. The responses from this consultation will be considered and the design may be modified further in the light of these consultations. Modifications may result in further consultation if necessary. The Preferred Route, modified to take into account consultations and the consideration of specific local issues, is then promoted as the Proposed Route.

The Proposed Route is then taken forward to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) where it is subject to further detailed assessment to determine its likely effect on the environment and to inform the design of the route alignment. There will be a further opportunity to comment as part of the formal Section 37 application process.



Please note that any comments made during this Consultation Stage are not representations to The Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, who will determine any subsequent application for consent. Following the submission of the Section 37 Application, interested parties will have the opportunity to make representations to the Scottish Government on these proposals.

7.3 Appendix C: Information Leaflet (2017)



The Project

SP Energy Networks (SPEN) has been approached by the developers for Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms to provide a grid connection to the wider electricity transmission network. SPEN has a legal duty under the Electricity Act 1989 to provide grid connections to new electricity generating developments.

SPEN are undertaking consultation at this routeing stage in line with our established approach to routeing, as part of the ongoing engineering and environmental review of potential route options. The outcome of this process is a 'Preferred Route' on which we are seeking comments. The views expressed will be taken into account in establishing a 'Proposed Route' to be taken forward to further assessment.

The 'Proposed Route' will be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment which will support the Section 37 application to the Scottish Government for consent to construct and operate the grid connection.

What will the Proposed Route look like?

Trident Single Pole

Trident 'H' pole

Terminal 'H' pole

The proposal is for a 132 kV Trident wood pole overhead line which would use 'H' poles for the majority of the route due to altitude. These have an average height of 13 m and maximum of 22 m, with a span between poles ranging from 120 to 155 m.

The Preferred Route

The Preferred Route is approximately 20.9 km long and runs south from the Lorg connection point along the Water of Ken valley for about a kilometre, then obliquely uphill into the forestry plantation on the western slopes of Benbrack. From there, it runs through the plantations on the side of the valley for approximately 6 km, mainly following existing forestry tracks and fire-breaks, dropping back down to the valley floor south of Craigengillan where it joins the connection from Longburn Wind Farm.

The combined route then follows the shallow side valley of the Black Burn, again mainly following existing tracks and fire-breaks through forestry, to cross the ridge just north of Marsalloch Hill. From there, it runs west along the edge of the rough grazing north of Marbrack to join the DE route northwest of Holm Hill.

The Preferred Route

Consultation

As part of our consultation process we want to give you the opportunity to comment on the Preferred Route option.

A Routeing Consultation Report has been prepared providing details of the initial stages of work undertaken to identify a Preferred Route for the grid connection. This has involved a review of environmental features in the wider study area, identification of route options and appraisal of the route options.

The aim of the routeing process is to minimise the environmental impact of the preferred route option, whilst selecting a route that is technically and economically viable.

A copy of the Routeing Consultation Report is available to download on the SPEN website at:
www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/lorg__longburn_wind_farms_grid_connection.aspx

It has also been made available for public viewing during normal working hours at the address below:

Dumfries and Galloway Council,
Development Management,
Kirkbank House,
English Street,
Dumfries, DG1 2HS

If you wish to make any comments on the Preferred Route you can do so by contacting us using the following e-mail or postal address by the **7th July 2017**.

Email: **Lorg-LongburnConnection@spenergynetworks.co.uk**

Postal Address:

Lorg and Longburn Project Manager
Ochil House
10 Technology Avenue
Hamilton International Technology Park
Blantyre G72 0HT

Please note that any comments made during this Consultation Stage are not representations to The Scottish Government Energy Consents and Deployment Unit, who will determine any subsequent application for consent. Following the submission of the Section 37 Application, interested parties will have the opportunity to make representations to the Scottish Government on these proposals.

7.4 Appendix D: Stakeholder Letters (2017)

Our Ref: Consultation Lorg and Longburn_April 2017

10 April 2017

Name and address

7 Lochside View
Edinburgh Park
Edinburgh
EH12 9DH
Tel: +44(0) 131 344 2300
Fax: +44(0) 131 344 2301
www.wsp-pb.com

Dear xxxx

Subject: Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms Grid Connection

SP Energy Networks (SPEN) has a legal duty under the Electricity Act 1989 to provide grid connections to new electricity generating developments and has been approached by the developers for Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms to provide a grid connection to the wider electricity transmission network. The wind farms are located near Carsphairn in Dumfries and Galloway.

In response to this, SPEN is proposing to construct a new 132kv wood pole overhead line between the two wind farms and a suitable point on the DE Route electricity transmission line which is currently under construction.

WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff is working on behalf of SPEN, and is currently undertaking the overhead line routing studies and consultation for this project.

To ensure that all available information, views and opinions have been gathered and considered in route option selection SPEN is undertaking a non-statutory round of consultation to allow views to be expressed on the 'Preferred Route'.

We have therefore enclosed an information leaflet which provides summary information on the 'Preferred route'; dates of the forthcoming public consultation events and ways to provide feedback. We have also enclosed a copy of the Routeing Consultation Report which provides more detail on the route selection process and appraisal of route options and a CD of the report and leaflet.

The consultation period ends on the **7th July 2017**. Should you wish to comment on the 'Preferred Route' please can you respond by this date.

A hard copy of the Routeing Consultation Report will also be available for public viewing at the address below, and is also available to download at:
http://cms.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/lorg__longburn_wind_farms_grid_connection.aspx

Dumfries and Galloway Council
Economy, Environment & Infrastructure, Development Management
Kirkbank House
English Street
Dumfries
DG1 2HS

If you would like to comment on any aspect of this scheme, please contact:

Lorg and Longburn Grid Connection Project Manager
Land & Planning Team
SP Energy Networks
3rd Floor, Ochil House
10 Technology Avenue
Hamilton International Technology Park
Blantyre
G72 0HT

Or alternatively, please email us at: Lorg-LongburnConnection@spenergynetworks.co.uk

Or in person at the Consultation Events at Lagwyne Village Hall, Carsphairn on the 25th and 26th April 2017; 1400-2000 hrs.

If you have any questions regarding the provision of this information please do not hesitate to contact me on the phone number above or at sarah.mcmonagle@wspgroup.com.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah McMonagle
Principal Consultant, Environmental Planning
on behalf of SP Energy Networks

Encl: *Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms Grid Connection Leaflet*
Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms Grid Connection Routeing Consultation Report
CD of Lorg and Longburn Grid Connection Routeing Consultation Report

Our Ref: Consultation Lorg and Longburn_April 2017

10 April 2017

Name and address

7 Lochside View
Edinburgh Park
Edinburgh
EH12 9DH
Tel: +44(0) 131 344 2300
Fax: +44(0) 131 344 2301
www.wsp-pb.com

Dear xxxx

Subject: Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms Grid Connection

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http://cms.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/lorg__longburn_wind_farms_grid_connection.aspx

Dumfries and Galloway Council
Economy, Environment & Infrastructure
Development Management
Kirkbank House
English Street
Dumfries
DG1 2HS

If you would like to comment on any aspect of this scheme, please contact:

Lorg and Longburn Grid Connection Project Manager
Land & Planning Team
SP Energy Networks
3rd Floor, Ochil House
10 Technology Avenue
Hamilton International Technology Park
Blantyre
G72 0HT

Or alternatively, please email us at: Lorg-LongburnConnection@spenergynetworks.co.uk

Or in person at the Consultation Events at Lagwyne Village Hall, Carsphairn on the 25th and 26th April 2017; 1400-2000 hrs.

If you have any questions regarding the provision of this information please do not hesitate to contact me on the phone number above or at sarah.mcmonagle@wspgroup.com.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah McMonagle
Principal Consultant, Environmental Planning
on behalf of SP Energy Networks

Encl: *Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms Grid Connection Leaflet*
CD of Lorg and Longburn Grid Connection Routeing Consultation Report

Our Ref: Consultation Lorg and Longburn_April 2017

10 April 2017

Name and address

7 Lochside View
Edinburgh Park
Edinburgh
EH12 9DH
Tel: +44(0) 131 344 2300
Fax: +44(0) 131 344 2301
www.wsp-pb.com

Dear xxxx

Subject: Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms Grid Connection

SP Energy Networks (SPEN) has a legal duty under the Electricity Act 1989 to provide grid connections to new electricity generating developments and has been approached by the developers for Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms to provide a grid connection to the wider electricity transmission network. The wind farms are located near Carsphairn in Dumfries and Galloway.

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WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff is working on behalf of SPEN, and is currently undertaking the overhead line routing studies and consultation for this project.

To ensure that all available information, views and opinions have been gathered and considered in route option selection SPEN is undertaking a non-statutory round of consultation to allow views to be expressed on the 'Preferred Route'.

We have therefore enclosed an information leaflet which provides summary information on the 'Preferred route'; dates of the forthcoming public consultation events and ways to provide feedback.

The consultation period ends on the **7th July 2017**. Should you wish to comment on the 'Preferred Route' please can you respond by this date.

A hard copy of the Routeing Consultation Report, which provides more detail on the route selection process and appraisal of route options, will be available for public viewing at the address below, and is also available to download at: http://cms.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/lorg__longburn_wind_farms_grid_connection.aspx

Dumfries and Galloway Council
Economy, Environment & Infrastructure
Development Management
Kirkbank House
English Street
Dumfries
DG1 2HS

If you would like to comment on any aspect of this scheme, please contact:

Lorg and Longburn Grid Connection Project Manager
Land & Planning Team
SP Energy Networks
3rd Floor, Ochil House
10 Technology Avenue
Hamilton International Technology Park
Blantyre
G72 0HT

Or alternatively, please email us at: Lorg-LongburnConnection@spenergynetworks.co.uk

Or in person at the Consultation Events at Lagwyne Village Hall, Carsphairn on the 25th and 26th April 2017; 1400-2000 hrs.

If you have any questions regarding the provision of this information please do not hesitate to contact me on the phone number above or at sarah.mcmonagle@wspgroup.com.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah McMonagle
Principal Consultant, Environmental Planning
on behalf of SP Energy Networks

Encl: Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms Grid Connection Leaflet

Our Ref: Consultation Lorg and Longburn_April 2017

10 April 2017

Reception F.A.O. Jamie
Dumfries and Galloway Council
Kirkbank House
English Street
Dumfries
DG1 2HS

7 Lochside View
Edinburgh Park
Edinburgh
EH12 9DH
Tel: +44(0) 131 344 2300
Fax: +44(0) 131 344 2301
www.wsp-pb.com

Dear Jamie

Subject: Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms Grid Connection

Please find enclosed the consultation documents for the non-statutory consultation on the above wind farm 132kV overhead line grid connection. I understand that you have agreed to hold a copy of the documents supporting this consultation for public viewing. We have therefore enclosed the following:

- 1 hard copy of the Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms Grid Connection Routeing Consultation Report
- 1 hard copy of the Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms Grid Connection Consultation Leaflet
- 1 CD of the Routeing Consultation Report and Leaflet

The Routeing Consultation Report is also available to download at:
http://cms.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/lorg__longburn_wind_farms_grid_connection.aspx

The consultation period ends on the **7th July 2017**. Please can you make these documents available to the public until this date.

If anybody would like to comment on any aspect of this scheme, please contact:

Lorg and Longburn Grid Connection Project Manager
Land & Planning Team
SP Energy Networks
3rd Floor, Ochil House
10 Technology Avenue
Hamilton International Technology Park
Blantyre
G72 0HT

Or alternatively, please email us at: Lorg-LongburnConnection@spenergynetworks.co.uk

Or in person at the Consultation Events at Lagwyne Village Hall, Carsphairn on the 25th and 26th April 2017; 1400-2000 hrs.

If you have any questions regarding the provision of this information please do not hesitate to contact me on the phone number above or at sarah.mcmonagle@wspgroup.com.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah McMonagle
Principal Consultant, Environmental Planning
on behalf of SP Energy Networks

Encl: *Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms Grid Connection Leaflet*
Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms Grid Connection Routeing Consultation Report
CD of the above documents

7.5 Appendix E: Public Notices (2017)

PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENTS

Tuesday 25th April 2017 and Wednesday 26th April 2017

Lagwyne Village Hall, Carsphairn

14:00 to 20:00

Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms Grid Connection – Routeing Consultation

Members of the public, landowners and other interested parties are invited by SP Energy Networks to attend their consultation events regarding proposals for a new overhead transmission line to connect the proposed Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms to the grid network in the vicinity of Carsphairn.

SP Transmission, the transmission license holder, is a subsidiary of SP Energy Networks responsible for the transmission of electricity in central and southern Scotland. SP Transmission has received a Grid Connection Application from the developers of the Lorg and Longburn Wind Farms.

The project is currently in the early stages of development and the project team would like to consult with landowners, members of the public and other interested parties regarding the preferred route alignment.

The SP Energy Networks project team will host the open-door events where members of the community can drop in to receive information and discuss the proposals.

For more information and to provide your views, please come along to one of the consultation events. Further information is available via our project website:

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

If you are unable to attend the events and would like information on the project, please contact:

SP Energy Networks Community Relations:

Phone number – 07516461129

Email – Lorg-LongburnConnection@spenergynetworks.co.uk

7.6 Appendix F: Feedback form (2017)

Lorg & Longburn Wind Farms Grid Connection

SP ENERGY NETWORKS

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

Consultation event location:- _____ **Date:-** _____

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

Full name

Address

Postcode **Telephone**

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

About the event

How did you find out about the event?

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

About the project

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

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

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

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

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

Post: Lorg and Longburn Project Manager, Ochil House, 10 Technology Avenue, Hamilton International Technology Park, Blantyre, G72 0HT

Email: Lorg-LongburnConnection@spenergynetworks.co.uk

Closing Date for feedback is: 7th July 2017

All information provided at the event can also be downloaded on the dedicated website:
http://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/lorg__longburn_wind_farms_grid_connection.aspx

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

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7.7 Appendix G: Consultation response summary – Proposed Route consultation (2024)

7.7.1 All anonymised feedback from landowners and general public are included in analysis in Chapter 5

Consultee	Summary of feedback	Action taken
Statutory Consultees		
Energy Consents	No response	N/A
Dumfries and Galloway Council Planning	No response	N/A
Dumfries and Galloway Council Archaeologist	No response	N/A
SEPA	No response	N/A
Scottish Natural Heritage		N/A
HES	No response	N/A
Non-statutory consultees		
Association of Salmon Fishery Board	No response	N/A
British Horse Society	No response	N/A
British Trust for Ornithology Scotland (BTO)	No response	N/A
BT	No response	N/A
Civil Aviation Authority - Airspace	No response	N/A

Consultee	Summary of feedback	Action taken
Defence Infrastructure Organisation	No response	N/A
Dumfries and Galloway Bat Group	No response	N/A
Dumfries and Galloway Raptor Study Group	No response	N/A
Forestry Commission Scotland	No response	N/A
Galloway Fisheries Trust	No response	N/A
Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust	No response	N/A
Health and Safety Executive	No response	N/A
Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) (for Geological Conservation Review)	Response received: 23 April 2024 This development proposal is not located within the offshore area, does not have any potential offshore nature conservation issues and is not concerned with nature conservation at a UK-level, therefore JNCC does not have any comments to make on the consultation.	N/A, noted
John Muir Trust	No response	N/A
Marine Scotland	No response	N/A
Mountaineering Scotland	No response	N/A
National Farmers Union	No response	N/A
National Trust for Scotland	No response	N/A
NATS Safeguarding	No response	N/A
Nuclear Safety Directorate (HSE)	No response	N/A
OFCOM	No response	N/A

Consultee	Summary of feedback	Action taken
RAF	No response	N/A
Ramblers Association (Scotland)	No response	N/A
Red Squirrels in Scotland (South-west Scotland)	No response	N/A
RSPB Scotland	No response	N/A
Scottish Badgers	No response	N/A
Scottish Outdoor Access Network (SOAN)	No response	N/A
Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays)	No response	N/A
Scottish Water	No response	N/A
Scottish Wildlife Trust	No response	N/A
Sustrans Scotland	No response	N/A
The Coal Authority	Response received: 2 May 2024 The Site to which this submission relates is not located within the defined coalfield. On this basis we have no specific comment to make.	N/A, noted
The Crown Estate	No response	N/A
The Woodland Trust	No response	N/A
Transport Scotland	No response	N/A
Visit Scotland	No response	N/A
Local Community Councils		
Carsphairn Community Council (CCC)	Response received: 1 May 2024	The proposed OHL would be no closer than 100 m to any residential property, and the routeing

Consultee	Summary of feedback	Action taken
	CCC strongly oppose the new route. Request the line runs further from any dwellings. Concern that the views, amenity and health of residents have been disregarded and nearby homes would be subjected to disturbance. Queried why SPEN chose to increase, rather than decrease, the impact on residents when deciding the latest preferred route. The line runs through two proposed Wind Farms (Shepherd's Rig and Quantans Hill), questioned if it is normal to run pylon lines through Wind Farms. Concern about the cumulative effect of connections to other Wind Farms in the area and what procedures SPEN have in place to ensure these effects are mitigated. CCC have concerns about the potential impact to private water supplies. How would the line avoid sections of deep peat. How will feedback be used to improve the final route.	selection process is undertaken to ensure minimal impact upon the landscape and the environment. It is feasible to route overhead lines through Wind Farms. Recommendations have been incorporated within the EIAR and should be reviewed prior to construction to seek to ensure there is **no adverse** impact on the landscape and visual amenity and to protect the private water supply. A Soil and Peat Management Plan (SPMP) and micro-siting of development would be implemented to avoid sensitive peat habitats. Feedback has been recorded and will inform the next stage of the project.
Dalry Community Council	No response	N/A
Glencairn / Moniave Community Council	No response	N/A
Tynron Community Council	No response	N/A
Penpont Community Council	No response	N/A
Sanquhar Community Council	No response	N/A

7.8 Appendix H: Exhibition Boards (2024)

Lorg Wind Farm

132kV Overhead Line Grid Connection

Welcome

About Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN)

SPEN holds the electricity distribution licence for southern Scotland.

Background

The developer for Lorg Wind Farm has approached SPEN to provide a grid connection to the wider electricity transmission network. SPEN has a legal duty under the Electricity Act 1989 to provide grid connections to new electricity generating developments. Lorg Wind Farm is located near Carsphairn in Dumfries and Galloway.

In response to this, SPEN is proposing to construct a new 132kV wood pole overhead line between Lorg Wind Farm and a suitable point on the new DE Route transmission line through the Glenkens.

Why are we consulting?

We previously consulted with statutory consultees, non-statutory consultees and the general public in 2017 to gather feedback on the Preferred Route. The views expressed have been considered in the selection of the Proposed Route for the overhead line.

The purpose of this consultation event is to demonstrate how those views and feedback about the Preferred Route have been considered and influenced the design of the Proposed Route for the Lorg Wind Farm 132kV overhead line grid connection.

The process we followed to identify the Preferred Route and the Proposed Route is summarised in the following boards and more detail can be found in our Routeing Consultation Report and the Amendments to the Preferred Route Report. Both reports are available on our website:
https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/lorg_wind_farm.aspx

Planning and consent

New electricity lines exceeding 20kV require planning consent from the Scottish Ministers under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.

SPEN is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Proposed Route.

The Environmental Statement and EIA Report will be submitted with the relevant consent application.

There will be further opportunity to comment on the application once it has been submitted.

The project location and initial study area

ScottishPower

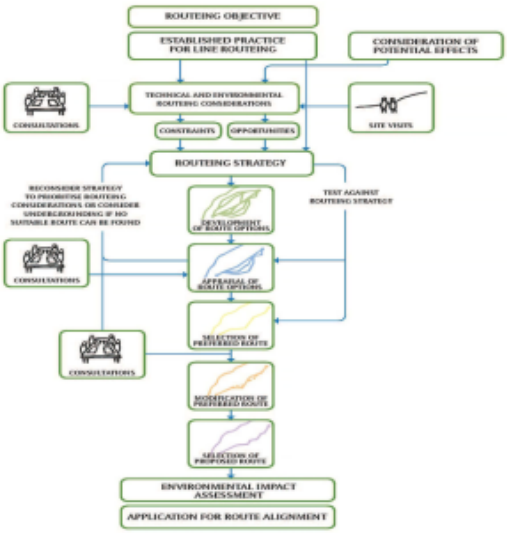
Lorg Wind Farm

132kV Overhead Line Grid Connection

The routeing process

Under the Electricity Act 1989, SPEN is required to consider environmental, technical and economic considerations, and to reach a balance between them. This means that the Proposed Route would be the route selected after an appraisal of a number of route options, which balances technical feasibility and economic viability with the least disturbance to people and the environment.

Following engagement with relevant stakeholders, including local communities, professional judgement is used to establish the balance.

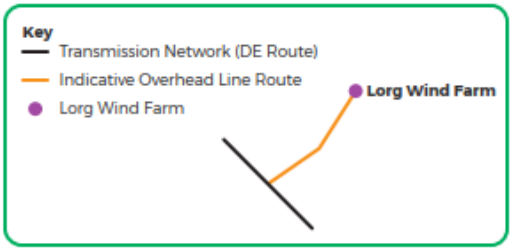


Established practice for line routeing

The main guidelines used for routeing high voltage overhead lines are the 'The Holford Rules' which were updated in 2003.

Designing route options in accordance with the Holford Rules involves developing routes that best fit the landscape and that minimise effects on visual amenity, whilst avoiding wherever areas of high environmental value. These areas include areas of natural and cultural heritage value designated at a national, European or international level as these are afforded the highest levels of policy protection.

The Forestry Commission have produced guidelines for the design of woodlands. These include a section on the design of open spaces in the forest, which discusses how overhead line wayleaves can be integrated into the forest layout.



Routeing strategy

The aim is to identify the proposed overhead line route to join the Lorg Wind Farm connection point and to then take a common overhead line to connect to the DE Route.

The Proposed Route should be the shortest route which avoids steep gradients, altitudes above 500m and wind turbine technical constraints, and either avoids or minimises potential impacts to environmental factors.

To limit adverse effects on visual amenity, wherever possible routes will follow the grain of the landscape, avoiding high ground and ridgelines and generally following valleys so that the lines and poles are seen against a hill or forest backdrop. In doing this, care will be taken to avoid or minimise effects on areas of high amenity and environmental value. This strategy has been devised specifically for this project.

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Lorg Wind Farm

132kV Overhead Line Grid Connection

What will it look like?

Trident wood poles carry single circuit lines operating at 132kV. There are two types of Trident wood poles: 'Single'poles and 'H' poles. 'H' poles are used for 'extreme environments' (above 200m) as they are subject to greater ice and wind loadings, whereas 'Single' poles are typically used at lower altitudes. Given that the study area is mostly above 200m it is anticipated that the 'H' pole configuration is most likely to be used throughout.

There are three types of poles:

- Intermediate (pole is part of a straight line section)
- Angle (where the overhead line changes direction)
- Terminal (where the overhead line terminates into a substation or onto an underground cable section via a cable sealing end)

Typical heights are approximately 13m above-ground height, with a range between 10m and 22m. Typical distances (or spans) between trident wood poles at altitudes above 200m are 50-75m for 'Single' poles and 120-155m for the 'H' pole configuration.

Trident Single Pole

Trident 'H' Pole

Terminal 'H' Pole

How will it be constructed?

- Temporary construction compound area will be constructed as a lay down area for plant, equipment and staff welfare
- Access will be created to the pole locations
- Pole foundations will be constructed
- Poles will be hoisted into position
- Conductors strung between poles
- Reinstatement of pole sites and removal and reinstatement of temporary infrastructure sites

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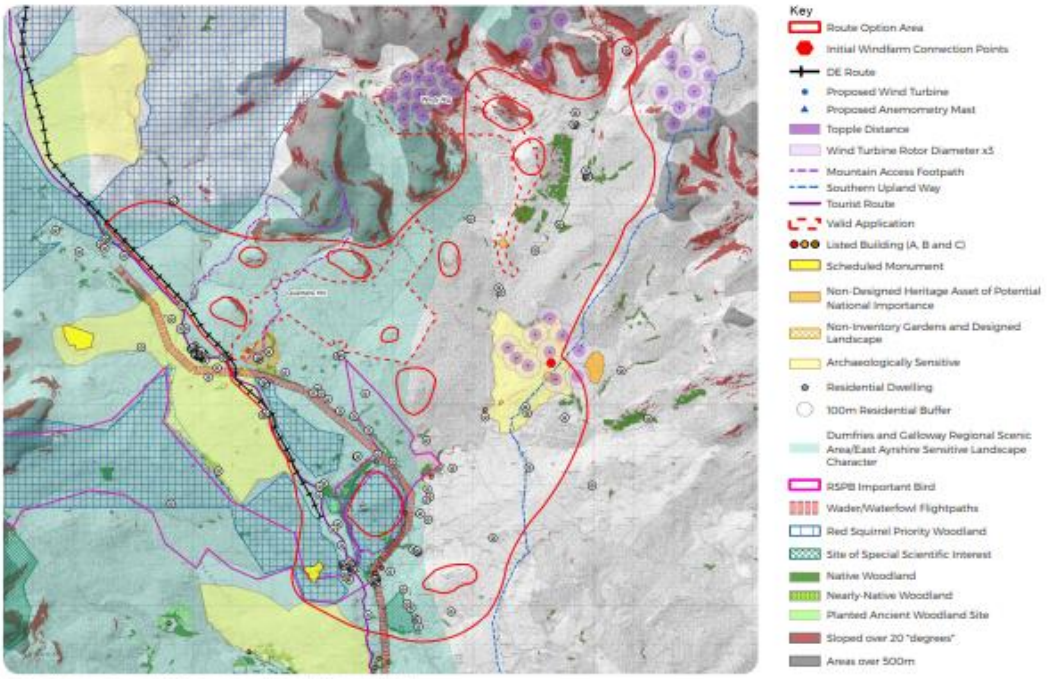
Lorg Wind Farm

132kV Overhead Line Grid Connection

Strategic environmental constraints



Key constraints considered include:

People: views and visual amenity
- Settlements and residential properties (with 100m buffer)

Landscape
- Galloway Hills Regional Scenic Area
- Knockgray Park – designed landscape

Cultural heritage
- Scheduled Monuments
- Listed buildings
- Archaeologically Sensitive Areas (Dumfries and Galloway Council designation)

Ecology and ornithology and peat
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- Native and ancient woodland
- Red squirrel priority woodland
- Suitable habitat for otter, pine marten, bat and water vole
- RSPB Birdlife Important Bird Area
- Birds of conservation importance (including black grouse, red kite, goshawk, osprey, hen harrier, peregrine falcon, merlin, curlew, barn owl, nightjar and crossbill)
- Peat and wetland habitats

Recreation and tourism
- Southern Upland Way
- A713 Galloway Tourist Route
- Mountain access footpaths to Cairnsmore of Carsphairn
- Local heritage paths
- Carsphairn Heritage Centre
- Polmaddy settlement
- Dundeugh Hill forest walks
- The Green Well of Scotland
- Galloway Forest Park

Land use
- Commercial forestry
- Main watercourse crossing
- Agricultural uses

Technical constraints
- Maximum altitude of 500m
- Maximum gradient of 22 degrees
- Other overhead lines through the site
- Proximity to proposed wind turbines

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Lorg Wind Farm

132kV Overhead Line Grid Connection

Development and appraisal of route options

Development of route options

A series of route options were developed using:

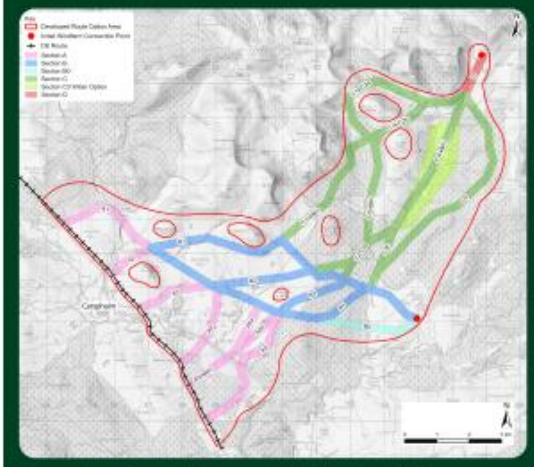
- Routeing guidance for overhead lines
- Environmental and technical considerations
- Routeing strategy

This involved designing potential routes in accordance with the Holford Rules, always seeking to best fit the landscape and minimise effects on visual amenity, whilst avoiding wherever possible areas of high environmental value.

A hierarchy of importance was applied to the constraints, as follows:

1. Avoid residential properties, scheduled monuments, listed buildings and other heritage assets of potentially national significance
2. Avoid or minimise distance travelled through Archaeologically Sensitive Areas, RSPB Bird Sensitive Areas, SSSIs, red squirrel priority woodlands, designed landscape, native and nearly native woodland and 100m buffer to residential properties
3. Seek to avoid effects on the setting of nationally important cultural heritage assets
4. Where possible, avoid or limit the distance travelled through Regional Scenic Areas, planted ancient woodland sites, main waterfowl flightpaths, forested areas and peat areas.

Route options



Overhead line routeing guidance

The "Holford Rules"

Rule 1: Avoid altogether, if possible, the major areas of highest amenity value, by so planning the general route of the line in the first place, even if the total mileage is somewhat increased in consequence.

Rule 2: Avoid smaller areas of high amenity value, or scientific interests by deviation; provided that this can be done without using too many angle towers, i.e. the more massive structures which are used when lines change direction.

Rule 3: Other things being equal, choose the most direct line, with no sharp changes of direction and thus with fewer angle towers (less important for wood pole lines).

Rule 4: Choose tree and hill backgrounds in preference to sky backgrounds wherever possible; and when the line has to cross a ridge, secure this opaque background as long as possible and cross obliquely when a dip in the ridge provides an opportunity. Where it does not, cross directly, preferably between belts of trees.

Rule 5: Prefer moderately open valleys with woods where the apparent height of towers will be reduced, and views of the line will be broken by trees.

Rule 6: In country which is flat and sparsely planted, keep the high voltage lines as far as possible independent of smaller lines, converging routes, distribution poles and other masts, wires and cables, so as to avoid a concentration or 'wirescape'.

Design techniques for forest

Management Planning (2014): Design of internal open spaces: The aim should be to link the open areas together to form a network and for the design of the edges of the open spaces to reflect the character of the landscape and the other shapes being used in the forest.

Route option appraisal

Once the route options were developed, a detailed appraisal was undertaken to compare the likely environmental effects of each option.

Because there were so many potential options, they were divided into sections to make a clear comparison possible. For each section, a comparison table was drawn up looking at the effect on different aspects of the environment (including people) and a Preferred Route was identified that, on balance, had the least effect.

The outcome of this Preferred Route is shown on the following board. This route balances environmental, technical and economic considerations.

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Lorg Wind Farm

132kV Overhead Line Grid Connection

The Preferred Route

The Preferred Route ran south from the Lorg connection point along the Water of Ken valley for about a kilometre, then obliquely uphill into the forestry plantation on the western slopes of Benbrack.

From there, it ran through the plantations on the side of the valley for some 6km, mainly following existing forestry tracks and fire-breaks. The route then followed the shallow side valley of the Black Burn, again mainly following existing tracks and fire-breaks through forestry, to cross the ridge just north of Marsalloch Hill.

From there, it ran west along the edge of the rough grazing north of Marbrack and below Quantans Hill, then north of Craig of Knockgray and Holm Hill to join the DE route at the edge of the forestry near Brockloch.

After our initial 12 week consultation on the Preferred Route we considered all feedback received and in response to the feedback gathered we modified the Preferred Route option taking specific local issues into account to determine the Proposed Route.

The Proposed Route

You said, we did.

The Preferred Route around Holm Hill was altered due to potential visual impacts on tourists attending the Knockengorroch annual festival.

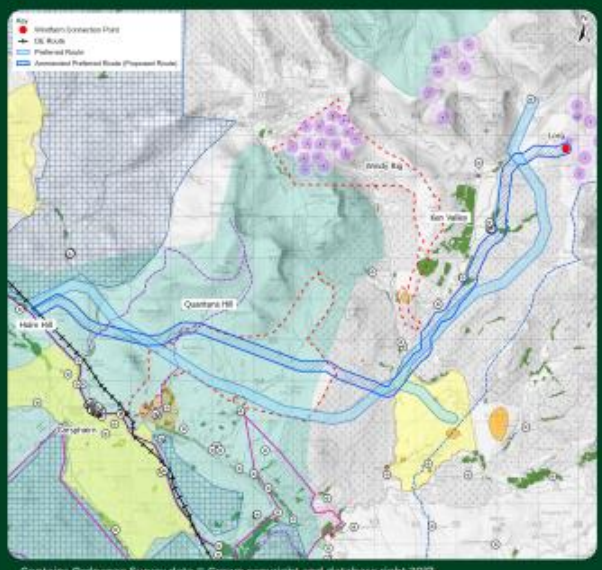
We moved the route from the south of Quantans Hill to the north to protect the wildlife habitat for birds in the area.

Concerns were raised around the impact on forestry on the section of the route from Quantans Hill to the Lorg-Longburn junction. To mitigate against this, we modified the route further north to follow a more direct route to join Quantans Hill to the area of forestry.

The route up the Ken Valley passed through the centre of two commercial forestry blocks. An 11kV overhead line already passes through these forestry blocks, lower on the hillside, close to the valley floor. Moving the line further down the slope to run roughly parallel to the existing overhead line (within the forestry to the east of the existing line, slightly further from the valley floor) will minimise the potential impacts on forestry in relation to the use of forestry plant in the vicinity of overhead lines and the potential sterilisation of areas of forestry, without encroaching on the glen.

Additionally, while rescoping the Preferred Route in 2021:

- the spur to Longburn Wind Farm was deemed to no longer be required and has subsequently been removed
- the western end of the Proposed Route has been extended by approximately 150m to accommodate the revised Holm Hill substation location.



ScottishPower

Lorg Wind Farm

132kV Overhead Line Grid Connection

Have your say

Involving the local community in the project is extremely important to us. Talking to you will help us understand your concerns.

Your feedback is important to us, and we will use it to refine the project before we submit our planning application. All feedback received will be considered.

We cannot respond to every response received individually. However, we will set out the feedback received and provide information on how it has been considered in a consultation report that will be published as part of our planning application.

You can submit your comments at our exhibition using the feedback forms, or send your comments to:

Scottish Power
Lorg Project Manager
55 Fullarton Drive
Glasgow
G32 8FA

Alternatively please e-mail us at:

lorg-connections@spenergynetworks.co.uk

Copies of the Routeing Consultation Report and the Leaflet are available to download at:

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

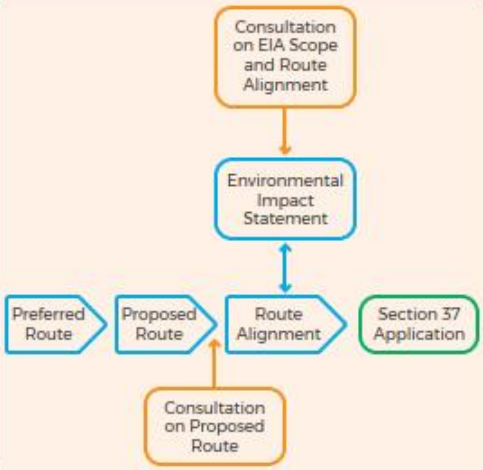
Leaflets and feedback forms are available for you to take away today. The consultation will run from **23 April 2024 until 11:59pm 20 May 2024.** Feedback received after the deadline may not be considered.

Next steps

We are currently at the 'Consultation on Proposed Route' stage. All feedback from this consultation will be considered and the design may be further refined prior to submitting our planning application.

A Preliminary Route Alignment will then be designed within the Proposed Route this will take into account the findings on environmental effects, consultation feedback and technical feasibility.

The Preliminary Route Alignment is then taken forward to EIA where it is subject to further detailed assessment to determine its likely effect on the environment and to inform the design of the Route Alignment. There will be a further opportunity to comment as part of the formal Section 37 application process.



Please note that any comments made during this Consultation Stage are not representations to The Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, who will determine any subsequent application for consent. Following the submission of the Section 37 Application, interested parties will have the opportunity to make representations to the Scottish Government on these proposals.

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7.9 Appendix I: Information Leaflet (2024)

Lorg Wind Farm

132kV Overhead Line Grid Connection

Have your say

23 April 2024 until 11:59pm 20 May 2024

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The Project

The developer for Lorg Wind Farm located near Carsphairn in Dumfries and Galloway has approached SPEN to provide a grid connection to the wider electricity transmission network. SPEN has a legal duty under the Electricity Act 1989 to provide grid connections to new electricity generating developments.

In response to this, SPEN is proposing to construct a new 132kV wood pole overhead line between Lorg Wind Farm and a suitable point on the new DE Route transmission line through the Glenkens.

What will the Proposed Route look like?

The proposal is for a 132 kV Trident wood pole overhead line which would use 'H' poles for the majority of the route due to altitude.

These have an average height of 13 metres and maximum height of 22 metres with a span between poles ranging from 120 metres to 155 metres.

Trident Single Pole

Trident 'H' Pole

Terminal 'H' Pole

The Proposed Route

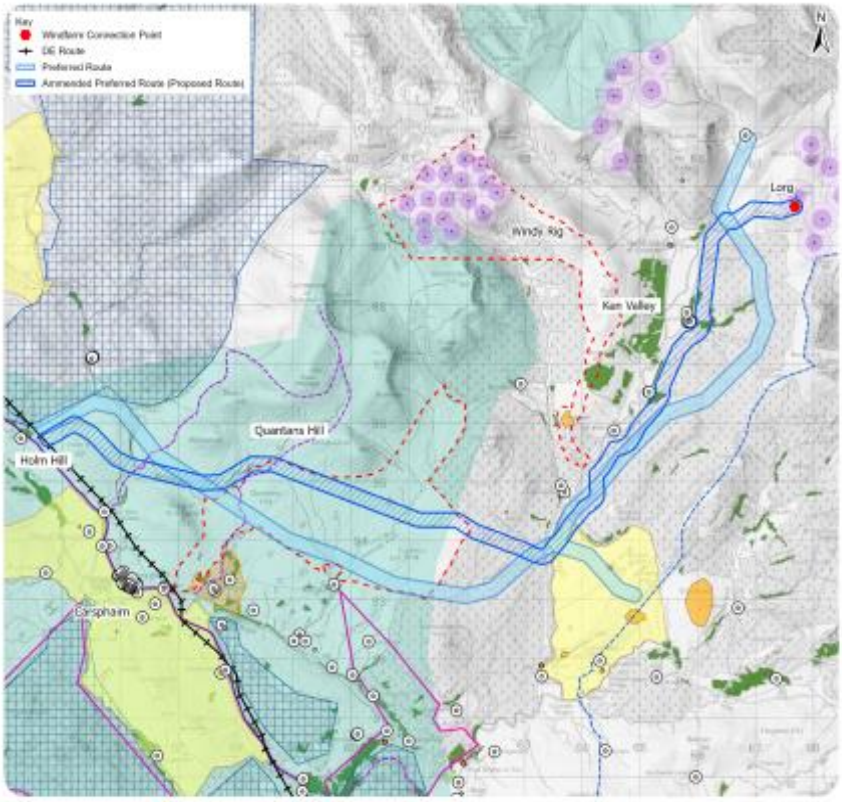
We considered all feedback received following our initial 12-week consultation on the Preferred Route. In response to the feedback gathered, we modified the Preferred Route option taking specific local issues into account to determine the Proposed Route.

The Preferred Route was altered:

- around Holm Hill to reduce potential visual impacts on tourists attending the Knockengorroch annual festival.
- to protect the wildlife habitat for birds in the south of Quantans Hill to the north.
- to mitigate against the concerns around the impact on forestry on the section of the route from Quantans Hill to the Lorg-Longburn junction. We modified the route further north to follow a more direct route to join Quantans Hill to the area of forestry.
- to minimise the potential impacts on forestry in relation to the use of forestry plant in the vicinity of overhead lines and the potential sterilisation of areas of forestry without encroaching on the glen by moving the line further down the slope to run roughly parallel to the existing overhead line (within the forestry to the east of the existing line, slightly further from the valley floor). The route up the Ken Valley passed through the centre of two commercial forestry blocks. An 11 kV overhead line already passes through these forestry blocks, lower on the hillside, close to the valley floor.

Additionally, while rescoping the Preferred Route in 2021:

- the spur to Longburn Wind Farm was deemed to no longer be required and has subsequently been removed
- the western end of the Proposed Route has been extended by approximately 150m to accommodate the revised Holm Hill substation location.



Next steps

Have your say

Your feedback is important to us. We will consider all feedback we receive and we will use it to refine the project before we submit our planning application.

We cannot respond to every response received individually. However, we will set out the feedback received and provide information on how it has been considered in a consultation report that will be published as part of our planning application.

You can submit your comments at our exhibition using the feedback forms, or send your comments to:

Scottish Power
Lorg Project Manager
55 Fullarton Drive
Glasgow
G32 8FA

Alternatively please e-mail us at:

lorg-connections@spenergynetworks.co.uk

The consultation will run from **23 April 2024 until 11:59pm 20 May 2024**. Feedback received after the deadline may not be considered.

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

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

ScottishPower

7.10 Appendix J: Stakeholder Letters (2024)

Our Ref: Lorg Wind Farm Grid Connection

17 April 2024

Hello

Lorg Wind Farm - 132kV Overhead Line Grid Connection Consultation

SP Energy Networks (SPEN) has a legal duty under the Electricity Act 1989 to provide grid connections to new electricity generating developments and has been approached by the developers for Lorg Wind Farm to provide a grid connection to the wider electricity transmission network. The wind farm is located near Carsphairn in Dumfries and Galloway.

In response to this, SPEN is proposing to construct a new 132kV wood pole overhead line between the wind farm and a suitable point along the electricity transmission line, which is currently under construction. WSP is working on behalf of SPEN and is currently undertaking the overhead line consultation for this project.

To ensure that all available views and opinions are considered for the 'Proposed Route' option, SPEN is undertaking a second non-statutory round of consultation to gather feedback on the 'Proposed Route'. Your feedback is important to us, and all feedback received will be considered before we submit our planning application.

Have your say

We would like to invite you to our public drop-in event, where you will be able to meet members of the project team and discuss your ideas for the 'Proposed Route':

Wednesday 24 April 2024: 2pm to 7pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

We will also be holding an online consultation event on Wednesday 8 May 2024 from 7pm to 8pm.

Further information about the project, including how to register your details for the online event and the option to provide feedback, are available on our project website:

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

Alternatively, if you are unable to attend any of the events and would like further information, please contact the project team on the details below:

Email: lorg-connections@spenergynetworks.co.uk
Phone: 07552 266 171
Write to us: Scottish Power, Lorg Project Manager, 55 Fullarton Drive, Glasgow, G32 8FA

Should you wish to comment on the 'Proposed Route', please respond by 11:59pm on the 20 May 2024. Feedback received after the deadline may not be considered.

Yours sincerely

Matt Lochead
Principal Consultant, Environmental Planning on behalf of SPEN

If you have any questions regarding the provision of this information, please do not hesitate to contact me at: Matt.Lochead@wsp.com

First Floor
3 Wellington Place
Leeds
LS1 4AP
Tel: +44 113 395 6200
wsp.com

7.11 Appendix K: Public Notices (2024)

Public Consultation Event

Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn, DG7 3TQ

Wednesday 24 April 2024, 2pm to 7pm

Lorg Wind Farm – 132kV Overhead Line Grid Connection Proposed Route

We are holding a second round of non-statutory consultation for the proposed construction of a 132kV wood pole overhead transmission line which would connect Lorg Wind Farm to the wider electricity transmission network.

SP Transmission, a subsidiary of SP Energy Networks, manages electricity transmission in central and southern Scotland. The developers of Lorg Wind Farm have submitted a Grid Connection Application to SP Transmission.

The project is now in the final stages of development and SP Energy Networks are consulting with landowners, members of the public and interested parties on the proposed route alignment.

The SP Energy Networks project team are hosting a public drop-in event where you can find out more information and give your feedback:

Wednesday 24 April 2024: 2pm to 7pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

We will also be holding an online consultation event on Wednesday 8 May 2024 from 7pm to 8pm.

Your feedback is important to us, and all feedback received will be considered before we submit our planning application.

Further information about the project, including how to register your details for the online event and the option to provide feedback, are available on our project website:

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

Alternatively, if you are unable to attend any of the events and would like further information, please contact the project team on the details below:

Email: **lorg-connections@spenergynetworks.co.uk**

Phone: **07552266171**

Online Consultation Event

Friday 17 May 2024, 12pm to 1pm

Lorg Wind Farm – 132kV Overhead Line Grid Connection Proposed Route

SP Energy Networks are holding a second round of non-statutory consultation for the proposed construction of a 132kV wood pole overhead transmission line which would connect Lorg Wind Farm to the wider electricity transmission network.

SP Transmission manages electricity transmission in central and southern Scotland. The developers of Lorg Wind Farm have submitted a Grid Connection Application to SP Transmission.

The project is now in the final stages of development and SP Energy Networks are consulting with landowners, members of the public and interested parties on the proposed route alignment.

Further to the public consultation event held on Wednesday 24 April in Carsphairn, the SP Energy Networks project team will hold an online consultation event on Friday 17 May 2024 from 12pm to 1pm.

Your feedback is important to us, and all feedback received will be considered before we submit our planning application.

Further information about the project, including **how to register** for the online consultation event, is available on our project website:

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

Alternatively, if you are unable to attend the online consultation event and would like further information, please contact the project team on the details below:

Email: **lorg-connections@spenergynetworks.co.uk**

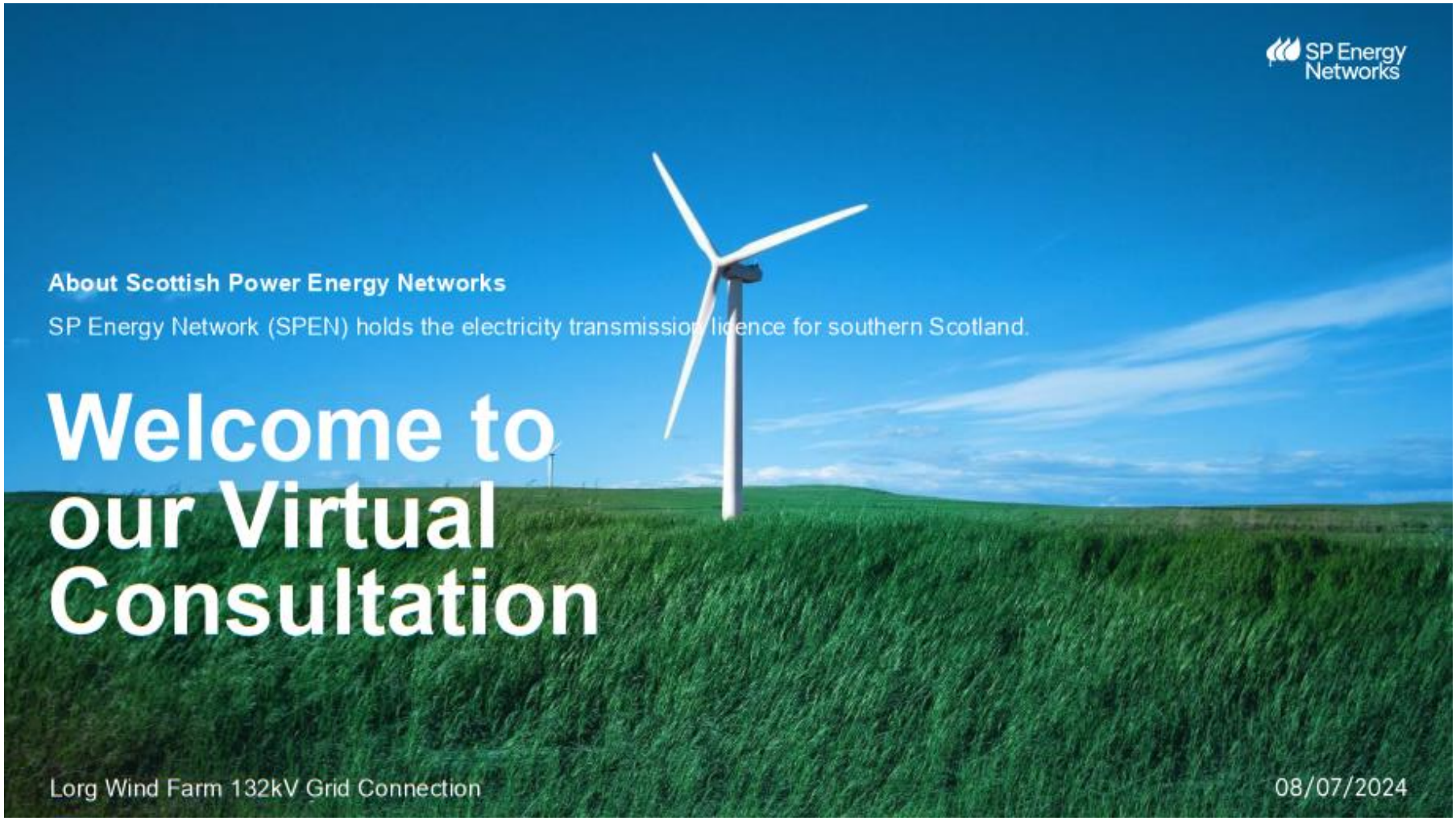
Phone: **07552266171**

7.12 Appendix L: Online Event Presentation

Lorg Wind Farm 132kV Grid Connection

Welcome to our Virtual Consultation

17/05/2024


SP Energy Networks
About Scottish Power Energy Networks
SP Energy Network (SPEN) holds the electricity transmission licence for southern Scotland.
Welcome to our Virtual Consultation
Lorg Wind Farm 132kV Grid Connection
08/07/2024

Content

Introduction and Overview

Background

The developer for Lorg Wind Farm has approached SPEN to provide a grid connection to the wider electricity transmission network. SPEN has a legal duty under the Electricity Act 1989 to provide grid connections to new electricity generating developments. Lorg Wind Farm is located near Carsphairn in Dumfries and Galloway.

In response to this, SPEN is proposing to construct a new 132kV wood pole overhead line between Lorg Wind Farm and the proposed Holm Hill substation, to be located on the north side of the A713, to the north-east of Brochloch Tower, adjacent to SPTs existing 132kV OHL (DE Route).

Purpose of the Event

The purpose of this consultation event is to provide an update on the progress of the Lorg Wind Farm Grid Connection Project.

Members of the public are invited to provide feedback, comments and discuss the proposed 132kV overhead line with the project team. The views expressed will be taken into account in the design process and submitted alongside the submission for Section 37 consent.

Proposed Development

Trident wood poles carry single circuit lines operating at 132kV. There are two types of Trident wood poles: 'Single' poles and 'H' poles. 'H' poles are used for 'extreme environments' (above 200m) as they are subject to greater ice and wind loadings, whereas 'Single' poles are typically used at lower altitudes. Given that the study area is mostly above 200m it is anticipated that the 'H' pole configuration is most likely to be used throughout.

There are three types of poles:

- Intermediate (pole is part of a straight line section)
- Angle (where the overhead line changes direction)
- Terminal (where the overhead line terminates into a substation or onto an underground cable section via a cable sealing end)

Typical heights are approximately 13m above-ground height, with a range between 10m and 22m. Typical distances (or spans) between trident wood poles at altitudes above 200m are 50–75m for 'Single' poles and 120-155m for the 'H' pole configuration.

The proposed development will comprise:

- A 132kV overhead line connection to be supported by trident wood poles
- A single circuit overhead line
- A Tee in point to connect to the DE route comprising of a proposed substation at Holm Hill

Project to Date

We previously consulted with statutory consultees, non-statutory consultees and the general public in 2017 to gather feedback on the Preferred Route. The views expressed have been considered in the selection of the Proposed Route for the overhead line.

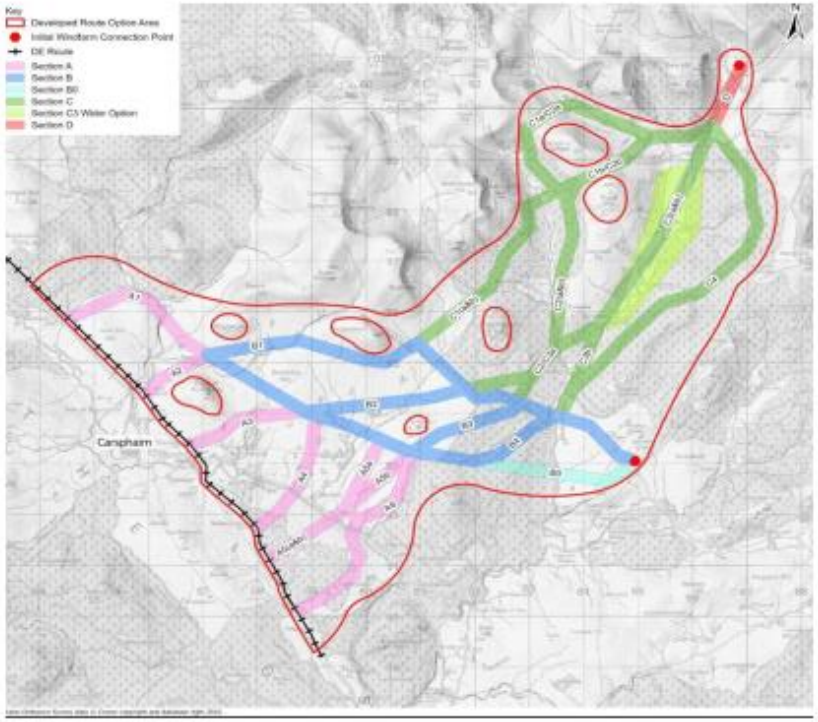
The purpose of this consultation event is to demonstrate how those views and feedback about the Preferred Route have been considered and influenced the design of the Proposed Route for the Lorg Wind Farm 132kV overhead line grid connection.

Development of Route Options

A series of route options were developed using:

- Routeing guidance for overhead lines
- Environmental and technical considerations
- Routeing strategy

This involved designing potential routes in accordance with the Holford Rules, always seeking to best fit the landscape and minimise effects on visual amenity, whilst avoiding wherever possible areas of high environmental value.



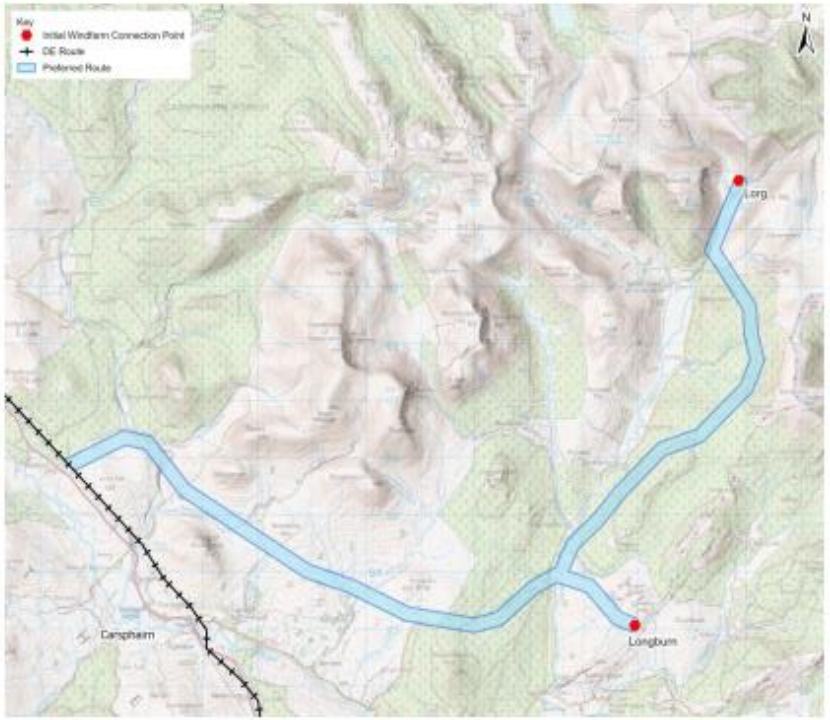
The Preferred Route

The Preferred Route ran south from the Lorg connection point along the Water of Ken valley for about a kilometre, then obliquely uphill into the forestry plantation on the western slopes of Benbrack.

From there, it ran through the plantations on the side of the valley for some 6 km, mainly following existing forestry tracks and fire-breaks.

The route then followed the shallow side valley of the Black Burn, again mainly following existing tracks and fire-breaks through forestry, to cross the ridge just north of Marsalloch Hill.

From there, it ran west along the edge of the rough grazing north of Marbrack and below Quantans Hill, then north of Craig of Knockgray and Holm Hill to join the DE route at the edge of the forestry near Brockloch.



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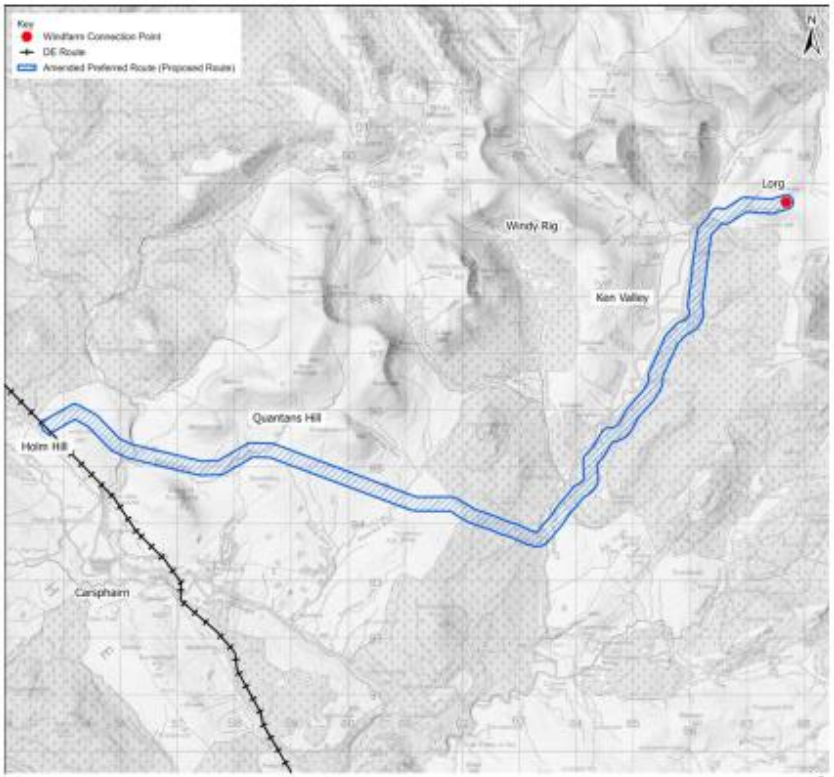
Internal Use

The Proposed Route

In response to feedback gathered through consultation, a number of amendments to the preferred route were made, resulting in the Proposed Route shown.

Changes between the Preferred Route and the now Proposed Route are illustrated and detailed as follows:

- The route up the Ken Valley passed through the centre of two commercial forestry blocks. An 11kV overhead line already passes through these forestry blocks, lower on the hillside, close to the valley floor. Moving the line further down the slope to run roughly parallel to the existing overhead line (within the forestry to the east of the existing line, slightly further from the valley floor) will minimise the potential impacts on forestry without encroaching on the glen
- We moved the route from the south of Quantans Hill to the north to protect the wildlife habitat for birds in the area.
- Concerns were raised around the impact on forestry on the section of the route from Quantans Hill to the Lorg-Longburn junction. To mitigate against this, we modified the route further north to follow a more direct route to join Quantans Hill to the area of forestry.
- The spur to Longburn Wind Farm is no longer required and has been removed. 'Longburn' has therefore been removed from the project title
- The western end of the Proposed Route has been extended by approximately 150m to accommodate the revised Holm Hill substation location



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Internal Use

Feedback on the Proposed Route

Feedback on the Proposed Route has been gathered via two in person consultation events, representations made via the project website and this online consultation event. Interested parties can continue to provide their feedback up until the end of the consultation period on Monday 20th May. All feedback received will be considered as we prepare our Environmental Impact Assessment and application documents. The table below summarises key themes from the feedback received so far.

Concerns raised	How these will be addressed
Potential for impacts on Private Water Supplies	SP Energy Networks are required to submit a Section 37 application to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit. The Section 37 shall be accompanied an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report. Potential impacts on private water supplies and any control measures or mitigation required to protect private water supplies, will be considered in *Chapter 10: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils* of the EIA Report. Chapter 10 will also be supported by a Private Water Supplies Risk Assessment.
Potential impacts from traffic associated with construction on C35 Lorg Road	A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will be prepared to support the proposed development and will be submitted alongside the EIA. The CTMP will include a range of measures and incentives to minimise the impact of construction traffic on Lorg Road. The measures will include a regime to manage HGVs accessing the installation sites, to reduce the impact on existing road users, along with the provision of sufficient space within the installation sites to minimise the potential for traffic to block the road's operation. The use of helicopters to transport materials to site is also being considered, a practice which has been successfully undertaken on other projects and would reduce the impact on Lorg Road.
Potential impacts on peat	Potential impacts on peat will be considered in *Chapter 10: Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Geology and Soils* of the EIA Report. Peat depth and condition surveys have been carried out to inform the assessment, and the development of a Soils and Peat Management Plan, which will be submitted as part of the EIA Report.
Potential impacts on residents along C35 Lorg Road	It is acknowledged that there will be a degree of visual impact on residential properties along C35. Residents have expressed concern, particularly as the Proposed Route has been moved closer to these properties in order to minimise impacts on forestry. Along this section, the line is routed through the base of the valley and would be further from properties than the existing 11 kVA line. The route corridor is a minimum of 100m from residential receptors. In addition, the line will be viewed against a woodland backdrop and is therefore unlikely to be prominent in the view. Potential visual impacts on residential receptors will be considered in Chapter 7 of the EIA Report. Mitigation will be proposed to minimise effects on properties, this is likely to include detailed positioning of the line and particularly the poles, and planting of new trees and shrubs in locations to screen views of the new line.

What's Next

Preliminary Alignment

A preliminary alignment of the overhead line will be designed within the Proposed Route, taking into account the findings on environmental effects, consultation feedback to date and technical feasibility.

Environmental Impact Assessment

The Preliminary Route Alignment is then taken forward to EIA where it is subject to further detailed assessment to determine its likely effect on the environment and to inform the design of the Route Alignment.

Section 37 Application

The finalised alignment will then be taken forward to Section 37 Application. There will be a further opportunity to comment as part of the formal Section 37 application process.

Questions and comments

Involving the local community in the project is extremely important to us. Your feedback is important to us, and we will use it to refine the project before we submit our planning application. All feedback received will be considered.

We cannot respond to every response received individually. However, we will set out the feedback received and provide information on how it has been considered in a consultation report that will be published as part of our planning application.

Further consultation materials are available at:

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

Have Your Say

If you would like to comment on any aspect of this project please email us at: lorg-connections@spenergynetworks.co.uk

Thank you for Participating

SP Energy Networks Community Consultation Page
https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/lorg_wind_farm.aspx

7.13 Appendix M: Feedback form (2024)

ScottishPower

Lorg Wind Farm
132kV Overhead Line Grid Connection

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

About the event

How did you find out about the event?

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

About the project

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

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

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

Do you have any other comments about the proposed route of the Lorg Wind Farm Overhead Line?

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

Post: Scottish Power, Lorg Project Manager, 55 Fullarton Drive, Glasgow, G32 8FA

Email: lorg-connections@spenergynetworks.co.uk

Closing Date for feedback is 20 May 2024

All information provided at the event can also be downloaded on the dedicated website:

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

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