



Central Scotland – 400kV Upgrade

Pre-Application Consultation Report

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01.

Executive summary

1 Executive summary

This report summarises the pre-application consultation carried out by SP Energy Networks in relation to the proposed uprating in voltage of the overhead electricity transmission line between the existing Kincardine Substation and the neighbouring SSEN transmission network boundary (XL route), and associated alterations to the transmission network infrastructure for turn-in towers on XL route, ZCN route and ZCS route. These works will involve increasing the voltage of the existing overhead electricity transmission line in the area from 275,000 volts (275kV) to 400kV. The proposal also refers to alterations to existing overhead line infrastructure required to support the uprating. The consultation provided information about both the overhead lines and the related substation proposal. A separate Pre-application Consultation Report has been prepared for the substation proposal and submitted as part of that application for planning permission. This report has been prepared in the context of the application seeking Section 37 consent and deemed planning permission for the uprating of XL route and works to ZCN route and ZCS route to turn into Kincardine North Substation at 400kV.

The first round of consultation with local residents and stakeholders took place from Tuesday 18 June 2024 to Friday 19 July 2024 and included one drop-in event at Kincardine Community Centre on Tuesday 18 June 2024.

The second round of consultation ran from Monday 25 November 2024 to Friday 20 December 2024, and included one drop-in event at Kincardine Community Centre on Wednesday 27 November 2024. The comments received as part of the consultation helped to shape the detailed design of the proposals.

SP Energy Networks carried out a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposals to ensure that the likely significant effects of the overhead line works and the substation on the local area are fully considered and appropriately addressed.

This report provides:

- an overview of the project and the consultation process;
- a summary of the feedback received during the consultation;
- the methodology used to analyse the feedback received and how SP Energy Networks took account of the comments received; and
- the next steps in the process.

02.

Introduction

2 Introduction

2.1 The need for the project

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

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

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

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

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

The components of the proposed overall scheme include:

- construction of the proposed Kincardine North 400kV Substation;
- uprating of the existing 275kV overhead line (known as XL route) between the proposed new Kincardine North 400kV Substation and the SSEN transmission boundary – this uprating will increase the capacity and operating voltage of the overhead line (from 275kV to 400kV);
- uprating of the existing 275kV overhead line (known as ZCN route) between the proposed Kincardine North 400kV Substation and Denny North 400kV Substation – this uprating will increase the capacity and operating voltage of the overhead line (from 275kV to 400kV);
- uprating of the existing ZCS overhead line route from 275kV to 400kV operation, increasing the transmission capacity of the route between Kincardine North Substation and the wider transmission network; and
- turning in the existing XL, ZCN and ZCS overhead lines to the proposed Kincardine North 400kV Substation.

2.2 The role of SP Energy Networks

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

Its transmission network is the backbone of the electricity system in its licence area, carrying large amounts of electricity at high voltages across long distances. The distribution networks are local networks, which take electricity from the transmission grid and bring it into the heart of communities. SP Energy Networks'

transmission network in Scotland consists of over 150 substations, more than 4,500km of overhead lines and more than 600km of underground cables.

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

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

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

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

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

SP Energy Networks’ “Schedule 9 Statement” sets out how it will meet the duty placed upon it under Schedule 9.

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

2.3 The proposed overhead line changes

The proposal relates to uprating the voltage of parts of the overhead electricity transmission network in the Kincardine area from 275kV to 400kV, with associated infrastructure improvements, in order to get more energy from where it is produced in northern Scotland to where it is needed in central Scotland and beyond.

As part of the works, to connect the existing overhead lines to the proposed new Kincardine North 400kV substation south-west of Kilbagie, 12 new towers (pylons) will be erected to divert the lines into the site. In doing so, this will allow the removal of three existing pylons and some of the overhead conductors (wires) that currently cross the site.

Increasing the voltage of existing overhead lines from 275kV to 400kV may involve changing the insulators and conductors on the existing towers. To facilitate these works, temporary access routes (trackway or stone roads) and potential foundation upgrades at specific towers will be created. Further surveys concluded that reconductoring works may be required only between towers XL12 and XL20.

Both ZCN route and ZCS route were originally consented at 400kV.

2.4 Identifying the proposed site

The proposed site for the new Kincardine North substation is within the established transmission corridor where overhead lines for XL route, ZCS route and ZCN route cross each other near Kilbagie.

The site was selected to maximise the use of existing infrastructure where overhead lines are already situated, allowing SP Energy Networks to reconfigure them and uprate the voltage from one location. In addition, it minimises the need to build new overhead lines.

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

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

03.

Approach to pre- application consultation

3 Approach to the pre-application consultation

3.1 Legislation and guidance

SP Energy Networks will submit applications to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit, under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 and for deemed planning permission under Section 57 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, for the proposed changes to the overhead lines, the uprating in voltage and the erection and removal of towers. The proposed new Kincardine North Substation is subject to a separate application to Fife Council under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

3.3 SP Energy Networks' commitment to engagement

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

SP Energy Networks recognises the importance of consulting effectively on proposals and being transparent about the decisions reached. SP Energy Networks is keen to engage with key stakeholders, including local communities and others who may have an interest in the project. This engagement process begins at the early stages of development of a project and continues into construction once consent has been granted.

3.4 Consultation strategy and approach

Following submission of the application to the Scottish Ministers for consent to carry out the overhead line works under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989, the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit will carry out further consultation with the public and stakeholders.

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

The strategy for consultation was designed to ensure that stakeholders were consulted on the proposed new substation and overhead line works at the same time, as the proposals are linked despite being subject to consent applications to different authorities. The guiding principles were that local residents and stakeholders:

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

The formal Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) submitted to Fife Council and Clackmannanshire Council on 8 May 2024 and revised on 29 May 2024 set out a description of the proposed new Kincardine North Substation development in general terms, including maps to identify the site, and set out SP Energy Networks' proposals for undertaking pre-application consultation for the substation development, including information as to when such consultation is to take place, with whom and what form it will take.

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

SP Energy Networks used a range of communication channels and materials to publicise and promote the consultations on the proposed new substation and overhead line alterations, which are detailed in the following sections of this document. Respondents were also able to give feedback in different formats, depending on their own preference:

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

04.

Pre-application consultation

4 Pre-application consultation

4.1 Consultation strategy

SP Energy Networks acknowledges that its works may have effects on the environment and local communities and is very keen to hear the views of local people to help it develop the project in the most appropriate way.

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

As part of the consultation strategy, SP Energy Networks held two rounds of pre-application consultation for the public, stakeholders and consultees to provide comments on the proposals. Reports summarising feedback received during the two rounds of pre-application consultation are appended to this report and can be viewed on the SP Energy Networks project web page at

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

4.2 First round of consultation

The consultation period took place between Monday 17 June and Friday 19 July 2024.

SP Energy Networks consulted with relevant stakeholders and sought their views on the proposals. The stakeholder groups that were identified included:

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

Prior to the start of the consultation, a notification was sent via email (see [Appendix A](#)) or letter to the stakeholder groups listed above. The recipients were selected in accordance with the stakeholder groups identified in the Scottish Government's Electricity Act 1989 Pre-Application Consultation and Engagement Guidance (May 2025). The notification advised recipients of the consultation, inviting them to the public event and seeking their views on the proposals.

A project leaflet explaining the proposals, the purpose of the consultation and the process for submitting feedback was prepared and distributed to approximately 2,300 properties (residential and business) within a radius of 1km from the proposed substation site (adjusted to include the communities of Kincardine and Clackmannan and the settlement of Kennet) and 500m of the overhead lines. This was the principal form of direct communication with the local community. A copy of the project leaflet can be found in [Appendix B](#).

To promote the consultation, SP Energy Networks placed formal newspaper advertisements in the *Alloa Advertiser*, *Dunfermline Press* and *The Courier* newspapers for two consecutive weeks (w/c 3 June 2024 and w/c 10 June 2024). This exceeded the minimum seven-day notice period typically associated with public consultation events and ensured stakeholders had sufficient opportunity to participate in the consultation process.

The advertisement introduced the consultation with some high-level information about the project, including the proposals, details of the drop-in event and the ways in which feedback could be submitted. A QR code

linking to the project website was also included on the adverts. A copy of the newspaper advertisement can be found in [Appendix C](#).

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

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

The six project-related questions were:

1. Do you have any comments on our preferred site for the substation?
2. Please let us have any comments you may have about our proposed access routes.
3. Do you have any comments about the proposed changes to the overhead lines, including new pylon locations and the proposed increase in voltage, or the proposed new underground cables?
4. How did you find out about the project and the consultation? [Multiple-choice options provided were: advertisement, leaflet, website, media coverage, social media, word of mouth and other.]
5. Do you have any comments about our public consultation?
6. Are there any other comments you would like to make?

The closing date for submitting responses to SP Energy Networks was midnight on Thursday 18 July 2024. Following this date, the consultation information remained accessible on the project website and available to download.

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

At the events, stakeholders had the opportunity to drop in to view the project proposals and talk to members of the project team, including technical experts, to discuss any questions or concerns that they had. The materials made available at the events included eight exhibition panels (pull-up banners), which provided details on each aspect of the proposals, hard copies of maps and relevant project documents. A copy of the exhibition panels can be found in [Appendix E](#).

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

4.3 Second round of consultation

Following the first round of consultation, SP Energy Networks reviewed and considered the feedback received, and continued to talk to stakeholders and conduct technical and environmental assessments. The proposals were refined to take account of this feedback and the results of these assessments.

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

- where the proposed new substation would sit within the site;
- proposed landscaping and tree-planting to help screen the development;
- proposed drainage and access arrangements; and

- the location of a new battery storage site (a third-party proposal) west of the proposed Kincardine North site and overhead line works.

The location of the battery storage site, although not part of the SP Energy Networks proposals, was included for illustrative purposes following a request in the first round of consultation.

During this consultation, SP Energy Networks was asking for:

- comments about the proposed changes to the overhead lines, including pylon location and increase in voltage; and
- any wider comments consultees had, including any comments relating to the proposed substation that was consulted on at the same time and covered by separate pre-application consultation report.

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

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

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

A list of stakeholder groups can be seen in [Appendix F](#).

Prior to the start of the consultation, a notification was sent via email (see [Appendix G](#)) to the stakeholders listed above. The recipients were selected in accordance with the stakeholder groups identified in the Scottish Government's Electricity Act 1989 Pre-Application Consultation and Engagement Guidance (May 2025). The notification advised recipients of the consultation, inviting them to the public event and seeking their views on the proposals.

A project leaflet explaining the proposals, the purpose of the consultation and the process for submitting feedback was prepared and distributed to approximately 3,300 properties (residential and business) within a radius of 1km from the proposed substation site (adjusted to include the communities of Kincardine and Clackmannan and the settlement of Kennet) and 500m from the overhead lines. This was the principal form of direct communication with the local community. A copy of the project leaflet can be found in [Appendix H](#).

To promote the consultation, SP Energy Networks placed formal newspaper advertisements in the *Alloa Advertiser*, *Dunfermline Press*, *The Central Fife Times* and *The Courier* newspapers for two consecutive weeks (w/c 11 November 2024 and w/c 18 November 2024). The advertisement provided the details of the consultation with some high-level information about the project, including the proposals, details of the drop-in event and the ways in which feedback could be submitted. A QR code linking to the project website was also included on the advertisements. A copy of the newspaper advertisement can be found in [Appendix I](#).

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

www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/kincardine_north_substation.aspx. All of the information presented at the first round of consultation was also available on the website. To make the website as accessible as possible, most materials created for the consultation included a QR code that linked through to the home page of the

website. The website has remained live following the consultation to ensure stakeholders can access the project details and stay up to date on project developments.

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

The six project-related questions were:

1. Do you have any comments on our preferred site for the substation, including proposed landscaping and tree-planting?
2. Please let us have any comments you may have about our proposed access routes.
3. Do you have any comments about the proposed changes to the overhead lines, including new pylon locations and the proposed increase in voltage?
4. How did you find out about the project and the consultation? [Multiple-choice options provided were: advertisement, leaflet, website, media coverage, social media, word of mouth and other.]
5. Do you have any comments about our public consultation?
6. Are there any other comments you would like to make?

The closing date for submitting responses to SP Energy Networks was midnight on Friday 20 December 2024. Following this date, the consultation information remained accessible on the project website and available to download.

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

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

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

4.4 Topics raised during the consultation

Ten formal feedback forms were submitted in total across the two events via hard-copy forms sent to the FREEPOST address. The comments received related to:

- traffic concerns;
- impact on trees;
- the overhead line route;
- health and safety;
- environmental impacts; and
- community benefits.

Project team members explained that visual impact, landscaping, screening, construction traffic and noise would all be considered in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), which would also recommend whether any mitigation measures were required.

The team also explained that a Construction Traffic Management Plan would be agreed with the local authority prior to any construction works, to minimise the impact of vehicle movements wherever practicable.

During the consultation event, an attendee raised concerns regarding electromagnetic fields (EMF). Following the discussion, their contact details were recorded and a visit was arranged with a qualified engineer to measure existing EMF levels at the property.

Table 1 (see Section 4.5) summarises the key themes that arose during the consultation process as well as SP Energy Networks' response to these themes.

4.5 SP Energy Networks' response to the feedback

The comments received as feedback have been considered by SP Energy Networks. The key themes that arose in the comments are a summary of the written and verbal feedback received from the drop-in events and have been summarised below with a response from SP Energy Networks.

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
Impact on human health	Radiation from pylons causing health problems for residents in village. Danger of electromagnetic radiation from pylons + cables has been known since at least the 1950s with risk to health of people living nearby. Health concerns over increase in voltage. The increase in the overhead lines grid causes more of a cancer risk to the village. There has already in the past been a high cancer risk in the streets near pylons and cables.	The UK electricity industry takes any suggestion of a risk to health extremely seriously. As an industry, we have worked with independent health professionals over several decades to support extensive research to identify any connection between the presence of electric and magnetic fields (EMF) generated by overhead lines and ill health. The balance of the evidence to date indicates that EMFs do not cause disease. SP Energy Networks, along with other industry partners, is committed to continuing to support ongoing research in this area. An independent commission produced guidelines around the siting of electricity infrastructure in 1998. SP Energy Networks' overhead lines comply with UK government policy, which is based on this guidance and was reaffirmed in 2009. The website (www.emfs.info) offers further details on this. For reference, the guidance states that the levels required to achieve compliance are as follows: • electric field: 9kV/m • magnetic field: 360 microtesla. The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Paragraph 4.8) concludes that no significant effects on human health are likely as a result of the proposed substation and overhead lines. SP Energy Networks is happy to provide further information and help where we can. This can include home visits and the measurement of electric and magnetic fields, if appropriate.
Proximity to residential areas	The site is too close to houses and small, quiet village.	The nearest property is approximately 165m to the east of the proposed substation site. Properties at Broomknowe Drive are approximately 235m to the south-east. In both cases, extensive screening in the form of mature broadleaf trees exists, and additional planting is proposed. As a regulated business, SP Energy Networks is required to balance the technical, environmental and economic aspects of a proposal before promoting it and has applied this approach here. Given the localised nature of effects of the proposed development and the existing nature of the

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
		site and interrupted character with an existing backdrop of electrical infrastructure, wirescapes and overhead line towers, effects on the surrounding landscape character are not considered to be significant. The justification for siting the proposed development at this location is set out in Chapter 3 of the EIAR and the published Substation Site Selection Report available at: https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/userfiles/file/KINN_400_kV_Site_selection_v3.pdf.
Impact on local community	At local level would be nice to compensate local community in some way for disturbance. I would like to know what financial benefits or employment benefits to local community. There would also be a decrease in property values for people living nearby. House values would be negatively affected. No mention of compensation for decrease in house prices or health issues caused by this plan.	As an electricity network operator, SP Energy Networks plays a key role in enabling the country's transition to net zero. We want that to be a fair transition, and we are committed to taking our communities on that journey with us. That is why we developed our community funds dedicated to supporting our communities and their low-carbon ambitions. Our Transmission Net Zero Fund and Green Economy Fund have been designed to accelerate decarbonisation and empower our communities to realise their net zero ambitions. By funding innovative, community-led projects, we are enabling communities to adopt greener energy solutions – from electrifying transport and installing low-carbon technology to creating warmer and more energy-efficient community spaces. These projects not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat climate change but also lead to economic benefits, such as energy cost savings and job creation, alongside social benefits, such as improved health and well-being. Since our public consultation on this project took place, we have launched a new Community Benefit Funding programme following guidance published by the UK government. Eligible community organisations based near specific qualifying electricity transmission infrastructure projects can apply for grassroots and local grants to deliver initiatives supporting local communities. Grassroots grants will support projects of up to £10,000, while local grants will offer funding for projects between £10,000 and £500,000. Further information can be found on our Community Benefits Funding web pages at: https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/community_benefits_funding.aspx. We are working with contractors to identify employment opportunities at the local level where practicable for the current project proposals.

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
		The impact on property prices is not a material consideration in the consenting decision-making process. We recognise that the visual impact of an overhead line may be an issue for many local communities and individuals, and SP Energy Networks' approach is to maximise the distance of the final route from properties wherever practicable and minimise the number of pylons required. Screening in the form of earth bunds and new planting will offer some visual mitigation in views from ground level but the nature of the overhead line supports means it is not possible to fully screen the development.
Traffic	It would cause extra traffic going through the village.	Construction of the proposed development will result in a temporary increase in the number of vehicle movements on the road network as detailed in Chapter 11 of the EIA. We will agree a construction traffic management plan with the local authorities before construction begins, to minimise disturbance and inconvenience to local people. Once operational, the proposed development would be operated remotely and therefore would generate negligible vehicle movements other than for maintenance, inspections or repairs.
Environmental impact	There are many aged trees on Hawkhill Road. I am concerned about damage that could be caused in roadworks. It takes away a greenfield site affecting the environmental area, wildlife, historic monuments, destroys the landscape and loss of trees.	All potentially significant environmental effects, including the impact on the local trees, wildlife and landscape, have been assessed as part of our EIA, including how we intend to mitigate any potential effects. The site is not subject to any allocation or designation in either Fife's or Clackmannanshire's local development plans and would be classed as countryside and so subject to policies pertaining to development in the countryside. It benefits from close proximity to the existing overhead lines and from existing access. It is generally distant from environmental designations or constraints as well as residential properties, which makes it preferable in environmental and planning terms.
Local impact	Many aspects of this project and its long-term overall impact have not been fully considered, directly as a result of political pressure to achieve previously set out goals, timescales and costs,	The justification for siting the proposed development at this location is set out in Chapter 3 of the EIA and the published Substation Site Selection Report available at https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/userfiles/file/KINN_400_kV_Site_selection_v3.pdf. Overall, taking account of and balancing environmental, technical and economic factors in line with SP Transmission's statutory duties and licence obligations means that site 7 to the southwest of the

Key theme	Example comments	SP Energy Networks' response
	which may in reality be unachievable. Existing electrical infrastructure makes it theoretically the “lowest cost, easy option”; however, it is also abundantly clear that no real consideration has been given to other equally important aspects of the project.	Kilbagie Crossing is preferred. The size of the proposed substation has been determined by the operational requirements of the electricity transmission network, including the need to accommodate switchgear, transformers, associated electrical equipment, access routes, drainage infrastructure and areas for future network connections. The likely significant environmental effects have been fully assessed in the supporting Environmental Impact Assessment Report and alternatives have been considered.
Noise impact	Many Kincardine residents already have serious concerns over the noise omitted from the Clackmannan Crossing bridge as a result of its continuing increase in use. This new proposal will most definitely add to an already worsening problem.	Baseline noise monitoring has been undertaken and noise modelling has established the operational noise characteristics of the proposed substation and overhead line works. These details will form part of the supporting information for the Section 37 application to the Scottish Government for the overhead lines and to Fife Council for the planning application for the substation. Where noise mitigation is required to address noise levels in excess of adopted standards, this will be implemented prior to commissioning of the development. The assessment of noise is detailed in Chapter 12 of the EIAR. Potential effects from overhead line can be addressed by the choice of conductor selected near the receptor or acquisition of the receptor. Potential effects from construction noise can be addressed by use of appropriate plant and construction methodologies or screening.

05.

Next steps

5 Next steps

SP Energy Networks has prepared a detailed development and design proposal, and this pre-application consultation report accompanies applications to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit, under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 and deemed planning permission under Section 57 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, for the proposed changes to the overhead lines and upgrading in voltage. The Scottish Ministers will invite representations from interested parties to inform their determination of the application.

06.

Appendices

6 Appendices

6.1 Appendix A: PAC 1 stakeholder email (6 June 2024)

SUBJECT: Public consultation on proposed new Kincardine North substation

SP Energy Networks (SPEN) is asking local people for their views on plans for a new electricity substation north of Kincardine in Fife, and a new underground cable linking it to the existing Kincardine substation

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

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

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

The new underground cable will help facilitate connections and reinforce the network by linking the substations together.

We are now asking local people and stakeholders for their views on our plans for the new substation, underground cable and alterations to the overhead lines. Public consultation runs until Thursday 18 July 2024. The consultation is being advertised in local newspapers, and a leaflet about our plans is being sent to homes and businesses in the local area.

You can find further information and project documents on our project website www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/kincardine_north_substation.aspx or by coming to our drop-in event on Tuesday 18 June, 2pm to 7pm, at Kincardine Community Centre, Anderson Lane,

Kincardine, FK10 4SF, where you can see more detailed plans and ask questions of the project team.

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

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

Kind regards

Kincardine North Community Relations Team

6.2 Appendix B: PAC 1 project leaflet



Powering Scotland Towards Net Zero

Kincardine North Substation Project

Scotland is producing more clean, green energy than ever before, and we need to strengthen the transmission network so we can get it to the homes, schools and businesses that need it.

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

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

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

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

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



Why is this substation needed?

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

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

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

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

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

What does the project involve?

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

This will include:

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

Why did you choose this site?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Overhead line changes

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

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

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





We want to hear your views

Our public consultation runs until Friday 18 July 2024.

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

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

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

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

What happens next?

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

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

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



How to contact us

Email: kincardine@communityrelations.co.uk

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

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

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

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

6.3 Appendix C: PAC 1 newspaper advertisement

Kincardine North Substation Project



We'd like your views!

Scotland is producing more clean, green energy than ever before, and we need to strengthen the transmission network so we can get it to the homes, schools and businesses that need it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Phone: 0800 470 2376

Email: kincardine@communityrelations.co.uk

Post: FREEPOST SPEN KINN

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



Our public consultation runs until Thursday 18 July 2024.

6.4 Appendix D: PAC 1 feedback form



Kincardine North Substation

Public Consultation Feedback Form



The last day for submitting feedback is Thursday 18 July 2024.

Scotland is producing more clean, green energy than ever before, and we need to strengthen the transmission network so we can get it to the homes, schools and businesses that need it.

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

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

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

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

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

This is our first round of public consultation. Your views will help us develop more detailed plans, and we will hold a second round of consultation on our detailed proposals before we apply for planning permission.

About You

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

Title: _____ First name:*

Surname:*

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

If yes, which one: _____

Address:*

Postcode: _____ Telephone: _____

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

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

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

SP5500-04_SPEN KIn North_Feedback form.indd 1

22/05/2024 11:07

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

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

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

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

Thank you

Please return the completed form to us by **no later than Thursday 18 July 2024**.

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

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

We will carry out a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment, and hold further consultation, before we finalise our proposals and submit a planning application under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

(as amended) to both Fife Council and Clackmannanshire Council. This is because the proposed site is within the Fife Council area, while the proposed access route from the A876 is within the Clackmannanshire Council area.

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

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

6.5 Appendix E: PAC 1 exhibition panels

About SP Energy Networks



We all expect electricity to be available at the flick of a switch, 24 hours a day.

In southern and central Scotland the job of making sure that happens belongs to SP Energy Networks (SPEN). In fact we have a statutory duty to do it.

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

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

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

Electricity in our changing world



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

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

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

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

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

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

Why do we need a new substation at Kincardine North?



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

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

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

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

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

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

What does the project involve?

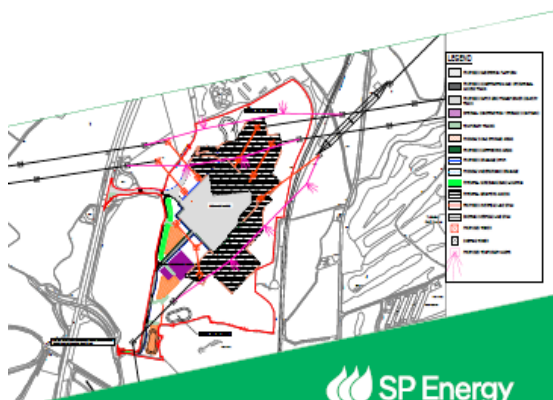


The new Kincardine North substation will include:

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

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

How did you select this site for the substation?



 SP Energy
Networks



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

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

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

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

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

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

Overhead line changes



 SP Energy
Networks



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

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

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

We want to hear your views!



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

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

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

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

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



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

How to contact us

Email: kincardline@communityrelations.co.uk

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

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

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

What happens next?



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

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

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

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

6.6 Appendix F: Stakeholder groups

MPs
Wendy Chamberlain
Richard Baker
Melanie Ward
John Nicolson
Douglas Chapman
John McNally
Alyn Smith

MSPs
Willie Rennie
Jenny Gilruth
David Torrance
Annabelle Ewing
Claire Baker
Murdo Fraser
Roz McCall
Alex Rowley
Mark Ruskell
Liz Smith
Alexander Stewart
Keith Brown
Shirley-Anne Somerville
Michelle Thomson
Evelyn Tweed

Michael Matheson

Local/community council

Fife Council

Clackmannanshire Council

Kincardine Community Council

Clackmannan Community Council

Community groups

Fife Voluntary Action

Fife Coast and Countryside Trust (FCCT)

Fife Environmental Network

Fife Nature Records Centre (Fife Nature)
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Fife Walking Club

Fife Ramblers

Fife Walking

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)

Clacks Good Food (part of FEL Scotland)

Alloa First

Clackmannanshire Tenants' and Residents' Association
--

Clackmannanshire Field Studies Society
--

Alloa Hub

6.7 Appendix G: PAC 2 stakeholder email (19 November 2024)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kind regards

Kincardine North Community Relations Team

6.8 Appendix H: PAC 2 project leaflet



Kincardine North Substation Project

Public Consultation

Scotland is producing more clean, green energy than ever before, and we need to strengthen the transmission network so we can get it to the homes, schools and businesses that need it.

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

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

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

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

Our public consultation runs until Friday 20 December 2024.

Why do we need a new substation?

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

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

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

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

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

What does the project involve?

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

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

Why did you choose this site?

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

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

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

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

Our updated plans

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

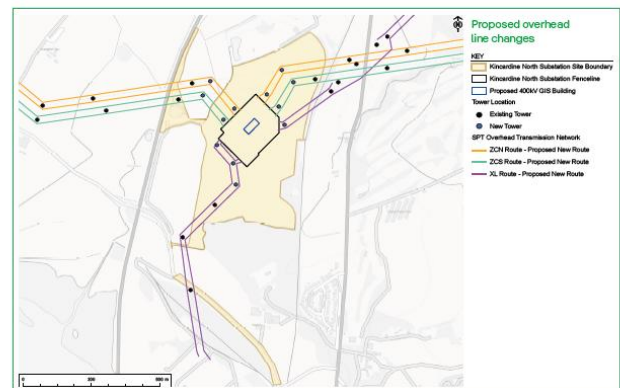
Overhead line changes

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

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

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

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





We want to hear your views

Our public consultation runs until Friday 20 December 2024.

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

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

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

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



How to contact us

You can email us at:

Email: kincardine@communityrelations.co.uk

You can call us **free of charge** on:

Freephone: 0800 470 2376

You can write to us **free of charge** at:

Freepost: FREEPOST SPEN KINN

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

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

What happens next?

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

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

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

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



6.9 Appendix I: PAC 2 newspaper advertisement

Kincardine North Substation Project



We'd like your views!

Scotland is producing more clean, green energy than ever before, and we need to strengthen the transmission network so we can get it to the homes, schools and businesses that need it.

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

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

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

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

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

Wednesday 27 November, 2pm to 7pm

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

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

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

Phone: 0800 470 2376

Email: kincardine@communityrelations.co.uk

Post: FREEPOST SPEN KINN

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



Our public consultation runs until Friday 20 December 2024.

6.10 Appendix J: PAC 2 feedback form



Kincardine North Substation and associated overhead line works

Public Consultation Feedback Form



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

Scotland is producing more clean, green energy than ever before, and we need to strengthen the transmission network so we can get it to the homes, schools and businesses that need it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

About You

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

Title: _____ First name:*

Surname:*

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

If yes, which one: _____

Address:*

Postcode:* Telephone: _____

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

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

Keeping your details safe

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

More information

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



Have your say

You can submit your comments in a number of ways

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

What we are consulting on

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

- Your views on our preferred site for the proposed new substation, including proposed access routes;
- Your views on our proposed changes to the overhead lines, including pylon locations and increasing the voltage;
- If you have comments about any of the alternatives we considered;
- If you have any comments about the consultation process;
- Any other factors you would like us to consider. We would particularly like to hear your views on your local area e.g. areas you use for recreation, local environmental features you would like us to consider.

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

Q1. Our preferred site for the proposed new substation

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

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

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

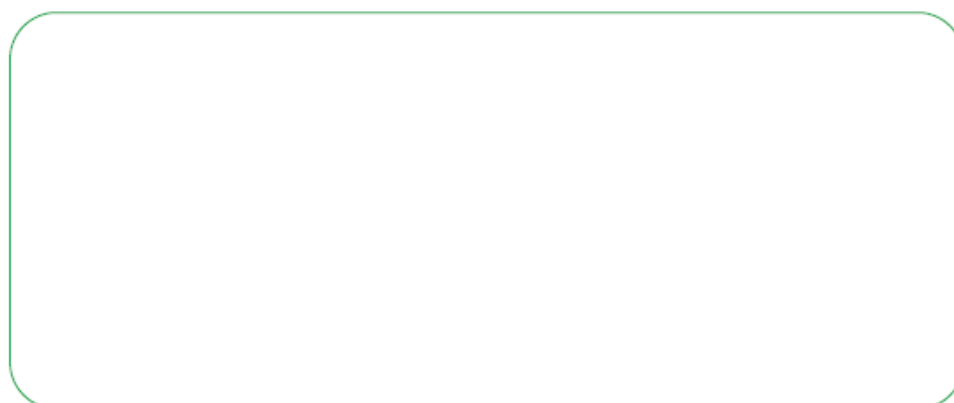




Q2. Our proposed access routes for Kincardine North substation

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

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

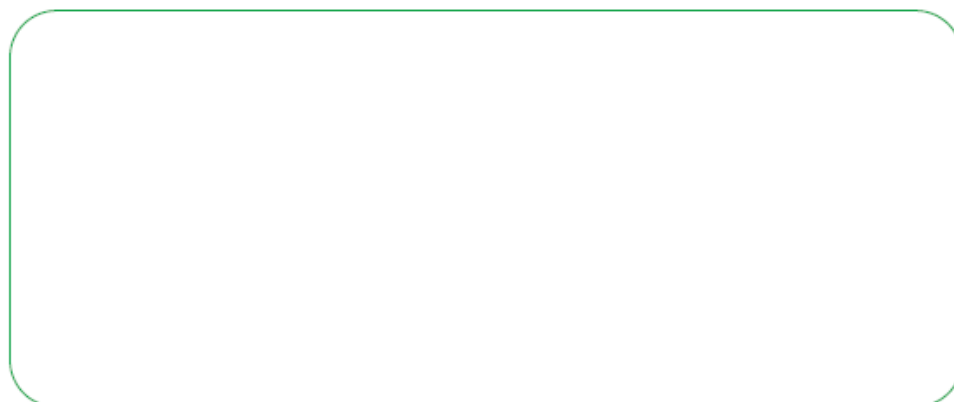


Q3. Overhead line changes

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Thank you

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.11 Appendix K: PAC 2 exhibition panels

About SP Energy Networks



We all expect electricity to be available at the flick of a switch, 24 hours a day.

In southern and central Scotland the job of making sure that happens belongs to SP Energy Networks (SPEN). In fact we have a statutory duty to do it.

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

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

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

Electricity in our changing world



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

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

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

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

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

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

Why do we need a new substation at Kincardine North?



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

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

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

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

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

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

What does the project involve?



The new Kincardine North substation will include:

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

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

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

Our plans for the substation site



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Overhead line changes



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

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

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

We want to hear your views!



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

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

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

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

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



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

How to contact us

Email: kincardine@communityrelations.co.uk

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

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

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

What happens next?



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

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

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

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

Supporting the communities we serve



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



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



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



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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Upgrading our overhead lines



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

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

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



6.12 Appendix L: Exhibition panels used at PAC 2

