Redshaw Substation

Proposed New High-Voltage Electricity Substation, Access Track and Associated Works

Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report

May 2025

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Executive Summary

This report summarises the three pre-application consultations carried out by SP Energy Networks (SPEN) for a proposed new 400kV/132kV substation adjacent to the existing 400kV overhead electricity transmission line and the B7078 road at Red Moss in South Lanarkshire. It accompanies the planning application and associated documents submitted to South Lanarkshire Council.

SPEN carried out pre-application public consultation with local residents and stakeholders from Monday 05 June 2023 to Friday 30 June 2023, consulting on initial proposals. Since then, we have continued talking to stakeholders and conducting technical and environmental studies.

We carried out further public consultation, including public exhibitions in Douglas and Crawfordjohn, in the first week of March 2025 to seek feedback on our revised plans. We then held further events four weeks later, in the same venues, to present detailed proposals and visualisations of how the substation might appear in the landscape before submitting our planning application.

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

01.
Introduction

1 Introduction

1.1 Need for the Project

1.1.1 The existing transmission grid infrastructure in the South of Scotland will, in the next few years, be operating at full capacity and will, therefore, no longer be able to accommodate the planned and potential new generation in the area. Therefore, SPEN is required to reinforce the network to facilitate future connections and ensure the network remains fit for purpose.

1.1.2 The proposed new Redshaw substation will provide security to existing supplies as it will create an alternative 'feed' should faults occur on the existing network. This will give more reliability to the network and ensure power continuity.

1.1.3 Owing to the nature of the future renewable energy projects that are planned for the area, the chosen site for the proposed new Redshaw substation will also have scope for future expansion to meet the need for these renewable energy projects to be connected to the grid. It is anticipated that approximately 2 gigawatts of renewable energy will be generated from these developments.

1.2 The Role of SP Energy Networks (SPEN)

1.2.1 SPEN owns and operates the electricity transmission and distribution networks in central and southern Scotland through its wholly-owned subsidiaries SP Transmission Plc (SPT) and SP Distribution Plc (SPD). Its transmission networks are the backbone of the electricity system in its area, carrying large amounts of electricity at high voltages across long distances. The distribution networks are local networks which take electricity from the transmission grid and bring it into the heart of communities. SPEN's transmission network in Scotland consists of more than 150 substations, more than 3,700km of overhead lines and more than 600km of underground cables.

1.3 The Proposed Substation Development

1.3.1 The proposed new Redshaw substation development will include the following infrastructure:

- A new 400kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation building, which will house gas insulated electrical switchgear and plant (approximately 91m x 30m x 12m)
- A new 132kV GIS substation building which will house gas insulated electrical switchgear and plant (approximately 56m x 17.5m 10.8m)
- A small distribution 33kV Grid Supply Point (GSP) substation building to provide ancillary power, lighting, heating and ventilation
- External grid transformers
- A new permanent access track from the local public road (B7078) to the substation compound
- Internal access roads and vehicle parking
- A new 3m high steel palisade security fence and internal fencing around the live compound
- Drainage works

- Landscaping works
- Temporary construction compound, laydown areas and associated temporary construction works.

1.3.2 The potential site layout will be similar to SPEN's Kilmarnock South substation.

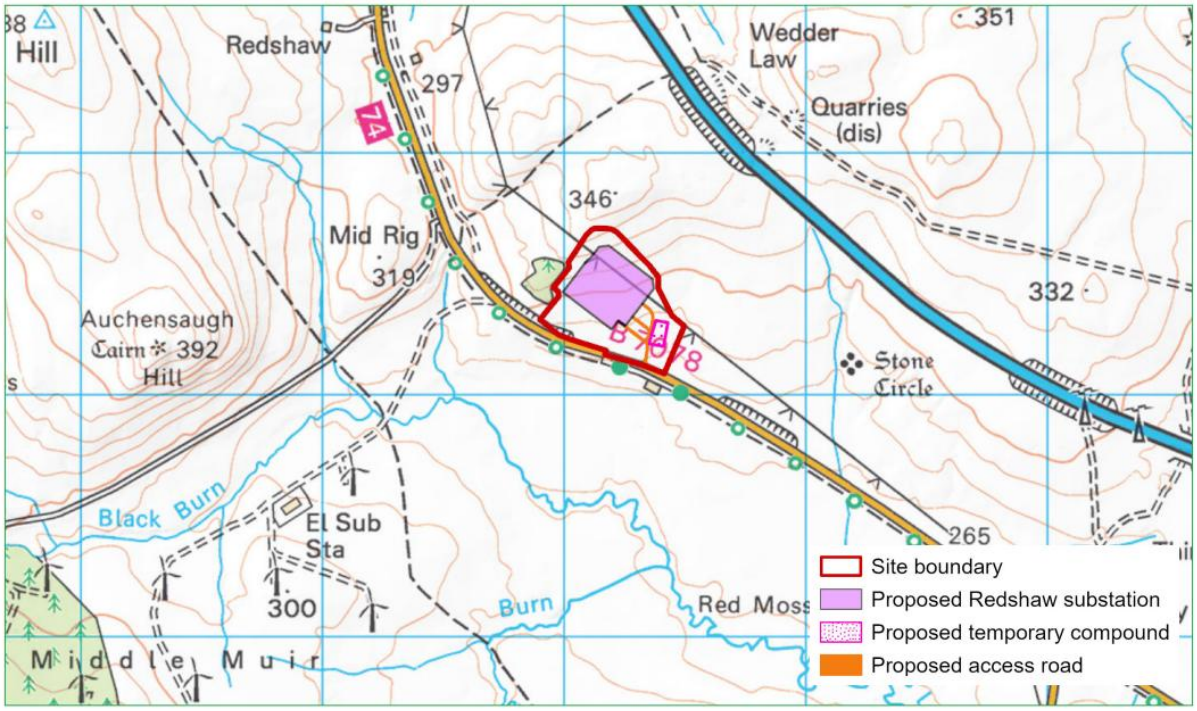
1.4 Identifying the Proposed Substation Site

1.4.1 Before selecting Redshaw as the proposed site for the new substation, SPEN worked with environmental consultants (LUC) to identify a number of possible locations close to the existing 400kV overhead line and able to accommodate a new overhead line connection from Glenmuckloch in future.

1.4.2 The overall aim of the substation siting study was to identify the most appropriate site for the proposed 400kV/132kV substation, reflecting known environmental considerations and technical considerations.

1.4.3 We began by identifying search areas within which a substation could be located. We then considered factors including the landscape, land use, forestry, biodiversity, peatland, flood risk and archaeology, to identify potential sites within those search areas.

1.4.4 We then appraised each potential site and concluded that the Redshaw site (shown below) had the least environmental impact, as well as being the most suitable from a technical and economic perspective. The site is near the former Red Moss hotel, on the opposite side of the B7078 road and next to the existing 400kV overhead line.



1.4.5 The site is preferred from a landscape and visual perspective because it would occupy lower-lying terrain, and would have the potential for both embedded and additional mitigation provided by the existing landform, minimising earthworks. The site is not situated within any nationally or local designated landscapes, it is not located in close proximity to any existing

residential properties, it is free from flood risk and can be accessed directly from the B7078 road.

1.4.6 Further information about the site selection process and assessment criteria can be found in our documents *Redshaw 400kV Substation – Substation Siting Study*, and *Redshaw 400kV Substation Appraisal – Supplementary Report* available on our project website at www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/redshaw_400kv_substation

02. Approach to Pre-Application Consultation

2 Approach to Pre-Application Consultation

2.1 Legislation and Guidance

2.1.1 SPEN is applying to South Lanarkshire Council for planning permission for the Redshaw substation development under Section 32 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended.

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

2.2 SPEN's Statutory and Licence Responsibilities

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

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

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

2.3 SPEN's Commitment to Engagement

2.3.1 Stakeholder and public involvement is an important component of the Scottish planning system. Legislation and government guidance aims 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.

2.3.2 SPEN attaches great importance to the effect that its work may have on the environment and on local communities. In seeking to achieve 'least disturbance', SPEN is keen to engage with key stakeholders, including local communities and others who may have an interest in the project. This engagement process begins at the early stages of a project's development and continues into construction once consent has been granted.

2.3.3 SPEN aims to ensure effective, inclusive and meaningful engagement with local communities, statutory consultees, stakeholders and interested parties when undertaking electricity work. Our approach to stakeholder engagement for major electricity infrastructure projects is outlined in Chapter 2 of the document *Approach to Routeing and Environmental Impact Assessment,* which is available to download at: https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/userfiles/file/SPEN_Approach_to_Routeing.pdf

2.4 Consultation Strategy and Approach

2.4.1 The strategy for consultation was designed to ensure that stakeholders:

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

2.4.2 The formal Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) submitted to South Lanarkshire Council set out a description of the development in general terms, including maps to identify the site, and set out SPEN's proposals for undertaking pre-application consultation for the substation development. Due to changes in design and the time taken to ensure this was technically viable, the original PAN expired. SPEN therefore submitted an updated PAN to notify South Lanarkshire Council that two further rounds of consultation would take place. At these event detailed proposals and visualisations of how the substation might appear in the landscape before submitting our planning application were presented.

2.4.3 SPEN used a range of communication channels to publicise and promote the consultations, which are detailed in the following sections of this document.

2.4.4 Respondents were also able to give feedback in different ways, depending on their own preference:

- Email: redshaw@communityrelations.co.uk
- Freepost: FREEPOST REDSHAW SUBSTATION
- Freephone: 0800 021 7890
- Face-to-face or in writing at public consultation exhibitions
- Statutory consultees and directly-affected landowners and residents were also able to give their views direct to the project team through personal meetings and established channels.

03. Pre-Application Consultation

3 Pre-Application Consultation

3.1 How We Consulted

3.1.1 The first round of public consultation ran in 2023, with further public consultation events and follow-up feedback events in March-April 2025. Approximately two weeks before the start of each consultation, a **project leaflet** explaining the proposals and the consultation process was mailed to more than 1,000 addresses within approximately 5km of the site. Because the site itself is in a sparsely-populated area with no close residential neighbours, SPEN took the decision to include the settlements of Douglas, Abington and Crawfordjohn within the mailing zone, to encourage participation in the consultation and to ensure the proposals were known to as many local users of the B7078 road as possible.

3.1.2 Notifications were also sent to:

- Statutory consultees (including NatureScot, Historic Environment Scotland (HES), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and South Lanarkshire Council)
- Non-statutory consultees
- Local interest groups and residents' groups, including archaeological, conservation, wildlife, tourism and community enterprise organisations, and Lanarkshire Chamber of Commerce and Trade
- Elected representatives, including local Members of the Scottish and UK Parliaments, South Lanarkshire councillors representing local wards, Duneaton Community Council and Douglas Community Council.

3.1.3 The project leaflet was the principal form of direct communication with local people. It outlined the substation proposals, including a site map and images of a similar substation development, details of public exhibitions, information on how people could give their views or contact the project team during the public consultation and address of the project website, where they could find more information or give feedback online. Copies of each of the leaflets issued ahead of consultation events can be found in **Appendix A**.

3.1.4 To promote the public consultation and the drop-in exhibitions, SPEN placed formal **newspaper advertisements** in the *Cumnock Chronicle* and the *Carluke and Lanark Gazette* in two consecutive weeks in both 2023 and February 2025 (the 2025 adverts were published again two weeks before the final feedback events to remind people they were taking place). These publications were selected as they are the primary local newspapers for the area. The notices made clear that comments received in response to the pre-application consultation were not representations to the planning authority and that if SPEN, subsequently, made an application there would be an opportunity to make formal representations at that stage. See **Appendix A** for copies of the advertisements.

3.1.5 The project leaflet, plans, information about the consultation period and public exhibition, frequently asked questions and an online feedback form were made available on the **project website** www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/redshaw_400kv_substation.aspx

3.1.6 A **feedback form** was made available in hard copy and online, and, most recently, asked the following five questions:

Q1. Proposed new substation at Redshaw

We are proposing to build a new substation at Redshaw, near the former Red Moss Hotel (on the opposite side of the B7078 road and next to the existing 400kV overhead transmission line). Do you have any comments on our proposed site for the substation?

Q2. Proposed access arrangements

We propose to access the site from the B7078 road. Do you have any comments on our access proposals?

Q3. Do you have any comments about the consultation process?

Q4. Are there any other issues you would like us to consider?

Q5. How did you find out about the project and the consultation? (please tick)

◯ Advert ◯ Media ◯ Email ◯ Leaflet ◯ Poster ◯ Website ◯ Word of mouth

◯ Social media ◯ Other (please specify)

3.1.7 Public consultation exhibitions were held as follows:

2023:

- Tuesday 20 June 2023, 2pm to 7.30pm: The Old Schoolhouse, Abington ML12 6SD
- Wednesday 21 June 2023, 2pm to 7.30pm: St Brides Centre, Douglas ML11 0PT
- Thursday 22 June 2023, 2pm to 7.30pm: Crawfordjohn Hall, Crawfordjohn ML12 6SR

2025:

- Monday 03 March, 2pm to 7pm: St Brides Centre, Douglas ML11 0PT
- Wednesday 05 March, 2pm to 7pm: Crawfordjohn Hall, Crawfordjohn ML12 6SR; and final feedback events to present detailed plans and visualisations as follows:
- Monday 31 March, 2pm to 7pm: St Brides Centre, Douglas ML11 0PT
- Tuesday 01 April, 2pm to 7pm: Crawfordjohn Hall, Crawfordjohn ML12 6SR

The venues were selected because of their proximity to the proposed substation site, as well as convenience to the local communities along the B7078.

3.1.8 At the exhibitions, people were able to drop in without appointment to view SPEN's proposals and to talk to the project team. Materials included pull- up exhibition banners, maps and copies of project documents. Visuals of the exhibition banners are contained in **Appendix A**.

3.1.9 A total of 19 people visited the 2023 exhibitions, including Brian Whittle MSP, members of Douglas Community Council and Duneaton Community Council, and local residents. Most recently in 2025, we had 16 attendees across the four events, including representatives from Douglas Community Council, Duneaton Community Council and Douglas St Bride's Community Group (DSBCG).

3.2 Summary of Feedback Received

3.2.1 No objections to the proposals were received during any of the consultation processes. In 2023, feedback from residents and stakeholders was received via in-person conversations at the public exhibitions and follow-up emails; and in 2025, by the online feedback form and a hard-copy of the feedback form, made available at the most recent consultation events.

Questions raised during the consultation

3.2.2 The questions that arose throughout the public consultation were related to the site selection process and whether there would be opportunities for screening of the development, particularly through the planting of trees and shrubs. In the 2025 consultation, a number of questions asked at the consultation events about the potential appearance of the development in the landscape were addressed through the visualisations provided. No comments were received about the consultation process itself, and no additional matters were identified for SPEN to consider.

SPEN's response to questions raised

3.2.3 Details of the site selection process (described in Section 1.4 of this report), including the different options considered for the proposed development and the criteria used for assessment and comparison, can be found in our siting study and supplementary report, which are available to view and download on the project website, along with the visualisations presented at the 2025 consultation: https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/redshaw_400kv_substation.aspx

3.2.4 The siting study outlines the Environmental Appraisal that was carried out, and the assessment that the chosen site was the most suitable for the following reasons:

- Due to its lower lying location and the potential opportunities for both embedded and additional mitigation provided by the existing landform
- Visibility from the Douglas Valley SLA will be limited by intervening landform
- Absence of nearby properties; and
- Out with any areas of flood risk and is the greatest distance from any watercourses.

3.2.5 Following the consultation, SPEN is carrying out an Environmental Impact Assessment; the principal aim of which is to ensure that the authority granting consent (South Lanarkshire Council) makes its decision in full knowledge of any likely significant effects on the environment.

3.2.6 Potentially adverse environmental effects will be addressed through the incorporation of appropriate mitigation measures into the design of the project. These will include appropriate landscape planting to screen the development and to enhance the biodiversity within the area.

3.2.7 Under National Planning Framework 4, SPEN has a requirement to ensure that developments conserve and enhance biodiversity, including nature networks within and adjacent to the site, so that they are in a demonstrably better state than without intervention, including through future management.

3.2.8 SPEN, in conjunction with landowners, NatureScot and other environmental bodies will seek to ensure that the appropriate enhancement is in keeping with the local area, including incorporation of planting of native species which promotes further diversity within

the local natural environment. Details of such will develop as the proposed development goes through the EIA and Design Stage.

04.
Next Steps

4 Next Steps

4.1.1 Following the most recent pre-application consultation events, SPEN is now carrying out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as described in Section 3.2 above.

4.1.2 Following completion of the EIA, SPEN will prepare a detailed development and design proposal and submit a planning application to South Lanarkshire Council. The Council will then invite representations from local people and stakeholders before deciding whether to grant planning permission, and to inform any conditions that may be required under permission.

05.
Appendices

5 Appendices

Appendix A: Consultation Leaflet, Newspaper Advertisement and Exhibition Banners

2023

Redshaw Leaflet

Press Advertisement

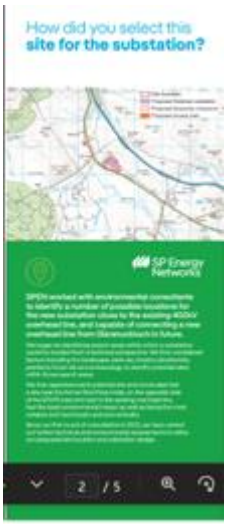
Exhibition Banners

2025

Redshaw Leaflet

Press Advertisement

Exhibition Banners



What happens **next?**