

Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade Project

Public consultation

Scotland is producing more clean, green energy than ever before, and we need to strengthen the electricity 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 emissions by 2045 in Scotland and 2050 in the UK.

To help make this happen, we need to increase the capacity of the transmission network between Denny and Wishaw. This includes extending some electricity substations, increasing the voltage of some existing overhead lines, and installing a new overhead transmission

line between Bonnybridge and a point near Glenmavis, where it will be joined to an existing overhead line – allowing the additional green energy to get to where it's needed.

We consulted local people on our plans in February 2025. We are now holding a further public consultation so local people can give us their views on our updated plans.

This leaflet tells you about our proposals, where to find more information and how you can comment.

**Our public consultation runs from Monday
27 October to Friday 21 November 2025.**



Why is this project needed?

The electricity transmission network in central Scotland was first built in the 1920s. Since then, it has grown and evolved to meet the region's industrial needs and serve its expanding population.

Today, the existing electricity network in Falkirk and Lanarkshire includes overhead lines operating at 275kV (275,000 volts) and 132kV (132,000 volts), which transport energy through the region and also serve local communities through Grid Supply Points (GSPs) at Bonnybridge, Cumbernauld, Denny North, Easterhouse, Newarthill and Wishaw.

SP Energy Networks (SPEN) is responsible for the transmission and distribution of electricity in central and southern Scotland. We have an obligation to maintain, operate and invest in our network to secure a safe, reliable and economic service for current and future customers.

Our planning work with the National Energy System Operator (NESO) has identified that, for the UK to meet its net-zero carbon emissions targets, we need to reinforce the network between Denny and Wishaw so it has extra capacity to transmit the additional green energy. This reinforcement includes upgrading some existing overhead lines from 275kV to 400kV and building the proposed new overhead transmission line between Bonnybridge and a point near Glenmavis.



What does the project involve?

The Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade Project includes:

- construction of a new double-circuit 275kV/400kV overhead line running north-south from Bonnybridge 275kV substation to a point near Glenmavis in North Lanarkshire, where it will connect to the existing 275kV overhead line (known as XX route) that runs between the Easterhouse and Newarthill 275kV substations;
- a 'spur' from the new overhead line to Cumbernauld substation (approximately 750m) and removal of the existing 11km 132kV overhead line (CB route) between Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld substations;

- extending our existing substations at Bonnybridge, Denny North, Cumbernauld and Wishaw, and internal works at Easterhouse and Newarthill substations, so we can install additional electrical equipment and carry out drainage, access and security fencing works where required;
- installing new transformers at Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld substations;
- replacing the conductors (wires) and associated equipment on existing overhead lines so we can operate them at 400kV, as follows:
 - Newarthill to Wishaw (XR route) – 16km
 - Newarthill to Easterhouse (XX route) – 15.4km
 - Denny North to Bonnybridge (ZG route) – 4km
- alterations to the overhead lines where they enter the substations (to connect them to the new equipment);
- moving the existing XX overhead line further away from residential properties at Grantown Gardens, Glenmavis, through a new 'tee-in' arrangement to the proposed new overhead line and
- undergrounding of two sections of the existing 132kV overhead line (AA route) between Bonnybridge and Bathgate, where it is crossed by the proposed new overhead line.



What will the new overhead line look like?

The new overhead line will be carried on steel lattice towers (pylons). The towers will have three arms on each side, and each arm will carry a set of conductors (wires).

This is because there will be a circuit on each side of the towers, and each circuit has three sets of wires. The towers are made of galvanised steel. They are grey in colour and become duller in appearance after about 18 months.

The towers have a standard height of 46 metres but can go up to 63 metres where required to ensure electrical safety clearance to the ground. They are placed approximately 300 metres apart, but the exact distance between them will vary depending on the landscape and any obstacles, such as roads, rivers and railway lines.

Public consultation

Our public consultation runs from Monday 27 October to Friday 21 November 2025.

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 one of our public exhibitions, where you can see our plans in more detail and ask questions of the project team.



Date	Location
Tuesday 28 October, 2pm to 7pm	Netherton Community Centre , Old Manse Road, Wishaw ML2 0EP
Wednesday 29 October, 2pm to 7pm	Bonnybridge Community Education Centre , Bridge Street, Bonnybridge FK4 1AA
Thursday 30 October, 2pm to 7pm	Glenmavis Social Club , Quarryside Street, Glenmavis ML6 0PS
Monday 03 November, 2pm to 7pm	Newarthill Community Facility , High Street, Newarthill ML1 5JU
Tuesday 04 November, 2pm to 7pm	Cumbernauld New Town Hall , Bron Way, Cumbernauld G67 1DZ
Wednesday 05 November, 2pm to 7pm	Gartcosh Social Club , Beard Crescent, Eastgate, Gartcosh G69 8AT
Friday 07 November, 2pm to 7pm	Dunipace Parish Church Hall , 175 Stirling Street, Dunipace, Denny FK6 6JR

All project documents are 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.

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.

What happens next?

Once pre-application consultation is complete and feedback received on our proposals, we will complete a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The EIA Report will be submitted with our consent applications.

SP Energy Networks intends to submit three applications to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 and section 57 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended), as follows:

- for the proposed new overhead line and associated works;
- for the uprating of ZG route from 275kV to 400kV, the extension of Denny North and Bonnybridge substations and associated works; and

- for the uprating of XX route and XR route from 275kV to 400kV, internal works at Easterhouse and Newarthill substations and the extension of Wishaw substation.

The proposed extension to Cumbernauld substation will be subject to a separate application to North Lanarkshire Council under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.



How to contact us

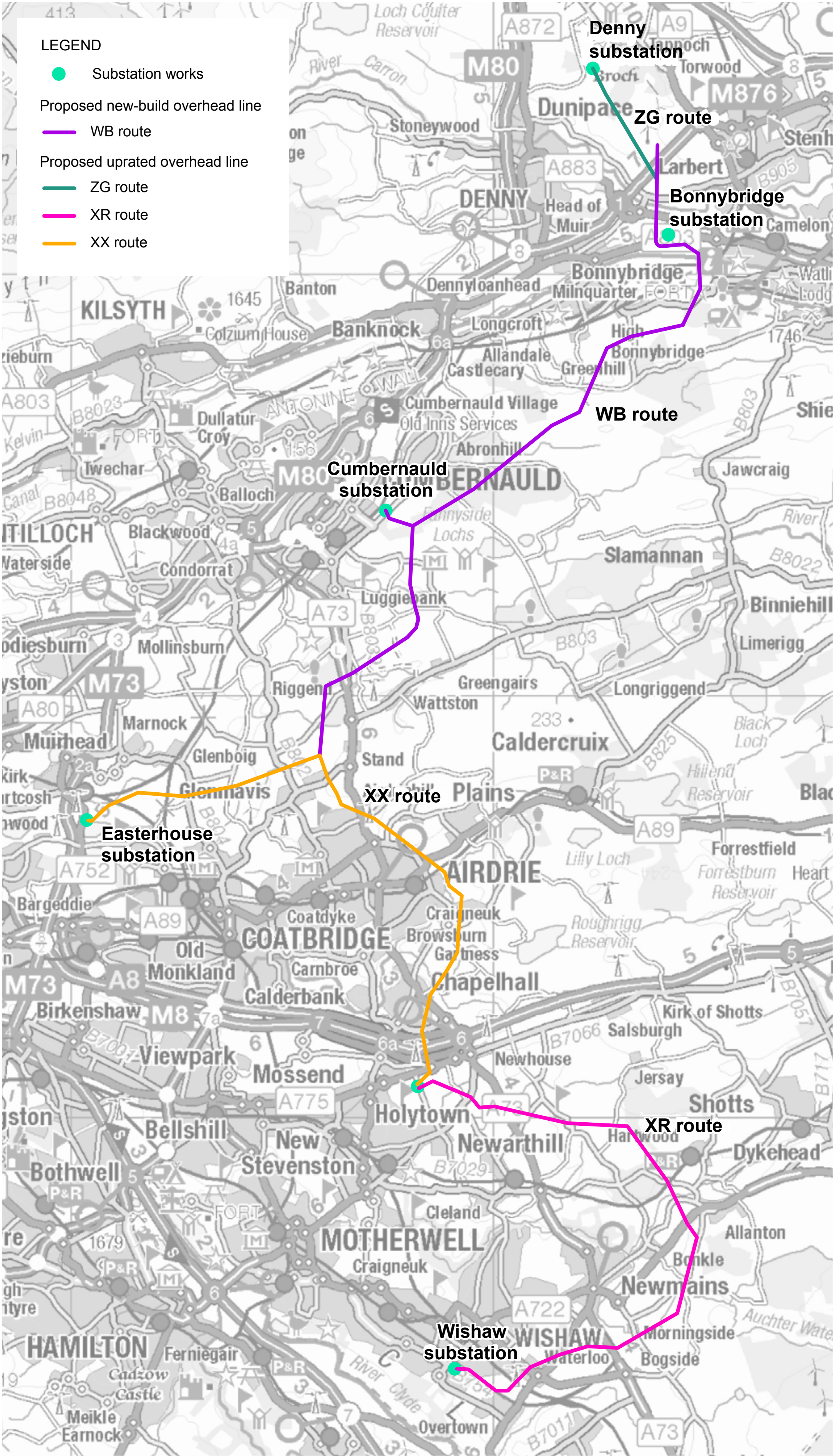
Website: www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/denny_wishaw.aspx

Email: info@dennywishaw.co.uk

Freephone: **0800 470 2376**

Freepost: **FREEPOST DENNY WISHAW UPGRADE**





Our poposed route

The map shows our proposed route for the new overhead line, the existing overhead lines to be uprated and the substations we need to extend.

SP Energy Networks worked with environmental consultants to identify potential routes for the new overhead line between Bonnybridge and the existing Easterhouse–Newarthill overhead line near Glenmavis.

We appraised each option for its impact on a range of criteria including local views, the character of the landscape, biodiversity, forestry, cultural heritage, flood risk and other land uses. Our proposed route is the one that we believe achieves the best balance between our technical requirements and minimising the impact on the environment and the people who live, work and enjoy spending their time in the area.

The new line leaves Bonnybridge substation and crosses the Antonine Wall at a location that minimises potential effects on the World Heritage Site. It passes east of Rough Castle, using dips in the landscape and screening provided by existing trees to reduce visibility in the landscape.

The route then passes west of the Slamannan Plateau Special Protection Area (SPA) and crosses Palacerigg Country Park. We can't avoid crossing the park because of the need to avoid the SPA and nearby homes on the edge of Cumbernauld, but we will use the landscape and mature trees to screen the new line from views as much as possible.

A 'spur' from the new line to Cumbernauld substation will allow us to remove the existing 11km 132kV overhead line (CB route) in its entirety between Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld.

The route then avoids the Community Growth Areas and planned development north of Airdrie and east of the A73, before terminating at a point near Glenmavis where it joins onto the existing Easterhouse–Newarthill overhead transmission line. A new 'tee-in' section will be created at this point, allowing us to move the existing XX overhead line away from residential properties at Granttown Gardens and Eden Court.

Following feedback received in our previous consultation in February 2025, and further technical and environmental assessments, we have now developed a detailed design and alignment for the new overhead line, including locations for towers, access routes and working areas, and detailed designs for the substation extensions. We have also identified access points and working areas for the existing overhead lines to be uprated in voltage.

Detailed maps can be viewed at our public exhibitions and on our project website, where you can also view and download documents with more information about the project.

