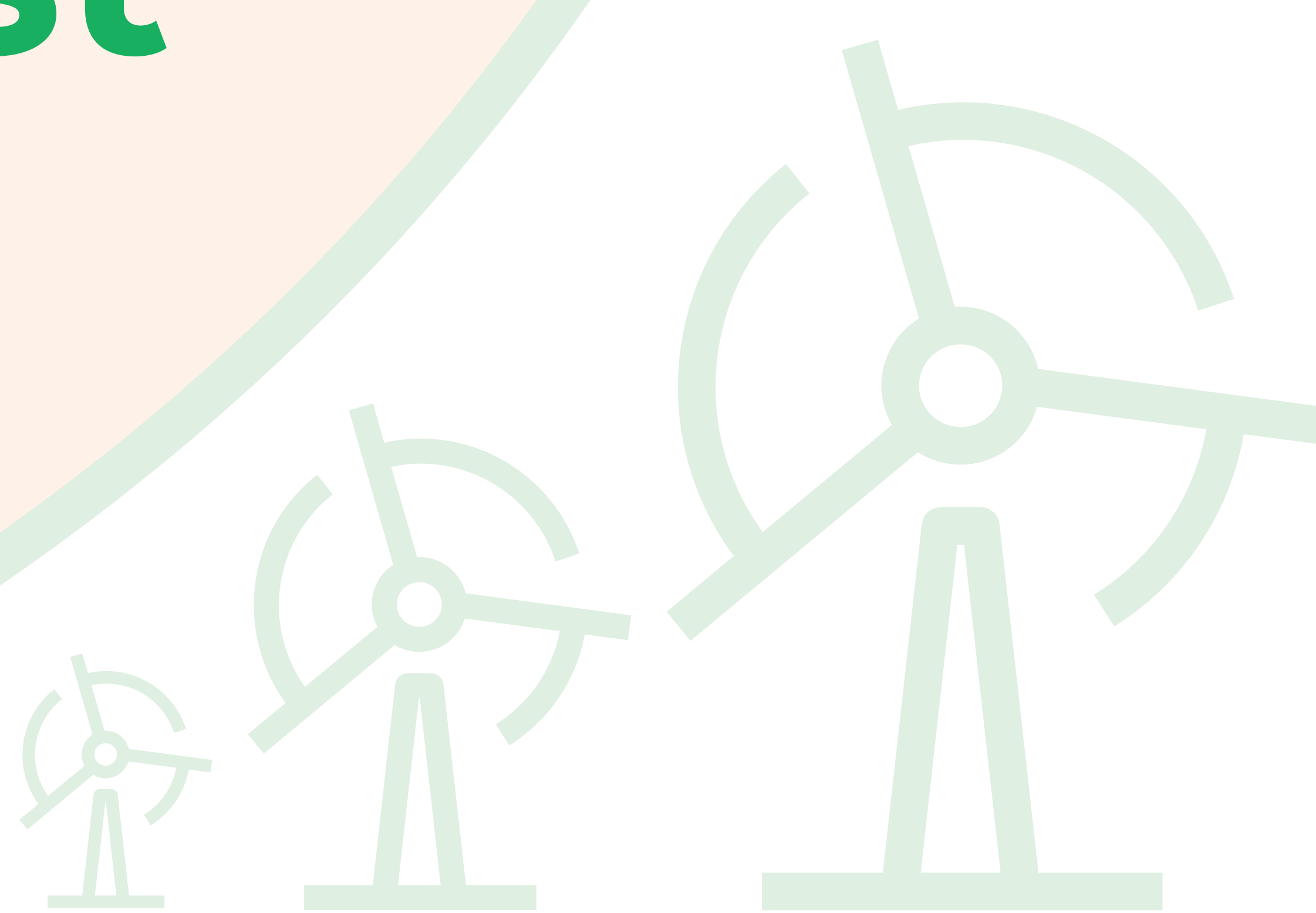


Oliver's Forest Wind Farm Connection



INTRODUCTION

Oliver's Forest Wind Farm Connection

Thank you for taking the time to attend our consultation event.

This event forms part of the public consultation running from 9 June 2025 until 25 July 2025.

This is an opportunity to learn more, ask questions and have your say on our initial plans for the Oliver's Forest Wind Farm Connection.

Our plan is to connect the proposed Oliver's Forest Wind Farm and the proposed Redshaw Substation located approximately 11 km south of Biggar, within the South Lanarkshire and Scottish Borders Council areas, through a combination of new overhead lines and underground cables (subject to further technical studies).

The boards around the room provide information about the project, how we have developed the plans and how you can get involved.

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



Your views on our preferred route.



If you have comments about any of the alternative routes we considered.



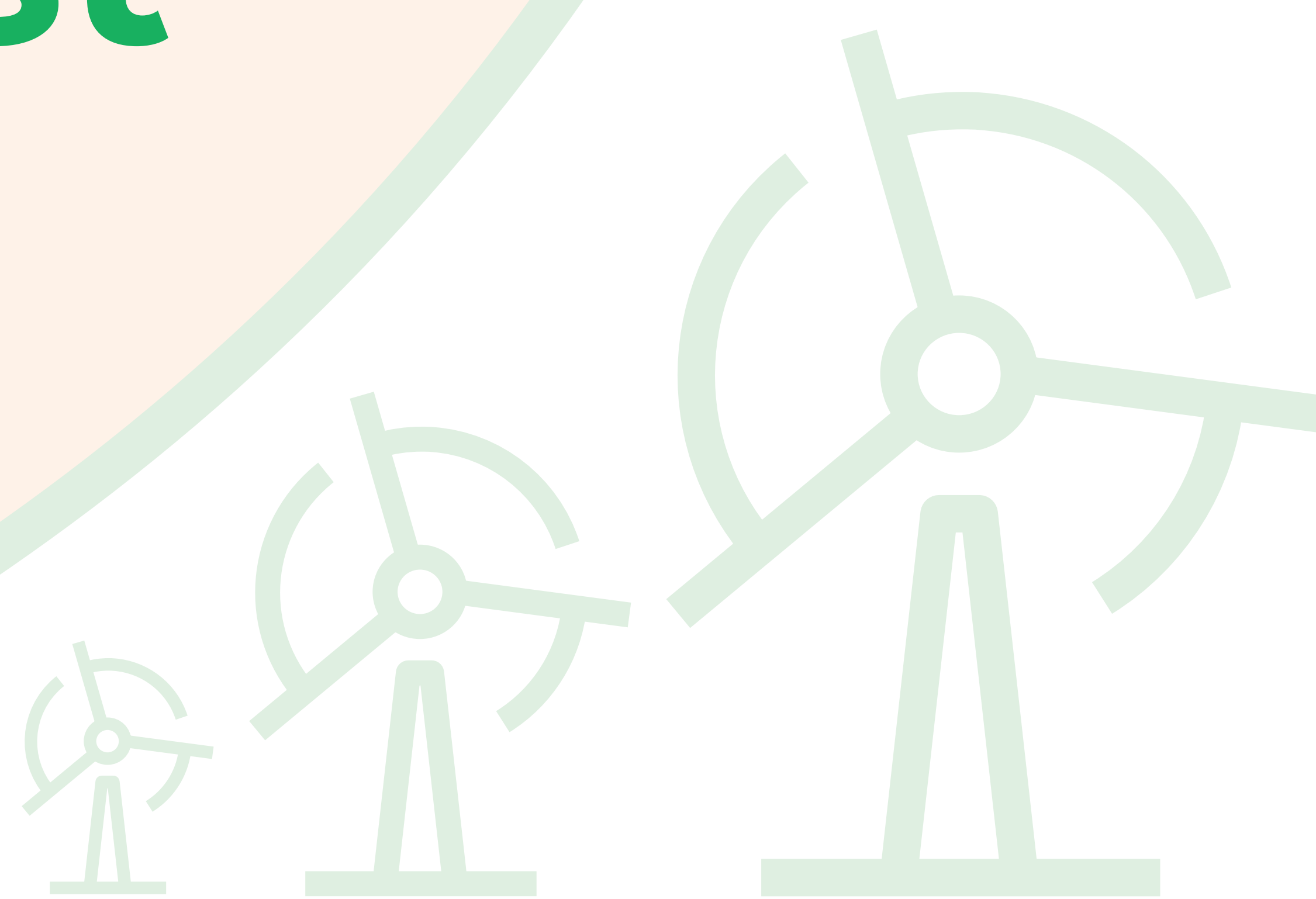
Any other factors you would like us to consider.

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, and any plans you may have to build anything along the route.

We will publish a report of the first round of public consultation in the coming months and give you another chance to comment on the detailed proposal as the project develops.



Oliver's Forest Wind Farm Connection



WHY WE NEED A NEW ELECTRICITY CONNECTION

Who we are

SP Energy Networks is a Distribution and Transmission Network Operator. We keep electricity flowing to homes and businesses throughout Central and Southern Scotland, North Wales, Merseyside, Cheshire and North Shropshire. We do this through the network of overhead lines and underground cables which we own and maintain. Today's focus is our transmission network, which we operate in Central and Southern Scotland, through SP Transmission.

Think of it as a 'superhighway' which takes electricity generated from power stations, windfarms and various other utilities and transports it through a transmission network, consisting of over 4,500 km of overhead lines and over 600 km of underground cables.

Our transmission network has over 150 substations and over 100 grid supply points. This is where it takes the high voltage supply and reduces it to the low voltage needed for the distribution network ready to power homes and businesses. SP Energy Networks transmits and distributes energy to over 3.5 million homes in the South of Scotland, North Wales and the North West of England and is responsible for the operation and maintenance of over 105,000 km of overhead lines and underground cables.

National Net Zero targets

The Scottish Government has set a target of Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 – meaning that Scotland's contribution to climate change would end, definitively, in one generation.

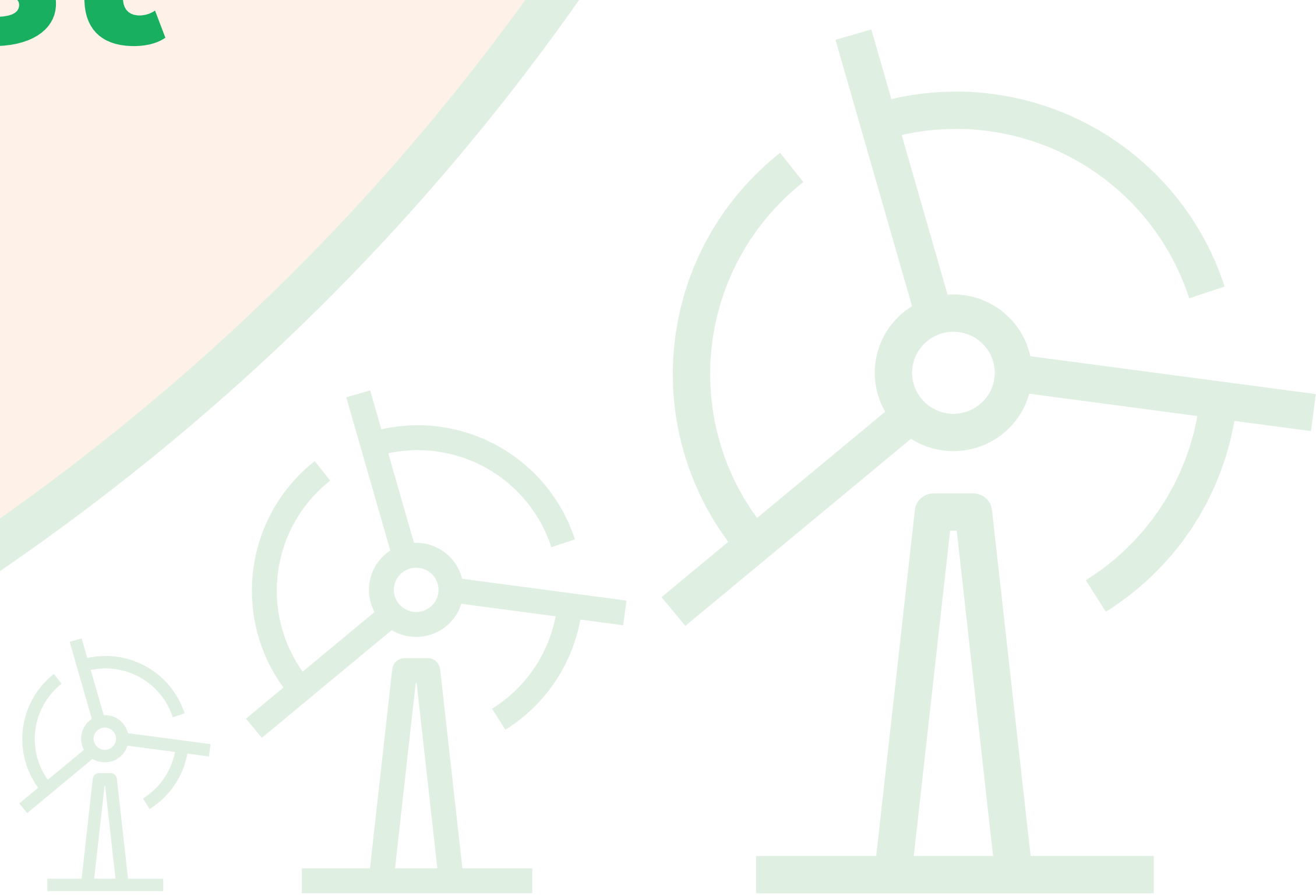
For Scotland and the UK to meet their targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to Net Zero, we need to increase network capacity so we can transport more green energy to our homes, schools and businesses, where it is needed.

Role of renewable energy

Renewable energy is replacing older fossil-fuelled power stations. At the same time, the demand for electricity is growing through increased electrification of heating, industry, and transport. We need to upgrade Scotland's energy transmission network to increase our capacity and support the increasing demand.

Creating a new connection between the proposed Oliver's Forest Wind Farm and proposed Redshaw Substation will support the existing electricity network and accommodate future levels of renewable energy generated by the proposed Oliver's Forest Wind Farm.

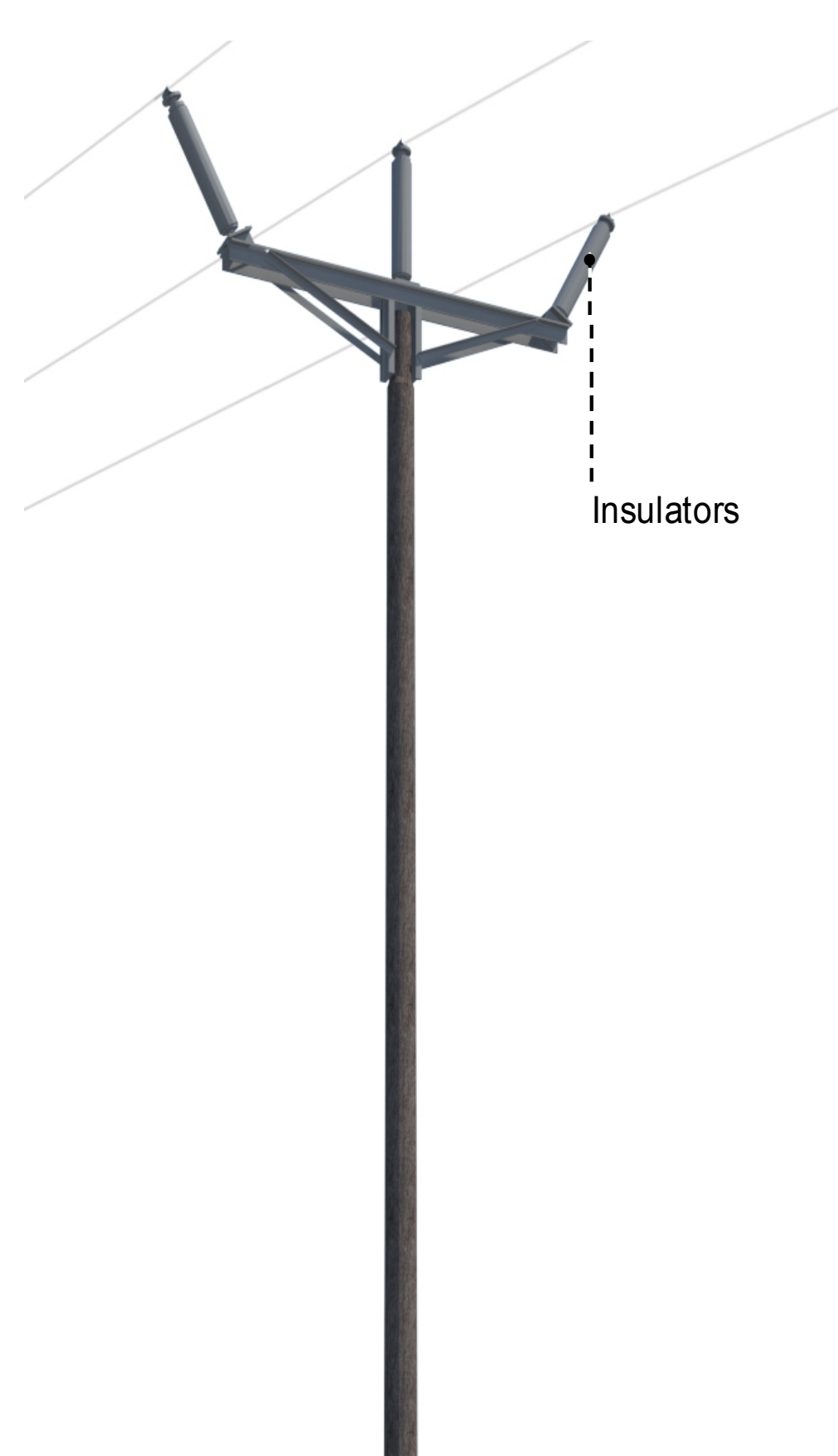
Oliver’s Forest Wind Farm Connection



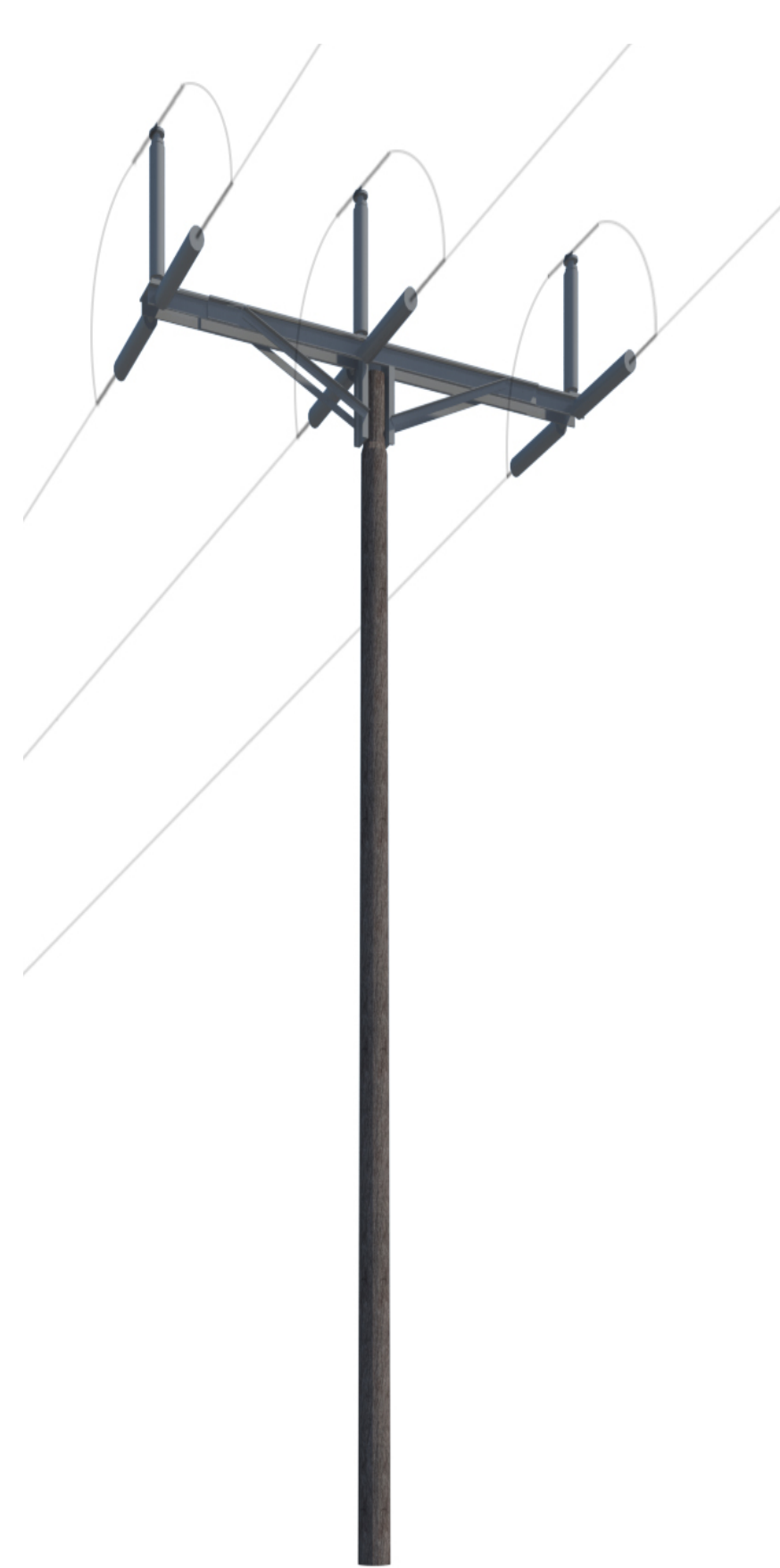
ABOUT THE PROJECT

Connecting the proposed Oliver’s Forest Wind Farm with the proposed Redshaw Substation will require the construction of new electricity transmission infrastructure. We estimate this will include approximately 27 km of both overhead lines and underground cables. The final connection length and ratio of overhead lines and underground cables will depend on topography, cumulative developments, environmental designations and routeing through areas containing residential properties.

The 132kV overhead line connection will be supported by trident wooden poles, specifically ‘H’ poles for most of the route.



Intermediate



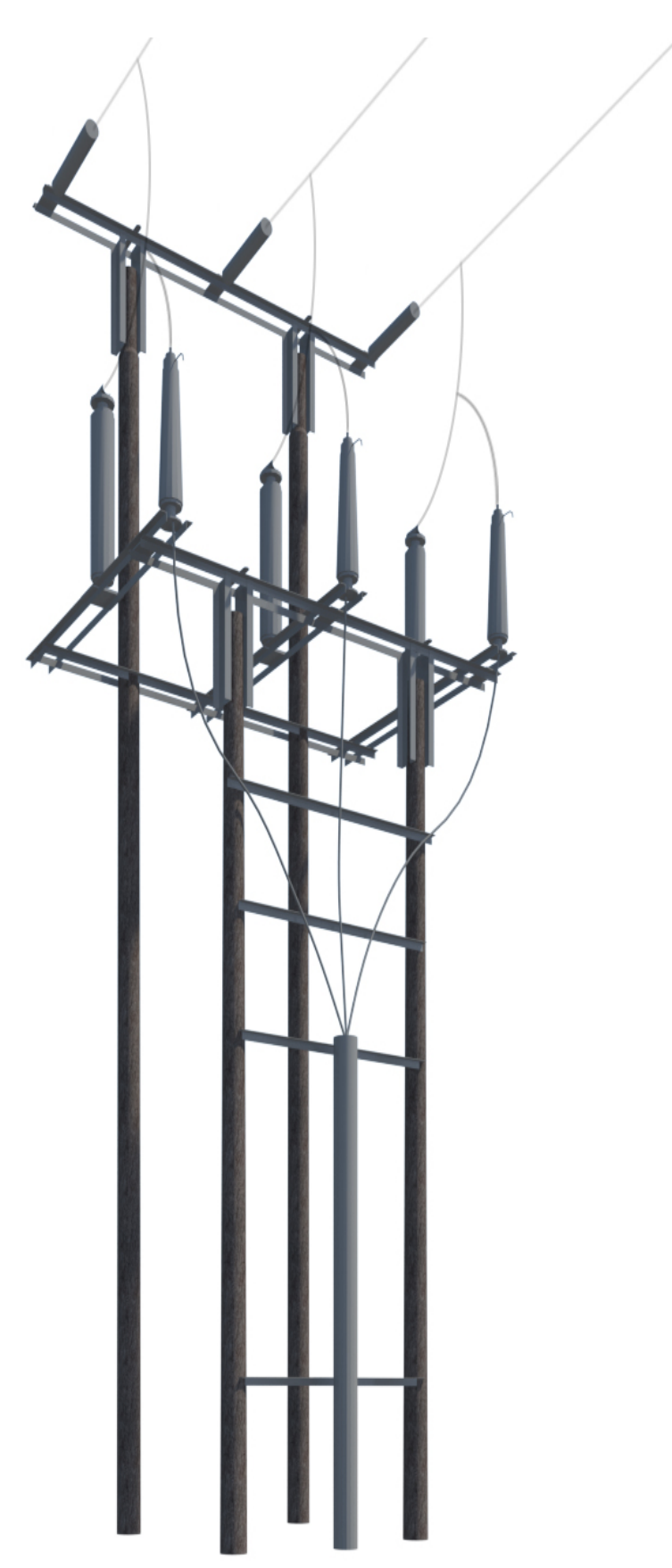
Angle



Intermediate ‘H’ Pole



Angle ‘H’ Pole



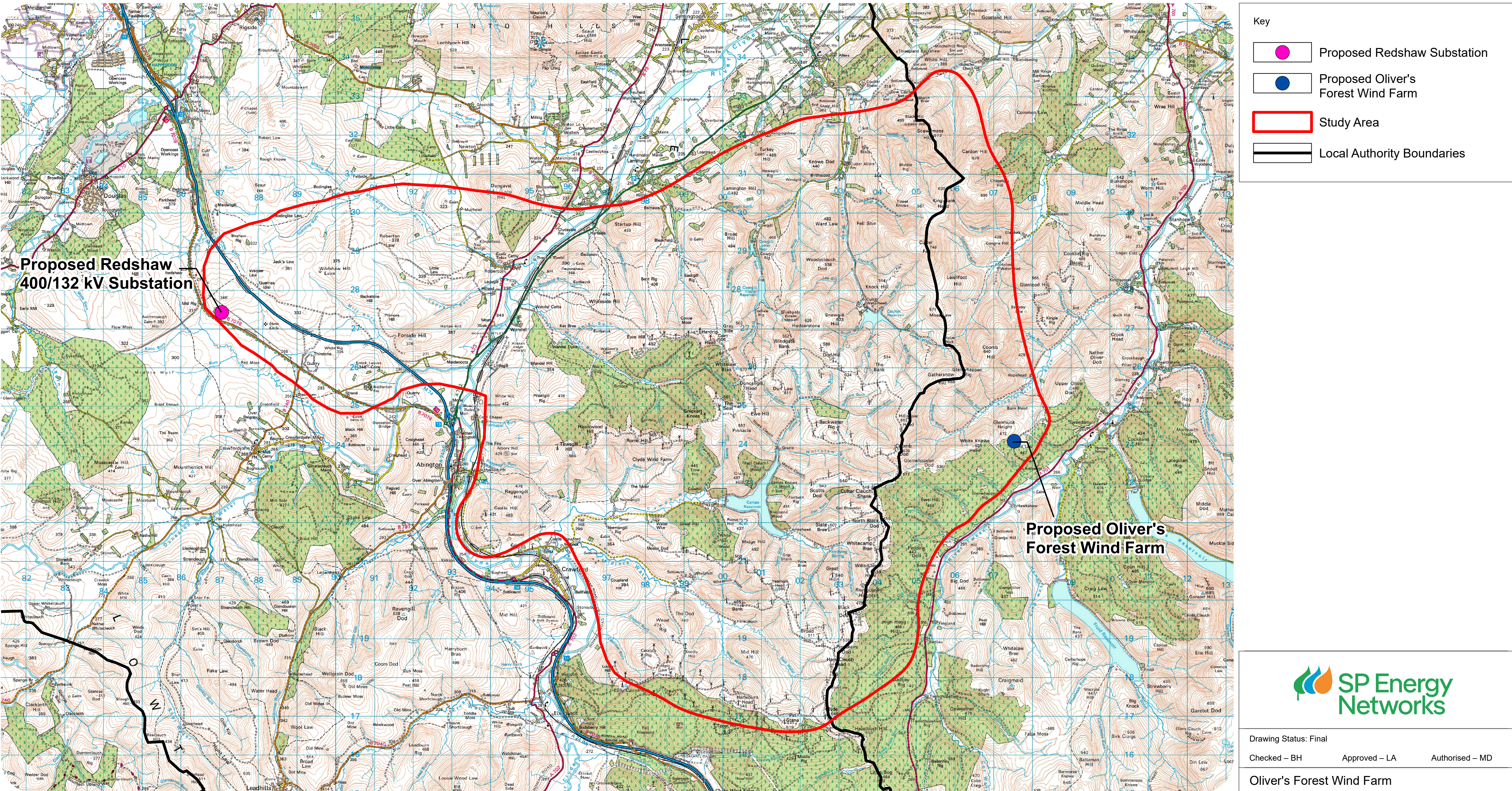
Terminal ‘H’ Pole

Wooden poles have a maximum height of 18 metres. However, this can be reduced depending on the structure or features of the land.

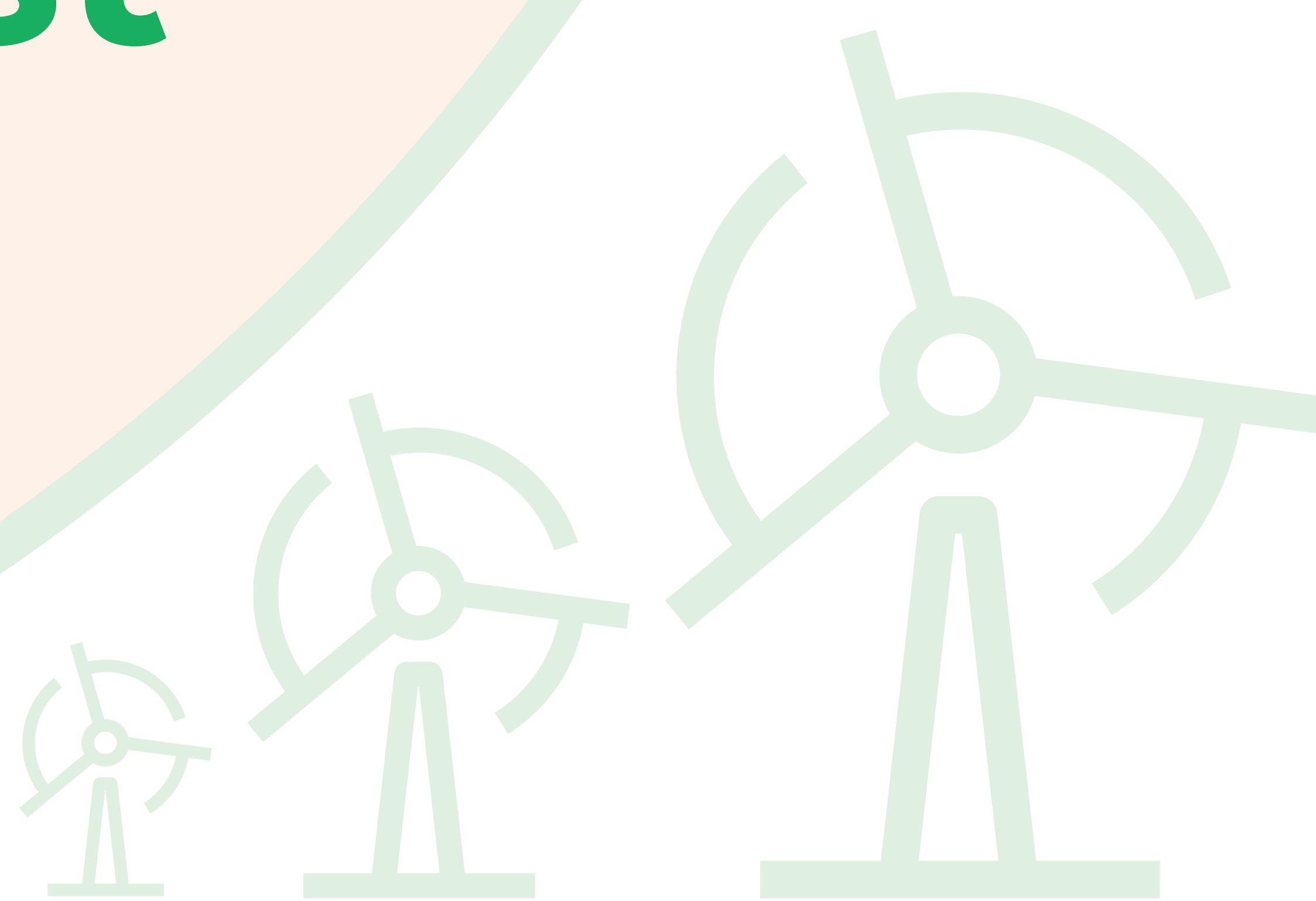
The distance between wooden pole is normally between 90 metres and 110 metres, depending on the landscape. This may vary based on factors such as terrain and anticipated weather conditions.

The precise height and span of the poles will be determined once the detailed route has been agreed.

The map below shows the location of the proposed Oliver’s Forest Wind Farm and proposed Redshaw Substation.



Oliver's Forest Wind Farm Connection

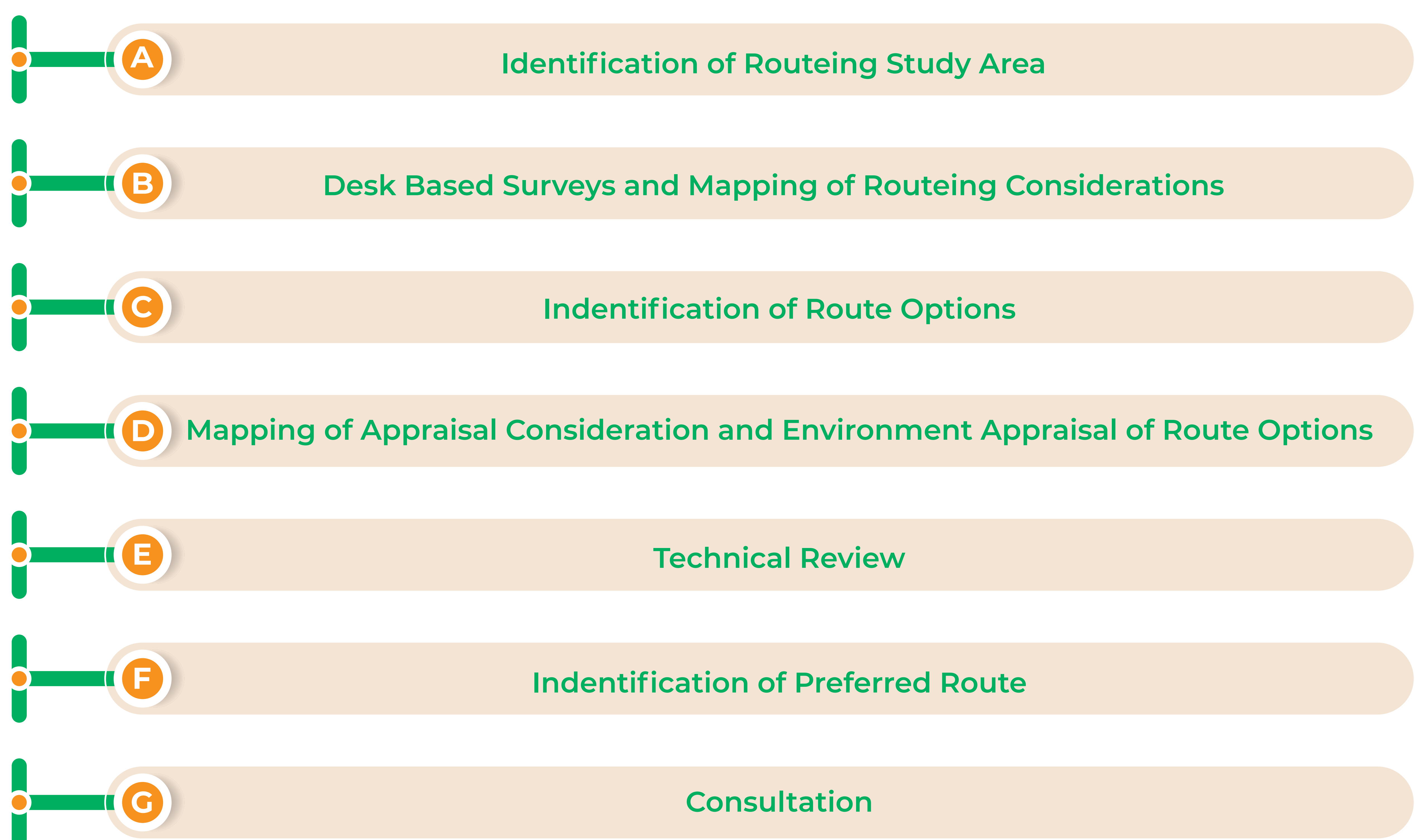


IDENTIFYING THE PREFERRED ROUTE

The routing objective for this project was to identify a technically feasible and economically viable overhead line route between the proposed Oliver's Forest Wind Farm and the proposed Redshaw substation that causes the least disturbance to people and the environment.

Our methodology for identifying a preferred route is illustrated below:

ROUTEING METHODOLOGY



Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) conducted on proposed route

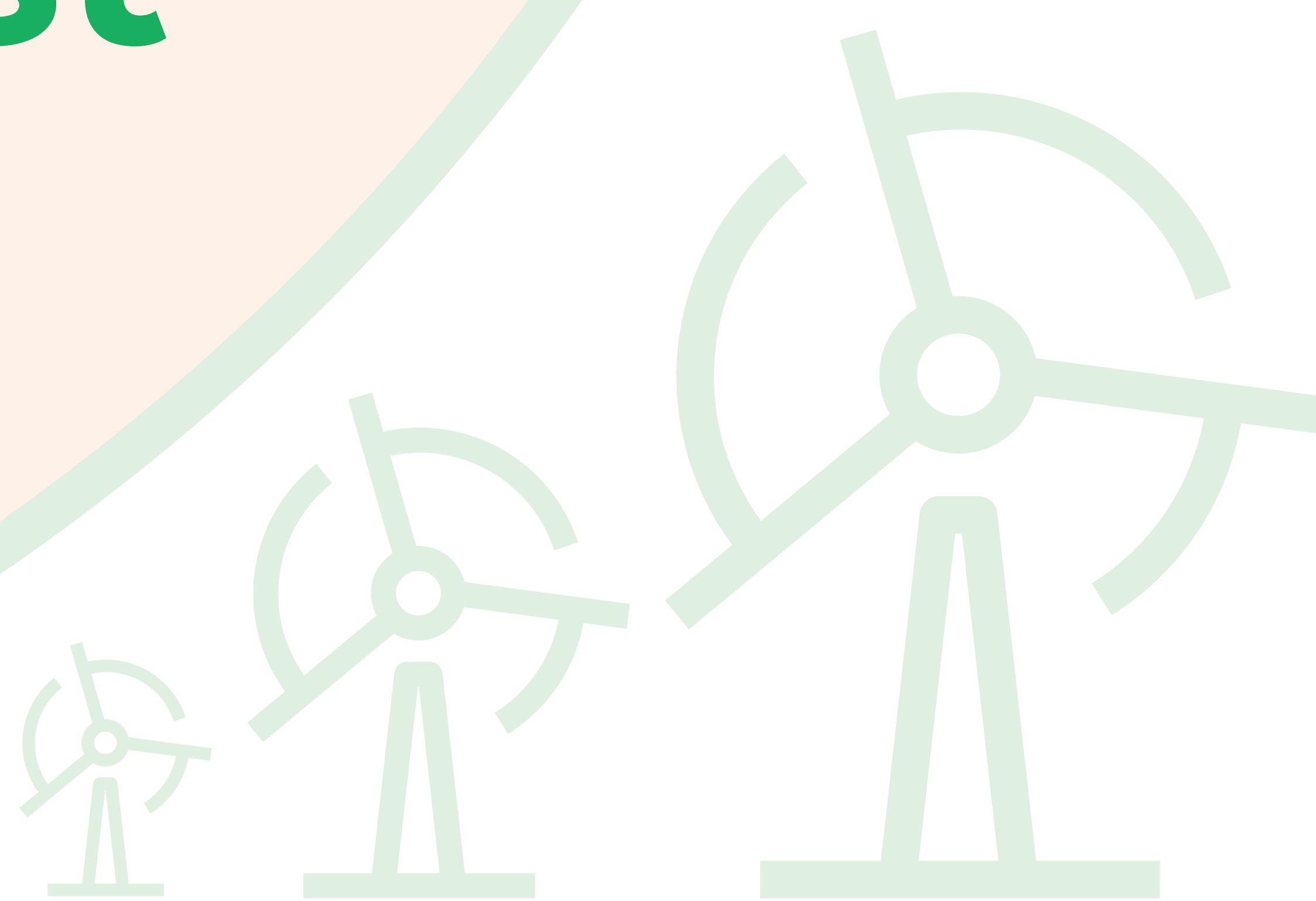
In order to identify a preferred route, we considered a number of potential route options within a 5 km study area.

The potential route options were identified by mapping areas which need to be avoided wherever possible, such as areas of natural and cultural value.

Route options were also investigated for their potential effects on the following:

- Landscape and visual amenity, including local views and the character of the landscape
- Biodiversity, including ecology
- Forestry and woodland, including native and ancient woodland
- Hydrology, hydrogeology and geology, including flood risk and areas of peat
- Cultural heritage
- Land uses including agriculture
- Recreation and tourism
- Technical considerations, including topography, existing infrastructure and distance

Oliver's Forest Wind Farm Connection



THE PREFERRED ROUTE

After careful consideration and analysis of different route options, the preferred route was identified on the following basis:

Lower impact on residential properties than the other route options

Least impact on landscape in comparison to the other route options

Fewer potential impacts on forestry and ancient woodland than the other route options

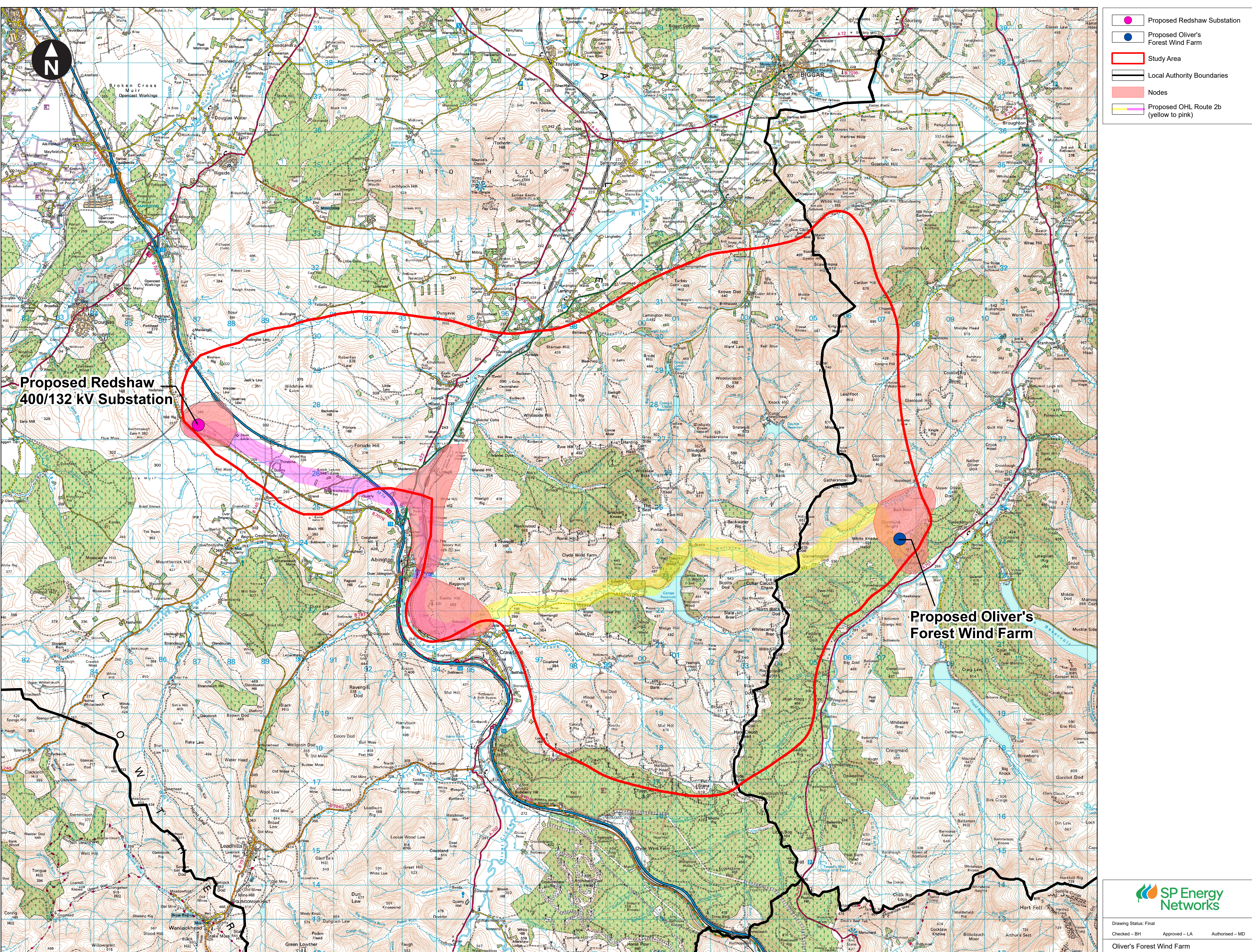
Fewer core path crossing points than the other route options

Preferred from a technical perspective due to the topography and shorter route length required in comparison to the other route options

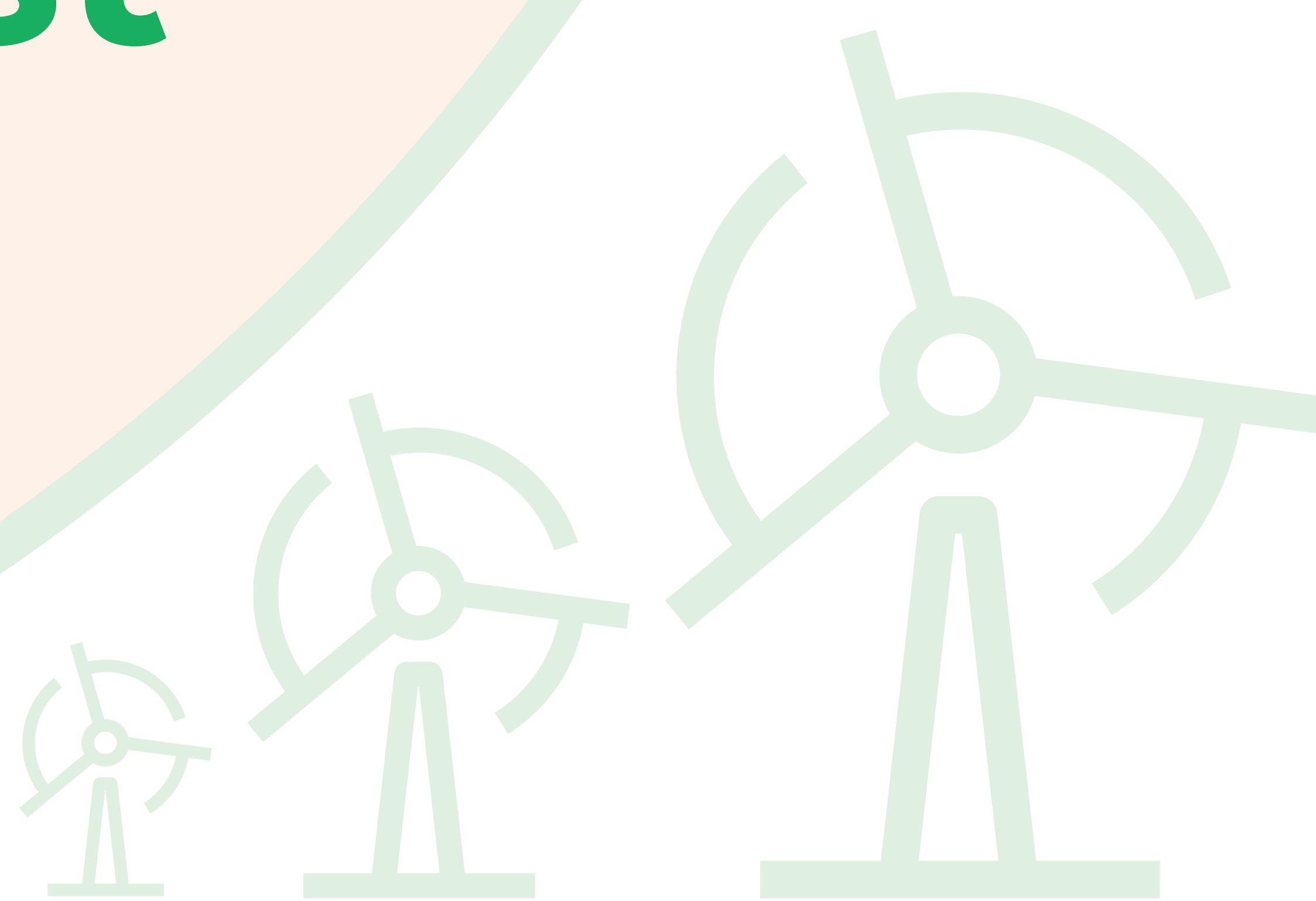
More information about the process we followed to identify and select the preferred route can be found in the Routeing and Consultation Report and SPEN's Approach to Routeing and Environmental Impact Assessment document, both available on the project website.

The map below shows our preferred route for the new overhead powerlines.

The route runs from the proposed Oliver's Forest Wind Farm to the proposed Redshaw Substation.



Oliver's Forest Wind Farm Connection



HAVE YOUR SAY AND NEXT STEPS

We value your feedback

This consultation runs from 9 June 2025 until 25 July 2025.

Your feedback will help inform the next phase of the project including the detailed route development.

There are a number of ways you can provide feedback:



Oliver's Forest Wind Farm Connection Project, Land and Planning Team , SP Energy Networks, 55 Fullarton Drive Glasgow, G32 8FA



Complete the online version of the form on our website
www.spenetworks.co.uk/pages/olivers_forest_connection.aspx



Email us your comments at
oliversforestproject@spenergynetworks.co.uk

Hard copies of documents

All of our documents and materials are available to view online on our website or at our events. If you have difficulty accessing the internet, you can request a copy of our consultation documents by getting in touch with our team.



→ Call us on **07516461129**



→ Email us at **oliversforestproject@spenergynetworks.co.uk**



→ Visit our website **www.spenetworks.co.uk/pages/olivers_forest_connection.aspx**

Next steps

We will use the feedback received during this first round of consultation to influence the next phase of development.

1. Feedback received during the first round of consultation on our preferred route will be taken into consideration alongside findings of environmental surveys to help identify the final proposed alignment for the overhead line.
2. We will publish a report of the first round of public consultation in the coming months and give you another chance to comment on the detailed proposal as the project develops.
3. An environmental impact assessment screening request will be submitted to the Scottish Ministers to determine whether an environmental impact assessment (EIA) will be required for the proposed Oliver's Forest Wind Farm connection.
4. If the Screening Opinion considers the development to require an EIA, we will submit a Scoping Opinion request to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) to confirm the scope of the EIA.
5. The final Route will be submitted to the Scottish Government as part of an application for Section 37 consent under the Electricity Act 1989.
6. If our application is successful, we will begin construction in late 2029.

Please note hat any comments made during this consultation stage are not representations to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit, which will determine any subsequent application for consent. Following the submission of the Section 37 application, interested parties will have the opportunity to make representations to the Scottish Government on these proposals.

