

Welcome

Thank you for taking the time today to visit this consultation event.

SP Energy Networks is proposing to construct a new 132 kilovolt (kV) overhead line to connect the proposed Scienteuch Wind Farm to the existing electricity network at Coylton Substation.

This exhibition covers:

- the proposed development, why it is needed and the work we are doing to avoid and minimise potential environmental impacts;
- how to respond to this consultation and by when;
- what we will do with any feedback we receive and our next steps in the development of these proposals; and
- information about SP Energy Networks and the work we do to help meet the UK Government's renewable energy and net zero targets



About SP Energy Networks

SP Energy Networks is a distribution and transmission network operator. We keep electricity flowing to homes and businesses throughout Central and Southern Scotland as well as North Wales, Merseyside, Cheshire and North Shropshire.

We do this through the 105,000km network of overhead lines and underground cables which we own and maintain.

SP Transmission is a wholly owned subsidiary of SP Energy Networks and is responsible for the transmission of electricity in Central and Southern Scotland. We transmit and distribute energy to over 3.5m homes in Central and Southern Scotland, North Wales and North West England.

A renewable future

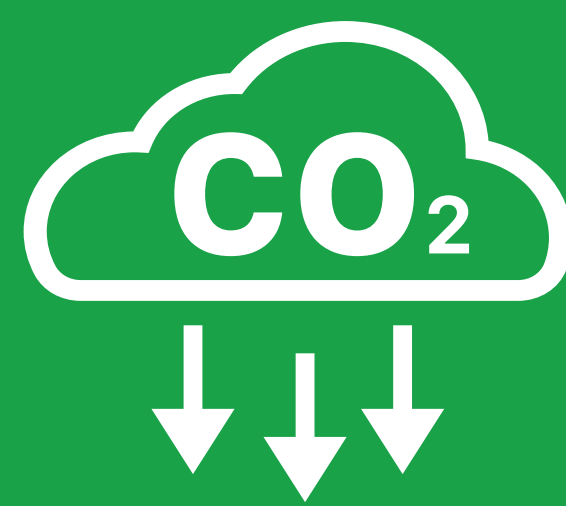
By 2030, the UK Government's target is to deliver 20GW (Gigawatts) of additional renewable electricity - enough to supply about 50% of Scotland's current total energy demand.

To meet this target, we need to increase the capacity of the electricity network between Scotland and its reserves of renewable energy, and the rest of the UK.

The systems operated and maintained by SP Energy Networks are crucial to achieving this target. We have a unique role in connecting renewable generation and bulk transfer of renewable energy from Scotland into England and Wales.



For more information on SP Energy Networks please visit our website at www.spenergynetworks.co.uk



Supporting Net Zero Commitments

Scotland is committed to becoming net zero in all greenhouse gases by 2045, with England and Wales committed to net zero by 2050.

Net zero refers to the balance between the amount of greenhouse gas produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere. We reach net zero when the amount we add is no more than the amount taken away. It is important because achieving net zero will make a significant contribution to tackling climate change.



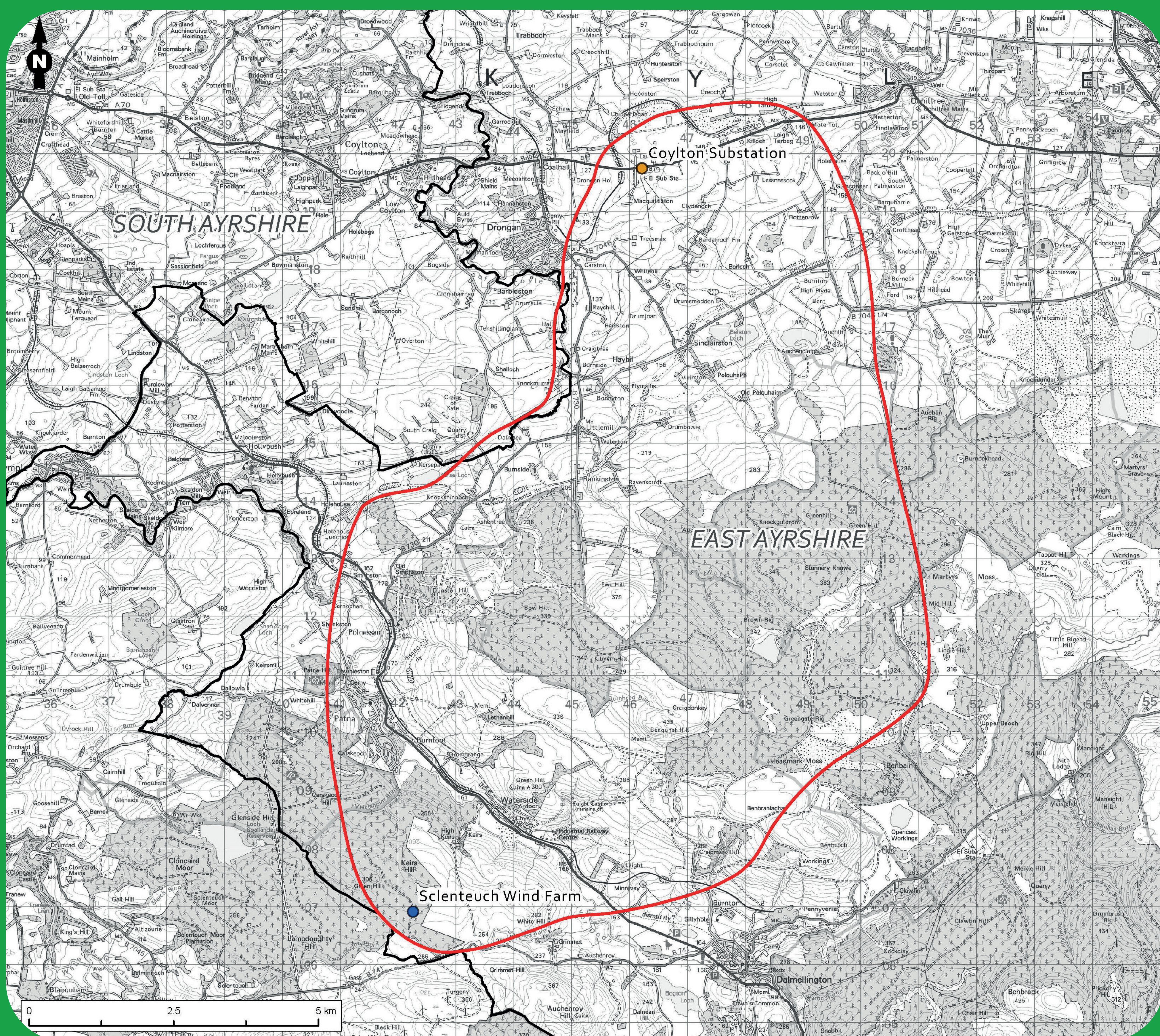
What is Scotland's role?

Scotland is becoming a world leader on net zero. A country where the political and the public appetite to green our environment and our economy are converging, and where businesses like ours are leading and innovating their way towards net zero.

By showing how we're making a swift and just transition to a cleaner and greener future a reality, we can get the global buy-in needed to achieve a collective and collaborative response to the climate emergency that simply cannot fail.

What is proposed

We are proposing to construct a new 132 kilovolt (kV) overhead line to connect the proposed Scienteuch Wind Farm to the existing electricity network at Coylton Substation. The proposed overhead line will be approximately 16 km in length.



The project consists of the construction of a new 132 kV overhead line to connect the proposed Scienteuch Wind Farm to the existing electricity network at Coylton Substation.

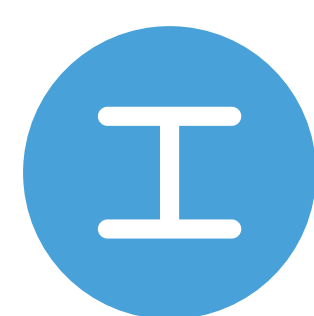
Why the overhead line is needed

SPEN has received a Grid Connection Application via the National Electricity System Operator (NGESO) from Renewable Energy Systems Ltd (RES) for the connection of Scienteuch Wind Farm. As the transmission licence holder, SP Transmission (SPT), represented by SPEN, is legally obliged under the Electricity Act 1989 ('the 1989 Act') to provide a grid connection.

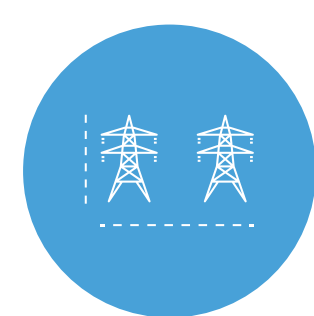
Scienteuch Wind Farm is located approximately 5 km west of Dalmellington and around 10 km west of New Cumnock substation. However, due to limited capacity and space at the New Cumnock substation, it is proposed to install a new 132 kV OHL between the Wind Farm and the 132 kV Coylton substation.



The proposed OHL will be supported by trident 'H' poles with galvanised steelwork cross arms supporting aluminium conductors (wires) on insulators. These are suitable for supporting single circuit lines operating at 132 kV. Wood poles are dark brown in colour when newly constructed and weather over the years to a light grey.



The OHL will be a trident 'H' pole, typically between 11 and 16 m in height. Limited sections of the OHL may be increased to between 18 and 20 m to navigate specific pinch points.



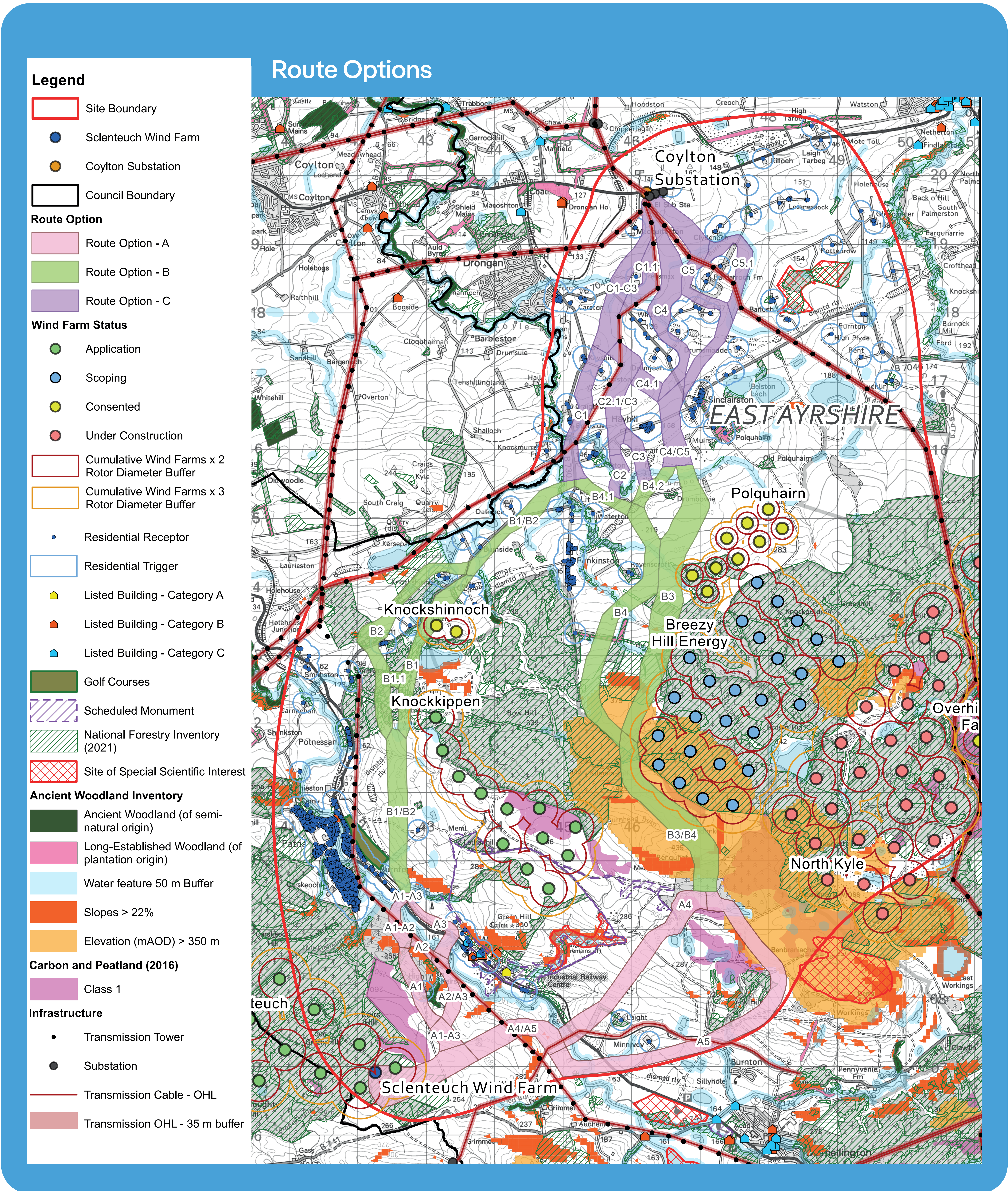
The span lengths will be between 70 and 100 m.



H pole

Identifying potential route options

We have been working to identify potential routes for the overhead line connection between the proposed Scleteuch Wind Farm and the existing Coylton Substation.



Routeing and Consultation Document

You can find full details of the preferred route and the alternatives we considered, our routeing strategy and the findings of our route options appraisal process, in the Routeing Consultation Document.

Each potential route option was assessed to determine their potential suitability



Environmental impact:

Including consideration of:

- local views and the character of the landscape;
- biodiversity;
- cultural heritage including archaeology;
- forestry and woodland including ancient and native woodland;
- flood risk and water resources;
- ground conditions; and
- land uses including tourism and recreation.



Technical feasibility:

An assessment of our ability to build, operate and maintain an overhead line within the identified route option. We considered existing electricity transmission or distribution infrastructure, topography, slope gradients, altitude, ground conditions and accessibility.



Economic viability:

We considered directness of any potential route and avoiding routes where technical difficulty or compensation for land use would add significant cost.

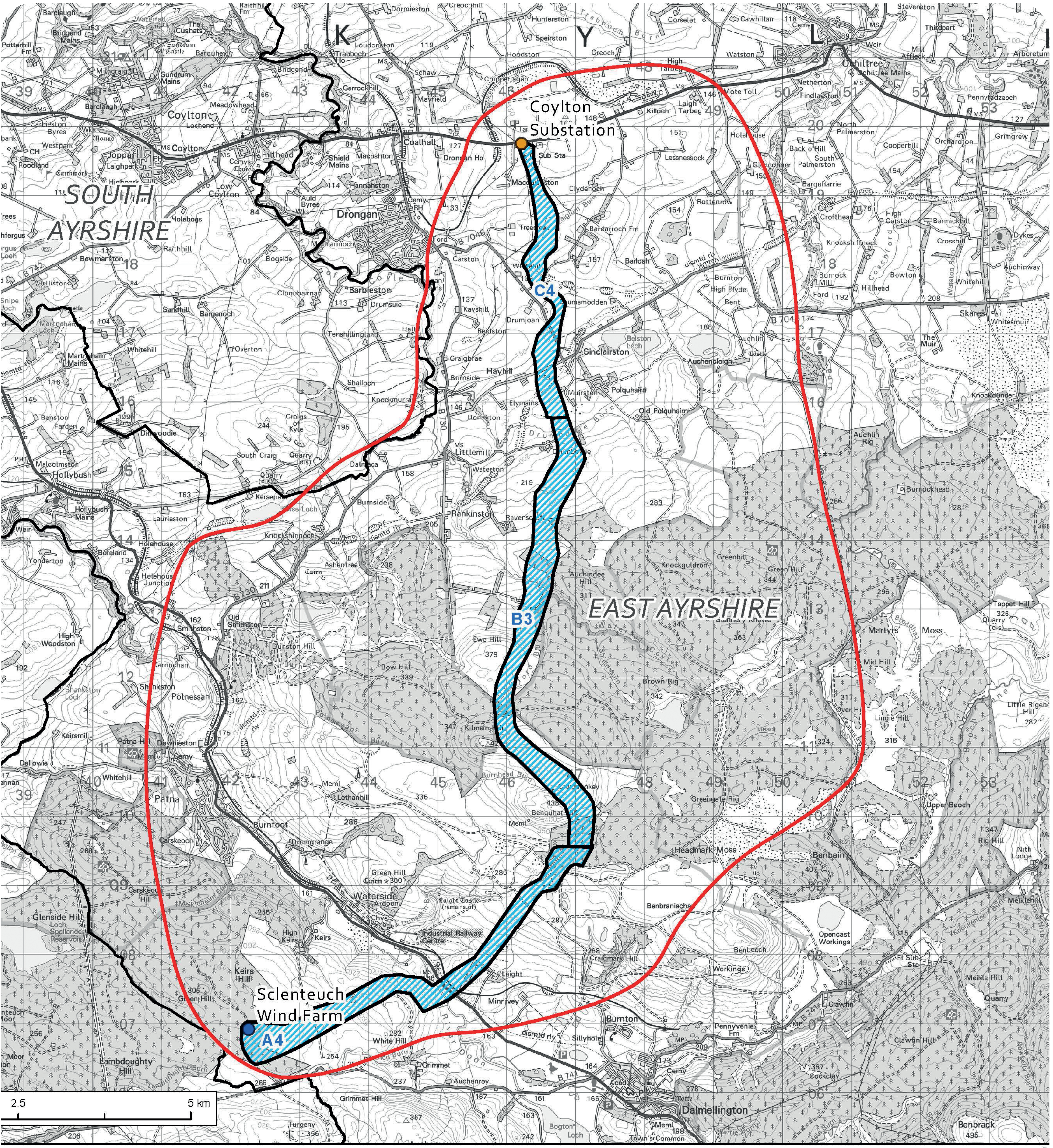


Selecting a preferred route

In assessing the potential options to identify a preferred route we have sought to avoid areas of the highest environmental value and settlements while also making the best use of the existing landscape and features including hills and woodland to screen routes.

The preferred route

This has an overall length of approximately 16 km long. It is considered to offer the best balance between environmental, technical and economic factors. It is technically feasible and economically viable and, relative to other route options, avoids or reduces impacts on the environment and the people who live, work and partake of recreational activities in the area as far as possible.



Consultation and the consenting process

To install and maintain the proposed overhead line we need to seek consent from Scottish Ministers under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.

Consulting those likely to be affected by our plans is an important part of developing our proposals. We will consider the views of the local community and other interested parties as well as feedback from statutory consultees and technical bodies such as East Ayrshire Council, SEPA and NatureScot.

We'll use comments received during this consultation on our preferred route option alongside findings from environmental assessments to help identify the final alignment for the replacement overhead lines.

We are planning to hold a second round of consultation events in 2025 to share how we have taken on board your comments and seek feedback on our final proposals before we submit a Section 37 application to the Energy Consents Unit to seek permission for the development.

April 2025

Consultation on the preferred route option



early 2025

Environmental screening commences



mid 2025

Identify preferred alignment



mid / late 2025

Consultation on the preferred alignment



early 2026

Submission of application to secure consent for the project



mid 2027

Anticipated start of construction



How to give feedback

Please give us your feedback on our preferred route option. We will consider all comments we receive in response to this consultation as we develop our final proposed alignment for the replacement overhead line.

The deadline for feedback is midnight on Friday 16th May. To feedback:



Email at scienteuchconnection@spenergynetworks.co.uk

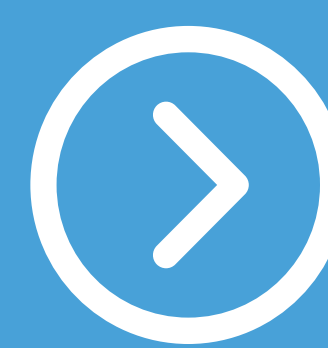


Write to Scienteuch Wind Farm Connection, Land & Planning Team, 55 Fullarton Drive, Glasgow. G32 8FA.



Complete the online feedback form

This consultation runs from:



If you would like a hard copy version of any of consultation materials, please contact us. Any materials can also be made available in large print format on request.

Please note that any data collected through your consultation feedback will only be used to help understand views regarding the Scienteuch Wind Farm Connection project. The data will not be used for any other purposes. The data will be collated and analysed to help in the reporting of consultation feedback.

We do not, and will not, sell personal information.