

Welcome

Torfichen Energy Park Grid Connection Project

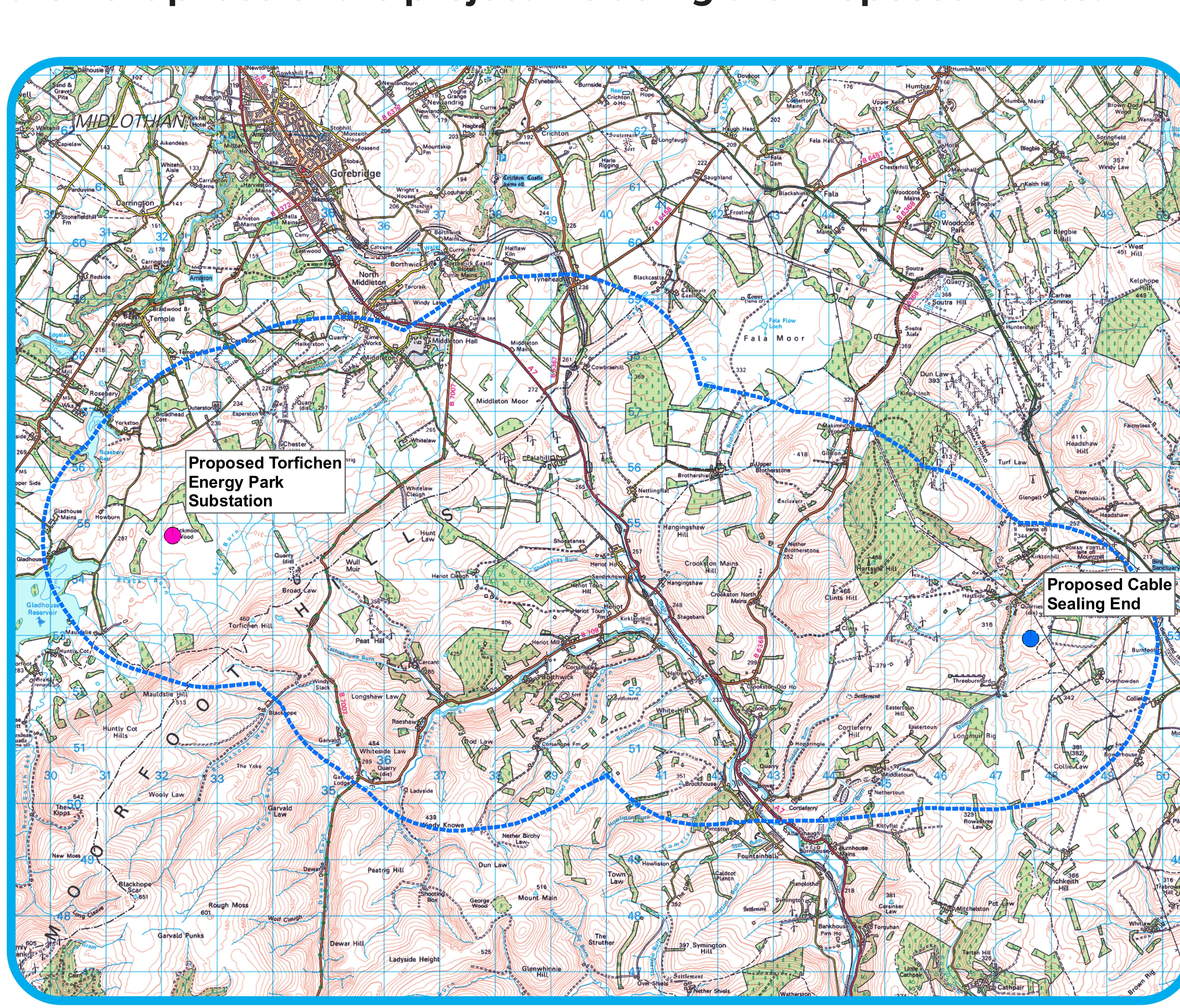
Thank you for taking the time to attend our consultation event.

This is an opportunity to learn more, ask questions and have your say on our initial plans for the Torfichen Energy Park Grid Connection Project.

SP Transmission is proposing a connection from Torfichen Energy Park (TEP) substation to a proposed cable sealing end (CSE) compound west of Oxtonton which is planned as part of a separate project to replace the existing overhead line between the Dun Law Extension substation and the proposed Galashiels substation. The connection, spanning up to 20km, would be made up of 132kV overhead lines, using wood poles (primarily Trident H-poles), and possible underground cable circuits.

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

We would like your feedback on our Preferred Route to inform the next phase of the project including the Proposed Route.



Study Area



Proposed
Torfichen Energy
Park Substation



Proposed Cable
Sealing End

Why we need a new electricity connection



About SP Energy Networks

SP Energy Networks (SPEN) transport electricity to 3.5 million homes and businesses throughout Central and Southern Scotland, as well as parts of England and Wales.

We take electricity generated from power stations, windfarms and various other utilities and transport it through our vast transmission network of overhead lines and underground cables, which we own and maintain.

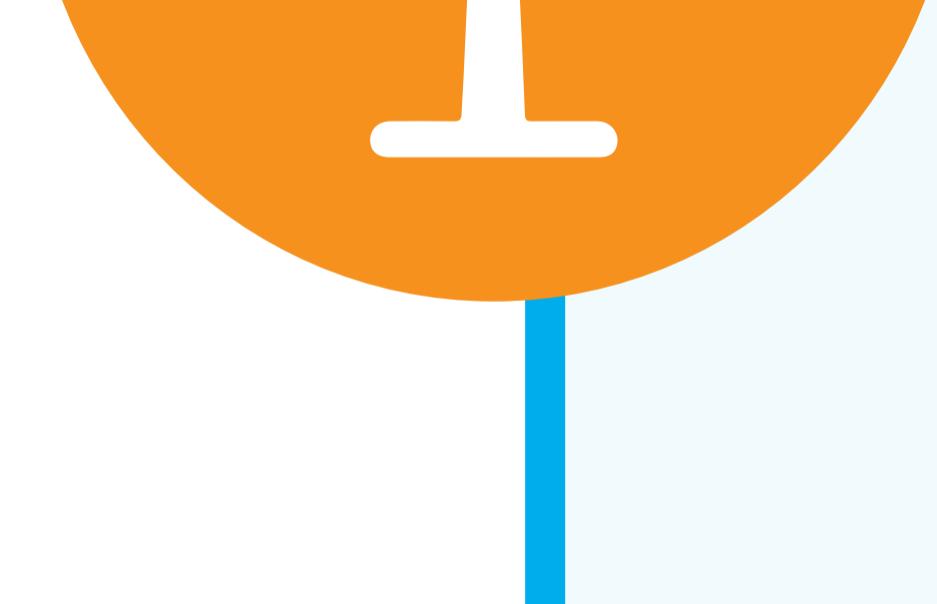
As a network operator, we play a key role in enabling the transition to a cleaner, greener future. With Scotland producing more clean, green energy than ever before, we're investing in the electricity network in Central and Southern Scotland to ensure the security and resilience of the network.



National Net Zero targets

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.

Our systems play an important role in supporting their objectives. We have a legal duty under the Electricity Act 1989 to provide grid connections to new electricity generating developments, including planned wind farms.



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 Torfichen Energy Park substation and the CSE near Oxtoun will support the existing electricity network and accommodate future levels of renewable energy.

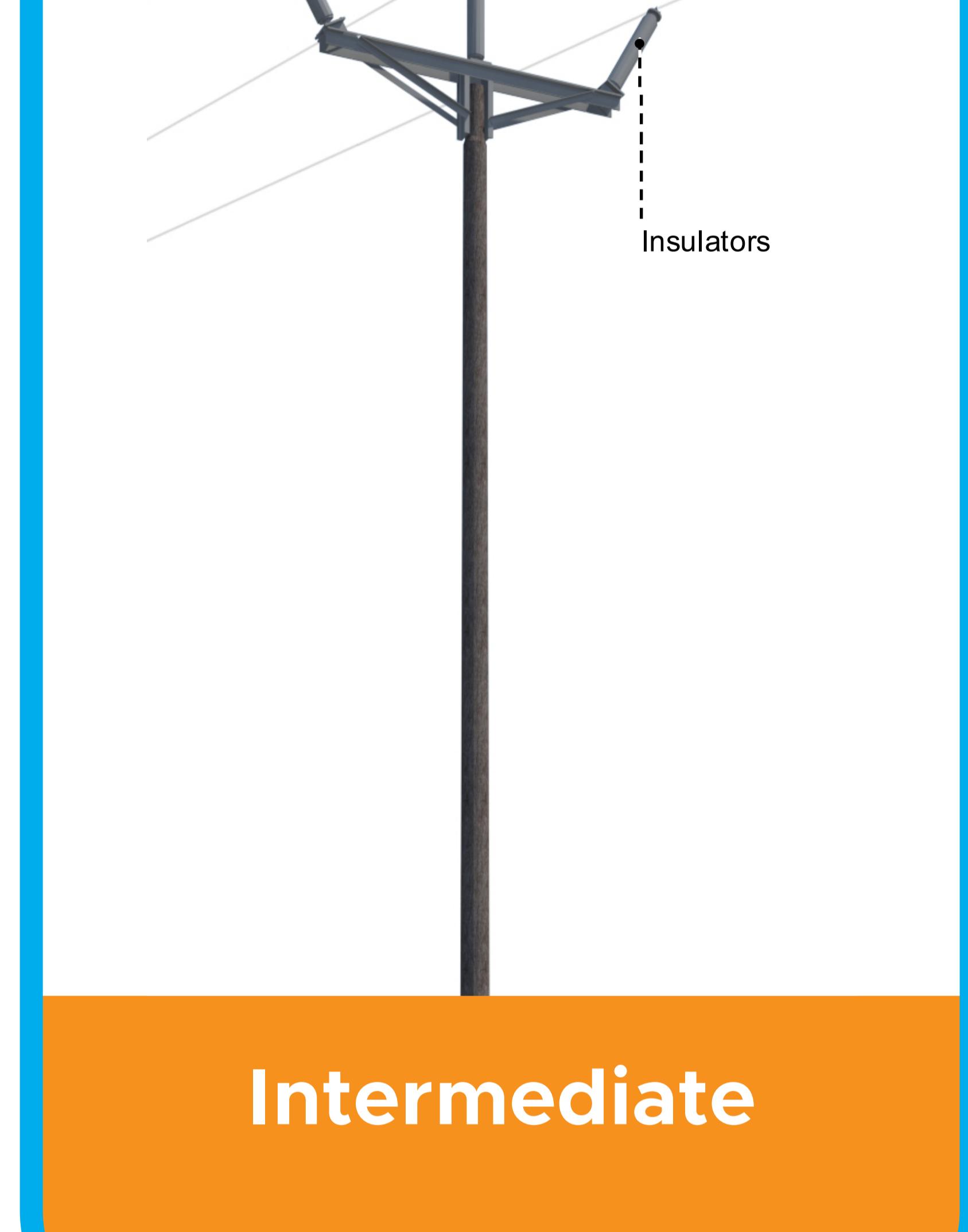
About the project

Our proposal is to construct a connection between the proposed Torfichen Energy Park (TEP) substation and the proposed cable sealing end (CSE) compound, west of Oxton. The connection, spanning up to 20 km, would be made up of 132kV overhead lines (OHL), using trident wood poles, and possible underground cable circuits (UGC). However, the final connection length will depend on topography, designations, and routing through areas of residential properties.

What will the new infrastructure look like?

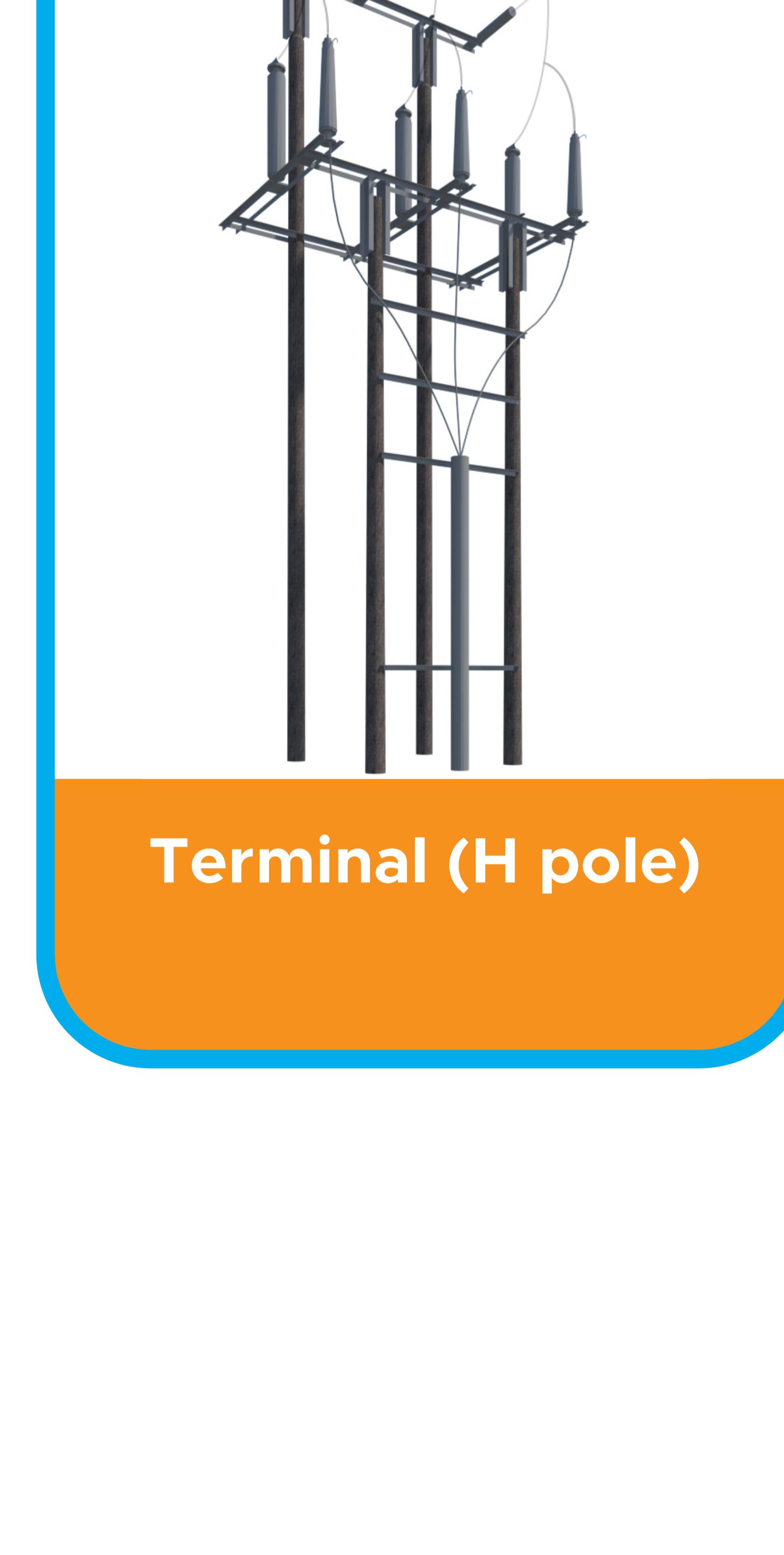
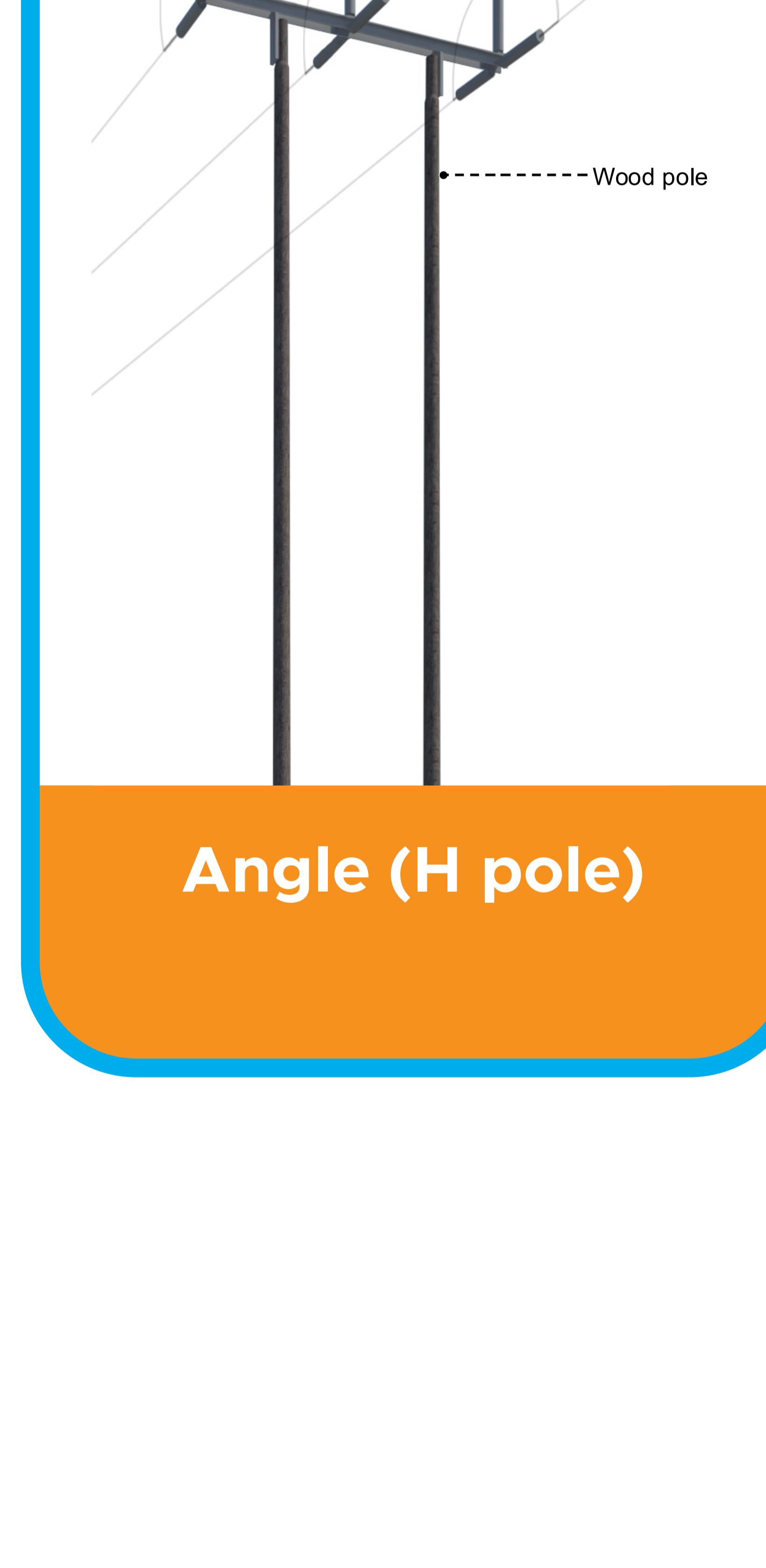
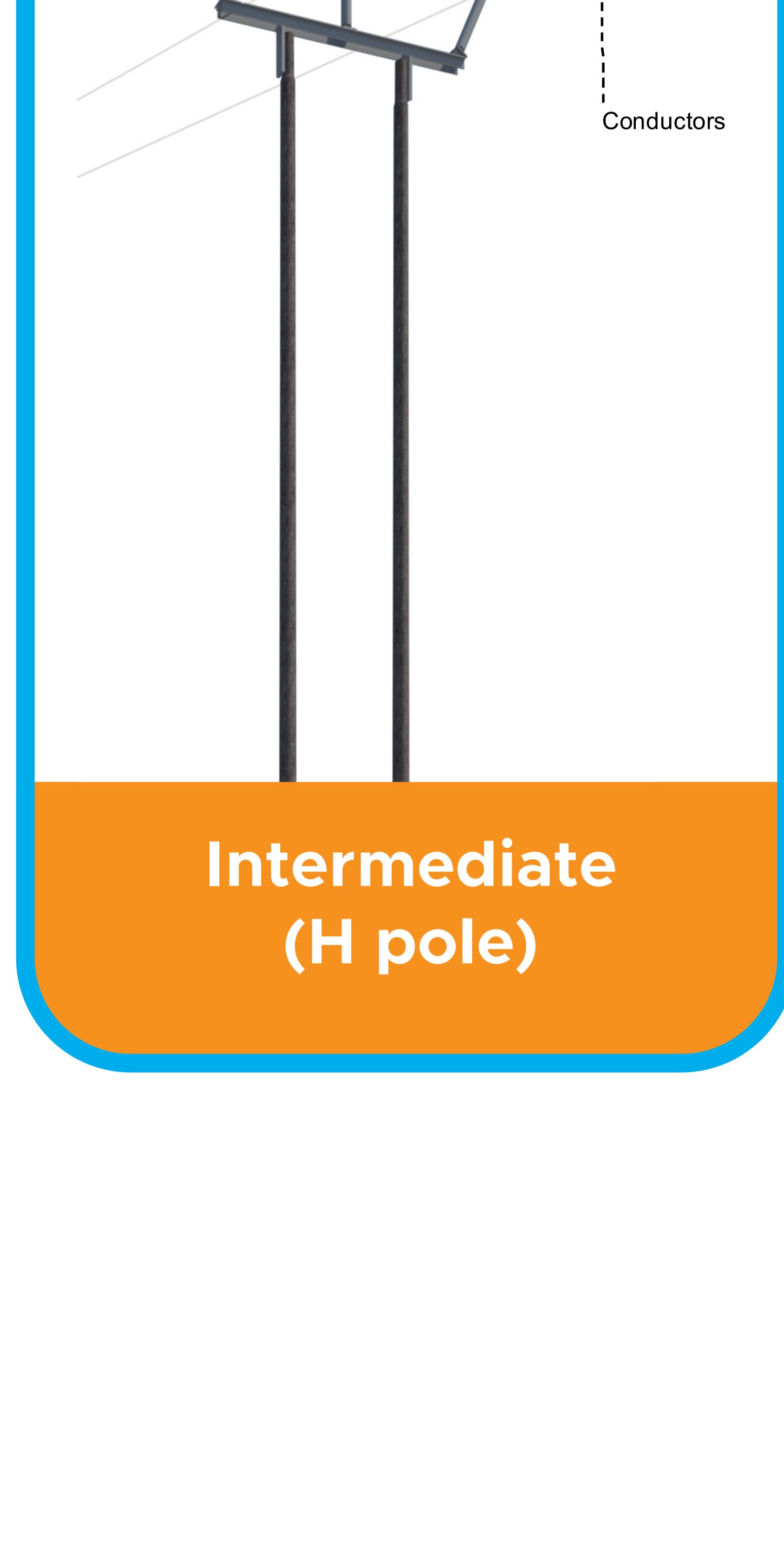
The 132kV overhead line connection will be supported by trident wood poles, specifically 'H' poles for most of the route.

The precise height and span of the poles will be determined once the detailed route has been agreed. The images below show examples of the different types of wood poles.



Wood poles have an average height of 14 metres, however this can be increased or reduced depending on the structure or features of the land.

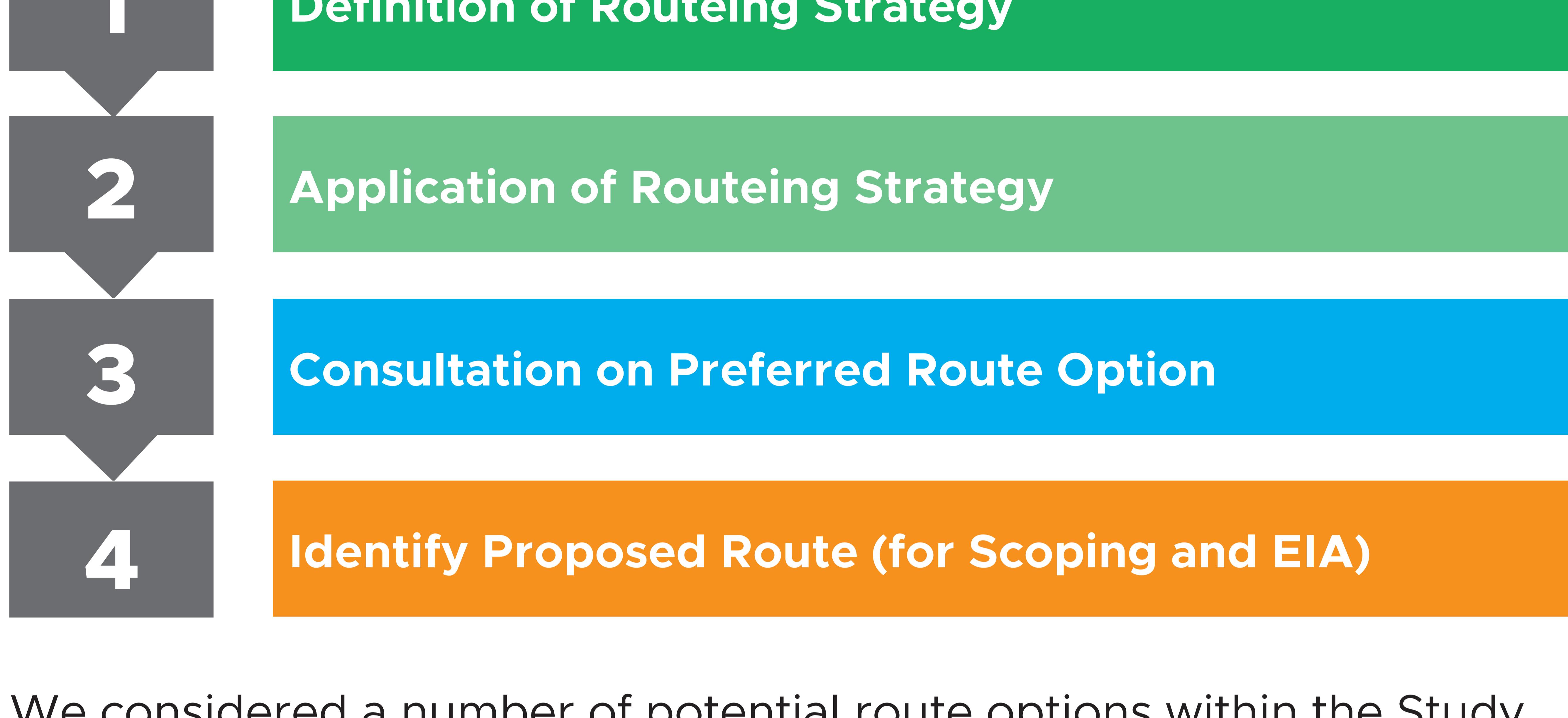
The distance between wood poles is normally between 80-100 metres, depending on the landscape. This can be increased due to the presence of a feature in the landscape, such as a reservoir.



Identifying potential Route Options

Our objective was to identify a route for the new overhead lines which meets the technical requirements of the electricity system, would be economically viable and minimises the potential disturbance to the environment and the people who live, work and enjoy it.

Our methodology for identifying a Preferred Route is illustrated below:



We considered a number of potential route options within the Study Area, these 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 deep peat
- Cultural heritage, including archaeology
- Land uses including agriculture
- Recreation and tourism
- Technical considerations, including topography, existing infrastructure and distance

Considering other projects in the area

A separate grid connection is proposed from Longcroft Wind Farm substation to connect to the same end point (CSE compound) as this project. This project, along with a proposal to replace the existing 132kV overhead line between Dun Law Extension Substation, north of Oxton, and the Galashiels substation, means that there is a potential for overlapping projects in the area. The potential cumulative impact of these projects is being taken into consideration in the development of the alignment.

Route options

After careful analysis of the technical and environmental constraints, **eight Route Options** were identified.

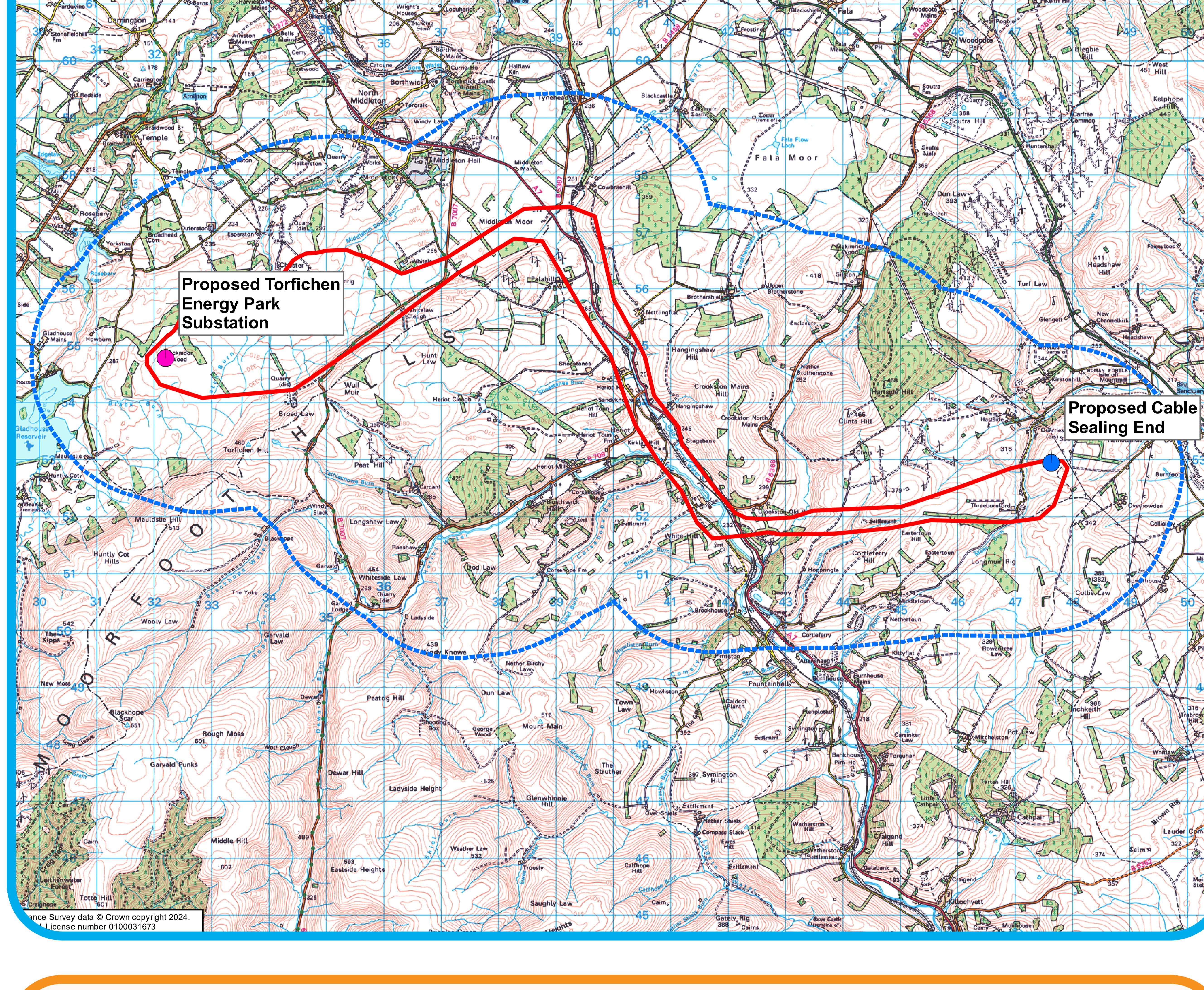
Identifying a Preferred Route

An appraisal was conducted on the eight potential route options and after reviewing the technical and environmental factors, Route Option 5 has been identified as the preferred choice.

Route Option 5 is preferable because it:

- runs parallel to the A7 meaning the new infrastructure can be sited alongside existing infrastructure;
- follows a flatter route along the valley floor; and
- is a better fit with the landscape in the surrounding area from a landscape character and visual amenity perspective.

The map below shows our Preferred Route for the new overhead lines.



Legend:

Preferred Route Corridor (Red Box)

Study Area (Blue Dashed Box)

Proposed Torfichen Energy Park Substation (Pink Circle)

Proposed Cable Sealing End (Blue Circle)

More information about the process we followed to identify and select the Preferred Route can be found in the **Routeing Consultation Report** available on the project website.



Scan the QR code to visit the consultation website

Have your say and next steps

We value your feedback

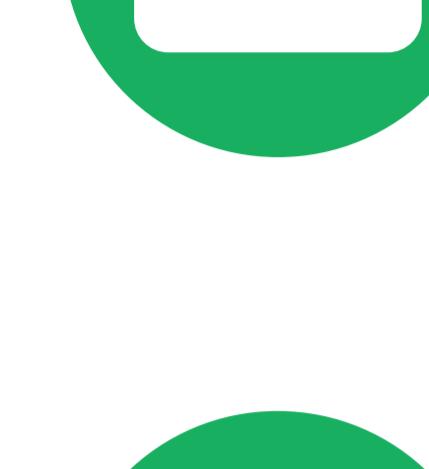
This consultation runs from **23 February until 24 March 2026**.

Your feedback will help inform the next phase of the project including the Proposed Route.

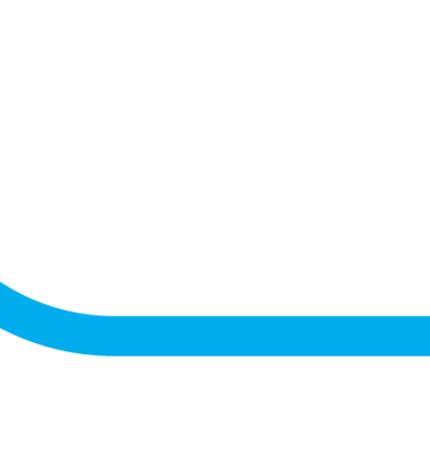
You can provide feedback in the way that suits you:



Complete our online feedback form:
www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/torfichen_wind_farm_connection.aspx



Email your feedback to
torfichengc@spenergynetworks.co.uk



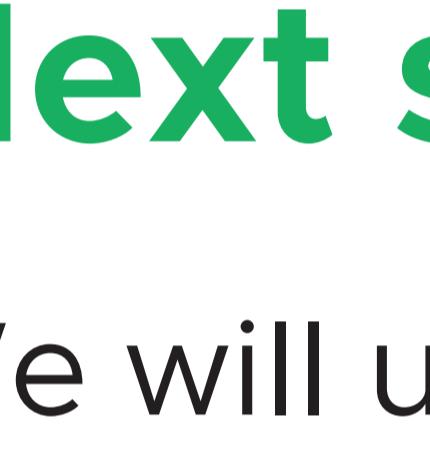
Hard copy feedback form:
available at our in-person exhibition events or on request via the email address below.



Post your comments to:
Torfichen Energy Park Grid Connection, Land and Planning Team, SP Energy Networks, 55 Fullarton Drive, Glasgow, G32 8FA

Hard copies of documents

All our documents and materials are available to view on our website or at our events. You can also request a copy of our consultation documents by getting in touch with our team.



Call us on
07516461129



Email us at
torfichengc@spenergynetworks.co.uk

Next steps

We will use the feedback received during this first round of consultation to influence the Proposed Route.

The project will then progress through the following stages:



Second round of consultation

If necessary, considering feedback from this event, we will hold a second round of consultation (PAC Event 2) to gather stakeholder and public feedback on the Proposed Route and present the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment studies.

The feedback gathered in the second round of consultation will be used to inform the Proposed Alignment.



Final round of consultation

We will hold a final event (PAC Event 3) to present the Proposed Alignment that we intend to submit to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit.



Pre-application Consultation Report

Following consultation, we will prepare a Pre-application Consultation (PAC) Report. This report will summarise the feedback received and explain how this feedback has been considered in the development of the proposal.



Section 37 submission

We then intend to submit our application. At this stage there will be the opportunity for you to make representations and comment to Scottish Ministers.



Construction

If our application is successful, we plan to begin construction in 2029.