



SP Energy Networks

Troston Overhead Line Grid Connection

Public Consultation Report

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RSK



RSK GENERAL NOTES

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Authors	<u>Nisha Rehm</u>	Technical reviewer	<u>Katie Barlow</u>
Date:	<u>21/11/22</u>	Date:	<u>21/11/22</u>

Project manager	<u>Nisha Rehm</u>
Date:	<u>06/12/22</u>

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1 INTRODUCTION

This Public Consultation Report has been prepared by RSK Environment Ltd (RSK) for the proposed Troston Overhead Line (OHL) Grid Connection project on behalf of SP Energy Networks (hereafter referred to as SPEN).

SPEN has been contracted by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) to connect the proposed Troston Loch Wind Farm to the national grid. SPEN proposes to achieve this by providing a grid connection between the planned Troston Loch substation (E267516, N588834) and the proposed Glenshimmeroch collector substation (E264779, N587363), which will be connected to the grid. The renewable energy development and the substations are located between the towns of St John's Town of Dalry and Moniaive in Dumfries and Galloway. Figure 1, attached in Appendix 1, shows the location of the connection points at either end of the proposed OHL.

The project would consist of approximately 3.7 km of OHL, supported by wood poles. The wood poles will likely be H poles, of between 11 and 18 m high, with a typical height of 13 m, and with typical spans of 90 m between each pole. Figure 1.1, below, shows examples of the typical structures that would form part of an H-pole overhead line.



Figure 1.1: Example of a typical 132 kV H-pole trident OHL and terminal structure of a trident 132 kV OHL (SPEN, 2021)

The design parameters will depend on terrain and altitude and may be subject to change within agreed limits of deviation.

Pre-application consultation is not a statutory requirement for Section 37 applications under the Electricity Act 1989, however, SPEN attaches great importance to the effect that its works may have on the environment and on people. In seeking to achieve 'least disturbance', SPEN is keen to engage with stakeholders including local communities and others who may have an interest in the project. This engagement process begins at the early stages of development of projects to ensure that the project design balances the views of stakeholders and communities with SPEN's statutory obligations¹.

The main objective of public consultation during routeing is to provide an opportunity for consultees, communities and individuals to contribute their views and opinion on a

¹ SP Energy Networks, 2020. Approach to Routeing and Environmental Impact Assessment.



preferred route, to enable SPEN to take all potential aspects and environmental impacts into consideration when selecting the proposed route. This does not replace the opportunity for consultees and the public to make formal representations on proposals during the planning application process, which was stated throughout the public consultation process for this development.

This report summarises the public consultation activities that were undertaken and presents the responses received from consultees and the public. The report also describes whether and/or how the feedback received from the consultees and the public was applied to the preferred route to shape the final proposed route which will be taken forward for EIA Screening.

2 CONSULTATION

The aims of the consultation and community engagement process followed were to:

- Raise awareness of the proposed development, and give statutory and non-statutory consultees, as well as, the public an opportunity to ask questions, provide feedback and comment on the routeing consultation document and preferred route;
- Clearly communicate feedback from the local community, to the project team, to allow identification of any aspects or issues that should be taken into consideration to inform a proposed route;
- Be inclusive and accessible; and
- Address planning concerns raised by consultees.

2.1 Consultation approach

The Troston OHL routeing public consultation strategy was designed to follow a multipronged approach to optimise engagement with consultees and the public. The engagement strategy included:

- Consulting statutory consultees;
- Consulting with non-statutory consultees;
- Consulting the public.

Following the routeing process to identify a preferred route option for the Troston OHL, a Routeing Consultation Document (RCD)² was produced which set out how ten OHL route options (Route Options A to J) were identified and evaluated from an environmental and technical perspective, as well as how and why the preferred route (Route Option A) was selected. The RCD was made available during the public consultation process to ensure transparency and to enable meaningful engagement at this early stage of project planning.

The public consultation was held from 3 October to 24 October 2022.

2.1.1 Consultation with statutory consultees

The following statutory consultees were consulted by email:

- Dumfries and Galloway Council (Planning Authority);
- Historic Environment Scotland (HES);
- NatureScot; and
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

The RCD and some of the key figures of the RCD were provided to the consultees with a request to comment on the preferred route (Figure 2 in Appendix 1 shows the preferred route as well as the other routes considered). A link to SPEN's project website³ was also

²

<https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/userfiles/file/663229%20Troston%20OHL%20Routeing%20and%20Consultation%20Document%20050922%20-%20redacted.pdf>

³ www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/troston_loch_wind_farm_connection.aspx

provided for access to the full RCD and other information that was made available during the public consultation period.

The responses received are captured in Section 3.2 of this report.

2.1.2 Consultation with non-statutory consultees

The following non-statutory consultees were consulted by email:

- British Horse Society;
- BT;
- Civil Aviation Authority;
- Defence Infrastructure Organisation;
- Dee District Salmon Fishery Board;
- Dumfries and Galloway Council Archaeologist;
- Galloway Fisheries Trust;
- Glasgow Prestwick Airport Committee;
- Health and Safety Executive;
- John Muir Trust;
- Mountaineering Scotland;
- NATS Safeguarding;
- Ramblers Association (Scotland);
- RSPB Scotland;
- Scottish Badgers;
- Scottish Forestry (Internal Scottish Government Advisors);
- Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays);
- Scottish Water;
- Scottish Wildlife Trust;
- Scottish Wild Land Group;
- Scottish Woodlands;
- Transport Scotland (Internal Scottish Government Advisors);
- Visit Scotland; and
- The Woodland Trust.

The RCD and some of the key figures of the RCD were provided to the consultees with a request to comment on the preferred route. A link to SPEN's project website was also provided for access to the full RCD and other information that was made available during the public consultation period.

The responses received are captured in Section 3.3 of this report.

2.1.3 Public consultation

The public consultation strategy consisted of three main parts:

- *Advertising* – to inform the public of the nature and location of the proposal and invite them to participate and engage by assessing the information made available online and contacting the project team and/or commenting on the project. The option to do so anonymously was also offered as an option;

- *Online public consultation* – rather than holding a traditional public exhibition in a local venue, information was made available online throughout the consultation period and two online public consultation events were held; and
- *Communication* – several contact methods were provided to ensure that the public engagement process was as inclusive as possible, and included two-way communication.

2.1.3.1 Advertising

Newspaper advertisements

The public consultation details were advertised in two local newspapers, namely the Galloway News on 15 and 22 September 2022, and the Dumfries and Galloway Standard on 16 and 23 September 2022.

TROSTON 132 KV OVERHEAD LINE GRID CONNECTION PROPOSAL PUBLIC CONSULTATION

SP Energy Networks is publicising its proposal to connect the proposed Troston Loch Wind Farm to the national grid via an overhead line. The proposed location of the wind farm and grid connection is in Dumfries and Galloway, about 6.2 km north-east of St John’s Town of Dalry and 10.4 km south-west of Moniaive. We are at an early stage in the development of this project and wish to introduce the project and consult with the local community. We would like to invite everyone to view the information on our website and to attend the online public consultation events on the afternoon of Wednesday 5 October (3–5pm) and the evening of Tuesday 11 October (6–8pm). Opportunities to ask questions and comment will also be available via email or telephone, or our online feedback form.

Further information on the online public consultation event and public consultation materials are available online at:
http://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/troston_loch_wind_farm_connection.aspx

Project information will be available to view 24/7 from 9am on 3 October 2022 to 5pm on 24 October 2022.

Further information on the proposed development may be obtained online at the website (opposite) and through the means identified below.

Anyone wishing to request information or comment on the proposed development may do so until 24 October 2022 by completing an online feedback form/questionnaire to be made available on the website (opposite) or, alternatively, by telephone on 07516 461129; post to Troston Overhead Line Grid Connection Project, Land and Planning Team, SP Energy Networks, 55 Fullarton Drive, Glasgow G32 8FA; or email to trostonprojectmanager@spenergynetworks.co.uk




Figure 2.1: Advertisement placed in the local newspapers

Postcard-style leaflets

Postcard-style information leaflets were posted to all residences within a 5 km radius of the study area on 15 September 2022, two weeks before the commencement of the public consultation period. There were a total of 100 residences within the 5 km radius.

The leaflets were designed to be printed and distributed as postcards to remove the need to open an envelope. Removing the need to touch an envelope generally addressed to ‘The Occupier’ and making the information visible and available immediately on an

addressed postcard increased the likelihood of the information being read and reaching the intended audience. A copy of the leaflet is attached as Item 1 in Appendix 2.

Contacting community councils

Dalry Community Council was notified by email of the public consultation details, two weeks in advance, and sent a reminder email on the first day of the public consultation period. A copy of the email is provided as Item 2 in Appendix 2.

Contacting Elected Councillors

The Troston OHL study area falls within Ward 3 of the Dumfries and Galloway Council. The elected members of the wards were contacted by email to advise them of the upcoming public consultation on the preferred route, and to provide the link to the website where the relevant information could be accessed.

2.1.3.2 Online public consultation

Information on the proposed development was hosted on SPEN's website, which is a free, publicly accessible web domain. The website provided information relating to the OHL routeing exercise that had been undertaken and the preferred route that had been identified. The following information was included on the website:

- A brief description of the project;
- A link to an online feedback form (copy attached as Item 3 in Appendix 2 and described in more detail below);
- A link to SPEN's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Statement;
- Downloadable pdf versions of the following:
 - RCD;
 - RCD figures;
 - Postcard-style consultation leaflet (copy attached as Item 1 in Appendix 2); and
 - Information boards (copies attached as Item 4 in Appendix 2).
- Contact details for the Troston OHL Grid Connection Project team.

Evidence of the website content is attached as Item 5 in Appendix 2. The above information was made available on SPEN's website on the 3 October 2022 and was still available at the time of writing.

All the information was provided on the same webpage, members of the public were not required to sign-up or join a forum or website to view the information; the information was made available in such a way as to be read at whatever pace the respondent required it and could be downloaded and printed. The public was allowed a period of 22 days to submit their questions or views, and when respondents left their contact details, SPEN responded.

The online consultation was undertaken in compliance with the current Data Protection obligations, with link to SPEN's GDPR Statement provided on the website.

An online feedback form to enable anyone wishing to contact the project team to provide their feedback was made available. A copy of the feedback form is attached as Item 3 in

Appendix 2. The form afforded the person filling it out the opportunity to remain anonymous.

In addition to the information held on the website, two online public consultation events were held to provide a presentation on the proposed development and allow members of the public to directly ask questions of the project team. The online public consultation events were held on:

- Wednesday 5 October 2022 (3–5pm); and
- Tuesday 11 October 2022 (6–8pm).

2.1.3.3 *Communication*

Two-way communication

Two-way communication was facilitated as follows:

- Members of the public were encouraged to get in touch with the project team to ask questions, share their views, provide their input, leave comments, or request more information.
- SPEN responded to the communication received through addressing their concerns or answering questions. SPEN responded in the same manner that contact had been initiated, e.g. people contacting the project team by telephone were contacted in response by telephone, and people contacting the project team by email were responded to by email, etc.
- SPEN responded to the questions and comments received throughout the consultation period.

Communication channels

Several communication channels were established and advertised to enable the public to get in contact with the project team. These included:

- A project-dedicated phone number;
- A project-dedicated email address;
 - The project email address was operational before the commencement of public consultation, and was still operational at the time of writing;
 - The email address was monitored regularly during the week;
 - Emails received by this email address were responded to by SPEN during the public consultation period, or extension thereof, as was appropriate;
- Postal address;
 - The postal address was monitored regularly during the week;
- Online feedback form;
 - A link was provided on the webpage to an online feedback form that was generated specifically for the Troston Grid Connection to make it easy for people to submit their views and questions;
 - The online feedback form replaced the paper feedback form that would ordinarily have been provided at a public exhibition;
 - The form was open to all members of the public and could be completed anonymously;
 - The questions were designed to elicit comments from members of the public and, because of the availability of the webpage and feedback form to anyone worldwide with internet access, some of the questions were



designed to gather information on the respondent's location and interest in the project.

The phone number, email address and postal address were advertised in the newspaper advertisements, postcards mailed out to residents within 5 km and emails that were sent to the community councils and elected councillors of the Dumfries and Galloway Council's Wards 3. In addition, these details were advertised on SPEN's project website and the public information boards.

All communications were managed in compliance with GDPR requirements.

3 CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND IMPACTS ON THE PROPOSALS

3.1 Levels of participation

3.1.1 Webpage visits

Website data showed that the project webpage was viewed 14 times between 3 October and 24 October 2022. It is acknowledged that a small number of these webpage visits were executed by the project team to ensure that the page was working correctly, and that it is possible that statutory and non-statutory consultees may also have visited the webpage to obtain further information.

3.1.2 Phone

Two members of the public contacted the project team using the phone number. One of the calls was to request hardcopies of the consultation materials.

3.1.3 Emails

The majority of interactions during the public consultation were conducted by email. Emails were received from statutory and non-statutory consultees. Three emails were received from members of the public.

3.1.4 Letters

No letters were received in the post.

3.1.5 Online feedback forms

No responses were received via the online feedback form.

3.1.6 Online public information events

No members of the public attended the two public information events.

3.2 Responses received from statutory consultees

Three out of the four statutory consultees provided formal responses regarding the proposed Troston OHL Grid Connection. The responses are summarised in Table 3.1, below.

Table 3.1: Summary of responses from statutory consultees

Statutory consultee	Summary of response received	How this has been or will be considered
HES	Recommended seeking advice from Dumfries and Galloway Council's heritage specialists for matters including conservation areas, category B and C-listed buildings and unscheduled archaeology.	Dumfries and Galloway Council's archaeologist was contacted by email as part of the consultation process. No response has been received to date.
	Noted that no heritage assets in their remit are located within or nearby the study area for the proposed overhead line. Welcomed the selection of Route Option A as the preferred route for the overhead line, because this route option avoids impacts on designated and undesignated historic environment features.	No changes to the preferred route required.
NatureScot	Referred back to NatureScot's response to ecologist in May 2022 with respect to Black Grouse (summarised below).	See below
	Noted other habitats and protected species elements relevant to this project but have no specific comments to make at this stage that are not addressed by Standing Advice.	Standing Advice will be taken into account during detailed design and assessment of the proposed development.
	Noted that Black Grouse are a conservation priority for this region, but that it is unlikely that NatureScot would object as an individual lek would not constitute an issue of national interest. However, this does not detract from the need to consider protected species guidance and adopt suitable mitigation if appropriate.	Mitigation in the form of line markers and timing of construction works is being considered. Further assessment and mitigation will be investigated during the detailed design and assessment of the proposed development.
	Noted that as lekking was not recorded this year, this might suggest that the site is no longer in use, however it would be worth consulting the RSPB to see if they have any other data to confirm this. Noted that there are Black Grouse in this area.	RSPB and the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) were contacted for data. The most recent records of Black Grouse within 1 km of the site boundary are from 2018 which would also suggest that the lek is not in use.

Statutory consultee	Summary of response received	How this has been or will be considered
	<p>Current guidance recommends for sensitive species that a buffer of 750m may be appropriate when considering development activities. Topography may play a key role here – if the line is within 750 m of the lek but not too close and there was screening by ground elevation/trees for example, then marking the line may be adequate mitigation to avoid impacts.</p> <p>If this is not the case then, then undergrounding within that area is appropriate if it is not possible to relocate the line to a route where disturbance is not likely to be a concern.</p> <p>Noted that there are no hard and fast rules here but it seems that the line may well be problematic for Black Grouse, but the details of what will be the most suitable mitigation will need to be informed by assessment. Noted that timing of works activities will also be a key consideration.</p>	<p>Mitigation in the form of line markers and timing of construction works is being considered. Further assessment and mitigation will be investigated during the detailed design and assessment of the proposed development.</p>
SEPA	<p>No specific concerns with the preferred 3.7 km route.</p>	<p>No changes to the preferred route required.</p>
	<p>Noted there may be peat (although considered avoidable) and Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE) (to be confirmed) on the route but understand more detailed environmental assessment is planned prior to submission of an application for consent.</p> <p>Suggest the further assessment be used to design the OHL structures to avoid such features.</p>	<p>Further assessment of peat and GWTDE will be undertaken during the detailed design and assessment of the proposed development.</p>
	<p>Refer to the Standing Advice in Table 2 of SEPA Triage Framework (which is equally applicable to Electricity Act applications).</p>	<p>Standing Advice will be taken into account during detailed design and assessment of the proposed development.</p>

3.3 Responses received from non-statutory consultees

Of the 24 non-statutory consultees that were contacted, 6 responded. Their comments are summarised in Table 3.2 below.

Table 3.2: Summary of responses from non-statutory consultees

Non-statutory consultee	Summary of response received	How this has been or will be considered
BT	The study area should not cause interference to BT's current and presently planned radio network.	No changes to the preferred route required.
NATS	NATS anticipates no impact from the proposal and has no comments to make on this application.	No changes to the preferred route required.
Ministry of Defence (MOD) Defence Infrastructure Organisation	<p>Noted that the application site occupies the statutory safeguarding zone surrounding the Southern Scotland Tactical Training Area (TTA 20T). The preferred route occupies the UK Military Low flying System designated TTA, an area within which fixed wing aircraft may operate as low as 100 ft or 30.5 m above ground level to conduct low level flight training. The development proposed will cause a potential obstruction hazard to these military low flying training activities.</p> <p>Sufficient data should be submitted to enable aeronautical charts and mapping records amendments to ensure that structures can be accurately charted to allow deconfliction.</p> <p>Requested that the MOD is consulted again in order to complete a more detailed technical assessment once plans and further information become available.</p> <p>In the event that any amendment, whether considered material or not by the determining authority, is submitted for approval, the MOD should be consulted and provided with adequate time to carry out assessments and provide a formal response.</p>	The MOD will be consulted again once the detailed design has been completed.
Scottish Forestry (Internal Scottish Government Advisors)	Preferred routing alignment is for Route Option C (Segments 23-1-22-20-7-9) because the option minimises disruption to Glenshimmeroch Hill Forest as much as possible.	Route Option C crosses sensitive habitats, breeding bird habitats, large areas of bog and peat, numerous watercourses and contains numerous previously identified archaeological remains. This

Non-statutory consultee	Summary of response received	How this has been or will be considered
		<p>route would be visible from three residential properties as well as sections of the National Byway Cycle Route and the Southern Upland Way, which the route crosses. This route was assessed as the least favourable option for ecology, ornithology, visual amenity, archaeology and cultural heritage, geology, peat, hydrology and hydrogeology and land use and recreation.</p> <p>The conclusion of the routeing study was that taking all of the environmental constraints into consideration, on balance, Route Option A would be the more preferable than Route Option C.</p> <p>Compensatory planting will form part of the final OHL development proposal.</p>
	<p>The forest is now responding to work to diversify species and ages with the planting age range being 1987 through to 2018. Additional felling will lead to windblow which will negatively disrupt developing forest structure, leading to the early removal of sub optimal timber crops.</p>	<p>As part of the detailed design and environmental assessment, the effects of windblow will be considered and mitigation measures investigated.</p>
<p>Scottish Water</p>	<p>The routes are likely to encroach within the Carsfad catchment and possibly other areas which supply Lochinvar Water Treatment Works. List of precautions attached for future reference.</p>	<p>List of precautions will be taken into account during detailed design and assessment of the proposed development.</p>
<p>The Woodland Trust</p>	<p>Requested further clarification on the potential impacts of the scheme on two veteran trees outlined in Appendix 4 (Environmental Baseline) as it was not clear if they will be affected by the proposed route as they are not identified within the mapping documents provided.</p>	<p>Further information provided to the Woodland Trust on 31 October 2022 with the location of the two veteran trees (located along the U141S road to the north of the study area at: 264446, 588340 and 264444, 588409).</p> <p>The assessment considered that these trees would be more likely to be affected by Route Option C which runs to the north of the U141S road, rather than the preferred Route Option A.</p>

Non-statutory consultee	Summary of response received	How this has been or will be considered
	Noted that Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) are not considered as requiring a buffer zone compared with Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland sites. Acknowledged that no ancient woodland is affected by this specific proposal, but PAWS and ASNW are considered equal in planning policy and should be protected as such when being considered as part of the constraints on a development proposal.	While not relevant to the proposed development due to there being no ancient woodland within the study area, this is noted for consideration for future proposals.
	Asked to be kept informed of progress of this project, and to have the opportunity to review the chosen design.	Consultees will be kept informed of the project progress and further consultation will be carried out prior to submission of the Section 37 application.

3.4 Responses received from Community Council and elected councillors

No responses were received from Dalry Community Council or the elected councillors from Ward 3 of the Dumfries and Galloway Council.

3.5 Responses received from the public

Comments on the RCD were received from two members of the public. The comments are summarised in Table 3.4.

Table 3.3: Summary of response received from the public

Summary of response	SPEN's response / action taken	How this has been or will be considered
Preference for route to be one of the routes to the south of Glenshimmeroch hill, which would be out of view of properties, travellers on the road (U141), and well shielded by forestry. Second preference for the most northerly and lowest route (closest to Blackwater).	Comment from member of the public taken into consideration by the project landscape team and a response provided.	While Route Options F, G and H would be preferable in terms of visual amenity, two of these routes were least favourable for geology, peat, hydrology and hydrogeology; and forestry; and the third route was least favourable for ornithology; and for geology, peat, hydrology and hydrogeology. Route Options C, D and E in the north of the study area were least favourable for ecology; ornithology; and archaeology and cultural heritage. Route Option C in particular was assessed as least favourable for visual amenity due

Summary of response	SPEN's response / action taken	How this has been or will be considered
		<p>to being perceptible from residential properties, the National Byway Cycle Route and the Southern Upland Way.</p> <p>The preferred route (Route Option A) would have less visual impact on properties because the eastern end of the route (which has the least forestry) would be at least partially screened by the higher ground of Lochwhinnie Hill and White Knowe; the wood poles and overhead lines would benefit from being 'backclothed' by their proximity to forestry in the central and western sections of the route; and the extra distance between the route and the properties.</p> <p>The routing study takes into consideration a number of environmental issues, and on balance the route put forward is still considered to be the preferred route.</p>
<p>Noted that the preferred route option A will involve placing equipment on the Earlstoun Estate on Fingland and Auchenshinnoch farms.</p> <p>Raised concern over lasting damage on the minor public road leading to this estate and farm, affecting the road itself, the camber and the drainage ex-adverso.</p> <p>Raised concern over heavy traffic affecting the camber of the road adjacent to the Earlstoun Lodge property and together with the inevitable damage to verges which will happen when traffics attempts to get round obstructing loads.</p>	<p>Contacted by SPEN to discuss the comment.</p>	<p>The potential impacts from construction traffic will be assessed as part of the detailed design and assessment of the proposed development.</p> <p>A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) would be developed which would detail the process for monitoring impacts on the road condition and existing drainage. In the unlikely event of any damage being caused by construction vehicles and plant, a schedule of repairs would be agreed to make good to the pre-construction phase condition.</p>

4 CONCLUSION

4.1 Consultation and levels of participation

Public consultation was conducted online between 3 October and 24 October 2022. Responses from the public were limited. Responses were received from 4 out of the 6 statutory consultees, and 5 of the 22 non-statutory consultees who were contacted.

4.2 Summary of main concerns raised

The main concerns raised related to the potential to impact negatively on the various aspects of the environment relevant to the consultee. This included:

- Defence Infrastructure Organisation: potential impact on military low flying training activities;
- Scottish Forestry: impact on forestry due to requirement for removal of sections of forestry;
- NatureScot: potential impact on Black Grouse;
- Woodland Trust: potential impact on veteran trees; and
- Member of public: visual impact on residential properties.

Scottish Forestry and a member of the public expressed a preference for an alternative route to that of the preferred route put forward in the RCD. Scottish Forestry expressed a preference for Route Option C, which would avoid the requirement for removal of forestry. A member of the public expressed preference for one of the route options to the south of Glenshimmeroch hill to reduce visual impacts.

However, there are a number of constraints within Route Option C and the routes to the south of Glenshimmeroch hill. Taking all of the environmental constraints into consideration, on balance, Route Option A is still considered to be the preferred route.

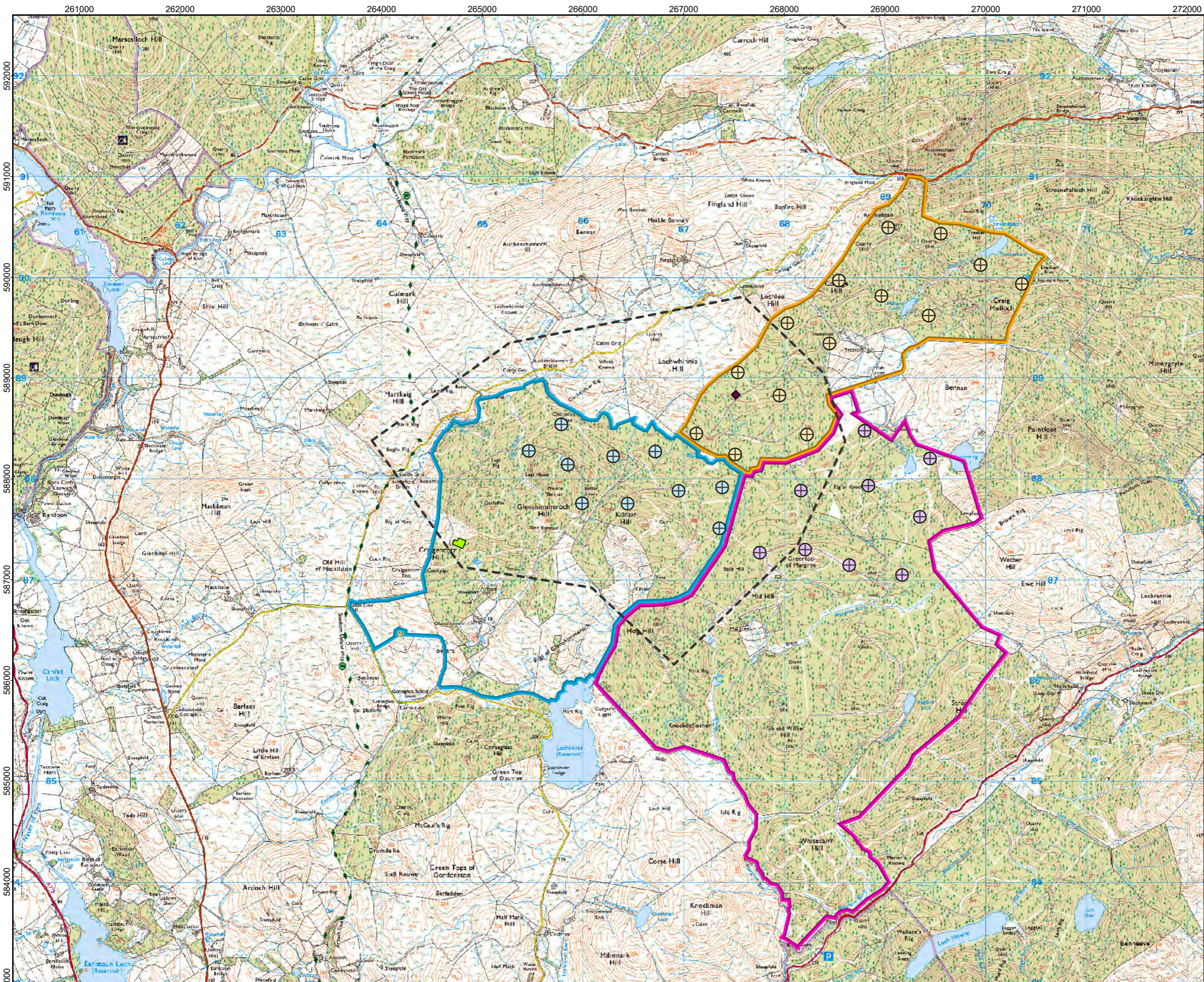
Some of the consultees recommended further assessments to be carried out as part of the design of the OHL as well as adherence to their standard advice and list of precautions. These standards and precautions will be taken into account during the detailed design and assessment of the proposed development.

4.3 Conclusion

Taking into account the consultation responses received to date, and the outcome of the routeing study, on balance Route Option A is still considered to be the preferred route. The preferred route will be taken forward to EIA Screening as the proposed OHL route. Further detailed design and assessment will be carried out to identify the potential for adverse effects and identify appropriate mitigation measures to avoid or reduce adverse effects.

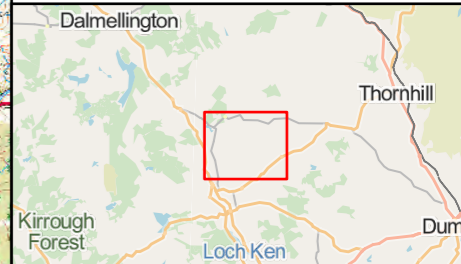
APPENDIX 1: FIGURES

Figure	Content
1	Location Plan
2	Preferred Route Option



- Legend:**
- Study Area
 - Glenshimmeroch Turbines
 - Magree Turbines
 - Troston Loch Turbines
 - Glenshimmeroch Collector Substation
 - Troston Point of Connection
 - Glenshimmeroch Wind Farm Boundary
 - Margree Wind Farm Boundary
 - Troston Loch Wind Farm Boundary

Coordinate System: British National Grid
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Datum: OSGB 1936
 Units: Meter



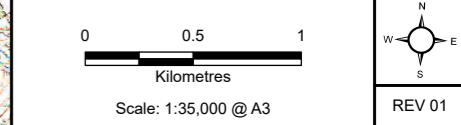
Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
01	04/11/2021	Legend updated	CW	NR	AA
00	02/11/2021	First Draft	CW	NR	AA

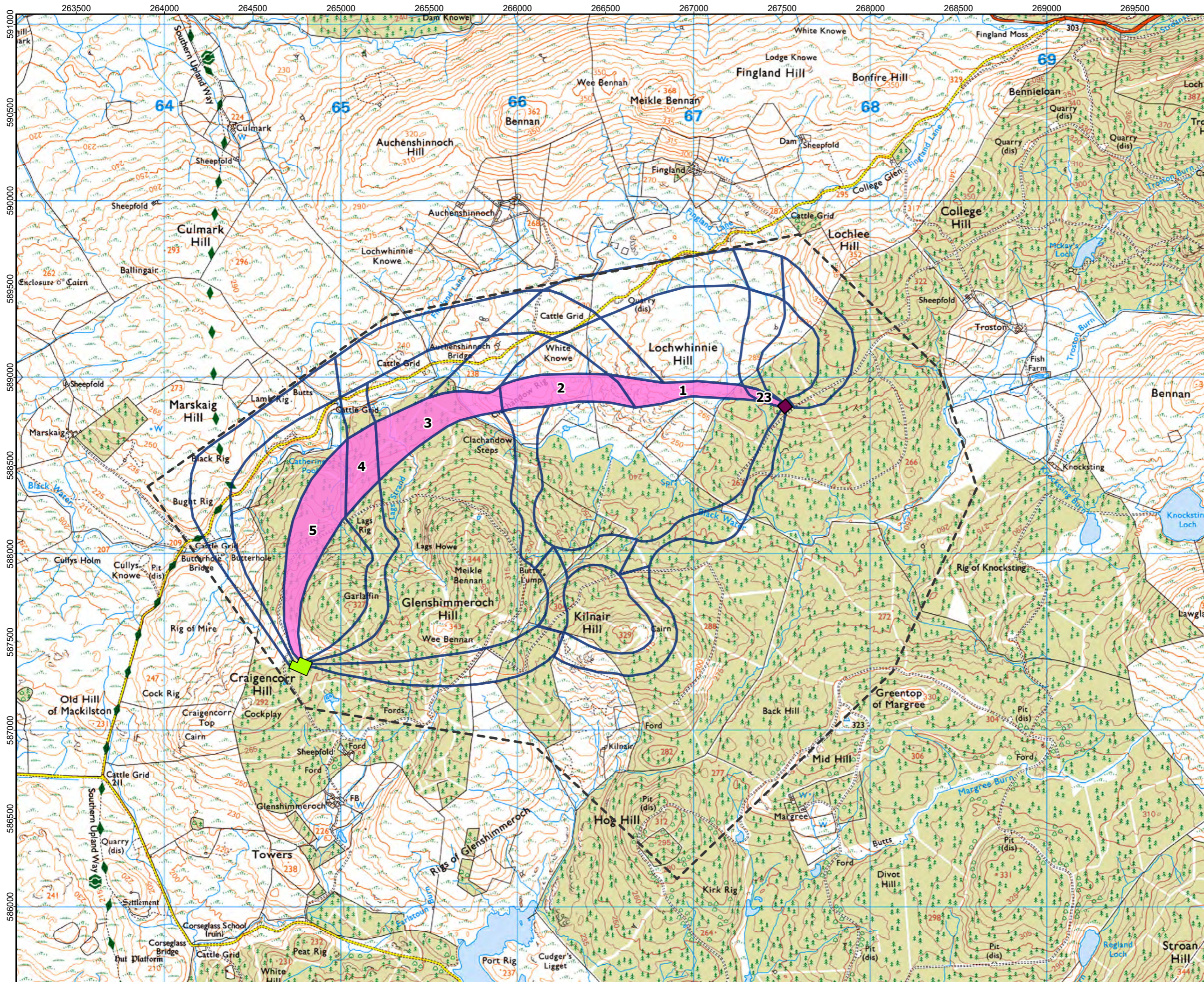
Troston OHL Grid Connection



TITLE: Figure 1: Location Plan

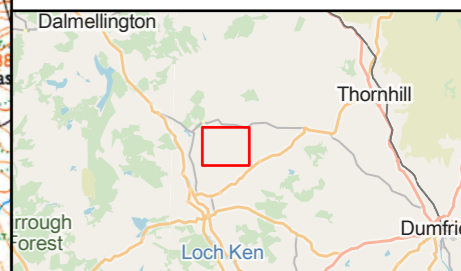
ID:P663229_Location_Plan_Site_Plan_Layout





- Legend:**
- Study Area
 - Glenshimmeroch Collector Substation
 - Troston Point of Connection
 - Potential Routes
 - Route Option A

Coordinate System: British National Grid
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Datum: OSGB 1936
 Units: Meter



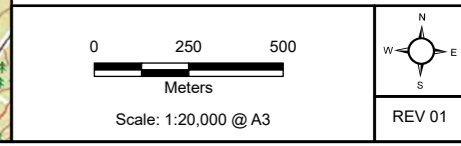
Rev	Date	Description	Drn	Chk	App
01	14/12/2021	Revised Route Options	DL	NR	NR
00	11/11/2021	First Draft	TM	NR	NR

Troston OHL Grid Connection



TITLE: Figure 2: Preferred Route Option - Route Option A

ID:P663229_OHL_Route_Options_A_J_OHL Route Option

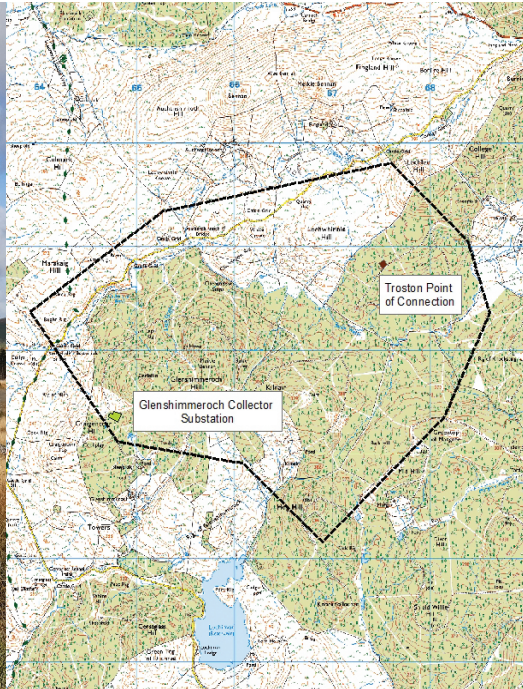
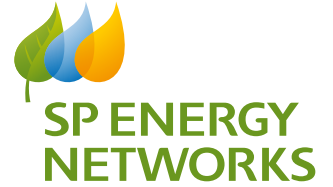


APPENDIX 2: PUBLIC CONSULTATION MATERIALS

Copies of the advertisements, display boards questionnaires and other media that were used to share information during the Pre-Application Consultation round are presented in this appendix as follows:

Item	Content
1	Postcard-style leaflet
2	Email to Dalry Community Council
3	Copy of the online feedback form
4	Information boards
5	Evidence of website content

TROSTON OVERHEAD LINE PROPOSAL



SP Energy Networks (SPEN) has been contracted to provide a grid connection for the proposed Troston Loch Wind Farm near St John's Town of Dalry, Dumfries and Galloway. SPEN has a legal duty under the Electricity Act 1989 to provide grid connections to new electricity generating developments.

The proposal is for a 132 kV trident wood pole overhead line using H poles 11–18m in height and with spans of 70–110m.

We are now undertaking consultation as part of the engineering and environmental review of potential route options. A preferred route has been identified (see map overleaf) and the route selection process, documented in a Routing Consultation Report, is available to download from our website: http://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/troston_loch_wind_farm_connection.aspx from 9am on **3 October 2022 to 5pm on **24 October 2022**.**

We would like to invite everyone to view the information on our website and to attend one of the online public consultation events on Wednesday 5 October (afternoon, 3 to 5 pm) and Tuesday 11 October (evening, 6 to 8 pm).

Further information on the online public consultation event and the proposed design can be obtained from our website. If you are unable to access the information online, you can request paper copies by leaving your name and address on 07516 461129.

We value community engagement and are always keen to listen to what people have to say, as this feedback often plays an important part in the design evolution of a project. We invite you to submit your comments – please contact us by:

- Completing the **online feedback form/questionnaire**
- Post – write to: **Troston Overhead Line Grid Connection Project, Land and Planning Team, SP Energy Networks, 55 Fullarton Drive, Glasgow, G32 8FA**
- Email: **trostonprojectmanager@spenergynetworks.co.uk**

Thank you for participating in this proposal. Your input is valued and your contribution is appreciated.

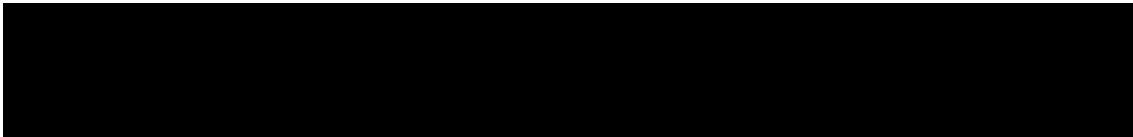
Please note that any comments made during this Consultation Stage are not representations to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, which will determine any subsequent application for consent. Following the submission of the Section 37 application, interested parties will have the opportunity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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE



Nisha Rehm

From: Nisha Rehm
Sent: 16 September 2022 12:05
To:
Cc:



Subject: Troston 132 kV Overhead Line Grid Connection Proposal - Public Consultation 03/10/22 to 24/10/22

Dear members of the Dalry Community Council,

Public Consultation - Troston 132 kV Overhead Line Grid Connection Proposal

Scottish Power Energy Networks is publicising its proposal to connect the proposed Troston Loch Wind Farm to the national grid via an overhead line. The wind farm and grid connection are proposed to be located in Dumfries and Galloway about 6.2 km north-east of St John's Town of Dalry and 10.4 km south-west of Moniaive. We are at an early stage in the development of this project and wish to introduce the project and consult with the local community. We would like to invite everyone to view the information on our website and to attend the online public consultation events on the afternoon of Wednesday 5 October (3–5pm) and the evening of Tuesday 11 October (6–8pm). Opportunities to ask questions and comment will also be available via email or telephone, or our online feedback form.

Further information on the online public consultation events and the public consultation materials will be available online at: http://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/troston_loch_wind_farm_connection.aspx

Project information will be available to view 24/7 from 9am on 3 October 2022 to 5pm on 24 October 2022.

Further information on the proposed development may be obtained online at the website (above), and through the means identified below. Anyone wishing to request information or comment on the proposed development may do so until 24 October 2022 by completing an online feedback form/questionnaire to be made available at the website (above) or alternatively by:

- Telephone (07516 461129);
- Post (Troston Overhead Line Grid Connection Project, Land and Planning Team, SP Energy Networks, 55 Fullarton Drive, Glasgow G32 8FA); or
- Email (trostonprojectmanager@spenergynetworks.co.uk).

We'd appreciate it if you could please inform the residents of Dalry Community Council of this upcoming public consultation.

Thanks and regards

Nisha Rehm PIEMA
Senior EIA Consultant

RSK
11D Park House, Milton Park, Milton, Abingdon, OX14 4RS

<http://www.rsk.co.uk>

Registered number: 115530

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Troston 132-KV Overhead Line

PUBLIC CONSULTATION FEEDBACK FORM

1. Which of the below options best describes your location in relation to the proposed Troston Overhead Line?

- Local (Moniaive, St John's Town of Dalry or closer to the development area)
- Further afield, but in Dumfries and Galloway or East Ayrshire
- Rest of Scotland
- Outside of Scotland
- Other

2. Please select the option which best describes your interest in the proposals.

- I live near the proposed overhead line
- I own a holiday property near the proposed overhead line
- I have business interests near the proposed overhead line
- I use part of the study area for recreational purposes
- Other

3. Do you broadly support the proposed TrostonOverhead Line?

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly agree

4. Are there any specific issues about our proposals that concern you?

5. Having read the information made available on the SP Energy Networks Troston Overhead Line website, how effective was the information in helping you gain an understanding of our proposal?

- Very effective
- Somewhat effective
- Effective
- Very ineffective

6. How did you hear about our online public consultation?

- Postcard-style leaflet
- Advertisement in the Dumfries and Galloway Standard
- Advertisement in the Galloway News
- Advertisement on the SP Energy Networks website
- Word of mouth
- Other

7. Is there any other information that you would find helpful? Please provide any further feedback here.

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Microsoft. The data you submit will be sent to the form owner.

Troston Loch

Involving the local community



Who we are

SP Energy Networks (SPEN) owns and operates the network of cables, overhead power lines and substations transporting electricity to customers in central and southern Scotland.

SPEN is a regulated business with the following responsibilities under the Electricity Act 1989:

- to develop and maintain an efficient, coordinated and economical system of electricity transmission
- to facilitate competition in the generation and supply of electricity
- to offer non-discriminatory terms for connection to the transmission system, for both new generation and new sources of electricity demand.

The developer of Troston Loch wind farm has approached SPEN to provide an overhead line connection to the wider electricity network.

Our proposal

SPEN proposes to construct a new, 132-kilovolt (kV) OHL supported by wood poles to connect the consented Troston Loch Wind Farm located approximately 6.2 km north-east of St John's Town of Dalry and 10.4 km south-west of Moniaive in Dumfries and Galloway.

This exhibition provides information on:

- the design principles that are used to identify routes for a new OHL;
- how a preferred route has been identified;
- where the preferred route is located; and
- what feedback we would like at this stage.

Purpose of the consultation

We are consulting with statutory and non-statutory consultees and the general public to ensure that all available information, views and opinions have been gathered and considered in the selection of the preferred route for the OHL.

The purpose of this consultation event is to provide information on the project and to get your feedback on the preferred route.

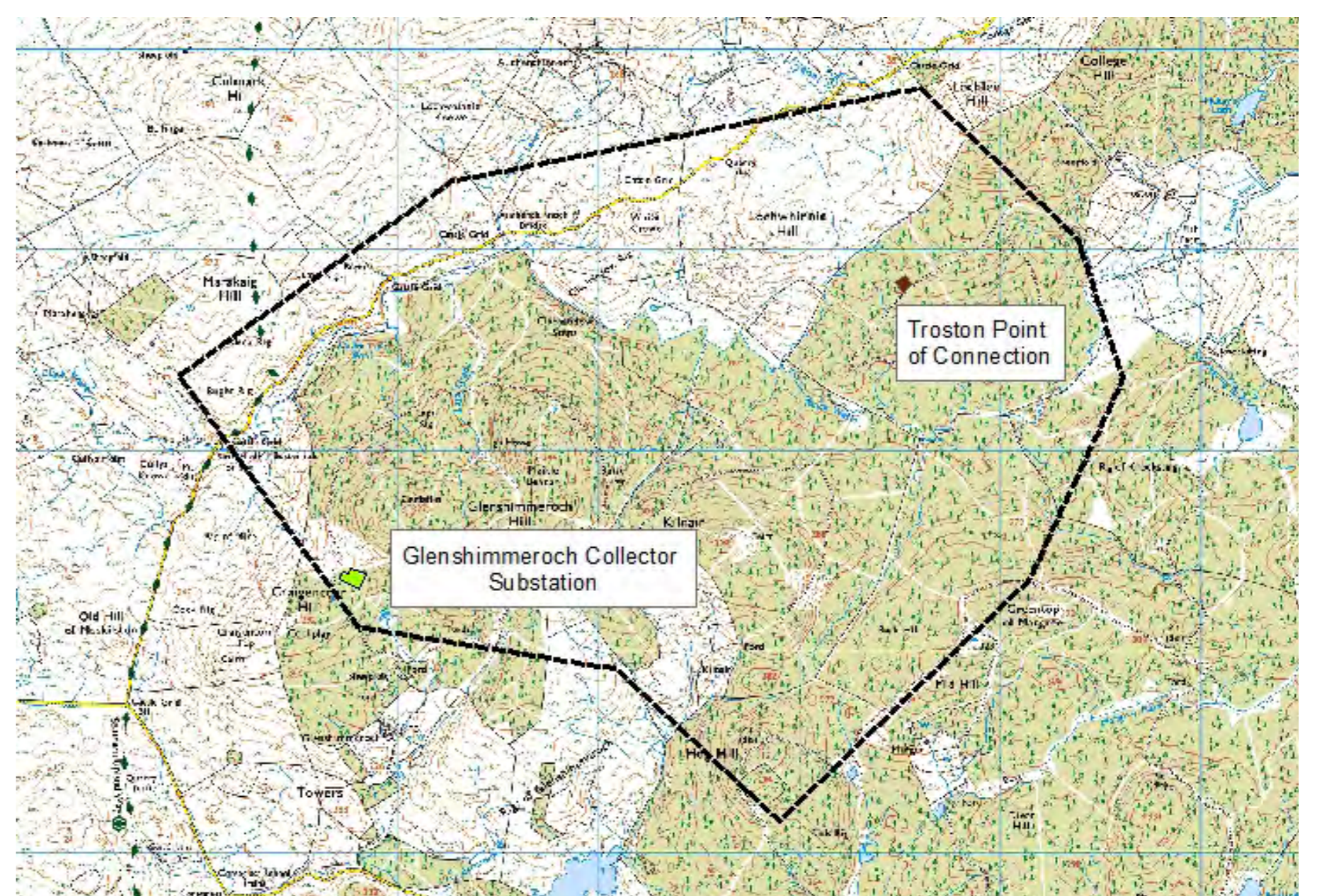
SPEN attaches great importance to the effect that its works may have on the environment and on people. In seeking to achieve 'least disturbance,' SPEN is keen to engage with key stakeholders including local communities and others who may have an interest in the project.

Following the consultation, we will arrive at a **proposed route** that will be put forward in the application for consent.

Consents

New electricity lines exceeding 20 kV require consent from the Scottish Ministers under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.

It is SPEN's intention to submit an environmental impact assessment (EIA) screening request to the Scottish Ministers as part of the application for consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act (1989) for the Troston OHL grid connection. The screening response may confirm that EIA is not a requirement. In this context an environmental appraisal would be undertaken to support the Section 37 application.



The point of connection and collector points



Project need

SPEN proposes to construct an overhead line (OHL) between the consented Troston Loch Wind Farm's substation and the proposed Glenshimmeroch collector substation to connect the Troston Loch Wind Farm to the national grid.

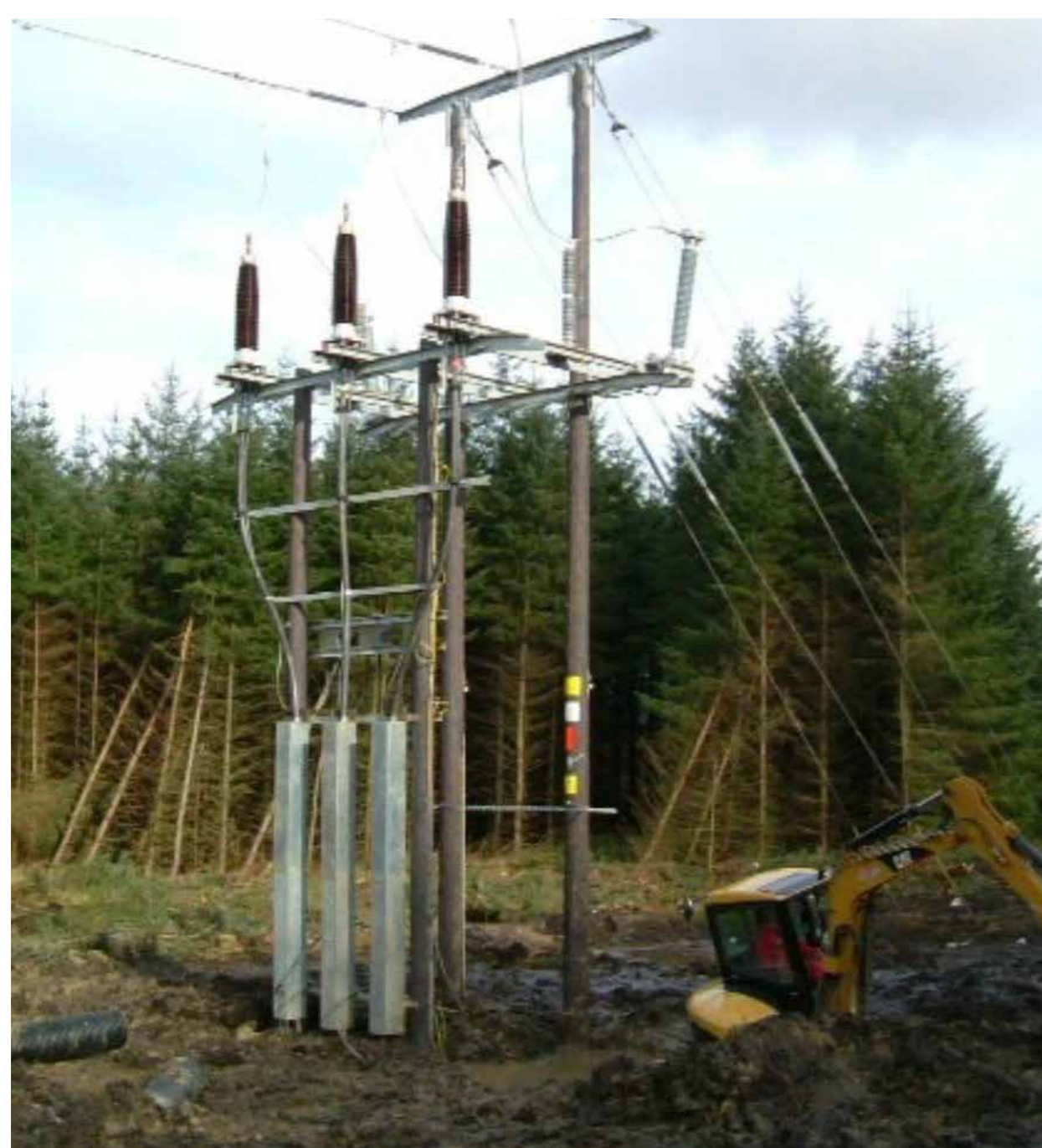
Grid connection design and infrastructure

SPEN's document 'Approach to Routing and Environmental Impact Assessment' (2020) seeks, for major electrical infrastructure, a continuous OHL solution for all transmission connections; only where there are exceptional constraints are underground cables considered an acceptable design option. Such constraints can be found in urban areas and in rural areas of the highest scenic and amenity value. On this basis, the key design assumption is that the Troston grid connection will be a continuous OHL connection throughout. SPEN has identified that the planned grid connection will require a 132-kV OHL connection and will transmit electricity generated at the consented Troston Loch Wind Farm from the point of connection at the planned Troston Loch substation and deliver it to the collector point at the proposed Glenshimmeroch collector substation.

Overhead line infrastructure

The size of poles and span lengths will vary depending on several factors, in line with industry the Energy Networks Association specification ENA TS 43-50 Issue 2. The OHL is likely to require construction using H poles (rather than single poles), with a span length of about 70–110 m and pole heights ranging from 11–18 m with a typical height of 13 m. This has been used as the basis for identification of the preferred route; however, the precise pole configuration, height and spans will be determined after a detailed line design following confirmation of the proposed route.

The wood pole will support three conductors (wires) in a horizontal flat formation. The photos below show some examples of typical trident double wood poles, section and terminal structures, and it is anticipated that similar poles and structures would be used for the Troston OHL grid connection. Subject to confirmation of the proposed route for the new OHL, detailed survey work will be carried out to inform the proposed positions and heights of each individual wood pole.



Example of typical terminal structures of a trident 132-kV OHL (SPEN, 2019)



Example of typical section structures of a trident 132-kV OHL (SPEN, 2019)



Example of a typical intermediate section of a trident double wood pole supporting a 132-kV OHL (SPEN, 2019)

Routeing

SPEN proposes to construct a 132-kV continuous overhead line (OHL) between the consented Troston Loch Wind Farm and the proposed Glenshimmeroch collector substation in order to connect the Troston Loch Wind Farm to the national grid. The challenge is to identify an OHL route between the points of connection that will achieve SPEN's routeing objective and comply with current best practice guidance. SPEN's approach to routeing an OHL is based on the premise that the major environmental effect of an OHL is visual, and the degree of visual intrusion can be reduced by careful routeing. A reduction in visual intrusion can be achieved by routeing the line to fit the topography, by using topography and trees to provide screening and/or background, and by routeing the line away from settlements and roads. In addition, a well-routed line takes into account other environmental and technical considerations and avoids, wherever possible, the most sensitive and valued natural and man-made features.

Routeing objective

The routeing objective for this project is to identify a technically feasible and economically viable OHL route for a continuous 132-kV OHL connection between the consented Troston Loch Wind Farm and the Glenshimmeroch collection point, which causes least disturbance to the environment and the people who live, work and enjoy recreation within it.

Routeing guidance

The Holford Rules are used to guide the routeing process. These rules were first established in 1959 by Sir William Holford and continue to inform transmission line routeing in the UK.

Rule 1: Avoid altogether, if possible, the major areas of highest amenity value, by so planning the general route of the line in the first place, even if the total mileage is somewhat increased in consequence.

Rule 2: Avoid smaller areas of high amenity value, or scientific interest by deviation; provided that this can be done without using too many angle towers, i.e., the more massive structures which are used when lines change direction.

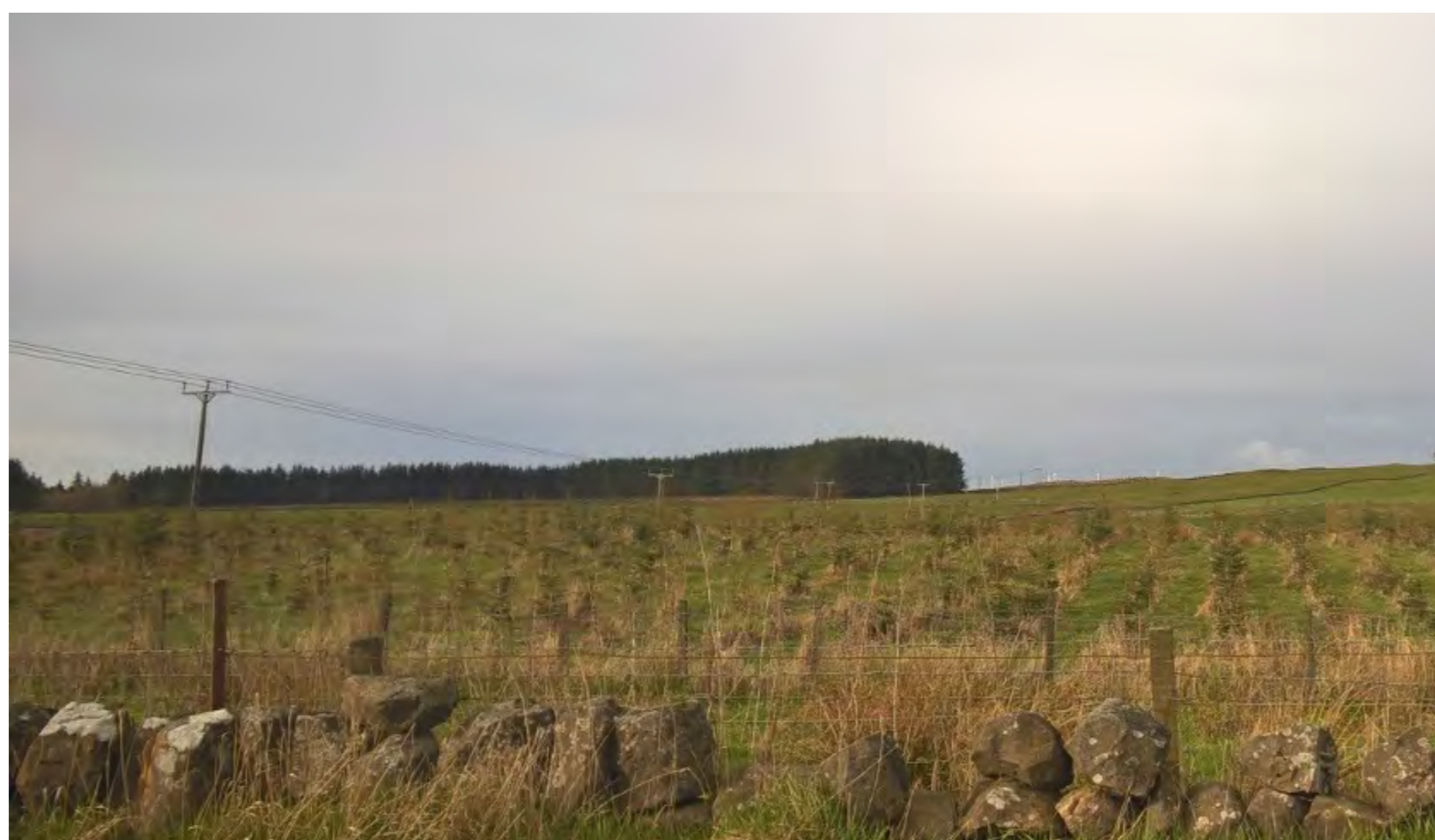
Rule 3: Other things being equal, choose the most direct line, with no sharp changes of direction and thus with few angle towers

Rule 4: Choose tree and hill backgrounds in preference to sky backgrounds, wherever possible.

Rule 5: Prefer moderately open valleys with woods where the apparent height of towers will be reduced, and views of the line will be broken by trees.

Rule 6: In country that is flat and sparsely planted, keep the high voltage lines as far as possible independent of smaller lines, converging routes, distribution poles and other masts, wires and cables, so as to avoid a concentration or 'wirescape'.

Rule 7: Approach urban areas through industrial zones, where they exist; and if this is not possible, consider undergrounding any lower voltage lines.



View of existing wood pole OHL south of Coalburn, South Lanarkshire



View of existing wood pole OHL in a valley at Chirmorie, south of Barrhill

Routeing Strategy

The OHL route should, on balance, cause the least disturbance to the environment and the people who live, work and enjoy outdoor recreation within it. To help minimise landscape and visual effects, in accordance with the Holford Rules and SPEN's routeing methodology, the proposed OHL has also sought to avoid high ground and ridgelines, responding to the grain of the landscape, subject to avoiding areas of highest amenity and environmental values far as practicable (as above). To help assess temporary and permanent cumulative effects, careful consideration has also been given to the relationship of the proposed OHL with other electricity infrastructure in the study area. Route options are developed and appraised in line with the strategy to arrive at a preferred route for consideration at consultation. Following this consultation period, the preferred route may be modified based on feedback and a proposed route will be adopted.

Routeing considerations

Overhead lines (OHL) are linear elements in the landscape. They are likely to affect, to varying degrees, visual and other environmental aspects of the area through which they run. This part of the process predominantly comprises information gathering and consideration of the potential for effects.

The initial stage is to determine a study area and gather baseline information within this area through desk-based studies, site visits, and consultations to identify potential constraints and opportunities to routeing.

To define a route that meets the requirements of the Electricity Act 1989, a balance must be struck between three sets of considerations:

- environmental;
- technical; and
- economic.

Environmental considerations

Statutory duties imposed by Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 require licence holders to seek to preserve features of natural and cultural heritage interest and mitigate, where possible, any adverse effects which a development may have. Experience across the electricity industry shows that an overhead transmission line is likely to affect, to varying degrees, the following:

- landscape and visual amenity;
- ecology, ornithology and nature conservation;
- geology, hydrogeology and hydrology;
- cultural heritage; and
- forestry and woodland.

Other considerations which may affect routeing, to a greater or lesser degree, include:

- planning allocations and major applications;
- noise;
- traffic (access for construction);
- land use (agriculture); and
- socio-economics (tourism and recreation).

Technical considerations

Technical considerations potentially include existing infrastructure, altitude and slope angle, and physical constraints such as large waterbodies. These technical considerations are not considered as being absolute constraints but are a guide to routeing. The approach taken is to identify preferred environmental options informed by a staged review of technical issues.

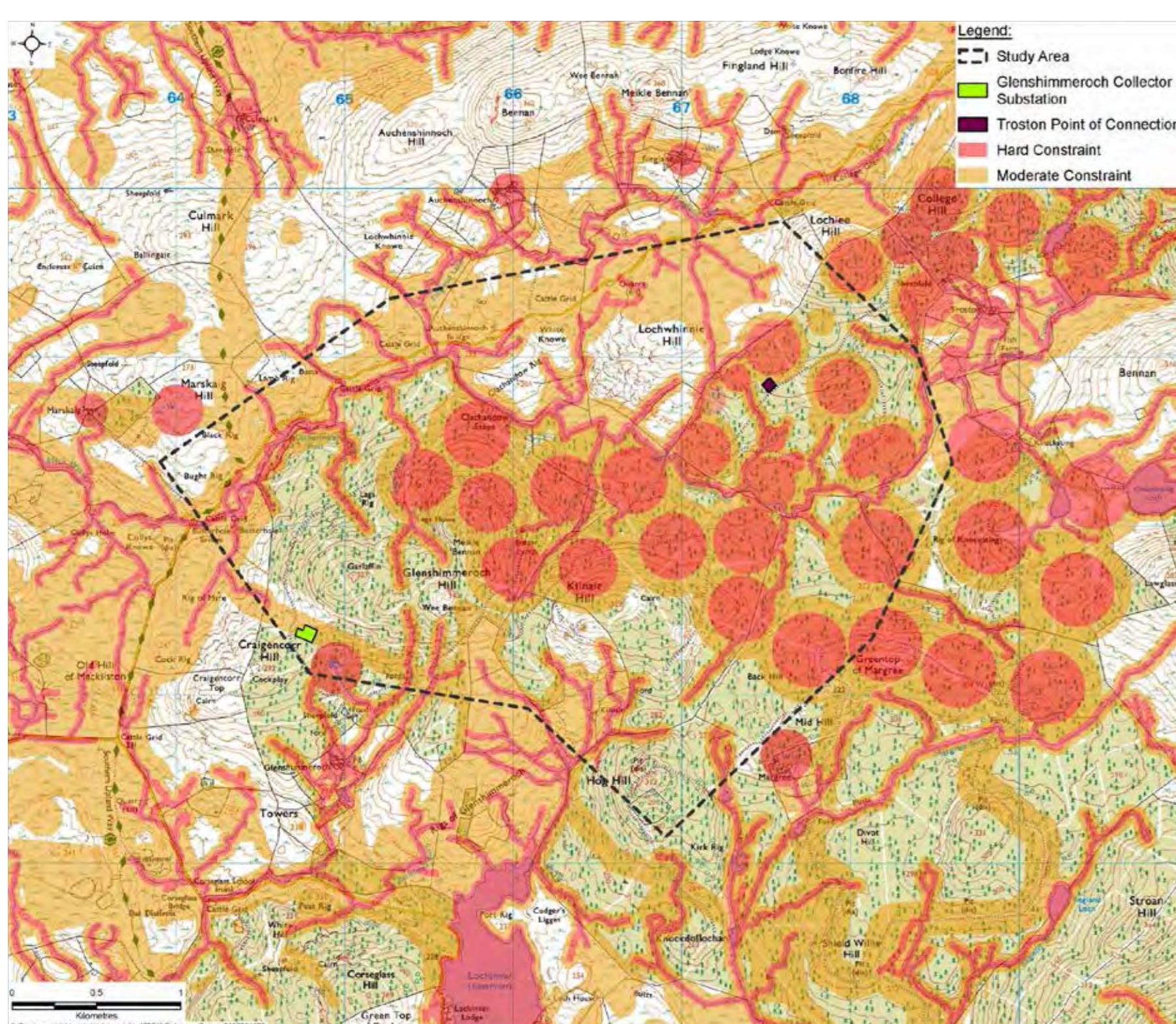
Economic considerations

In compliance with Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989, the routeing objective requires the proposed connection to be economical. It is interpreted by SPEN as meaning that, as far as possible and all other things being equal, the connections should be as direct as possible, and the route should avoid areas where technical difficulty or compensatory schemes would render the connection uneconomical.

Site-specific environmental, planning and technical constraints

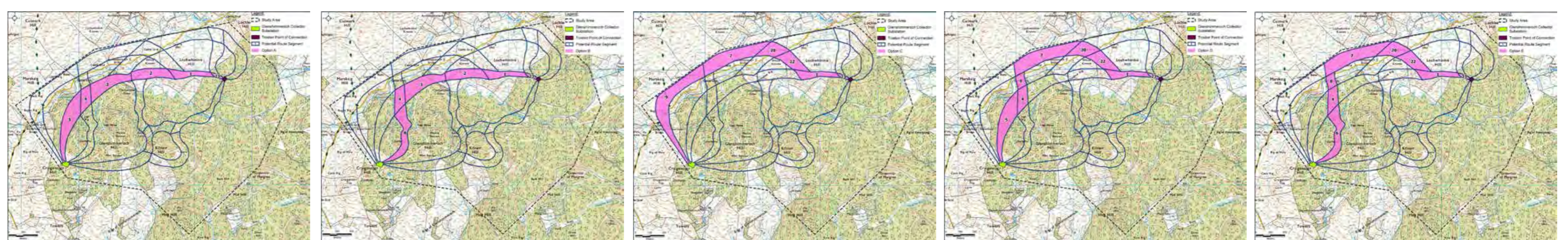
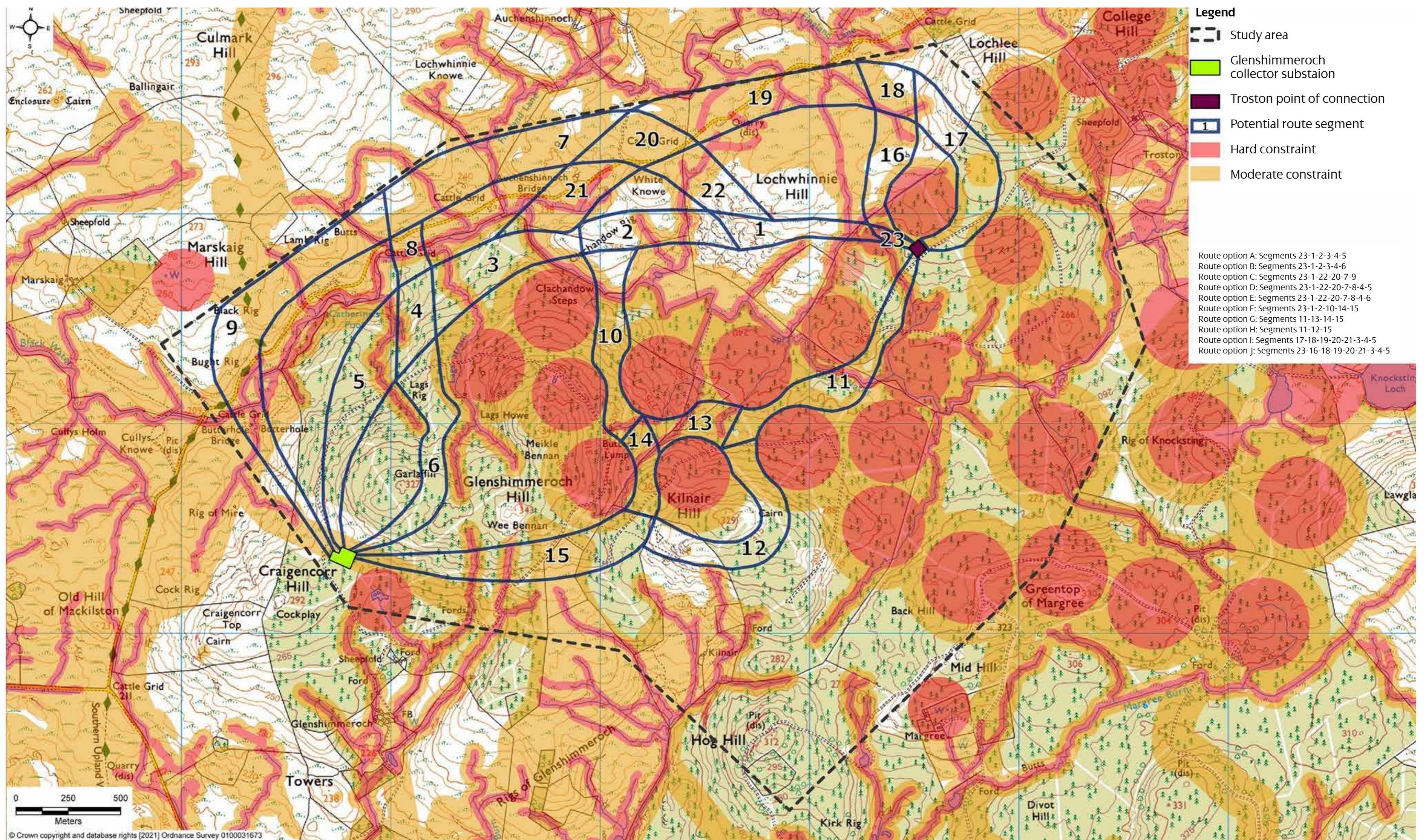
A combined constraints map was generated showing the environmental, planning and technical constraints within the study area. Areas indicated in **red** were identified as high sensitivity or hard constraints, to be avoided, while **amber** constraints were identified as areas where the OHL infrastructure could be routed with caution, and where impact mitigation would be required.

Red infrastructure constraints included the topple heights of the planned or consented wind turbines at the proposed Troston Loch Wind Farm, Glenshimmeroch Wind Farm and adjacent Margree Wind Farm, as well as steep slopes. Red environmental constraints included residential properties, certain heritage assets, deep peat, private water supplies and watercourses (in no particular order of importance). The presence of the Southern Upland Way within the study area also influenced the route options appraisal as it is a nationally significant long-distance core path, Scotland's first coast-to-coast route.



Route options

To allow identification of a preferred route, an appraisal of the identified route options was undertaken. The purpose of the appraisal is to identify the relative potential of each route option to accommodate an overhead line, including a focus on potential landscape and visual impacts of the options as directed by Holford Rules 3 to 7. Each route option was subjected to an environmental and technical appraisal, where the goal was to identify a preferred route. Owing to the nature of the site and its constraints, several route segments were identified that could be combined in various ways to form several route options for appraisal.



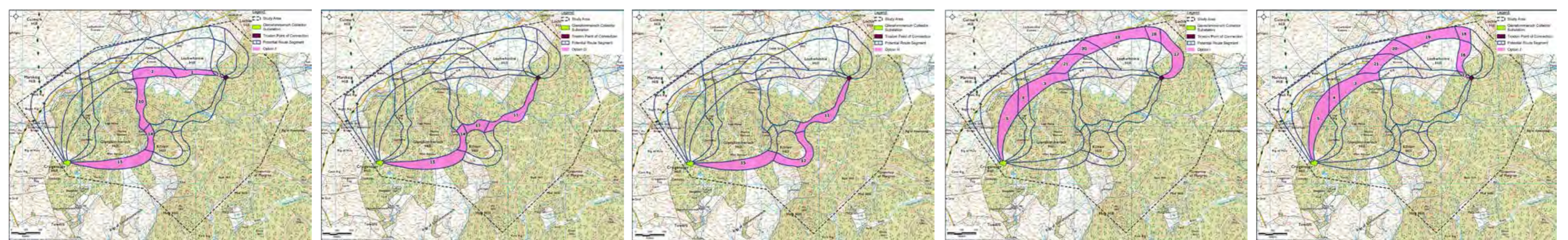
Route A

Route B

Route C

Route D

Route E



Route F

Route G

Route H

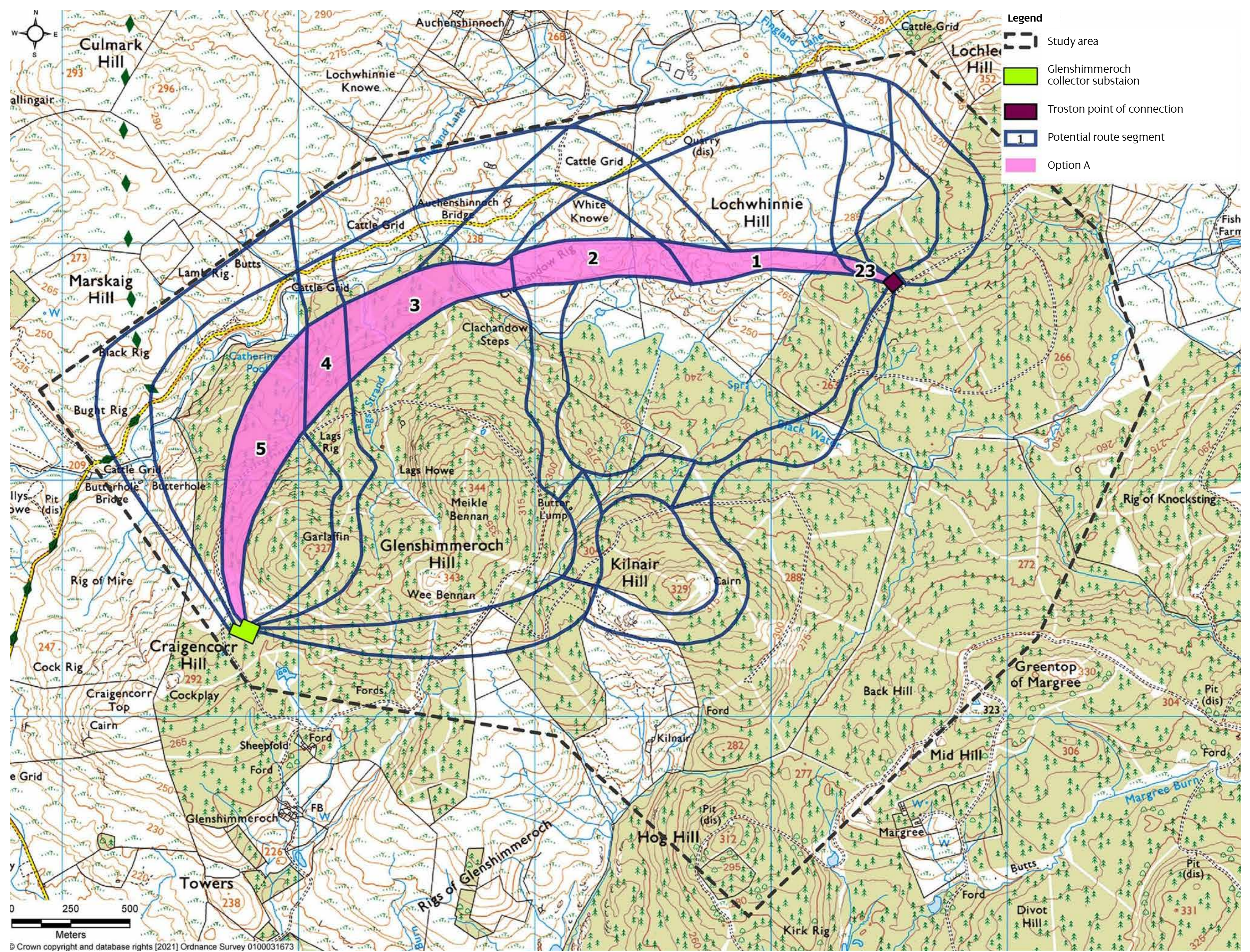
Route I

Route J



Preferred route

The preferred route on balance of considerations is Route Option A.



Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to consider the information presented. You can obtain further information on the proposed design from our website. If you are unable to access the information online, you can request paper copies by calling **07516 461129** and leaving your name and address.

We value community engagement and are always keen to listen to what people have to say, as this feedback often plays an important part in the design evolution of a project. We invite you to submit your comments – please contact us by **24 October 2022** by:

- Completing the online feedback form/questionnaire: www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/troston_loch_wind_farm_connection.aspx
- Post to: **Troston Overhead Line Grid Connection Project, Land and Planning Team, SP Energy Networks, 55 Fullarton Drive, Glasgow, G32 8FA** or
- Email: trostonprojectmanager@spenergynetworks.co.uk



What happens next?

Following this consultation, it is possible that some changes to the preferred route will be suggested as a result of the emergence of new information. The suggested changes would be evaluated and, if necessary, subjected to additional consultation.

Once we have received all comments on the preferred route for the proposed Troston overhead line (OHL) grid connection, we will confirm the location of the proposed route.

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening request will be submitted to the Scottish Ministers to determine whether an EIA will be required for the planned Troston OHL grid connection.

The final OHL route will be submitted to the Scottish Government as part of an application for Section 37 consent under the Electricity Act 1989.

Please note that any comments made during this Consultation Stage are not representations to The Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit, who 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.



Thank you for participating in this proposal, your input is valued and your contribution is appreciated.

Investment & Innovation

TROSTON LOCH WIND FARM CONNECTION

SP Energy Networks (SPEN) has been contracted by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) to connect the proposed Troston Loch Wind Farm to the national grid. The proposed Troston Loch Wind Farm is located between the towns of St John's Town of Dalry and Moniaive in Dumfries and Galloway. SP Energy Networks (SPEN) have a licence obligation to provide electricity generators with a connection to the electrical system in this area. In line with this, SPEN is proposing a grid connection between the planned Troston Loch substation and the proposed Glenshimmeroch collector substation (subject to a separate planning application), which will be connected to the grid by wood poles. The wood poles constructed will likely be H poles, rather than single poles, of between 11 and 18 m high, with a typical height of 13m, with typical spans of 90m.

SPEN is now seeking views on the proposals and the routeing work which has been undertaken to date for the Project. Further information about the project, our plans for consultation, and how to make comments, is provided in the Routeing and Consultation Report and Consultation Leaflet which can be downloaded below:

Routeing and Consultation



Routeing and Consultation Document Appendices



- Information Boards [🔗 \(/userfiles/file/663229_SPEN%20Troston_boards_d3.pdf\)](/userfiles/file/663229_SPEN%20Troston_boards_d3.pdf)
- Consultation Leaflet [🔗 \(/userfiles/file/663229_SPE_Troston_Postcard_d3.pdf\)](/userfiles/file/663229_SPE_Troston_Postcard_d3.pdf)

Public Information Event

A virtual, online consultation process is being undertaken. This will allow people to view the information online and members of the public will be able to leave comments on the preferred overhead line route. Feedback from this event will then be considered by SPEN prior to the proposed route being determined.

The virtual consultation can be accessed from the following link [🔗 \(https://www.spentroston.co.uk/publicsession/\)](https://www.spentroston.co.uk/publicsession/) during the consultation period, which runs from 3rd October until 24th October 2022.

Members of the project team will also be available on live chat in the exhibition room to answer any questions you may have, during the following times:

- Wednesday 5 October (3–5pm)



- Tuesday 11 October (6–8pm)

Out with these times, you can still get in touch with us through the project contact details below.

Our GDPR statement can be found here [↗](#)

(/userfiles/file/U_AT_GDPR_Statement_for_web%20GDPR%20for%20websites.pdf).

We would be obliged if you could please submit any comments to SPEN using the feedback from below should you wish to leave any feedback on the Proposed route:

- Feedback Form [↗](https://forms.office.com/Pages/DesignPageV2.aspx?origin=NeoPortalPage&subpage=design&id=vAkaA7-i30Sijk4JNVt6JIDWvi03DqdEs4_6q0o5V5ZUMkdLTDVGSFBBUKY5RzNRSU9FWTIwNIVSNS4u&fl) (https://forms.office.com/Pages/DesignPageV2.aspx?origin=NeoPortalPage&subpage=design&id=vAkaA7-i30Sijk4JNVt6JIDWvi03DqdEs4_6q0o5V5ZUMkdLTDVGSFBBUKY5RzNRSU9FWTIwNIVSNS4u&fl)

Alternatively, Should you have any enquiries or comments, please contact us at trostonprojectmanager@spenergynetworks.co.uk (mailto:trostonprojectmanager@spenergynetworks.co.uk) or by writing to:

Troston Loch Wind Farm Project

Land and Planning Team

SP Energy Networks

55 Fullarton Drive

Glasgow

G32 8FA

Please note these comments must be submitted no later than midnight 24th October 2022.. If contacting SPEN by post, please allow up to 7 days for these to be received as it may not be possible to consider comments received after this date.

Comments at this stage are informal and are made to allow SPEN to determine whether changes to our preferred route are necessary. Following establishment of the proposed route, SP Energy Networks intends to submit an application to the Scottish Ministers for consent under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 and deemed planning permission under section 57 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. Submission of the Section 37 application is currently anticipated for Spring 2024. Following this, the Scottish Government will undertake a formal consultation, during which there will be further opportunity to comment on our proposals directly to Scottish Ministers.





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