



**SP ENERGY
NETWORKS**

**The Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project
Summary of Feedback from First Round of Consultation**

SP Energy Networks

November 2019

The Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project

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Contents

1	Introduction	2
	Purpose of this Document	2
	SP Energy Networks	2
	Routeing and Consultation Process	3
	Consenting Legislation and Guidance	4
2	Consultation Process	6
	Overview	6
	The First Round of Consultation	6
	Project Leaflet	6
	Public Exhibitions	7
	Feedback Form	7
	Inspection Copies	8
	Who SPEN Consulted	8
3	Overview of Consultation Feedback	10
	Representations Received	10
	Stakeholder Responses	10
4	Conclusions and Next Steps	11
	Confirmation of the Preferred Routes	11
	Next Steps	11
Appendix 1	Project Leaflet	13
Appendix 2	Sample Advert	14
Appendix 3	Project Poster	15
Appendix 4	Exhibition Banners	16
Appendix 5	Feedback Form	24
Appendix 6	Summary of Consultation Feedback from Routeing Stage	26

Figures

Figure 1.1: Preferred Routes

Figure 2.1: Overview of Routeing Methodology

Figure 4.1: Glenmuckloch 132kV Connection Project Proposed Route

Figure 4.2: Glenmuckloch 33kV Connection Project Proposed Route

1 Introduction

Purpose of this Document

- 1.1 This document has been prepared by SP Energy Networks (SPEN), to present the findings of the first round of pre-application consultation on the Glenmuckloch Pumped-Storage Hydro (PSH) 132kV Connection Project and the adjacent Glenmuckloch Wind Farm (WF) 33kV Connection Project (together referred to as the 'Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project').
- 1.2 The first round of consultation for the Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project was undertaken in January 2019 following the identification of preferred routes for the new 132kV and 33kV overhead lines (OHLs) as seen in **Figure 1.1**. The purpose of this document is to detail the feedback received to date, address feedback received during the first round of consultation and demonstrate how this feedback has influenced the Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project.
- 1.3 The Glenmuckloch PSH scheme is located in Dumfries and Galloway and is situated within the Glenmuckloch opencast coal mine. The PSH was consented by the Scottish Government in 2016 and the consented scheme, with the capacity to produce up to 400 MW of generation, is being developed by Buccleuch Estates. Findings of the SPEN network design study confirmed the PSH project would require connection to the existing Glenglass substation via a 132kV OHL supported on steel towers. Further details for the routeing study undertaken to inform the consultation process can be found in The Glenmuckloch 132kV Connection Project: Routeing and Consultation Report (January 2019)¹.
- 1.4 The Glenmuckloch WF is located in Dumfries and Galloway and is situated adjacent to the Glenmuckloch opencast coal mine and the consented Glenmuckloch Pumped-Storage Hydro (PSH) scheme. The Glenmuckloch WF application was approved by Dumfries and Galloway Council in 2016 and the consented scheme, with the capacity to produce up to 25.6MW of generation, is being developed by Buccleuch Estates. SPEN are proposing to construct a new 33kV OHL grid connection supported on wood poles, which is required to connect the consented Glenmuckloch WF to the existing grid network via the 132kV substation at Glenglass. Further details for the routeing study undertaken to inform the consultation process can be found in The Glenmuckloch 33kV Connection Project: Routeing and Consultation Report (January 2019)².
- 1.5 SPEN has a legal duty under the Electricity Act 1989 to provide, develop and maintain a technically feasible and economically viable transmission and distribution system. SPEN also has a duty to provide a connection for new generation (i.e. the consented Glenmuckloch WF and consented PSH) to the wider electricity transmission network.

SP Energy Networks

- 1.6 SPEN owns and operates the electricity transmission and distribution networks in central and southern Scotland through its wholly-owned subsidiaries SP Transmission plc (SPT) and SP Distribution plc (SPD). Its transmission networks are the backbone of the electricity system in its area, carrying large amounts of electricity at high voltages across long distances. The distribution networks are local networks, which take electricity from the transmission grid and bring it into the heart of communities. SPEN's transmission network in Scotland consists of 133 substations, more than 4,000km of overhead lines and more than 320km of underground cables.

¹ SPEN, The Glenmuckloch 132kV Connection project, Routeing and Consultation Document (January 2019). Available[online] at: https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/community_consultation.aspx

² SPEN, The Glenmuckloch 33kV Connection project, Routeing and Consultation Document (January 2019). Available[online] at: https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/community_consultation.aspx

- 1.7 The location of SPEN's transmission network – lying between the Scottish Hydro Electric (SHETL) transmission network in northern Scotland and the Scottish islands, and the National Grid (NGET) transmission network in England – means it has a role linking the parts of the UK transmission system together. It is also connected to the Northern Ireland transmission network via a high voltage direct current (HVDC) subsea cable, which comes ashore at Auchencrosh, on the South Ayrshire coast. This cable is sometimes referred to as the 'Moyle' interconnector.

SPEN's Commitment to Engagement

- 1.8 Stakeholder engagement, including public involvement, is an important component of the Scottish planning and consenting system. Legislation and government guidance aim to ensure that the public, local communities, statutory and other consultees and interested parties have an opportunity to have their views taken into account throughout the planning process.
- 1.9 Striking the right balance can be challenging, and in seeking to achieve this SPEN recognises the importance of consulting effectively on proposals and of being transparent about the decisions reached. SPEN is keen to engage with key stakeholders including local communities and others who may have an interest in the Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project. This engagement process begins at the early stages of development of a project, and continues into construction once consent has been granted.
- 1.10 SPEN's approach to stakeholder engagement for major electrical infrastructure projects is outlined in Chapter 5 of the document 'Major Infrastructure Projects: Approach to Routeing and Environmental Impact Assessment'³. SPEN aims to ensure effective, inclusive and meaningful engagement with the public, local communities statutory and other consultees and interested parties through three key engagement steps:
- Information gathering to inform the routeing stage;
 - Consultation on specific requirements;
 - Obtaining feedback on the preferred route; and
 - The Environmental Appraisal stage.
- 1.11 In addition, and as noted above, SPEN as a holder of a transmission licence, has a duty under section 38 and Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989, when formulating proposals for new electricity lines and other transmission development, to have regard to the effect of work on communities, in addition to the desirability of the preservation of amenity, the natural environment, cultural heritage, landscape and visual quality.
- 1.12 SPEN considers that proportionate to the scope and complexity, the Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project should be subject to two rounds of non-statutory consultation. The two rounds are:
- First round (complete) – Preferred corridors consultation;
 - Second round– Detailed design pre-application consultation.

Routeing and Consultation Process

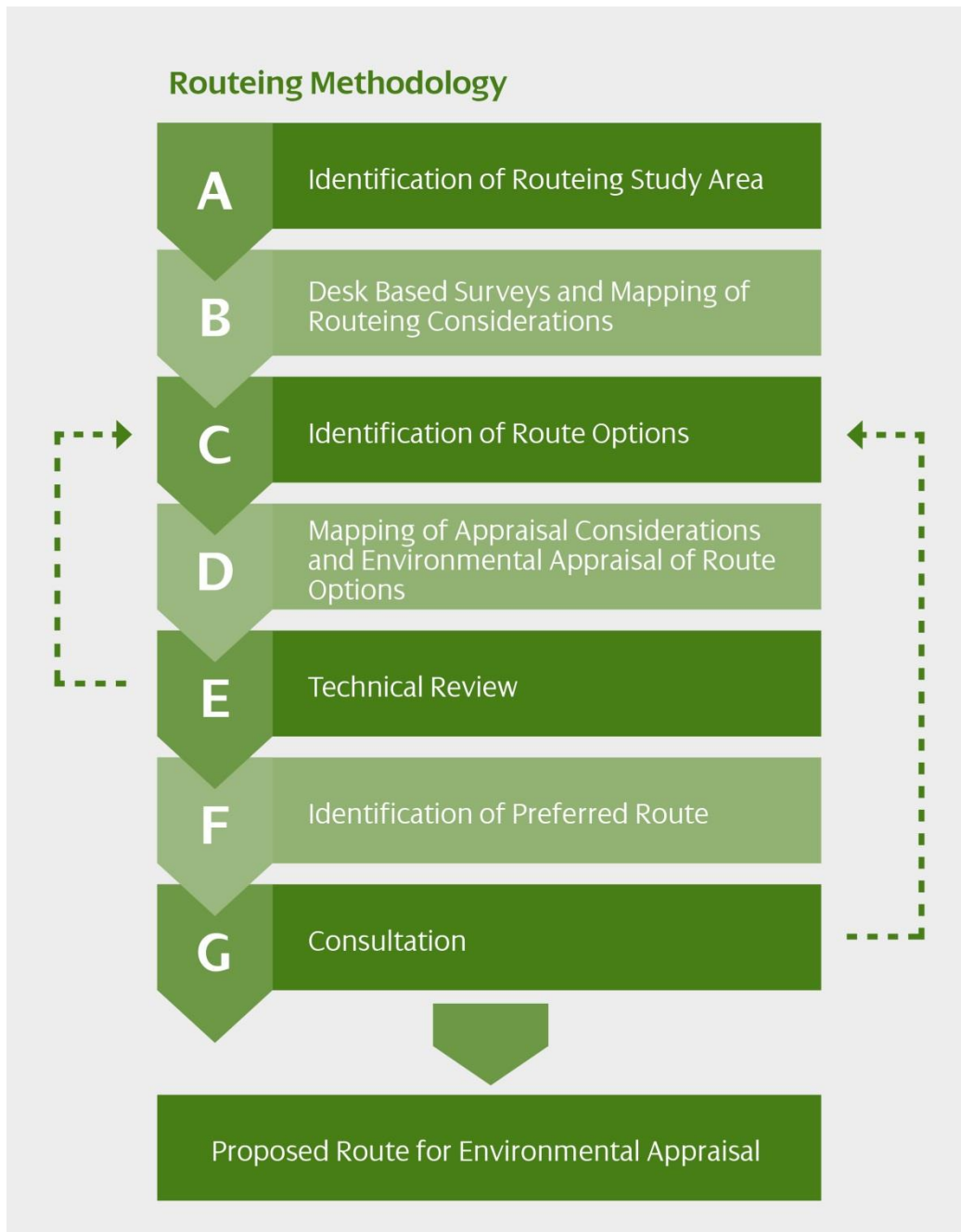
- 1.13 SPEN undertook a routeing process to identify a preferred route for the proposed 132kV and 33kV overhead lines. The objective was to identify a route for the overhead lines which meet the technical requirements of the electricity system, which are economically viable and cause, on balance, the least disturbance to the environment and the people who live, work and enjoy recreation within it.
- 1.14 Following established best practice for routeing overhead lines, initial stages of the routeing process, comprised the identification of a study area, within which environmental characteristics were mapped to inform the identification of a number of route corridors. These route options were appraised against environmental criteria including, landscape and visibility, cultural heritage and

³ SPEN, Major Electrical Infrastructure Projects, Approach to Routeing and Environmental Impact Assessment (May 2015) Available[online] at: https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/userfiles/file/SPEN_Approach_to_Routeing_FINAL_20150527.pdf

biodiversity, to identify a preferred route for each connection. Following a technical review by SPEN, these preferred routes were then taken forward to the consultation process. Through the consultation process, feedback is then used to review the routeing findings and inform the next steps.

- 1.15 More information about the process followed to identify and appraise route options to select the preferred routes can be found in the Routeing and Consultation Documents^{1,2} (January 2019).
- 1.16 **Figure 1.2** 'Overview of Routeing Methodology' below, gives an overview of the broad sequential steps in SPEN's routeing methodology.

Figure 1.2 Overview of Routeing Methodology



Consenting Legislation and Guidance

- 1.17 SPEN will be required to apply to Scottish Ministers for consent for the Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989, to install, and keep

installed, the overhead electricity lines. At the same time, SPEN will need to apply for deemed planning permission for the electricity lines, under section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

- 1.18 SPEN is also required to comply with publicity and consultation requirements under The Electricity (Applications for Consent) Regulations 1990 as amended and The Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017. Scottish Government also expects applicants for Section 37 consent to apply by analogy the requirements for pre-application consultation which exist for applications made under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.
- 1.19 Guidance on this process is outlined in the Scottish Government Energy Consents and Deployment Unit's Good Practice Guidance (January 2013).
- 1.20 At each stage of the Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project, consultation responses will be considered and previous decisions reconsidered and back-checked to determine if SPEN's decisions are still appropriate. Following the submission of the applications for section 37 consent and deemed planning permission, the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit will carry out further consultation with the public and stakeholders, including Dumfries & Galloway Council.

**The Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project
Summary of Feedback from
First Round of Consultation**

Figure 1.1: Preferred Routes

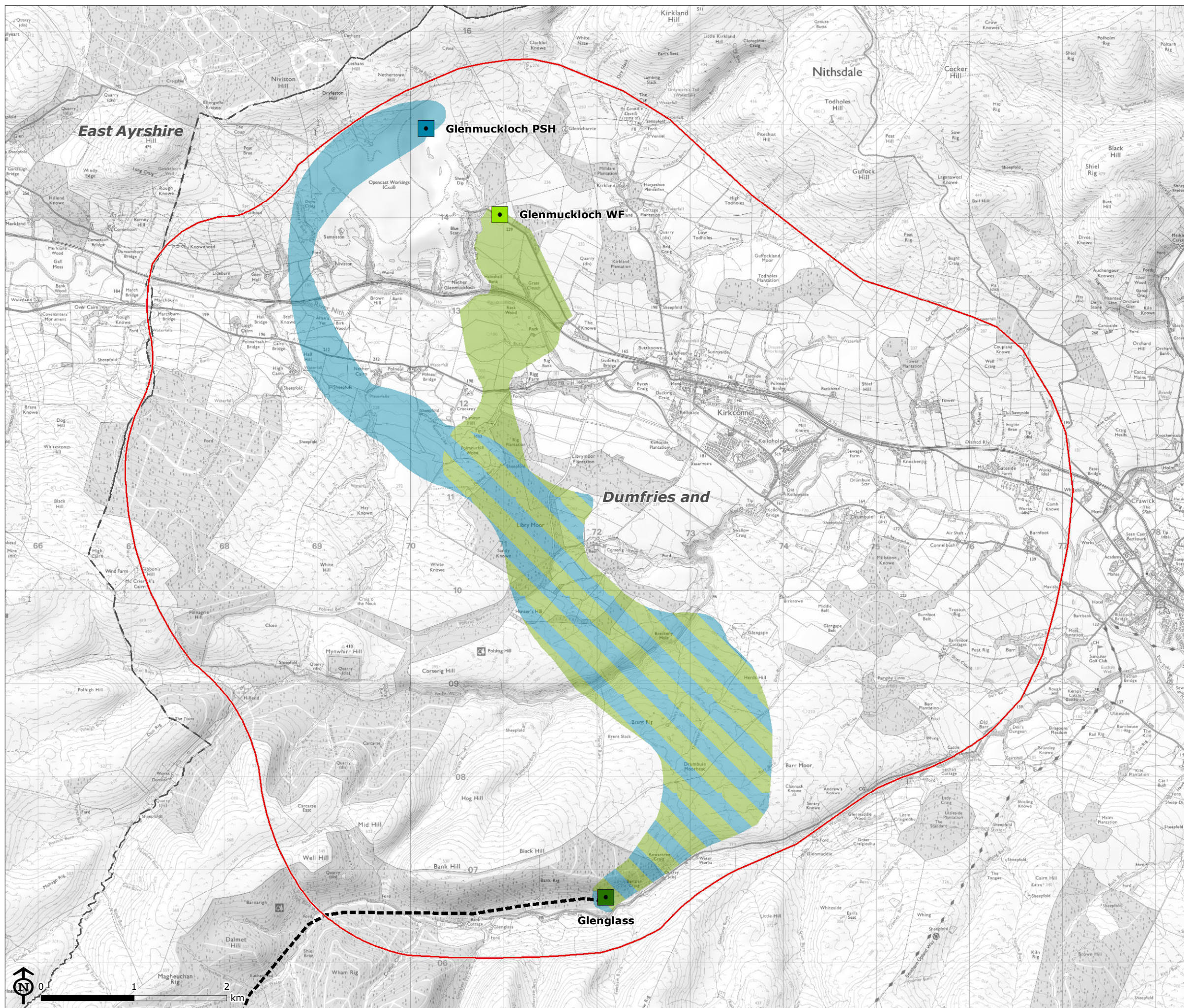
Glenmuckloch 33kV Connection Project

- Glenmuckloch Wind Farm Substation
- Existing Glenglass Substation
- 33kV Connection Route Option 3
- Study Area

- Existing 132kV Overhead Line South West Scotland (SWS) Project
- Local Authority Boundary

Glenmuckloch 132kV Connection Project

- Consented Glenmuckloch Pumped-Storage Hydro Substation
- 132kV Connection Route Option 3



Map Scale: 1:40,000 @ A3



2 Consultation Process

Overview

- 2.1 SPEN attaches great importance to the effects that its work may have on the environment and on local communities. In seeking to bring forward proposals which cause, on balance, the 'least disturbance' to people and the environment, SPEN engage with key stakeholders including local communities and others who may have an interest in the project, at a number of stages as outlined in Chapter 1.

Consultation Strategy

- 2.2 SPEN attaches great importance to the effect that its works may have on the environment and communities and is very keen to hear the views of local people to help it develop the Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project in the best way.
- 2.3 The overall objective of the consultation process is to ensure that all parties with an interest in the Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project continue to have access to up to date information and are given clear and easy ways in which to shape and inform SPEN's proposals at the pre-application stage.
- 2.4 In addition, it is envisaged that the key issues identified through this process can be recorded and presented to decision makers in order to assist the consents process.

The First Round of Consultation

- 2.5 On 26th February 2019 SPEN publicly launched its first round of consultation, which ran for four weeks from 26th February until 26th March 2019. As part of the routeing and consultation exercise, consultation with the public, as well as with the local authority and statutory consultees was carried out on the preferred corridors.
- 2.6 During the first round of consultation, respondents were asked to comment on aspects of the proposed overhead line connection. As part of the consultation consultees were asked their view on:
- The preferred route for the 132kV connection;
 - The preferred route for the 33kV connection;
 - Any of the alternative route options we considered during the routeing process; and
 - Any other issues, suggestions or feedback, in particular views on the local area, for example recreation, local environmental features and any plans to build in proximity to the preferred routes.
- 2.7 The Routeing and Consultation Reports^{1,2} formed the basis of the consultation material, supported by a project leaflet, project website⁴ and exhibitions. An overview of the consultation information is set out below.

Project Leaflet

- 2.8 The project leaflet was the principal form of direct communication with local communities and provided an overview of the project, including project need and the work undertaken up to that

⁴ www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/community_consultation

point with regards to routeing. The leaflet showed the preferred route for the 132kV and 33kV OHL connections. A copy of the leaflet can be found in **Appendix 1**.

- 2.9 To help people provide feedback that was as informed as possible, the project leaflet explained the purpose of the consultation, the background of the project and the routeing process together with a summary and map of the preferred routes and the provision of clear details of how to take part, where to obtain more information and a full list of exhibitions and information points.
- 2.10 Copies of the leaflet were made available at public information points and on the consultation website.

Public Exhibitions

- 2.11 Exhibitions were held in Kirkconnel (Miners Memorial Hall) and Sanquhar (Town Hall) on 26th and 27th February 2019 respectively, from 1400 – 2000 hrs on each day, with representatives of SPEN and LUC present on both days.
- 2.12 To promote the first round of consultation, SPEN placed advertisements in the public notices sections of five local newspapers, the Dumfries Courier, the Annandale Observer, the Annandale Herald, the Moffat News and the Dumfries and Galloway Standard two weeks prior to the first public exhibition. Posters were also distributed and displayed locally. See **Appendix 2** for a sample newspaper advert and **Appendix 3** for the project poster.
- 2.13 The content of the adverts conformed with the requirements outlined in the Scottish Government Energy and Consents Unit Good Practice Guidance and included the location and description of the project; details as to where further information could be obtained; a statement explaining how and by when persons wishing to make comment to SPEN relating to the project might do so; and a statement that comments made to SPEN were not representations to the planning authority.
- 2.14 At the public exhibitions, people were able to view SPEN's proposals and talk to the project team. Comprehensive information about the project was made available with reference copies of the routeing and consultation reports and large-scale maps on display as well as an interactive story map⁵. Copies of project leaflets and feedback forms were available to take away together with ancillary information regarding SPEN's other services and a leaflet produced by the Energy Networks Association about electric and magnetic fields (EMFs). Visuals of the banners used at the exhibitions are contained in **Appendix 4**.
- 2.15 Although people were encouraged to ask questions and share their views with the team, attendees at the exhibition were advised that consultation feedback was not being taken verbally and were encouraged to submit their formal responses via the official consultation channels.

Feedback Form

- 2.16 A feedback form was developed for stakeholders and the public to provide their comments and formally register their views as part of the first round of consultation. The feedback form asked for opinions and information on the project, the preferred corridors and the consultation process itself.
- 2.17 The feedback form included a number of open questions and one closed question with space for respondents to communicate views or comments in free text. Copies of the feedback form can be found in **Appendix 5**.
- 2.18 During the consultation period people were able to make a comment and provide feedback by the following mechanisms:
- in person at an exhibition;
 - by post, using a paper feedback form, or by letter; or

⁵ Also available on the SPEN website at:
<https://luc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=50708a3e973d4b9394d062fc3a1ac604>

- by email.

Inspection Copies

- 2.19 Hard copies of the routeing and consultation documents were lodged at publicly-accessible information points for those who do not have access to the internet, cannot attend an exhibition or would prefer to see them in person. These were made available to view free of charge from 19th February 2019 at the following locations:
- Dumfries and Galloway Planning Department, Kirkbank House. English Street, Dumfries DG1 2HS
 - Kirkconnel Library DG Customer Services, Kirkconnel, Greystone Avenue, Kelloholm DG4 6RA
 - Kirkconnel Activity and Resource Centre, Main Street, Kirkconnel DG4 NE
 - Sanquhar Library, DG Customer Services, Sanquhar, 100 High Street, Sanquhar DG4 6DZ

Who SPEN Consulted

- 2.20 This section describes the various groups of stakeholders relevant to the Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project that SPEN consulted during its first round of consultation.

Local Authorities and Statutory Consultees

- 2.21 A number of other organisations have been identified as statutory consultees in relation to projects of this nature. In line with the launch of the project, statutory consultees were sent copies of the two key project consultation documents and an accompanying cover letter.
- 2.22 Statutory consultees contacted as part of the Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project are listed below:
- Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU)
 - Dumfries and Galloway Council (D&GC – as relevant Local Planning Authority)
 - Scottish Natural heritage (SNH)
 - Historic Environment Scotland (HES)
 - Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)
 - Forestry Commission Scotland⁶ (FCS)
 - Marine Scotland
 - Transport Scotland
 - Scottish Water

Community councils

- 2.23 Community Councils within the area affected by the Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project were also contacted and sent information about the project by letter/email. The community Council contacted were:
- Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Community Council.
 - Royal Burgh of Sanquhar Community Council.
 - Penpont Community Council.

⁶ Now Scottish Forestry as of 1 April 2019.

Non-statutory consultees

2.24 Further non-statutory consultees were sent information about the project by letter/email. This included the project leaflet and invitations to attend one of the public exhibitions. Non-statutory consultee contacted were:

- Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays)
- The Crown Estate
- Health and Safety Executive
- National Trust for Scotland (NTS)
- Civil Aviation Authority
- National Air Traffic Services
- BT Group
- Sustrans Scotland
- Visit Scotland
- BAA (Glasgow Airport)
- Glasgow Prestwick Airport
- Fisheries Management Scotland
- Scottish Wildlife Trust
- The Coal Authority
- British Horse Society
- Defence Infrastructure Organisation (MoD)
- Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland (APRS)
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- Network Rail

Local communities and members of the public

2.25 The project leaflet invited people to attend a project exhibition and gave details about how to access more information via the project website or at a local information points. The wider general population in Dumfries and Galloway was informed about the consultation using advertisements in the public notices sections of local newspapers, as described above.

3 Overview of Consultation Feedback

Representations Received

- 3.1 This chapter explains how the responses from the stakeholders outlined in Chapter 2 have been summarised and presented in this report. In total there were 19 attendees between the two public consultation events, 7 and 12 in Kirkconnel and Sanquhar respectively. While a total of four representations were received from the public through different response mechanisms previously outlined.

Ongoing Consideration of Feedback

- 3.2 SPEN will continue to consider the local information people provided in their feedback to inform the project's development and will keep communities, including landowners, up to date as its proposals move forward and there will also be further opportunities for people to provide feedback during future consultation.

Key Feedback Themes

- 3.3 Key feedback themes identified through the first round consultation process included:
- The rationale underpinning the separation of the OHLs when crossing the valley.
 - Access and accommodation works.
 - Comments on the economic effects, in particular to agricultural business and land value.
 - Comments on the potential effects on the natural environment, including biodiversity, forestry and protected species.
 - Comments on the consultation process.

Stakeholder Responses

- 3.4 A total of eight consultees made representations either individually or jointly during the first round of consultation. Dumfries and Galloway Council's representation contained responses from the Roads Planning Officer as well as the Countryside and Access Officer.
- 3.5 Responses were received from the following stakeholders relevant to the Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project:
- Dumfries and Galloway Council
 - SNH;
 - HES;
 - SEPA;
 - Marine Scotland;
 - Transport Scotland;
 - British Horse Society; and
 - ScotWays.
- 3.6 A full list of consultation responses and the response/action to be taken as part of the EIA/Environmental Appraisal process are outlined in **Appendix 6: Summary of Consultation Feedback from Routeing Stage**.

4 Conclusions and Next Steps

- 4.1 SPEN has reviewed and considered in detail all feedback received from the public, consultee bodies and local interest groups in relation to the first round of consultation for those elements of the Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project which are to be progressed.
- 4.2 The feedback received has informed SPEN's review of the Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project with regard to the following:
- Views on the project as a whole, including the routeing methodology and consultation process;
 - Views on SPEN's route options; and
 - Information about the local area, for example, local environmental characteristics.
- 4.3 The following headings outline the conclusions on the feedback received and explain the next steps.

Confirmation of the Preferred Routes

- 4.4 The following preferred routes have been confirmed as a result of findings of the routeing study and consideration of the feedback received during the first round of consultation.

Glenmuckloch 132kV Connection Project

- 4.5 Route Option 4 has been selected as SPEN's proposed route for the 132kV overhead line between the Glenmuckloch PSH and Glenglass substation as seen in **Figure 4.1**.
- 4.6 Route Option 3 was presented as the emerging preferred route at the consultation stage. Feedback received during the consultation process included requests that the preferred route should be Route Option 4, meaning that the 132kV and 33kV Connection Projects should run in parallel from Glenmuckloch to Glenglass.
- 4.7 Whilst SPEN had initially opted to split the two overhead lines at their northern ends to seek to minimise potential for cumulative effects in the Nith Valley and the creation of a wirescape. Taking account of consultation feedback and further technical input, SPEN consider that through careful siting and design, cumulative landscape and visual effects of running the two overhead lines in parallel could be minimised.
- 4.8 On this basis, Route Option 4 will be progressed as the proposed route.

Glenmuckloch 33kV Connection Project

- 4.9 The preferred Route Option 3 has been selected as SPEN's proposed route for the 33kV overhead line between the Glenmuckloch WF and Glenglass substation as seen in **Figure 4.2**.

Next Steps

- 4.10 The next stage of the routeing process is to identify a 200m wide proposed route for each overhead line connection within the preferred route. The 200m wide proposed route will be subjected to desk and field surveys to inform the initial technical design of tower and wood pole locations and associated infrastructure, i.e. the detailed alignment.
- 4.11 The detailed alignment for the Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections will be further refined during the EIA/Environmental Appraisal stage. Information collated from feedback received as






part of the first round of consultation relating to locally important areas and features will be reflected in the design of the alignment alongside the field surveys where relevant.

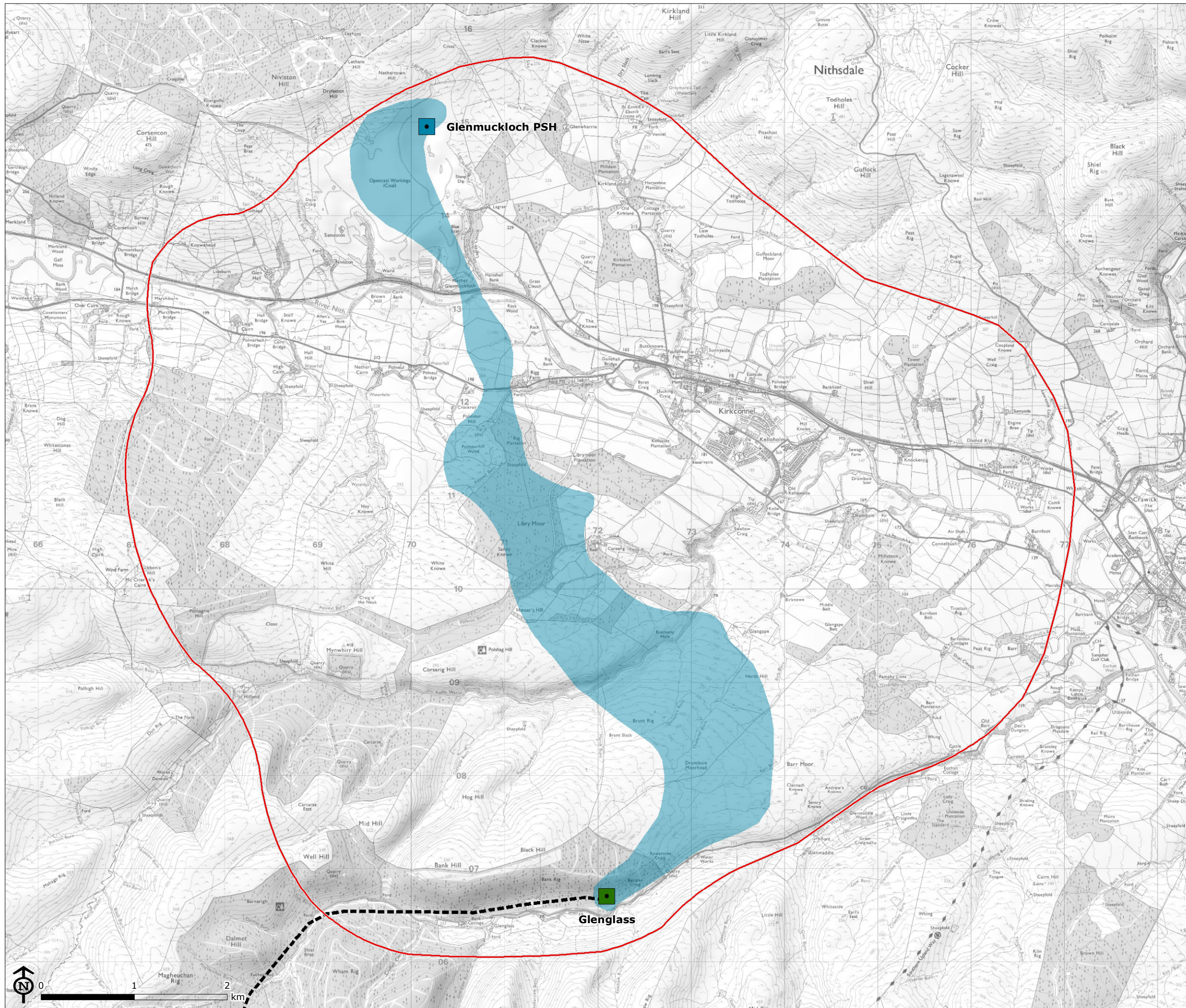
- 4.12 The Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections will require consent from the Scottish Ministers under Section 37 of the Electricity Act. A Screening Request will be submitted for the Glenmuckloch 33kV Connection Project, if a negative screening opinion is received, the application will be accompanied by an Environmental Appraisal Report. A Scoping Report will be prepared for the Glenmuckloch 132kV Connection Project to be accompanied by a request for a Scoping Opinion which is being sought from the Scottish Ministers to inform the scope of the environmental impact assessment (EIA), which will culminate in the production of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report).
- 4.13 Prior to the submission of the S37 applications, another round of consultations will be undertaken following the detailed route alignment at the point of 'design freeze' to gather feedback on tower and wood pole locations and associated infrastructure. Following the submission of the S37 applications, further public consultation will be carried out by the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit.

**The Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project
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Figure 4.1: Glenmuckloch 132kV Connection Project Proposed Route

Glenmuckloch 132kV Connection Project

-  Consented Glenmuckloch Pumped-Storage Hydro Substation
-  Existing Glenglass Substation
-  132kV Connection Route Option 4
-  Study Area
-  Existing 132kV Overhead Line South West Scotland (SWS) Project



Map Scale: 1:40,000 @ A3

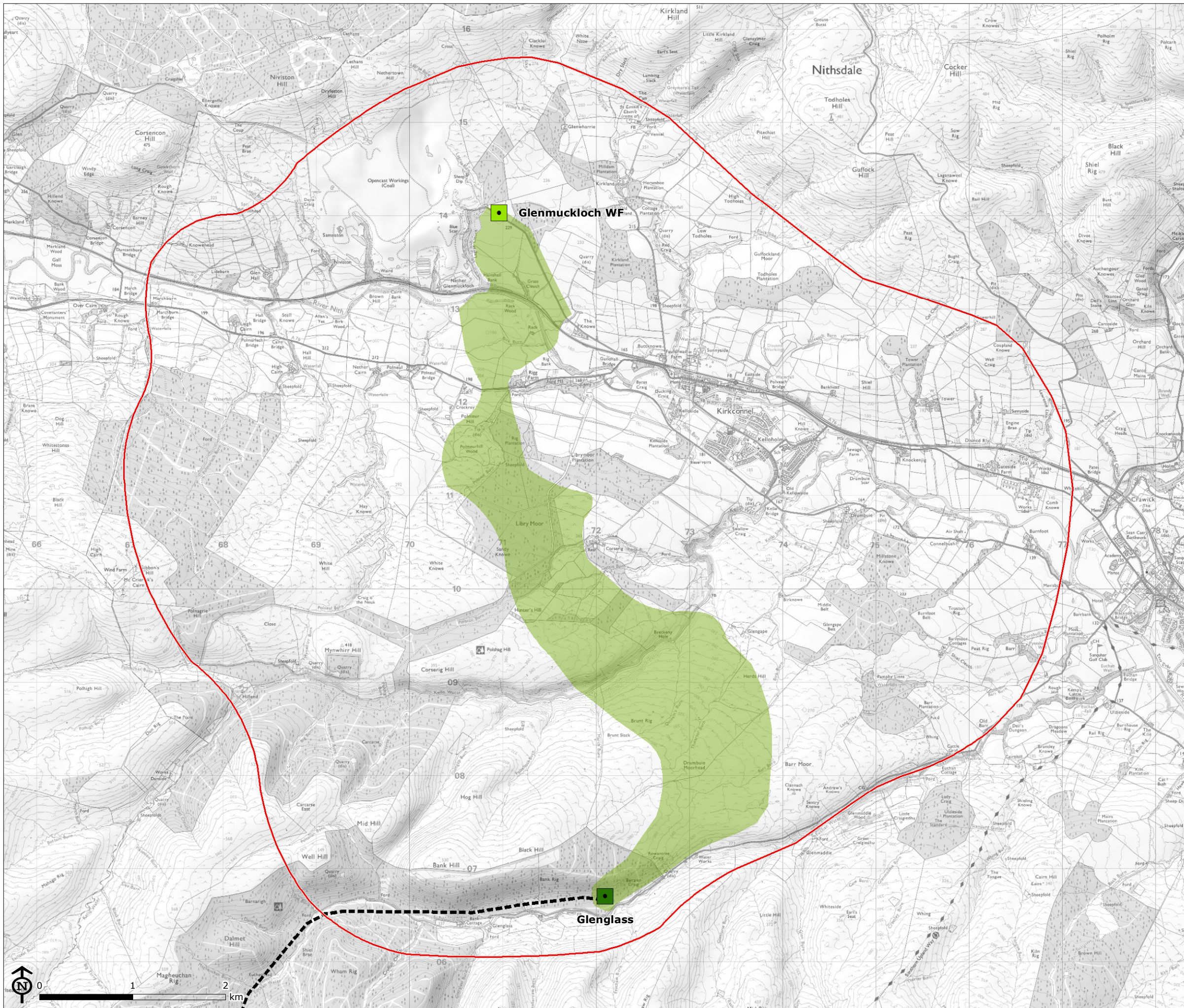


**The Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project
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Figure 4.2: Glenmuckloch 33kV Connection Project Proposed Route

Glenmuckloch 33kV Connection Project

- Glenmuckloch Wind Farm Substation
- Existing Glenglass Substation
- 33kV Connection Route Option 3
- Study Area
- Existing 132kV Overhead Line South West Scotland (SWS) Project



Map Scale: 1:40,000 @ A3



Appendix 1 Project Leaflet

What we would like your views on?

As part of the consultation we would particularly like your views on:

- 1 The preferred route for the 132kV connection
- 2 The preferred route for the 33kV connection
- 3 Any of the alternative route options we considered during the appraisal process
- 4 Any other issues, suggestions or feedback you would like us to consider. We would particularly like to hear your views on your local area, for example areas you use for recreation, local environmental features you would like us to consider, and any plans you may have to build in proximity to the preferred routes.

How to make your views known?

Our consultation will run for four weeks from 26th February until 26th March 2019. The closing date for you to send your responses to us is midnight 26th March 2019. Below are the best ways to find out more or talk to us.

Come and meet us:

We're holding two public exhibitions (see overleaf). Here you can see detailed maps, see our plans first hand, talk to members of the project team and pick up a feedback form.

Visit the website:

www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/community_consultation

Our dedicated website has lots more information. You can view or download all the project documents, including this leaflet, on the website.

Write to us:

Glenmuckloch Projects Project Manager,
SPEN Environmental Planning,
3rd Floor Ochil House,
10 Technology Avenue, Blantyre, G72 0HT

Email us:

glenmucklochprojectmanager@spenergynetworks.co.uk

What happens next?

SPEN places great importance on the effect its work may have on the environment and local communities and is keen to hear the views of local people to help develop the project in the best way.

The Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project will require consent from the Scottish Ministers under Section 37 of the Electricity Act. We intend to submit the applications in 2019 for the 33kV connection and 2020 for the 132kV connection. After we have submitted our applications, the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit will carry out formal statutory consultation with the public and stakeholders including Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Visit an information point from 19th February 2019

Folders containing this leaflet and the detailed Routing and Consultation documents will be available throughout the consultation period at the following venues. Please check in advance as opening times may vary.

Dumfries and Galloway Planning Department:
Kirkbank House, English Street, Dumfries, DG1 2HS

Kirkconnel Library DG Customer Services:
Kirkconnel, Greytone Avenue, Kelloholm, DG4 6RA

Sanquhar Library, DG Customer Services:
Sanquhar, 100 High Street, Sanquhar, DG4 6DZ

Alternatively, copies of the leaflet and routing and consultation document can be downloaded direct from our website at

www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/community_consultation

Come and see us

Exhibitions will be held in the following locations. No need to make an appointment.

Just drop in any time between 2pm and 8pm on the dates mentioned.

Tuesday 26th February 2019	Kirkconnel Miners Memorial Hall Needle Street, Kirkconnel, DG4 6ND
Wednesday 27th February 2019	Sanquhar Town Hall Church Road, Sanquhar, DG4 6DE

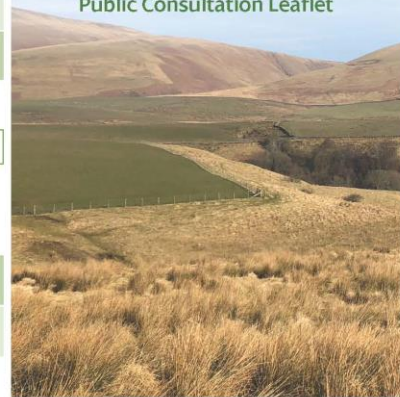


The Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project

Glenmuckloch Pumped-Storage Hydro 132kV Connection to Glenglass Substation

Glenmuckloch Wind Farm 33kV Connection to Glenglass Substation

Public Consultation Leaflet



Background

SP Energy Networks (SPEN) is proposing two new overhead lines to connect the consented Glenmuckloch Pumped-Storage Hydro scheme (PSH) and the adjacent consented Glenmuckloch Wind Farm (WF) into the electricity network via the existing Glenglass substation. The Glenmuckloch PSH and Glenmuckloch WF schemes were consented in 2016 and have the capacity to produce up to 400 MW and 25.6MW of generation respectively. SPEN are required to provide access to the existing electricity network via a 132kV overhead (KV) connection for the PSH and 33kV connection for the WF.

The location of the PSH, WF and existing Glenglass substation are shown on the plan overleaf. The preferred routes for both new overhead lines are also shown on the plan. Collectively these two overhead line projects are known as the 'Glenmuckloch Connections Project' and are located in Dumfries and Galloway.

SPEN is part of the ScottishPower Group of companies and owns three regulated businesses in the UK. These businesses are 'asset-owner' companies holding the regulated assets and Electricity Transmission and Distribution licenses of ScottishPower. As part of this, SPEN operates, maintains and develops the network of cables, overhead lines and substations that supply connected customers in southern Scotland.

What will the overhead line look like?

A new 132kV double circuit overhead line is required for the Glenmuckloch PSH connection, while a new 33kV single circuit overhead line is required from the consented Glenmuckloch WF connection. The 132kV overhead line will be supported on steel towers (L4/7) which have a standard height of 27m and average span lengths of between 250m and 350m. The 33kV overhead line will be supported on wood poles (L36) which have a standard height between 14 - 16m and an average span length of 100m.

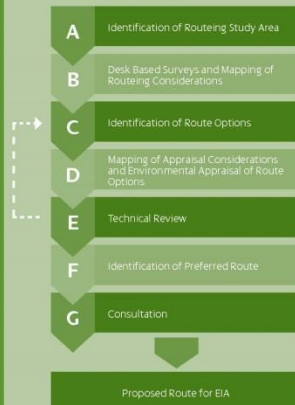
The photographs below show an example of a steel L7 steel lattice tower and an L36 wood pole.



Routeing

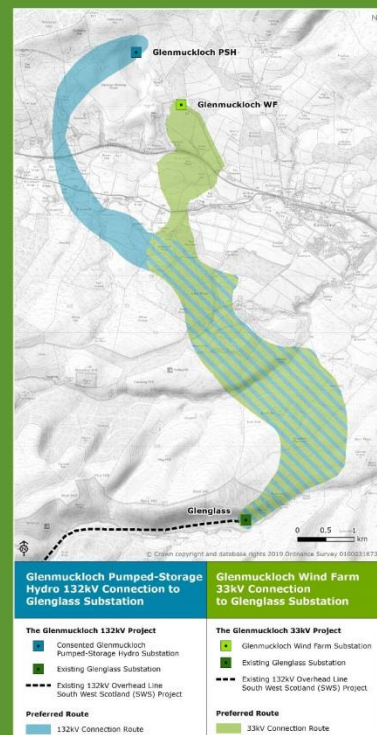
SPEN has been working with independent environmental consultants to identify options for potential routes for the proposed overhead lines. Our objective is to identify a route for the overhead lines which meet the technical requirements of the electricity system, which are economically viable and cause, on balance, the least disturbance to the environment and the people who live, work and enjoy recreation within it. Following established best practice for routing overhead lines, a number of route options were identified for both overhead lines. These were appraised against environmental criteria including: local views, cultural heritage and biodiversity, to identify our preferred routes. SPEN are committed to engaging with stakeholders, including local communities, through the consultation process and your feedback will be used to review the routing findings and inform the next steps.

Routeing Methodology



More information about the process we have followed to identify and appraise route options to select the preferred routes can be found in our Routing and Consultation Documents (January 2019). These are available on the project website and at our exhibition information points.

The Glenmuckloch Connections Project



Appendix 2 Sample Advert

Public Notices

Glenmuckloch Connections Project



We'd like your views

SP Energy Networks is proposing two new overhead lines to connect the Glenmuckloch Pumped Storage Hydro scheme and the adjacent consented Glenmuckloch Wind Farm (north-west of Kircornel and Ielloholm) into the electricity network via the existing Olanglass substation.

A new 132kV double circuit steel tower overhead line is required for the Glenmuckloch Pumped Storage Hydro connection, and a new wood pole 33kV single circuit overhead line is required for the Glenmuckloch Wind Farm. We have now identified route options for the new overhead lines and would like to hear local people's views on them so we can take your comments into account as we finalise our plans.

During February we will hold two public exhibitions where you can view our proposal and ask questions of our project team.

Our public consultation runs from 26th February until 26th March 2019

Public exhibitions (2pm until 8pm each day)

Tuesday 26th February 2019	Kircornel Miners Memorial Hall, Needle Street, Kircornel, DG4 6ND
Wednesday 27th February 2019	Sanquhar Town Hall, Church Road, Sanquhar, DG4 6DE

Public information points (available from 19th February)

Hard copies of consultation documents will be available at the following public information points from 19th February. Opening hours vary. Please check before travelling.

Dumfries and Galloway Planning Department, Kirkbank House, English Street, Dumfries, DG1 2HS

Kircornel Library/DG Customer Services, Kircornel, Greystone Avenue, Ielloholm, DG4 6RA

Sanquhar Library/DG Customer Services, Sanquhar, 100 High Street, Sanquhar, DG4 6DZ

Our project website will also hold all the project documents and a list of public information points where you can view hard copies throughout the consultation period.

Project website: www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/community_consultation

You can comment by either email or post at the following addresses:

Email:

glenmucklochprojectmanager@spenergynetworks.co.uk

Post: Glenmuckloch Project Project Manager, SPEN Environmental Planning, 3rd Floor Ochil House, 10 Technology Avenue, Blantyre, G72 0HT

At this stage, your comments are not representations to the planning authority. If we do make an application for development consent in future, you will be able to make formal representations at that stage.

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Appendix 3 Project Poster

The Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project



We'd like your views

SP Energy Networks (SPEN) is proposing two new overhead lines to connect the consented Glenmuckloch Pumped-Storage Hydro scheme (PSH) and the adjacent consented Glenmuckloch Wind Farm (WF) into the electricity network via the existing Glenglass substation. The Glenmuckloch PSH and Glenmuckloch WF schemes were consented in 2016 and have the capacity to produce up to 400 MW and 25.6MW of generation respectively. SPEN are required to provide access to the existing electricity network via a steel tower (L4/7) 132kilovolt (kV) connection for the PSH and wood pole (L36) 33kV connection for the WF.

We have now identified route options for the new overhead lines and would like to hear local people's views on them so we can take your comments into account as we finalise our plans.

Our consultation will run for four weeks from 26th February until 26th March 2019. The closing date for you to send your responses to us is midnight 26th March 2019.

Our public consultation runs from 26th February until 26th March 2019.

Public exhibitions (2pm until 8pm each day)

Tuesday 26th February 2019	Kirkconnel Miners Memorial Hall Needle Street, Kirkconnel, DG4 6ND
Wednesday 27th February 2019	Sanquhar Town Hall Church Road, Sanquhar, DG4 6DE

Public information points (available from 19th February)

Hard copies of consultation documents will be available at the following public information points from 19th February. Opening hours vary. Please check before travelling.

Dumfries and Galloway Planning Department: Kirkbank House, English Street, Dumfries, DG1 2HS

Kirkconnel Library DG Customer Services: Kirkconnel, Greystone Avenue, Kelloholm, DG4 6RA

Sanquhar Library, DG Customer Services: Sanquhar, 100 High Street, Sanquhar, DG4 6DZ

Our project website will also hold all the project documents and a list of public information points where you can view hard copies throughout the consultation period.

Project website:

www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/community_consultation

You can comment by either email or post at the following addresses:

Email:

glenmucklochprojectmanager@spenergynetworks.co.uk

Post: Glenmuckloch Projects Project Manager,
SPEN Environmental Planning,
3rd Floor Ochil House,
10 Technology Avenue, Blantyre, G72 OHT

At this stage, your comments are not representations to the planning authority. If we do make an application for development consent in future, you will be able to make formal representations at that stage.

Appendix 4 Exhibition Banners



The Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project
 Glenmuckloch Pumped-Storage Hydro 132kV Connection to Glenglass Substation
 Glenmuckloch Wind Farm 33kV Connection to Glenglass Substation

Why do we need new overhead lines?

SP Energy Networks

SPEN operates, maintains and develops the network of cables, overhead lines and substations which transport electricity to homes and businesses in Southern and Central Scotland.

SPEN has a legal duty to keep its network up-to-date to safeguard electricity supplies. SPEN also has a duty to provide a connection for new generation to the wider electricity transmission network.

Background to the Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project


The Glenmuckloch 132kV Project

The consented Glenmuckloch Pumped-Storage Hydro scheme is located in Dumfries and Galloway within the Glenmuckloch opencast coal mine. The Pumped-Storage Hydro scheme was consented in 2016 and will have the capacity to produce up to 400 Megawatts (MW) of generation. The scheme is a joint venture between Buccleuch Estates and Forsa Energy (formerly 2020 Renewables). SPEN are required to provide a connection from the Pumped-Storage Hydro project to the electricity network at the existing Glenglass substation via a 132kilovolt (kV) overhead line.

The Glenmuckloch 33kV Project

The Glenmuckloch Wind Farm scheme is located adjacent to the Glenmuckloch opencast coal mine and the consented Glenmuckloch Pumped-Storage Hydro scheme. The Glenmuckloch Wind Farm was also consented in 2016 with the capacity to produce up to 25.6MW of generation and is also led by a joint venture between Buccleuch Estates and Forsa Energy (formerly 2020 Renewables). SPEN are required to provide a connection from the Wind Farm to the electricity network at the existing Glenglass substation via a 33kV overhead line.

Collectively these two grid connections comprise the 'Glenmuckloch Connections Project'



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The Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project

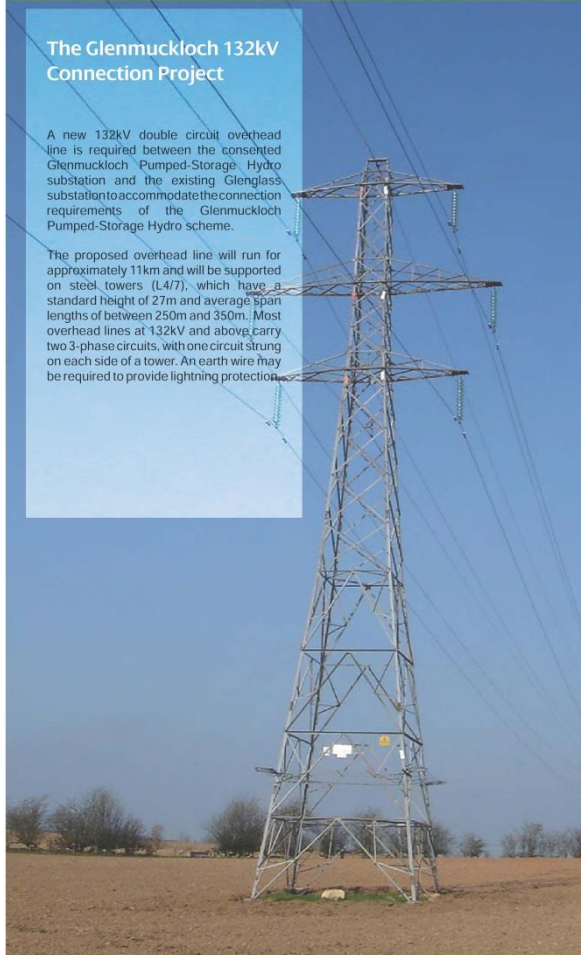
Glenmuckloch Pumped-Storage Hydro 132kV Connection to Glenglass Substation
Glenmuckloch Wind Farm 33kV Connection to Glenglass Substation

The Glenmuckloch 132kV Connection Project

The Glenmuckloch 132kV Connection Project

A new 132kV double circuit overhead line is required between the consented Glenmuckloch Pumped-Storage Hydro substation and the existing Glenglass substation to accommodate the connection requirements of the Glenmuckloch Pumped-Storage Hydro scheme.

The proposed overhead line will run for approximately 11km and will be supported on steel towers (L4/7), which have a standard height of 27m and average span lengths of between 250m and 350m. Most overhead lines at 132kV and above carry two 3-phase circuits, with one circuit strung on each side of a tower. An earth wire may be required to provide lightning protection.



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The Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project

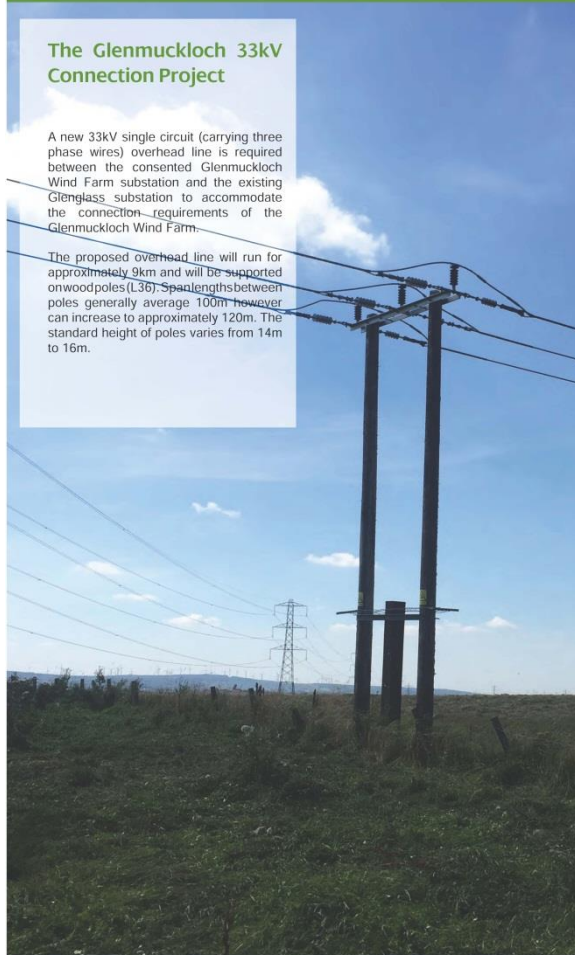
Glenmuckloch Pumped-Storage Hydro 132kV Connection to Glenglass Substation
Glenmuckloch Wind Farm 33kV Connection to Glenglass Substation

The Glenmuckloch 33kV Connection Project

The Glenmuckloch 33kV Connection Project

A new 33kV single circuit (carrying three phase wires) overhead line is required between the consented Glenmuckloch Wind Farm substation and the existing Glenglass substation to accommodate the connection requirements of the Glenmuckloch Wind Farm.

The proposed overhead line will run for approximately 9km and will be supported on woodpoles (L36). Span lengths between poles generally average 100m however can increase to approximately 120m. The standard height of poles varies from 14m to 16m.



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The Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project

Glenmuckloch Pumped-Storage Hydro 132kV Connection to Glenglass Substation
 Glenmuckloch Wind Farm 33kV Connection to Glenglass Substation

Identifying the Preferred Route

Identifying the Preferred Route

SPEN is committed to developing proposals which, on balance, cause the least disturbance to the environment and the people, who live, work and enjoy recreation within it.

A study area for the routing of the new overhead lines was identified through the mapping and subsequent avoidance where possible, of areas of highest environmental value.

Independent environmental consultants helped SPEN to identify options for potential routes within the study area, using an established routing methodology.

Each identified route option was appraised against a number of environmental criteria including:

- ✓ views from residential properties and tourism and recreation areas
- ✓ the character of the landscape
- ✓ biodiversity
- ✓ cultural heritage
- ✓ flood risk
- ✓ current land use, including agriculture and forestry.

An overview of the routing methodology for the Glenmuckloch Connections Project is shown below.

Routeing Methodology



The Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project

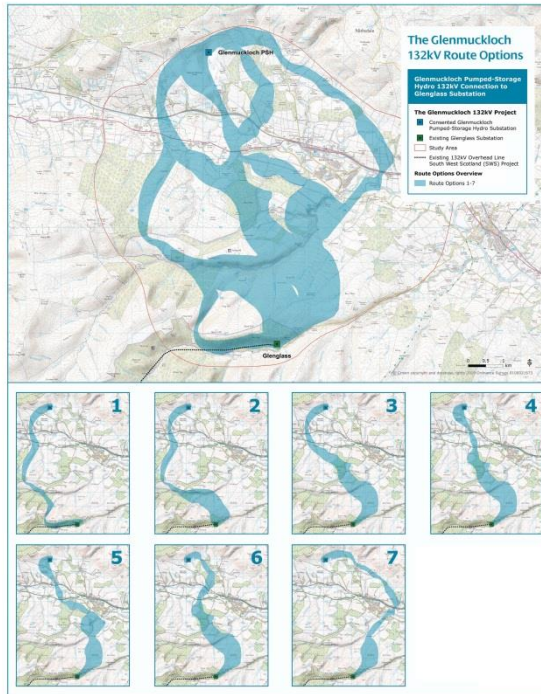
Glenmuckloch Pumped-Storage Hydro 132kV Connection to Glenglass Substation
 Glenmuckloch Wind Farm 33kV Connection to Glenglass Substation

The Glenmuckloch 132kV Route Options

The Glenmuckloch 132kV Route Options

The nature of the topography and of the technical and environmental constraints in the study area between the Glenmuckloch Pumped-Storage Hydro scheme and the Glenglass substation informed the identification of seven variable width route options.

Each of the route options was given a numerical reference: 1-7. All route options have the same connection point commencing at the consented Glenmuckloch Pumped-Storage Hydro substation and terminating at the existing Glenglass Substation.



The Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project

Glenmuckloch Pumped-Storage Hydro 132kV Connection to Glenglass Substation
 Glenmuckloch Wind Farm 33kV Connection to Glenglass Substation

The Glenmuckloch 33kV Route Options

The Glenmuckloch 33kV Route Options

The nature of the topography and of the technical and environmental constraints in the study area between the Glenmuckloch Wind Farm scheme and the Glenglass substation informed the identification of four variable width route options.

Each of the route options was given a numerical reference: 1-4. All route options have the same connection points commencing at the consented Glenmuckloch Wind Farm substation and terminating at the existing Glenglass Substation.



The Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project

Glenmuckloch Pumped-Storage Hydro 132kV Connection to Glenglass Substation
 Glenmuckloch Wind Farm 33kV Connection to Glenglass Substation

The Preferred Routes

The Preferred Routes

The preferred route is the one which achieves the best overall balance between limiting impacts on the environment and people, whilst also meeting SPEN's technical requirements.

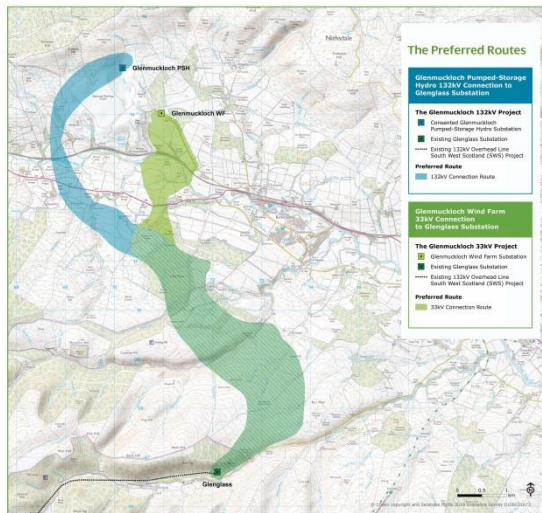
The Glenmuckloch 132kV Project

The preferred route travels south from the Glenmuckloch Pumped-Storage Hydro substation, crossing the railway and River Nith to the west of Nether Glenmuckloch. The route then turns south to climb the lower valley slopes before turning east and then passes into the forestry plantation at Libry Moor.

From Libry Moor, the route passes through an area of plantation woodland west and south of Corserig Farm to cross the Kello Water. The route option then runs parallel to contours across Drumbuie Moorhead to the Glenglass substation.

The Glenmuckloch 33kV Project

From the Glenmuckloch Wind Farm substation, the preferred route runs south across improved pasture before crossing the River Nith valley and climbing south to cross the A76. The route then runs east through Libry Moor before running parallel to contours across Drumbuie Moorhead to the Glenglass substation.



The Glenmuckloch 132kV and 33kV Connections Project

Glenmuckloch Pumped-Storage Hydro 132kV Connection to Glenglass Substation
Glenmuckloch Wind Farm 33kV Connection to Glenglass Substation

The Consultation Process and Next Steps

What we would like your views on ?

As part of the consultation SPEN would particularly like your views on:

- 1 The preferred route for the 132kV Connection
- 2 The preferred route for the 33kV Connection
- 3 Any of the alternative route options which were considered during the routing process
- 4 Any other issues, suggestions or feedback you would like us to consider. We would particularly like to hear your views on your local area, for example areas you use for recreation, local environmental features you would like us to consider, and any plans you may have to build in proximity to the preferred routes.

How to make your views known?

Your feedback is an important part in helping SPEN to finalise the proposed route which considers technical, economic and environmental issues along with public opinion.

You can submit comments on this project until **26th March 2019**.

Feedback can be sent via email to

@ glenmucklochprojectmanager@spenergynetworks.co.uk

Or write to us:

✉ **Glenmuckloch Projects
Project Manager,**
SPEN Environmental Planning,
3rd Floor Ochil House,
10 Technology Avenue,
Blantyre, G72 0HT

Next steps

Informed by the consultation responses SPEN will confirm the proposed routes for both of the Glenmuckloch connections. The PSH 132kV will be subject to Environmental Impact Assessment the findings of which will be reported in an EIA Report. The WF 33kV will be subject to an environmental appraisal the findings of which will be reported as supporting environmental information.

The Reports will be submitted alongside SPEN's applications to the Scottish Ministers for Section 37 Consent under the Electricity Act 1989. Submission of the Glenmuckloch 33kV application is expected in 2019 and the Glenmuckloch 132kV application is expected in 2020. Following submission of the applications, the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit will carry out formal statutory consultation with the public and stakeholders including Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Subject to the necessary consents being obtained SPEN expects to commence construction on the 33kV connection in 2021 followed by the 132kV connection thereafter.

Copies of the consultation leaflet and Routing and Consultation Documents (January 2019) can be found at:

Dumfries and Galloway Planning Department:
Kirkbank House, English Street, Dumfries, DG1 2HS
Kirkconnel Library DG Customer Services:
Kirkconnel, Greystone Avenue, Kelloholm, DG4 6RA
Sanquhar Library, DG Customer Services:
Sanquhar, 100 High Street, Sanquhar, DG4 6DZ

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Appendix 5 Feedback Form



Glenmuckloch Connections Project – Consultation Feedback Form

Thank you for taking the time to attend our event and to find out more about the proposed 132kV Overhead Line Connection from Sandy Knowe wind farm to Glenglass substation. You are welcome to complete the questionnaire below as we encourage feedback on our proposals. Alternatively, if you would prefer to provide an overall comment, please just answer Question 7.

1. Please provide your name and address - this information will remain confidential and will not be shared to any third party.

2. Did you find the consultation event today to be informative? Yes No

3. Do you have any suggestions for making the consultation event better or more informative? E.g. location, level of interaction, facilities, delivery of information etc.

4. The preferred route has been designed to be as sympathetic to environmental and visual receptors as possible. Are there any changes to the route that you propose? Please provide reasons as best you can.



Glenmuckloch Connections Project – Consultation Feedback Form

5. Local knowledge is very valuable for projects such as this. Are there any additional environmental or visual constraints which would be beneficial for us to include in our assessment? E.g. known location/sighting of protected animal or plant species.

6. Do you have any comments on what views towards the proposed overhead line and surroundings you think are the most important?

7. Finally, please provide any general comments on the development below. All comments received will be considered in future assessment of the proposed development. Thank you for your contribution.

Appendix 6 Summary of Consultation Feedback from Routeing Stage

Consultee	Summary of Feedback	Response/ Action
Statutory Consultees		
Dumfries and Galloway Council	<p>Roads Officer</p> <p>No objection in principle to the proposal or the proposed assessment scope or methodology outlined, however, offered a number of observations that should be considered and addressed by any submission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any future submission must include details of all works compounds and site access points on public roads; • Details of any accommodation works proposals (such as widening, strengthening and provision of suitable passing places); • Any repairs, maintenance and reinstatement requirements arising as a result of construction traffic are the responsibility of the developer, to be secured by a Legal Agreement; • Where an access route crosses bridges and culverts, the Local Authorities Design, Bridges and Structures Unit is to be consulted prior to approval; • As a result of the requirement for forest felling, it would be appropriate for consultation to be undertaken with the South of Scotland Timber Transport Officer to co-ordinate timber haulage; and • A Traffic Management Plan (TMP) is to be agreed in writing with the Police and the Roads Authorities prior to any works commencing on site. The TMP should include a programme of delivery types/numbers by month, details of all proposed mitigation measures, list of contacts, agreed access (and excluded) routes and details of measures that will be implemented to ensure that no stacking of delivery vehicles occur on any part of the public road network. 	<p>Details of the construction process, access points and access tracks and any traffic management proposals (including traffic associated with felling) will be detailed within the development description chapter of the EIA/Environmental Appraisal Reports.</p> <p>Whilst no significant effects are anticipated, a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) will be produced for the construction phase which will detail mitigation measures to be adopted during construction to monitor and minimise traffic effects.</p>

	<p>Countryside Access Officer</p> <p>Having consulted Councils Path records and in recognition that the preferred routes cross at least one Core Path, the following requests are highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the development, access along the Core Paths and Rights of Way should not be restricted and that ongoing access is safe for all path users, including the provision of suitable health and safety warning notices. • Should there be a need for a temporary closure of the Core Path, the developer should contact our Councils Countryside Access Officer for advice. 	<p>Any updated core path data will be sought from the council when available and considered in the detailed design of the OHL and associated infrastructure where necessary.</p>
Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)	<p>SNH commented that it is frustrating that the two projects will require individual grid connections, however they recognise the different scales of the separate proposals and that they have very different technical requirements. SNH agree that all of the important natural heritage constraints have been taken into account and that they concur with the conclusions set out in the Routeing & Consultation Documents.</p> <p>SNH note that in terms of the next stage, the EIA's should recognise the cumulative impacts of the grid connections and the fact that they are associated with the impacts of both of the generation projects.</p>	<p>A cumulative assessment for both the 132kV and 33kV connections will be undertaken in consideration of likely significant cumulative effects of the developments in combination with other infrastructure developments including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developments which are the subject of applications for consent and which have been submitted to the relevant determining authorities but not yet determined (or are the subject of a valid appeal); and • Any other developments deemed relevant by the ECU and/or Dumfries and Galloway Council.
Historic Environment Scotland (HES)	<p>HES has noted that there are no nationally important heritage assets within any of the route options (preferred and alternatives) or in their close proximity. HES do not consider that significant impacts on sites within their remit are likely as a result of any of the route options. HES therefore do not have any specific comments to make at this stage on either route.</p>	<p>Cultural heritage has been taken into account as a key routeing consideration.</p> <p>Consideration of potentially significant effects on cultural heritage will be included in the relevant EIA reports on cultural heritage assets, including physical effects, setting change and cumulative effects.</p>
SEPA	<p>SEPA acknowledge the rationale for the selection of the preferred route and accepts that subject to proper assessment, management and mitigation, SEPA's interests should not be compromised by these activities. The following should be considered as part of the EIA/Appraisal stage and included in support of any application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The appropriate mapping and assessment of all engineering activities in or impacting on the water environment, details of any related CAR applications Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems and groundwater abstractions (including Private Water Supplies) and buffers. • Peat depth survey and table detailing re-use proposals, if encountered. • Map and table detailing forest removal. • Map and site layout of borrow pits, or stockpile areas of imported stone to be 	<p>Forestry and watercourses have formed key routeing considerations and have been avoided where possible.</p> <p>Effects on GWDTEs will be assessed in the EIA/Environmental Appraisal.</p> <p>Peat probing of the OHL route in locations where desk based information identifies potential for the presence of peat will be undertaken to gather further detail on peat characteristics.</p> <p>Consultation with SEPA throughout the EIA/Environmental Appraisal process will be undertaken, including in relation to those activities for</p>

	<p>used for access tracks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule of mitigation including pollution prevention measures. <p>Site design may be affected by pollution prevention requirements and hence we strongly encourage the applicant to engage in pre-CAR application discussions with a member of the regulatory services team in your local SEPA office.</p> <p>Provided watercourse crossings are designed to accommodate the 1 in 200 year event and other infrastructure is located well away from watercourses SEPA do not foresee from current information a need for detailed information on flood risk.</p>	which a licence or registration is required.
Marine Scotland	<p>Marine Scotland refer to their generic scoping and generic monitoring guidelines: https://www2.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/Freshwater/Research/onshoreren</p>	<p>The relevant issues will be addressed at EIA/pre-construction stage.</p> <p>Fish surveys are not proposed as part of the EIA/Environmental Appraisal. The EIA/Environmental Appraisal will assume fish are present within suitable watercourses and mitigation proposed as good practice.</p>
Transport Scotland	<p>Acknowledge the design proposals and request that the future EIA/Environmental Appraisal provides confirmation of whether consideration has been given to laying cables underground, and any associated information is provided that justifies the routeing approach adopted.</p>	<p>Traffic and transport will be considered during the EIA/Environmental Appraisal and an outline TMP will be included in the EIA.</p>

Non-Statutory Consultees

Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society (ScotWays)	<p>ScotWays highlighted the records which show recorded rights of way within the study area and suggested consulting Core Paths Plans, prepared by local authorities.</p>	<p>Core Paths and other recreational routes have been considered at the routeing and consultation stage.</p> <p>Any updated core paths data will be sought from the council when available and considered in the detailed design of the OHL route and associated infrastructure where necessary.</p>
British Horse Society	<p>BHS advised that horse riders may take access from within the Kirconnel area and as such referred to the Equestrian Access through Wind Farms in Scotland factsheet.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

Public Representation

Issue Raised	Action Taken
<p>Raised concern that adequate time has not been provided to formulate a formal response in light of the complexity and volume of consultation material received.</p> <p>Concern raised at not having been directly informed of the consultation event considering proximity to the 132kV connection.</p>	<p>The public information events had been specifically timed to fall after the school holiday period while allowing an appropriate period of time after the last event for people to respond.</p>

<p>Reference to the presence of Barn Owl and Badger in the vicinity, while wider concerns raised in relation to potential effects on local habitats and the natural environment.</p>	<p>Ornithological surveys were undertaken in 2018 following methodologies agreed with SNH and informed by desk based data collation, to inform the identification and subsequent appraisal of route options. Ecology surveys, including protected species commenced in August 2019 and additional detailed onsite environmental surveys will be undertaken as part of the EIA process. Any species or area identified as important during the consultation has been noted and will be taken into account during the detailed route alignment and EIA stages.</p>
<p>Commented that there appears to be no attempt to mitigate or "streamline" the proposed connections and that they have been considered in isolation from each other.</p>	<p>Consideration of cumulative effects of emerging route option preferences for both the 33kV and 132kV connections have been appraised as part of the routeing and consultation process. Consideration was given to other OHL connections within the area including each other and the Sandy Knowe Wind Farm connection. Cumulative effects of the development will be further fully assessed and the findings reported in the as part of the EIA/Environmental Appraisal reports.</p>
<p>Expressed negativity towards the perceived intrusion into rural life and place of work.</p> <p>Concern raised that the proposed route shall have a severe negative economic impact upon business and that the route would place a number of pylons upon the best and most economically productive in-bye ground, potentially cutting fields in two and removing areas from production completely resulting in severe and permanent impacts on a small business and that any statutory compensatory payments would not be sufficient.</p> <p>This also relates to proposals for developing multiple areas of native woodland with the aim of providing shelter-belts, promoting environmental and ecological habitats within less favoured upland areas as designated and promoted by the Scottish Governments agri-climate policy. The proposed route would render the planting project impractical.</p>	<p>Planning issues will be discussed with landowners on an individual basis, while compensation is available where there is the need to build any infrastructure on their land. Landowners receive a standard wayleave payment for apparatus located on their land. These rates are the subject of discussion between National Farmers' Union, Scottish Land & Estates and SPEN.</p>
<p>Raised concern that previous requests for the connections to be undergrounded have been ignored.</p>	<p>The SPEN document Major Electrical Infrastructure Projects: Approach to Routeing and Environmental Impact Assessment explains the process that is undertaken to identify and appraise potential areas for overhead lines and the stage at which undergrounding is considered as an alternative, and reflects adherence to SPEN's Schedule 9 requirements.</p>
<p>Stated that the proposed siting does not follow a logical route; that it traverses a large area of managed open farmland from Polmeur Hill to Glenmuckloch PSH (G.PSH) in full view of various residencies, making no attempt to blend in with the contours of the area.</p> <p>Query raised as to why the 33kV and 132kV connections do not follow the same, shorter route (Route 4) and stated that some of the alternative routes would have less impact on the community as a whole and ranked their preferences from greatest to least regarding the proposed options:</p> <p>Seven; this would have the least economic and social impact upon themselves and neighbours as well as placing the pylons away from local communities.</p> <p>Six; whilst essentially it has similar perceived benefits to seven, its more direct route does cut across the amenity views of the local community.</p>	<p>The preferred route for the 132kV connection was determined in accordance with the overarching project routeing strategy, reflecting the findings of the landscape and visual appraisal, including residential amenity, subject to avoiding areas of highest amenity value. The proposed route has been informed by feedback from the consultation process and further technical input.</p>

<p>Five; this is less favourable as the pylons are sited to the left of Glenmuckloch WF - hence they will rise across the prominent hill adjacent to Lagrae Burn, being more visible to the community and hence will have a negative impact upon the local amenity area.</p> <p>Four; as with five this follows the damaging route of the Lagrae Burn hill, but cuts through larger areas of open moorland, with further visual damage. It would be preferable to keep to the lower lands of option five.</p> <p>Expressed concern in relation to visual amenity as a result of the project. In particular from the garden and principal windows facing south towards Kirconnel.</p>	
<p>Commented that there is the belief that combining the two connections would combine the resultant electric and magnetic fields resulting in a smaller exclusion zone.</p>	<p>The effects of EMF will be considered at the EIA/Environmental Appraisal stage. SPEN has dedicated EMF resources to assist the public and to provide further information, including, if appropriate, home visits and measurement of electric and magnetic fields. Copies of the leaflet "EMFs – the facts" were available at the public consultation events. Stakeholders are also directed to the website www.emfs.info for further information.</p>
<p>Expressed concern in relation to the potential impact on property value.</p>	<p>Proposals are still at an early stage, and in identifying preferred corridors areas of high environmental value and settlements (as identified in Local Development Plans) have been avoided. Public concern about property values are understood. At the next stage (detailed line routeing) properties will be individually mapped and on grounds of general amenity the greatest distance possible will be maintained, all other things being equal, from infrastructure to individual properties, to minimise any potential impact. Where possible, towers/poles will be sited to avoid direct line of sight from principle views from properties.</p>