



## **Redshaw Substation**

# Proposed new high-voltage electricity substation, access track and associated works

**Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report** 

SP Energy Networks
October 2023

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## **Executive summary**

This report summarises the pre-application consultation carried out by SP Energy Networks (SPEN) for a proposed new 400kV/132kV substation adjacent to the existing 400kV overhead electricity transmission line and the B7078 road at Red Moss in South Lanarkshire.

It accompanies the planning application and associated documents submitted to South Lanarkshire Council.

SPEN carried out pre-application consultation with local residents and stakeholders from Monday 05 June 2023 to Friday 30 June 2023. No objections were received, and following the consultation SPEN reviewed and finalised its plans for submission.

Whilst substation development does not fall under the schedules of development set out within the Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017, SPEN elected to carry out a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposals to ensure that potential effects of the substation on the local area are considered in detail.

### 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Need for the project

- 1.1.1 The existing transmission grid infrastructure in the South of Scotland will, in the next few years, be operating at full capacity and will therefore no longer be able to accommodate the planned and potential new generation in the area. Therefore, SPEN is required to reinforce the network to facilitate future connections and ensure the network remains fit for purpose.
- 1.1.2 The proposed new Redshaw substation will provide security to existing supplies as it will create an alternative 'feed' should faults occur on the existing network. This will give more reliability to the network and ensure power continuity.
- 1.1.3 Owing to the nature of the future renewable energy projects that are planned for the area, the chosen site for the proposed new Redshaw substation will also have scope for future expansion to meet the need for these renewable energy projects to be connected to the grid. It is anticipated that approximately 2 gigawatts of renewable energy will be generated from these developments.

### 1.2 The role of SP Energy Networks (SPEN)

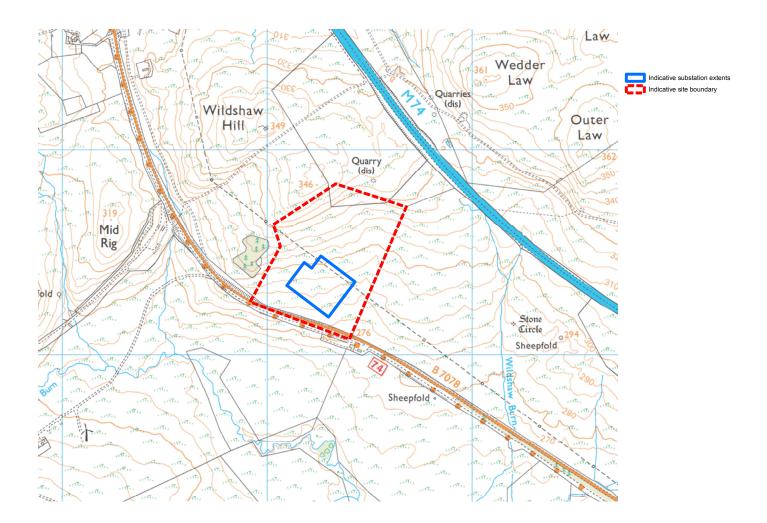
1.2.1 SPEN owns and operates the electricity transmission and distribution networks in central and southern Scotland through its wholly-owned subsidiaries SP Transmission Plc (SPT) and SP Distribution Plc (SPD). Its transmission networks are the backbone of the electricity system in its area, carrying 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 more than 150 substations, more than 3,700km of overhead lines and more than 600km of underground cables.

### 1.3 The proposed substation development

- 1.3.1 The proposed new Redshaw substation development will include the following infrastructure:
  - A new 400kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation building, which will house gas insulated electrical switchgear and plant (85m x 45m)
  - A second GIS substation building which will house gas insulated electrical switchgear and plant (30 x 20m)
  - A small distribution substation building to provide ancillary power, lighting, heating and ventilation
  - 4 x 360MVA transformers (subject to final design)
  - A new permanent access track from the local public road to the substation compound
  - Internal access roads and vehicle parking
  - A new 3m high steel palisade security fence and internal fencing around the live compound

### 1.4 Identifying the proposed substation site

- 1.4.1 Before selecting Redshaw as the proposed site for the new substation, SPEN worked with environmental consultants to identify a number of possible locations close to the existing 400kV overhead line and able to accommodate a new overhead line connection from Glenmuckloch in future.
- 1.4.2 The overall aim of the substation siting study was to identify the most appropriate site for the proposed 400kV/132kV substation, reflecting known environmental considerations and technical considerations.
- 1.4.3 We began by identifying search areas within which a substation could be located. We then considered factors including the landscape, land use, forestry, biodiversity, peatland, flood risk and archaeology, to identify potential sites within those search areas.
- 1.4.4 We then appraised each potential site and concluded that the Redshaw site (shown below) had the least environmental impact, as well as being the most suitable from a technical and economic perspective. The site is near the former Red Moss hotel, on the opposite side of the B7078 road and next to the existing 400kV overhead line.



- 1.4.5 The site is preferred from a landscape and visual perspective because it would occupy lower-lying terrain, and would have the potential for both embedded and additional mitigation provided by the existing landform, minimising earthworks. The site is not situated within any nationally or local designated landscapes, it is not located in close proximity to any existing residential properties, it is free from flood risk and can be accessed directly from the B7078 road.
- 1.4.6 Further information about the site selection process and assessment criteria can be found in our documents Redshaw 400kV Substation Substation Siting Study, and Redshaw 400kV Substation Substation Appraisal Supplementary Report, which accompany our planning application and are available on our project website at <a href="https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/redshaw\_400kv\_substation">www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/redshaw\_400kv\_substation</a>

## 2. Approach to Pre-Application Consultation

### 2.1 Legislation and guidance

- 2.1.1 SPEN is applying to South Lanarkshire Council for planning permission for the Redshaw substation development under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended.
- 2.1.2 Because the substation will operate at 400kV/132kV, it is classified as a national development in terms of the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework 4. This means that an applicant must carry out pre-application consultation and submit both a report on Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) and an Access and Design statement with the application.

### 2.2 SPEN's statutory and licence responsibilities

- 2.2.1 As a transmission license holder for central and southern Scotland, SPEN is required under Section 9(2) of the Electricity Act 1989 to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission.
- 2.2.2 In addition, as holder of a transmission licence, SPEN has a duty under section 38 of Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989, to have regard to the desirability of the preservation of amenity, the natural environment, cultural heritage, landscape and visual quality. SPEN also considers the effect of work on communities when putting forward proposals for new electricity lines and other transmission development.
- 2.2.3 As a result of the above, SPEN is required to identify electrical connections that 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.

### 2.3 SPEN's commitment to engagement

- 2.3.1 Stakeholder and public involvement is an important component of the Scottish planning system. Legislation and government guidance aims 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.
- 2.3.2 SPEN attaches great importance to the effect that its work may have on the environment and on local communities. 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. This engagement process begins at the early stages of a project's development, and continues into construction once consent has been granted.
- 2.3.3 SPEN aims to ensure effective, inclusive and meaningful engagement with local communities, statutory consultees, stakeholders and interested parties when undertaking electricity work. Our approach to stakeholder engagement for major electricity infrastructure projects is outlined in Chapter 2 of the document Approach to Routeing and Environmental Impact Assessment, which is available to download at: https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/userfiles/file/SPEN\_Approach\_to\_Routeing.pdf

### 2.4 Consultation strategy and approach

- 2.4.1 The strategy for consultation was designed to ensure that stakeholders:
  - Were made aware of the proposals in a timely manner;
  - Had access to project information and understood its development; and
  - Could put forward their own views and be confident that issues raised would be considered.
- 2.4.2 The formal Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) submitted to South Lanarkshire Council set out a description of the development in general terms, including maps to identify the site, and set out SPEN's proposals for undertaking preapplication consultation for the substation development.
- 2.4.3 SPEN used a range of communication channels to publicise and promote the consultations, which are detailed in the following sections of this document.
- 2.4.4 Respondents were also able to give feedback in different ways, depending on their own preference:
  - Email: redshaw@communityrelations.co.uk
  - Freepost: FREEPOST REDSHAW SUBSTATION
  - Freephone: 0800 021 7890
  - Face-to-face or in writing at public consultation exhibitions
  - Statutory consultees and directly-affected landowners and residents were also able to give their views direct to the project team through personal meetings and established channels.

## 3. Pre-Application Consultation

### 3.1 How we consulted

3.1.1 The public consultation ran from Monday 05 June to Friday 30 June 2023. Approximately two weeks before the start of consultation, a project leaflet explaining the proposals and the consultation process was mailed to more than 1,000 addresses within approximately 5km of the site. Because the site itself is in a sparsely-populated area with no close residential neighbours, SPEN took the decision to include the settlements of Douglas, Abington and Crawfordjohn within the mailing zone, to encourage participation in the consultation and to ensure the proposals were known to as many local users of the B7078 road as possible.

### 3.1.2 Notifications were also sent to:

- statutory consultees (including NatureScot, Historic Environment Scotland (HES), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), South Lanarkshire Council);
- non-statutory consultees;
- local interest groups and residents' groups, including archaeological, conservation, wildlife, tourism and community enterprise organisations, and Lanarkshire Chamber of Commerce and Trade; and
- elected representatives, including local Members of the Scottish and UK Parliaments, South Lanarkshire councillors representing local wards, Duneaton Community Council and Douglas Community Council.
- 3.1.3 The leaflet was the principal form of direct communication with local people and outlined the substation proposals, including a site map and images of a similar substation development; details of public exhibitions about the plans; information on how people could give their views or contact the project team during the public consultation; and address of the project website, where they could find more information or give feedback online. A copy of the leaflet can be found in Appendix A.
- 3.1.4 To promote the public consultation and the drop-in exhibitions, SPEN placed formal newspaper advertisements in the Cumnock Chronicle and the Carluke and Lanark Gazette in two consecutive weeks (commencing Monday 29 May 2023 and Monday 05 June 2023). These publications were selected as they are the primary local newspapers for the area. The notices made clear that comments received in response to the pre-application consultation were not representations to the planning authority, and that if SPEN subsequently made an application there would be an opportunity to make formal representations at that stage. See Appendix A for copies of the advertisements.
- 3.1.5 The project leaflet, plans, information about the consultation period and public exhibition, frequently asked questions and an online feedback form were made available on the project website www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/redshaw\_400kv\_substation.aspx
- 3.1.6 A **feedback form** was made available in hard copy and online, and asked the following four questions:

### Q1. Proposed new substation at Redshaw

We are proposing to build a new substation at Redshaw, near the former Red Moss Hotel (on the opposite side of the B7078 road and next to the existing 400kV overhead transmission line).

Do you have any comments on our preferred site, or the alternatives we considered?

Q2. How did you find out about the project and the consultation?

Advert / Media / Letter / Leaflet / Poster / Website / Word of mouth / Social media

Other (please specify):

Q3: Please give us your views about the consultation process

Q4: Are there any other comments you would like to make?

### 3.1.7 **Public consultation exhibitions** were held as follows:

Tuesday 20 June 2023, 2pm to 7.30pm: The Old Schoolhouse, Abington ML12 6SD Wednesday 21 June 2023, 2pm to 7.30pm: St Brides Centre, Douglas ML11 0PT Thursday 22 June 2023, 2pm to 7.30pm: Crawfordjohn Hall, Crawfordjohn ML12 6SR

The venues were selected because of their proximity to the proposed substation site, and for convenience to the local communities along the B7078.

- 3.1.8 At the exhibitions, people were able to drop in without appointment to view SPEN's proposals and to talk to the project team. Materials included pull- up exhibition banners, maps and copies of project documents. Visuals of the exhibition banners are contained in **Appendix A.**
- 3.1.9 A total of 19 people visited the exhibitions, including Brian Whittle MSP, members of Douglas Community Council and Duneaton Community Council, and local residents.

### 3.2 Summary of feedback received

3.2.1 No objections to the proposals were received during the consultation process, and feedback from residents and stakeholders was received via in-person conversations at the public exhibitions and through follow-up emails, rather than via the feedback forms provided.

### Questions raised during the consultation

3.2.2 The questions that arose during the public consultation were related to the site selection process, operational noise levels, and whether there would be opportunities for screening of the development, particularly through the planting of trees and shrubs. No comments were received about the consultation process itself, and no additional matters were identified for SPEN to consider.

### SPEN's response to questions raised

- 3.2.3 Details of the site selection process (described in Section 1.4 of this report), including the different options considered for the proposed development and the criteria used for assessment and comparison, can be found in our siting study and supplementary report, which are available to view and download on the project website <a href="https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/redshaw">www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/redshaw</a> 400kv substation.aspx
- 3.2.4 The siting study outlines the Environmental Appraisal that was carried out, and the assessment that the chosen site was the most suitable for the following reasons:
  - Due to its lower lying location and the potential opportunities for both embedded and additional mitigation provided by the existing landform;
  - visibility from the Douglas Valley SLA will be limited by intervening landform;
  - absence of nearby properties; and
  - outwith any areas of flood risk and is the greatest distance from any watercourses.

- 3.2.5 Following the consultation, SPEN is carrying out an Environmental Impact Assessment, the principal aim of which is to ensure that the authority granting consent (South Lanarkshire Council) makes its decision in full knowledge of any likely significant effects on the environment, including operational noise levels and potential visual impact.
- 3.2.6 Potentially adverse environmental effects will be addressed through the incorporation of appropriate mitigation measures into the design of the project. These will include appropriate landscape planting to screen the development and to enhance the biodiversity within the area.
- 3.2.7 Under National Planning Framework 4, SPEN have a requirement to ensure that developments conserve and enhance biodiversity, including nature networks within and adjacent to the site, so that they are in a demonstrably better state than without intervention, including through future management.
- 3.2.8 SPEN, in conjunction with landowners, NatureScot and other environmental bodies will seek to ensure that the appropriate enhancement is in keeping with the local area, including incorporation of planting of native species which promotes further diversity within the local natural environment. Details of such will develop as the proposed development goes through the EIA and Design Stage.

## 4. Next steps

- 4.1.1 Following the pre-application consultation in June 2023, SPEN is now carrying out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as described in Section 3.2 above.
- 4.1.2 On 31 July 2023, South Lanarkshire Council confirmed that no further pre-application consultation would be required in addition to that described in SPEN's Proposal of Application Notice.
- 4.1.3 Following completion of the EIA, SPEN will prepare a detailed development and design proposal and submit a planning application to South Lanarkshire Council. The Council will then invite representations from local people and stakeholders before deciding whether to grant planning permission, and to inform any conditions that may be required under permission.

## **Appendices**

# Appendix A: Consultation leaflet, newspaper advertisement and exhibition banners

Consultation leaflet - page 1



Scotland is a world leader in the fight against climate change.

Our country has a target of Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 – meaning that Scotland's contribution to climate change will end, definitively, in one generation.

We are in the middle of a transformation, with the energy we use increasingly coming from greener, cleaner sources, as many new renewable generators replace older fossil-fuelled power stations.

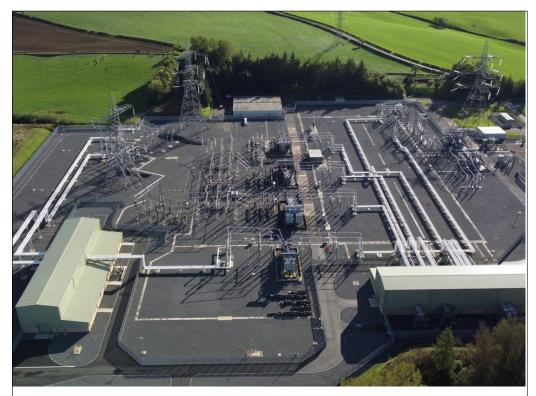
At the same time, demand for electricity will grow rapidly over the next few years, with electric vehicles replacing petrol and diesel, and increased electrification of heating, industry and transport networks.

This huge change means we need to upgrade Scotland's electricity transmission network, so we can get this increasing amount of energy from where it is produced to the homes, businesses, hospitals and public services that need it.

To help make this happen we need to build a new substation at Redshaw in South Lanarkshire, close to the existing 400kV overhead transmission line, to strengthen the electricity transmission network and guarantee secure energy supplies for the future.

This leaflet tells you about our plans, where to find more information, and how you can give us your views.

### Consultation leaflet - page 2



### Why is this substation needed?

Much of the electricity transmission network in Scotland was first built in the 1920s. Since then it has grown and evolved to meet industrial needs and serve the expanding population, but the network in the south of Scotland will soon be at full capacity – unable to accommodate all the clean, green renewable energy we will all need in future.

Around 2GW (gigawatts) of new renewable energy is expected to connect to the transmission network in this area in future.

A new high-voltage substation at Redshaw is essential to create sufficient extra network capacity. It will also strengthen the regional power network so it can cope with any unexpected faults in future.

### What does the project involve?

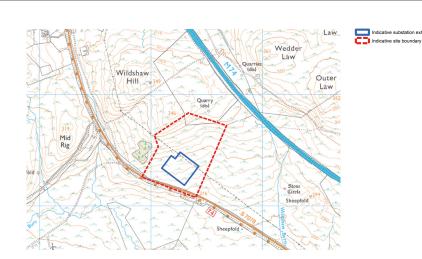
The new Redshaw substation will include:

- A new 400kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation building, which will house gas insulated electrical switchgear and plant (85m x 45m)
- A second GIS substation building which will house gas insulated electrical switchgear and plant (30 x 20m)
- A small distribution substation building to provide ancillary power, lighting, heating and ventilation
- 4 x 360MVA transformers
- A new permanent access track from the local public road to the substation compound
- Internal access roads and vehicle parking
- A new 3m high steel palisade security fence and internal fencing around the live compound

The potential site layout will be similar to SPEN's Kilmarnock South substation, pictured here.

A new overhead line to Redshaw substation from Glenmuckloch will also be required, but this will be subject to a separate consultation in future.

### Consultation leaflet - page 3



Before selecting Redshaw as the proposed site for the new substation, SPEN worked with environmental consultants to identify a number of possible locations close to the existing 400kV overhead line and able to accommodate a new overhead line connection from Glenmuckloch in future.

We began by identifying search areas within which a substation could be located. We then considered factors including the landscape, land use, forestry, biodiversity, peatland, flood risk and archaeology, to identify potential sites within those search areas. We then appraised each potential site and concluded that the Redshaw site (shown above) had the least environmental impact, as well as being the most suitable from a technical and economic perspective. The site is near the former Red Moss hotel, on the opposite side of the B7078 road and next to the existing 400kV overhead line.

You can find full details about the site selection process in our document *Redshaw 400kV Substation – Substation Siting Study*, which is on our project website at <a href="https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/redshaw\_400kv\_substation">www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/redshaw\_400kv\_substation</a>

### We want to hear your views

Our public consultation runs from Monday 05 June to Friday 30 June 2023.

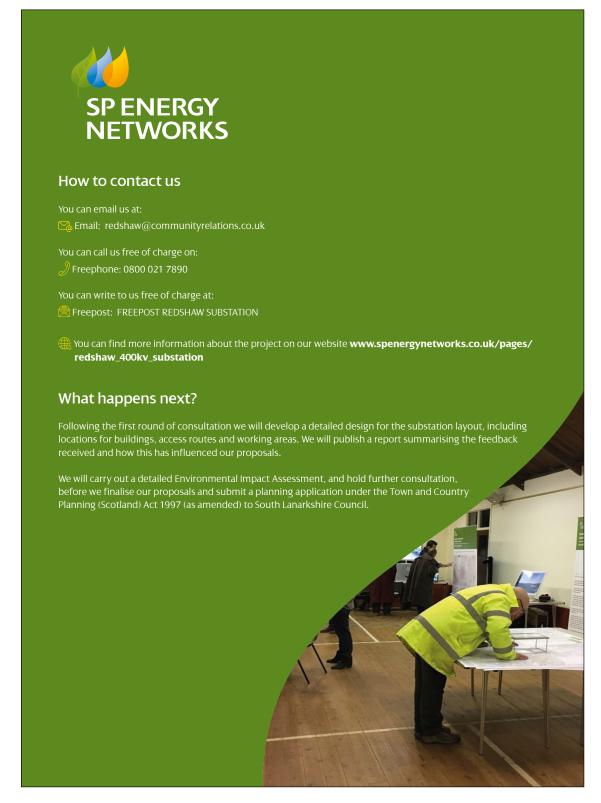
SPEN attaches great importance to the effect our work may have on the environment and local communities. We want to hear what local people think about our plans, to help us develop the project in the best way.

Please come along to one of our public exhibitions, where you can see our plans in more detail and ask questions of the project team.

Tuesday 20th June, 2pm to 7.30pm	The Old Schoolhouse, Abington ML12 6SD	www.theoldschoolhouse.net
Wednesday 21st June, 2pm to 7.30pm	St Brides Centre, Douglas ML11 0PT	www.stbridescentre.co.uk
Thursday 22nd June, 2pm to 7.30pm	Crawfordjohn Hall, Crawfordjohn ML12 6SR	www.crawfordjohnhall.org

All project documents are also on our project website, where you can also fill in an online feedback form. If you don't have internet access, you can call our Freephone number to ask any questions you may have, or request a personal call back from a member of the project team. We can also send you a paper feedback form and a Freepost envelope so you can complete it and return it to us free of charge.

### Consultation leaflet - page 4



### Newspaper advertisement



## **Redshaw substation project**

We'd like your views!

# Scotland is a world leader in the fight against climate change.

Our country has a target of Net Zero carbon emissions by 2045, with the UK aiming for Net Zero by 2050.

To help meet those targets, SP Energy Networks needs to strengthen Scotland's electricity transmission network so we can transport increasing amounts of clean, green energy from where it's produced to where it's needed.

We now need to build a new substation at Redshaw in South Lanarkshire to help increase network capacity and guarantee secure energy supplies for the future.

We have identified a preferred site for the substation, next to the existing overhead electricity transmission line near Red Moss, and we would like to hear local people's views to help us develop our plans.

Our public consultation runs from Monday 05 June to Friday 30 June 2023.

We are holding three public exhibitions where you can view our plans and talk to the project team. You can also find more information on our website www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/redshaw\_400kv\_substation.

You can leave comments on the website, and you can also contact us in the following ways:

Phone: 0800 021 7890

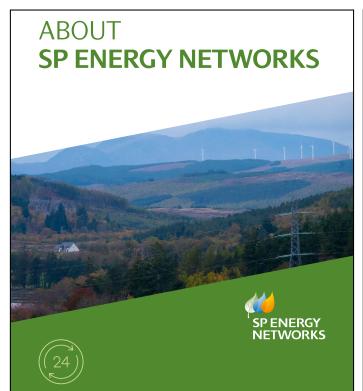
Email: redshaw@communityrelations.co.uk Post: FREEPOST REDSHAW SUBSTATION

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.

### Public exhibitions (2pm to 7.30pm)

Tuesday 20th June	<b>The Old Schoolhouse</b> , Abington ML12 6SD
Wednesday 21st June	<b>St Brides Centre</b> , Douglas ML11 OPT
Thursday 22nd June	<b>Crawfordjohn Hall</b> , Crawfordjohn ML12 6SR

### Exhibition banners - 1 & 2



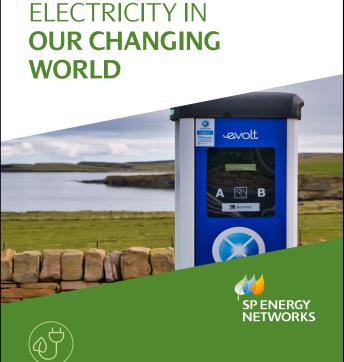
## We all expect electricity to be available at the flick of a switch, 24 hours a day.

In southern and central Scotland the job of making sure that happens belongs to SP Energy Networks (SPEN). In fact we have a statutory duty to do it.

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, and onwards to where it's needed further afield

The high-voltage electricity transmission network, which operates at up to 400,000 volts, is managed by SP Transmission plc, a whollyowned subsidiary of SPEN.

We take electricity generated from wind farms, power stations and imports, and transport it through our transmission network – over 3700 km of overhead lines, over 600 km of underground cables and more than 150 substations – to local distribution networks, where the voltage is reduced for use in homes and businesses.



## Scotland is a world leader in the fight against climate change.

Our country has a target of Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 – meaning that Scotland's contribution to climate change will end, definitively, in one generation.

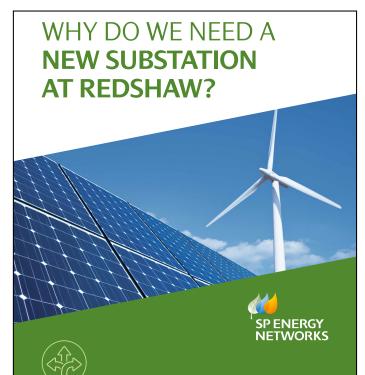
We are in the middle of a transformation, with the energy we use increasingly coming from cleaner, greener sources, as many new renewable generators replace fossil-fuelled power stations.

At the same time, demand for electricity will grow rapidly over the next few years, with electric vehicles replacing petrol and diesel, and increased electrification of heating, industry and transport networks.

This huge change means we need to upgrade Scotland's electricity transmission network, so we can get this increasing amount of energy from where it's produced – often in different locations from before – to the homes, businesses, hospitals and public services that need it

Our network is also crucial to the delivery of wider renewable energy objectives, due to its position in an area of outstanding renewable resource and our geographical location. We have a unique role in connecting renewable energy and transferring it from Scotland into England and Wales, benefiting stakeholders, society and the fight against climate change.

### Exhibition banners - 3 & 4

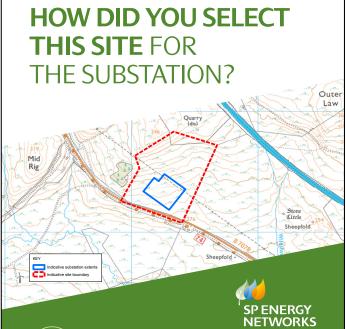


As more clean, green energy flows in to the transmission system and demand for electricity increases, we need to increase network capacity to make sure we can get the energy from where it's produced to where it's needed.

Around 2GW (gigawatts) of new renewable energy is expected to connect to the transmission network in this area in future.

A new substation is essential to help create more network capacity. It will also strengthen the network to help it cope with any unexpected faults in future.

The new substation needs to be close to the existing 400kV electricity transmission line, and able to accommodate a new overhead line connection from Glenmuckloch in the future. Any new overhead line proposal will be subject to a separate consultation in future.

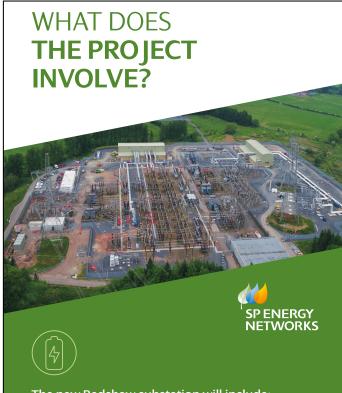


SPEN worked with environmental consultants to identify a number of possible locations for the new substation close to the existing 400kV overhead line, and capable of connecting a new overhead line from Glenmuckloch in future.

We began by identifying search areas within which a substation could be located from a technical perspective. We then considered factors including the landscape, land use, forestry, biodiversity, peatland, flood risk and archaeology, to identify potential sites within those search areas.

We then appraised each potential site and concluded that a site near the former Red Moss Hotel, on the opposite side of the B7078 road and next to the existing overhead line, had the least environmental impact as well as being the most suitable both technically and economically.

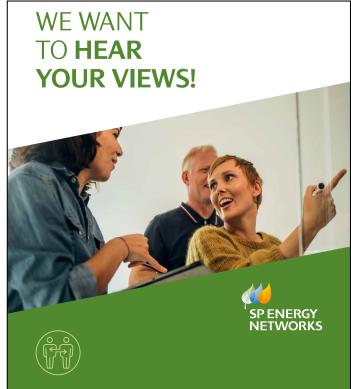
#### Exhibition banners - 5 & 6



### The new Redshaw substation will include:

- A new 400kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation building, which will house gas insulated electrical switchgear and plant (85m x 45m)
- A second GIS substation building which will house gas insulated electrical switchgear and plant (30 x 20m)
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- Internal access roads and vehicle parking
- A new 3m high steel palisade security fence and internal fencing around the live compound.

The potential site layout will be similar to SPEN's Kilmarnock South substation, pictured above.



## Our public consultation runs from Monday 5 June until Friday 30 June 2023.

SPEN attaches great importance to the effect our work may have on the environment and local communities. We try to design our projects as carefully as possible and to minimise inconvenience.

We want to hear what local people think about our proposals for Redshaw substation, to help us plan our project in the best way.

Please give us your views on our preferred site, the other options we considered, and anything you would like us to consider – such as site access – to help us develop our plans.

You can find more information, project documents and an online feedback form at our project website:



www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/ pages/redshaw\_400kv\_substation

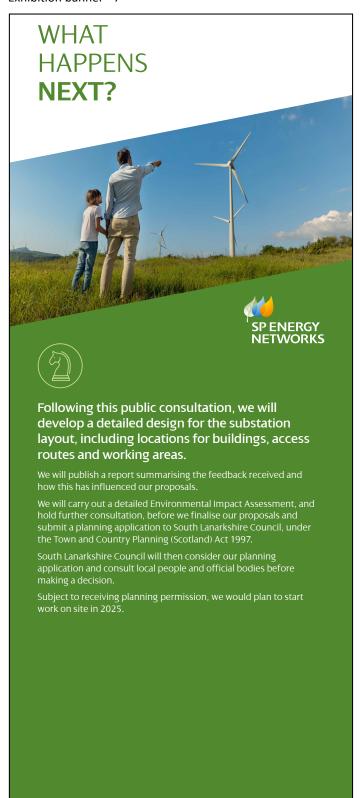
You can also contact us to ask any questions or give us your comments:

Email: redshaw@communityrelations.co.uk

Freephone: **0800 021 7890** 

Freepost: FREEPOST REDSHAW SUBSTATION

### Exhibition banner - 7



## **Redshaw Substation**

**Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report** 

