

# Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade Project

Public consultation

Scotland is producing more clean, green energy than ever before, and we need to strengthen the electricity transmission network so we can get it to the homes, schools and businesses that need it.

The UK and Scottish Governments are committed to increasing the use of renewable energy and have targets to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 in Scotland and 2050 in the UK.

To help make this happen, we need to increase the capacity of the transmission network between Denny and Wishaw. This includes extending some electricity substations, increasing the voltage of some existing overhead lines, and installing a new overhead transmission

line between Bonnybridge and a point near Glenmavis, where it will be joined to an existing overhead line - allowing the additional green energy to get to where it's needed.

We first consulted on this project in 2021. We are now holding a further public consultation so local people can give us their views on our updated plans.

This leaflet tells you about our proposals, where to find more information, and how you can comment.

**Our public consultation runs  
until Friday 28 February 2025.**



## Why is this project needed?

The electricity transmission network in central Scotland was first built in the 1920s. Since then it has grown and evolved to meet the region's industrial needs and serve its expanding population.

Today, the existing electricity network in Falkirk and Lanarkshire includes overhead lines operating at 275kV (275,000 volts) and 132kV (132,000 volts), which transport energy through the region and also serve local communities through Grid Supply Points (GSPs) at Bonnybridge, Cumbernauld, Easterhouse, Newarthill, Coatbridge and Wishaw.

SP Energy Networks (SPEN) is responsible for the transmission and distribution of electricity in central and southern Scotland. We have an obligation to maintain, operate and invest in our network to secure a safe, reliable, and economic service for current and future customers.

Our planning work with the National Energy System Operator (NESO) has identified that, for the UK to meet its Net Zero carbon emissions targets, we need to reinforce the network between Denny and Wishaw so it has extra capacity to transmit the additional green energy. This reinforcement includes upgrading some existing overhead lines from 275kV to 400kV and building the proposed new overhead transmission line between Bonnybridge and a point near Glenmavis.



## What does the project involve?

The Denny to Wishaw Network Upgrade Project includes:

- Construction of a new double circuit 275kV / 400kV overhead line, running north-south from Bonnybridge 275kV substation to a point near Glenmavis in North Lanarkshire, where it will connect to the existing 275kV overhead line (known as XX Route) that runs between the Easterhouse and Newarthill 275kV substations;
- A 'spur' from the new overhead line to Cumbernauld substation (approximately 750m), and removal of the existing 11km 132kV overhead line (CB route) between Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld substations;

- Extending our existing substations at Bonnybridge, Denny North, Cumbernauld, Wishaw and Easterhouse so we can install additional electrical equipment and carry out associated landscaping, drainage, access and fencing works where required;
- Installing new transformers at Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld substations;
- Replacing the conductors (wires) and associated equipment on existing overhead lines so we can operate them at 400kV, as follows:
  - Newarthill to Wishaw (XR route) – 16km
  - Newarthill to Easterhouse (XX route) – 15.4km
  - Denny North to Bonnybridge (ZG route) – 4km
- Alterations to the overhead lines where they enter the substations (to connect them to the new equipment)
- Moving the existing XX overhead line further away from residential properties at Grantown Gardens, Glenmavis, through a new 'tee-in' arrangement to the proposed new overhead line
- Undergrounding of two sections of the existing 132kV overhead line (AA route) between Bonnybridge and Bathgate, where it is crossed by the proposed new overhead line



## What will the new overhead line look like?

The new overhead line will be carried on steel lattice towers (pylons). The towers will have three arms on each side, and each arm will carry a set of conductors (wires).

This is because there will be a circuit on each side of the towers, and each circuit has three sets of wires. The towers are made of galvanised steel. They are grey in colour and become duller in appearance after about 18 months.

The towers have a standard height of 46 metres, but can go up to 63 metres where required to ensure electrical safety clearance to the ground. They are placed approximately 300 metres apart, but the exact distance between them will vary depending on the landscape and any obstacles such as roads, rivers and railway lines.



# Public consultation

Our public consultation runs from Monday 27 January to Friday 28 February 2025.

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.



Date	Location
Wednesday 29 January, 2pm to 7pm	<b>Newarthill Community Facility</b> , High Street, Newarthill ML1 5JU
Thursday 30 January, 4pm to 8pm	<b>Muirfield Community Centre</b> , 1a South Muirhead Road, Cumbernauld G67 1AX
Friday 31 January, 2pm to 7pm	<b>Pather Community Centre</b> , Caledonian Road, Pather, Wishaw ML2 9HZ
Tuesday 04 February, 2pm to 7pm	<b>Gartcosh Social Club</b> , Beard Crescent, Eastgate, Gartcosh G69 8AT
Wednesday 05 February, 3.15pm to 7pm	<b>Bonnybridge Community Education Centre</b> , Bridge Street, Bonnybridge FK4 1AA
Thursday 06 February, 2pm to 7pm	<b>Glenmavis Community Facility</b> , 107 Coatbridge Road, Glenmavis ML6 0NJ

All project documents are 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.

# What happens next?

Following this public consultation we will develop a detailed design and alignment for the new overhead line, including locations for towers, access routes and working areas, and detailed designs for the substation extensions. We will publish a report summarising the feedback received and how this has influenced our proposals.

We will then carry out a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment and hold a further round of public consultation, so that people can give us their views on the detailed route alignment and substation proposals.

After considering that additional feedback we will finalise our proposals and submit applications for consent.

For the proposed new overhead line, alterations to existing overhead lines and the increases in voltage, we need to submit applications to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989. The applications will be considered by the Scottish Ministers.

For the substation extensions, we need to submit planning applications to Falkirk Council and North Lanarkshire Council under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).

At this stage, your comments are not representations to the planning authorities. When we submit applications for development consent in the future, you will be able to make formal representations at that stage.



## How to contact us

Website: [www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/denny\\_wishaw.aspx](http://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/denny_wishaw.aspx)

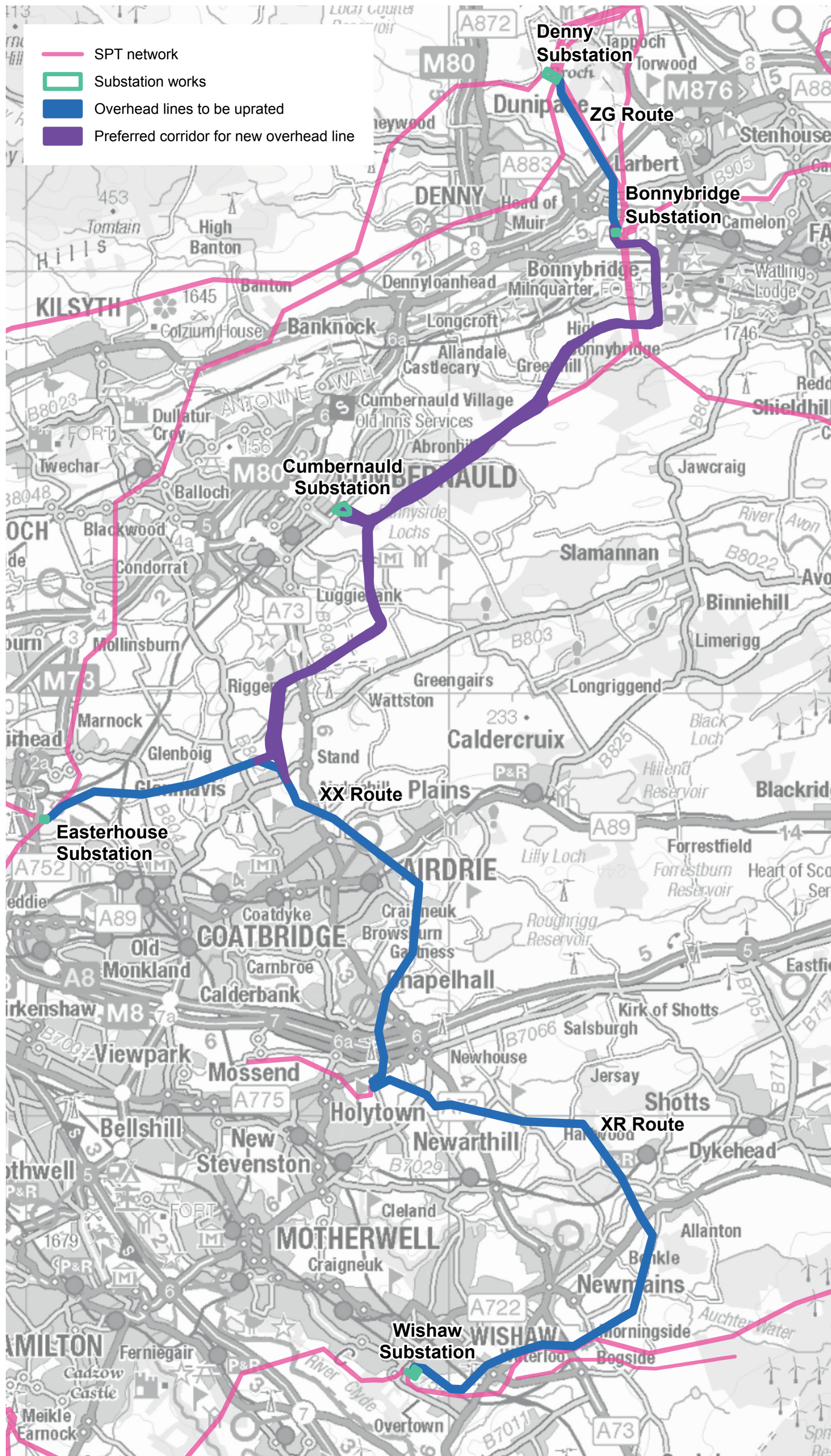
Email: [info@dennywishaw.co.uk](mailto:info@dennywishaw.co.uk)

Freephone: 0800 470 2376

Freepost: FREEPOST DENNY WISHAW UPGRADE







## Our preferred route

The map shows our preferred route for the new overhead line, the existing overhead lines to be updated, and the substations we need to extend.

SPEN has worked with environmental consultants to identify potential routes for the new overhead line between Bonnybridge and the existing Easterhouse-Newarthill overhead line near Glenmavis.

We appraised each option for its impact on a range of criteria including local views, the character of the landscape, biodiversity, forestry, cultural heritage and flood risk and other land uses.

Our preferred route (a swathe of land within which an overhead line could be installed), is the one that we believe achieves the best balance between our technical requirements and minimising the impact on the environment and the people, who live, work and enjoy spending their time in the area.

Our preferred route leaves Bonnybridge substation and crosses the Antonine Wall at a location that minimises potential effects on the World Heritage Site. It passes east of Rough Castle, using dips in the landscape and screening provided by existing trees to reduce visibility in the landscape.

The preferred route then passes west of the Slamannan Plateau Special Protection Area (SPA) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and crosses Palacerigg Country Park. We can't avoid crossing the park because of the need to avoid the SPA and SSSI and nearby homes on the edge of Cumbernauld, but we will use the landscape and mature trees to screen the new line from views as much as possible.

A 'spur' from the new line to Cumbernauld substation will allow us to remove the existing 11km 132kV overhead line (CB route) in its entirety between Bonnybridge and Cumbernauld.

The preferred route then avoids the Community Growth Areas and planned development north of Airdrie and east of the A73, before terminating at a point near Glenmavis where it joins on to the existing Easterhouse-Newarthill overhead transmission line. A new 'tee-in' section will be created at this point, allowing us to move the existing XX overhead line away from residential properties at Granttown Gardens and Eden Court.

You can find full details of the preferred route and the alternatives we considered, our routing strategy and the findings of our options appraisal process, in the Routing and Consultation Document on our project website, along with the Preferred Route Option - Update Report which explains how we have modified our proposals since 2021.



An example of an L8 transmission tower