

# Glenmuckloch to Redshaw Reinforcement Project

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Proposed new high voltage overhead  
electricity transmission line.

Summary of Feedback from First Round  
of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)

## **Glenmuckloch to Redshaw Reinforcement Project**

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**SP Energy Networks  
October 2024**

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## Executive summary

This report summarises the first round of pre-application consultation carried out by SP Energy Networks (SPEN) for the Glenmuckloch to Redshaw Reinforcement Project (GRRP), a proposed new 400kV (400,000-volt) overhead electricity transmission line connecting the new substation at Glenmuckloch<sup>1</sup>, in Dumfries and Galloway, to the proposed new Redshaw substation<sup>2</sup>, adjacent to the existing ZV overhead line route near the M74 motorway at Red Moss in South Lanarkshire.

SPEN carried out pre-application consultation with local residents and stakeholders from Monday 26 February and Thursday 28 March 2024, which included three drop-in events.

The feedback received will help to shape the detailed design of the project. Revised designs will be shared with the public during a second round of pre-application consultation.

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.

### **This report will provide:**

- An overview of the project and the consultation process
- A summary of the feedback received during the consultation period
- The methodology used to analyse the feedback received
- Next steps in the process

<sup>1</sup>Substation was proposed at the time of public consultation but was consented in April 2024.

<sup>2</sup>An application for planning permission will be submitted to South Lanarkshire Council in Q4 2024. [https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/redshaw\\_400kv\\_substation.aspx](https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/redshaw_400kv_substation.aspx)



# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 The Need for the Glenmuckloch to Redshaw Reinforcement Project

The Network Options Assessment (NOA) is carried out every year by National Grid as the Energy Systems Operator (ESO) to determine what, if any, additional capacity will be required and economically justified to ensure current and future energy generation can flow from where it is produced to where it is needed.

Much of the electricity transmission network in Scotland is between 50 and 100 years old. It has grown and evolved to meet industrial needs and serve the expanding population, but the network in central Scotland will soon be at full capacity and unable to accommodate all the clean, green renewable energy we will all need in future.

SPEN continues to receive connection applications from renewable energy developers in the area, and around 2GW (gigawatts) of new renewable energy is expected to connect to the transmission network via Glenmuckloch and Glenglass in the future.

A new overhead line (OHL) will be needed to connect this energy to the existing 400kV (400,000-volt) ZV overhead line, which connects the Scotland and England transmission networks, at the proposed new Redshaw substation.

To meet this requirement, SPEN is proposing a new 400kV overhead transmission line to connect the new Glenmuckloch substation to the existing 'ZV' route (Scotland to England 400kV interconnector), via the proposed Redshaw 400kV substation.

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

SP Energy Networks is part of the ScottishPower Group. It is responsible for the transmission and distribution of electricity in central and southern Scotland, and, through SP Manweb, the distribution network in North Wales and part of Northwest England. SPEN's role is to maintain, operate and invest in our network to secure a safe, reliable, and economic service for current and future consumers.

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 over 150 substations, more than 4,500km of overhead lines and more than 600km of underground cables.

As transmission licence holder for 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; and
- Facilitate competition in the supply and generation of electricity.

SPEN is required to provide for new electricity generators wishing to connect to the transmission system in its licence area, to make its transmission system available for these purposes and to ensure that the system is fit for purpose through appropriate reinforcements to accommodate the contracted capacity.

Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 imposes a further statutory duty on SPEN to take account of the following factors in formulating proposals for the installation of overhead transmission lines:

- “(a) to have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features or special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest; and
- (b) to do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effects which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects.”

SPEN’s ‘Schedule 9 Statement’ sets out how it will meet the duty placed upon it under Schedule 9. The Statement also refers to the application of best practice methods to assess the environmental impacts of proposals and to identify appropriate mitigation measures.

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 both the environment and the people who live, work and enjoy recreation within it.

### **1.3 The proposed project**

- A new 400kV double-circuit OHL is required to connect the new Glenmuckloch substation to a proposed new 400kV substation adjacent to the existing ZV route (Redshaw substation). The OHL will be approximately 23km in length and will be supported on steel lattice towers (pylons).
- SPEN will also need to create temporary accesses to tower construction areas, and construction compounds to store materials. There are well-established procedures in place for creating and then decommissioning these, to minimise the impact on the environment and local communities.
- The project requires consent from the Scottish Ministers under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989. When applying for consent, SPEN will also apply for deemed planning permission under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended, for any ancillary development such as access tracks. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report will accompany the application.
- Details about the OHL infrastructure and the construction process is available in the Routeing and Consultation Document.

## 2 Approach to Pre-Application Consultation

### 2.1 Legislation and guidance

SPEN will apply to the Scottish Ministers for consent under Section 37 of the Act, as amended, to install and keep installed, the proposed GRRP. In conjunction with the Section 37 application, SPEN will apply for deemed planning permission under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, as amended, for any ancillary development such as access tracks. The EIA Report will accompany the application.

### 2.2 SPEN's statutory and licence responsibilities

As a transmission licence 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 transmission system.

SPEN also 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.

### 2.3 SPEN's commitment to engagement

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.

Striking the right balance can be challenging, and in seeking to achieve this, SPEN recognises the importance of consulting effectively on proposals and 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 project. This engagement process begins at the early stages of development of a project and continues into construction once consent has been granted.

## 2.4 Consultation Strategy and approach

Whilst there are no formal pre-application requirements for consultation in seeking Section 37 consent/deemed planning permission, SPEN is embracing best practice as outlined in the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) Best Practice Guidance (July 2022). This guidance encourages applicants to engage with stakeholders and the public in order to develop their proposals in advance of such applications being made. Therefore, prior to the submission, SPEN is carrying out consultation with stakeholders and the public.

Following the submission of application for Section 37 consent and deemed planning permission, the Scottish Government ECU will, on behalf of Scottish Ministers, carry out further consultation with the public and stakeholders, including South Lanarkshire, East Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway Councils.

### **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.

The formal Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) submitted to Scottish Ministers sets out a description of the development in general terms including maps to identify the site and set out SPEN's proposals for undertaking pre-application consultation.

SPEN used a range of communication channels to publicise and promote the consultations, which are detailed in the following sections of this document. **Respondents were also able to give feedback in different formats, depending on their own preference:**

- **Email:** [GRRP@communityrelations.co.uk](mailto:GRRP@communityrelations.co.uk)
- **Freepost:** FREEPOST SPEN GRRP
- **Freephone:** 0800 021 7890
- **Online via the dedicated project website:** [www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/grrp.aspx](http://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/grrp.aspx)
- Face-to-face or in writing at public consultation exhibitions

## 3 Pre-Application Consultation

### 3.1 Consultation Strategy

SPEN attaches great significance to the effects its works may have on the environment and local communities and is very keen to hear the views of local people to help it develop the project in the most appropriate way.

The overall objective of the consultation process is to ensure that all parties with an interest in the proposed GRRP have access to up-to-date information and are provided with clear and easy ways in which to shape and inform SPEN's proposals at the pre-application stage. Key issues identified through this process are being recorded in this report and presented to decision makers to assist the consents process.

As part of the consultation strategy, SPEN is holding two rounds of public consultation events for the public, stakeholders and consultees to provide comments on the proposals. The second round will take place following a detailed design and alignment for the project to show the updated proposals.

**For the first round of consultation, SPEN sought feedback from consultees on the following:**

- Views on the preferred route
- Comments about any of the alternative routes considered
- Comments about the rerouting and removal of a section of existing 400kV overhead lines (described as the ZV route - Scotland to England 400kV interconnector)
- Other factors to be considered (for example, areas of recreational, local and environmental use)

### 3.2 How we consulted

Prior to the consultation period, SPEN carried out discussions with consenting bodies, planning authorities and statutory consultees including NatureScot, Historic Environment Scotland and Scottish Forestry. Early and proactive engagement ensures the views of these consultees can help to inform project design, assessment methodologies and further engagement. It also provides consultees with an early understanding of the project programme up to submission of the application for consent.

The consultation period ran from Monday 26 February to Thursday 28 March 2024. SPEN held three public exhibitions on 26, 27 and 28 February 2024. Venue locations for drop-in exhibitions, where people could view project information and plans, and ask questions of the project team, were chosen based on their proximity to where people reside within the consultation zone. The dates and venues were detailed within the project leaflet and website. **To make the events as accessible as possible, an afternoon/evening timeslot for each date was decided on:**

- Monday 26 February, 11.30am to 4.30pm: St Brides Centre, Braehead, Douglas ML11 OPT,
- Tuesday 27 February, 2.30pm to 7.30pm: Crawfordjohn Hall, Crawfordjohn ML12 6SR,
- Wednesday 28 February, 1.00pm to 7.00pm: Miners Memorial Centre, Needle Street, Kirkconnel DG4 6ND.

The events were attended by a total of 21 people, including representatives of Dumfries and Galloway Council, Duneaton Community Council, and Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Community Council.

**SPEN wished to consult with relevant stakeholders and gain their views on the identified proposed route as well as the alternatives considered. These groups included:**

- Statutory and non-statutory consultees, including community councils,
- Known local interest and community groups operating in the project area (specifically South Lanarkshire and Dumfries & Galloway Council areas),
- Elected members of South Lanarkshire and Dumfries & Galloway Council areas, Members of Parliament (MP) and Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) whose constituencies are within the South Lanarkshire and Dumfries & Galloway Council areas,
- Local residents, businesses and the general public.

## Pre-Application Consultation

On 12 February 2024, ahead of the start of the consultation period, an email was sent via the project mailbox to stakeholders notifying them of the consultation’s launch, outlining the project proposals and providing details of how to contact the project team for more information or to request a briefing. The stakeholders that received the email are listed in table 1.

Stakeholder group	Stakeholder organisation
<b>South Lanarkshire Council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clydesdale East ward councillors</li> <li>• Clydesdale South ward councillors</li> <li>• Council Leader and Deputy Leader</li> <li>• Chair of Climate Change and Sustainability Committee</li> <li>• Chair of Planning Committee</li> </ul>
<b>Dumfries and Galloway Council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid and Upper Nithsdale ward councillors</li> <li>• Chair of Planning Committee</li> <li>• Council Leader and Deputy Leader</li> </ul>
<b>East Ayrshire Council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cumnock and New Cumnock ward councillors</li> <li>• Council Leader and Deputy Leader</li> <li>• Chair of Planning Committee</li> </ul>
<b>Community Councils</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duneaton Community Council</li> <li>• Douglas Community Council</li> <li>• Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Community Council</li> <li>• Leadhills Community Council</li> <li>• Muirkirk Community Council</li> <li>• Coalburn Community Council</li> <li>• Cumnock Community Council</li> <li>• New Cumnock Community Council</li> </ul>
<b>Community organisations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Coalfields Regeneration Trust</li> <li>• Community Links</li> <li>• The Stove</li> <li>• Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway</li> <li>• South of Scotland Alliance</li> <li>• Clydesdale Community Initiatives</li> <li>• Community Action Lanarkshire</li> <li>• Muirkirk Community Association</li> </ul>

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<b>Business groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lanarkshire Chamber of Commerce and Trade</li> <li>• Muirkirk Caravan Park</li> <li>• Mount View Caravan Park South Lanarkshire</li> <li>• Spirit of Lanarkshire Wind Energy Co-operative</li> <li>• The Lanarkshire Chamber of Commerce and Trade</li> <li>• Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>• Dumfries and Galloway Chambers of Commerce</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DG Eco Warriors</li> <li>• The East Ayrshire Coalfield Environment Initiative (CEI)</li> <li>• East Ayrshire Woodlands</li> <li>• Clydesdale Heritage</li> <li>• Biggar &amp; District Community Heritage</li> <li>• Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural Society</li> <li>• Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society</li> <li>• Cumnock History Group</li> <li>• Scottish Wildlife Trust - Dumfries and Galloway</li> <li>• Scottish Wildlife Trust – Ayrshire</li> <li>• Lanarkshire Green Health Partnership</li> <li>• The Conservation Volunteers</li> <li>• Association for the protection of rural Scotland (APRS)</li> <li>• John Muir Trust</li> </ul>

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SPEN's Government Affairs Team also contacted the Members of Parliament for Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale, Kilmarnock and Loudoun, and Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock constituencies and the Members of the Scottish Parliament for Clydesdale, Dumfriesshire, Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley, and South Scotland constituencies.

### Project leaflet

A total of 2,060 copies of the project leaflet were distributed to all properties within the area potentially affected by the project at the start of the consultation period. It was also emailed to community councils and known local interest and community groups operating in the South Lanarkshire and Dumfries & Galloway Council areas. The leaflet included details of the project, the consultation process, how to find out more information and how to submit comments by feedback form, website, post or email, and the deadline date. **A copy of the leaflet can be found in Appendix A.**

### Newspaper advert

Prior to the consultation events, SPEN placed a formal newspaper advert in the Cumnock Chronicle, Galloway News and Carlisle & Lanark Gazette newspapers for two consecutive weeks - w/c 12th February 2024 and w/c 19th February 2024. The advert outlined the need for the Glenmuckloch to Redshaw route, the public consultation dates and how feedback could be submitted. **A copy of the advert can be found in Appendix B.**

### Project website

The project leaflet, newspaper notice, project plans, FAQs, general information about the project and the consultation and the feedback form were made available on a dedicated project website: [www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/grp/asp](http://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/grp/asp). The website remained live following the consultation to ensure stakeholders can find out more and stay up to date on project developments.

### Feedback form

A feedback form was made available in hard copy and online. It included six questions in relation to the project proposals and an additional section that asked demographic data including title, name, address, telephone number, email address, asking if the respondent is responding on behalf of an organisation and if they attended a public exhibition.

#### The six project related questions were:

- 1) We would like your views on our plans to reroute and remove a section of the existing 400kV overhead line at Redshaw.
- 2) Do you have any comments on our preferred route for the overhead line or the alternatives we considered?
- 3) In relation to question 2, Any other factors you would like us to consider?
- 4) How did you find out about the project and the consultation? Multiple choice options provided were: advert, media, letter, leaflet. Poster, website word of mouth, social media, other.
- 5) Please give us your views about the consultation process.
- 6) Are there any other comments you would like to make?

The closing date for submitting feedback was midnight on Thursday 28 March 2024. Following this date, the consultation information remains accessible online on the project website and available to download.



At the events, stakeholders had the opportunity to drop in to view the project proposals and talk to members of the project team to discuss any questions or concerns they had. The materials made available at the events included 10 pull up banners which provided detail on each aspect of the proposals, hard copies of maps and relevant project documents. **A copy of the banners can be found in Appendix C.**

Hard copies of consultation documents were also lodged at publicly accessible information points from w/c 26 February until Thursday 28 March 2024 for public viewing (during normal opening hours) for those who do not have access to the internet, could not attend an exhibition or simply prefer to see these materials in person.

**These information points included:**

- St Brides Centre, Braehead, Douglas, ML11 0PT
- Kirkconnel Library, Greystone Ave, Kelloholm, Sanquhar, DG4 6RA

### 3.3 Summary of feedback

Stakeholders could submit feedback in various methods as outlined in Section 2.4. All consultation responses were received centrally at the GRRP contact centre where they were logged and recorded for analysis by members of the project team.

Respondents were made aware via a data protection statement that any comments they made could be made available to certain bodies for the purposes of the consultation and for creating reports. This included the Scottish Government and relevant planning authorities.

A total of three feedback forms were submitted during the consultation period via hard copy forms sent to the FREEPOST address and email.

#### Hardcopy feedback

Two feedback forms were received via FREEPOST which were collected, scanned and the physical copy was securely stored. The scanned copies were securely saved on the project's SharePoint. The content of feedback forms were manually input into the project CRM database, utilising an interface which mirrored that used by the public for online responses. These were then imported into the analysis database via CSV.

#### Email feedback

One feedback form was submitted as a Microsoft Word document via email to the project mailbox. This email was separated from other general correspondence emails in the inbox and was input into the analysis database, including attachments where applicable.

Consultation responses were sent a standard acknowledgement (in the form of an automated response for email submissions) and given a unique identification number.

All items of feedback were individually assessed to establish whether the correspondent requested or needed additional information in order to further develop their response. Where specifically requested in this way, the project team aimed to issue a substantive response within five working days.

Where given by the respondent, contact details were recorded and added to the communication database so respondents could receive project updates.

### 3.4 Topics raised during the consultation

Table 2 (see 3.5 below) summarises the key themes that arose during the first round of pre-application consultation as well as SPEN's response to these themes.

### 3.5 SPEN's response to the feedback

The comments received as feedback will be considered by SPEN and will help to shape the project as the detailed design continues. The key themes that arose in the comments have been summarised below with a response from SPEN.

Feedback theme	Example comments	SPEN's response
<b>Re-routeing and removal of a section of existing 400kV overhead line near to the proposed Redshaw substation</b>	No opposition was recorded in relation to the proposed re-routeing.	Noted.
<b>Section 1 of the overhead line between Glenmuckloch and the proposed new Redshaw substation.</b>	The proximity of the overhead line, on section 1B, to proposed wind turbines in the area.	Through our ongoing environmental and technical studies, in conjunction with our dialogue with the developers of the windfarms, we currently believe that the OHL can be safely routed through the proposed windfarms without having any material effect on the productivity of the developments.
<b>Section 4 of the overhead line between Glenmuckloch and the proposed new Redshaw substation</b>	Concern regarding the proximity of the line, on Section 4B, to properties in the area, and potential impact this might have on property prices.	Through our ongoing environmental and technical studies, the potential to position the OHL and towers is being considered with a view to use existing forestry to mitigate any visual impacts.
<b>Section 3 of the overhead line between Glenmuckloch and the proposed new Redshaw substation</b>	Concern that Section 3B would pass through an area of historical importance and forestry that includes native hardwood.	Through our ongoing environmental and technical studies, in conjunction with feedback from the planned second round of pre-application consultation, we are aiming to finalise our proposals, including detailed mitigation to avoid, reduce or offset potential environmental and land use issues.
<b>Undergrounding of the route</b>	Undergrounding was suggested by two respondents.  They note that the area is used by local residents for recreation, which they claim would be disrupted by the visual impact of overhead lines.	In developing its proposals for the project, SPEN must consider the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest, and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural interest. It must also do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effect of the proposals on these features.  The project must also be compatible with SPEN's duties to develop and maintain an economic and efficient transmission system, so the costs of proposals must be in keeping with these duties. The same duties (in terms of mitigating environmental effects and being economic and efficient) would also apply to any alternative proposals for the Project (or sections of it) whether overhead or underground.  Therefore, in considering whether lines should be placed underground to reduce landscape, visual or environmental effects, SPEN must balance those reductions in effects against the costs (economic and environmental) and the technical challenges of undergrounding.  Undergrounding is generally significantly more expensive than building OHL but varies considerably from project to project depending on a range of factors, including whether the line is buried in roads, directly in open agricultural land or whether more complex tunnelling and civil engineering is required. Repair impacts are also higher than for overhead lines.

<b>Impact on Site of Scientific Interest</b>	Concern was raised that the OHL would have a direct impact on North Lower Uplands SSSI.	SPEN will seek to avoid altogether, if possible, the major areas of highest amenity value (Holford Rule 1). The proposals set out in the first round of consultation avoid the placing of infrastructure (towers) within the SSSI. Due to the close proximity of windfarms and wake effect, the proposals may require an oversail of small section of the SSSI.
		A field visit was also carried out following the consultation at the landowner's request, to determine the ground conditions with a view to moving towers further away from the boundary of the SSSI and to avoid any oversail. Further discussions with NatureScot and relevant stakeholders will continue through the design process.
<b>Consultation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criticism of the consultation's conduct, with one respondent stating that the project team were primarily concerned about engaging with landowners.</li> <li>• The timing of consultation exhibition events received criticism, with one respondent stating that they were conducted during working hours and, therefore, excluded a significant number of workers.</li> <li>• Presentations provided at the consultation exhibitions received praise. Presenters were complimented for being knowledgeable and informed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The consultation period ran from Monday 26 February to Thursday 28 March 2024. SPEN held three public exhibitions on 26, 27 and 28 February 2024. Venue locations were chosen based on their proximity to where people reside within the consultation zone. The dates and venues were detailed within the project leaflet and website.</li> <li>• Two of the sessions ran into the evening, and all project information and an online feedback form were available throughout on the project website.</li> </ul>

## 4 Next Steps

Following the first round of the pre application consultation, SPEN will develop a detailed design and alignment for GRRP, including locations for towers, access routes and working areas. A report will be published summarising the feedback received in the first round of consultation and how this has influenced our proposals.

SPEN will then carry out a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment and hold a second round of public consultation, so that people can give us their views on the detailed route alignment. After considering feedback received in the second round of consultation, SPEN will finalise the project proposals and submit consent applications to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit, for consideration by the Scottish Ministers.

The Scottish Ministers will then undertake a final round of statutory consultation before making any decision on our applications. SPEN will make a separate consent application for the proposed Redshaw overhead line diversion, as this is for an alteration to an existing overhead line separate from the new one.

## 5 Appendices

### 5.1 Project Leaflet



# Glenmuckloch to Redshaw Reinforcement Project

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



The Scottish Government has set a target of Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 – meaning that Scotland’s contribution to climate change would 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.

Our upgrade work includes a new transmission line connecting Glenmuckloch substation to the proposed new Redshaw substation close to the M74 in South Lanarkshire, allowing clean, green renewable energy to flow in to the national electricity network.

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

Project Leaflet cont.



### Why do we need a new electricity transmission line?

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.

The existing electricity transmission 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 the area around Glenmuckloch and Glenglass in the future. A new overhead line will be needed to connect this energy to the existing 400kV (400,000 volt) transmission network at Redshaw.



### What does the project involve?

The Glenmuckloch to Redshaw Reinforcement Project involves construction of a new double-circuit 400kV overhead line, running north-east from Glenmuckloch substation to the proposed new Redshaw substation at Red Moss, close to the M74 motorway, where it will connect to the existing high-voltage transmission network. We will also need to create temporary accesses to tower construction areas, and construction compounds to store materials. There are well-established procedures in place for creating and then decommissioning these, to minimise impact on the environment and local communities.



### 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 (L12 design) have a standard height of 46 metres and are placed approximately 300 metres apart. The exact height and distance between them will vary depending on the landscape and any obstacles the lines need to cross, such as roads, rivers and railway lines, to ensure electrical safety clearance to the ground. Lower-height towers can also be used in some situations.



Project Leaflet cont.



## We want to hear your views

**Our public consultation runs from Monday 26 February 2024 to Thursday 28 March 2024.**

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	Website
Monday 26 February, 11.30am to 4.30pm	St Brides Centre, Braehead, Douglas ML11 OPT	<a href="http://www.stbridescentre.co.uk">www.stbridescentre.co.uk</a>
Tuesday 27 February, 2.30pm to 7.30pm	Crawfordjohn Hall, Crawfordjohn ML12 6SR	<a href="http://www.crawfordjohnhall.org">www.crawfordjohnhall.org</a>
Wednesday 28 February, 1.00pm to 7.00pm	Miners Memorial Centre, Needle Street, Kirkconnel DG4 6ND	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/MinersMemorialCentre">www.facebook.com/MinersMemorialCentre</a>

All project documents are available 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.

Folders containing project information are also available to view at the following locations, during opening hours:

- St Brides Centre, Braehead, Douglas ML11 OPT
- Kirkconnel Library, Greystone Ave, Kelloholm, Sanquhar DG4 6RA

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.



Project Leaflet cont.



## What happens next?

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

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

After considering feedback received in the second round of consultation, we will finalise our proposals and submit consent applications to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit, for consideration by the Scottish Ministers.

The Scottish Ministers will then undertake a final round of statutory consultation before making any decision on our applications.



 **How to contact us**

Website: [www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/grrp.aspx](http://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/grrp.aspx)  
Email: [grrp@communityrelations.co.uk](mailto:grrp@communityrelations.co.uk)  
Freephone: 0800 021 7890  
Freepost: FREEPOST SPEN GRRP





Project Leaflet cont.

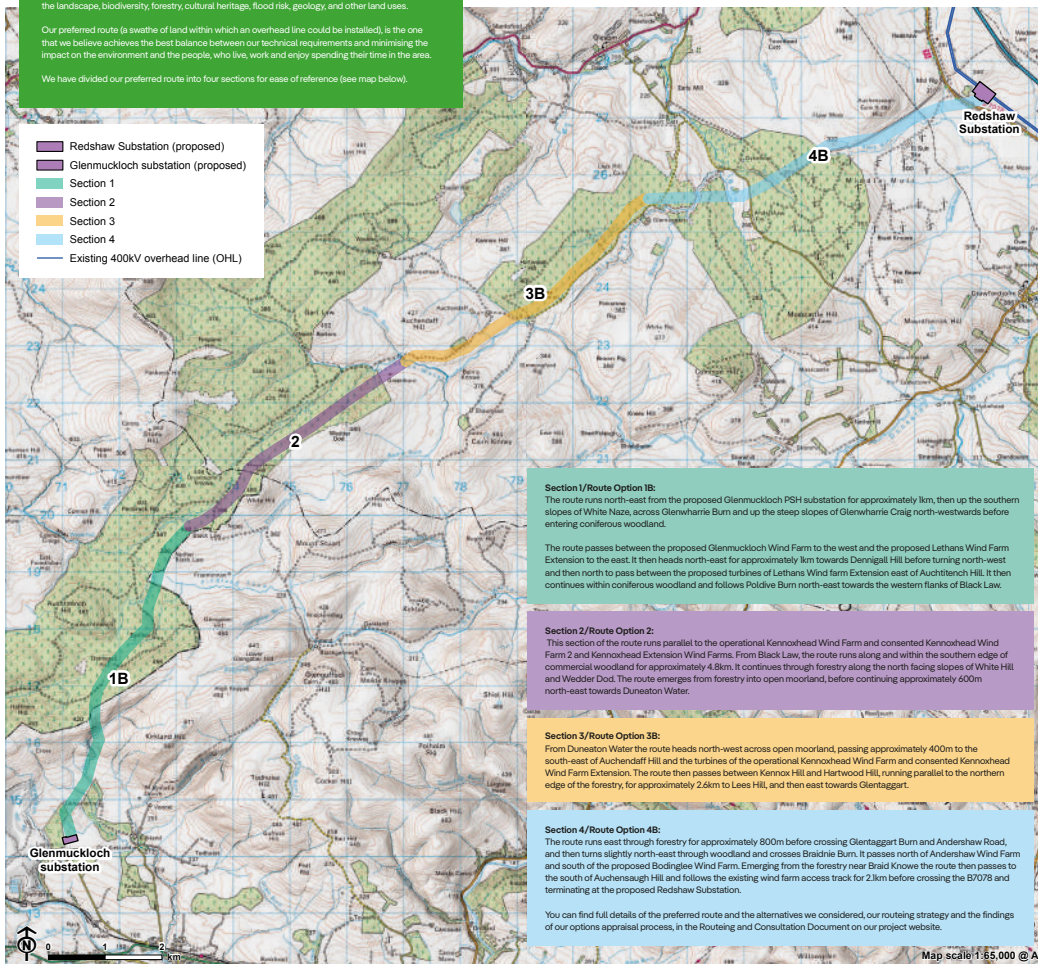
### Our preferred route

SPEN has been working with environmental consultants to identify potential routes for the new overhead line between the proposed Glenmuckloch and Redshaw substations.

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

We have divided our preferred route into four sections for ease of reference (see map below).



### Redshaw overhead line diversion

We will also need to divert a short section of the existing 400kV overhead line (the one that runs parallel to the M74) at Redshaw, to connect into the proposed new Redshaw substation.

To do this, we will need to build a short new stretch of overhead lines, including three new towers and replacing two existing towers with angle towers (ZV08 and ZV11), to 'bypass' the section that currently crosses the proposed new substation site (see Figure 1). We will then remove that section and build the substation. Once the substation is built, we will connect it to two of the new towers (see Figure 2).

Please give us any comments you may have on the proposed overhead line diversion, which will be subject to a separate consent application in due course.

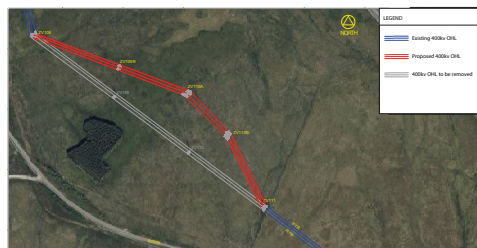


Figure 1

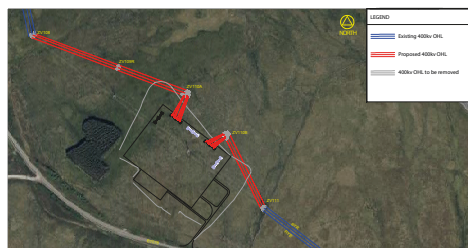


Figure 2

## 5.2 Newspaper Advert

# Glenmuckloch to Redshaw Reinforcement 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.

Our upgrade work includes a new transmission line connecting the proposed new substation at Glenmuckloch to the proposed new Redshaw substation, close to the M74 in South Lanarkshire.

We have identified a preferred route for the proposed new overhead line, and we would like to hear local people's views to help us develop our plans.

**Our public consultation runs from Monday 26 February 2024 to Thursday 28 March 2024.**

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/grrp.aspx](http://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/grrp.aspx)

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

**Phone: 0800 021 7890**  
**Email: [grrp@communityrelations.co.uk](mailto:grrp@communityrelations.co.uk)**  
**Post: FREEPOST SPEN GRRP**

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

Date	Location
Monday 26 February, 11.30am to 4.30pm	St Brides Centre, Braehead, <b>Douglas</b> ML11 0PT
Tuesday 27 February, 2.30pm to 7.30pm	Crawfordjohn Hall, <b>Crawfordjohn</b> ML12 6SR
Wednesday 28 February, 1.00pm to 7.00pm	Miners Memorial Centre, Needle Street, <b>Kirkconnel</b> DG4 6ND

5.3 Exhibition Boards

## About SP Energy Networks



### 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 wholly-owned 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.

## Electricity in our changing world



### 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 Boards cont.

## Why do we need a new transmission line from Glenmuckloch to Redshaw?



**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.**

The existing electricity transmission 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 the area around Glenmuckloch and Glenglass in the future.

The Glenmuckloch to Redshaw Reinforcement Project involves construction of a new double-circuit 400kV overhead line supported on steel transmission towers (pylons), running north-east for around 23km from the proposed Glenmuckloch substation to the proposed new Redshaw substation at Red Moss, close to the M74 motorway, where it will connect to the existing high-voltage transmission network.

We will also need to create temporary accesses to tower construction areas, and construction compounds to store materials. There are well-established procedures in place for creating and then decommissioning these, to minimise impact on the environment and local communities.

## 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 (L12 design) have a standard height of 46 metres and are placed approximately 300 metres apart. The exact height and distance between them will vary depending on the landscape and any obstacles the lines need to cross, such as roads, rivers and railway lines, to ensure electrical safety clearance to the ground. Lower-height towers can also be used in some situations.



Exhibition Boards cont.

## How did you select a route for the overhead line?



 SP Energy Networks



The routing of overhead lines is a complex process, requiring a balance to be struck between statutory obligations, engineering requirements, economic viability, the environment, and people who live, work, enjoy recreation and pass through it.

We are following established guidelines for routing transmission overhead lines, which combine in-depth environmental studies with technical and economic factors. A key part of this is consultation with landowners, stakeholders and the public to inform the development of the project.

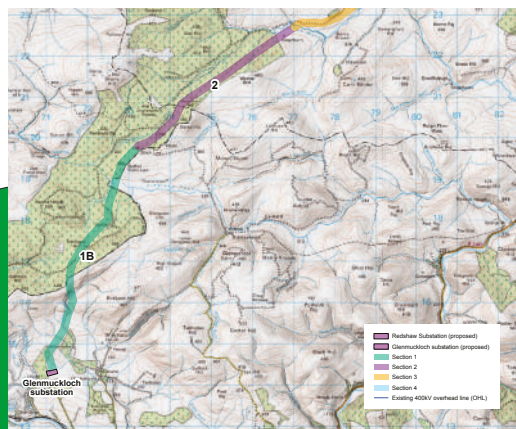
SPEN has been working with environmental consultants to identify potential routes for the new overhead line between the proposed Glenmuckloch and Redshaw substations.

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

You can find detailed information in our Routing and Consultation Report, which is available to view [here](#) and on our website.

## Our preferred route – sections 1 and 2



### Section 1/Route Option 1B:

The route runs north-east from the proposed Glenmuckloch PSH substation for approximately 1km, then up the southern slopes of White Naze, across Glenwharrie Burn and up the steep slopes of Glenwharrie Craig north-westwards before entering coniferous woodland.

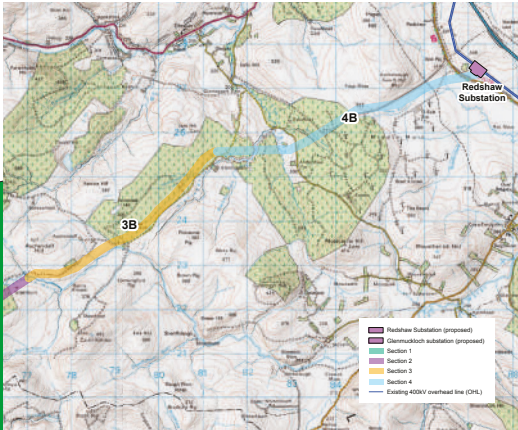
The route passes between the proposed Glenmuckloch Wind Farm to the west and the proposed Lethans Wind Farm Extension to the east. It then heads north-east for approximately 1km towards Dennigall Hill before turning north-west and then north to pass between the proposed turbines of Lethans Wind farm Extension east of Auchtitench Hill. It then continues within coniferous woodland and follows Poldive Burn north-east towards the western flanks of Black Law.

### Section 2/Route Option 2:

This section of the route runs parallel to the operational Kennoxhead Wind Farm and consented Kennoxhead Wind Farm 2 and Kennoxhead Extension Wind Farms. From Black Law, the route runs along and within the southern edge of commercial woodland for approximately 4.8km. It continues through forestry along the north facing slopes of White Hill and Wedder Dod. The route emerges from forestry into open moorland, before continuing approximately 600m north-east towards Duneaton Water.

Exhibition Boards cont.

## Our preferred route – sections 3 and 4



### Section 3/Route Option 3B:

From Duneaton Water the route heads north-west across open moorland, passing approximately 400m to the south-east of Auchendaff Hill and the turbines of the operational Kennoxhead Wind Farm and consented Kennoxhead Wind Farm Extension. The route then passes between Kennox Hill and Hartwood Hill, running parallel to the northern edge of the forestry, for approximately 2.6km to Lees Hill, and then east towards Glentaggart.

### Section 4/Route Option 4B:

The route runs east through forestry for approximately 800m before crossing Glentaggart Burn and Andershaw Road, and then turns slightly north-east through woodland and crosses Braidnie Burn. It passes north of Andershaw Wind Farm and south of the proposed Bodinglee Wind Farm. Emerging from the forestry near Braid Knowe the route then passes to the south of Auchensaugh Hill and follows the existing wind farm access track for 2.1km before crossing the B7078 and terminating at the proposed Redshaw Substation.

## Redshaw overhead line diversion



We will also need to divert a short section of the existing 400kV overhead line (the one that runs parallel to the M74) at Redshaw, to connect into the proposed new Redshaw substation.

To do this, we will need to build a short new stretch of overhead line, including three new towers and replacing two existing towers with angle towers (ZV108 and ZV111), to 'bypass' the section that currently crosses the proposed new substation site (see Figure 1).

We will then remove that section and build the substation. Once the substation is built, we will connect it to two of the new towers (see Figure 2).



Figure 1



Figure 2

Exhibition Boards cont.

## We want to hear your views!



**Our public consultation runs from Monday 26 February 2024 to Thursday 28 March 2024.**

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 Glenmuckloch to Redshaw Reinforcement Project in the best way.

Please give us your views on our preferred route, and where the new overhead line might go within that route; the other options we considered; and anything you would like us to take into account – such as site access – to help us develop our plans.

Please also give us any comments you may have on the proposed diversion to the existing overhead line at Redshaw, which will be subject to a separate consent application in due course.



You can find more information, project documents and an online feedback form at our project website: [www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/grrp.aspx](http://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/grrp.aspx)

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

Email: [grrp@communityrelations.co.uk](mailto:grrp@communityrelations.co.uk)

Freephone: 0800 0217890

Freepost: FREEPOST SPEN GRRP

## What happens next?



**Following this first round of consultation we will develop a detailed design and alignment for the Glenmuckloch to Redshaw Reinforcement Project, including locations for towers, access routes and working areas. We will publish a report summarising the feedback received in this first round of consultation and how this has influenced our proposals.**

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

After considering feedback received in the second round of consultation, we will finalise our proposals and submit consent applications to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit, for consideration by the Scottish Ministers.

The Scottish Ministers will then undertake a final round of statutory consultation before making any decision on our applications.

We will make a separate consent application for the proposed Redshaw overhead line diversion, as this is for an alteration to an existing overhead line separate from the new one.

## **Glenmuckloch to Redshaw Reinforcement Project**

**Summary of Feedback from First Round  
of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC)**

