

## Briefing Note

Beauly to Denny Overhead Power  
Line and Upgrades in Scotland

---

Scottish Ministers announced on the 6th of January 2010 that the controversial £350m Beauly to Denny power line upgrade had been approved. The Scottish Government has granted Scottish and Southern Energy and Scottish Power consent to install a 400,000 volt overhead electricity transmission line to replace the existing 132,000 volt line, which is to be dismantled as part of the project. The new line is to run for 137 miles between Beauly, near Inverness, and Denny, near Falkirk.

A plan showing the route of the new power line may be accessed on the Scottish Government's website at the following link:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Business-Industry/Energy/Infrastructure/Energy-Consents/Beauly-Denny-Index/BDDecision>

The final route was apparently carefully considered over a period of three years, with the end result that most of the overhead line will be within one kilometre of the existing line.

The approval given by the Scottish Government was made subject to a detailed and comprehensive range of conditions, including five "wirescape rationalisation" schemes, three "visual impact mitigation" schemes, and a range of conditions relating to the protection of sensitive ecological areas and species.

A timetable for construction work will be established after all of the conditions associated with the consents announced by Scottish Ministers have been considered in detail. Once started, construction is likely to take around four years. A further year will be required to dismantle the existing line.

### Windfarms in Scotland

The approval of the Beauly to Denny powerline upgrade has also had an impact on Scotland's ever-increasing windfarm network. The Scottish Government has recently announced that it has given the green light for the £80 million Baillie wind farm near Thurso, which will feed into the new power line.

In order to provide an overview of the development of windfarms in Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage produces a "footprint map" showing existing windfarms, as well as areas where development been proposed.

The map is updated every six months and can be accessed at the following website:

<http://www.snh.org.uk/strategy/renewable/sr-rt01.asp>

Please note that this briefing note is intended as a short summary of the Beaulay to Denny overhead power line and upgrades in Scotland. No responsibility can be accepted for any action taken in reliance on this note and specialist advice should be taken in every case. Turcan Connell would be happy to provide such advice.

©Turcan Connell November 2010