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A Wind farm campaigners from the Highlands have joined the fight against the new 'power highway' to cut through South West Scotland.

Lindsey Ward a leading member of several protest groups warned the peace and tranquillity of the Dumfries and Galloway will be 'gone forever' if the construction goes ahead.

Scottish power wants to install 165 feet pylons over a 110 mile route across the Galloway Glens and through Britain's first designated Dark Sky Park.

But the blueprint is opposed by 50 community councils representing some 65,000 people leading conservation charity the John Muir Trust, the Scottish Campaign for National Parks and various parliamentarians at Westminster and Holyrood. Now Ms Ward has contacted group DumGal Against Pylons to share her experiences of the Beaulieu Denny Power Line built close to her home in Beaulieu by ScottishPower and Scottish Hydro Electric.

She wrote to chairman Alan Jones and said the Beaulieu to Denny Line can only be described as a crime against the environment it is truly appalling, devastating, dominating and has destroyed huge swathes of the Highlands with massive pylons and thick glistening transmission lines criss crossing the skyline.

Once attractive train journeys from Inverness are now spent trying not to look out of the window. The Wester Balblair Substation in Beaulieu has to be seen to be believed; impossible to view in its entirety except from the air.

An SSE representative told me it was a 'hub' now, and we know more Beaulieu - Denny size pylons lines will be coming into it. It is a mess and heartbreaking to see.

She added, " We live 4 miles from this monstrous 'hub' and on still days or with the wind from the east we can hear the buzzing quite clearly.

" It is so appalling a noise abatement notice was served on SSE by Highland Council. The problem has been going on for about three years and the situation can only get worse"

Ms Ward said a couple living near the Power Lines were driven to such distraction they bought a touring caravan to go somewhere quiet to sleep. She continued "glasses of water in bedrooms ripple"

Fisherman on the River Beaulieu that has the heavy noise transmission lines strumming above it, complain of the noise; some say they'll never return.

'People living under the line say it is like having a microwave on in your bedroom at night the peace and tranquillity has gone forever"

The group is seeking alternatives to the pylon line which will run from Harker near Carlisle too Auchencrosh in Ayrshire where the subsea link to northern Ireland comes ashore.

A spokesman said Dumfries and Galloway is a very beautiful, tucked away corner of the country and with the growing tourist economy.

It is vital it is not regarded as an unimportant backwater for intrusive infrastructure. A robust and open-minded debate is essential in order to achieve the very best outcome for the whole future of the region.

ScottishPower extended the consultation period and is considering more than 1600 responses before deciding which corridors and siting areas will be taken forward to the next stage.

A report into the first round of consultation is expected by the end of the month.

If the project goes ahead it is expected to be operational in 2023.

