



Gala North substation consultation



Welcome

Thank you for taking the time today to visit our consultation event. SP Energy Networks is consulting on a vital new substation in the Scottish Borders called Gala North.

Your views are important to us, so please take the time to view the exhibition. You'll find further information on the website, along with the ability to provide feedback through our consultation feedback forms.

About SP Energy Networks

SP Energy Networks is a Distribution and Transmission Network Operator. We keep electricity flowing to homes and businesses throughout Central and Southern Scotland, North Wales, Merseyside, Cheshire and North Shropshire.

We do this through the network of overhead lines and underground cables which we own and maintain.

SP Energy Networks transmits and distributes energy to over 3.5m homes across the area we serve and is responsible for the operation and maintenance of over 105,000km of overhead lines and underground cables.

For more information on SP Energy Networks please visit our website at www.spenergynetworks.co.uk



A renewable future



By 2030, the UK Government's target is to deliver 50GW of offshore wind - enough to power every home in the UK.

To meet our target, we need to increase the capacity of the electricity network between Scotland and its reserves of renewable energy, and the rest of the UK. Scotland is committed to becoming net zero in all greenhouse gases by 2045, with England and Wales committed to net zero by 2050.

What is Net Zero?

Net zero refers to the balance between the amount of greenhouse gas produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere. We reach net zero when the amount we add is no more than the amount taken away. It is important because achieving net zero will make a significant contribution to tackling climate change.

What is Scotland's role?

Scotland is becoming a world leader on net zero; a country where the political and the public appetite to green our environment and our economy are converging; and where businesses like ours are leading and innovating their way towards net zero.

By showing how we're making a swift and just transition to a cleaner and greener future not just a possibility, but a reality, we can get the global buy-in needed to achieve a collective and collaborative response to the climate emergency that simply cannot fail.

Project overview

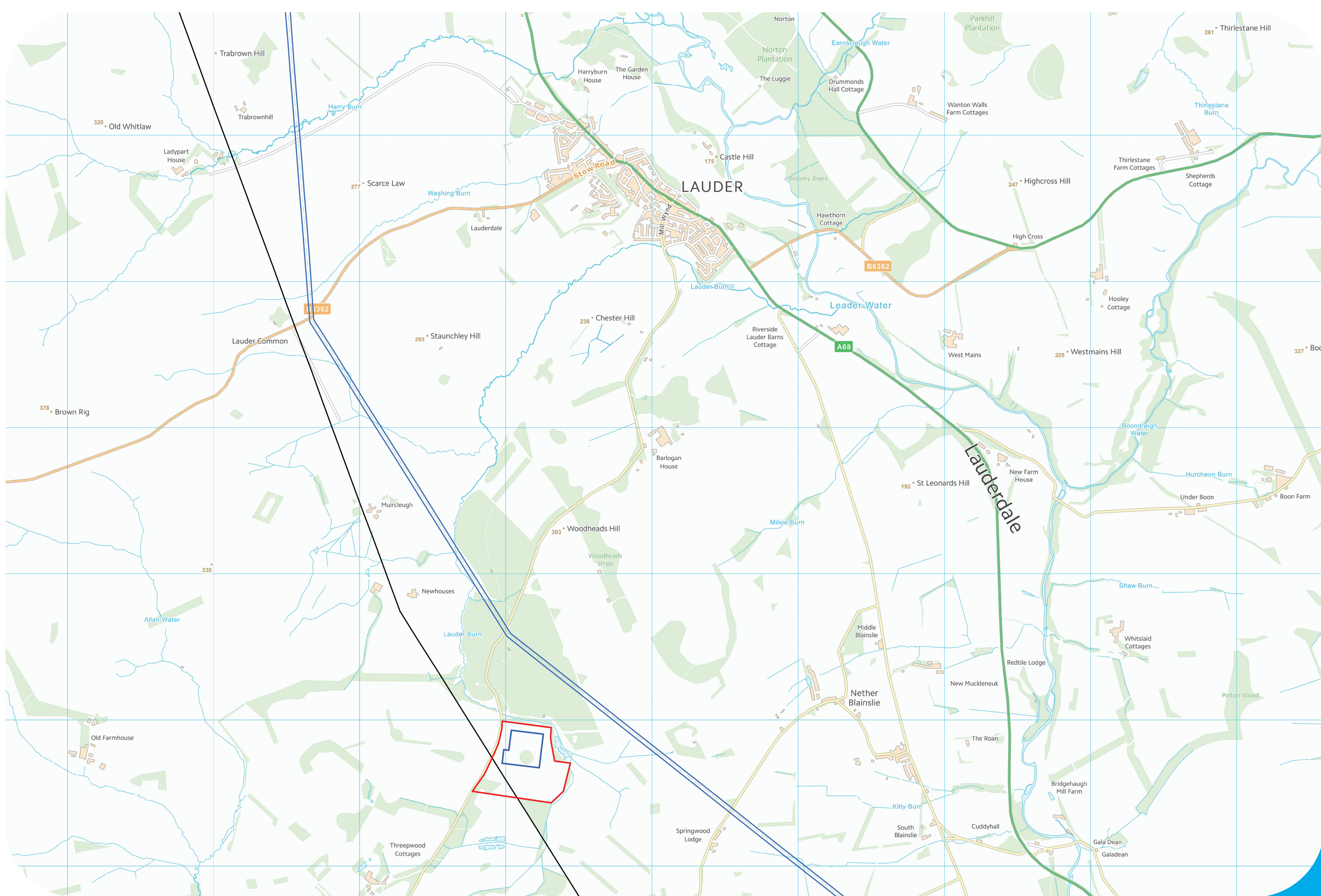
The proposed Gala North Substation will be built on a site, which is approximately 24ha in size, located near Blainslie and Birkhill, South of Lauder. The substation will have a footprint of 5-6ha.



Site plan

Substations play a crucial role in transforming electricity into various voltages, essential for its transmission across the nation and subsequent distribution into local communities, households, and commercial establishments.

Within substations, specialized equipment facilitates the transformation, or ‘switching,’ of voltage levels. This process involves using transformers positioned within the substation’s premises to either step up or step down the voltage as required.



Location plan

Project overview (cont.)

The Gala North Substation will consist of several elements, and will be a combination of:

A 400kV, Gas Insulated section in which electrical components are enclosed in metal casings filled with insulating gas. This section will be housed indoors in a building such as the one shown below.

A 132kV, Air Insulated section in which electrical equipment is arranged in open air compartments with air as the primary insulating medium.



Hunterston East Substation

The proposed Gala North Substation will play a critical role, along with our other ongoing works in Scotland, to deliver net zero by building up capacity and reinforcing the grid network.

Please note at this moment in time the substation footprint and layout is only indicative and will be subject to further design development taking into consideration the consultation responses and other variable factors.

Project timeline



Q2 2024

Round 1 Consultation



Q3 2024

EIA Scoping



Q4 2024

Design Freeze



Q4 2024

Round 2 Consultation



Q1 2025

Planning Application



Q4 2026

Construction



Q2 2029

Commissioning



Why is it needed?

With the increasing level of renewable generation that is currently happening within Scotland, supporting those assets requires additional capacity within the system, with a need for greater power transfer capability and upgrades within the network.

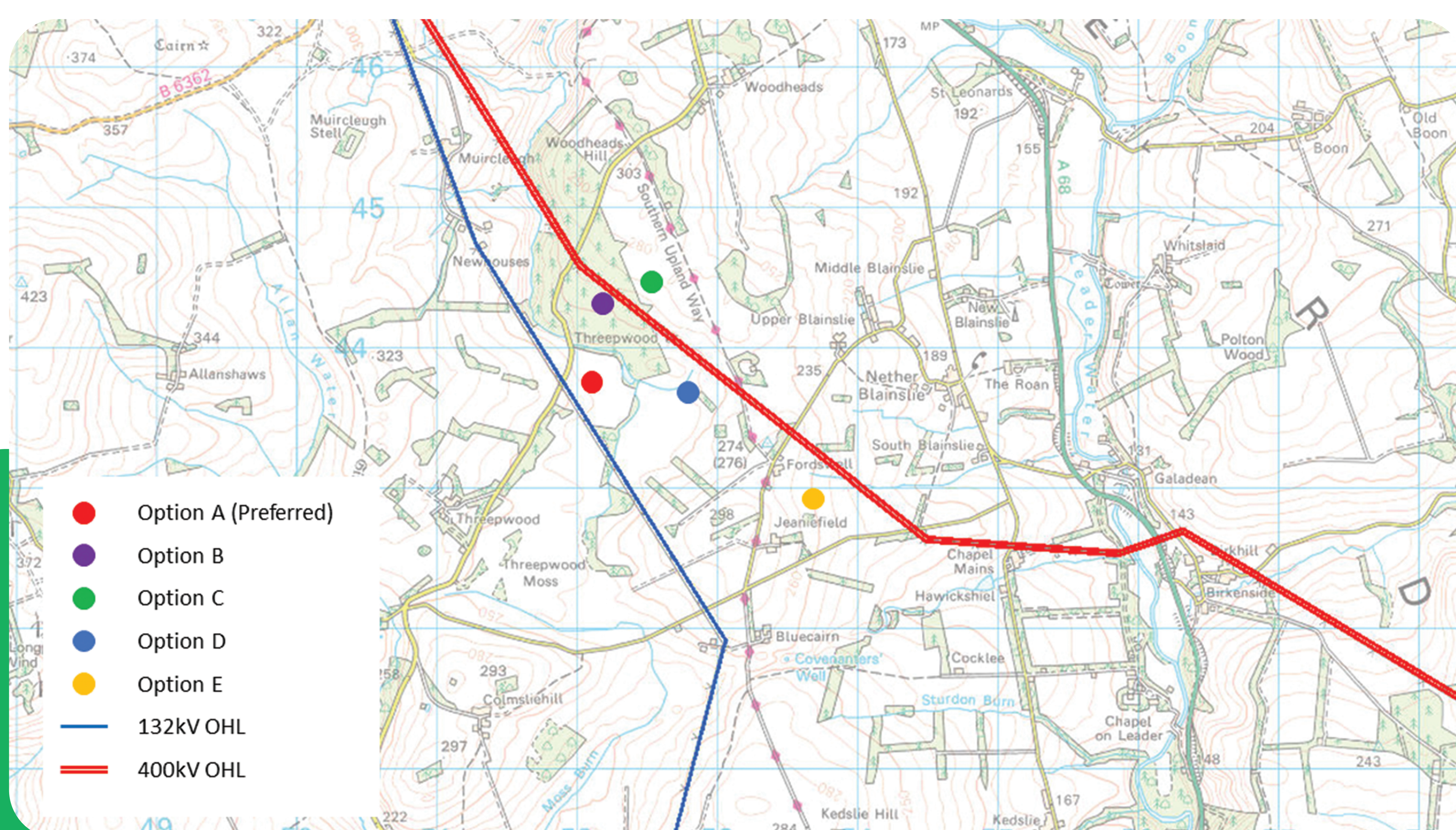
At this time, there are three renewable energy projects contracted to connect into the Gala North Substation including the Dunlaw Extension Wind Farm which is repowering from 30MW to 156MW. Two strategic, network reinforcement, 400kV overhead line projects will also be connecting into the substation. As these projects are in the early stages of development, separate consultation events will be held for each at a later time.

As it stands, there is currently no spare capacity on the network to accommodate the new generation capacity. The proposed Gala North Substation will allow connection of this new generation and is being designed to enable connection of other new renewable energy projects as well as increased cross-border transmission capacity between Scotland and England.



Reasoning for the site choice

Initially, a search area was identified which did not have any environmental designations. Within this search area, five site options were assessed. As part of our process, we considered a variety of factors that would lessen our environmental and local impact, while achieving technical objectives and, ultimately enabling us to fulfil our statutory duties.



Ultimately, we settled on our site choice for a balance of these reasons, but a key factor was minimising soil extraction, lessening our impact on the local community and wildlife.

Additionally, the site is close to the existing overhead line network which will be needed to establish connectivity to the substation. It is also accessible using the existing road network. Given the commercial forestry around the site, this will provide some screening, lessening its visual impact on the local area.





How to respond

You can find more information and respond online at: spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/gala_north_substation.aspx

You can also view physical consultation materials at
Lauder Public Hall, The Avenue, Lauder, TD2 6TD
on the following dates:

28th May 2024 - 16:00-20:00

31st May 2024 - 10:00-14:00

You can also share your views by phone on

+44 20 3861 3733

or email us at

info@galanorth.com

If you would like a hard copy version of any consultation materials, please contact us. Any materials can also be made available in large print format.

Please note that any data collected through your consultation feedback will only be used to help understand views regarding the Gala North Project. The data will not be used for any other purposes. The data will be collated and analysed to help in the reporting of consultation feedback. We do not, and will not, sell personal information.