SP Energy Networks

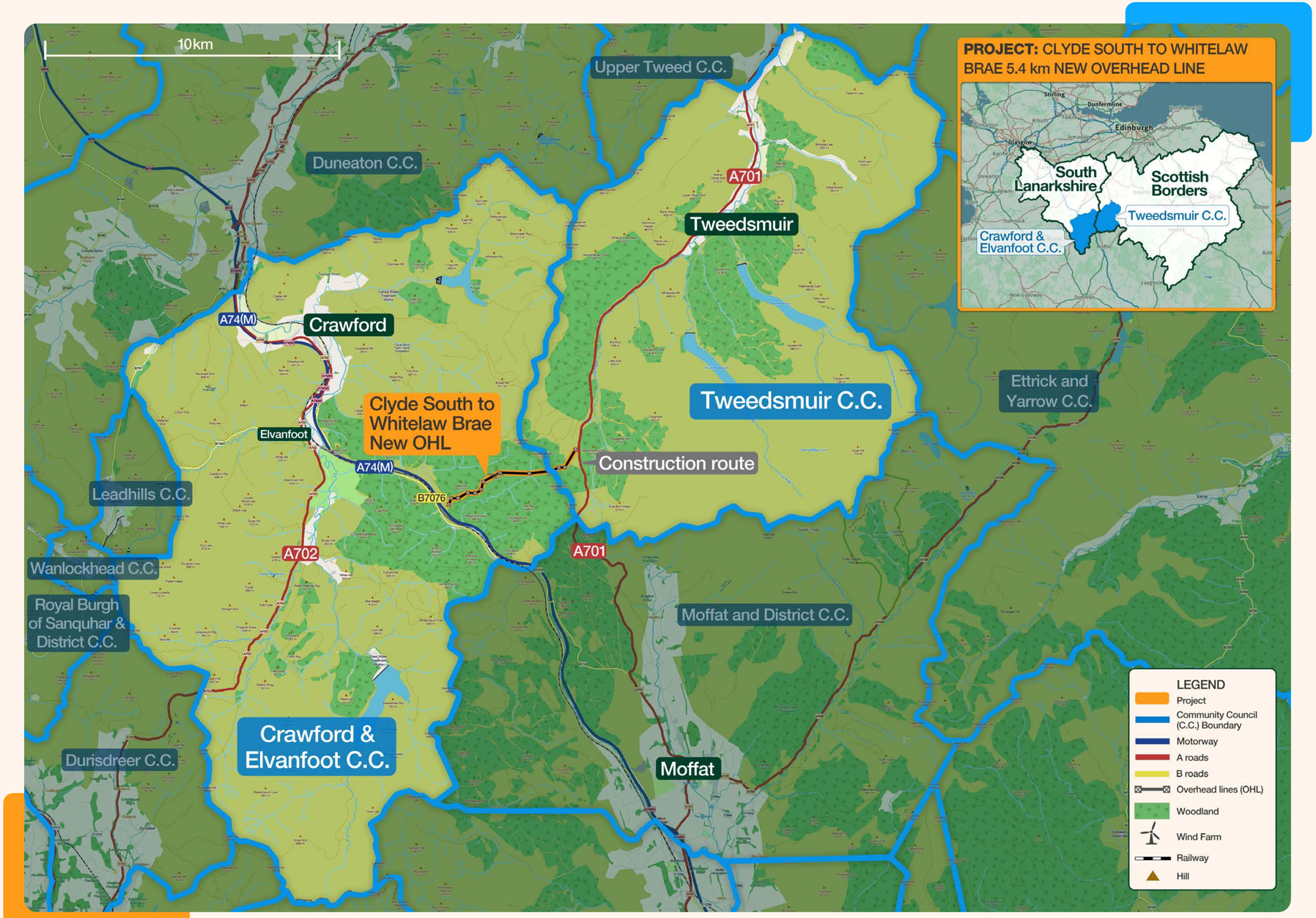
Clyde South: Overhead Lines

Representative imagery

Connecting local wind power to the grid

SP Energy Networks is building new overhead line (OHL) connections to carry clean, renewable electricity from Whitelaw Brae Wind Farm to the wider electricity network at Clyde South Substation.

This new connection will make sure that wind power generated in the Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire can be delivered to homes and businesses across the region; supporting Scotland's shift to a greener, more reliable energy system.



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What's happening at Clyde South to Whitelaw Brae?

To connect Whitelaw Brae Wind Farm to the grid, we're building 5.4km of new 33kV OHL between the wind farm and Clyde South Substation. Where needed, some sections may be placed underground to minimise impact on the local landscape and environment.

Once complete, this work will:

Connect green power: The new connection means the wind farm can deliver electricity into the grid, helping reduce carbon emissions.

Support future energy needs: It helps prepare the network for increasing demand technologies like electric vehicles and heat pumps.

Keep bills down: By upgrading now, we can avoid bigger and more expensive works later – helping to protect customers from higher costs.

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Did you know?

Overhead lines are used to carry high-voltage electricity across rural areas. They're supported by wooden poles or pylons and help move electricity from where it's made - like wind farms - to the wider grid. Where overhead lines may affect views or sensitive habitats, underground cables can be used instead. Together, these systems help keep our energy network running smoothly and securely.

A substation is like a hub for electricity. It manages how power flows from where it is generated (like wind farms) to where it is used (like your home or school). It can also change the voltage to make sure electricity travels safely across long distances.

A wind farm is a group of wind turbines that work together to make electricity. The wind turns the blades of each turbine, which spins a machine inside to create clean, renewable energy. They are often built in open, windy places - like hills or coastlines - so they can capture as much wind as possible. The power they produce is sent into the electricity grid and used in homes, schools, and businesses.

By installing new lines and improving key grid connections, we're helping to build a power system that's cleaner, more reliable, and ready for the future.

Representative imagery

Who will benefit?

Communities across the Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire will benefit from a more reliable, cleaner, greener energy supply. This project makes it easier to connect renewable generation into the power grid, which helps Scotland move closer to net zero and increases customer access to renewable electricity sources.

It also supports reliability within the wider electricity network, by making sure green power can flow safely from where it is made, to where it is needed by customers.

Why it matters

The Clyde South to Whitelaw Brae connection will:

- **Support net zero:** Enabling more clean energy to be used in homes, schools, and businesses reduces Scotland's carbon emissions.
- **Improve reliability:** Delivering more capacity and a more consistent power supply for local customers.
- **Bring investment:** Our overall work to expand and strengthen the grid will bring more local jobs into the sector.
- **Balance local impacts:** Carefully choosing the route reduces visual and environmental disruption, with underground cabling used where appropriate.
- **Benefit local communities:** A Community Benefit Fund is available for each phase of the project to support local projects and priorities.

Community Benefit Fund

As with all our major transmission projects, a Community Benefit Fund will be made available to support local initiatives. This is a voluntary scheme designed to ensure the community shares in the benefits of the project.

SP Energy Networks: Who are we?

SP Energy Networks are Transmission Operators (TO) - we look after the high voltage power lines and pylons that carry electricity across central and southern Scotland, moving energy from where it's made to where it's needed. Our job is to help deliver cleaner, greener energy to homes and businesses by connecting more renewable energy, adding substations and lines, and improving the grid.

Learn more and get in touch

Visit our site:
spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/community_benefits_funding.aspx

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