

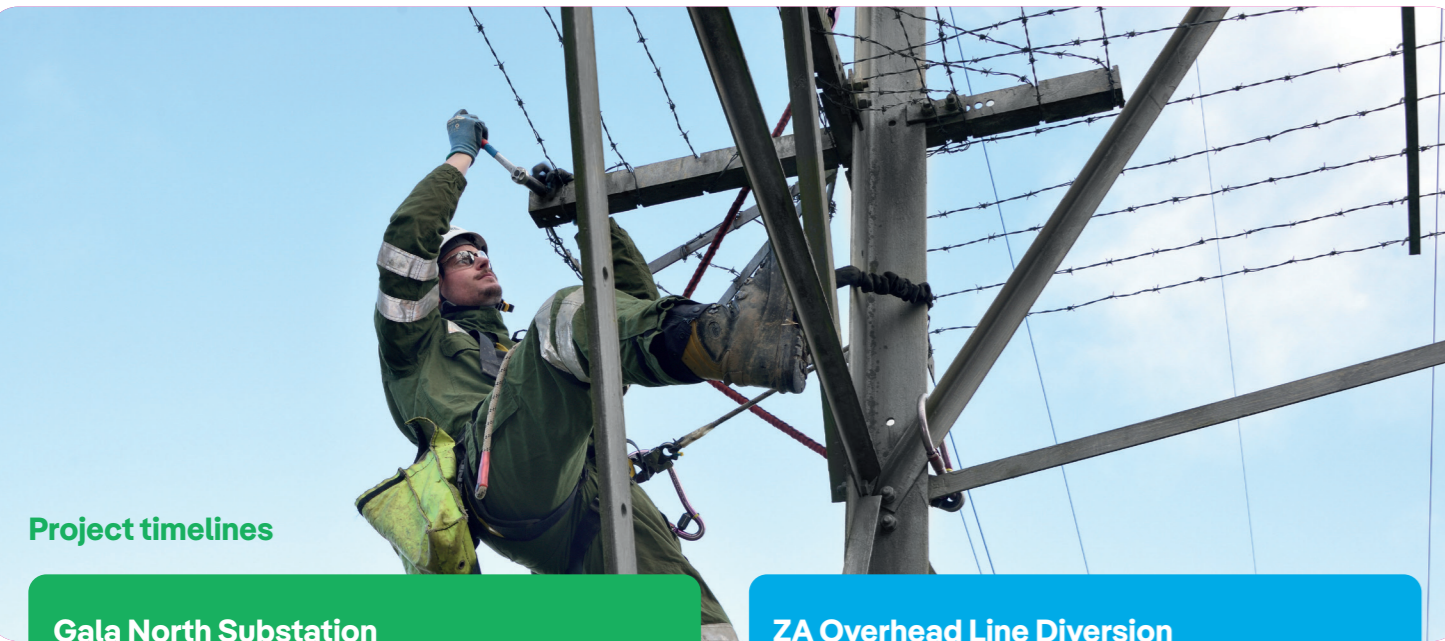
## What happens next?

Another round of public consultation will take place before we submit the planning application to Scottish Borders Council for Gala North substation and the application for consent for the ZA overhead line diversion to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.

The final project design will be shared at the next round of consultation ahead of submission of the applications.

A full Environmental Impact Assessment for the project is being prepared and will be submitted as part of the applications for consent.

When the applications have been submitted, anyone with an interest in the project, local groups and statutory consultees will have the opportunity to make formal representations as part of the statutory process.



### Project timelines

#### Gala North Substation

Pre-Application Consultation  
June 2026

Pre-Application Consultation  
Q4 2026

Submit Planning Application to Scottish Borders  
Council  
Q1 2027

Application Determination  
Q4 2027

Construction Start  
Q3 2028

Construction Complete  
Q1 2031

#### ZA Overhead Line Diversion

Pre-Application Consultation  
June 2026

Pre-Application Consultation  
Q4 2026

Submit Application for Section 37 Consent  
to Energy Consents Unit  
Q1 2027

Application Determination  
Q1 2028

Construction Start  
Q1 2029

Construction Complete  
Q3 2030

## Community benefit

SP Energy Networks' aim is to deliver lasting social, economic and environmental benefits, ensuring local people share in the opportunities created by our work to deliver a transmission network fit for the future. The Gala North substation project will attract community benefit funding. Further information on SP Energy Networks' community benefit funding is available at:

[https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/community\\_benefits\\_funding.aspx#tablist1-tab1](https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/community_benefits_funding.aspx#tablist1-tab1)



## How you can get involved

You can find more information and respond online from 8th June at:  
[www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/gala\\_north\\_substation.aspx](http://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/gala_north_substation.aspx)

You can view consultation materials, meet the project team and ask any questions at drop in events being held in the community:

**3-7pm 9th June Lauder Public Hall, The Avenue, Lauder, TD2 6TD**

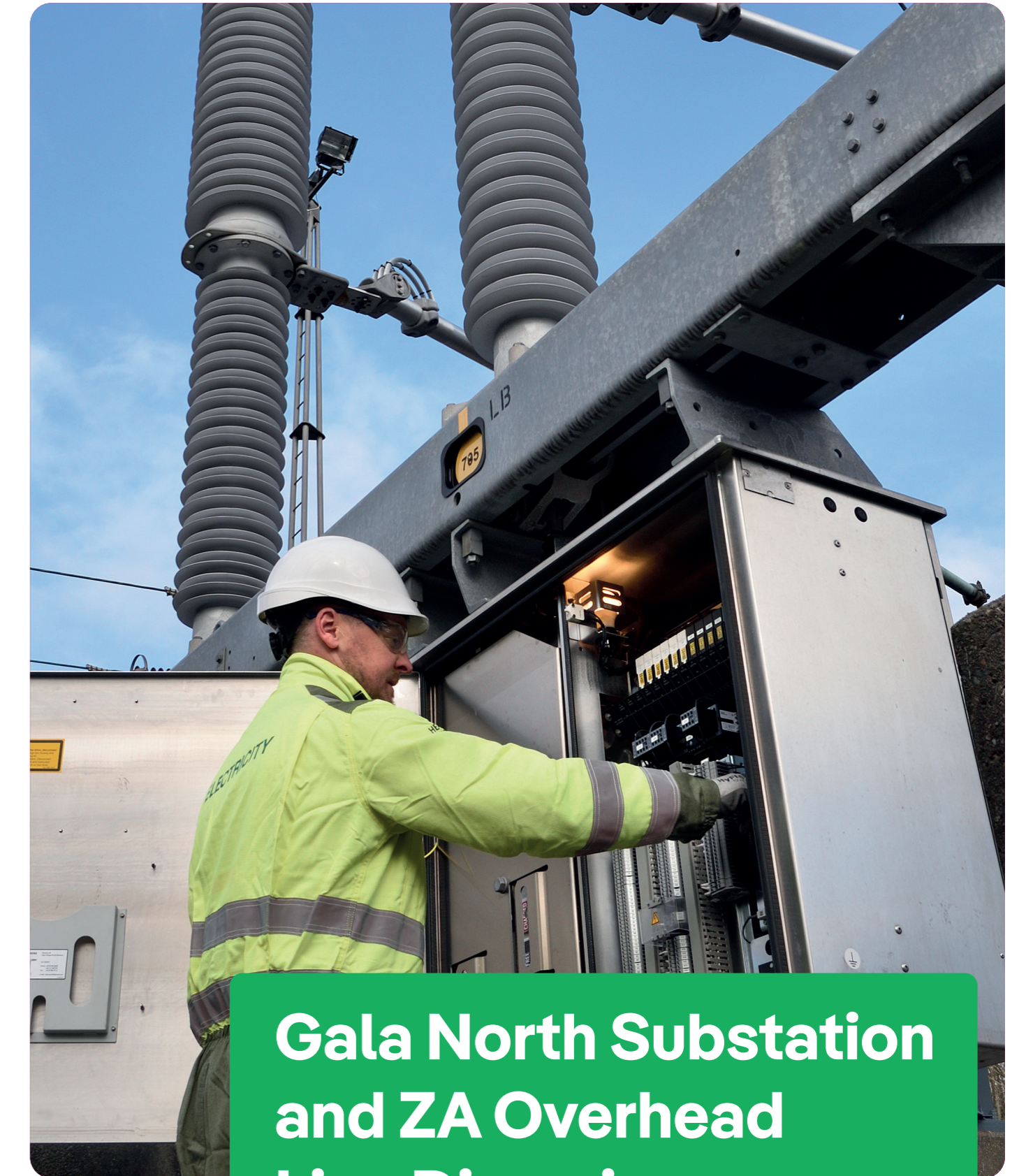
**3-7pm 10th June Blainslie Village Hall, 6 The Croft, Galashiels TD1 2QF**

For more information or to share your views, you can contact us by phone on:  
**+44 20 3861 3733** or email us at: [info@galanorth.com](mailto: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.

**Please note** comments received at this stage are informal comments to SP Energy Networks and are made to allow us to determine whether changes to the proposed development are necessary. An opportunity to comment formally to Scottish Borders Council on the proposed Gala North substation and to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit for the proposed ZA overhead line diversion, the respective decision makers for the applications, will follow at a later stage in the process.



## Gala North Substation and ZA Overhead Line Diversion

## Gala North Substation and ZA Overhead Line Diversion

### SP Energy Networks

SP Energy Networks operate the distribution and transmission network tasked with keeping electricity flowing to homes and businesses throughout Central and Southern Scotland, North Wales, Merseyside, Cheshire and North Shropshire.

This is done through the network of substations, overhead lines and underground cables, which are owned, maintained and upgraded by SP Energy Networks.

For more information on SP Energy Networks, please visit our website at: [www.spenergynetworks.co.uk](http://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk)

### Our role in Scotland

SP Energy Networks is responsible for the transmission of electricity across Central and Southern Scotland taking electricity from where it is generated or stored and into the network for use in homes, properties and businesses throughout the area.

The electricity systems are crucial to supporting the Scottish and UK Governments' clean power objectives. Alongside the other transmission operators, SP Energy Networks plays a crucial role in transferring clean, green power from where it is generated or stored to where it is consumed when it is needed.

### The role of substations




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, transformers facilitate the 'switching,' of voltage levels to either step up or step down the voltage as required.

The proposed Gala North substation, in conjunction with other investment projects, will play an important role by increasing capacity and strengthening and reinforcing the grid network.

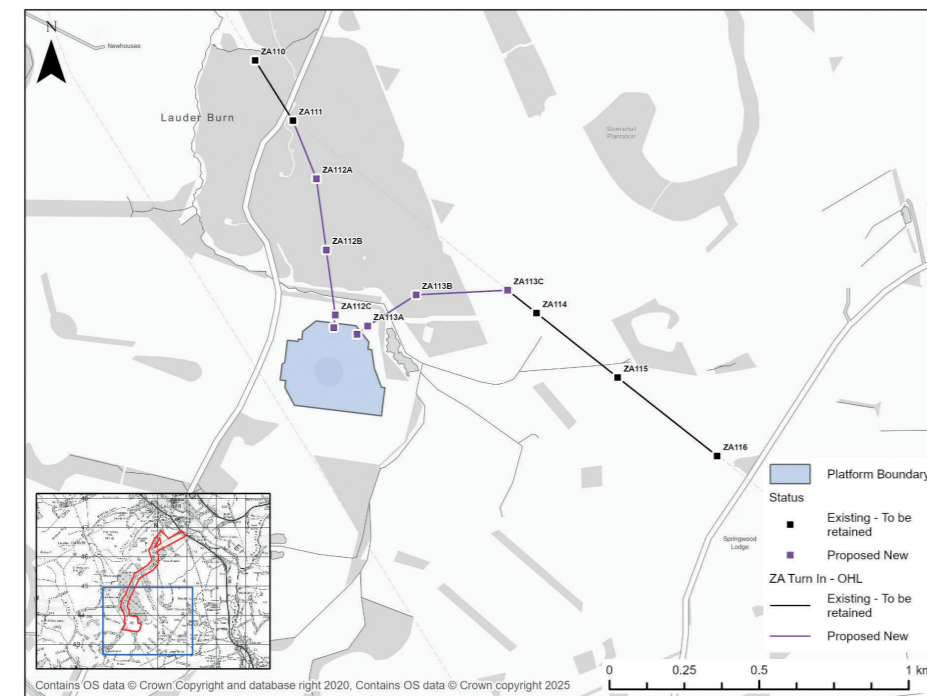
## The Project

The proposed Gala North substation will be built on a site, approximately 4km south of Lauder, near Blainslie in the Scottish Borders. The substation itself will have a footprint of approximately 6 hectare (ha) with the remainder of the land utilised for earthworks, access, drainage infrastructure, landscaping and screening.

The site is considered suitable for a substation due to:

-  Limited visibility from the surrounding area
-  Distance from nearby residential dwellings
-  Proximity to existing overhead line infrastructure

The Gala North substation will consist of a 400 kV 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. It will also include a 132 kV, air insulated



section in which electrical equipment is arranged in open air compartments with air as the primary insulating medium.

SP Energy Networks is also looking to divert a section of the existing 400kV overhead line (ZA route) that runs between Cockenzie and Eccles into the proposed substation.

The Gala North ZA overhead line diversion would involve removing part of the existing route and constructing new overhead lines, towers and gantry 'turn-in' connections. The diversion would comprise of approximately 1.25 km of new overhead line, six towers and two gantries to reinforce this part of the wider electricity transmission network.

## Site access

An access assessment has evaluated the best route for the delivery of materials and the movement of construction traffic. A temporary haul road will connect the A68 with the C77 Lauder - Galashiels Road to help minimise the impact of construction traffic on Lauder and surrounds.

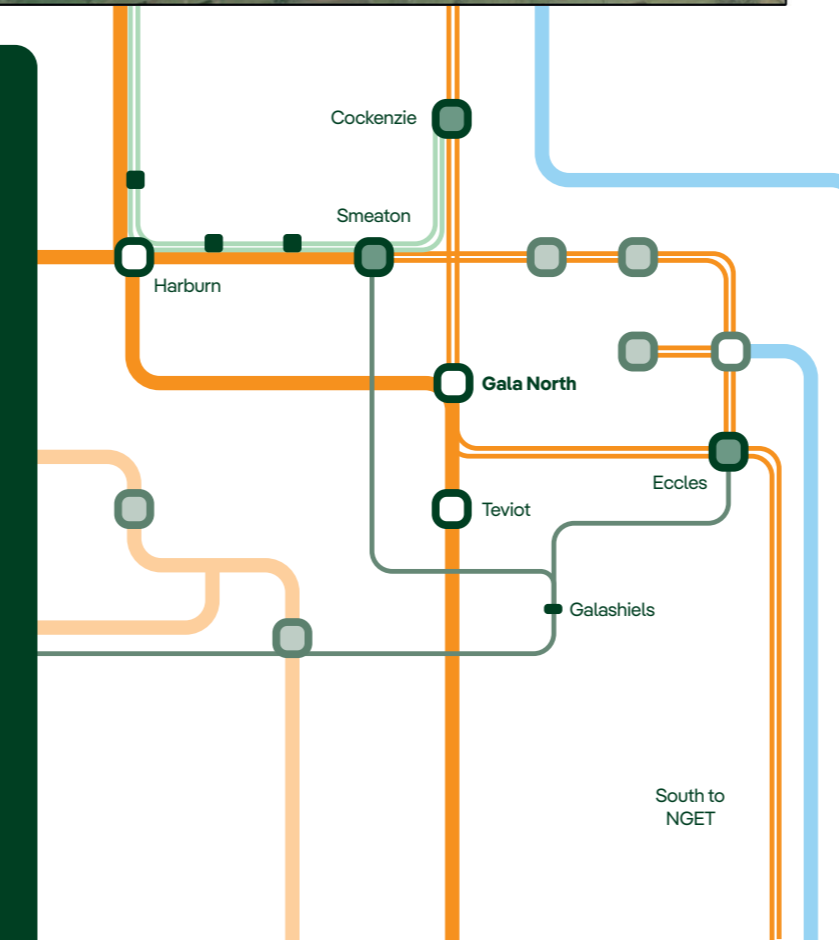


## Why is the Gala North substation needed?

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

A number of energy generation and storage projects are contracted to connect into the Gala North substation. Two strategic, network reinforcement, 400 kV overhead line projects will also be connecting into the substation.

As these projects are in the early stages of development, they are subject to separate consultations.



## Why this site?

The proposed site avoids any nationally or locally designated landscapes and is not located in close proximity to existing residential properties. The site is relatively flat, enjoys access from the nearby road network and is adjacent to the existing electricity network.

From a landscape and visual perspective, it is favourable as it occupies lower-lying terrain and offers potential for further mitigation and opportunities to minimise earthworks.



## Finding the right balance

We are grateful to everyone who engaged in the initial consultation and took the time to share their views. This has helped inform the development of the proposals.

### Headline feedback

#### Visual impact on the local community

Residents raised concerns about the substation's potential visual impact. The site was chosen for its lower-lying position and distance from nearby properties and the potential to implement additional mitigation and screening measures to help reduce visibility.

#### Sensitivity to flooding in the area

Residents raised concerns about flooding in the area. A full hydrology study will be carried out. This will be submitted as part of the applications for consent. The findings will inform any required design changes or mitigation steps.

#### Impact on the environment and biodiversity

We are committed to protecting local ecosystems and mitigation measures are integrated into the project design. We will conserve and enhance biodiversity on and around the site and the project will deliver a betterment (biodiversity net gain), with ongoing management to support this.

#### Impact on the local road network

Concerns regarding traffic and road conditions were raised by some residents. An access survey has been completed to identify a preferred access road and route to site. We will work closely with the local roads authority on the final design.

## What has happened so far?

SP Energy Networks carried out pre-application consultation (PAC) on initial proposals with local residents and stakeholders in June 2024. Since then, SP Energy Networks has maintained engagement with stakeholders and landowners as we carried out technical and environmental studies. This included updating Lauderdale Community Council in October 2024 and May 2025 and briefing local elected representatives in the area.

Since the consultation, we have reviewed comments received and undertaken surveys and assessments to confirm the feasibility of the proposals.