

# Welcome

SP Energy Networks is proposing to replace the existing overhead line between the Dun Law Extension substation, near Oxton, and the Galashiels substation.

Based on feedback received during the first round of consultation in summer 2024, changes have been made to the preferred route and infrastructure for the Dun Law Extension to Galashiels 132kV Reinforcements. The proposed replacement line now includes overhead and underground power lines.

We are consulting stakeholders and the local community on the updated proposal. We will then identify a final Proposed Route to take forward to design development and further consultation before seeking consent to install the replacement line.

## The consultation information covers:

- Feedback received during the previous consultation in summer 2024.
- Route and infrastructure changes proposed in response to feedback received.
- Why the overhead line needs to be replaced and the work we are doing to avoid and minimise potential environmental impacts.
- Information on other developments in the area relevant to this consultation.
- How you can respond to this consultation and by when.
- What we will do with feedback received and next steps in the process.
- Information about SP Energy Networks and the work we do to help meet the UK's renewable energy and net zero targets.

Your views are important to us. Please take time to review the consultation information before giving your feedback.



## Why the existing overhead line needs to be replaced

Power generated by the turbines at the Dun Law Windfarm is currently fed into the national grid via the Dun Law Extension Substation. The developer has applied to re-power and extend the life of the wind farm, enabling it to generate more electricity.

More broadly, there is an increase in generation capacity on the network that requires connection to the electricity grid between Dun Law and Galashiels. The network needs reinforcements to enable connection of this additional generation capacity to the grid and ensure we can comply with our statutory and license obligations.



# Previous feedback and how it was used

The current proposals have been developed following public consultation in summer 2024. Based on the previous preferred route, the main feedback expressed included:

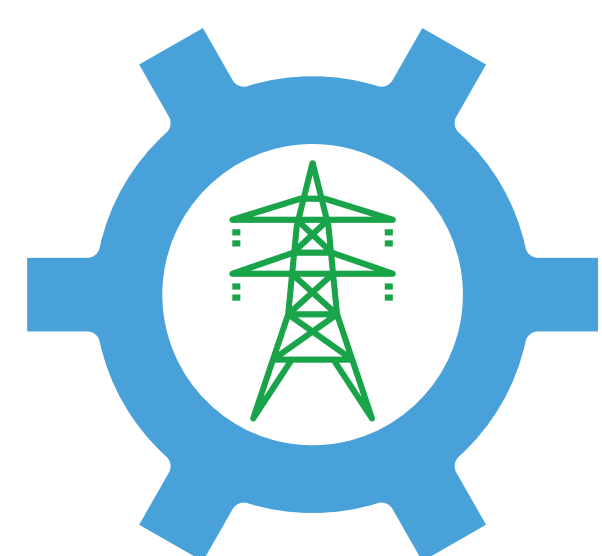
- disagreement with the preferred route corridor due to the proximity to properties and communities, particularly around Lauder and Oxton;
- concerns related to the visual impact of the pylons;
- potential impact on tourism, recreation and local businesses;
- impact on property values; and
- concerns related to potential negative impact on health and wellbeing from overhead lines.

## Assessing potential route options

Considering the feedback received, we have modified the preferred route and infrastructure for the replacement overhead line.

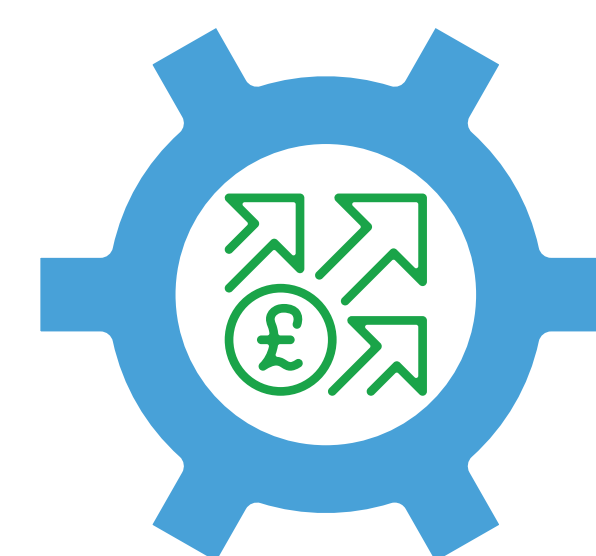
The engineering challenges to crossing the existing 400kV line to the west were reassessed to identify a more technically feasible way we could route further away from Lauder and Oxton.

The modified route has been assessed using the principles set out below. A note explaining the changes to the routeing and siting is available to read at <https://dunlaw.consultation.ai>.



### Technical feasibility:

an assessment of our ability to build, operate and maintain an overhead line within the identified route option. We considered existing electricity transmission or distribution infrastructure, topography, slope gradients, altitude, ground conditions and accessibility.



### Economic viability:

we considered directness of any potential route and avoiding routes where technical difficulty or compensation for land use would add significant cost.

### Environmental impact including consideration of:



local views and the character of the landscape.



biodiversity.



cultural heritage including archaeology.



forestry and woodland including ancient and native woodland.



flood risk and water resources.



ground conditions.



land uses including tourism and recreation.



# Changes to the Preferred Route

We are proposing to replace the existing overhead line between the Dun Law Extension Substation and the Galashiels Substation. Once the replacement line has been completed, the existing line between those substations will be removed.

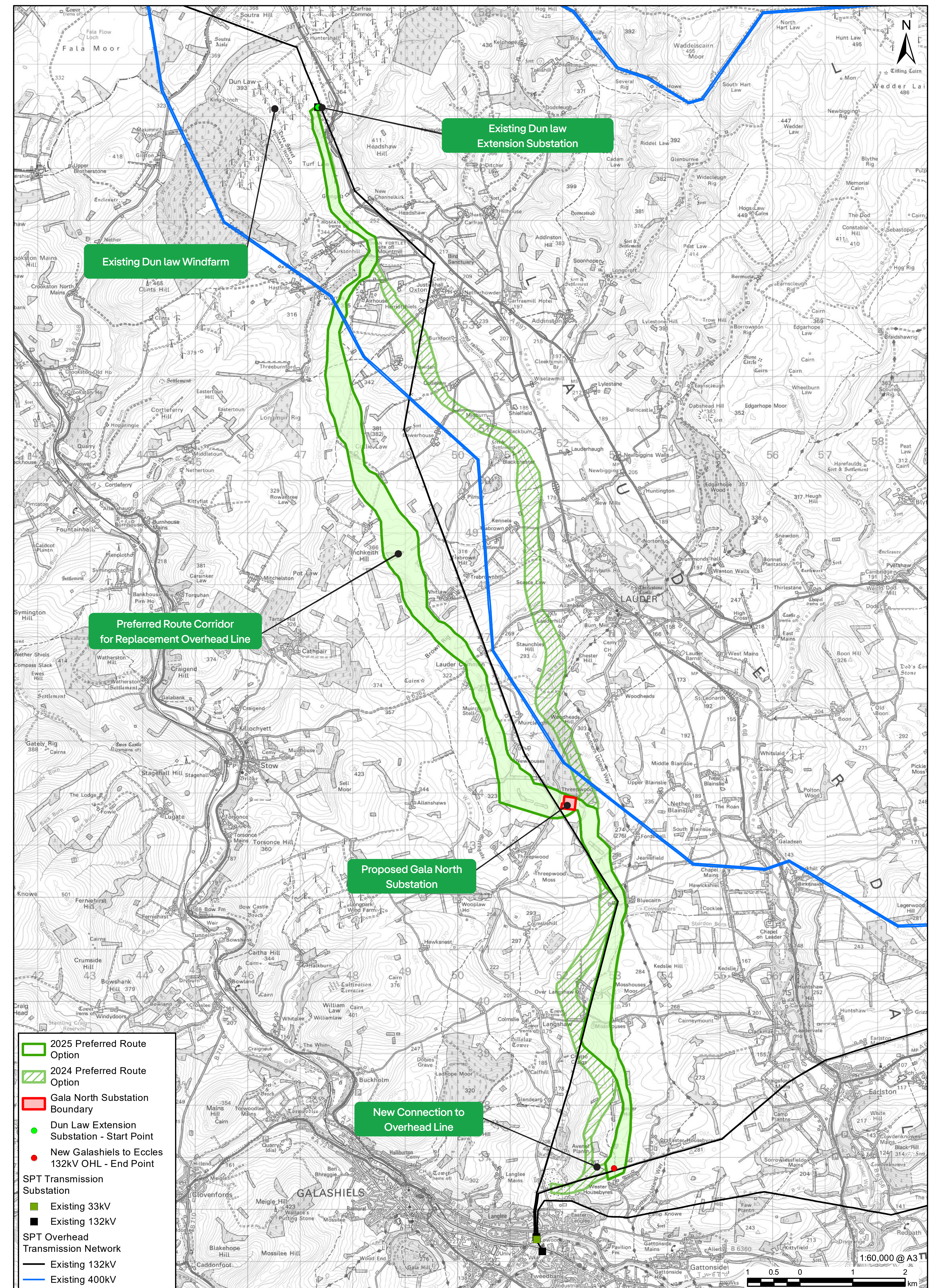
The preferred route has been revised to reduce the impact on the local communities, particularly around Oxton and Lauder. Environmental constraints have also been reviewed. The preferred route covers 23km which is the same distance as the previous preferred route.

## Dun Law Extension Substation to proposed Gala North Substation route

- Route stays the same from Dun Law Extension Substation to near Mountmill.
- Line follows the western route to move it further from Oxton and Lauder.
- Line goes into proposed Gala North Substation from the west.

## Proposed Gala North Substation to Galashiels to Eccles 132kV overhead line route

- Eastern route option has been chosen which aligns it to the existing overhead line. The existing line will eventually be removed.
- The line will connect to the new Galashiels to Eccles 132kV line instead of the Galashiels Substation.





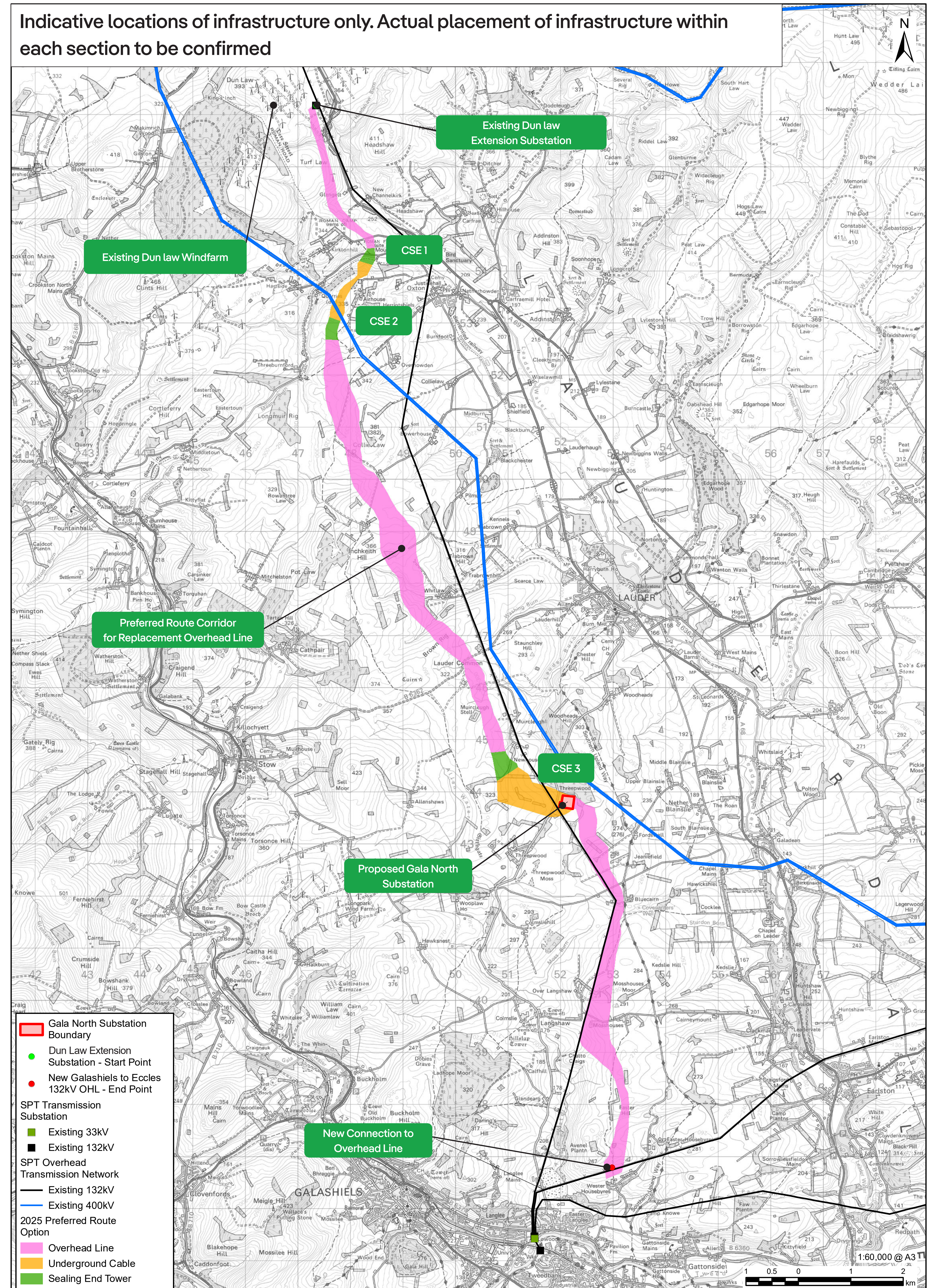
# Proposed Infrastructure Map

Based on previous consultation feedback, we are proposing to underground sections of the line to minimise the visual impact and enable crossing the existing 400kV line.

The updated proposals consist of:

- Work on the Dun Law Extension Substation;
- Construction of a new overhead line, from Dun Law Extension Substation to an area around Mountmill;
- Construction of Cable Sealing End Compound (CSE) 1 to facilitate undergrounding of the line around Mountmill;
- Laying of approximately 2.5km of underground cabling along parts of the route;
- Construction of CSE 2 to transition from underground to overhead line;
- Construction of new overhead line from CSE 2 to just north of proposed Gala North Substation
- Construction of CSE 3 and laying of underground cable from the compound to Gala North Substation
- Construction of a new overhead line from proposed Gala North Substation to Gala-Eccles replacement line;
- Works to connect replacement overhead line into the new Galashiels to Eccles 132kV overhead line north of Galashiels.

Indicative locations of infrastructure only. Actual placement of infrastructure within each section to be confirmed



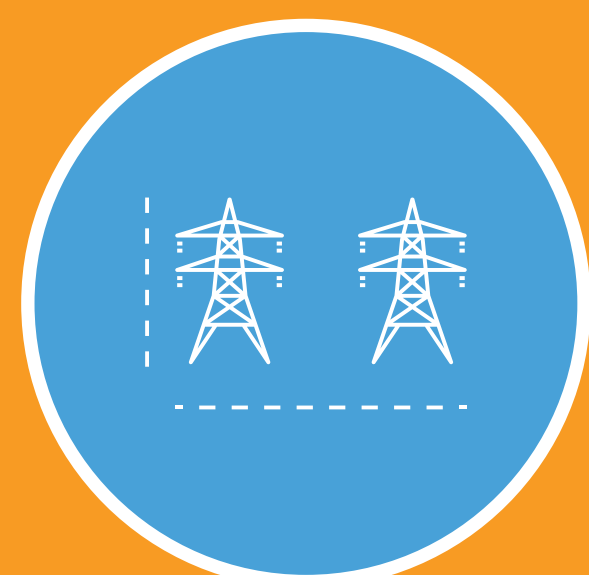


# Proposed infrastructure

## Overhead line



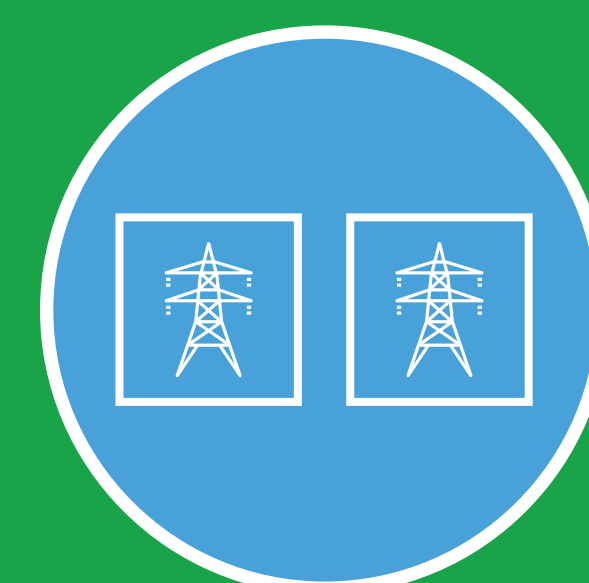
The replacement overhead line will be carried on steel lattice towers (pylons). The towers are made of galvanised steel. They are grey in colour and become duller in appearance after about 18 months.



The towers have a standard height of 30m but can be up to 42m where required to ensure safe clearance above the ground. They are placed approximately 300 metres apart, but the exact distance between them will vary depending on the landscape and any obstacles such as roads, rivers and railway lines.



## Cable Sealing End Compounds



Each cable sealing end compound will comprise a steel lattice terminal tower, (of similar size to the rest of the line) within a gated compound with a perimeter fence. Additionally, within the compound there will be some low-level electrical structures to bring the line from tower-height to ground level and subsequently underground.



# Integrating energy transmission in the area

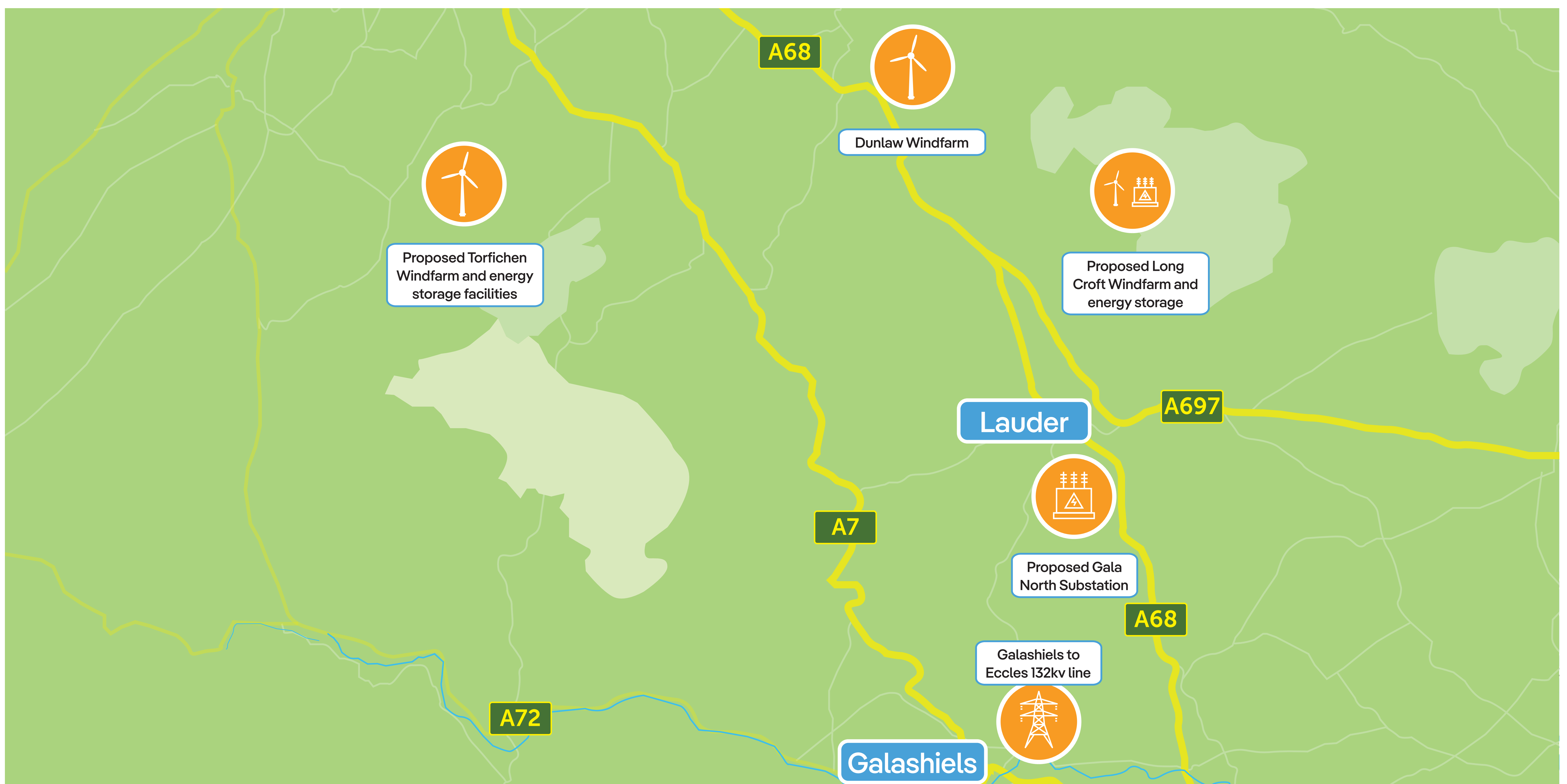
As the distribution and transmission operator in the region, we have a statutory obligation to connect the proposed renewable energy developments in and around the Scottish Borders. One of our priorities is to strategically consider developments to reduce the impact on the environment and local communities.

## Torfichen and Longcroft Windfarm connections

At the end of 2023, RES submitted planning applications for wind farms and energy storage facilities near Torfichen Hill, which lies south of Gorebridge, in Midlothian and a site 9km north of Lauder, known as Longcroft. SP Energy Networks is required to facilitate the connections of these two new renewable energy developments to the electricity grid.

The windfarms were contracted to connect to the grid at the proposed Gala North Substation. As a result of the proposed changes to the preferred route and infrastructure of the Dun Law Extension to Galashiels overhead line, we have identified an opportunity to shorten the Torfichen and Longcroft connections.

Routing work is currently ongoing, but we intend to connect the lines from the Torfichen and Longcroft windfarms into the cable sealing end compounds near Mountmill (CSE 1 and 2) on the proposed Dun Law to Galashiels line rather than further south at the proposed Gala North Substation.



## Benefits and impacts

By connecting Torfichen and Longcroft wind farms to the Dun Law Extension to Galashiels line, we will

- Reduce the length of overhead lines by approximately 50%. This reduces the environmental impact and will also reduce disruption and impact on communities.
- Enhance the viability of the Dun Law Extension to Galashiels 132kV Reinforcements proposal

## Consultations on Torfichen and Longcroft connections

We are planning to hold separate consultations on the Torfichen and Longcroft connections before summer 2025.

Landowners who are likely to be affected by the proposals will be informed before the public consultation period starts. Details of the consultations will be shared with landowners, local community and stakeholders in due course.



# Consenting process and project timeline

To install and maintain the proposed replacement overhead line we need to seek consent from Scottish Ministers under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989.

Consulting those likely to be affected by our plans is an important part of developing our proposals. We will consider the views of the local community and other interested parties as well as feedback from statutory consultees and technical bodies Scottish Borders Council, SEPA, Historic Environment Scotland and NatureScot.

Comments received during this consultation on our preferred route option, alongside the findings of an Environmental Impact Assessment, will be considered to identify the final alignment for the replacement overhead line.

Further consultation will take place later in 2025 on the final alignment of the line before we submit a Section 37 application to the Energy Consents Unit to seek permission for the development.

June / July 2024      First consultation on the preferred route option



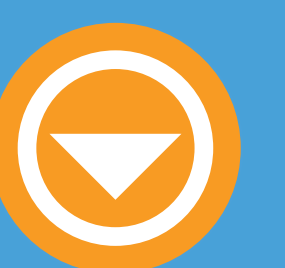
mid/late 2024      Review of consultation feedback and Environmental Impact Assessment to review preferred route corridor



early 2025      Second consultation on the revised preferred route



mid 2025  
to early 2026      Design Development



early 2026      Final consultation on route alignment and project details



mid 2026      Submission of consent application to Scottish Ministers



late 2027      Anticipated start of construction



late 2029      Commissioning of the replacement line



post 2029      Removal of the existing line





# How to give feedback

This consultation is an opportunity for you to provide feedback to us on the revised preferred route for the Dun Law Extension to Galashiels 132kV Reinforcements. We will consider all comments we receive in response to this consultation as we develop our final proposed alignment for the replacement overhead line.

You can provide your feedback by:



Email at [dunlawext@spenergynetworks.co.uk](mailto:dunlawext@spenergynetworks.co.uk)

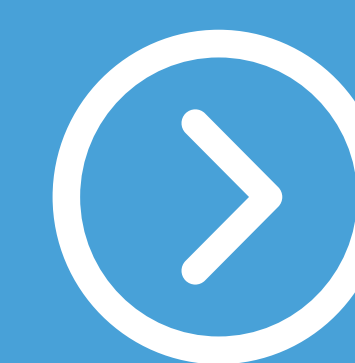


Write to Dun Law OHL consultation,  
c/o AECOM, 1 Tanfield,  
Edinburgh, EH3 5DA



Complete a feedback form at today's event or  
complete online at [dunlaw.consultation.ai](http://dunlaw.consultation.ai)

This consultation runs from:



All the consultation information can also be found on our consultation website at: [www.dunlaw.consultation.ai](http://www.dunlaw.consultation.ai).

This website will remain open for the duration of the consultation. You can also visit the project web page at:  
[https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/dunlawext\\_galashiels.aspx](https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/dunlawext_galashiels.aspx).

If you would like a hard copy version of any of consultation materials, please email [dunlawext@spenergynetworks.co.uk](mailto:dunlawext@spenergynetworks.co.uk).  
Any materials can also be made available in large print format on request.

Please note that any data collected through your consultation feedback will only be used to help understand views regarding the Dun Law Extension to Galashiels 132kV Reinforcements 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.



# 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 as well as North Wales, Merseyside, Cheshire and North Shropshire.

We do this through the 105,000km network of overhead lines and underground cables which we own and maintain.

SP Transmission is a wholly owned subsidiary of SP Energy Networks and is responsible for the transmission of electricity in Central and Southern Scotland. We transmit and distribute energy to over 3.5m homes in the South of Scotland, North Wales and the North-West of England.

## A renewable future

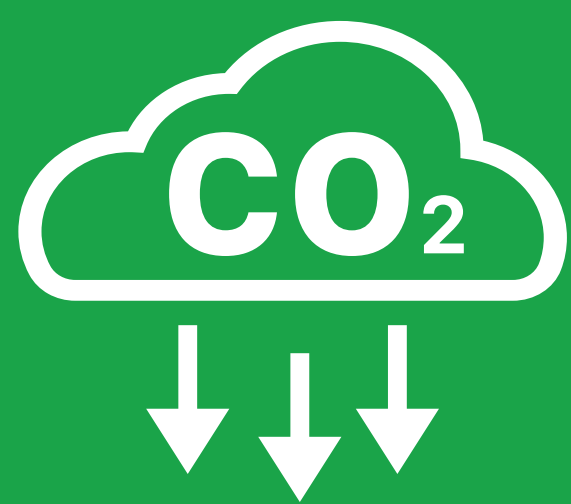
By 2030, the UK Government's target is to deliver 20GW (Gigawatts) of additional renewable electricity - enough to supply about 50% of Scotland's current total energy demand.

To meet this 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.

The systems operated and maintained by SP Energy Networks are crucial to achieving this target. We have a unique role in connecting renewable generation and bulk transfer of renewable energy from Scotland into England and Wales.



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



## Supporting Net Zero Commitments

Scotland is committed to becoming net zero in all greenhouse gases by 2045, with England and Wales committed to net zero by 2050.

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 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.