

About SP Energy Networks



We all expect electricity to be available at the flick of a switch, 24 hours a day.

In central and southern Scotland the job of making sure that happens belongs to SP Energy Networks (SPEN). In fact we have a statutory duty to do it.

SPEN operates, maintains and develops the network of cables, overhead lines and substations which transport electricity to homes and businesses in central and southern Scotland, and onwards to where it's needed further afield.

The high-voltage electricity transmission network, which operates at up to 400,000 volts, is managed by SP Transmission plc, a wholly-owned subsidiary of SPEN.

We take electricity generated from wind farms, power stations and imports, and transport it through our transmission network – over 3700 km of overhead lines, over 600 km of underground cables and more than 150 substations – to local distribution networks, where the voltage is reduced for use in homes and businesses.

Electricity in our changing world



Scotland is a world leader in the fight against climate change.

Our country has a target of Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 – meaning that Scotland’s contribution to climate change will end, definitively, in one generation.

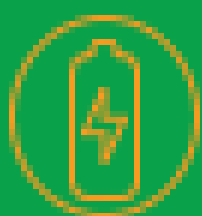
We are in the middle of a transformation, with the energy we use increasingly coming from cleaner, greener sources, as many new renewable generators replace fossil-fuelled power stations.

At the same time, demand for electricity will grow rapidly over the next few years, with electric vehicles replacing petrol and diesel, and increased electrification of heating, industry and transport networks.

This huge change means we need to upgrade Scotland’s electricity transmission network, so we can get this increasing amount of energy from where it’s produced – often in different locations from before – to the homes, businesses, hospitals and public services that need it.

Our network is also crucial to the delivery of wider renewable energy objectives, due to its position in an area of outstanding renewable resource and our geographical location. We have a unique role in connecting renewable energy and transferring it from Scotland into England and Wales, benefiting stakeholders, society and the fight against climate change.

What is the Smeaton Substation extension project?



As the transmission license holder in the central and southern Scotland we have a duty under Section 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 to facilitate competition in the generation and supply of electricity. We have obligations to offer non-discriminatory terms for connection to the transmission system, both for new generation and for new sources of electricity demand.

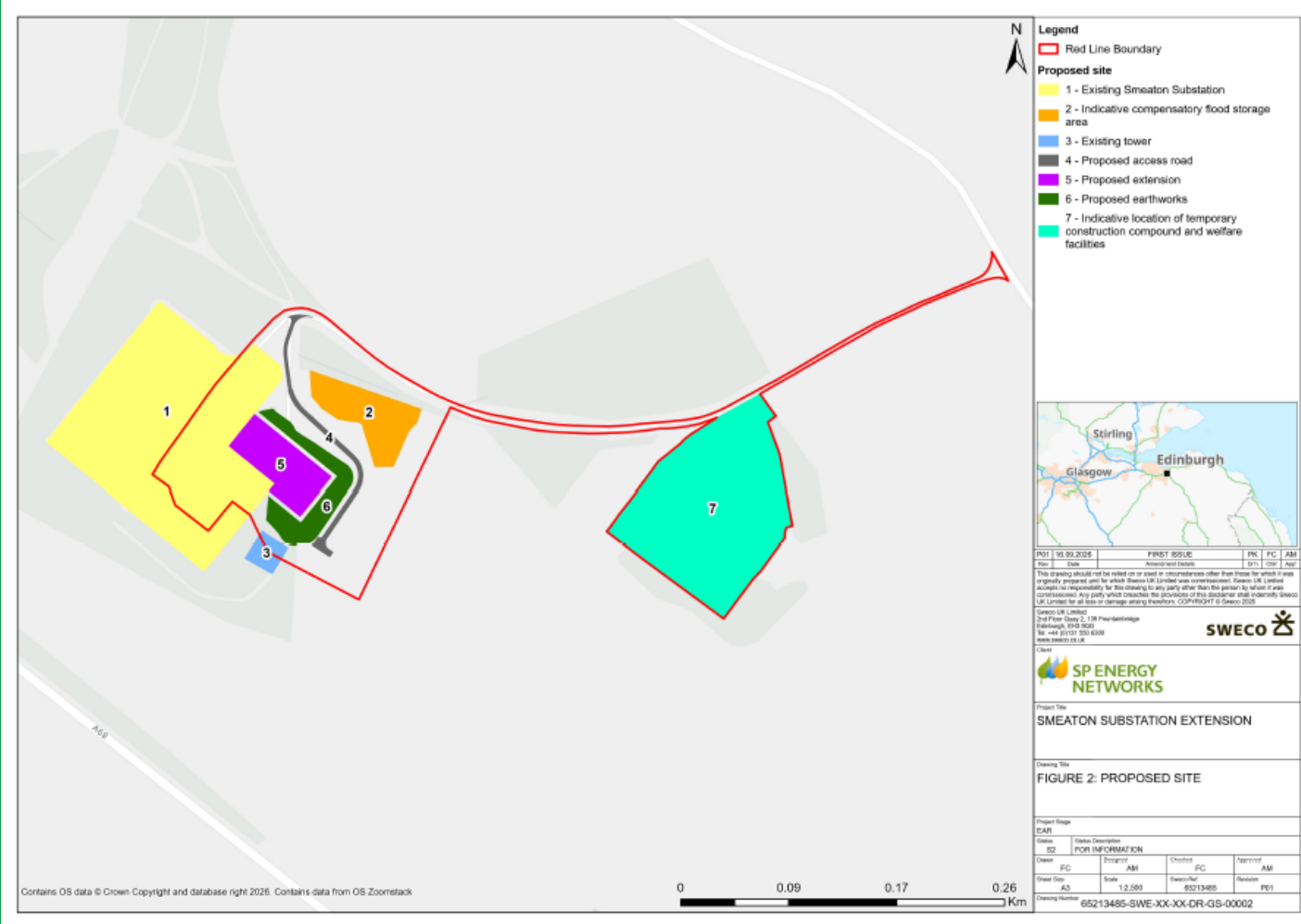
To support the connection of renewable developments in the area, we are required to extend the existing platform at Smeaton Substation.

The proposed development has been designed to support the safe, secure, and reliable operation of the transmission network while enabling the connection of a 228MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).

What is proposed?

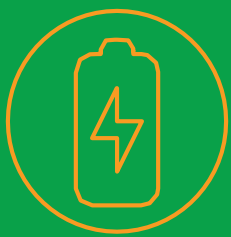


SP Energy Networks



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

What is proposed?



The proposed development includes an extension to the existing substation compound and the installation of a new 400kV metering bay, associated switchgear, protection and control equipment, and a new modular control building.

To accommodate the extension works, the existing 132kV P Route cable within the substation will be diverted. Civil engineering works will include earthworks, foundations, access roads, fencing, drainage systems, cable trenches and associated infrastructure required to support the new facilities.

Construction of the substation extension will require the delivery of plant, equipment, materials and personnel to the site. Access will be provided via the existing substation access road, supplemented by temporary construction access arrangements where required. Temporary construction compounds, welfare facilities and laydown areas will be established to facilitate project delivery.

Surface water drainage associated with the extension area will be managed through a drainage system integrated with the existing substation infrastructure. Earthworks, including cut-and-fill operations, will be undertaken where necessary to establish the new substation platform and facilitate installation of the proposed electrical infrastructure.

Pre-application process



The Smeaton substation extension project is currently progressing through the pre-application and development stages, including environmental assessments, stakeholder engagement and detailed engineering design. Environmental surveys and technical studies are being undertaken to inform the final design and support the planning application process.

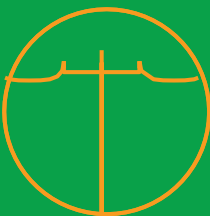
A Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) was submitted to East Lothian and Midlothian Councils in September 2026. This is the first of two statutory rounds of stakeholder and community engagement.

As part of the development process, engagement will continue with key stakeholders, statutory consultees, landowners, and local authorities to ensure that environmental, technical, and community considerations are appropriately addressed.

Feedback received through consultation activities will help inform the final project design and planning submissions.

Following completion of the pre-application activities and approvals process, the project will progress into procurement, detailed design, and construction phases.

Project timeline



Project Timeline



What happens next?



Following this first round of consultation, we will develop a detailed design for the substation. We will publish a report summarising the feedback received in this first round of consultation and how this has influenced our proposals.

You can find more information and respond online at www.spenenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/smeaton_substation_extension.aspx

Comments can be made in the following ways

Phone:
07516 461129

Email: smeatonproject@spenenergynetworks.co.uk

Post:
Smeaton Project Team
Land and Planning Team
SP Energy Networks
55 Fullarton Drive Glasgow
G32 8FA



At this stage, your comments are not representations to the planning authority. If we make an application for planning permission, you will be able to make formal representations at that stage.