09.

The Preferred Option

9. The Preferred Option

9.1 Identifying an End-to-End Option

Based on the routeing and siting work in sections 6 and 8, the alternative substation sites and route options have relative advantages and disadvantages, however, in general terms two end-to-end options emerge which would enable a continuous OHL route via a new substation as illustrated in Figure 20:

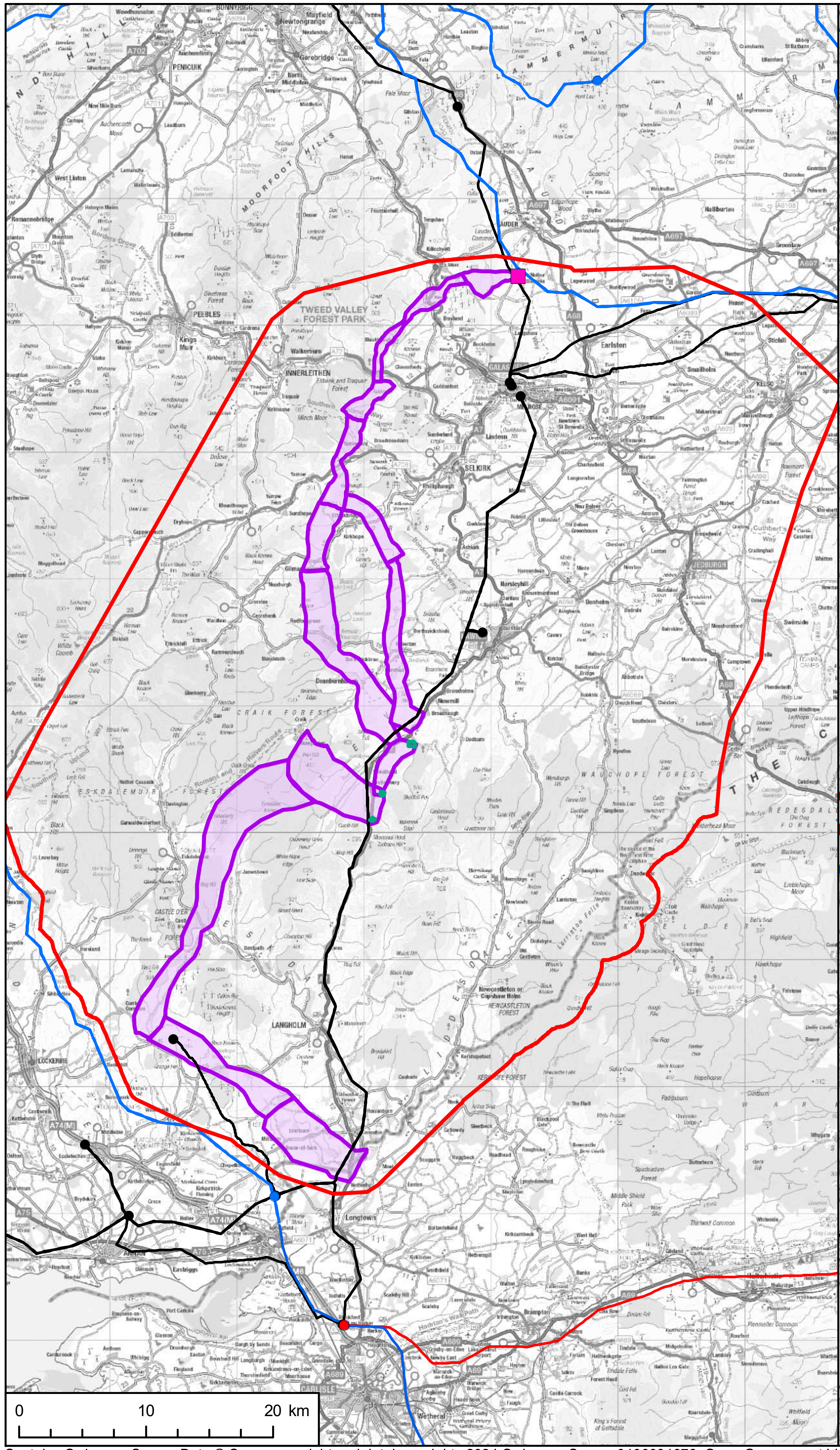
- Purple Option – An end-to-end option located entirely on the west of the Study Area. This is formed of route options on the west of the Study Area connecting to substation sites TEV-01, TEV-02 or TEV-03 to the west of the proposed Teviot Wind Farm and from here continuing to the west of the Study Area before crossing the Scotland-England border to the north of Scots Dike.
- Orange Option – An end-to-end option located partly on the west of the Study Area crossing over to the east. This is formed of route options on the west of the Study Area connecting to substation sites TEV-05 or TEV-06 to the east or north of the proposed Teviot Wind Farm and from here continuing to the east of the Study Area through the Liddel Valley crossing the Scotland-England border south of Newcastleton.

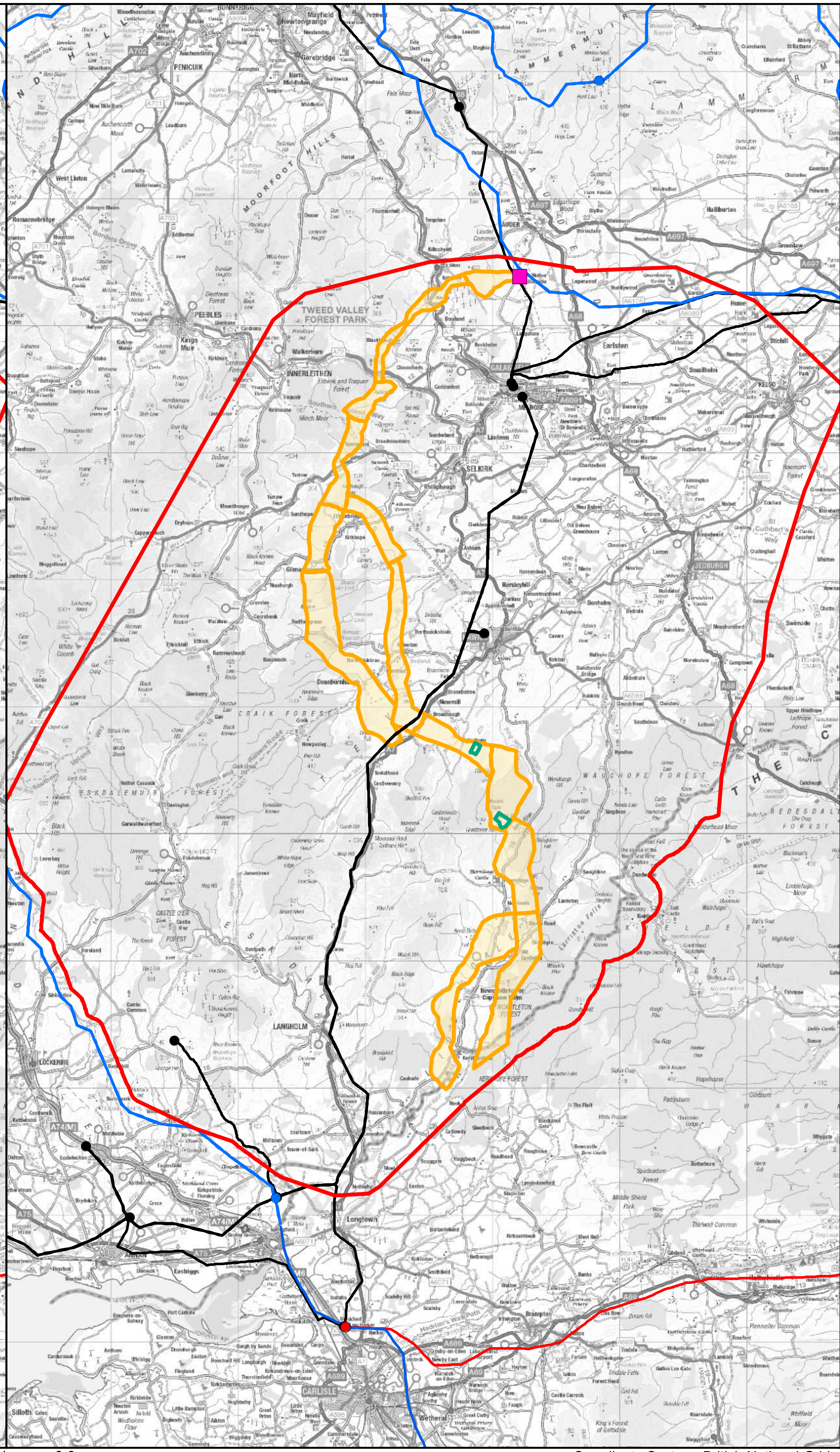
While the individual route and site options which form the Purple and Orange end-to-end options have been assessed in detail in sections 6 and 8 (and associated appendices) taking account of the routeing and siting considerations, this section considers them as a whole as part of an overall option from the proposed Gala North Substation to a new Teviot Substation and onwards to the Scotland-England border. In isolation certain route or site options may be more or less preferable, however, the identification of an overall end-to-end Preferred Option requires routeing and siting considerations to be balanced in reaching an overall preference.

Table 17 End-to-end Options based on Routeing and Siting Appraisals

Section	Purple Option (west/west)	Orange Option (west/east)
A	Route Option 1 Route Option 2b	Route Option 1 Route Option 2b
B	Route Option 1 Route Option 2a Route Option 3a or 3b Route Option 4b or 4c	Route Option 1 Route Option 2a Route Option 3a or 3b Route Option 4b or 4c
C	Route Option 3 Route Option 4	Route Option 1a Route Option 2
-	TEV-01, TEV-02 or TEV-3	TEV-05 or TEV-06
D	Route Option 3	Route Option 1 Route Option 2a or 2c

Project Management Initials: DR Designer: LC Checked: DF Approved: DR





Scale @ A3 1:400,000

0 10 20 km

Coordinate System: British National Grid

AECOM

PROJECT

Cross Border Connection -
Gala North Substation to Border

CLIENT

SP Energy Networks

KEY

- Study Area
- Proposed Gala North Substation Location
- Potential Substation Site
- Purple Route Option
- Orange Route Option

Existing Transmission System

- 132 kV Substation
- 400 kV Substation
- 132kV OHL
- 400kV OHL

TITLE

Figure 20
Alternative End-to-end Options

REFERENCE

GH_20240821_RS_20_v1

SHEET NUMBER	DATE
1 of 1	21/08/24

9.2 Purple End-to-End Option

The Purple End-to-End Option is illustrated in Figure 20. It located entirely to the west of the Study Area and would include a new Teviot Substation to the west of the proposed Teviot Wind Farm adjacent to the A7. It includes a degree of optionality in the area between the Ettrick valley and the Teviot Valley and with regard to the new Teviot Substation (either TEV-01, TEV-02 or TEV-03 which are broadly similar). Subject to the development of a detailed route alignment it would have an overall length in the order of 100km routeing through the Scottish Borders and Dumfries and Galloway before crossing the Scotland-England border north of Scotsdike.

9.3 Orange End-to-End Option

The Orange End-to-End Option is illustrated in Figure 20. It follows the same route as the Purple Option between the proposed Gala North Substation and the Teviot valley on the west side of the Study Area, however, it routes across the north of the proposed Teviot Wind Farm to the east side of the Study Area. It could comprise a new Teviot Substation at either TEV-06 to the north of the proposed Teviot Wind Farm or at TEV-05 on the edge of commercial forestry between the Teviot and Liddesdale Windfarms before continuing along the Liddel valley to the Scotland-England border. Subject to the development of a detailed route alignment it would have an overall length in the order of 80km routeing entirely within the Scottish Borders before crossing the border at the southern end of the Liddel valley south of Newastleton.

9.4 Appraisal of the End-to End Options

Each of the route options and substation sites which make up the end-to-end options has been appraised in detail in section 8 and Appendix H, so this is not repeated here. This section considers the end-to-end options as a whole having regard to the routeing and siting objective and considerations described in chapter 5.

Given the scale of the SP Energy Networks Project there a number of competing factors which need to be carefully balanced when identifying a Preferred Option. The Purple and Orange End-to-End Options are long distance OHL routes encountering a range of environmental and technical constraints. While some of these are common where the two options follow the same route from the proposed Gala North Substation to the Teviot valley there are significant differences in relation to the potential sites for the new Teviot Substation and onwards OHL routes to the Scotland-England border.

Where the two options follow a common route, the key routeing considerations include multiple crossings of watercourse which are part the River Tweed SAC and/or SSSI, routeing within Special Landscape Areas, routeing over elevated areas with high altitudes and localised steep slopes, routeing in proximity to scheduled monuments and listed buildings with the potential for setting effects as well as crossing over long distance trails including the Southern Upland Way and Roman Reivers Road and crossing the existing 132kV route (V route) within the Teviot valley.

The Purple Option comprises potential substations on the west side of the proposed Teviot Wind Farm to the east of the A7. These sites, in particular TEV-02 and TEV-03 occupy more prominent sites on hillslopes which would be more visible from the A7 and scattered settlement and properties while TEV-01 is located slightly up a valley where effects would be more localised. Each of the substation sites have relative advantages and disadvantages meaning none are significantly preferable over the other. Onwards routeing from these substations is heavily influenced by the landform within the Teviot valley. Moving south the valley narrows with very steep slopes present which are not considered suitable for OHL routeing. This also coincides with the Langholm Regional Scenic Area. As a result, the route passes to the north of the proposed Faw Side Wind Farm (refused on appeal) taking a less direct route through parts of the Eskdalemuir Castle O'er Forests crossing more elevated land as well as areas of peatland. There are a number of scheduled monuments within and on the margins of the Purple Option with the potential for setting effects particularly in the section around the River Esk. From here the Purple Option begins to cross lower lying and comparatively more settled land with higher potential for impacts.

The Orange Option comprises potential substations on the north and east of the proposed Teviot Wind Farm (TEV-06 and TEV-05 respectively). TEV-06 is considered to be a more constrained site with limited access and high potential to affect the setting of a number of scheduled monuments. TEV-05 is considered to be a preferable site avoiding areas of highest or high environmental value on a site on the margins of commercial forestry. It is located between the proposed Teviot Wind Farm (to the west) and proposed Liddesdale Wind Farm (to the east) providing some benefits in terms of connections to the substation when compared to other site options. However, a key siting consideration at TEV-05 that would require to be addressed through more detailed design is the presence of peatland. These substation sites require the route to extend eastwards of the Teviot valley to the north of the proposed wind farm. This requires routeing through an area with a number of scheduled monuments present including the Catrail which could require to be crossed by a route connecting to TEV-05. As result this section of the Orange Option is likely to have some unavoidable setting effects. Routeing south of TEV-05 the Orange Option provides for two alternative options to the border either side of the Liddel valley more closely following landform. Both options are considered technically feasible but on balance there is slight preference in technical terms to route on the western side of the valley to avoid routeing within Newcastleton Forest and crossing the border where steep slopes are present. There is the potential for impacts on settlement and scattered properties along the valley, however, these can be reduced by using the valley side slopes and/or forestry to backcloth an OHL and reduce impacts.

On balance the Orange Option is considered to be preferred overall. It is technically feasible and economically viable and reduces or has opportunities to reduce disturbance to the environment of the Study Area and the people who live, work and enjoy recreation within it. In particular TEV-05 is considered to be a less impacting site for the new Teviot Substation compared to the others which would form part of the Purple Option. It also enables a more direct and shorter route overall (in the order of 80km compared to 100km). While there are constraints on the Orange Route, in particular scheduled monuments to the north of TEV-05 including one which require to be spanned, there are similar constraints present on the

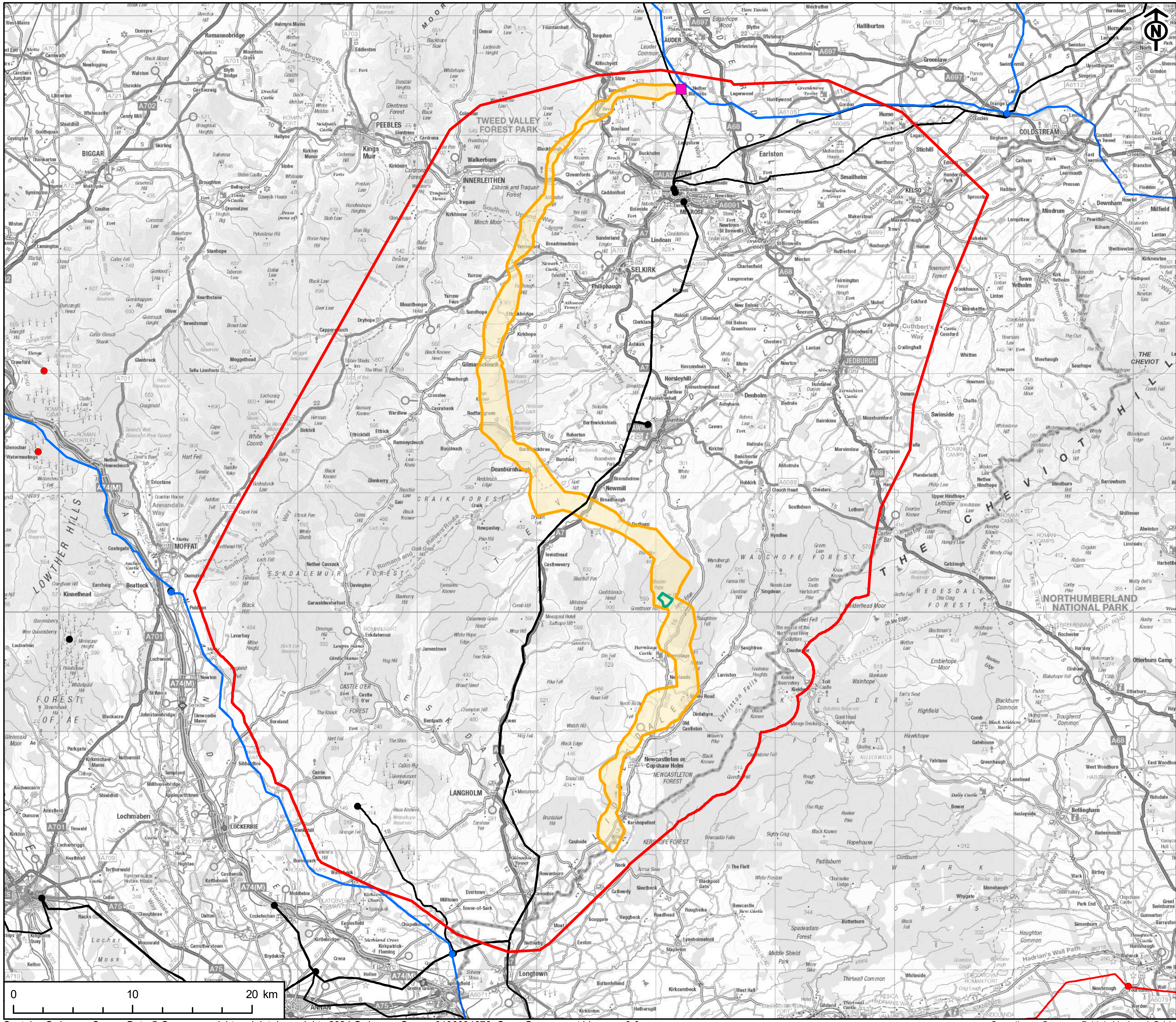
Purple Option including scheduled monuments, settlement and scattered properties which could also be adversely affected.

9.5 The Preferred Option

The Preferred Option is illustrated in Figure 21. It is based on the Orange End-to-End Option and is comprised of the following route options:

- Section A Proposed Gala North Substation to River Tweed
    - Route Option 1
    - Route Option 2b
- Section B River Tweed to the A7
    - Route Option 1
    - Route Option 2a
    - Route Option 3b
    - Route Option 4c
- Section C A7 to new Teviot Substation
    - Route Option 1a
    - Route Option 2
    - TEV-05
- Section D New Teviot Substation to Scotland-England border
    - Route Option 1
    - Route Option 2c

Project Management Initials: DR Designer: LC Checked: DF Approved: DR



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Coordinate System: British National Grid

AECOM

PROJECT

Cross Border Connection -
Gala North Substation to Border

CLIENT

SP Energy Networks

KEY

- Study Area
- Proposed Gala North Substation Location
- Preferred Substation Site
- Preferred Route Option

Existing Transmission System

- 132 kV Substation
- 275 kV Substation
- 400 kV Substation
- 132kV OHL
- 400kV OHL

TITLE

Figure 21
Preferred Option

REFERENCE

GH_20240821_RS_21_v1

SHEET NUMBER	DATE
1 of 1	21/08/24

10. Consultation and Next Steps

10. Consultation and Next Steps

10.1 Consultation on the SP Energy Networks Project

As set out in section 1 of this document, SP Energy Networks will be required to apply to Scottish Ministers for consent under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 for consent for the components of the SP Energy Networks Project. At the same time, SP Energy Networks will also apply for deemed planning permission under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.

While there are no formal pre-application requirements for consultation in seeking section 37 consent and deemed planning permission, SP Energy Networks is embracing best practice as promoted by Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) which encourages applicants to engage with stakeholders and the public in order to develop their proposals in advance of such applications being made. Prior to the submission of the consent application, SP Energy Networks will carry out two rounds of consultation with stakeholders and the public:

- Phase One Consultation: Public consultation on the results of the routeing and siting study, in particular the preferred option, as detailed in section 9 of this document.
- Phase Two Consultation: Public consultation on a more detailed route design including OHL and substation design anticipated to be in 2026.

Note that consultation on the components of the NGET Project (the section of the Cross Border Connection in England) will be undertaken by NGET in due course.

10.2 Approach to and Objective of Phase 1 Consultation

SP Energy Networks attaches great importance to the effect that its works may have on the environment and local communities and is very keen to hear the views of local people to help it inform the development of the SP Energy Networks Project in the most effective way.

The overall objective of the consultation process is to ensure that all parties with an interest in the SP Energy Networks Project have access to accurate and up to date information and are provided with the opportunity to inform SP Energy Networks' proposals during the pre-application stage. In addition, it is intended that the key issues identified through this process can be recorded and presented to decision makers to assist the planning process.

SP Energy Networks has taken steps to identify stakeholders and interested parties prior to this Phase 1 Consultation and is committed to continuing engagement with all stakeholders and communities both during and outside consultation periods.

10.3 Consultees

To ensure that all residents and other stakeholders potentially affected by the SP Energy Networks Project are consulted, SP Energy Networks has defined a consultation zone which includes all residential and business addresses within 5km of the Preferred Option within Scotland. However, any member of the public (whether living within or outside the

includes all residential and business addresses within 5km of the Preferred Option within Scotland. However, any member of the public (whether living within or outside the consultation zone) is welcome to participate in the consultation and comment using one of the channels outlined within this document.

The consultation will include the following broad groups:

- Statutory and non-statutory consultees, including community councils;
- Elected members of whose constituencies are within the consultation zone;
- Homes and businesses within the consultation zone;
- Known local interest and community groups within the consultation zone; and
- The public in general.

10.4 Phase 1 Consultation Launch and Duration

Phase 1 Consultation will run from 23 September 2024 to 28 October 2024. Prior to the consultation, an advert will appear in the local weekly newspaper at least seven days before the first exhibition. The consultation will be posted out to homes, businesses, and known local interest and community groups within the local area, making them aware of the start of the Phase1 Consultation and inviting them to take part.

10.5 Sources of Information about the Consultation

In addition to this document, a project booklet has been prepared which provides a summary of the SP Energy Networks Project and how to participate in Phase 1 Consultation. A project website (www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/cross_border_connection.aspx) has also been set up which provides information about the SP Energy Networks Project and hosts a library of publicly available documents for viewing and/or downloading.

10.6 Providing feedback

There will be several ways for people to make comments:

- By completing a feedback form online at www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/cross_border_connection.aspx
- By completing a feedback form at one of the in-person events
- By email to info@crossborderconnection.co.uk
- By freepost returning the feedback form sent out with the SP Energy Networks Project booklet to homes and businesses in the consultation zone

In-person events

SP Energy Networks will hold twelve in-person drop-in events which will be attended by members of the project team who will be available to answer questions about the SP Energy Networks Project. Feedback can be provided in-person by completing a feedback form at the event:

Table 18 In-person Events

Date	Venue
24 September 2024	Traquair Village Hall (10am-1pm)
24 September 2024	Walkerburn Village Hall (3-7pm)
25 September 2024	Newcastleton Village Hall (3-7pm)
26 September 2024	Hermitage Village Hall (10am-1pm)
30 September 2024	Lauder Public Hall (10am-1pm)
30 September 2024	Stow Town Hall (3-7pm)
1 October 2024	Teviothead Village Hall (10am-1pm)
1 October 2024	Forman Memorial Hall (3-7pm)
3 October 2024	Kirkhope Parish Hall (10am-1pm)
3 October 2024	Yarrow Hall (3-7pm)
7 October 2024	Hawick Town Hall (10am-1pm)
7 October 2024	Caddonfoot Village Hall (3-7pm)

10.7 Responding to Feedback

The responses received to the Phase 1 Consultation will be evaluated by SP Energy Networks and published in the form of a Consultation Feedback Report. Although SP Energy Networks may not be able to respond to all individual comments, people will be able to request to be kept informed by email as and when there are developments in the SP Energy Networks Project, including the availability of the Consultation Feedback Report and confirmation of the Proposed Option.