



# Cross Border Connection

Gala North to Scottish Border Update

# Cross Border Connection - Gala North to Scottish Border Update

SP Energy Networks is consulting on the proposed 400kV/132kV Teviot substation and the 400kV steel tower, overhead line (OHL) which will run from the proposed Gala North substation to the Scotland-England border.

Between September and December last year, SP Energy Networks held 13 public consultation events across the Scottish Borders and presented to community councils. Scottish Borders Council was also engaged and briefed on the proposals.

A high level of feedback was received from local communities regarding the original preferred route.

A further round of consultation events has been planned to provide an update on changes that have been made to the preferred route. Another round of public consultation will be held in 2026, ahead of submitting an application to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit in 2028.

Your views remain important to us, so please take the time to read through this leaflet. You'll find further information at the project website: [www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/cross\\_border\\_connection.aspx](http://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/cross_border_connection.aspx)



## Project overview

The overhead line would be circa 92km, running from the proposed Gala North substation to a point at the Scotland-England border, south of Newcastleton. The line would connect to a new Teviot substation, which would potentially be located close to Whitrope. The overhead line would use a 400kV double circuit line supported by towers. There are three main elements in the proposals:

- Construction of a new double circuit 400kV overhead line, running north-south from Gala North substation to Teviot substation;
- Construction of the Teviot substation; and
- Construction of a new 400kV overhead line running from Teviot substation to a point at the border.

## Teviot Substation

- The proposed Teviot substation will be located close to Whitrope, approximately 13km south of Hawick. The actual footprint of the substation will depend on the final design and layout of its several elements.
- Within substations, specialised equipment facilitates the transformation, or 'switching,' of voltage levels. Transformers positioned within the substation either step up or step down the voltage as required.
- The switchgear technology to be used within the proposed Teviot substation is subject to detailed design and evaluation.

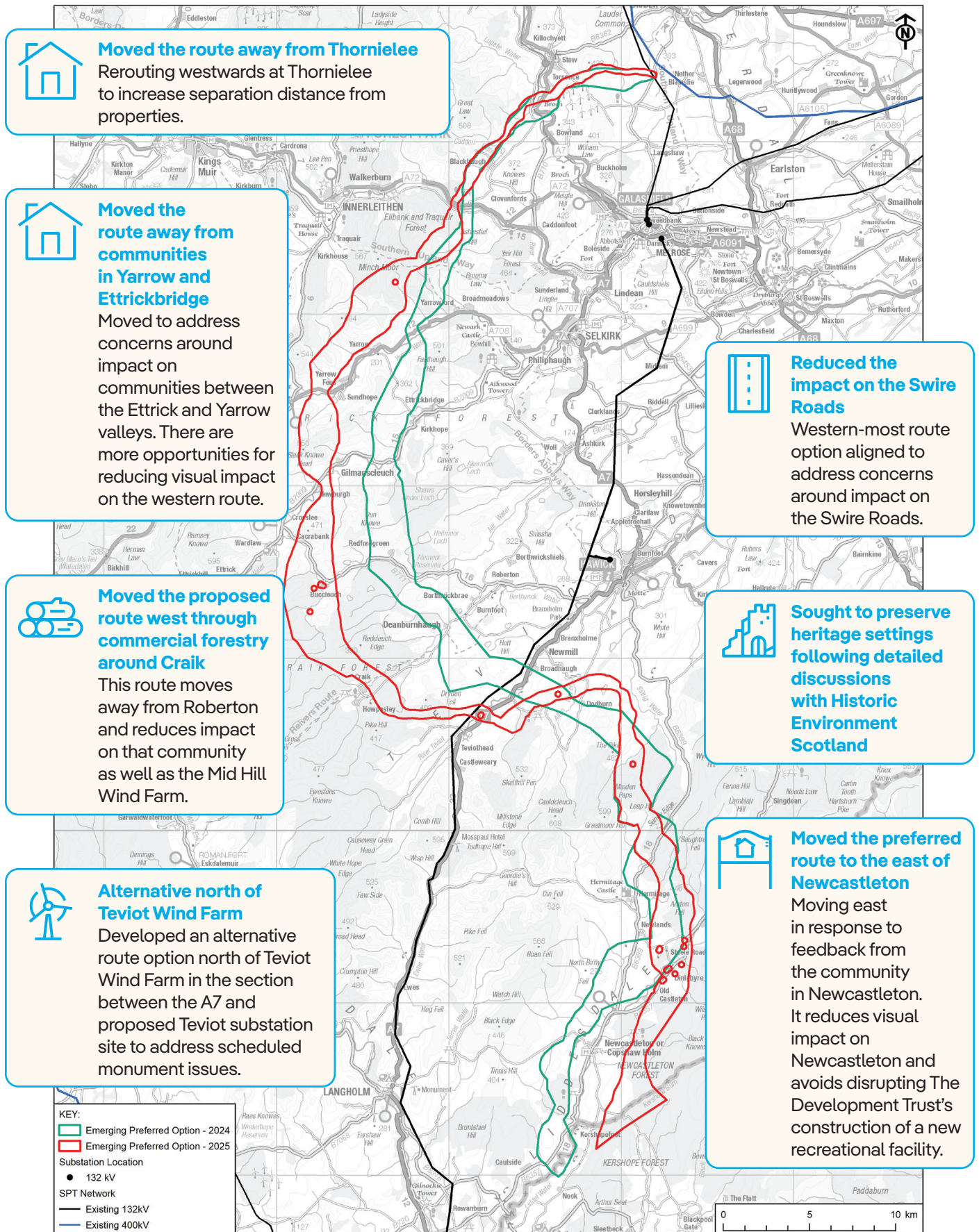
## Overhead Line (OHL)

- The proposed towers along the route will have three arms on each side, and each arm will carry a set of conductors. There will be a circuit on each side of the towers, and each circuit has three sets of wires.
- The towers will be made of galvanised steel, are grey in colour and become duller in appearance over time.
- The standard height of the proposed towers will be around 50 metres but can go up to 61 metres where required to ensure electrical safety clearance to the ground. They will be placed between 200 and 300m apart with the exact distance between them varying depending on the landscape and any obstacles such as roads, rivers and railway lines.



# Finding the right balance: amendments to the preferred route

Thank you to everyone who attended our drop-in sessions and took the time to share their views. Your input has helped to further develop the proposals. Following feedback at consultation, we have:



# Acting on your feedback to define the modified preferred route

## Our modified preferred route

Since the first round of engagement in 2024 SP Energy Networks has been reviewing feedback and made modifications to the preferred route option. As a result, the overall length of the modified preferred route option has increased. It is around 92km located entirely within the Scottish Borders from the proposed Gala North Substation south of Lauder to the Scotland-England border southeast of Newcastleton.

It is routed west and southwest from the proposed new Gala North substation toward the Gala Water. It crosses the Gala Water and Borders Railway Line to the south of Torsonce and continues southwest across the lower slopes of the Moorfoot Hills towards the River Tweed. The crossing point of the River Tweed has been moved slightly further west into commercial forestry which sits either side of the Tweed valley.

The preferred route option continues south on the eastern extent of the Tweedsmuir Hills routeing within Elibank and Traquair Forest and the southern extent of Tweed Valley Forest Park at Minch Moor. It has been moved further west crossing the Yarrow Water to the west of Sundhope, approximately 5km east of St Mary's Loch. It continues directly south across the lower part of the Ettrick Hills

crossing the Ettrick Water west of Gilmanscleuch. From here the preferred route option runs southeast through Craik Forest avoiding the proposed Mid Hill Wind Farm identified during the previous consultation. It crosses the A7 and River Teviot in an eastern direction just north of Teviothead, approximately 9km southwest of Hawick. The preferred route has been amended as it crosses land to the north of the proposed Teviot Wind Farm continuing towards Stobs Castle and then south to the proposed new Teviot substation on the margins of commercial forestry northwest of Whitrope.

From the proposed Teviot substation the preferred route continues south to the east of Hermitage across Arnton Fell, partly following the safeguarded railway line. It continues south towards Newcastleton Forest and is routed to the east of the valley on the boundary of the forest and the proposed Borders Wind Farm. The route continues south until it reaches the Scotland-England Border where it meets Kershope Forest.

Scan the QR code to visit our project website or visit our dedicated Cross Border Connection website at:  
[www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/cross\\_border\\_connection.aspx](http://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/cross_border_connection.aspx)



## Headline feedback

### Impact on the local economy and tourism

The amended route is further away from major destinations for tourists and local businesses.

### Visual impact on local communities

SP Energy Networks has amended the route which is now further away from local communities in Thornielee, Yarrowford, Ettrickbridge and Robertson.

### Impact on the environment and biodiversity

The routeing process was guided by landscape and environmental considerations. We received additional information through the consultation and we have made modifications, where possible, to avoid conservation areas and key habitats. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will assess any potential environmental and biodiversity impacts in detail.

### Community benefit

The Government will be publishing guidance, creating opportunities for communities to bid for future funding.

### Impact on the local heritage and cultural landscape

SP Energy Networks continues to engage with Historic Environment Scotland to ensure that national heritage assets and their settings are preserved, including Penchrise Pen and Stobs Camp and the Stobs Camp Rifle Ranges.



# Preferred Route Option Comparison

