

Gala North Substation

Scottish Power 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, North Wales, Merseyside, Cheshire and North Shropshire.

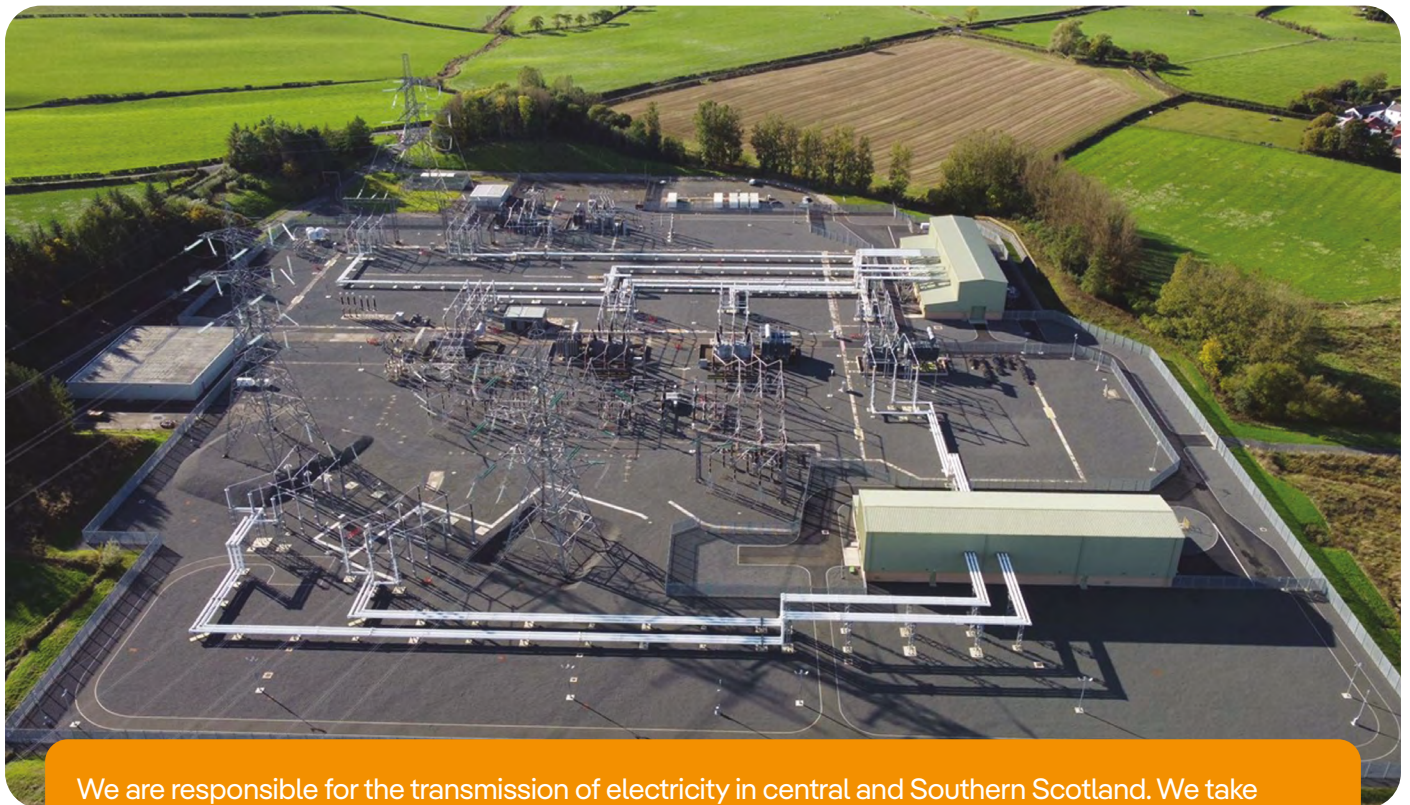
We do this through the network of overhead lines and underground cables which we own and maintain.

SP Energy Networks transmits and distributes energy to over 3.5m homes across the area we serve and is responsible for the operation and maintenance of over 105,000km of overhead lines and underground cables.

For more information on us, please visit our website at spenenergynetworks.co.uk.



Our impact in Scotland



We are responsible for the transmission of electricity in central and Southern Scotland. We take electricity generated from power stations, windfarms and various other utilities and transport it through our vast transmission network, consisting of over 3700 kilometres of overhead lines and over 600km of underground cables. We have over 150 substations and in excess of 100 grid supply points in our network where we take the high voltage supply and reduce it to the low voltage needed for use in the home.

Our systems are crucial to the delivery of the Scottish and UK Governments' renewable energy objectives due to their location in an area of outstanding renewable resource and our geographical location. We have a unique role in connecting renewable generation and bulk transfer of renewable energy from Scotland into England and Wales benefiting stakeholders well beyond our licence area.

What is Net Zero?



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 not just a possibility, but 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.

Project timeline

Q2 2024 Round 1 Consultation ↓

Q3 2024 EIA Scoping ↓

Q4 2024 Design Freeze ↓

Q4 2024 Round 2 Consultation ↓

Q1 2025 Planning Application ↓

Q4 2026 Construction ↓

Q2 2029 Commissioning



The Gala North Project

The proposed Gala North Substation will be built on a site, which is approximately 24ha in size, located near Blainslie and Birkhill, South of Lauder. The substation will have a footprint of 5-6ha.



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, specialized equipment facilitates the transformation, or 'switching,' of voltage levels. This process involves using transformers positioned within the substation's premises to either step up or step down the voltage as required.



The Gala North Substation will consist of several elements, and will be a combination of:

A 400kV, 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 such as the one shown below.

A 132kV, Air Insulated section in which electrical equipment is arranged in open air compartments with air as the primary insulating medium.



The proposed Gala North Substation will play a critical role, along with our other ongoing works in Scotland, to deliver net zero by building up capacity and reinforcing the grid network.

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

Why is it needed?

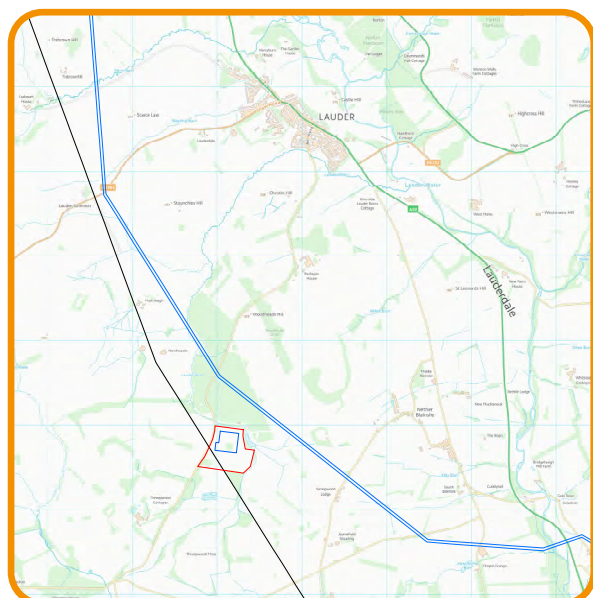
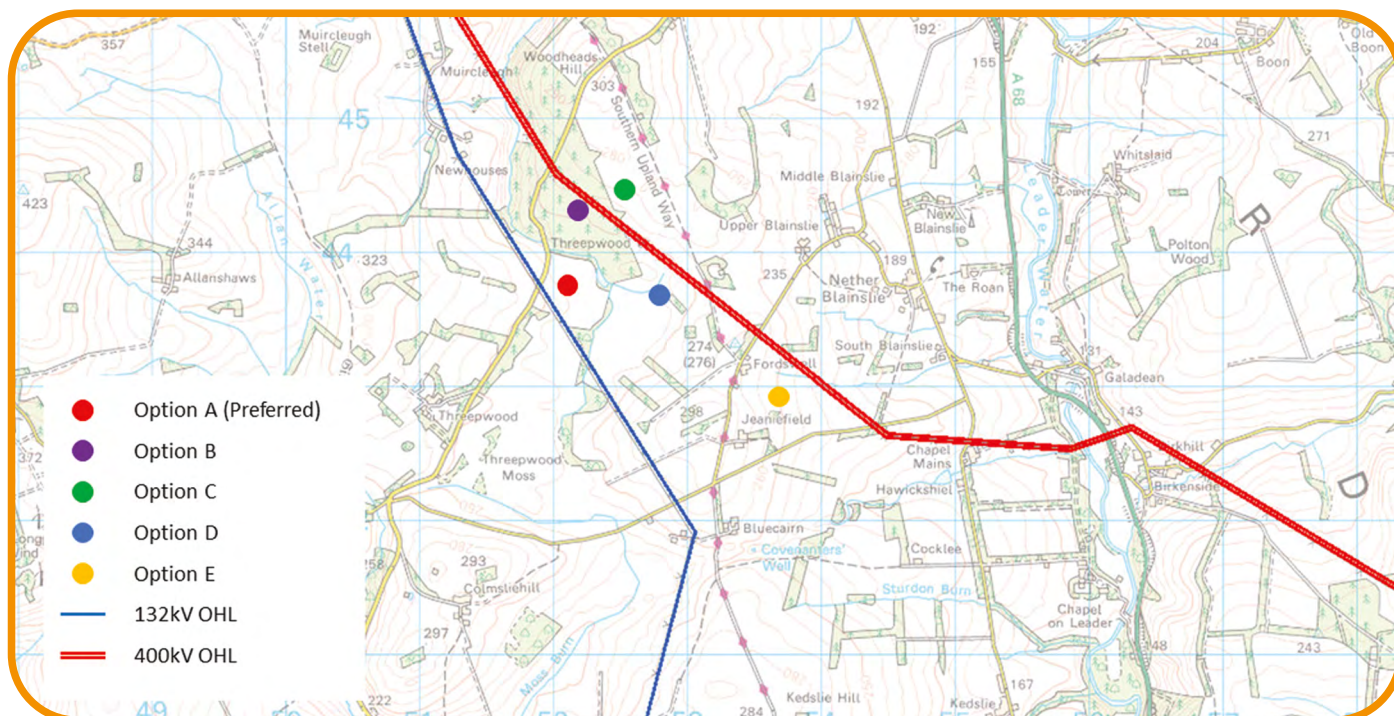
With the increasing level of renewable generation that is currently happening within Scotland, supporting those assets requires additional capacity within the system, with a need for greater power transfer capability and upgrades within the network.

At this time, there are three renewable energy projects contracted to connect into the Gala North Substation including the Dunlaw Extension Wind Farm which is repowering from 30MW to 156MW. Two strategic, network reinforcement, 400kV overhead line projects will also be connecting into the substation. As these

projects are in the early stages of development, separate consultation events will be held for each at a later time.

As it stands, there is currently no spare capacity on the network to accommodate the new generation capacity. The proposed Gala North Substation will allow connection of this new generation and is being designed to enable connection of other new renewable energy projects and development of the strategic interconnection with England.

Reasoning for the site choice



Initially, a search area was identified which did not have any environmental designations. Within this search area, five site options were assessed. As part of our process, we considered a variety of factors that would lessen our environmental and local impact, while achieving technical objectives and, ultimately enabling us to fulfil our statutory duties.

Ultimately, we settled on our site choice for a balance of these reasons, but a key factor was minimising soil extraction, lessening our impact on the local community and wildlife.

Additionally, the site is close to the existing overhead line network which will be needed to establish connectivity to the substation. It is also accessible using the existing road network. Given the commercial forestry around the site, this will provide some screening, lessening its visual impact on the local area.

We want your feedback

Your feedback is important to us and your local knowledge will help us better understand the local area and any potential impact the project may have on the community.

We will listen to everyone's views and, where practical, aim to resolve any concerns or consider mitigation measures if required. We have also engaged with subject matter experts' and targeted groups relating to the environmental landscape, land, marine welfare and others to understand any potential issues or constraints in advance of any work taking place.

We will continue to have these conversations and liaise with you throughout the lifecycle of the project.



How you can get involved

You can find more information and respond online at:
spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/gala_north_substation.aspx

You can also view physical consultation materials at:
Lauder Public Hall, The Avenue, Lauder, TD2 6TD
on the following dates:

28th May 2024 - 16:00-20:00

31st May 2024 - 10:00-14:00

You can also share your views by phone on:
+44 20 3861 3733

or email us at: 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.