Welcome

Thank you for taking the time today to visit this consultation event.

SP Energy Networks is proposing to replace the existing overhead line connecting the Dun Law Windfarm to Galashiels substation.

This exhibition covers:

- the proposed development, why it is needed and the work we are doing to avoid and minimise potential environmental impacts;
- how to respond to this consultation and by when;
- what we will do with any feedback we receive and our next steps in the development of these proposals; and
- information about SP Energy Networks and the work we do to help meet the UK Government's renewable energy and net zero targets.

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 Central and Southern Scotland, North Wales and North West England.

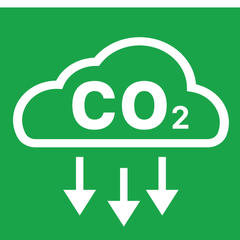
A renewable future

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



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.

What is proposed

We are proposing to replace the existing overhead line connecting the Dun Law Windfarm to Galashiels substation. Once the replacement line has been completed the existing line from Smeaton to Galashiels will be removed.

The proposed replacement line will be approximately 23km long and run from Dun Law Windfarm substation to the Galashiels substation via a proposed new substation at Gala North.

Steel lattice tower

The project consists of:

- Construction of a new overhead line, running north-south from the substation at Dun Law Windfarm to a substation north of Galashiels
- Extension of the substation at Dun Law Windfarm
- Establishing a permanent compound north of Gala North substation
- Laying of cable from the compound to Gala North substation
- Works to connect replacement overhead line into the new Galashiels to Eccles 132kV overhead line north of Galashiels.
- Removal of the existing line from Smeaton to Galashiels.

The replacement overhead line will be carried on steel lattice towers (pylons) as pictured above.

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.

Why the existing overhead line needs to be replaced

Power generated by the turbines is currently fed into the national grid via the Dun Law substation. This substation has an entry capacity of 30MW (Megawatts). The developer has applied to re-power the windfarm to enable it to generate more electricity and a new connection entry capacity of 156MW is required.

There is no spare capacity on the existing network to accommodate the additional 126MW generated by the windfarm. We need to increase the capability of the system to enable Dun Law Windfarm to be connected to the grid and comply with our statuatory and license obligations.

Identifying potential route options

We have been working to identify potential routes for the replacement overhead line between Dun Law Windfarm, the proposed new Gala North Substation and the existing Galashiels Substation.

Each potential route option was assessed to determine their potential suitability:

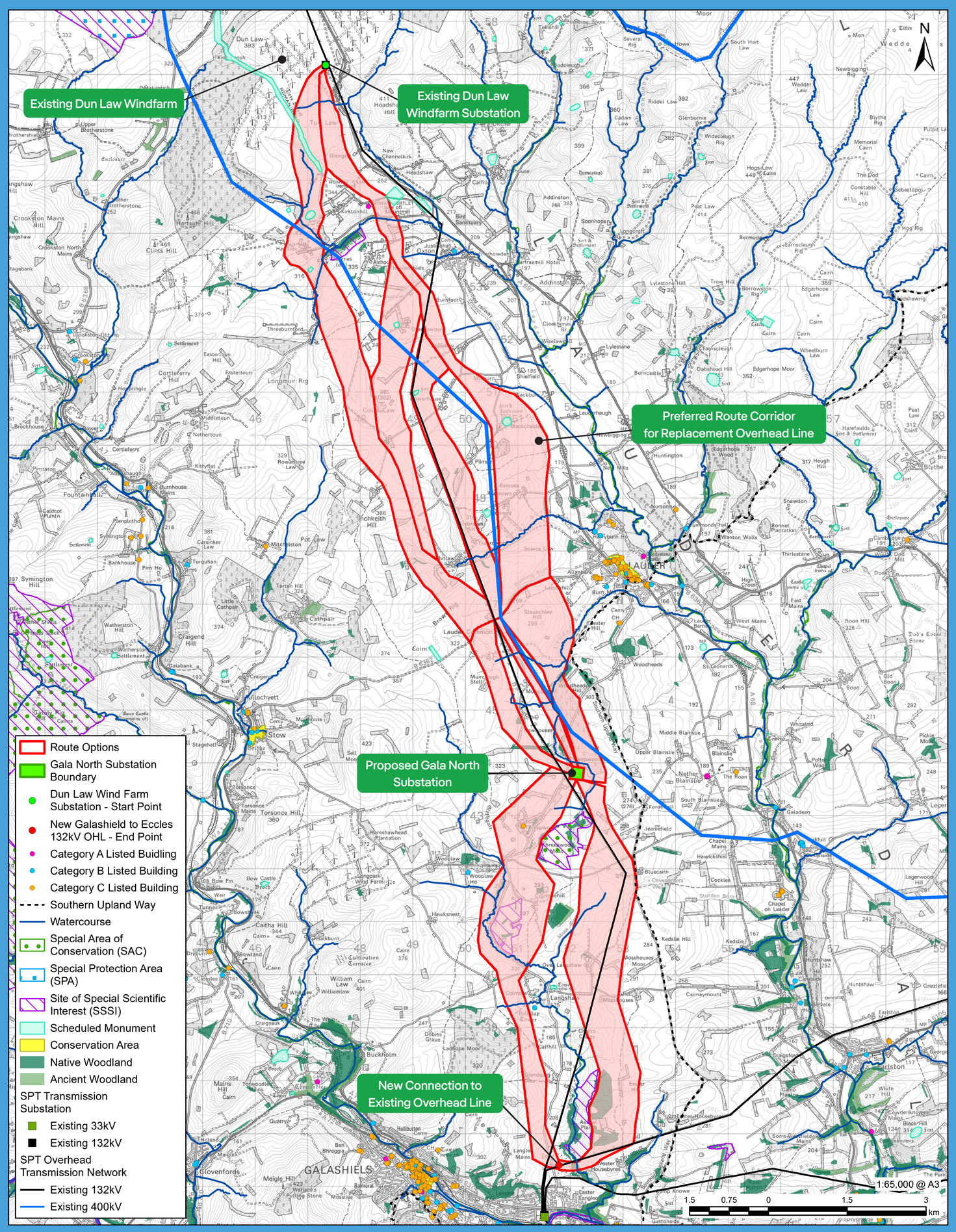
Technical feasibility:
an assessment of our ability to build, operate and maintain an overhead line within the identified route option. We considered existing electricity transmission or distribution infrastructure, topography, slope gradients, altitude, ground conditions and accessibility.

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; and
- land uses including tourism and recreation.

Route Options



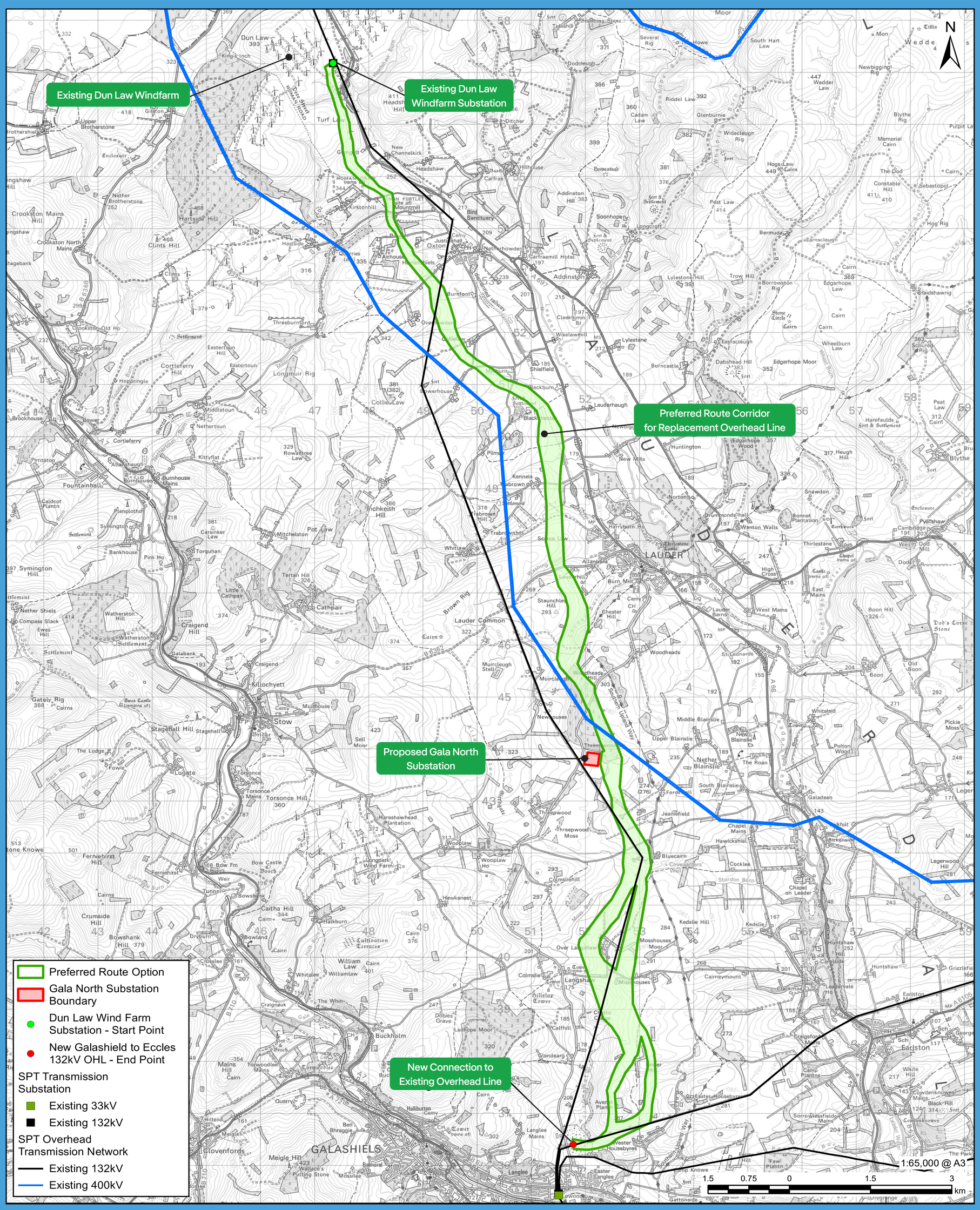
Routeing and Siting consultation document

You can find full details of the preferred route and the alternatives we considered, our routeing strategy and the findings of our route options appraisal process, in the Routeing and Siting Consultation Document.

Selecting a preferred route

In assessing the potential options to identify a preferred route we have sought to avoid areas of the highest environmental value and settlements while also making the best use of the existing landscape and features including hills and woodland to screen routes.

The preferred route



Consultation and the consenting process

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 such as Scottish Borders Council, SEPA and NatureScot.

We'll use comments received during this consultation on our preferred route option alongside findings of an Environmental Impact Assessment to help identify the final alignment for the replacement overhead lines.

We are planning to hold a second round of consultation events in 2025 to share how we have taken on board your comments and seek feedback on our final proposals before we submit a Section 37 application to the Energy Consents Unit to seek permission for the development.

June / July 2024	Consultation on the preferred route option
mid/late 2024	Environmental Impact Assessment works commence
early 2025	Identify preferred alignment
mid 2025	Consultation on the preferred alignment
late 2025	Submission of application to secure consent for the project
mid/late 2027	Anticipated start of construction
late 2029	Commissioning of the replacement line
Post 2029	Removal of the existing line

How to give feedback

Please give us your feedback on our preferred route option. We will consider all comments we receive in response to this consultation as we develop our final proposed alignment for the replacement overhead line.

To feedback:

Email at dunlawext@spenergynetworks.co.uk

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

Complete the online feedback form

This consultation runs from:

Wed 12 JUNE

Wed 10 JULY

If you would like a hard copy version of any of consultation materials, please contact us. 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 OHL 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.