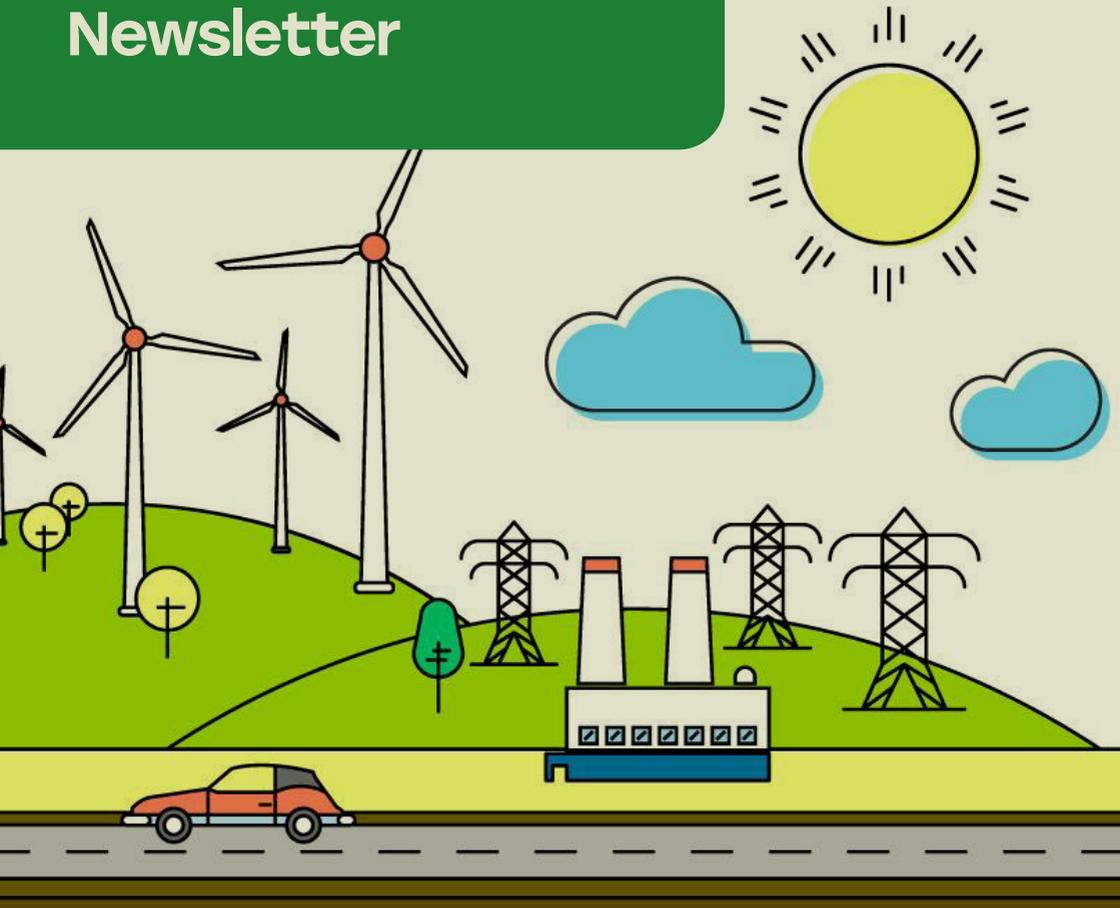


East Lammernuir Energy Projects Partnership Newsletter



March 2026

Welcome to the Energy Projects Partnership newsletter.

The East Lammermuir Energy Projects Partnership is a collaboration between the Community Council, renewable energy developers, electricity transmission owners and East Lothian Council. We are working together to make sure the area is a better place as a result of the energy infrastructure developments.

Following our first newsletter in October 2025, we plan to issue a quarterly newsletter during 2026 and hope that you find this first edition for the year useful.

Once a year this newsletter will be printed and posted to all residents in East Lammermuir and the other 3 editions will be digital (like this one) with printed copies available on request.

On the next page we feature the map of all the constructed, consented and proposed renewable energy and transmission infrastructure projects.

It gives a good visual overview and can be accessed online at www.eastlammermuirdevelopments.co.uk. This website also hosts a useful timetable for the projects, contacts, consultation events, a document library and more!

This issue contains key updates from Berwick Bank Wind Farm, Eastern Green Link 1, Branxton substation and Crystal Rig Wind Farm.

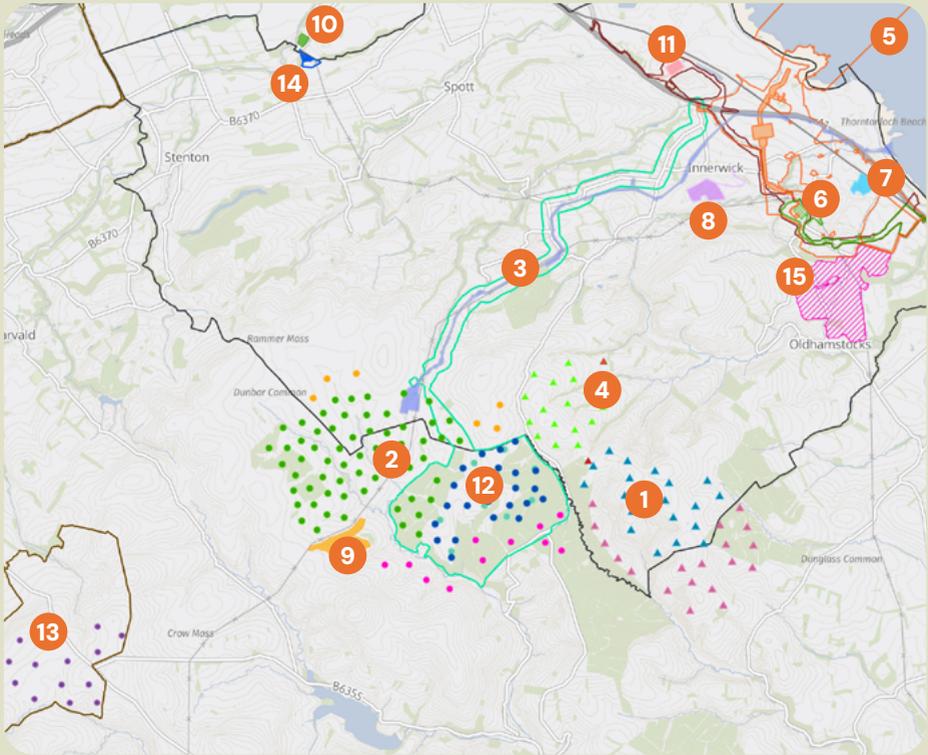
But first we take a whistle stop tour of our partnership working, the activities of the Community Traffic and Travel Forum and the work underway to take forward our community ambitions from the Local Place Plan.

Beth Landon

Energy Projects Partnership Manager



Photo credit: SPEN



CONTRACTED

1. Aikengall wind farms
2. Crystal Rig wind farms (P.6)
3. NnG Offshore Wind Farm cable route

CONSENTED

4. Aikengall BESS
5. Berwick Bank Wind Farm onshore works (P.9)
6. Branxton Substation (P.7)
7. Branxton BESS
8. Brax BESS
9. Crystal Rig IV and Solar (P.6)
10. Dunbar BESS
11. Eastern Green Link 1 onshore works (P.8)

PLANNING

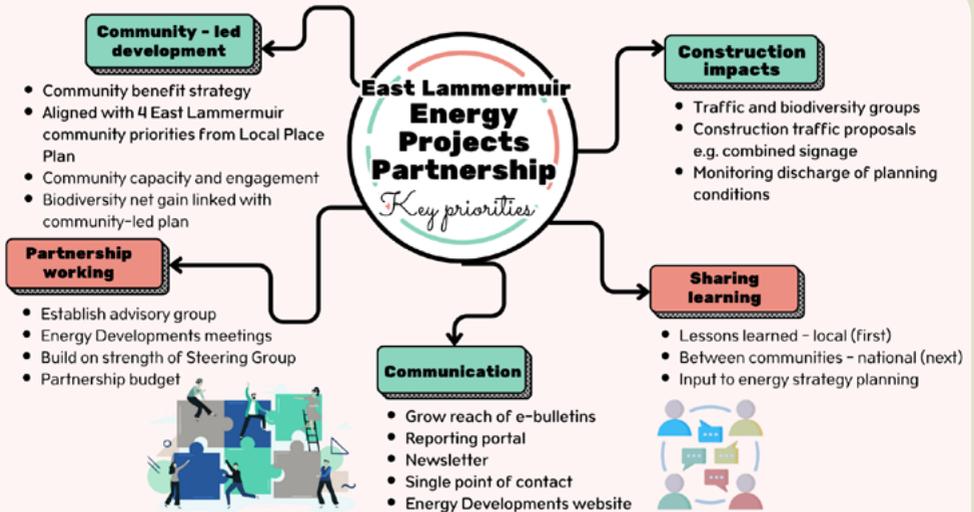
12. Crystal Rig I repower (P.6)
13. Newlands Hill Wind Energy Hub
14. Pitcox BESS
15. Springfield Solar

Explore the map online here:



Energy Projects Partnership news

As a partnership we have been getting our heads together to establish some key priorities to guide our work. These are set out in the following graphic, with some examples of how we plan to implement them.



As the Energy Projects Partnership Manager it is my task to develop objectives to achieve these priorities and keep us on track, but also to find better ways of communicating, so enough of objectives and priorities...have you checked out “Beth’s Blog” yet? You can find this on the East Lammermuir Community Council website [here](#).

We also have a regular weekly bulletin where you can keep up to date with all the latest news, [sign up here](#) or scan the QR code below.

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions!

beth@elep.scot



Community Traffic and Travel Forum

Since the last newsletter we have been meeting monthly to review construction impacts and develop a series of “asks” of the developers and transmission owners. Here are some of the things we’ve been up to:

- ➔ Worked with BEAR Scotland on the design of developer funded “Energy Projects” road signs between Spott and Cockburnspath roundabouts.
- ➔ Recommended windscreen signage to aid identification of construction vehicles, implemented by SPEN for their EGL1 convertor station site.
- ➔ Proposed a community reporting portal facility for construction impacts. Work is underway to get this started.
- ➔ Taken part in a site visit to the EGL1 and Branxton substation, haul road and cable route in December.
- ➔ Reviewed and contributed towards responses to the Crystal Rig 1 repower and Berwick Bank Wind Farm onshore cable route applications.

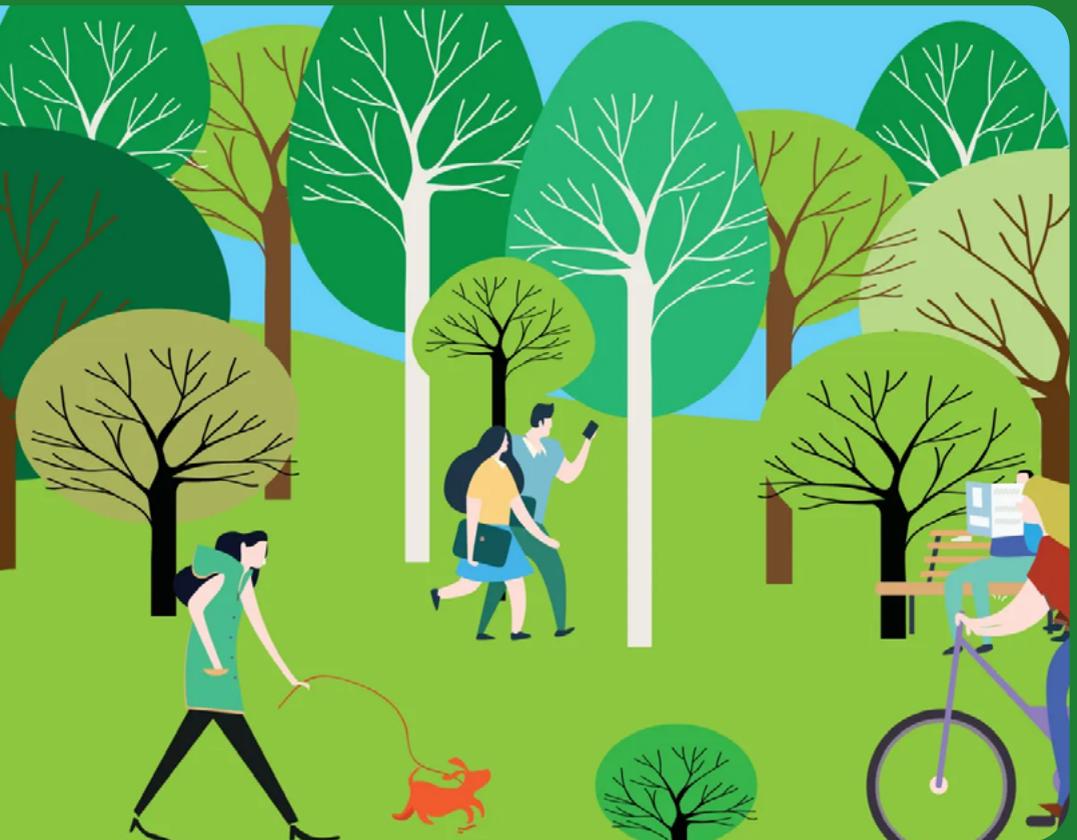
- ➔ Raised concerns on prohibited U-turns and right turns on the A1, which have led to stronger measures to ensure contractors are abiding by their traffic management plans from the ELG1 team.
- ➔ Brought the issue of mud on the road to Birnieknowes, near the junction with the A1, to the attention of the Branxton Substation team, which was swiftly resolved.
- ➔ Inputted into the design of horse laybys around the Branxton substation Bilsdean storage compound, leading to interest from British Horse Society.
- ➔ Hosted Lorries in our Lanes meeting in November for public updates on projects and for residents to raise concerns.

We are a small group of volunteers, but are not community representatives, rather interested residents acting as a “sounding board” for ideas and concerns. We would like to have more members to give a better geographical spread and aid informal communication with neighbours. If you’d like to get involved contact beth@elep.scot

To raise any immediate concerns relating to the impacts of the construction of the energy projects on traffic and travel, please contact the relevant project team (emails on upcoming pages).

For ongoing energy project related issues please contact beth@elep.scot and:

- roadservices@eastlothian.gov.uk (for issues with road conditions or safety on non-trunk roads)
- roadworks@eastlothian.gov.uk (for issues with road closures or traffic management on non-trunk roads)
- nmorgan@eastlothian.gov.uk (for access issues).



Taking forward our community priorities

Over the autumn and winter months East Lammermuir Community Council have hosted a series of 4 workshops, funded by SP Energy Networks, focused on each of our 4 [community ambitions](#), taken from our [Local Place Plan](#):

- ➔ All properties within one kilometre of construction works, haul roads or access routes on public roads should be brought up to a minimum of EPC band C, with any appropriate micro renewables included.
- ➔ A useable, effective Active Travel Network of segregated paths should be planned, designed and built – to include at least one safe crossing over or under the A1 and mainline railway towards the coast and Dunbar

- ➔ A public or community transport service should be re-introduced to link the villages with Cockburnspath and Dunbar
- ➔ An ambitious biodiversity gain plan should be devised, agreed and implemented with maximum use of developer support for local volunteers and other relevant aspects of the plan.

Thank you to all of you who have taken part!

We expect the reports from the workshops to be ready by the end of February and look forward to sharing them with you soon after that. The reports will set out recommendations for taking these ambitions forward through all community benefits and collaborative action.

An update from East Lothian Council

East Lothian Council has appointed consultants ([LUC](#)) to undertake a Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (LSA). This LSA provides judgements on the sensitivity of the landscape within the East Lothian Council area to types of renewable energy developments.

The findings of this assessment will help the Council to guide renewable energy developments to less sensitive parts of the landscape and inform its next Local Development Plan. We will be undertaking a public consultation on the draft assessment in the Spring (details TBC).

Berwick Bank Wind Farm (SSE Renewables)



Berwick Bank Wind Farm has recently achieved a **major milestone** in the Project's development. In January 2026, we were successful in achieving a Contract For Difference (CfD) in the UK Government's recent Allocation Round 7. This milestone secures a route to market for 1.4GW of Berwick Bank Wind Farm's capacity, allowing the project to continue development and aim towards a Final Investment Decision in 2027.

Being successful in this process is a key enabler in allowing offshore wind developments to reach the final stages of development before entering full construction. Alongside this, the Project team are progressing several final applications for onshore consent. This follows East Lothian Council's decision to grant Planning Permission in Principle for our proposed onshore works in December 2023.

These applications will provide key final details regarding our proposals for both onshore cabling works and our substation construction within the East Lammermuir area.

We recently e-mailed several stakeholders, including local residents, with information on the first of these applications, if any local residents did not receive this communication and would like to receive direct updates from the Project team, please reach out to gary.donlin@sse.com with your contact details to be added to our distribution list.

Contact: Gary.Donlin@sse.com

Eastern Green Link 1 Project (SP Energy Networks)

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

As we move into the new year, construction activity on the EGL1 project continues to progress, with works underway across a number of areas.

METLEN – CONVERTER STATION WORKS

Earthworks will be continuing at the converter station, including improving poorquality soil by mixing it with cement.

There will be civil engineering works taking place in the area where the permanent welfare facilities will be located, along with the installation of a retaining wall at the southern side of the converter station plot.

Increased HGV movements to and from the site will be continuing, associated with the current works.

We have now extended our existing permission from East Lothian Council to continue working on Saturdays between 7:30am and 6pm. Our workforce will arrive no earlier than one hour before the start time, and no piling works are currently planned to take place over the weekend.

This extension allows us to continue progressing the required construction activities. We will continue to monitor any potential impacts closely and work within the agreed conditions. The impact on the local community will be carefully assessed as the work progresses.

Contact: contact@eastergreenlink1.co.uk

PRYSMIAN – CABLE INSTALLATION WORKS

Alongside ongoing temporary works, Prysmian has now started permanent construction activities on the EGL1 project in Scotland.

Permanent works are the key elements of the project that will remain in place after construction is complete to provide energy distribution. Temporary works are shortterm structures and measures, such as haul roads, that support the construction of these permanent elements.

These permanent works include Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), a trenchless method of installing cables without disrupting the ground surface. Other permanent works and associated activities scheduled to take place over the project's construction will include open trenching for laying cables, pulling cables into place, and deliveries of cables to site on drums ready for installation.



As a result of these activities, there will be increased construction traffic and traffic management in the area, as well as more visible signs of construction such as larger machinery, open trenching and fencing. Prysmian will continue to inform the public in advance of any potential disruption.

We appreciate the continued patience and understanding of the local community as these works progress.

To help complete the construction of EGL1, some construction activity will move to a seven-day working week. This change applies to civils works such as the construction of haul roads and vegetation clearance, together with Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD). HDD allows us to safely create underground ducts through which we will feed the cable.

This change, which has been approved by East Lothian Council, allows Prysmian to finish the work sooner and minimise disruption to the local community.

It means that some work will now take place on weekends as well as on weekdays. We have also extended our daily working hours.

Our new working hours are Monday to Sunday: 7am – 7pm (Previously our working hours were Monday to Friday: 7.30am – 5pm)

Across the wider EGL1 programme, we remain committed to minimising disruption as construction progresses. We will continue to keep the community informed and will provide updates in advance of any significant forthcoming activities.

Contact:

[**contact@easterngreenlink1.co.uk**](mailto:contact@easterngreenlink1.co.uk)



Branxton Substation (SP Energy Networks)

SP Energy Networks has begun enabling works for the new 400kV Branxton substation located near Innerwick in East Lothian.

Construction work has now commenced at Bilsdean junction and the new slip road from the Northbound A1 carriageway. To support this, welfare cabins have been installed as well as traffic lights on the narrow road sections at Bilsdean and Dunglass bridges to enable material movements through Bilsdean.

Works will be ongoing until May. The current access route will then discontinue, with traffic moving onto the new slip road, junction and existing A1 slip road for access in and out of site.

Traffic lights will also be in place on the C120 from February to w/c 16th March to support a contraflow system to keep the road open. The existing slip road will then close, until the start of April for installation and resurfacing works. Pedestrian access will be maintained.

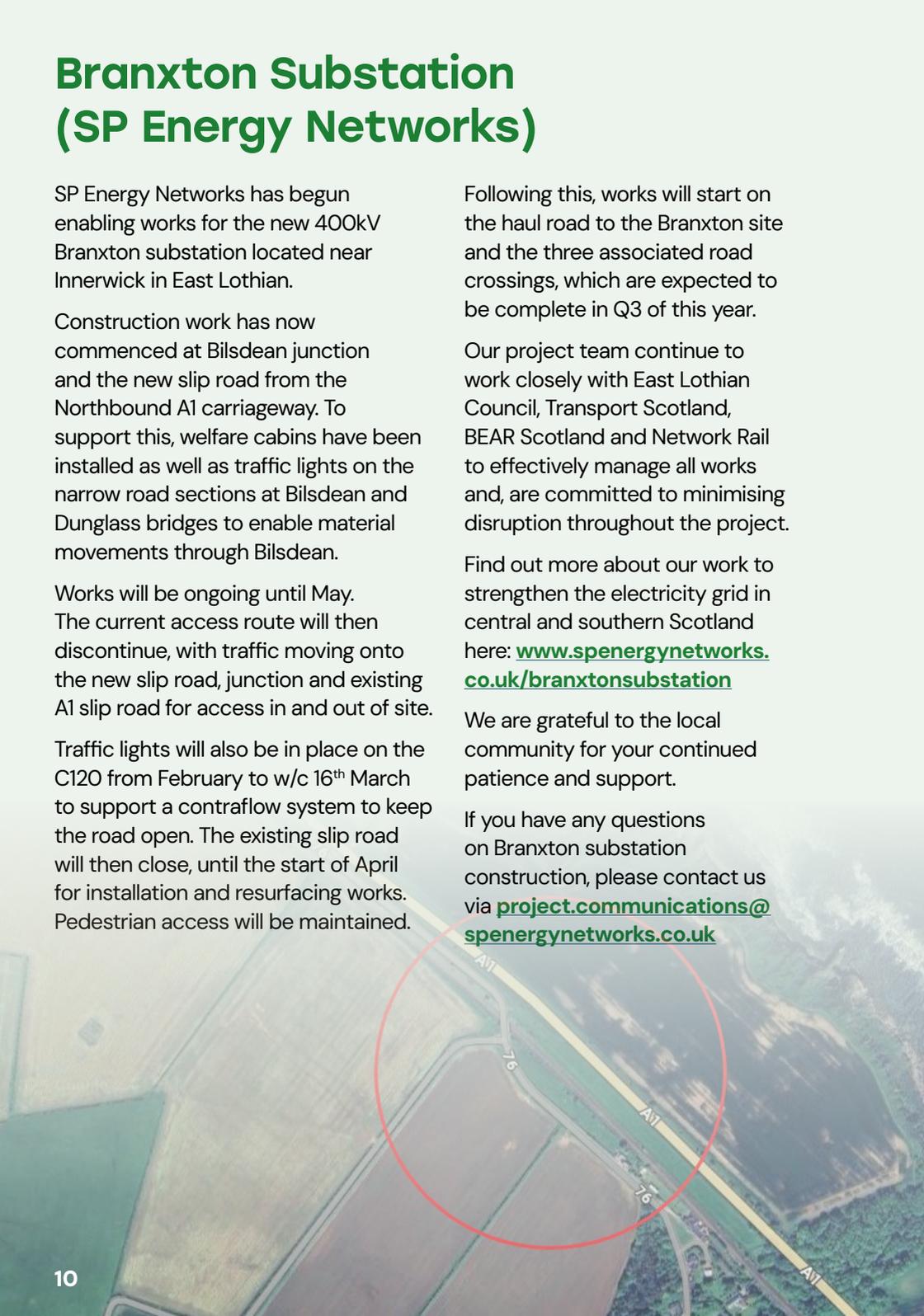
Following this, works will start on the haul road to the Branxton site and the three associated road crossings, which are expected to be complete in Q3 of this year.

Our project team continue to work closely with East Lothian Council, Transport Scotland, BEAR Scotland and Network Rail to effectively manage all works and, are committed to minimising disruption throughout the project.

Find out more about our work to strengthen the electricity grid in central and southern Scotland here: www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/branxtonsubstation

We are grateful to the local community for your continued patience and support.

If you have any questions on Branxton substation construction, please contact us via project.communications@spenergynetworks.co.uk



Crystal Rig 4 Wind Farm (Fred. Olsen Renewables)

Project Update as Works Wind Down

Residents will have noticed a steady reduction in activity on the approach to Crystal Rig as the wind farm project moves into its final phase. Construction is now expected to conclude by the end of March, marking the close of a significant period of work on the hill.

With the major construction tasks complete, the focus has shifted to the remaining finishing works. The project team recently met with East Lothian Council's Roads Department to review the remaining 'pinch-point' improvements required on the public road and to discuss the replanting of trees and hedges along parts of the access route. Further meetings with the council's roads and biodiversity teams are ongoing. Following these discussions, a final schedule of the remaining works on the road 'pinch points'—including the replanting programme—will be shared with the community.

Once construction has fully wrapped up, a comprehensive survey will be undertaken on the public access road. This will ensure that East Lothian Council receives appropriate compensation for any wear or damage to the public access road caused by Crystal Rig 4 site traffic—an important step in restoring the route.

As part of the demobilisation process, the temporary averagespeed cameras on the public road were removed at the end of January. Originally installed for a six-month trial in April 2025, they remained in place until all abnormal loads had safely reached the site.

Finally, Fred. Olsen Renewables extends its gratitude to the community for enduring any delays or disturbances we may have caused during the construction of the project.

Contact: communities@fredolsen.com





Fred. Olsen Renewables

