How do I make comments or find out more information?

Your feedback is an important part in helping SP Energy Networks to finalise the proposed route which considers technical, economic and environmental issues along with landowner and public opinion.

Our consultation will run for four weeks from **Monday 27th September 2021** to **Sunday 24th October 2021.** The closing date for you to send your responses to us is midnight on **Sunday 31st October 2021**. Following this date, the information will remain accessible online and available to download.

Please find below the best ways to find out more or talk to us.

Visit the online virtual exhibition from Monday 27th September 2021:

www.galaecclesohl.co.uk

In normal circumstances, we would engage with communities face-to-face through drop-in public exhibitions, however, given current social distancing advice, this is not possible. Therefore, we have prepared an online virtual consultation to replicate an in-person village hall experience. Here you can see detailed maps, read about the proposals, download the project information as a pdf, and provide feedback via the online questionnaire.

Visit the website:

www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/galashiels-eccles

Our dedicated website has lots more information. You can view or download all the project documents, including this leaflet, on the website.

Talk to us:

We will be on hand to answer any questions you may have via the live chat service on the virtual exhibition room on the following dates:

Monday 27th September from 2pm-4pm
Tuesday 28th September from 10am-12pm
Wednesday 29th September from 5pm-7pm.

Email us: **GalaEcclesOHL@spenergynetworks.co.uk**

Write to us: Galashiels to Eccles 132kV Replacement Project
Land and Planning Team
SP Energy Networks, 55 Fullarton Drive, Glasgow, G32 8FA

What happens next

- **A** Gathering of Feedback from Public Consultation to identify 'Proposed Route'
- **B** Request Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Opinion from Scottish Government.
- **C** Undertake Environmental Surveys as part of EIA
- **D** Identification of Final OHL alignment and associated infrastructure for new and existing OHLs
- **E** Undertake EIA for the Construction and Operation of New OHL and Removal of Existing OHLs
- **F** Submit Section 37 Application for Consent to Scottish Government with EIA Report (circa late 2023)
- **G** Discharge of Planning Conditions (if consent is granted)
- **H** Construction of Project

Thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet.

SP ENERGY NETWORKS

Galashiels to Eccles 132kV OHL Replacement Project

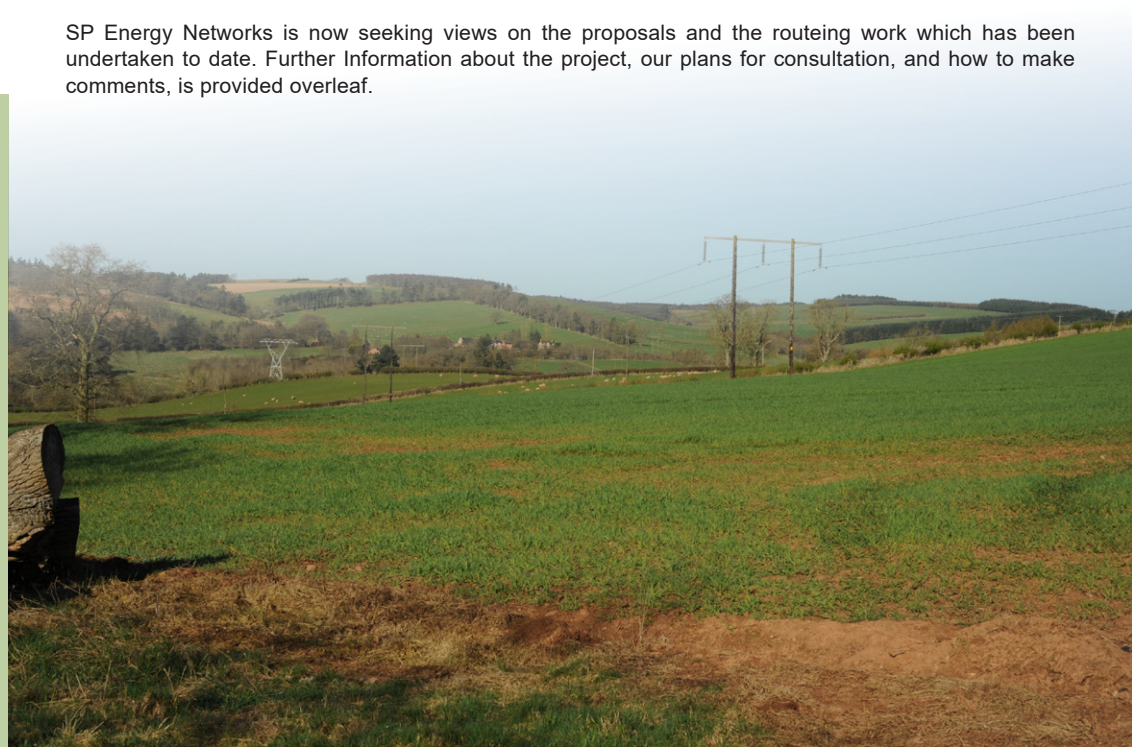
Public Consultation Leaflet

Background

SP Energy Networks, as the electricity transmission and distribution licence holder for central and southern Scotland, plans to replace the existing transmission infrastructure between Galashiels and Eccles substations in the Scottish Borders. This replacement will be to ensure that there is sufficient electricity transmission capacity in the network in the area.

The project will involve the construction and operation of a new 132 kilovolt (kV) overhead line (OHL) on steel towers and the removal of two existing 132 kV OHLs ('AT' and 'U' routes) which currently secure the supplies between the Galashiels and Eccles substations. This, collectively, is to be known as the 'Galashiels to Eccles 132kV OHL Replacement Project'.

SP Energy Networks is now seeking views on the proposals and the routeing work which has been undertaken to date. Further Information about the project, our plans for consultation, and how to make comments, is provided overleaf.

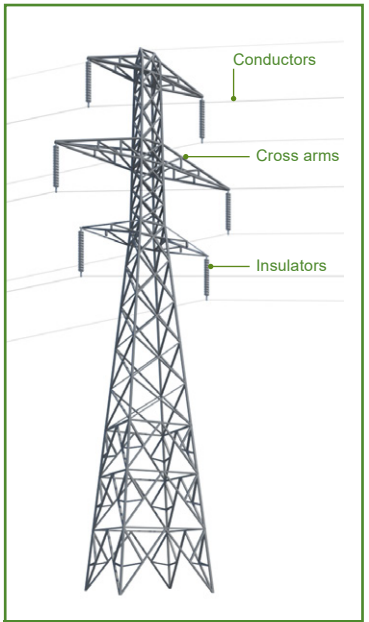


What will the Overhead Line look like?

The replacement OHL will be a double circuit 132kV OHL approximately 30 km in length, supported on 'L7' steel lattice towers. The towers will have six cross-arms (three on each side) and a standard design height of 27 metres (m) above ground. The section of OHL between the steel towers is known as the 'span'. Span lengths between the steel towers will average between 250m and 350m but can be increased if there is a requirement to span something such as a watercourse. Like the existing 'U' route, the towers will be fabricated from galvanised steel which will turn a dull grey colour after about 18 months. For technical reasons, a section of underground cable is also likely to form part of the connection as it enters into the Eccles substation.

To maintain the electricity supplies in the area whilst the new OHL is being constructed, the existing 'AT' and 'U' routes will continue to be operational. Only after the new replacement OHL is fully installed and operational, will the existing OHLs be decommissioned and removed.

The decommissioning of the 'AT' route will require the removal of 30 km of existing single and double circuit 132kV OHL, comprising of single circuit double wood pole (average height of 14 m), single circuit steel lattice tower and double circuit steel lattice tower (average height of 22 m). The decommissioning of the 'U' route will require the removal of 26 km of existing single circuit 132kV OHL comprising of single circuit 132kV steel lattice towers (average height of 22 m).



Typical 132kV 'L7' steel lattice tower

Routeing

SP Energy Networks has been working with independent environmental consultants to identify options for potential routes for the replacement OHL. Our objective is to identify a route for the replacement OHL which meets the technical requirements of the electricity system, which are economically viable and cause, on balance, the least disturbance to the environment and the people who live, work and enjoy recreation within it.

Following an established best practice methodology for routeing OHLs, three route options were identified for the replacement OHL. Each of the route options were given a numerical reference: 1a, 1b, 2 and 3[1]. The route options have the same connection points, i.e. between Eccles substation and Galashiels substation.

The three route options were appraised against environmental and technical criteria, including local landscape character and views, cultural heritage, biodiversity, topography, proximity to existing OHLs and route length to identify the preferred route. The preferred route is the one which achieves the best overall balance between limiting impacts on the environment and people, whilst also meeting SP Energy Networks' technical requirements.

[1] Whilst Route Option 1 is split into two parts (a and b), it has been treated as one route rather than two, hence the reference to three route options in total instead of four.

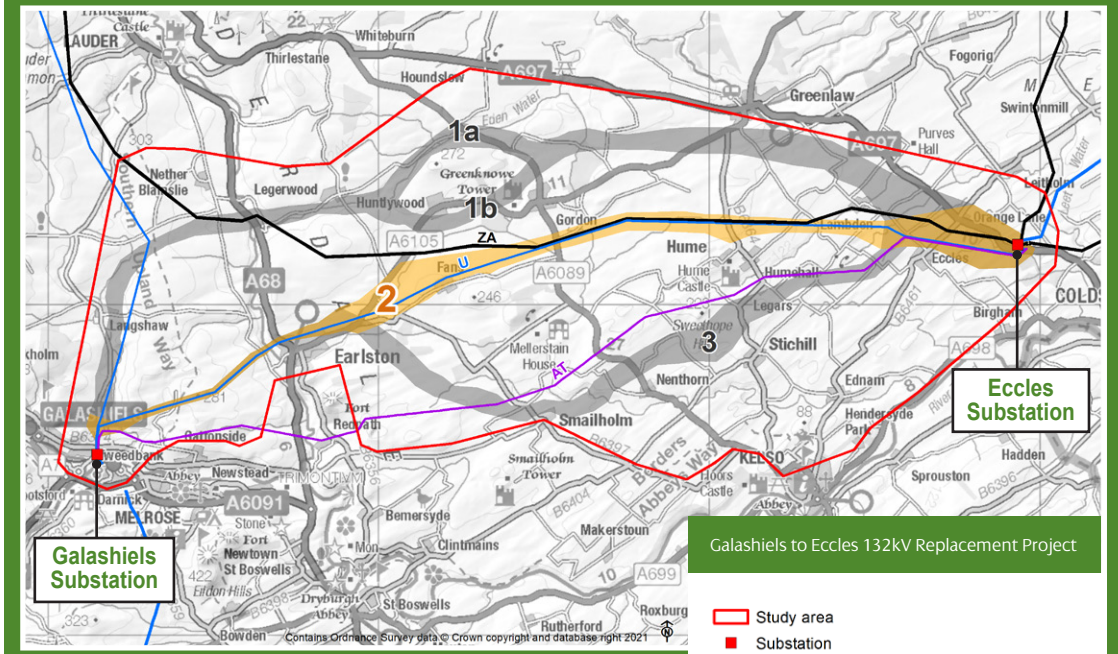
More information about the process we have followed to identify and appraise route options to select the preferred route can be found in our Routeing and Consultation Document (September 2021). This is available at: www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/userfiles/file/SPEN_Approach_to_Routeing_Document_2nd_version.pdf.

Routeing Methodology

- **A** Identification of Routeing Study Area
- **B** Desk Based Surveys and Mapping of Routeing Considerations
- **C** Identification of Route Options
- **D** Mapping of Appraisal Considerations and Environmental Appraisal of Route Options
- **E** Technical Review
- **F** Identification of Preferred Route
- **G** Consultation

Proposed Route for Environmental Appraisal

Galashiels to Eccles 132kV OHL Replacement Project



Galashiels to Eccles 132kV Replacement Project

- Study area
- Substation
- Existing 132kV overhead line ('AT' route)
- Existing 132kV overhead line ('U' route)
- Existing 400kV overhead line ('ZA' route)
- Route options

The Preferred Route

- 132kV connection route (Route option 2)

SP Energy Networks is committed to engaging with stakeholders, including local communities, through the consultation process, and your feedback will be used to review the routeing findings and inform the next steps in the Galashiels to Eccles 132kV OHL Replacement Project.

What we would like your views on?

As part of the consultation we would particularly like your views on:

1. The preferred route (Route Option 2) for the Galashiels to Eccles 132kV OHL Replacement Project.
2. Any of the alternative route options we considered during the routeing process.
3. Any other issues, suggestions or feedback you would like us to consider. We would particularly like to hear your views on your local area, for example areas you use for recreation, local environmental features you would like us to consider, and any plans you may have to build in proximity to the preferred route.

Please note comments at this stage are informal comments and are made to allow SP Energy Networks to determine whether changes to the preferred route are necessary. An opportunity to comment formally to the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit (ECU) will follow at a later stage in the process following submission of the Section 37 application.