Welcome

Welcome and thank you for coming along to find out more about the **Galashiels to Eccles 132 kilovolt (kV) Overhead Line Replacement Project.**

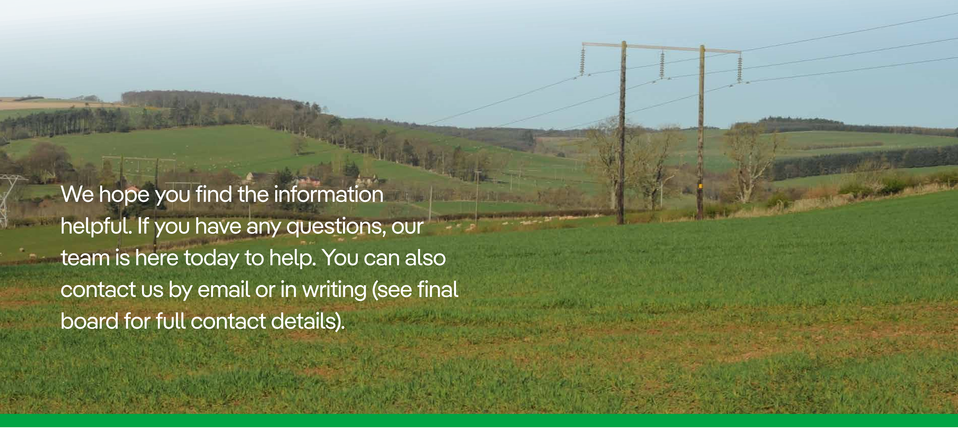
At this event, you will be able to:

- Learn about SP Energy Networks
- Find out more about the project
- Learn about the consultation we've carried out to date and what has happened since
- View the proposal we intend to submit for consent
- Find out about the next steps

The consultation events are being held at the following dates and times:

Date	Location
Tuesday 2nd September Between 2pm -7pm	**Gordon Village Hall,** Main Street, Gordon, TD3 6JP
Wednesday 3rd September Between 2pm -7pm	**Leitholm Village Hall,** Main Street, Leitholm, Coldstream, TD12 4JL
Thursday 4th September Between 2pm -7pm	**Langlee Community Centre,** Marigold Drive, Galashiels, TD1 2LP

All exhibition materials are also available online at:
www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/galashiels-eccles



We hope you find the information helpful. If you have any questions, our team is here today to help. You can also contact us by email or in writing (see final board for full contact details).

Galashiels to Eccles 132kV Overhead Line Replacement Project

For more information on SP Energy Networks, please scan the QR code or visit our website at:
www.spenenergynetworks.co.uk

Who are 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, North Wales, Merseyside, Cheshire and North Shropshire. We do this through our network of overhead lines and underground cables, which we own and maintain.

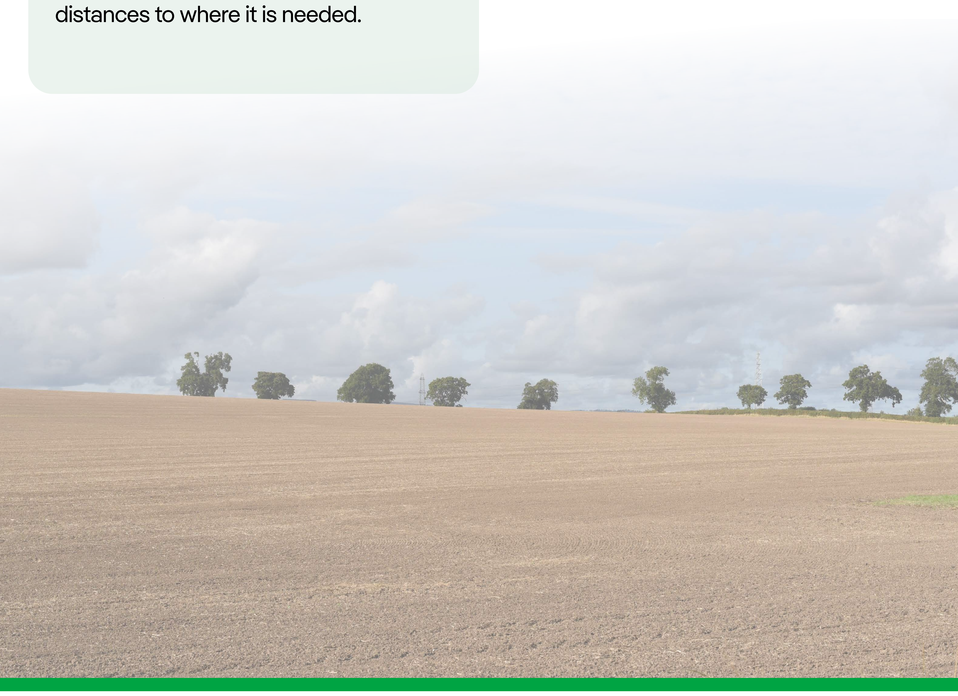
Our three regulated electricity businesses are:

- SP Transmission PLC (SPT)
- SP Distribution PLC (SPD)
- SP Manweb PLC (SPM)

Today's focus is our transmission network, which we operate in Central and Southern Scotland through SP Transmission. Think of it as an electricity 'superhighway', carrying high-voltage electricity generated from power stations, wind farms and other sources over long distances to where it is needed.

Key facts about our network:

- Over 4,500km of overhead lines and 600km of underground cables in our transmission network.
- More than 150 substations and 100 grid supply points in our transmission network, where high-voltage electricity is stepped down for distribution to homes and businesses.
- We serve over 3.5 million homes and businesses across the South of Scotland, North Wales and the North-West of England.
- We have responsibility for over 105,000km of overhead lines and underground cables across both our transmission and distribution networks.



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What is the project and why is it needed?

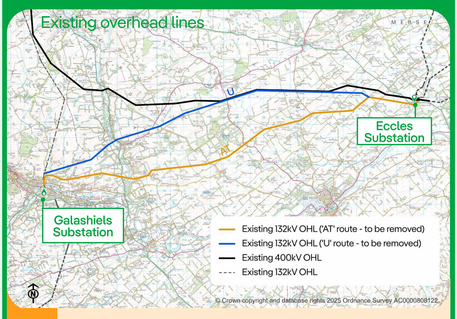
There are two existing overhead lines (OHL), known as the 'AT' route and 'U' route, which currently secure the supply of electricity to homes and businesses between Galashiels substation and Eccles substation. These are shown on the figure below. These routes are ageing and need to be replaced to ensure this part of the network remains reliable, resilient and capable of meeting future demand.

To achieve this, SP Energy Networks is proposing to replace these lines with a new overhead line that combines both electricity circuits of the existing routes. This will reduce the number of overhead lines in the landscape whilst upgrading the network. A short section of the line will be undergrounded at the Galashiels substation end.

To maintain electricity supply during construction of the new route, the existing 'AT' and 'U' routes will remain operational. Once the new route is constructed and energised, the existing routes will be safely removed and the ground reinstated.

The construction of the replacement line and removal of the existing 'AT' and 'U' routes form the **Galashiels to Eccles Overhead Line Replacement Project.**

About the existing 132kV routes



'AT' route

- Approximately 30km in length
- Supported by a mix of 167 double wood poles and single and double circuit steel lattice towers
- Wood poles have an average height of 14m and towers have an average height of 22m
- Average span length (i.e. distance between towers/ poles) is 190m

'U' route

- Approximately 26km in length
- Supported by 93 single circuit steel lattice towers
- Tower heights range from 18m to 30m (average 22m)
- Average span length is 274m

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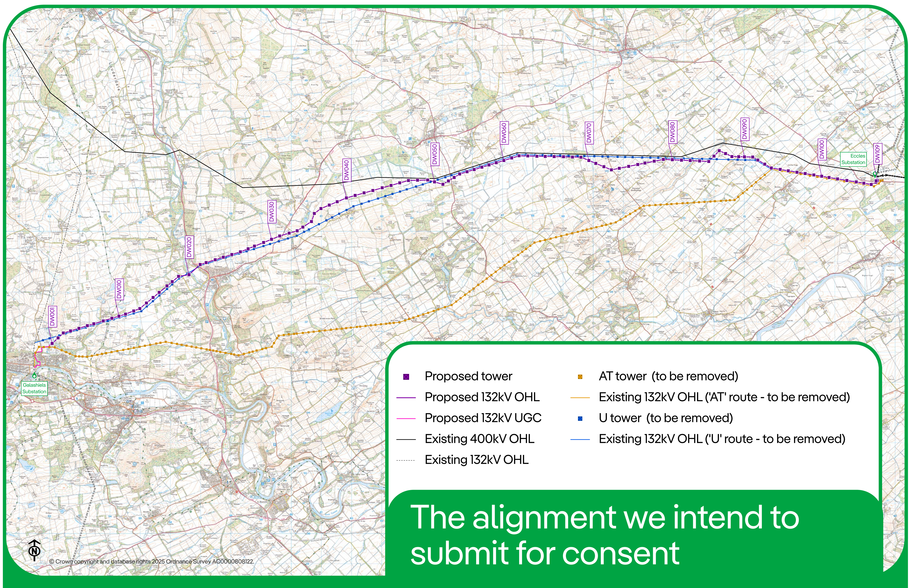
About the new 132kV overhead line

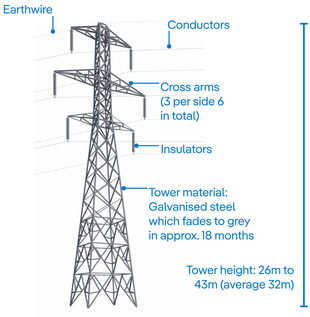


The alignment we intend to submit for consent

About the new 132kV overhead line

The replacement overhead line will be approximately 30km in length and will be supported by 109 steel lattice towers. The towers will be primarily an 'L7' design (see image of a typical L7 tower opposite). Two 'L8' towers will be used where a wider span (i.e. the distance between the towers) is required, and there will also be one junction tower. The average span will be 275m (maximum 500m).

A short underground cable (UGC) section, around 1.5km in length, will connect to Galashiels substation from the terminal tower near Easter Langlee Landfill and Waste Transfer Station. Temporary infrastructure such as working areas, access tracks and storage areas will be required during construction. The new overhead line is expected to operate for approximately 80 years.



Typical 132kV 'L7' steel lattice tower

To ensure the safe operation of the new overhead line, an 80m-wide wayleave corridor will be established. For the underground section, a 25m-wide servitude corridor will be required, however, this could be wider during construction in some places.

All forestry within the wayleave will be removed before construction begins. No ancient woodland will be affected, as the alignment has been designed to avoid these areas. Compensatory planting will be carried out in a suitable alternative location.

Galashiels to Eccles 132kV Overhead Line Replacement Project

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Journey So Far

September 2021

Routeing and Consultation Report Published

Four potential route options were initially identified for the new overhead line. These were comparatively appraised against a range of environmental, technical, social and economic criteria and Route Option 2 was chosen as the preferred route. The results were published in a Routeing and Consultation Report.

September -October 2021

Public Consultation (Online)

An online virtual consultation was held (due to the Covid-19 pandemic) to share the findings of the routeing work and to gather feedback from the public, landowners and consultee organisations on the preferred route and the proposals.

February 2022

Feedback Considered and Proposed Route Confirmed

All feedback was reviewed and Route Option 2 was confirmed as the Proposed Route to take forward. A summary of the feedback received was shared in a Consultation Feedback Report.

March 2023

EIA Scoping Request Submitted

We prepared and submitted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report to the Scottish Government to agree the environmental assessment approach.

June 2023

EIA Scoping Opinion Received

The Scottish Government provided its formal opinion on the scope of the EIA.

June 2023-Now

Detailed Design and Environmental Surveys

We have refined the alignment of the replacement overhead line. This has been informed by environmental surveys, engineering work and ongoing engagement with landowners and consultees, including Scottish Borders Council.

Now Spring 2026

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

An EIA will be undertaken, which will identify any likely significant environmental effects of the project and mitigation requirements. The results will be published in an EIA Report which will be submitted in support of the application for consent (under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989) in Spring 2026.

To view or download key project documents, scan the QR code or visit our dedicated Galashiels to Eccles 132kV Overhead Line Replacement Project website at:

www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/galashiels-eccles

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Refining the design

The proposed alignment of the replacement overhead line has been informed by the initial routeing work, baseline environmental desk and field surveys, engineering studies and engagement with landowners and consultee organisations including Scottish Borders Council, SEPA, NatureScot and Historic Environment Scotland.

A range of environmental, technical and land use considerations have been considered during the design process including:

Hydrology and peat

including watercourses, flood risk and peat

Cultural heritage

including designated and non-designated heritage assets such as Hume Castle and Mellerstain Garden and Designed Landscape

Ecology and Ornithology (birds)

including designated sites such as the River Tweed Special Area of Conservation

Landscape and visual amenity

including landscape designations and visual impacts on local views, including from residential properties

Forestry and woodland

including native and ancient woodland

Noise

including proximity to residential properties

Existing land use

including interaction with existing land uses and agricultural land

Technical considerations

including proximity to existing electricity infrastructure to minimise line crossings and interactions; and topography, slope and elevation to ensure construction is feasible

Galashiels to Eccles
132kV Overhead Line Replacement Project

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What the new 132kV OHL line could look like

Project visualisations

We've worked with experienced landscape architects to help design the new overhead line in a way that minimises potential visual impacts, including on residential properties.

As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) will be prepared to assess any likely significant landscape and visual effects of the proposal. This assessment will be supported by a number of computer-generated visualisations, called 'photomontages', which show what the proposed overhead line could look like from a range of key viewpoints. These viewpoints have been selected as they are considered to represent the types of views people may have of the proposed development.

On the following boards, you will find photomontages for the following viewpoints:

- Viewpoint 3: Hume Castle
- Viewpoint 5: A6105, near Gordon
- Viewpoint 7: Near Everest Road, Earlston

These include photographs of the existing view (i.e. the baseline), a photowire highlighting the location of the proposed replacement overhead line, and a rendered visualisation (i.e. photomontage) of the proposed overhead line with the existing 'AT' and 'U' routes removed.

We have also developed an interactive viewer where you can view additional visualisations for the proposal.

You can use this tool here at the exhibition, or view this from the project website at:

www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/galashiels-eccles

Galashiels to Eccles
132kV Overhead Line Replacement Project

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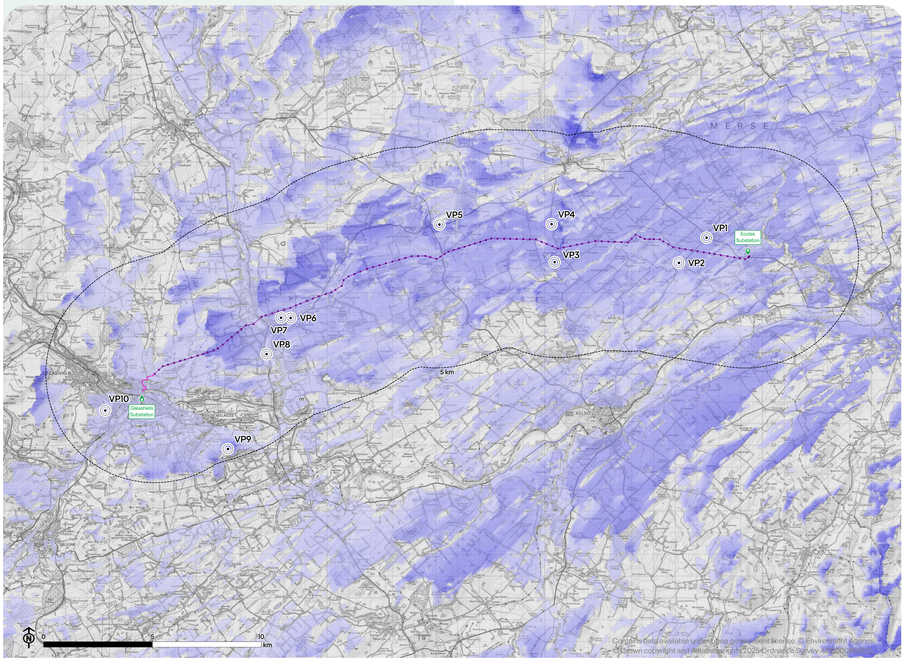
What the new overhead line could look like

The viewpoint locations are shown below, along with other viewpoints that are proposed for inclusion in the EIA.



Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

- Proposed tower
- Proposed overhead line
- Proposed 132kV UGC
- 5 km from proposed overhead line

Zone of theoretical visibility

More towers visible
Less towers visible

Viewpoint

1: A697, Orange Lane
2: B6461, Eccles
3: Hume Castle
4: B6364, north of Hume
5: A6105, near Gordon
6: A6105, Earlston
7: Near Everest Road, Earlston
8: A68, south of Earlston
9: North Eildon Hill
10: Southern Upland Way, near Galashiels

Notes:
The zone of theoretical visibility is calculated to maximum tower structure heights from a viewing height of 2 m above ground level. Terrain data assumes bare earth and is derived from OST5 data (obtained from Emapsite 2025) and DEFRA Lidar 1 m DTM (obtained from DEFRA 2025, resampled to 5 m resolution.

Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account.

The software used to calculate the ZTV is ArcGIS Pro 3.4.0.

The figure also shows the maximum area where the proposed overhead line could theoretically be visible in the landscape, although this does not take into account any screening from buildings, trees or other features that may limit visibility in reality.

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132kV Overhead Line Replacement Project

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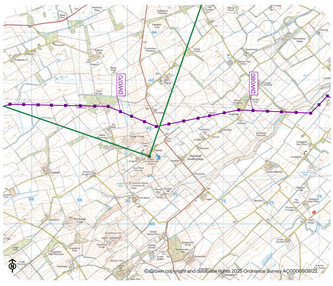
Viewpoint 3

Hume Castle

OS reference: 370458 E 641407 N

Direction of view: 334°



Baseline photograph

Photowire

Photomontage

The baseline photograph shows the existing view. The photowire highlights the proposed alignment. The photomontage shows the rendered visualisation of the proposed alignment with the existing 'AT' and 'U' routes removed.

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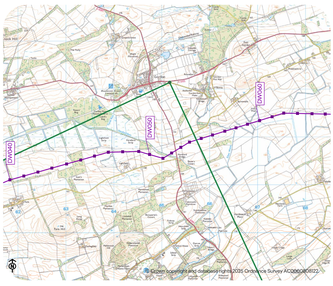
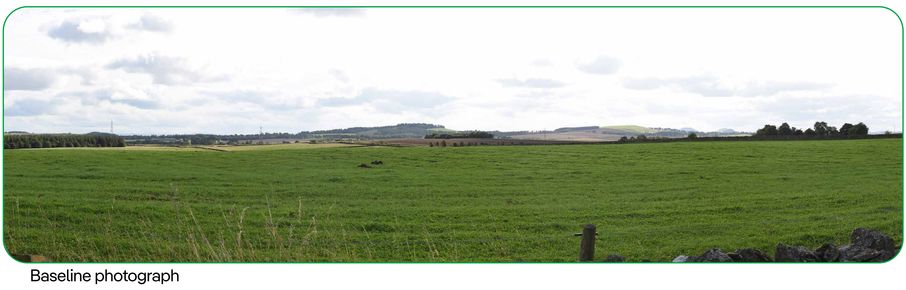
Viewpoint 5

A6105, near Gordon

OS reference: 365166 E 643135 N

Direction of view: 200°





Baseline photograph

Photowire

Photomontage

The baseline photograph shows the existing view. The photowire highlights the proposed alignment. The photomontage shows the rendered visualisation of the proposed alignment with the existing 'AT' and 'U' routes removed.

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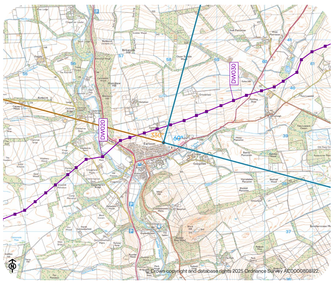
Viewpoint 7

Near Everest Road, Earlston

OS reference: 357891 E 638856 N

Direction of view: 60°

Direction of view: 330°



Baseline photograph

Photowire

Photomontage

Baseline photograph

Photowire

Photomontage

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Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is being carried out to assess how the project may impact the environment and to identify ways to avoid, reduce or offset any likely significant adverse effects.

The results will be presented in an EIA Report, which will support of the application for Section 37 consent. You will be able to view and comment on the report during the Scottish Government's formal consultation, following submission of the application.

What the EIA will cover?

Landscape and Visual Amenity

A detailed Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) will assess the impacts of the proposal on the local landscape and visual amenity. This includes impact from selected viewpoints, nearby settlements and transport and recreational routes. It will also consider cumulative effects with other infrastructure and the potential positive visual impact from removing the existing 'AT' and 'U' routes.

Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Peat

The EIA will assess impacts on hydrology (including watercourses and private water supplies), hydrogeology (groundwater) and peat. Any effects associated with the removal of the existing 'AT' and 'U' routes will also be considered appropriately.

Noise

An assessment of operational noise effects on properties will be undertaken to demonstrate that anticipated noise levels are acceptable in accordance with best practice guidelines. Noise surveys have already been undertaken and low operational noise impacts are expected but this will be confirmed as part of the study.

Ecology and Ornithology (Birds)

The ecology and ornithology assessments will consider impacts on designated sites, important habitats, legally protected species and notable birds of high conservation importance. It will also identify any necessary mitigation, while informing wider proposals to achieve biodiversity enhancement through the project.

Cultural Heritage

The cultural heritage assessment will consider impacts on known and potential heritage assets, including the possibility of discovering buried archaeological remains during construction. It will also consider any potential positive impacts from removing the existing 'AT' and 'U' routes. The assessment will be supported by visualisations.

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Next Steps

Spring 2026

Submit Application for Consent

The application for Section 37 consent will be submitted to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit (ECU) for determination by Scottish Ministers. This will be supported by the EIA Report which will also be made available to view on our website.

Spring 2026-Spring 2027

Application Consultation and Determination Period

The Scottish Government will carry out a final round of statutory consultation before a decision is made on the application. During this stage, the public, consultee bodies and other stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide feedback directly to the Scottish Government on the proposal. A decision by Scottish Ministers is expected by Spring 2027.

Spring 2028

Start of Construction

If consented, construction of the new line is anticipated to start early 2028, after discharging any conditions attached to the Section 37 consent.

Autumn 2030

Construction Completion

Construction of the new line is anticipated to be completed by Autumn 2030.

Spring 2031

Existing Routes Removed

The existing 'AT' and 'U' routes are anticipated to be dismantled by Spring 2031.

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Get in Touch

We place great importance on informing communities and stakeholders about our projects.

The purpose of these events is to provide an update on the project and to share the alignment we intend to submit for consent before the Section 37 application is submitted. There will be an opportunity to comment on the proposals formally to the Scottish Government once the application has been submitted.

Thank you for taking the time to visit this public exhibition. We appreciate your interest and input.

How to Get in Touch?

If you have any questions or would like more information, our team are here today to help.

You can also get in touch using the contact details below.

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

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

The information presented here today is also available to view and download from our dedicated Galashiels to Eccles 132kV Overhead Line Replacement Project website at:

www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/galashiels-eccles

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