

# Galashiels to Eccles 132kV Overhead Line Replacement Project

# We'd like to update you on our proposals

SP Energy Networks will be applying for consent to replace the existing overhead electricity network between Galashiels substation and Eccles substation in the Scottish Borders.

We invite you to attend our upcoming drop-in sessions to find out more about the project, meet the project team and learn about the next steps.

# 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.

# What is the project and why is it needed?

There are two existing overhead lines, 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 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 single new overhead line that combines both electricity circuits of the existing routes. A short section of the line will be undergrounded at the Galashiels substation end. Once the replacement line is operational, the existing 'AT' and 'U' routes will be removed entirely. This will reduce the number of overhead lines in the landscape while upgrading the network.

# Journey so far

September

September-October

February

March 2023

#### Routeing and Consultation Report **Published**

Four potential route options for the new overhead line were identified and appraised against environmental and technical criteria. Route Option 2 was selected as the preferred route.

#### Online Public Consultation

Virtual events were held to share the findings of the routeing work and gather feedback from the public, landowners and consultee organisations on the preferred route and the proposals.

#### Feedback Considered and Proposed **Route Confirmed**

Route Option 2 was confirmed as the Proposed Route after reviewing consultation feedback. This feedback was summarised in a Consultation Feedback Report.

#### **EIA Scoping Request Submitted**

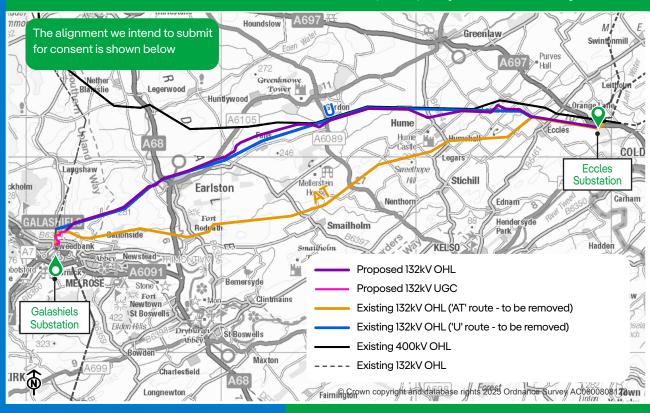
An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report was submitted to the Scottish Government to agree the environmental assessment approach.

#### **EIA Scoping Opinion Received**

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

All documents referenced are available to view or download from the project website www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/galashiels-eccles

# Galashiels to Eccles 132kV Overhead Line (OHL) Replacement Project



# About the existing 'AT' and 'U' routes to be removed

The existing 'AT' route is approximately 30km in length and supported by a mix of wood poles and steel lattice towers. The existing 'U' route is supported by steel lattice towers, similar to the proposed replacement line. The towers on the 'AT' and 'U' routes have an average height of 22m, whereas the wood poles on the 'AT' route average 14m. The average span (i.e. the distance between the towers/wood poles) for the existing 'U' and 'AT' routes is 274m and 190m, respectively.

### Detailed Design and Environmental Surveys

June 2023-Now

**Spring 2026** 

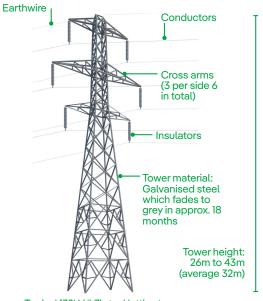
The alignment of the replacement line has been informed by environmental surveys, engineering studies and consultation with landowners and consultee bodies including Scottish Borders Council.

# Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

An EIA will be undertaken to identify any likely significant environmental effects of the project and mitigation requirements. The findings will be presented in an EIA Report, which will support the application for consent in Spring 2026.

# About the new 132kV overhead line

The new 132kV overhead line (OHL) will be approximately 30km in length and will be primarily supported by 'L7' steel lattice towers. Two 'L8' towers will be used where a wider span (i.e. distance between the towers) is required, and there will also be one junction tower. The average span will be around 275m (maximum 500m). A short underground cable (UGC) section, around 1.5km in length, will connect to Galashiels substation. Temporary infrastructure such as working areas, access tracks and storage areas will be required during construction. The illustration shows a typical 'L7' tower and the project-specific dimensions.



Typical 132kV 'L7' steel lattice tower

#### **Public exhibitions**

We are holding three drop-in events where you can learn more about the project and speak with the project team. Everyone is welcome and no appointment is needed.

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

#### Online information

For more information or to download key project documents, please scan the QR code to visit our dedicated project website at:

www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/galashiels-eccles

The exhibition materials for our upcoming events will also be made available online from 2nd September 2025.

### How to get in touch?

Email: GalaEcclesOHL@

spenergynetworks.co.uk

Post: Galashiels to Eccles

132kV OHL Replacement Project

Land and Planning Team SP Energy Networks

55 Fullarton Drive

Cambuslang

Glasgow, G32 8FA

### What happens next

After the Section 37 application is submitted in Spring 2026, there will be a formal consultation period where you can comment directly to the Scottish Government's Energy Consents Unit on the proposals.

For more information about SP Energy Networks, please visit our website:

www.spenergynetworks.co.uk

It is currently anticipated that:

The application will be determined by Spring 2027

If consented, construction of the new line will start early in 2028

Construction of the new line will be completed by Autumn 2030

Dismantling of the existing 'U' and 'AT' routes will be completed by Spring 2031

Thank you for taking the time to read our leaflet. We hope to see you soon at one of the events!