



**SP ENERGY
NETWORKS**

Transmission Cables Overhead/Underground Guidance



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There are two ways of transporting electricity around the country.

- 1. Overhead conductors**
- 2. Underground cables.**

To identify ScottishPower apparatus in the area of your proposed works or development site a ScottishPower utility map requires to be consulted prior to works taking place.

All requests for information highlighting the location of ScottishPower apparatus should be sent to:

SP Energy Networks
Data Management (Scotland)
Correspondence Section
55 Fullerton Drive,
Cambuslang, Glasgow.
G32 8FA

SP Energy Networks
Data Management (England & Wales)
Correspondence Section
Prenton Way
Prenton, Birkenhead
CH43 3ET

or

e-mail:- requestforplansscotland@sppowersystems.com
 requestforplansmanweb@manweb.co.uk

On our maps overhead conductor circuits are indicated by a dotted line, underground circuits are indicated by a solid line. The line voltage is determined from the line colour. Please note there could be both overhead and underground circuits in your area.

Overhead Conductors

"Under the Health and Safety document GS6, any work within 15*metres of an overhead line on steel towers, and 9*metres on wooden poles, the line owner requires to be consulted for safe working advice."

This advice is separate from any distances held in ScottishPower deeds of servitude or wayleave agreements or whoever owns the land.

Before any work takes place near to the overhead apparatus/plant ScottishPower Energy Networks should be contacted regarding GS6 (HSE overhead line safe working advice). Telephone ScottishPower call centre on 0845 273 4444 to progress enquiry.

When phoning the call centre it is helpful if the following is known

- Place of proposed work
- Address
- Postcode
- Line and tower number
- Outline map of the area which can be e-mailed
- Line voltage (this can be found from ScottishPower utility maps) o Distribution voltage, these are voltages less than 33kv (33000v)
- Transmission voltage, these are voltages greater than 132kv (132000v)
- Steel tower (pylon) or wooden pole line.

Please note that there are statutory clearance requirements which can only be advised once all facts are known.

Underground circuits

There are 3 main categories of underground circuits used by ScottishPower.

- Transmission power cable
- Distribution power cable
- Pilot cable (These can be either distribution or transmission).

Underground cables are covered by “Health and Safety Guidance HSG47”.

Transmission Power Circuits

Transmission circuits can either be oil or gas insulated or a type known as xlpe. Transmission circuits are usually but not always, 3 individual cables per circuit.

When a transmission power circuit is identified in your work or development area, then ScottishPower requires to be contacted for further advice and guidance. There is “street furniture” associated with these types of cable. “Street furniture” could comprise of oil or gas tanks, breather tanks, fill bays, joint bays. The areas for this equipment can be up to 20metres long x 10metres wide.

ScottishPower recommends that for guidance no work within 5 meters of a transmission cable takes place until further guidance is sought from ScottishPower.

Telephone ScottishPower call centre on 0845 273 4444 to progress enquiry.

When phoning the call centre it is helpful if the following is known

- Place of proposed work.
- Address
- Postcode
- Outline map of the area which can be e-mailed to the call centre

Please note that for all transmission underground circuits no building work can be carried out on top of the cables.

Distribution Power Circuits

Distribution circuits can also comprise of one or three cables. There are joint bays associated with distribution underground cables. Further advice can be obtained by calling 0845 273 4444.

Pilot Circuits

Pilot circuits are communication cables that run from grid/sub station to grid/sub station. General advice for locating all circuits/cables this shall be carried out using the guidance given in HSG 47.

- Locate the cable using an approved underground cable locator device in conjunction with ScottishPower cable records.
- Prove the cable located by a) is the correct cable by hand digging until the tiles that cover the cable are located. **Do not remove any tiles. This should be done in several locations to prove the cable route. Several excavations may be required especially if the cable route changes line of direction.**
- S.P.E.N. Asks that they are informed at least 7 days before excavation starts.
- Immediately on finding a 'Transmission cable' its position should be marked and the cable covered.
- No 'Transmission cables' shall be left uncovered overnight and/or unattended.
- ScottishPower Energy Networks may wish to provide a standby person to supervise the identification procedure.