



**SP ENERGY  
NETWORKS**

## Case Study: Supporting ScottishPower cables



The above image is a good example of the preferred method of supporting ScottishPower cables.

The task was to install large diameter pipes below the HV cable at various locations on this substantial project. After discussions with ScottishPower the above process was put in place by the contractor with the pipes being installed successfully and the cables being supported to ScottishPower requirements. Requirements for supporting cables on this project included, steel beam, split ducting, ratchet straps placed every 1 metre, and of course the main requirement being contact/dialogue between two companies, bringing together a safe method statement and system of work.

No ScottishPower cables to be supported at any time without ScottishPower authorisation.

Prior to any excavations taking place cable records should always be consulted.

All SP Energy Networks cable record enquiries are to be directed to the relevant North or South Data Management team.

**All Cable Record enquiries should be addressed to:**

**SP Energy Networks (North)**

Data Management  
(Correspondence)  
55 Fullerton Drive  
Cambuslang  
Glasgow G32 8FD

t: 0141 567 4155 or 0141 567 4455

e: Requestforplansscotland  
@scottishpower.com

**SP Energy Networks (South)**

Data Management  
(Correspondence)  
North Cheshire Trading Estate  
Prenon Way  
Prenon  
Birkenhead CH43 3ET

t: 0151 609 2373

e: Requestforplansmanweb  
@manweb.co.uk

**All Cable Deviation Requests /Service Alterations enquiries should be addressed to:**

**SP Energy Networks (North)**

Customer Connections  
55 Fullerton Drive  
Cambuslang  
Glasgow G32 8FA

t: 0141 614 9997

**SP Energy Networks (South)**

Customer Connections  
PO Box 290  
Lister Drive  
Liverpool L13 7HJ

t: 0151 221 2110

## Emergency contact

In an emergency, or if there is any damage to SP Energy Networks cables or plant, call the appropriate number:

**SP Energy Networks**

**North**

*Central & Southern  
Scotland*

**0845 272 7999**

**SP Energy**

**Networks**

**South**

*Cheshire,  
Merseyside  
& North Wales*

**0845 272 2424**





**SP ENERGY NETWORKS**

## Case Study: Supporting ScottishPower cables (footpaths)



The above image is another good example of the preferred method of supporting ScottishPower cables.

The task was to install large diameter pipes below various utilities in the footpath. After discussions with ScottishPower the above process was put in place by the contractor with the pipes being installed successfully and numerous utilities plant including electricity cables being supported and protected to ScottishPower requirements. Requirements for supporting cables on this project included, steel beams, split ducting, ratchet straps placed every 1meter, and of course the main requirement being contact/dialogue between two companies, bringing together a safe method statement and safe system of work.

**No ScottishPower cables to be supported at any time without ScottishPower authorisation.**

**Prior to any excavations taking place cable records should always be consulted.**

**All SP Energy Networks cable record enquiries are to be directed to the relevant North or South Data Management team.**

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@scottishpower.com

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North Cheshire Trading Estate  
Prenton Way  
Prenton  
Birkenhead CH43 3ET

t: 0151 609 2373

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Customer Connections  
55 Fullerton Drive  
Cambuslang  
Glasgow G32 8FA

t: 0141 614 9997

**SP Energy Networks (South)**

Customer Connections  
PO Box 290  
Lister Drive  
Liverpool L13 7HJ

t: 0151 221 2110

## Emergency contact

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**0845 272 7999**

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**Networks**

**South**

*Cheshire,  
Merseyside  
& North Wales*

**0845 272 2424**



**RAMS Generic Guidance For Supporting/Exposing/Operating Around SP EnergyNetworks Underground Distribution Electrical Cables:**

**33KV - High Voltage – Low Voltage Cables:**

1. Ensure all machine operators/site traffic drivers/operatives/visitors are made aware of all cable routes on construction site at initial site induction.
2. Prior to works commencing, works area should be marked/highlighted (install signage at excavation location) to ensure all operatives are aware of the presence of the underground electrical network in the works area, this information also to be promoted continually throughout the remainder of the onsite works. (Task specific tool box talk also required prior to works commencing to ensure everybody understands the scope of works to be undertaken around the underground electrical network, their collective/individual roles to be clearly defined ensuring the required task is completed in a safe environment)
3. Procure SP EnergyNetworks cable records (UMV System: Utility Map Viewer)
4. Excavations as per HSG47 hand excavate to uncover all electrical cables/utilities in vicinity of proposed works.
5. Supporting cables: If excavation length on electrical cables exceeds 1.2m cables **will** require to be supported.
6. Install split ducting (150mm) around all exposed cables (for protection purposes only)
7. No sudden movement of cables to take place. (minimum movement when placing split ducting around all cables)
8. Provide substantial support beam above the cables, spanning across the exposed cable excavation, caution when placing/removing support beam. Ratchet straps are to be utilised to support the split ducted cables from the beam above.
9. Ratchet straps to be of sufficient size/quality to support the weight of the split ducted cable, and are to be tensioned until they hold the ducted cables weight only, prevent any over strain on the ducted cables. Ratchet straps to be placed at 1m intervals. (Please note: no rope/string to be used to support underground cables)
10. Once the ducted cables are sufficiently supported with the ratchet straps/supporting beam the hand excavation shall continue to clear 500mm beneath the existing cables. (Ensure the ducted cables will not sag at any exposed length of the cable)
11. Cable records indicate no joints on cables at locus of proposed excavations, however if cable joints are located, excavation works to cease immediately and SP EnergyNetworks to be contacted for further guidance.
12. Great care to be taken when installing the drainage pipe/other, that contact with the electrical network is avoided.
13. Great care to be taken when installing/removing shoring/drag boxes etc that contact with the electrical network is avoided
14. Caution to be taken when backfilling excavation around the existing cables, backfill to underside of cable, remove split ducting, sand cables with 150mm of sand, install marker tape.
15. Continue to backfill with caution.

No SP EnergyNetworks cables to be supported at any time without SP EnergyNetworks authorisation. Contractors proposing to support the underground electrical network are to produce a risk assessment - method statement to formalise the advice described above to demonstrate to SP EnergyNetworks that risk assessments/method statements/safe systems of work will be implemented to ensure a successful conclusion to this stage of the project. (Exposing/Operating Around/Supporting SP EnergyNetworks 33KV - High Voltage – Low Voltage Cables) The risk assessment/method statement shall be passed to SP EnergyNetworks for review/approval prior to excavation/supporting cable works commencing on site.