

Green investment programme sees first feeder station

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Scotland's Railway's first new electrical feeder stations is now in place.

The first of several, it is part of a £120m programme backed by the Scottish Government to improve the resilience and reliability of the infrastructure and to support additional electrically powered passenger and freight traffic.

At the weekend the feeder station, which will connect to the network in September, was put in place near Paisley.

A temporary surface was constructed to position the crane on and to make sure the ground conditions were suitable for the lift.

And the movement of the Tadano crane (ATF220G), which can lift up to 220 tonnes, was mechanically restricted to avoid the overhead powerlines on-site.

Lesley Pringle, project manager for traction power at Network Rail said: "The £120m investment from the Scottish Government for this programme is key to helping us meet our target to decarbonise Scotland's Railway by 2035.

“This is the first of the new feeder stations to arrive and it’s a definitely been a challenging site but our colleagues from across the Scotland’s Railway team have worked tirelessly to ensure it runs smoothly.”

Brian Sweeney, project delivery engineering manager at Network Rail said: “This work will boost the supply to our network in the central belt. This will help to deliver power to newly electrified lines and also provides us the additional capacity to run more trains on the existing network.

“This will ultimately deliver more green and sustainable travel options for people and freight customers, removing many more vehicles from the roads in Scotland.”

Allan Black, senior project manager at SPL Powerlines said: “We’re lifting the feeder station into position and it will be brought into service during September once all the relevant testing and safety procedures are complete.

“There has been a significant amount of work to prepare for this, and we’re already on site working at the next locations.

“Work started in the central belt and will extend as far as East Kilbride, Borders, Barrhead and Fife with completion due in 2026.”