DWD

Final Alignment and Construction Method Statement: Vicarage Drove Solar Farm Cable Connection

Land North West of Bicker

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: GFC-0293-10-01 CABLE ROUTE PLAN REV F

Revision	Description	Originated	Checked	Reviewed	Authorised	Date		
1	Submission	JM	RB	RB	RB	Feb 2024		
DWD Job Number: 15349c								



1.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This Construction Method Statement ('CMS') relates to the construction and installation of a 132kV underground electrical cable to connect Vicarage Drove Solar Farm to National Grid Distribution's Bicker Fen Substation (the 'Proposed Development') at Land adjacent north west of Bicker Fen Substation, Bicker, Boston PE20 3BQ (the 'Site') as approved by Boston Borough Council (the 'Council') on 23 September 2022 (Planning Application Reference: B/22/0198/) ('the Cable Connection Planning Permission').
- 1.2 While the solar farm which the Proposed Development is to serve was referred to as 'Bicker Solar Farm' on the Cable Connection Planning Permission Decision Notice, it is now known as 'Vicarage Drove Solar Farm' and was approved by Boston Borough Council on 17 February 2022 (Planning Application Reference: B/21/0443). Pre-commencement conditions on Vicarage Drove Solar Farm are currently being discharged.
- 1.3 Condition 3 of the decision notice states:
 - "(3) Prior to commencement of any development, a plan showing the selected route option for the underground electrical cable, including the extent of the working width required for its installation, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.
 - Reason: To define the terms of permission and in the interests of proper planning in accordance with Policies 2 and 3 of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2019."
- 1.4 A plan entitled 'GFC-0293-10-01 CABLE ROUTE PLAN REV F' has been submitted to the Council as part of this document in order to discharge Condition 3, the plan shows the selected route option for the underground electrical cable, including the extent of the working width required for its installation. The Final Cable Route Plan has been prepared to discharge Condition 3 and is included on page 1 of Appendix 1 of this document.
- 1.5 The remainder of this CMS has been prepared to discharge condition 4, which states:
 - "(4) Prior to commencement of any development, a construction method statement for the selected route option for the underground electrical cable, including details of the methods for installing the cable and the reinstatement of the working width required for its installation shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.



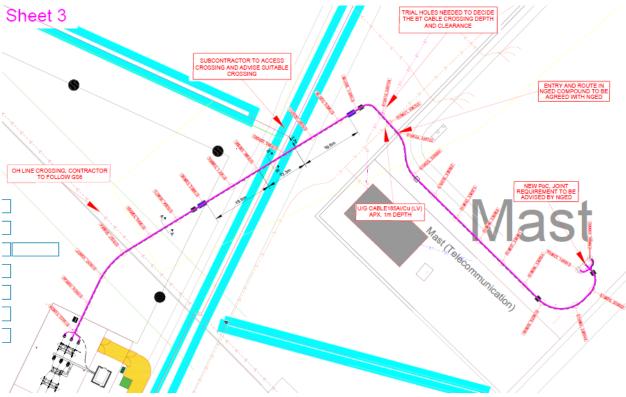
Reason: To ensure that the construction methods are acceptable and do not result in any unacceptable environmental impact in accordance with Policies 2 and 3 of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2019."



2.0 CONSTRUCTION METHOD STATEMENT

2.1 An extract of the final alignment plan is included below at Figure 2.1. As mentioned above, the full-size plan is included at Appendix 1 to this document.

Figure 2.1: Final Alignment Extract



Indicative Programme

2.2 Construction of Vicarage Drove Solar Farm will start in June 2024 with commercial operations and energisation of the solar farm expected in March 2025 subject to final commissioning with National Grid Distribution. The electrical cabling works outlined above in Figure 2.1 including site reinstatement are expected to be completed between November 2024 and February 2025 subject to weather conditions, necessary consent from Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board and approval from National Grid Distribution.

Site Contact

2.3 The Applicant's contractor or community liaison manager will provide the details of a site contact to the Council ahead of the commencement of works.

Methods for Installation

2.4 The electrical cable will be installed using both standard trenching techniques and Horizontal Directional Drilling ('HDD') for crossing Black Sluice's drainage ditch. Areas of any standard cable trenching (i.e. non-HDD) would involve the excavation of a narrow trench of 470mm wide and up



- to 1.3m deep, laying of HV cable duct and fibre cable duct and backfill of excavated material. The HDD to install the ducting for the cable and fibre under Black Sluice's drainage ditch will be up to 5.6m deep and subject to land drainage consent with Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board. Further information is included on page 2 of Appendix 1.
- 2.5 Cross-sectional drawings for the cable trenching and HDD are included at Appendix 1 of this document. The electrical cable and fibre will be installed in ducts within the trench. The ducts will be surrounded by a fine stone dust bedding and granular sub base, depending on the location and detailed design requirements.
- 2.6 A working width of 6m either side of the cable trench has been allocated for the temporary placement/storage of soil excavated from the trench and the laydown of any construction materials.
- 2.7 The installation of the electrical cable would take approximately 3 months to complete.
- 2.8 Further detail on the construction methods proposed to be used as part of the cable installation is as follows:
 - Under supervision of a banksman, the excavator with toothless bucket will be escorted to
 excavation position. A banksman will be present throughout machine operations to ensure
 safe machine movements.
 - Following HSG47 Guidance: 'Avoiding danger from underground services' (2014), the
 excavator will remove the top soil/vegetation. The excavator will continue the excavation
 by removing layers of no more than 75mm of spoil.
 - Top soiland subsoil will be separated and stored either side of the trench and used as backfill material upon restoration of the trench.
 - Continual CAT Scanning of the excavation area will be undertaken at regular intervals as excavation progresses.
 - If any service is found, its position and depth shall be recorded on a site plan. An
 "Excavation Daily Inspection Check sheet & Log" will also be completed for excavations by
 the Site Engineer.
 - Dewatering of excavations shall only be carried out through filtration and into appropriate drainage areas in accordance with best practice construction guidance.



- Any work to be carried in proximity to the OHL tower will be done so in accordance with the DNO's guidance and working practices.
- The excavations will be undertaken in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeology.

Reinstatement of Working Width

- 2.9 Following the completion of works, the Site would be returned to its previous condition. This will take approximately 4 weeks and comprise the following activities:
 - Backfilling the trench with the stored soil;
 - Removal of any excess soil from the Site;
 - Removal of construction machinery and materials from the Site; and
 - Where land had previously be vegetated, the planting of these areas with grass seed etc.



APPENDIX 1: GFC-0293-10-01 CABLE ROUTE PLAN REV F

