



OVERHEAD LINE REFURBISHMENT

Location: High Marnham, Newark

Sector: Infrastructure

0370 050 0792

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OVERHEAD LINE REFURBISHMENT

Balfour Beatty was appointed by National Grid to carry out the refurbishment of an overhead line running between Cottam and High Marnham near Newark in Nottinghamshire. In service since the mid 1960's, essential refurbishment work was required to ensure that the line continues to provide a reliable supply of electricity to homes and businesses in the area in the years to come.

The overhead line runs for approximately 8km, mostly over farmland, and consists of 27 pylons. The refurbishment involved replacement of some of the fixtures, fittings and steelwork on the existing pylons along the route, as well as some pylon repainting. As much of the overhead line runs across farmland, temporary roadway access was required during the renovation work to allow safe access for construction traffic.



THE CHALLENGE

Time was of the essence with this project as Balfour Beatty needed to complete the full scope of works within a very tight timeframe. The location proved to be challenging, as the overhead line runs across designated flood plains at the side of the River Trent. Within just a week we planned the installation of a total of 8667 trakway panels to allow safe access. We also arranged the supply of various temporary accommodation products to help with site welfare and storage, as the access areas are very remote.

THE SOLUTION

Following initial site visits, our trakway experts devised a configuration of panels to ensure that a safe access was made for construction traffic given the challenges around the ground conditions and the flooding risk. Our timber trakway system Emtek was first installed to ensure stability and due to its suitability for use in extreme conditions. This was overlaid with our aluminium trakway system Lion Panel which enables high loads to be carried across very poor terrain. In higher risk areas such as close to the electricity pylons our TuffTrak system was used. Of plastic composition, TuffTrak does not conduct electricity so is ideal for working on or near power lines.

We were able to provide Balfour Beatty with a full-service solution as some of the access points on the project are 2km long. Site operatives needed toilets and welfare facilities at the point of work, to allow them to make hot drinks and take breaks. We provided Portable Toilets for the duration of the project, plus Mobile Welfare Units and 10ft Containers for storage of equipment, allowing it to be accessed easily.

▲ Balfour Beatty needed a subcontractor at short notice, who had the skills and attributes to embrace the challenge of this fast paced project under a unique set of circumstances. I have worked with the Sunbelt Rentals Trakway team on previous projects and had every confidence that they would deliver and deliver they did. Sunbelt Rentals exceeded my expectations. ▲

Gavin Murton, Site Manager, Balfour Beatty

▲ We have an excellent relationship with Balfour Beatty and we were very happy to assist on this project. All planning, drawings and initial on-site installation of the trakway were carried out within a week, ensuring that the project was kept on programme and on budget. ▲

Paul Messenger, Head of Infrastructure, Sunbelt Rentals

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