

COYLTON TO NEW CUMNOCK — OHL ROUTE



KEY FACTS

CLIENT
SSE

CONSULTING ENGINEER
AMEC Ltd.

MAIN CONTRACTOR
AMEC Ltd.

VAN ELLE VALUE
£200K

YEAR COMPLETED
2014

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

SSE has commissioned the services of AMEC Ltd to construct a new overhead 400kV overhead line route from Coylton to New Cumnock. The project includes the construction of 46No. mast bases and installation of pylons.

Van Elle were commissioned to undertake the ground investigation works at each of the 46 base positions comprising of cable percussion drilling and rotary open holing and coring. Remote sections of the route cross areas of farmland, forests and peat bogs making access and setting up of equipment particularly tricky. Van Elle is also providing engineers logs and laboratory schedules to the design engineers, and managing the testing, with the provision of a factual report for each base.

SERVICES PROVIDED

Geotechnical Services
Design

KEY CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS

Where wide corridors of trees had been felled to allow for the installation of these masts, the peat had become incredibly waterlogged and the ground was softer than usual meaning specialist plant such as the 'bogmaster' excavator had to be used to drag the rest of the plant and equipment on a 'skid'.

This was designed in-house and manufactured specifically for this purpose. Challenging surface ground conditions were matched by challenging below ground conditions including large boulders within the till, deep backfilled opencast quarries and artesian water.

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KEY CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS

The plan originally was to use a Marooka tracked dumper with hi-ab to get the equipment and men to where they needed to setup, however, due to the extreme conditions, even this struggled to get to some of the more boggy locations and sank having to be rescued itself. As can be seen in the images on the right hand side, the 'bogmaster' pulling the skid, although slow, coped much better and enabled us to complete on programme.



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