

Site of the Month - Iver (ABB)



The Iver GIS substation is the extension and modernisation of an existing substation owned and operated by Scottish & Southern Electricity (SSE) adjacent to the National Grid Iver 400kv substation. Alpha Construction Ltd is contracted by ABB to undertake the civil engineering and building works of the new GIS building at a value of £1.6m. The initial indications of the build were favourable given that the site was a “green field”, however a sinister issue lurked beneath the field in the form of an old asbestos tip. This resulted in an expensive cleanup operation undertaken by ABB. Alpha’s works finally started in April 2009 after a 39 week delay and since then the progress on site has been formidable; we are now only 36 weeks behind the original programme! The works have included a piled foundation, steel superstructure with cladded walls and roof, internal blockwork, M&E including LV power, lighting, heating and fire detection equipment, plus external loading platform and emergency escape stairways. The project has continued to receive high commendations from both SSE and ABB.



The continued success of Iver following on from that at Reading and has without doubt contributed to the recent award of Wakefield & Creyke Beck GIS projects. The continued high standards with SSE now continue for Yorkshire Electricity and this places Alpha in a good position for securing similar work at Tynemouth substation for Northumbrian Electricity in the near future. The success of Iver has been attributable to great teamwork of the individuals involved. The site management team includes Ben Brooks, John Insley and Brian Bvuma with the essential works in the field being undertaken by Michael Rickets, Carl Stratford, Dave Jones, Mick and Kieran, Ron and Bujar.

Mr. Robin Denton (Contracts Manager)