Case Study



Delivering a critical 132kV upgrade at Barrow-in-Furness

Ipsum Group

Overview

Ipsum was commissioned by SP Electricity North West to replace a 132kV circuit breaker at a critical substation.

Traditionally, projects of this nature are delivered by original equipment manufacturers. However, Ipsum demonstrated its capability to provide a high quality, cost effective solution while maintaining the highest standards of safety, programme delivery, and technical performance.



Approach

A fully integrated delivery approach was adopted, combining in-house expertise with innovative planning to streamline execution. Experienced telehandler operators were utilised to safely carry out lifting and positioning activities that would typically require crane support, removing the need for crane-based installation methods and improving overall efficiency.

Scope of work

The full installation package included assisting in the decommissioning of the existing circuit breaker, erection of steel support structures, installation and assembly of the new 132kV circuit breaker, installation of control cabinets and internal linkages, gas systems and associated pipework, cabling and terminations, earthing systems, busbars and electrical connections, and testing and commissioning support. All works were completed in line with SP Electricity North West standards and industry best practice.

Key challenges

The project involved the safe decommissioning of an existing circuit breaker and installation of a new 132kV unit. The original SP Electricity North West delivery plan relied on crane-assisted installation, introducing additional cost, logistical complexity, and potential programme constraints.

Outcome

By eliminating the need for crane hire and adopting telehandler-based lifting methods, the project achieved reduced mobilisation requirements, lower overall costs, and improved programme efficiency. Delivery was completed ahead of schedule while maintaining a consistently high standard of workmanship, demonstrating capability to independently deliver complex high-voltage infrastructure works.





Client confidence

demonstrated capability to deliver OEM-level work

Cost saving

eliminated the need for crane hire through innovative thinking

Programme efficiency

delivered within a reduced timeframe compared to traditional methods

"We were very pleased with the work carried out on our Barrow project, which involved the installation of a 132kV gas circuit breaker. From the outset, a proactive and collaborative approach was demonstrated during the tender process, with several ideas put forward for returning the multicore cable back to the substation efficiently and safely. Throughout the project and outage period, the team was extremely accommodating and responsive... The quality of workmanship, professionalism, and commitment to supporting the project were outstanding throughout. We would not hesitate to recommend Ipsum Power for future high-voltage infrastructure projects."

– Iain Hamer, Delivery Engineer