

Chelworth Community Solar Ltd - Reinstatement works and O&M

April 2015 - June 2015

Reinstatement works completed

After the hedge and tree works done in the last quarter the ground was dry enough to allow a top cut to reduce the weeds and grass to 150mm combined with a careful search to remove large stones and other materials left over from the construction period. The area around the arrays was then sprayed to control weed growth.

The new fence was removed in early June and this has enabled a further cut to be done in June which includes the former buffer area as agreed. This cut extended as far as possible to the revised line of the stock fencing which is allowed under the Non Material Amendment.

New topsoil has been brought onto site to fill the remaining deeply rutted areas which it has not been possible to reach with the new fence up.

Reinstatement works to be done

The stock fence is booked to be installed in the first week of August. At the moment the contractor is booked to spray and seed around the arrays in line with the EMMP but we are in ongoing discussions with WWT about whether this is still desirable and necessary. We are also discussing whether to split the site into two grazing areas with a field gate at each end of the central hedge.

In addition to the stock fencing cages/fencing will be needed around the 9 inverter stations to prevent damage to the cables entering the inverters, and a water supply will have to be provided within the stock fencing in the next quarter. When sheep can be grazed on site depends on the decision on reseeded.

Ecology

There are no planned works on the trees and hedges in the next quarter - they will be cut/trimmed in accordance with the EMMP in the winter of 2015-2016. The WWT proposal for Management and Ecological Monitoring has been accepted and a meeting arranged to discuss the details of the remaining works of reinstatement and ongoing ecological management and enhancement.

Operations & Maintenance

Electrical Installation

Error messages from the SMA Inverter monitoring started to arrive from the 20th April onwards and gradually increased in frequency through the rest of April and into May and early June. Investigation by SMA revealed a widespread problem with a PCB which had to be replaced - TH White handled the liaison with SMA about these problems and had to escalate their complaints with SMA who were not communicating and had difficulty sourcing replacement parts.

All the inverters are now working properly and a meeting has been arranged with TH White next week to finalise the compensation claim for lost output.

Security

A new fixed fibre connection is now available at Chelworth which LDE are supervising with BT - this should be ready by the end of the week. There has been one security alert when contact with the site was lost following a thunderstorm.



Stephen Turner

Operations Director

Overmoor, Neston,
CORSHAM,
Wiltshire, SN13 9TZ
stephen.turner@mongooseenergy.coop

07980 624986

TAKING LOCAL ENERGY NATIONAL

Mongoose Energy Limited (company number 09415125)