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- IFA2 (Interconnection France Angleterre) Durkin value £10m
- 11kV Project case study for Mill Lane Upper Heyford

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A Trusted Power and Civil Engineering Partner

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Established and continuously trading for over 40 years Durkin and Sons have become a trusted partner for the design planning and execution of civils biased power projects throughout the UK.

Still in family ownership and building on the principles of direct ownership and employment, we operate a wholly owned fleet and of course a large directly employed workforce to ensure delivery of projects entrusted to us.

Originally specialising in large cable installation, a function still very much part of our core activities, Durkin and Sons now undertake a broad range of projects while still remaining faithful to our founding principles.

We offer turnkey design, installation, testing and commissioning. Capabilities, which allow us to engineer the most appropriate electrical power solutions.

DURKIN AND SONS LTD IS A FAMILY OWNED BUSINESS WITH FAMILY VALUES

Mike Durkin CEO



Edward Durkin Operational Director



Ben Murphy MD



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History

Durkin Ltd established in 1963, become Durkin & Sons Ltd in 1983 Initially a heavy civil engineering contractor involved with main drainage, tunnelling and communications, having a small electrical division. Durkin & Sons Ltd refocussed to become established as a major power contractor.

Serving electricity companies, cable manufacturers and other large industrial clients. Our background in civil engineering has enabled us to bring new techniques

and skills from outside the electrical industry and apply them to the field of cable installation. We have developed the ability to carry out cable installations up to and including 400kV, with the provision of jointing and testing.

Partnering with major manufacturers such as Prysmian, Nexans, ABB and Siemens and working with clients such as National Grid, Scottish and Southern Energy, Kier and Balfour Beatty has provided Durkin and Sons with a firm foundation of experience for future projects.



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Our Vision and Values

To be a contractor of merit, by providing cost-effective solutions to the highest standards of health, safety and quality, whilst respecting the environment.

Through mentoring and reward, support our large (circa 150plus) workforce that is part of our wider family, some of whom are third generation employees.

Our staff rely on Durkin & Sons. Durkin & Sons relies on our staff.

We recognise the value in being able to continually change and adapt our services to meet the developing needs of our industry and to leave a legacy in place for future generations of owners, staff and clients.

We place a particular emphasis on providing continuing support to clients as long term relationships are paramount. Durkin and Sons has invested a long term stake in the UK power industry.

Our values are at the core of everything we do, they characterise our behaviours and help to shape the culture, attitudes and principles of our business.



TRUST

To deliver on our commitments in a collaborative way. To deliver an optimal solution for our customers for the right price. To deliver profitable growth for our stakeholders. To deliver value in our community. To provide sustainable employment to our staff



RESPECT

We have respect for our staff, clients and wider community in which we operate. We believe that mutual respect driven by fairness and trust and integrity is the most powerful force at our disposal.



SAFETY

If it's not safe we don't do it. We're proud of our zero tolerance to unsafe actions



QUALITY

We aim to provide a service we are all proud to be connected with.



RELIABILITY

We aim to be an organisation that delivers 100% of our services on time and in budget.



ENVIRONMENT

We take great care to ensure wherever possible our activities have a positive effect on the environment. We go beyond the norm to ensure we maintain this approach.

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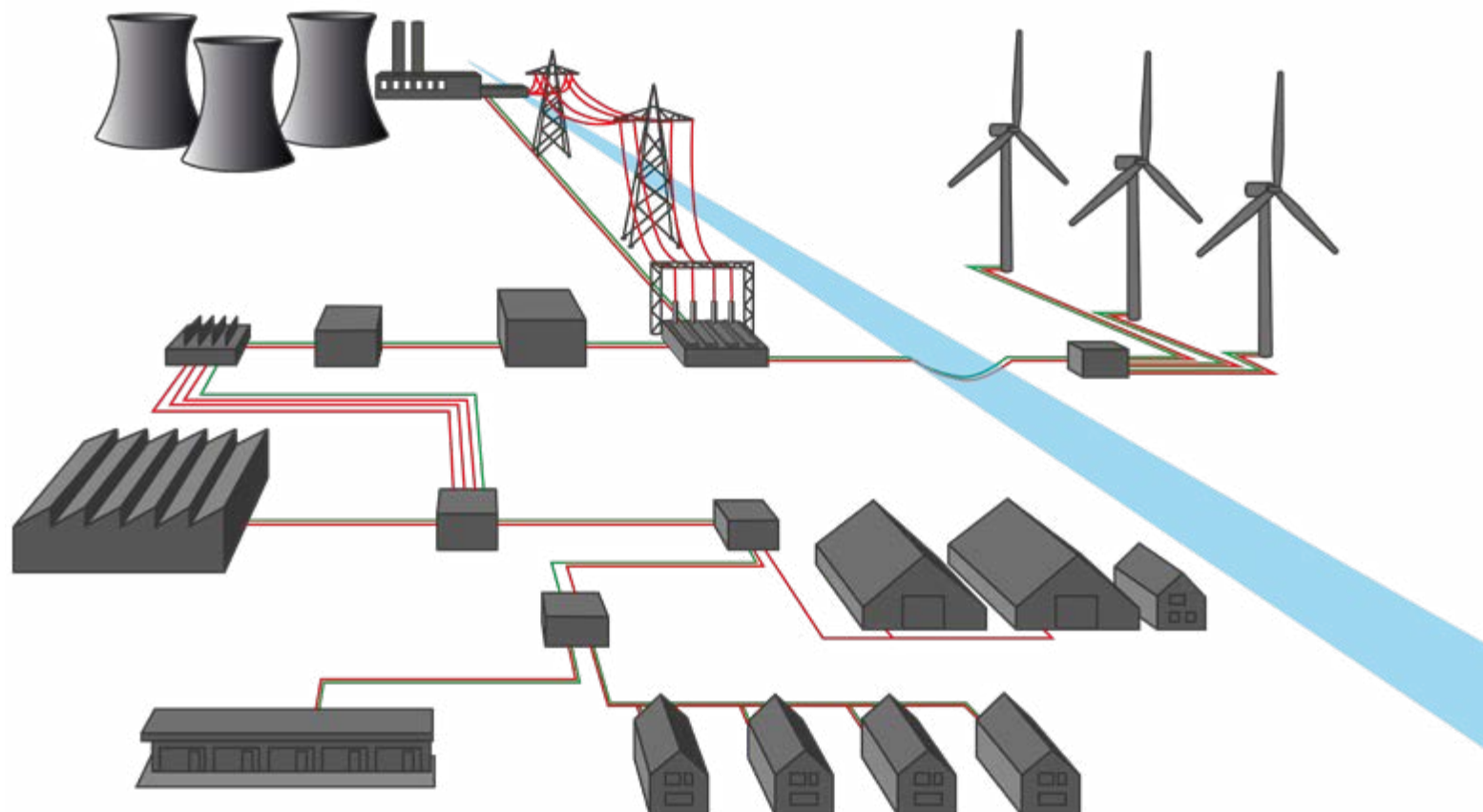
GET IN TOUCH

At Durkin & Sons we provide innovative power and multi utility engineering solutions to our customers, with the common thread of civils bias to most of our work.

Our directly employed workforce has a wealth of knowledge in solving problems across various distribution systems. We can offer a full range of design, and install evidence, within various disciplines including Cable installation services up to 400kV AC/525kV DC.

Site establishment works including Haul Road access design and install, Directional Drilling and invasive highway work, jointing and connections.

Our wide range of experience in utility installation, is supported by our directly employed personnel, many are long serving members of the team, we now have 3rd generation staff underlying our long-term commitment to our industry.



Durkin and sons involved at every network level and type of underground network power project from renewables to mixed use developments

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Designer and Principal Contractor

At Durkin and Sons, we have comprehensive experience in procuring design and undertaking the role of Principal Contractor. We ensure our clients receive a cost effective and appropriate solution, with options wherever these are likely to add value.

Installation

Large off site civil routing is an inherent element in our DNA and very much still a core area of our business. We have unparalleled knowledge and experience in delivering cable installs at the highest levels in the UK having partnered with some leading organisations within the power industry.

At a delivery planning level, we can routinely implement invasive highway work including statutory noticing, traffic management and stakeholder liaison, ensuring that your work progresses smoothly and to programme.

Our installation capabilities include route proving, directional drilling, temporary road structures and other enabling works. Our ability to combine power and water infrastructure ensures that our clients receive an end-to-end approach.

Multiple handoff points in the project process introduce the potential for increased risk. Durkin and Sons strive to minimise the number of handoffs by embracing the whole design and delivery phase, to eradicate disaggregation wherever possible.



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Site Establishment and Haul Roads

An often overlooked but impactful element of project support is the provision of lay down areas and the establishment of welfare facilities. However, it is just these elements which can make the difference between a smoothly functioning project and one which struggles from the outset to deliver the expected results.

Durkin and Sons have amassed a wealth of experience in site clearance, the provision of temporary utilities connections, diversion of existing utilities where these impact on future site operations.

We provide site welfare and office accommodation from our own stock on a hired basis, and of course install on site. We will of course provide a stable and level foundation for all accommodation.

Almost as important are lay down areas and for many projects employee and visitor parking. Durkin will ensure that lay downs meet the need of the project, with segregated parking facilities and site fencing.

Our traditional compressed stone hard standing designs include drainage and required oil water interceptors.

Unless a project site has direct access to the highway it is likely that a temporary haul and access road will be required. We can provide a number of different options to suit ground stability, terrain and loading cycles. Options include traditional stoned roads, plastic, and wood decks.

If you would like some advice or just want a better understanding of the contribution Durkin can deliver to site enablement, please do contact us on our [website](#).

Finally when your project completes, Durkin will remove the infrastructure cap the temporary utilities and take up any laid down deck work.

While some clients ask us to leave traditional haul roads and lay downs in place we will whenever requested remove traditional stone roads and restore the ground to pre project conditions.



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Utilities

- Installation of cable networks to 400kV
- Turnkey supply and jointing to 400kV
- In-house jointing and testing to 66kV
- Construction of sub-station compounds to 400kV including all foundations and structures
- Telecom, CCTV and control circuits, multi-utility waste water pipelines and pumping stations
- Potable water mains and service renewals
- Site enabling works
- Provision of site welfare
- Directional drills

Civil Engineering

- Main drainage installation
- Surfacing and reinstatement
- Routine maintenance of drainage networks
- Construction of substructure foundations
- Various tunnelling and drilling techniques

Early Contractor Involvement

Durkin & Sons work in many environments, including urban, rural, environmentally sensitive and secure sites requiring both security clearances and client specific training and thankfully have been engaged by a good number of clients at the pre-construction phase to assist in the design and development of proposed projects. In this way Durkin and Sons can develop value adding design & delivery solutions with clients who at the end of the FEED phase have a detailed scope to take to market.

Examples of our experience are detailed in the following case studies

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Expertise

With over 150 direct employees supported by our specialist supply chain staff

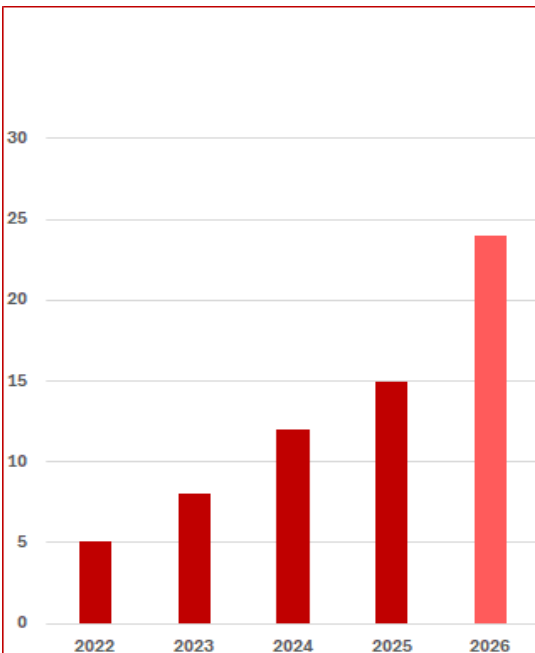


Capacity

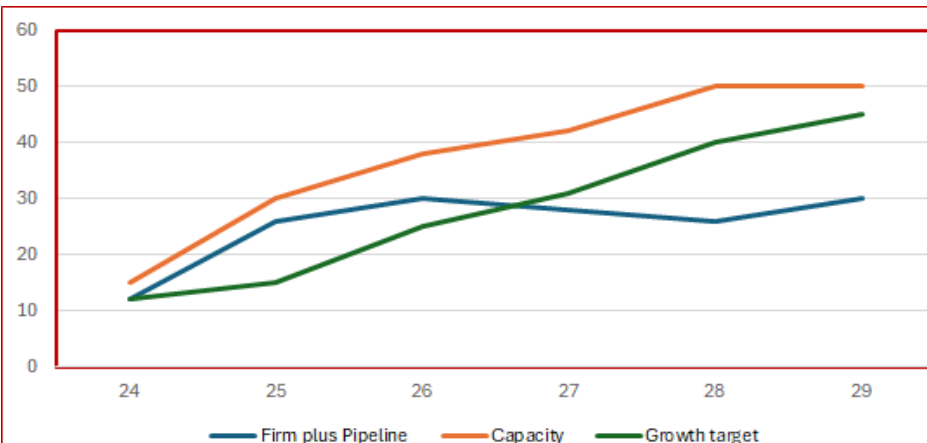
Current pipeline, resources & growth targets, provide capacity to deliver projects generating revenues of £32m PA



Turnover (£m)



Pipeline V Capacity and Growth Target £m



Delivering excellence

We offer an end-to-end scope of services resulting in less disaggregation



Safety

Is our number 1 priority. If it's not safe we don't do it



Heritage

Over 40 years working in public and private sectors

Knowledge

Unrivalled knowledge and experience in civils led power projects up to 400kV



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IFA2 (Interconnection France Angleterre) Durkin value £10m

The Challenge

It is crucial that European countries become and remain self sufficient in the provision of electrical energy to fuel the needs of industry commercial and domestic users. The UK is an island nation meaning that even with self sufficiency there is a risk to an island network.

How does the UK build in resilience and security to our ever-increasing energy demands?

Sub-sea Cable links will continue to play a significant role in moving UK secure energy to demand centres, and supporting the net carbon zero position by 2050.

Traditionally, energy networks were designed to distribute the stable outputs of coal-fired, gas or nuclear power plants. The birth of wind and solar centres has changed this geography and created a need to shift energy around.

Schemes such as the North Sea Link between Norway and the UK, allow sharing of Norwegian Hydro produced energy and UK Wind Energy between the two grid systems.

IFA 2

IFA 2 is one of a series of interconnection project to shift energy. Undertaken jointly by UK and France; in the case of IFA 2 the route uses a 200km sub-sea route with a far shorter land section.

The interlink comprises two separate circuits operating at 400kV routed across the English Channel to make landfall at the Port of Solent Hampshire. Further land and sea sections in the UK require cable schemes to provide connection to National Grid network at Chilling 400kV National Grid site Hampshire, via a converter station sited at Daedalus airport.



Offshore

Installation along the route in the Channel was completed in four different sections by Prysmian's cable-laying vessel Cable Enterprise. For half of the length, the seabed was jettable and the cable was buried by a high-pressure jet of water from Prysmian's Sea Mole jetting tool. For the remaining rocky sections, Prysmian relied on other special trenching equipment.

Onshore

Mike Durkin CEO explains.

"The converter station in the UK is near the Solent Airport in Hampshire, which meant the cable had to cross the airfield, creating a set of logistical considerations, and requiring special planning. Height restrictions at the landfall interface with the operational runway and limited cranes & jack up barges, to say the least"

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IFA2 (Interconnection France Angleterre) Durkin value £10m. Cont.

The project also called for the install of cables for an approximately ten-km route in the UK, linking two substations on the coast with an offshore cable. This area called for special attention to protect the environment of wildlife including badgers, dormice, and birds.

"Quality performance, and project management standards had to reach the highest level on the market to meet our client's expectations."

said Mike Durkin.

Technically the land-side install required a contractor with sound in depth knowledge of 400kV cable installations.

Not surprising therefore that Prysmian who were the cable manufacturer and principal contractor, turned to Durkin and Sons, entrusting to us the land-side section. Durkin already had an enviable pedigree in transmission cable install for major network and Interlinks projects.

Durkin and Sons responded by installing DC and 400kV AC circuits between the transitional joints at Monks Hill beach Lee on Solent and the DC/AC Converter station at Daedalus airfield, then on to the ultimate 400kV connection to National Grid at Chilling National Grid substation.

Durkin appointment

- Contractor for all UK Land-side off site route sections
- All route proving
- All excavation

- Joint bay construction
- Duct laying
- Cable laying
- Permanent reinstatement
- Provision of detailed as built cable records
- Provision of NGC authorised/accredited staff

The 10km land-side install was completed to programme and energised successfully for the first time in 2021. This important project provides 1GW of power enough to supply up to a million homes, key to its success were the expertise delivered by Durkin and Sons coupled with the great team from Prysmian and National Grid.

Final words from **Mike Durkin Director Durkin and Sons**

"One of the key success factors to delivering such a complex project in less time than usual is to have the right team. The IFA2 project is also the success story of hundreds of employees coming from different nationalities working in factories, vessels, laboratories and in the field. This is the key factor for the successful progress of the IFA2 project."

Contact Details

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11kV Project case study for Mill Lane Upper Heyford

Backstory - Upper Heyford high voltage power distribution network had a notable reputation for being amongst the worst performing parts of the high voltage network owned by Scottish and Southern Energy Networks. (SSEN)

The village network was served by single 11kV overhead line which crosses the flood plain between Lower and Upper Heyford making it vulnerable to a range of transitory interruptions. While there are two 11kV transformers serving the village neither were linked together with the result that there were no possibilities for alternative supplies.

The Solution - SSEN (the network owner) decided to invest c£1.2m to establish a new high voltage underground cable along the road from Lower Heyford and an additional high voltage supply from Heyford Park providing two incoming high voltage circuits to the village transformers. The two transformers linked by a new 11kV underground cable, so that all areas of the village have two points of HV supply available for increased resilience.

Durkin involvement - SSEN wanted a turnkey approach to the 11kv cable install and terminations and so turned to Durkin and Sons Ltd, acknowledged experts in the delivery of cabling projects and long standing supply chain partner to SSEN.

While SSEN knew exactly what was needed, they also wanted to leave detailed design and stakeholder management to their chosen contractor.

Fortunately, these activities were second nature to Durkin and Sons who routinely and for this project,

- Accepted the role of Principal Contractor.
- Undertook detailed route design, feasibility and invasive route proving.
- Dealt with highway opening notices and agreed programme of work.
- Provided evidence of installation and workmanship to allow the completed circuits to be adopted by SSEN.
- The finished project included a new 3km 11kV cable circuit plus interconnector between the two village substations, in a mixture of highway and agricultural land.



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11kV Project case study for Mill Lane Upper Heyford. Cont.

Stakeholder Management - Was one area that was always going to impact on the ability to successfully deliver the scheme, it was vital that local stakeholders gave their blessing to the project and the proposed delivery.

Durkin made sure that all voices were heard from residents to the Parish Council. Durkin set up surgery sessions at the site office especially so that residents who were concerned could drop in and talk through the issues.

This approach worked and the Durkin team quickly became a feature of village life, while the work progressed with many residents expressing their gratitude for the way in which information and news was communicated.

Compliance - Stakeholders aside there were other obligations on Durkin and Sons, such as Principal Contractor duties, Health and Safety leadership, Environmental assessments and ensuring that any visitors or subcontractors were fully inducted into the project and understood the expectations that Durkin sets itself and others.

Particularly helpful in this respect was the suite of briefings developed by Durkin including:

- Effective task briefings
- Point of work risk assessments
- Auditing of on-site performance
- Toolbox talks

Project Outcomes - Following internal and external reviews with both Client and a selection of other stakeholders the final verdict on the way this project progressed was a resoundingly positive.

Points of note included,

- Providing timely information on areas to be affected by work.
- Regular progress updates.
- Open office to discuss any issues.
- Leaving work sites clean and tidy.
- Project delivered to programme.

Project Takeaways - Although stakeholder liaison required a significant upfront investment in terms of time and energy the benefit was project progress.

Small things make tangible differences such as removal of spoil and barriers at the earliest opportunity.

Spending extra time talking to local councillors helps to spread the word.

A detailed test and inspection plan facilitates client confidence.



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Balfour Beatty



Prysmian Group



nationalgrid





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