



## Accelerating your journey to Net Zero

Blake Clough Consulting is a specialist energy consultancy with a focus on the electricity networks. We cover a range of areas relating to power systems analysis, feasibility studies, project engineering, innovation, regulation and technical strategy, with a strong emphasis on our customer relationships.

We are passionate about the decarbonisation of the energy system and the transition to “Net Zero” and aim to support our clients to accelerate this change as effectively as possible, whether that be local authorities, large network companies, or private developers.

Our work is underpinned by solid analysis and modelling, including techno-economic assessment, cost benefit analysis, power systems analysis and network modelling.

### Grid Connection Consultancy

We have significant track record in assisting developers (onshore, offshore, generation, storage and demand) through the grid connection process to obtain a suitable grid connection for their projects. These activities include:

#### High Level Grid Connection Assessment

We can advise and support clients with their grid connection strategy and their search for viable connections. We tailor our approach to suit the client and can carry out an assessment of specific locations or a collection of substations to allow the developer to prioritise their connections portfolio.

#### Detailed Grid Assessment

Where clients have a specific site in mind for development, we can take a more in-depth assessment at the surrounding network to identify potential connection options to both the transmission and distribution networks. We will highlight potential points of connection and advise on the best export/import capacity to request within any subsequent connection application.

#### Curtailement Analysis

It is critical that developers understand their access to the network when they accept a non-firm or flexible grid connection offer. DNOs provide their own curtailment reports but it is advisable that these are independently reviewed. We offer these services and can carry out our own detailed calculation of the likely curtailment a project will see given the specific distribution and transmission constraints associated with the ANM or Intertrip systems.

#### Land Scouting and Constraints Analysis

We support clients to find high potential land that can host future renewable energy projects. If desired, we can identify all the land parcels within a particular search radius and share the relevant ownership and contact details so that developers can secure the Letters of Authority (LOA) they require to submit a grid connection application. We also map the relevant land constraints that may impact the development of a project (e.g. Green Belt, Flood Zones, SSSIs)

#### Project Yield Assessment

For your site we can create a project strategy and advise on the capacity of Wind, Solar, BESS that could be accommodated from both a network and site constraint perspective. We can then carry out yield assessment to determine the amount of energy that could be generated each year from the technology mix that is preferred.

#### Grid Connection Applications

Preparation of G99/G100 distribution and transmission grid connection applications including the single line diagrams (SLDs). We also cover BELLA and BEGA submissions where required.



## Grid Connection Offer Due Diligence

We have reviewed many transmission and distribution grid connection offers. As such, we can carry out detailed due diligence on connection offers. In doing so, we highlight the key risks, milestones, timescales, costs and securities associated with any offer to allow the developer to determine if the offer should be accepted or if further engagement is required.

## Supporting the Developer through the Connection Process

We support clients to understanding the full grid connections process from start to end, helping the developer complete the required connection application forms required to secure a connection offer for their projects.

## Project CAPEX Assessment

Using our visibility and experience on many other grid connection projects across Great Britain, we can provide an estimate of the likely development costs to build out a project. We can include both the costs associated with contestable and balance of plant equipment to help the developer understand the full costs associated with building out their projects.

## Project Design and Layout

Once the developer has accepted a grid connection offer, we can produce the initial substation layout and design documents and drawings. We can tailor our approach and the detail on these drawings and designs to meet the requirements of the developer. In general, this work can help the developer understand the likely configuration and footprint of their project to ensure they have secured enough land and to support the planning/consenting applications.

## Regulatory Support

We provide regulatory support to Network Operators, Regulators and various industry bodies. This includes supporting Network Operators to develop their regulatory business plans, such as the current RIIO-ED2 submissions being developed by GB DNOs.

We have worked extensively with Network Operators to develop detailed Engineering Justification Papers (EJPs) and Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) to justify the spend proposed during RIIO-ED2 (2024-2028) to maintain and operate the electricity network, whilst facilitating the transition to Net Zero. This includes detailed analysis to populate the Business Plan Data Tables (BPDT) which are a critical part of each DNO's submission to Ofgem.

Our consultants have also worked with various other Network Operators such as Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN), Electricity North West Limited (ENWL) for RIIO-ED2, and Electricity Supply Board Networks (ESBN) where we provided significant support and analysis for the PR5 price control etc.

We also support both UK and international regulators in a variety of areas. In the past, our consultants have provided support to Ofgem in the areas of network competition such as Competitively Appointed Transmission Owners (CATOs), cost assessments for major reinforcements, network determinations, derogations and OFTO Tender Round assessments.

## Customer Focussed

Our team is extremely customer focused, flexible and efficient. We are able to respond quickly and ultimately to deliver work in compressed timescales, to a high quality.

Our clients range from electricity network operators, regulators and public sector organisations through to private developers, both onshore and offshore, looking to develop projects connecting into the electricity networks.

We understand that time is of the essence with grid connection work due to the current issues in obtaining connections and the timescales required to review and accept an offer. We will work efficiently and flexibly to try to ensure that our customers achieve their goals.

