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ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION STANDARD

ECS 02-0019

INSTALLATION OF UNDERGROUND CABLES - LV TO 132KV

Network(s): EPN, LPN, SPN

Summary: This Standard details the minimum requirements acceptable for the installation of new LV, 11kV, 20kV, 33kV, 66kV and 132kV cables, plus associated Multicore and Multipair cables.

Author: Jesse Garcia **Date:** 28/10/2026

Approver: Paul Williams **Date:** 06/11/2026

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Revision Record

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- Section 9 – updated to preclude the use of trenchless installation methods for LV services and mains installed at standard depths.
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- Tables in Section 6.1 updated;
- New Sections 6.1.8 to 6.1.10 added and 6.2.1 to 6.2.7 added
- Section 6.3 updated;
- Sections 7 and 7.1 updated;
- New Sections 8.1 and 8.4 added;
- Sections 8.5 to 8.8 updated;
- New Section 8.11 added;
- Section 9.1 updated.
- Reference Tables updated;
- Appendices A.1 to A.8 updated.

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Document reviewed and updated.

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Document rebranded.

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33kV cable types and sizes revised.			
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1 Introduction

This Standard covers the minimum requirements for the installation of all new low voltage, multicore, multipair, 11kV, 20kV, 33kV, 66kV and 132kV cables and the types of cable that shall be installed in particular operating environments.

2 Scope

All underground cable installed by UK Power Networks, Contractors and ICPs working with the three regulated license areas.

3 Glossary and Abbreviations

Term	Definition
HAUC Specification	Specification for the Reinstatement of Openings in Highways: Highways & Utilities Committee Code of Practice
ICP	Independent Connection Provider
ID	Internal diameter
Rayflate®	Inflatable cable duct sealing system.
Stokbord®	Cable protection tile manufactured from recycled plastic.
SWP	Sidewall pressure
UK Power Networks	UK Power Networks (Operations) Ltd consists of three electricity distribution networks: • Eastern Power Networks plc (EPN). • London Power Network plc (LPN). • South Eastern Power Networks plc (SPN).

4 General Requirements

The general requirements of this engineering construction standard are as follows:

- Guidance on the types of cable that shall be installed in different operating environments.
- Minimum acceptable depths of cover for all types of new cable.
- Installation guidelines for new cables and cable ducts.
- Installation guidelines of new cable marker tape and Stokbord®.

5 On Site Requirements

5.1 Street Works

All staff, subcontractors and third parties carrying carry out the works described in this document shall comply with the requirements of HSG 47 Avoiding Danger for Underground Services, UK Power Networks Street Works Policy (SWP) and the UK Power Networks Excavation and Cable Installation Manual.

5.2 Plans and Records

On completion of all works, as-built drawings shall be provided as laid down in EOS 09-0100.

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An absolute location with an accuracy of < 100mm against permanent and immovable features shall be provided. On construction sites cables shall not be installed until site groundwork operations are complete, to avoid the risk of damage from such works prior to commissioning. If this is not possible mitigating measures are required.

6 Cable Types for New Installations

6.1 Direct Buried Installations

Direct burial of new cable circuits should always be preferred over other methods of installation, except where on-site conditions dictate otherwise.

Only the following types of cable shall be permanently installed either directly in the ground or in cable ducts:

If it is necessary to install any of these types of cable in an in-air environment (i.e. a cable tunnel, cable pit or cable basement), it shall be protected with one of the methods described in ECS 02-0031.

6.1.1 LV Service Cables

The following table details the sizes and types of Concentric and Split Concentric cable with black PVC sheaths that shall be used in direct buried or ducted situations:

Table 6-1 – LV Service Cable Types

Cable Type	Conductor Size	UKPN Stores Code
Single Phase Concentric	4mm^2 Copper	05860K
Single Phase Concentric	25mm^2 Aluminium	01284D
Single Phase Concentric	35mm^2 Aluminium	05886L
Three Phase Concentric	35mm^2 Aluminium	05903U
Single Phase Split Concentric	35mm^2 Aluminium	05887V
Three Phase Split Concentric	35mm^2 Aluminium	05554S

6.1.2 LV Mains Cables

The following table details the sizes and types of Waveform cable with a black PVC sheath that shall be used in direct buried or ducted situations:

Table 6-2 – LV Mains Cable Types

Cable Type	Conductor Size	UKPN Stores Code
Three Phase Waveform	95mm^2 Aluminium	05577P
Three Phase Waveform	185mm^2 Aluminium	05579J
Three Phase Waveform	300mm^2 Aluminium	05588H
Three Phase Waveform	300mm^2 Copper	05587X

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6.1.3 11kV Cables

The following table details the sizes and types of Triplex and Single Core XLPE cable with a red polyethylene outer sheath that shall be used in direct buried or ducted situations:

Table 6-3 – 11kV Cable Types

Cable Type	Conductor Size	UKPN Stores Code
Triplex	95mm^2 Aluminium	06009P
Triplex	185mm^2 Aluminium	06010K
Triplex	300mm^2 Aluminium	06011U
Triplex	185mm^2 Copper	06012E
Triplex	300mm^2 Copper	06013P
Single Core	630mm^2 Aluminium	06122V
Single Core	800mm^2 Aluminium	06123F
Single Core	1000mm^2 Aluminium	06124Q
Single Core	1200mm^2 Aluminium	06125A

6.1.4 20/33kV Cables

The following table details the sizes and types of Single Core XLPE cable with a black polyethylene outer sheath that shall be used in direct buried or ducted situations:

Table 6-4 – 20/33 kV Cable Types

Cable Type	Conductor Size	UKPN Stores Code
Single Core	300mm^2 Aluminium	06140T
Single Core	500mm^2 Aluminium	06141D
Single Core	630mm^2 Aluminium	06142N
Single Core	1000mm^2 Aluminium	06143X
Single Core	1200mm^2 Aluminium	06144H

6.1.5 66kV Cables

The following table details the sizes and types of Single Core XLPE cable with a black polyethylene outer sheath that shall be used in direct buried or ducted situations:

Table 6-5 – 66kV Cable Types

Cable Type	Conductor Size	UKPN Stores Code
Single Core	300mm^2 Aluminium	06074B
Single Core	400mm^2 Copper	06075L

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6.1.6 132kV Cables

The following table details the sizes and types of Single Core XLPE cable with a black polyethylene outer sheath that shall be used in direct buried or ducted situations:

Table 6-6 – 132kv Cable Types

Cable Type	Conductor Size	UKPN Stores Code
Single Core	300mm^2 Aluminium	06062X
Single Core	630mm^2 Aluminium	06063H
Single Core	1000mm^2 Aluminium	06064S
Single Core	1200mm^2 Aluminium	06065C
Single Core	1600mm^2 Milliken Aluminium	06067W
Single Core	2500mm^2 Milliken Aluminium	08219W

6.1.7 Auxiliary Multicore and Multipair cables

The following table details the sizes and types of Multicore and Multipair cables with black PVC outer sheaths that shall be used in direct buried or ducted situations:

Table 6-7 – Multicore and Multipair Cable Types

Cable Type	Conductor Size	UKPN Stores Code
4 Core	2.5mm^2 Copper	05971L
7 Core	2.5mm^2 Copper	05972V
12 Core	2.5mm^2 Copper	05973F
19 Core	2.5mm^2 Copper	05974Q
27 Core	2.5mm^2 Copper	05975A
7 Pair	0.8mm^2 Copper	05526L
19 Pair	0.8mm^2 Copper	05527V
37 Pair	0.8mm^2 Copper	05528F
61 Pair	0.8mm^2 Copper	05529Q

6.1.8 Cables in Street other than Motorways and Trunk Roads

The installation of cables in streets shall conform to the requirements of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 and the various Codes of Practice issued by the Highways and Utilities Committee (HAUC).

6.1.9 Cables under Motorways and Trunk Roads

Cables installed under land bearing the carriageway of a motorway or trunk road shall be placed in a duct of appropriate size. Excavations necessary for the launch and reception pits of such cable routes shall be positioned having regard to the reasonable requirements of the street authority and the owners of the adjoining property.

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6.1.10 Cables in Agricultural Land

Cables in agricultural land shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of the ENA EREC G29 and G57 and the reasonable requirements of the owner and/or occupier of the land. Field drains, fences, walls and gates disturbed or dismantled during the progress of the works shall be promptly reinstated.

6.1.11 Cables under River, Stream and Canal Crossings

Cables installed under rivers streams or canals shall be placed in a duct of appropriate size. Where the lining of a river, stream or canal is broken through it shall be promptly restored in accordance with the reasonable requirements of the managing authority.

Appropriate measures, including the provision of notice boards and route marker posts, shall be taken to avoid, as far as reasonably practical, the incidence of hazards or damage arising from the activities of other parties during the life of the installation.

6.2 In Air Installations

Only the following types of cable shall be permanently installed in cable tunnels, cable basements and other situation where the cable is exposed to the air:

6.2.1 LV Service Cables

The following table details the sizes and types of concentric and split concentric cable with a black flame retardant sheath:

Table 6-8 – In Air LV Service Cable Types

Cable Type	Conductor Size	UKPN Stores Code
Single Phase Concentric	35mm^2 Aluminium	05550D
Three Phase Concentric	35mm^2 Aluminium	05552X
Single Phase Split Concentric	35mm^2 Aluminium	05553H
Three Phase Split Concentric	35mm^2 Aluminium	05554S

6.2.2 LV Mains Cables

The following table details the sizes and types of Waveform cable with a black flame retardant sheath:

Table 6-9 – In Air LV Mains Cables

Cable Type	Conductor Size	UKPN Stores Code
Three Core Waveform	95mm^2 Aluminium	05594C
Three Core Waveform	185mm^2 Aluminium	05595M
Three Core Waveform	300mm^2 Aluminium	05596W
Four Core Waveform	95mm^2 Aluminium	05555C
Four Core Waveform	185mm^2 Aluminium	05556M
Four Core Waveform	300mm^2 Aluminium	05557W

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6.2.3 11kV Cables

The following table details the sizes and types of Single Core XLPE cable with a red flame-retardant outer sheath:

Table 6-10 - In Air 11kV Mains Cables

Cable Type	Conductor Size	UKPN Stores Code
Single Core	95mm^2 Aluminium	06014Y
Single Core	185mm^2 Aluminium	06015J
Single Core	300mm^2 Aluminium	06016T
Single Core	300mm^2 Copper	06121L
Single Core	630mm^2 Aluminium	06126K
Single Core	800mm^2 Aluminium	06127U
Single Core	1000mm^2 Aluminium	06128E
Single Core	1200mm^2 Aluminium	06129P

6.2.4 20/33kV Cables

The following table details the sizes and types of single core XLPE cables with a black flame retardant outer sheath:

Table 6-11 - In Air 20/33kV Mains Cables

Cable Type	Conductor Size	UKPN Stores Code
Single Core	300mm^2 Aluminium	N/A
Single Core	400mm^2 Copper	N/A
Single Core	500mm^2 Aluminium	N/A
Single Core	630mm^2 Aluminium	N/A
Single Core	1000mm^2 Aluminium	N/A
Single Core	1200mm^2 Aluminium	N/A
These cables are only available as special order items from UK Power Networks approved 20/33kV XLPE cable manufacturers		

6.2.5 66kV Cables

The following table details the sizes and types of single core XLPE cables with a black flame retardant outer sheath:

Table 6-12 – In Air 66kV Cables

Cable Type	Conductor Size	UKPN Stores Code
Single Core	300mm^2 Aluminium	06076V
Single Core	400mm^2 Copper	06077F

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6.2.6 132kV Cables

The following table details the sizes and types of single core XLPE cables with a black flame retardant outer sheath:

Table 6-13 – In Air 132kV Cables

Cable Type	Conductor Size	UKPN Stores Code
Single Core	300mm^2 Aluminium	06068G
Single Core	630mm^2 Aluminium	06069R
Single Core	1000mm^2 Aluminium	06070M
Single Core	1200mm^2 Aluminium	06071W
Single Core	1600mm^2 Milliken Aluminium	06073R

6.2.7 Auxiliary Multicore and Multipair Cables

Multicore and multipair cables with black flame retardant outer sheaths shall be used which fully comply with EAS 02-0000. These are generally purchased on a project by project basis.

Table 6-14 – In Air Multicore and Multipair Cables

Cable Type	Conductor Size	UKPN Stores Code
4 Core	2.5mm^2 Copper	N/A
7 Core	2.5mm^2 Copper	N/A
12 Core	2.5mm^2 Copper	N/A
19 Core	2.5mm^2 Copper	N/A
27 Core	2.5mm^2 Copper	N/A
7 Pair	0.8mm^2 Copper	N/A
19 Pair	0.8mm^2 Copper	N/A
37 Pair	0.8mm^2 Copper	N/A
61 Pair	0.8mm^2 Copper	N/A
These cables are only available as special order items from UKPN's approved Multicoreand Multipair cable manufacturers.		

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6.3 Joint Bays

All joint bays shall be designed and constructed so that they are large enough to accommodate the size and type of joint to be installed and shall preferably not be located in the carriageway.

Joint bays for cable at 66kV or above shall be provided with adequate means of support for joints, in the form of a 100mm thick concrete floor.

Where reasonably practicable, all exposed cables and joints in joint bays shall be blinded with sand or covered with sand bags, before they are energised, to protect them against mechanical damage and to prevent the possible spread of fire.

In situations where this is not possible consideration should be given to the use of other appropriate methods to protect cables from fire damage, as detailed in ECS 02-0031.

For existing in air installation all joints should be protected with suitable flame-retardant materials, as detailed in ECS 02-0031.

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7 Cable Installation Depths

All cables shall be installed at the minimum depths of cover detailed in this section, where the depth is measured to the top surface of either the cable or the duct containing the cable.

Cables and ducts shall never be installed at increased depths unless there is no other alternative, as increased depth reduces a cables rating, which will increase cable conductor size and prevent easy access to the asset in the future.

In instances where these minimum depths cannot be achieved, the cables shall be installed with additional mechanical protection, in the form of either steel plates (Section 7.1) or steel ducts (Section 7.2).

All steel plates and ducts shall be protected with a suitable cable protection tape or Stokbord® as specified in Section 7.3.

7.1 Steel Plates

In this case, all steel plates shall be either 900mm x 225mm x 6mm (UKPN Stores Code = 03090R) or 900mm x 300mm x 6mm (UKPN Stores = 03089V) and painted with a single coat of Bitumastic paint.

7.2 Steel Ducts

Steel ducts shall be of the same internal diameter as the plastic ducts, normally used for the type of cable to be installed. They shall be designed and manufactured in accordance with the following requirements:

- Comply with BS EN 10255:2004.
- Have a minimum internal diameter of 32mm.
- Consist of a welded steel tube with no internal protruding seam or an equivalent seamless design. Any surface of the seam shall be smooth to the touch throughout.
- Have all joints screwed and socketed, with the internal edges of the pipe bevelled.
- Have the pipes to be close-butted within the socket/collar. The ends of the ducts shall be de-burred and finished smooth to the touch.
- Be of medium duty and supplied in either red oxide or black.
- Shall be marked with permanently with the legend “ELECTRIC CABLE DUCT” as specified in Section 7.2 of ENA TS 12-24.
- Be puddle-flanged where they pass through retaining walls straight into a substation.

Galvanised ducts are not acceptable as the galvanising process can leave the ducts with an abrasive finish internally.

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7.3 Cable Protection Tapes and Covers

All cables and ducts shall be protected by UK Power Networks branded cable protection tape or a Stokbord® depending upon the highest voltage cable in the trench to be protected:

Table 7-1 – Cable Protection Tape and Covers

Cable Voltage and Type	Description	UKPN Stores Code
LV Mains, LV Services, 11kV and 20/22kV	Tile tape (200mm x 2.5mm)	04039G
33kV, 66kV and 132kV	Stokbord® (244mm x 9mm)	04041M
	Stokbord® (500mm x 9mm)	04042W

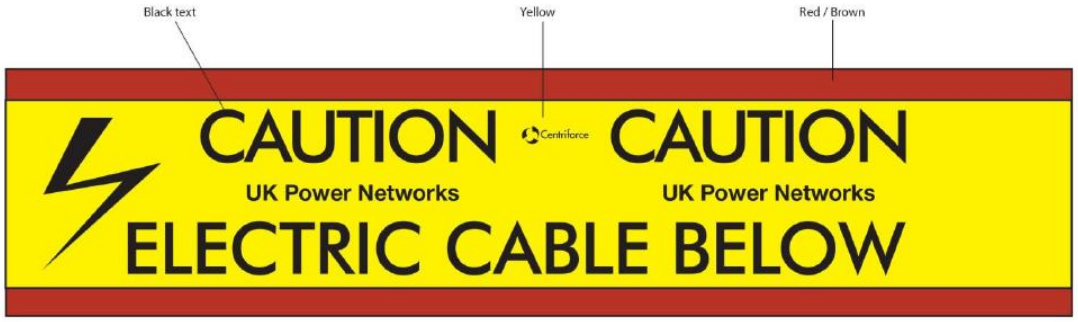

Figure 7-1 – UK Power Networks Branded Tile Tape and Stokbord@ Legend example

Cable protection tape or covers shall be installed so that they fully cover the width of the cable or cable duct installed below them.

7.4 Low Voltage Service and Mains Cables

All Low Voltage (LV) cables shall be installed to the following minimum depths, whether they are laid direct or installed in suitable ducts:

- Footways, grass verges or private property = 450mm;
- Carriageways (including road crossings) = 600mm;
- Normal agricultural land (not subject to deep ploughing) = 1050mm;
- Agricultural land subject to deep ploughing = 1200mm.

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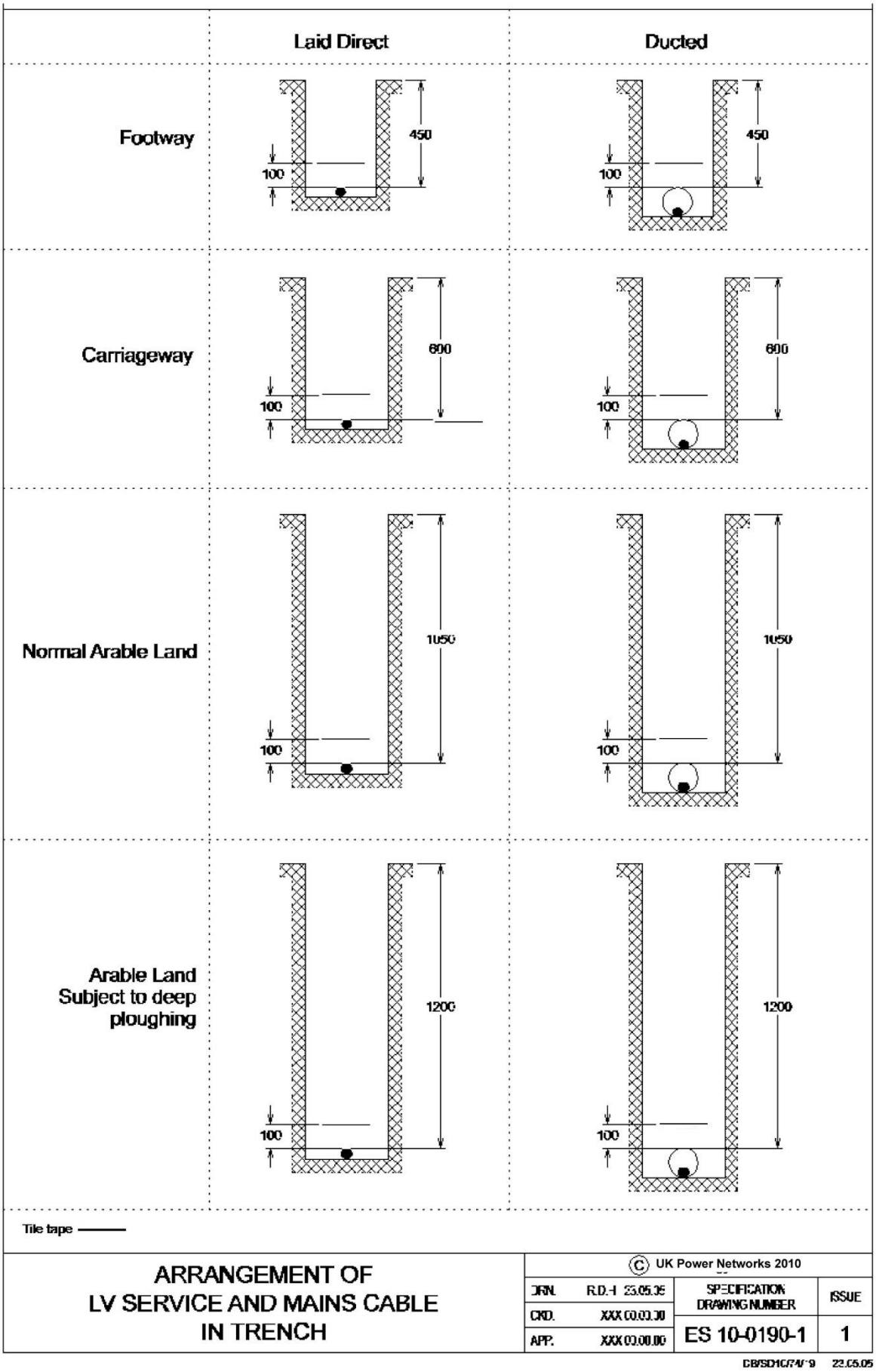

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7.5 11 and 20kV Cables

All 11 and 20kV cables shall be installed to the following minimum depths, whether they are laid direct or installed in suitable ducts:

- Footways, grass verges or private property = 600mm;
- Carriageways (including road crossings) = 750mm;
- Normal agricultural land (not subject to deep ploughing) = 1050mm;
- Agricultural land subject to deep ploughing = 1200mm.

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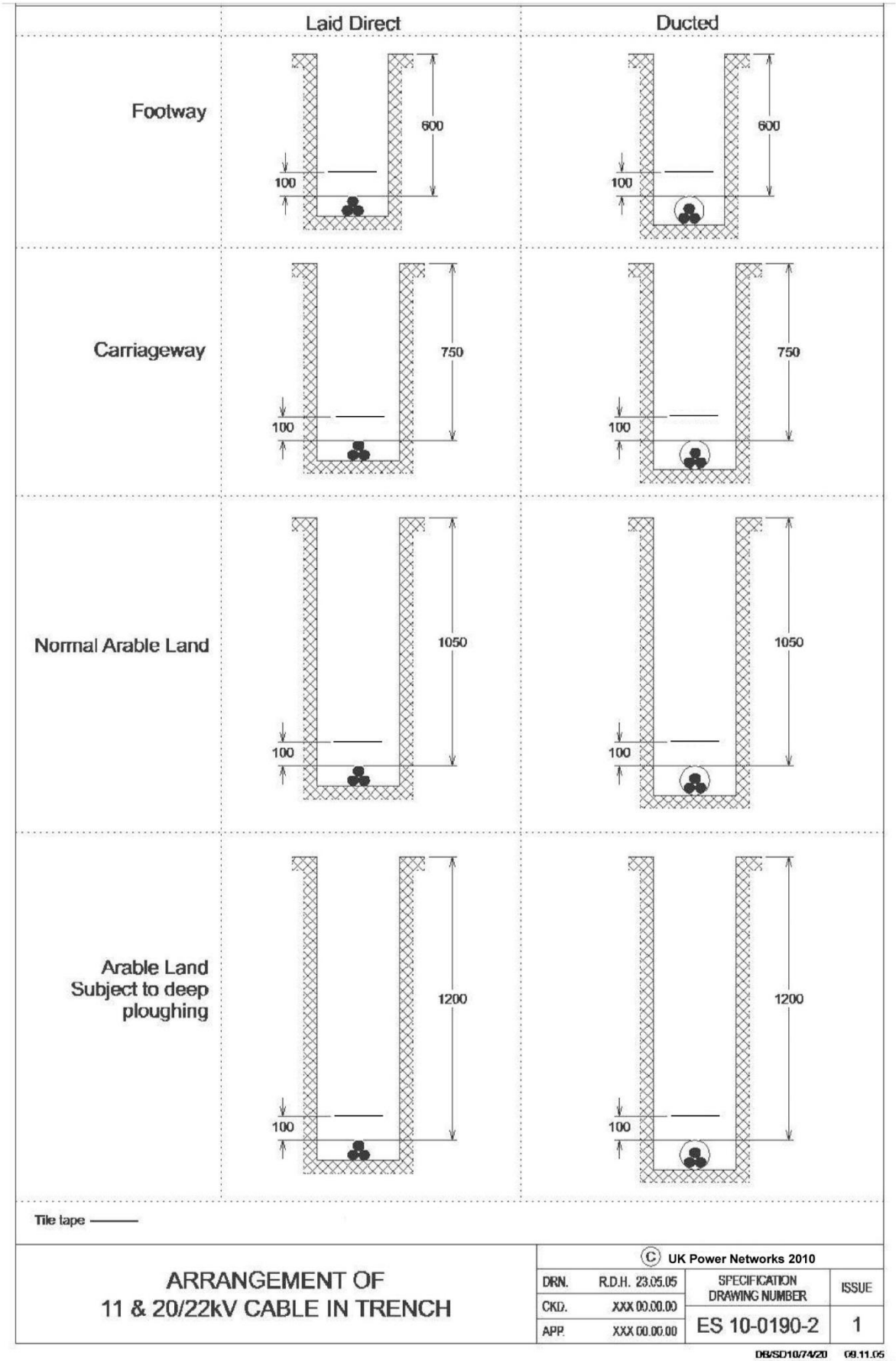

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7.6 33kV Cables

All 33kV cables shall be installed to the following minimum depths, whether they are laid direct or installed in suitable ducts:

- Footways, grass verges or private property = 900mm;
- Carriageways (including road crossings) = 900mm;
- Normal agricultural land (not subject to deep ploughing) = 1050mm;
- Agricultural land subject to deep ploughing = 1200mm.

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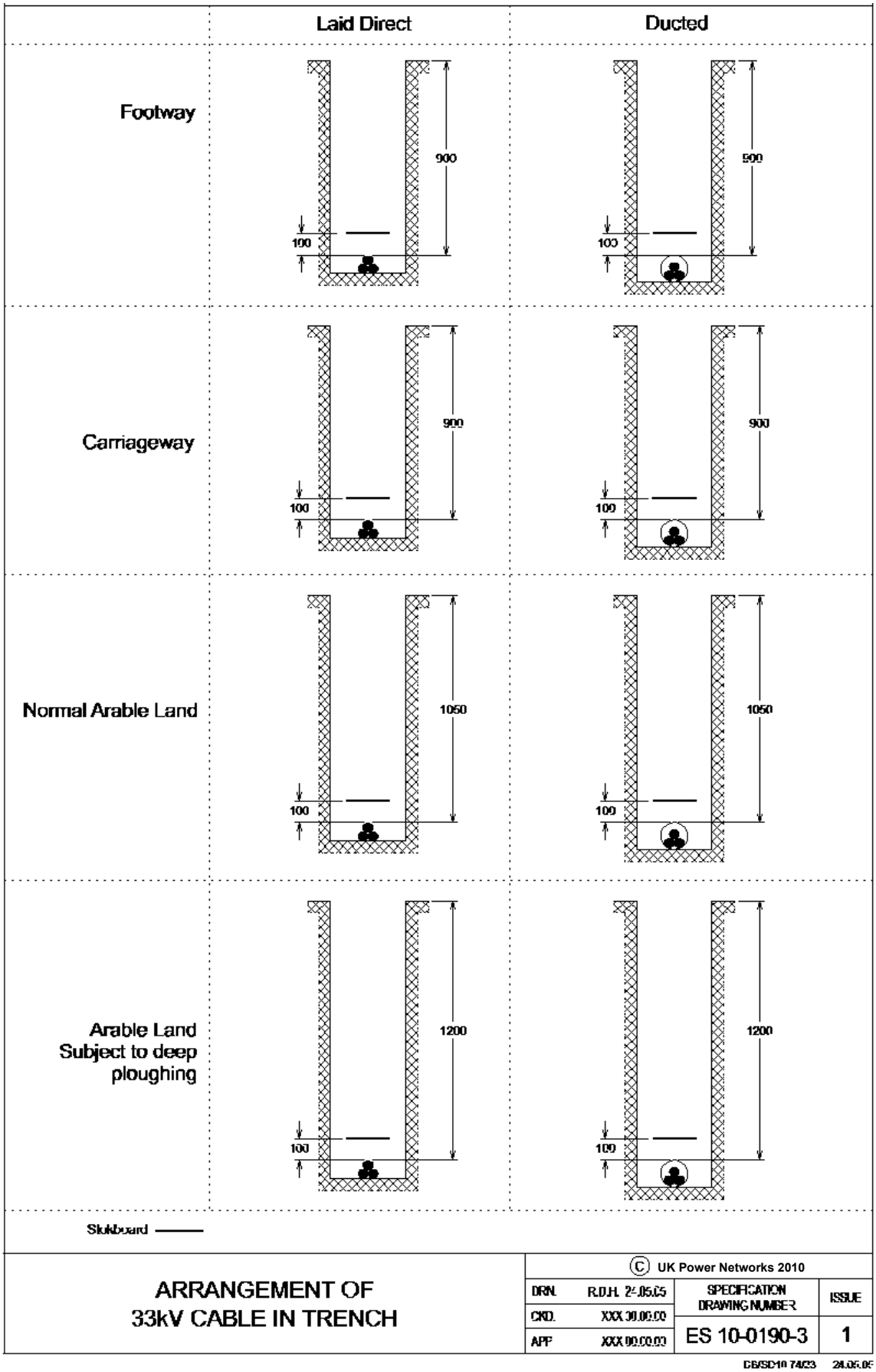

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7.7 66kV and 132kV Cables

All 66kV and 132kV cables shall be installed to the following minimum depths, whether they are laid direct or installed in suitable ducts:

- Footways, grass verges or private property = 900mm;
- Carriageways (including road crossings) = 900mm;
- Normal agricultural land (not subject to deep ploughing) = 1050mm;
- Agricultural land subject to deep ploughing = 1200mm.

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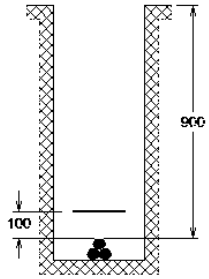
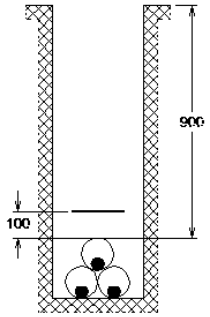
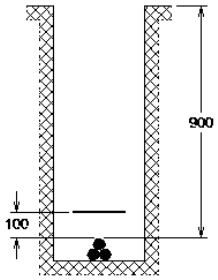
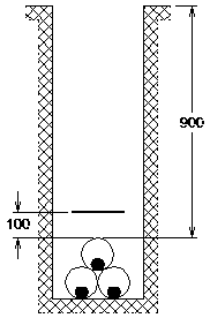
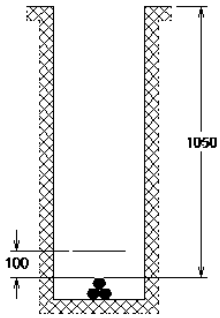
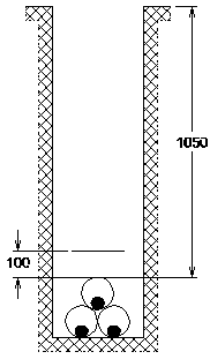
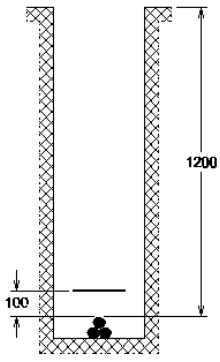
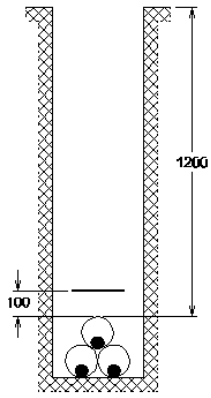
	Laid Direct	Ducted
Footway		
Carriageway		
Normal Arable Land		
Arable Land Subject to deep ploughing		

Stokboard ——

ARRANGEMENT OF
66 & 132kV CABLE IN TRENCH

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DRN.	R.D.H. 24.05.05	SPECIFICATION DRAWING NUMBER	ISSUE
CKD.	XXX 00.00.00	ES 10-0190-4	1
APP.	XXX 00.00.00		

DB/SD10/74/27 25.05.05

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7.8 Auxiliary Multicore and Multipair Cables

Auxiliary multicore and multipair cables are usually laid at similar depths to the power cables with which they are associated, the following minimum depths and conditions shall apply, whether they are laid direct or installed in suitable ducts:

- All normal methods of protecting the cables from damage (i.e., Tile tape and/or Stokbord®);
- Footways, grass verges or private property = 450mm;
- Carriageways (including road crossings) = 600mm;
- Normal agricultural land (not subject to deep ploughing) = 1050mm;
- Agricultural land subject to deep ploughing = 1200mm.

7.9 Typical Trench Layouts

When cables of differing voltages are to be installed in a common trench all the minimum of depths of cover detailed in Section 6 of this standard shall be maintained.

Drawings DB/SD10/74/21 to DB/SD10/74/25 show a number of example installations for guidance.

For clarity not all ducted installations are shown, cables installed in ducts shall be installed to the same standard except that the measurement for the minimum depth of cover is from the final finished surface of the ground to the top surface of the duct.

Multicore and multipair cables installed alongside 11kV and 33kV cable circuits shall normally be installed at LV cable minimum depths of cover, unless operation reasons dictate that they are laid at the same depth as the power cable.

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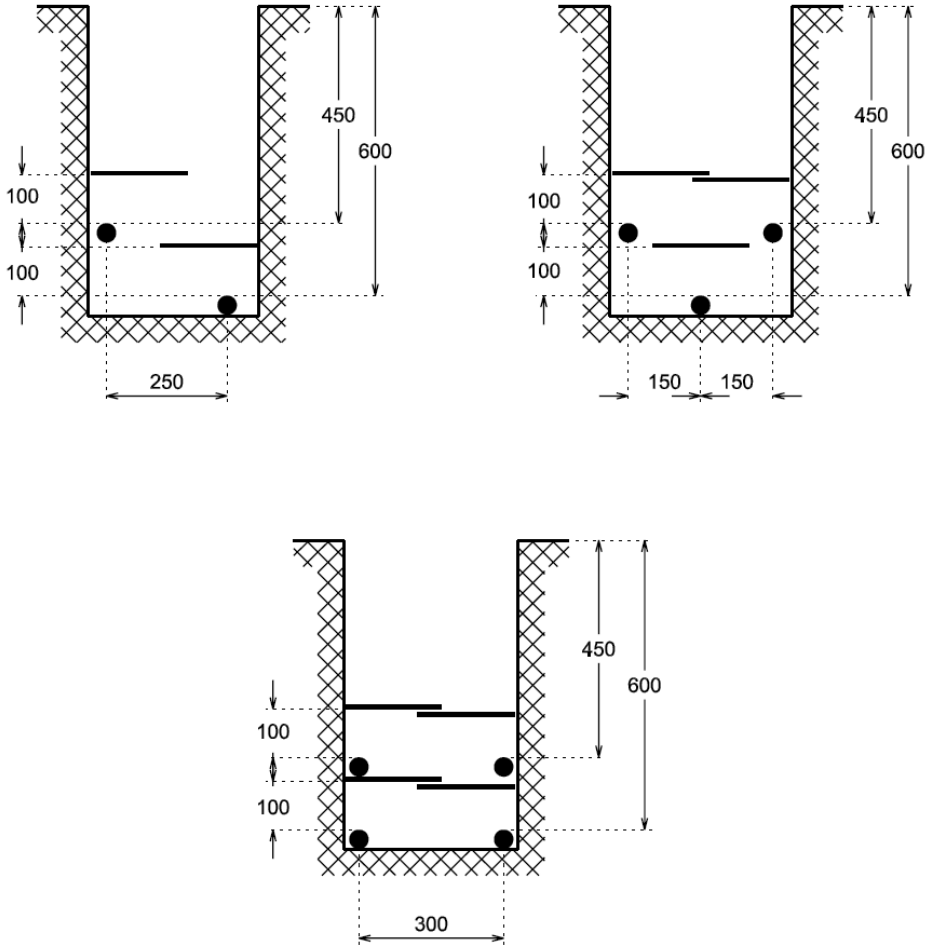
Combined LV and 11 or 20kV Cables

In Footpaths etc.



Tape Tiles

ARRANGEMENT OF COMBINED L.V. AND 11 OR 20kV CABLES IN TRENCH	© UK Power Networks 2010		
	DRN. RDH 11.04.95	DRAWING NUMBER	ISSUE
	CKD. P.W. 15.12.04	DB/SD10/74/22	3
	APP. P.W. 15.12.04		

15.09.09

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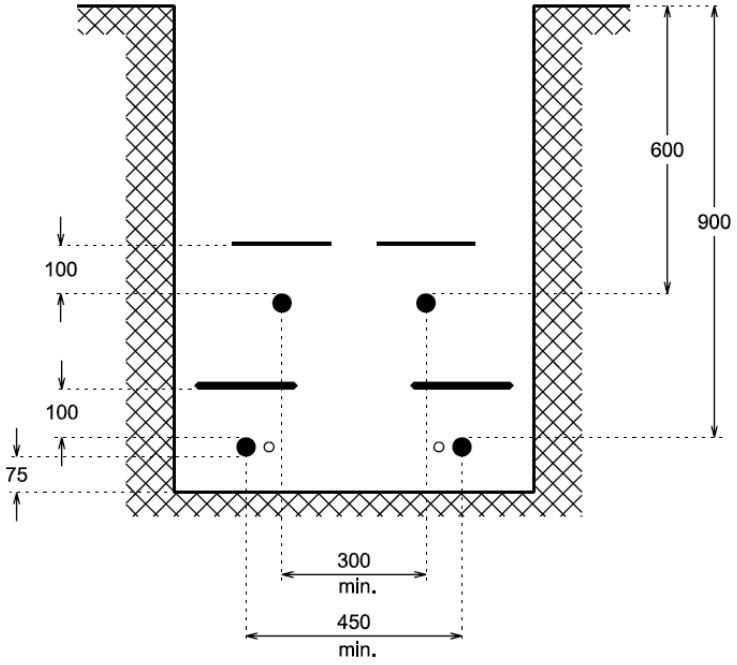
33kV and 11 or 20kV Cable

Laid Direct in Footpath etc.



Tape Tiles ——— Stok Boards ———

ARRANGEMENT OF 33kV AND 11 OR 20kV CABLE IN TRENCH	© UK Power Networks 2010		
	DRN. RDH 28.02.95	DRAWING NUMBER	ISSUE
	CKD. P.W. 15.12.04	DB/SD10/74/21	3
	APP. P.W. 15.12.04		

15.09.09

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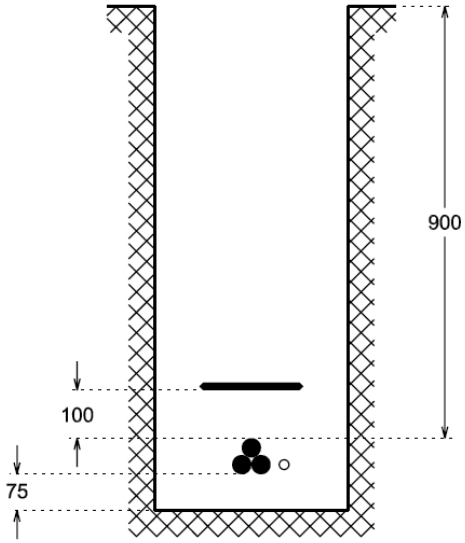
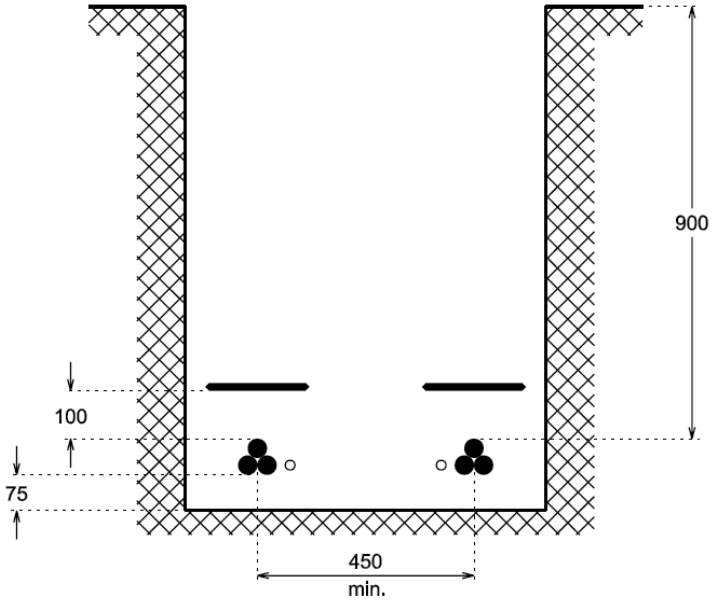
33 or 132kV Cables

Road or Footpath





Laid direct. No extra depth for ducts.
If bedding is not required reduce depth by 75mm.

Stok Boards

ARRANGEMENT OF 33/132kV CABLES
IN ROAD OR FOOTPATH

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DRN. RDH 11.04.95	DRAWING NUMBER	ISSUE
CKD. P.W. 18.05.04	DB/SD10/74/23	4
APP. P.W. 18.05.04		

15.09.09

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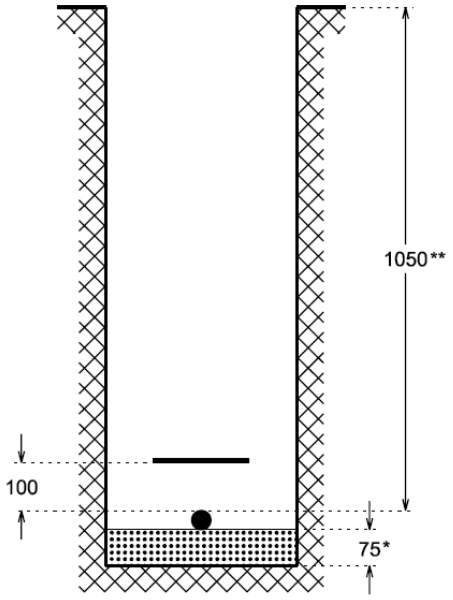
All Cables, 33kV and below

Laid in Agricultural Land



* 75mm sand bed for 33kV cables only.

** Depth of cover increased to 1200mm if agricultural land is subject to deep ploughing.

*** Use Stok Boards in place of Tape Tiles for 33kV cables only.

Tape Tiles*** ———

ARRANGEMENT OF CABLES IN TRENCH IN AGRICULTURAL LAND	© UK Power Networks 2010		
	DRN. RDH 28.02.95	DRAWING NUMBER	ISSUE
	CKD. P.W. 18.05.04	DB/SD10/74/25	3
	APP. P.W. 18.05.04		

15.09.09

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8 Cable Installation

8.1 Preparation of Trenches for the installation of cables

Trenches shall be excavated as specified in Section 3.6 of ENA TS 09-02.

8.2 Trench Bedding

All cables shall only be laid directly onto the bottom of the trench, if the surface will not cause damage to the outer sheath.

For LV and 11kV cable installations, a sand bedding material needs to be used for the base of a trench, the depth of the trench shall be increased by the appropriate amount to ensure that the required minimum depth of cover is achieved.

For 33, 66 and 132kV cable installations, a cement bound sand or compacted crushed limestone bed, complying with the requirements of ENA TS 97-01 shall be installed, except where cable rating calculations prove that a stabilised backfill material is not required.

All bedding layers shall be compacted to a depth of 75mm and shall be installed covering the full width of the trench.

The trench depth shall be increased to ensure that the required minimum depth of cover is maintained.

8.3 Cable Ducts

Electricity, multicore and mulitpair cables shall only be installed into electricity cable ducts, complying with EAS 02-0000.

New cable ducts shall be black in colour and marked with the legend 'Electric Cable Duct' on two diametrically opposite sides.

Cable shall only be installed in ducts that are suitable sized to accommodate them, Appendix A details the minimum internal duct diameters allowable for the most common types of cable used by UK Power Networks.

All cable duct joints shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions or recommendations and should be installed in such a way to prevent damage to cables as they are installed.

Where reasonably practicable, before a cable is installed, all duct lines shall be checked and cleared of all obstructions. To ensure that the duct is suitable for the type of cable to be installed, a 3 metre length of the cable size and type to be installed shall be pulled through the complete length of the duct. This shall then be examined for damage, before any attempt is made to install the complete cable. If the sample of cable is found to have deep scores and tears in its outer sheath, which are more than half the thickness of the outer sheath, the duct route shall be repaired before any attempt is made to install the final length of cable.

33kV, 66kV or 132kV cables; and their associated multicore and multipair cables shall be installed in appropriately sized ducts installed a cement bound sand or compacted crushed limestone material, complying with the requirements of ENA TS 97-01, except where cable rating calculations prove that a stabilised backfill material is not required.

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When a thermally stable duct filling material (such as Bentonite) is to be used as specified in Annex B of ENA TS 09-02, the duct shall also be installed in a cement bound sand or compacted crushed limestone material, complying with the requirements of ENA TS 97-01. All joints in the pipe or duct shall be effectively sealed to prevent the migration of the material into the surrounding backfill and to preserve its moisture content under service conditions.

8.4 Cable Duct Sealing

All cable ducts and tubes entering substations or buildings shall be sealed with the appropriate RDSS Rayflate® duct seal, as specified in EAS 02-0000 to prevent the ingress of gas and water, even if the ducts do not contain a cable.

Alternative duct seals may be used if the onsite conditions are not suitable for the Rayflate system to be used.

8.5 Cable Drums

Before installing a cable, the delivered cable required for the job shall be inspected to ensure that it is undamaged, the ends are sealed, and the correct size, length and voltage type required for the job has been delivered. Any damage or non-conformity shall be rectified immediately.

33kV, 66kV and 132kV cables are provided with a conductive outer sheath coating (graphite or an extruded semi-conducting material) and a sheath test as specified in ECP 11-0006 shall be carried out whilst the cable is still on the drum.

All cable drums shall be placed on firm and stable surface before the cable is removed. On installation the cable shall always be pulled from the top of the drum to avoid damage.

Where it is necessary to move the drum into position the drum shall only be steered by the use of purpose made slewing bars.

All cable jacks and spindles shall be checked to ensure that they are in good condition and of the appropriate size for the weight of the drum and cable to be installed.

To avoid any risk of injury all nails shall be removed and made safe only once the drum is in its final position.

All unused cable and other unused UK Power Networks' materials shall be stored safely and securely on site and returned to the issuing depot as soon as is practical after the project or project phase is complete.

Cable drums shall be returned to the cable manufacturer, using the free phone number displayed on the drum.

All non-returnable cable drums shall be disposed of in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act.

8.6 Cable Caps

Manufacturer's factory fitted cable caps are only installed to prevent the ingress of moisture during transportation and shall not be used during the installation of cables on-site.

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Prior to the installation, each length of cable shall be fitted with a properly installed suitably sized Heatshrink Cap.

8.7 Cable Pulling

All cables shall be pulled as specified in Annex A of ENATS 09-02.

The cable shall be examined and checked for damage during and immediately following installation.

Any damage that occurs, no matter how small, shall be reported immediately so the necessary repairs can be made.

Minimum cable bending radii shall be observed at all times and be as specified in Appendix A. Sufficient labour and equipment to install the cable without causing damage to it or other services shall be used at all times.

Cable shall only be laid when the ambient air temperature is above 0°C and has been so for the previous 24 hours, or the cable has been stored in an environment where the temperature has been maintained above 0°C, thus avoiding the risk of mechanical damage during handling.

Where a winch is to be used it shall have a swivel eye fitted. The swivel eye must be in good working order and able to freely rotate to prevent the cable twisting. The bond wire must be pulled in from the far end and tensioned to ensure it does not damage other apparatus crossing the trench.

Only serviceable winches shall be used to pull cable with an accurate dynamometer or an adjustable tension limiting switch fitted. The maximum pulling force must not exceed the values shown in Appendix A.

All multicore, multipair, LV, 11, 20, 33, 66 and 132kV cables shall normally be pulled in using a correctly sized cable stocking which is securely fixed to the cable. More difficult pulls may require the use of a pulling eye attached directly to the cable conductors, which has been installed by the manufacturer.

Rollers shall always be used when pulling cables. All rollers used shall be in serviceable condition moving easily on their spindle and with rolling surfaces free from damage.

A leading roller shall be placed at the trench side at the pulling end, with slide rollers on bends and hoop rollers along straight sections. Inverted skid plates shall be used to prevent the cable or pull wire rising into obstructions. At duct entries a bell mouth shall be attached at each end with rollers positioned to give central access into the bell mouth.

Immediately following installation of cables and/or their testing, the ends of each cable shall be sealed against the ingress of moisture. Where more than one cable is being installed, both ends of each cable shall be clearly identified by the use of numbered tapes or a similar product.

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8.8 Sheath Testing

Following the installation all new lengths and prior to the jointing of polymeric sheathed 6.6kV, 11kV, 20kV, 33kV, 66kV and 132kV cables a sheath test shall be carried out in accordance with engineering commissioning ECP 11-0006 and specifically engineering commissioning procedure ECP 11-0007.

8.9 Support and Blinding of Cables

Sand filled bags shall be used to support cables, joints or ancillary equipment when necessary.

All accumulated water shall be pumped from the excavation before blinding the cable or duct.

Following installation, all cables shall be blinded to a compacted depth of 100mm above the cable or cable joint with soil taken from the excavated material or imported material. The blinding shall be free from materials that may damage the cable.

Imported material for blinding (sand) shall only be used for cables 20kV or below if all the excavated material is unsuitable.

All 33, 66 and 132kV cables, laid direct, shall be blinded with cement bound sand or crushed limestone, complying with the requirements of ENA TS 97-01, except where cable rating calculations prove that a stabilised backfill material is not required, to a compacted depth of 100mm above the cable.

All blinding material over and around the cable and joint in joint bays shall be compacted by hand.

8.10 Installation of Cable Protection Covers

Marker tile tape or Stokbords® shall be installed over the cables as shown in the appropriate trench drawings shown in Section 7 of this document.

There is no requirement to install either above approved ducts installed using trenchless techniques (i.e. directional drill), but either may be installed if it is deemed that additional protection is required.

Tile tape when used shall be cut cleanly and installed so that fully covers the cables or ducts installed below it along its whole length.

Similarly, Stokbords® shall be installed so they fully cover the cables or ducts below them and any gaps between individual Stokbord® shall be covered by an additional board applied over the top.

8.11 Filling of Cable Ducts

Where specified ducts containing cables shall be filled with a Bentonite mixture as specified in Annex B of ENA TS 09-02.

8.12 Reinstatement of Trenches

After the cables have been blinded all excavations in the highway shall be filled and reinstated in accordance with the requirements of the HAUC Specification for the Reinstatement of Openings in Highways or, in other situations, as otherwise specified.

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All temporary supports and timbers shall be removed from the installation as reinstatement proceeds.

9 Trenchless Installation

All excavation and reinstatement work involved with trenchless methods shall be carried out in accordance with this standard. This standard excludes Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), Micro tunnelling or Tunnelling which will be covered by site specific geotechnical studies and method statements.

Where the ground conditions are suitable, cables and ducts (up to 160mm outer diameter) can be installed using trenchless installation techniques.

The entire cable or duct length shall be installed at a depth not less than the standard depth appropriate to the cable operating voltage (Section 6). Where it is necessary to install a cable or a duct deeper than the standard depth, account for the increased depth in respect to a reduced rating, which will increase cable conductor size and future access to the asset should be taken in to account.

All ducts and couplings shall comply with EAS 02-0000.

Duct lengths shall only be connected by either butt fuse or electro fuse welding. The method used shall not reduce the internal diameter by more than 5mm.

9.1 General Guidelines

Before the commencement of a trenchless installation, all other utilities, obstacles and hazards shall be identified. Measures must be taken to avoid damage to all other utilities and other third party's equipment and plant. Were necessary trial holes will be required to positively prove the location of other equipment and plant to confirm the viability of the proposed cable route.

Trenchless installation methods shall only be used where a duct can be installed, as part of the operation and cannot be used to directly lay cables into the ground.

The entire duct length shall be installed at a depth not less than the standard depth appropriate to the cable operating voltage.

Where the ground levels change or are to be altered after the installation, these changes in topography need to be accounted for in the setting out of the launch and receive locations. This is to ensure the minimum depths are maintained at all times and the complete route must meet the minimum depths requirement along its entire length.

Installations should be carried out using a point to point straight line method, with the maximum distance between any two points being 20 metres.

Following the installation of an approved duct, the route shall have the depths confirmed using techniques like ground penetrating radar (GPR), acoustic pipe location, radio frequency detection (using a push cable and sonde) or similar techniques. This information must be submitted as part of the as-built drawing as required by EOS 09-0100.

Depth measurements must be recorded at the launch and receive locations and at 5 metre intervals along the route. Where there is a change in ground type or level, additional

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measurements must be taken, to confirm depth of the installation is compliant with the standard depths outlined within this document.

Steering and tracking systems shall be used were available, to ensure the installation is maintained at the correct depth and course.

Clearances to other plant and equipment should be in line with the requirements and guidelines outlined in Health and Safety Executive HSG 47 “Avoiding danger from underground services”.

Where it is necessary to install a cable and duct deeper than the standard depth, the effect of the increased depth needs to be considered in respect to the reduction in cable rating and future access to the asset should also be taken in to account.

10 Provision of Cable Records

A complete record of all LV to 33kV cable installations shall be recorded as required in EOS 09-0100.

All 33kV, 66kV and 132kV cable installations shall be recorded as specified in Section 3.19 and Annex C of ENA TS 09-02.

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11 References

11.1 UK Power Networks Standards

EAS 02-0000	Approved Equipment List - Cables and Joints
ECS 02-0031	Installation of Power Cables and Joints in Air
EOS 09-0100	Site Recording of Cables, Plant and equipment
ECP 11-0006	High Voltage Insulation Testing
ECP 11-0007	HV Polymeric Cable Sheath Testing Procedure
SWP 001	Street Works Policy

UK Power Networks Distribution Safety Rules (DSR) & associated Codes of Practice

UK Power Networks Excavation and Cable Installation Manual

11.2 National and International Standards

BS EN 10255	Non-alloy steel tubes suitable for welding and threading. Technical delivery conditions
ENA EREC G29	Farm Hygiene: Precautions to Prevent Spread of Animal and Poultry Disease
ENA EREC G57	Cable Laying on Agricultural Land
ENA TS 09-02	Supply, Delivery and Inspection of Power cables with Operating Voltages in the Range 33kV to 400kV and Associated Auxiliary Cables
ENA TS 12-24	Technical specification for plastic ducts for buried electric cables
ENA TS 97-01	Special Backfill for Cable Installations
HSG47	Avoiding danger from underground services

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Appendix A – Cable Maximum Pulling Tensions, Minimum Duct Sizes and Bending Radii

A.1 LV Service and Waveform Cables

Cable Size (mm^2) & Type		Maximum Pulling Tension Newton (kgf)	Minimum Duct ID (mm)	Minimum Bending Radius (mm)
4	1ph copper XLPE/PVC concentric	manual	32*	75
25	1ph aluminium XLPE/PVC concentric	manual	32*	100
35	1ph aluminium XLPE/PVC concentric	manual	32*	115
35	1ph aluminium XLPE/PVC split concentric	manual	32*	130
35	3ph aluminium XLPE/PVC concentric	manual	50*	200
95	3ph aluminium Waveform	3000 (306)	125	550
185	3ph aluminium Waveform	7000 (714)	125	700
300	3ph aluminium Waveform	7000 (714)	125	850
300	3ph copper Waveform	14710(1500)	125	900
600	Single core aluminium PVC/PVC	manual	125	350
740	Single core aluminium PVC/PVC	manual	125	400

* These duct sizes shall not be used in road crossings due to their reduced mechanical strength. In these cases, the service cable shall be treated as an LV Main and installed in a 125 mm internal diameter Rigiduct.

A.2 11kV Cables with MDPE Outer Sheath

Cable Size (mm^2) & Type		Maximum Pulling Tension Newton (kgf)	Maximum Allowable SWP (N/M)	Minimum Duct ID (mm)		Minimum Bending Radius (mm)
				3 Ducts	Single Duct	
95	Triplex aluminium XLPE	8380 (854)	7300	N/A	100	950
185	Triplex aluminium XLPE	16330 (1665)	7300	N/A	100	1090
185	Triplex copper XLPE	27200 (2770)	7300	N/A	100	1140
300	Triplex aluminium XLPE	26480 (2700)	7300	N/A	125	1240
300	Triplex copper XLPE	44130 (4500)	7300	N/A	125	1310
630	Single core aluminium XLPE	18530 (1889) *	7300	100	150	1000
800	Single core aluminium XLPE	23540 (2400) *	7300	100	150	1080
1000	Single core aluminium XLPE	29420 (3000) *	7300	125	150	1170
1200	Single core aluminium XLPE	35300 (3600) *	7300	125	150	1210
* Maximum pulling tension based on a single core stocking pull.						

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A.3 11kV Cables with LSOH Outer Sheath

Cable Size (mm^2) & Type		Maximum Pulling Tension Newton (kgf)	Maximum Allowable SWP (N/M)	Minimum Duct ID (mm)		Minimum Bending Radius (mm)
				3 Ducts	Single Duct	
95	Single core aluminium XLPE	2790 (284)	7300	N/A	100	590
185	Single core aluminium XLPE	5440 (554)	7300	N/A	100	670
185	Single core copper XLPE	9070 (924)	7300	N/A	100	700
300	Single core aluminium XLPE	8830 (900)	7300	N/A	125	1240
300	Single core copper XLPE	14710 (1500)	7300	N/A	125	800
630	Single core aluminium XLPE	18530 (1889) *	7300	100	150	1000
800	Single core aluminium XLPE	23540 (2400) *	7300	100	150	1080
1000	Single core aluminium XLPE	29420 (3000) *	7300	125	150	1170
1200	Single core aluminium XLPE	35300 (3600) *	7300	125	150	1210
* Maximum pulling tension based on a single core stocking pull						

A.4 20/33kV Cables

Cable Size (mm^2) & Type		Maximum Pulling Tension Newton (kgf)	Maximum Allowable SWP (N/M)	Minimum Duct ID (mm)	Minimum Bending Radius (mm)
300	Single core Aluminium XLPE	9600* (978)	7300	150**	715
500	Single core Aluminium XLPE	14600* (1488)	7300	150**	800
630	Single core Aluminium XLPE	17800* (1815)	7300	190**	855
1000	Single core Aluminium XLPE	27200* (2773)	7300	190**	980
1200	Single core Aluminium XLPE	30000* (3059)	7300	190**	1095
* Maximum pulling tension on a single core stocking pull or group of three cables pulled in together, fitted with individual stockings. **Three single core cables pulled into a single cable duct.					

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A.5 Multicore and Multipair Cables

Cable Size (mm^2) & Type	Maximum Pulling Tension Newton (kgf)	Minimum Duct ID (mm)	Minimum Bending Radius (mm)
4 pair - 0.8mm Multipair	2040 (208)	85	165
7 pair - 0.8mm Multipair	2620 (267)	85	185
19 pair - 0.8mm Multipair	5210 (531)	85	260
37 pair - 0.8mm Multipair	8940 (911)	85	340
61 pair - 0.8mm Multipair	13620 (1388)	85	420
4 core - 2.5mm Multicore	1125 (114)	85	120
7 core - 2.5mm Multicore	1462 (149)	85	140
12 core - 2.5mm Multicore	2508 (255)	85	180
19 core - 2.5mm Multicore	3530 (359)	85	215
27 core - 2.5mm Multicore	4700 (479)	85	250
37 core - 2.5mm Multicore	5710 (582)	85	275

A.6 66kV Cables

Cable Size (mm^2) & Type		Maximum Pulling Tension Newton (kgf)	Maximum Allowable SWP (N/M)	Minimum Duct ID (mm)	Minimum Bending Radius (mm)
300	Single core Aluminium XLPE	9000 (917) *	7300	150	1480
400	Single core Copper XLPE	20000 (2039) *	7300	150	1550
*Maximum pulling tension on a single core conductor					

A.7 132kV Cables with HDPE Sheath

Cable Size (mm^2) & Type		Maximum Pulling Tension Newton (kgf)	Maximum Allowable SWP (N/M)	Minimum Duct ID (mm)	Minimum Bending Radius (mm)
300	Single core Aluminium XLPE	9000 (917) *	7300	150	1480
630	Single core Aluminium XLPE	18900 (1927) *	7300	150	1580
1000	Single core Aluminium XLPE	30000 (3059) *	7300	150	1760
1200	Single core Aluminium XLPE	36000 (3670) *	7300	150	1820
1600 M **	Single core Aluminium XLPE	48000 (4894) *	7300	150	2020
2500 M **	Single core Aluminium XLPE	75400 (7688) *	7300	190	2235
*Maximum pulling tension on a single core conductor via a factory fitted pulling eye ** Milliken					

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A.8 132kV Cables with LSOH Sheath

Cable Size (mm^2) & Type		Maximum Pulling Tension Newton (kgf)	Maximum Allowable SWP (N/M)	Minimum Duct ID (mm)	Minimum Bending Radius (mm)
300	Single core Aluminium XLPE	9000 (917) *	7300	150	1560
630	Single core Aluminium XLPE	18900 (1927) *	7300	150	1660
1000	Single core Aluminium XLPE	30000 (3059) *	7300	150	1860
1200	Single core Aluminium XLPE	36000 (3670) *	7300	150	1900
1600 M **	Single core Aluminium XLPE	48000 (4894) *	7300	150	2100
2500 M **	Single core Aluminium XLPE	75400 (7688) *	7300	190	2235
*Maximum pulling tension on a single core conductor via a factory fitted pulling eye ** Milliken					

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