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**Lowdown on Viking Link: Public information events coming soon**

**• Viking Link would link Britain and Denmark’s electricity systems boosting access to secure and affordable electricity supplies**

**• Seven public information events will be held in July and August to enable people to find out more about the project**

**• Events will also provide public with opportunity to give feedback on the plans**

National Grid Viking Link Ltd (NGVL) is inviting local people to find out more information about proposals for an electricity cable link between Denmark and Lincolnshire, with seven public participation events taking place in July and August.

Viking Link is a proposal to join Britain and Denmark’s electricity systems via a high voltage cable which would enable electricity to be both exported to and imported from the continent.

The project will help provide Britain with a secure supply of affordable electricity and to tap into more renewable and low carbon sources of energy. It is being developed by National Grid Viking Link Ltd and Energinet.dk, the Danish electricity transmission system operator.

The project would install two high voltage, direct current, undersea and underground cables between Revsing in Denmark and Bicker Fen in Lincolnshire.

A converter station would also be needed in the Bicker Fen area to change the ‘direct current’ electricity into the ‘alternating current’ that is used within the UK. Underground cables would link the converter station to the existing Bicker Fen electricity substation.

NGVL’s upcoming public participation events will provide an opportunity for local residents, landowners and stakeholders to find out more about the project and to comment on the plans. Members of the project team will be on hand to answer any questions and to discuss any concerns or feedback people may have.

The events will be held at the following locations:

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| **Venue** | **Postcode** | **Date** | **Time** |
| Little Steeping Village Hall | PE23 5BH | Wednesday 27th July 2016 | 1.30pm – 8.00pm |
| Aby Village Hall | LN13 ODL | Tuesday 2nd August 2016 | 1.30pm – 8.00pm |
| Orby Village Hall | PE24 5HT | Wednesday 3rd August 2016 | 1.30pm – 8.00pm |
| Huttoft Village Hall | LN13 9RG | Friday 5th August 2016 | 1.30pm – 8.00pm |
| Holland Fen Village Hall | LN4 4QH | Saturday 6th August 2016 | 12.30pm – 4.00pm |
| St James Hotel  Grimsby\* | DN31 1EP | Thursday 11th August 2016\* | 2.00pm – 8.00pm |
| Stickford Community Centre | PE22 8ES | Thursday 18th August 2016 | 1.30pm – 8.00pm |
| Partney, Dalby & Dexthorpe Victory Hall | PE23 4PY | Friday 19th August 2016 | 1.30pm – 8.00pm |

\* This event will focus on offshore and maritime activities

NGVL recently held a public consultation on the possible options for a landfall point along the Lincolnshire coast and on possible suitable locations for a converter station, close to the National Grid Bicker Fen substation. Preferred sites are expected to be confirmed in the coming weeks.

The next stage of the project will be to identify the best routes for the two high voltage buried DC cables between the landfall and converter station and for the high voltage AC cables between the converter station and the National Grid substation at Bicker Fen. NGVL expect to carry out a public consultation on where the cables may be installed in September.

Oliver Wood, National Grid Viking Link Project Director, said: “Viking Link will help provide our country with a secure supply of affordable electricity.

“We want to work with the local community to find the best location for our equipment and to minimize any impact on local communities.”

He added: “We would urge people to come along to the public participation events to find out more about the proposal and to talk to the Viking Link project team.”

More information on the project can be found at [www.viking-link.com](http://www.viking-link.com).

People can also contact the Viking Link community relations team on 0800 731 0561 or email: [vikinglink@communityrelations.co.uk](mailto:vikinglink@communityrelations.co.uk)

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**Notes to Editors:**

**Interconnectors:**

To meet rising energy demands, National Grid is increasingly looking to join the UK’s electricity transmission system to other countries’ electricity networks via interconnectors. Links with France, known as IFA (Interconnexion France Angleterre), and the Netherlands, known as BritNed, are in operation. In addition, links with Belgium, known as Nemo Link, and with Norway, known as North Sea Link, are under construction. A second link with France, called IFA2, is in development.

An interconnector allows countries to exchange power, helping to ensure safe, secure and affordable energy supplies.

An interconnector is made up of two converter stations – one in each country –connected by cables. Converter stations convert electricity between Alternating Current (AC) and Direct Current (DC). AC is used on land, to power our homes, businesses and services, while DC is used for sending electricity along the high voltage subsea cables.

Viking Link is a proposed 1400 Mega Watt, high voltage DC electricity link between the British and Danish electricity transmission networks, connecting at Bicker Fen substation in Lincolnshire and Revsing in Denmark. The project will involve building a converter station in each country and installing subsea and underground cables between the two converter stations. Underground cables would then take power from the converter stations to electricity substations in each country, from where the electricity can be transmitted to homes and businesses across each country.

The Viking Link interconnector project is being jointly developed by National Grid Viking Link Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of National Grid Group, and Energinet.dk, which owns, operates and develops the Danish electricity and gas transmission systems.

National Grid Viking Link Limited is legally separate from other companies within National Grid. This is enforced by the energy regulator Ofgem.

National Grid Viking Link Limited Ltd is a separate legal entity to National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET). NGET is a separate company responsible for the works to connect the interconnector project to the existing national grid; by law the grid connection works must be kept separate from the interconnector and one company cannot develop both.

For the purposes of connecting to the existing electricity network, National Grid Viking Link Ltd is a customer of NGET. National Grid Viking Link Ltd does not get preferential treatment.

National Grid is one of the largest investor-owned energy companies in the world and was named Responsible Business of the Year 2014 by Business in the Community. This accolade acknowledges all of our efforts in getting involve with the things that really matter to us and to society. We own and manage the grids that connect people to the energy they need, from whatever the source.  In Britain and the north-eastern states of the US we run systems that deliver gas and electricity to millions of people, businesses and communities.

In Britain, we run the gas and electricity systems that our society is built on, delivering gas and electricity across the country.  In the North Eastern US, we connect more than seven million gas and electric customers to vital energy sources, essential for our modern lifestyles.

National Grid in the UK:

* We own the high-voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales, operating it across Great Britain
* We own and operate the high pressure gas transmission system in Britain
* Our gas distribution business delivers gas to 10.9 million homes and businesses
* We also own a number of related businesses including LNG importation, land remediation and metering
* National Grid manages the National Gas Emergency Service free phone line on behalf of the industry - 0800 111 999 (all calls are recorded and may be monitored).
* Our portfolio of other businesses is mainly concerned with infrastructure provision and related services where we can exploit our core skills and assets to create value. These businesses operate in areas such as Metering, Grain LNG Import, Interconnectors and Property. National Grid Carbon Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of National Grid. It undertakes Carbon Capture Storage related activities on behalf of National Grid.

National Grid in the US:

* National Grid delivers electricity to approximately 3.5 million customers in New England and upstate New York
* We own 3.8 gigawatts of contracted electricity generation, providing power to over one million LIPA customers
* We are the largest distributor of natural gas in north-eastern U.S., serving approximately 3.6 million customers in New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at [www.nationalgridconnecting.com](http://www.nationalgridconnecting.com)

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.