

# VikingLink

nationalgrid

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## UK Onshore Scheme Phase 1 Consultation Feedback Report Volume 1

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Viking Link is a proposed 1400 megawatt (MW) high voltage Direct Current (DC) electricity link (or interconnector) between the British and Danish transmission systems which will allow electricity to be exchanged between the two countries equivalent to around 1.3% of Great Britain's current usage. It is being jointly developed by National Grid Viking Link Limited (NGVL) and their development partner Energinet.dk (ENDK).

1.1.2 An overview of Viking Link is illustrated in Figure 1.1. The project comprises approximately 760km of DC onshore and offshore electricity transmission cables between new converter stations at each end of the link. These are in turn connected to the high voltage electricity transmission networks at existing substations in Bicker Fen, Lincolnshire in Great Britain and at Revsing, south Jutland in Denmark.

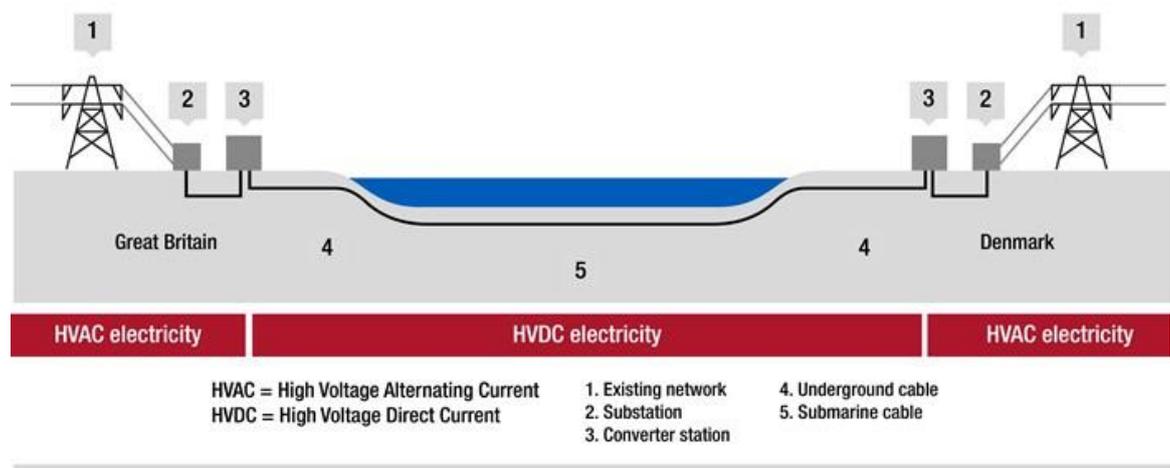


Figure 1.1 Overview of Viking Link

1.1.3 More specifically the project comprises the following:

- In Denmark, referred to as the 'DK Onshore Scheme':
  - New equipment within an existing 400 kV substation and high voltage Alternating Current (AC) cables to connect the existing electricity transmission system to a new Converter Station;
  - New Converter Station to change electricity between AC and DC or vice versa depending on direction of operation;
  - Onshore underground DC cables from a Converter Station to the coast in western Denmark;

In the North Sea (Danish, German, Dutch and United Kingdom Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ)), referred to as the 'Offshore Scheme':

- Approximately 630 km of submarine DC cables buried in the seabed for as much of their length as practicable.
- In the United Kingdom, referred to as the 'UK Onshore Scheme':
  - Onshore underground DC cables from the Lincolnshire coast to a new Converter Station;
  - New converter station to change electricity between DC and AC or vice versa depending on direction of operation;
  - AC cables from the converter station to new equipment within an existing substation which connects to the existing electricity transmission system.

1.1.4 The interconnector will enable more effective use of renewable energy, access to sustainable electricity generation and improved security of electricity supplies. Thus it will have socioeconomic benefits for both Denmark and Great Britain and the wider European community.

1.1.5 Viking Link has been designated a Project of Common Interest (PCI) under the TEN-E Regulations. These set out guidelines to assist in the development of energy networks within Europe, in particular streamlining the permitting process for major energy infrastructure projects that contribute to European energy networks. Under the TEN-E Regulations, developers are required to consult with all stakeholders and provide an opportunity for them to attend meetings, comment on proposals and discuss any concerns they may have on the project.

## 1.2 Purpose of report

1.2.1 National Grid Viking Link Limited (NGVL) is currently undertaking a comprehensive pre-application engagement programme on the Viking Link project.

1.2.2 This report presents a detailed account of the stakeholder engagement and public consultation which has been undertaken on the project up to 22nd July 2016.

1.2.3 It covers early engagement with statutory consultees and other stakeholder organisations, elected representatives and parish councils during the lead up to Phase 1 Consultation. Through meetings and briefings, NGVL introduced the project, outlined the proposed approach to site selection and routeing and sought feedback from statutory consultees on emerging findings of the initial site selection process. NGVL also discussed its proposed approach to public consultation and sought guidance on the most appropriate communications channels to adopt.

1.2.4 This report also details the Phase 1 public consultation on the shortlisted site options for a converter station and landfall point carried out between Monday 11 April and Friday 20 May 2016 and sets out the feedback received during that phase of consultation and NGVL's responses to the key issues and themes raised during Phase 1 consultation.

1.2.5 Further details on how the representations received during Phase 1 Consultation have influenced the decisions are set out in NGVL's Preferred Site Selection Report (EBD-VIK-ONS-DOC-0004).

## 1.3 Structure of the Report

1.3.1 This report is structured as follows:

- Chapter 2 – outlines the approach to consultation and engagement to date
- Chapter 3 – outlines engagement with statutory consultees, elected members and parish councils outside of the defined Phase 1 consultation period
- Chapter 4 – presents a summary of the activities undertaken as Phase 1 consultation
- Chapter 5 – sets out the process for managing feedback received during Phase 1 consultation
- Chapter 6 – summarises the issues raised in representations relating to landfall site options
- Chapter 7 – summarises the issues raised in feedback relating to converter site options
- Chapter 8 – summarise the issues raised in feedback from stakeholders.



## 2 Approach to Consultation

### 2.1 Approach to Consultation (Overview)

2.1.1 NGVL has committed to engage with stakeholders throughout the development of the project. The objectives of the engagement activities are:

- To engage and consult publicly on the project;
- To seek consultation feedback to inform NGVL's decisions; and
- To ensure NGVL delivers a compliant, robust consultation programme to support its planning applications.

2.1.2 The development of the UK Onshore Scheme has been set out in two stages. The first stage is the identification and assessment of alternative options for landfall and converter station sites (Siting) and the second stage the identification and assessment of alternative cable options (Routeing).

2.1.3 To complement this, a phased approach to consultation has been adopted to allow feedback from stakeholders to be fed into the decision-making process at points where it can influence the development of proposals.

2.1.4 All engagement and consultation activity undertaken takes into account NGVL's approach to community engagement including:

- Explaining the project;
- Explaining the options and why here, and why now;
- Linking the project to the community;
- Explaining the benefits;
- Listening to feedback;
- Ensuring low impact; and
- Ensuring sustainability.

2.1.5 NGVL intends to apply for planning permission for the UK onshore scheme, to mean low water springs, through the local planning process (under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) and as such has reviewed the Statements of Community Involvement (SCI) published by each of the relevant local authorities within the vicinity of the onshore scheme. The SCIs set out how each local authority expects developers to carry out public engagement and consultation on proposals and NGVL has considered the guidance in these documents when planning the consultation and engagement activities outlined in the following chapters.

2.1.6 The potentially affected local authorities are:

- Boston Borough Council
- South Holland District Council

- East Lindsey District Council
  - North Kesteven District Council
  - Lincolnshire County Council
- 2.1.7 Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council have a combined SCI produced by the South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee. Section three of their SCI relates to ‘community involvement and planning applications’ and highlights how the authorities expect developers to engage with communities prior to a planning application being submitted.
- 2.1.8 The South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee SCI can be found at: <http://www.boston.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=9647&p=0>. Page 17 of the document advises that ‘*Consultation prior to specific planning applications being submitted is not currently a statutory responsibility of either LPA or developer. However, the three partner LPAs actively encourage developers to seek involvement of the community at this stage*’. NGVL considers its Phase 1 consultation is in line with this pre application consultation position.
- 2.1.9 East Lindsey District Council has its own SCI. As above, the authority strongly encourages early engagement in order to help council officers, councillors and members of the public obtain a better understanding of the project. The East Lindsey District Council SCI can be found at: <http://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=1424&p=0>. The SCI recognises that: ‘*Pre-application discussions between the developer and the local authority are vitally important in providing a better mutual understanding of all planning issues and potential constraints that may be relevant to the proposal*’. As listed in table 3.1 NGVL has met and continues to engage with the relevant local authorities as part of the evolution of the project.
- 2.1.10 North Kesteven District Council shares its SCI with other authorities making up the Central Lincolnshire area (Lincoln City Council and West Lindsey District Council). The SCI dictates that, for some developments, pre-application consultation must take place. Each individual authority provides guidance on this. The Central Lincolnshire SCI can be found at: [https://www.lincoln.gov.uk/\\_resources/assets/attachment/full/0/9338.pdf](https://www.lincoln.gov.uk/_resources/assets/attachment/full/0/9338.pdf). Page 5 of the SCI acknowledges that: ‘*applicants are encouraged to involve the local community when preparing their proposal, even if legally they don’t have to. Such engagement can be beneficial to both the applicant and the community, as it can foster transparency, and enable proposals to respond to local needs and desires*’. NGVL considers its Phase 1 consultation has enabled the community and local authority to develop proposals for the project.
- 2.1.11 Lincolnshire County Council has its own SCI. Although the County Council will not determine the planning submission, it is the local highway authority and lead local flood authority and will advise on any submission in this capacity. NGVL has, therefore, considered the recommendations in the document. As with the other local authorities, Lincolnshire County Council recommends engagement with the local community and consideration of feedback received prior to a planning application being submitted. Lincolnshire County Council’s SCI can be found at: <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/planning-and-development/statement-of-community-involvement/>

## 2.2 Stakeholder engagement

- 2.2.1 Early engagement in the lead up to Phase 1 consultation has included a series of meetings and discussions with planning officers from the potentially affected local authorities listed in 2.1.6 above, and meetings and workshops with representatives from relevant statutory and non-statutory bodies.
- 2.2.2 Members of the project team have also met with local Members of Parliament (MPs), Members of European Parliament (MEPs), local authority members and parish councils. These activities are set out in more detail in Chapter 3.

## 2.3 Phase 1 consultation

- 2.3.1 Phase 1 consultation was held for six weeks from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016 until Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2016. This phase of consultation followed the identification and assessment of alternative options for landfall and converter station sites. Statutory and non-statutory consultees, landowners and members of the public living in the vicinity the options were asked for their views on the shortlisted site options for a landfall and converter station site.
- 2.3.2 Further details of the activities undertaken as Phase 1 consultation are set out in Chapter 4 and Chapters 5, Chapters 6 and 7 set out the feedback received during that phase of consultation and NGVL's responses to the key issues and themes raised.
- 2.3.3 Information on how the feedback received during Phase 1 Consultation has influenced the site selection decisions are set out in NGVL's Preferred Site Selection Report (EBD-VIK-ONS-DOC-0004).



## 3 Stakeholder Engagement

### 3.1 Early stakeholder engagement (Overview)

3.1.1 NGVL has developed relationships with a number of key stakeholder groups and has an ongoing and iterative programme of engagement with these stakeholders, outside of the defined phases of public consultation. This engagement can take many forms from one to one meetings, briefings and group workshops to discuss detailed aspects of the project development through to emailed updates and newsletters.

### 3.2 Local Authorities

NGVL has met with officers from the potentially affected local authorities to discuss aspects of the project through its development to date. Details of these meetings are set out below in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1 Local Authority Meeting Details	
Stakeholder	Meeting Date/Details
Lincolnshire County Council	6th November 2015 Update Meeting 15th January 2016 Viking Workshop - Preferred Terminal Points 25th January 2016 Viking Workshop - Preferred Terminal Points 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2016 Viking Workshop- Onshore Routeing
East Lindsey District Council	6th November 2015 Update Meeting 25th January 2016 Viking Workshop - Preferred Terminal Points 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2016 Viking Workshop- Onshore Routeing
Boston Borough Council	6th November 2015 Update Meeting 15th January 2016 Viking Workshop - Preferred Terminal Points 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2016 Update Meeting
North Kesteven District Council	20 <sup>th</sup> November 2015 Update Meeting 15th January 2016 Viking Workshop - Preferred Terminal Points 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2016 Viking Workshop- Onshore Routeing
South Holland District Council	6th November 2015 Update Meeting 15th January 2016 Viking Workshop - Preferred Terminal Points 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2016 Viking Workshop- Onshore Routeing

3.2.1 In January 2016, Council planning officers were asked to comment on NGVL’s proposed consultation zones for Phase 1 consultation (see figures below 3.1 and 3.2). These zones represent the areas within which stakeholders and the local community would be directly invited by letter to participate in the consultation. Planning officers from Boston Borough Council and North Kesteven District Council responded, noting that they were happy with the proposed zones. These officers also gave advice on additional stakeholders they felt should be included in the consultation.

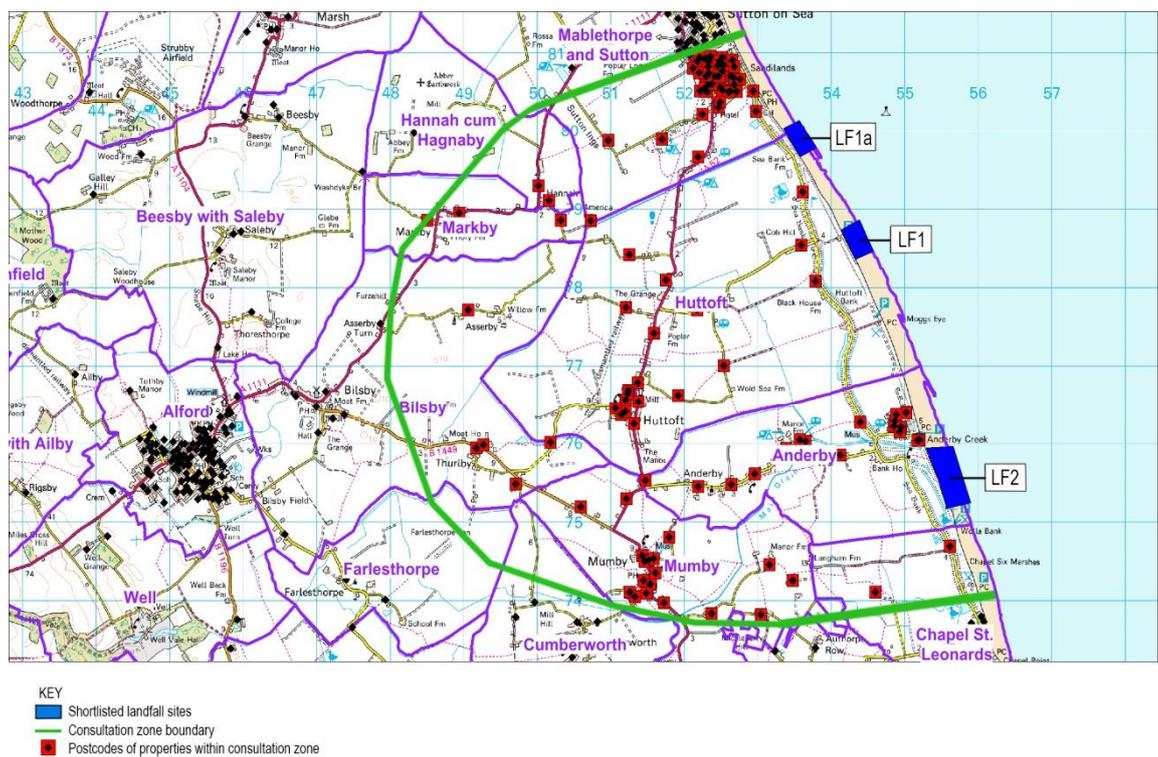
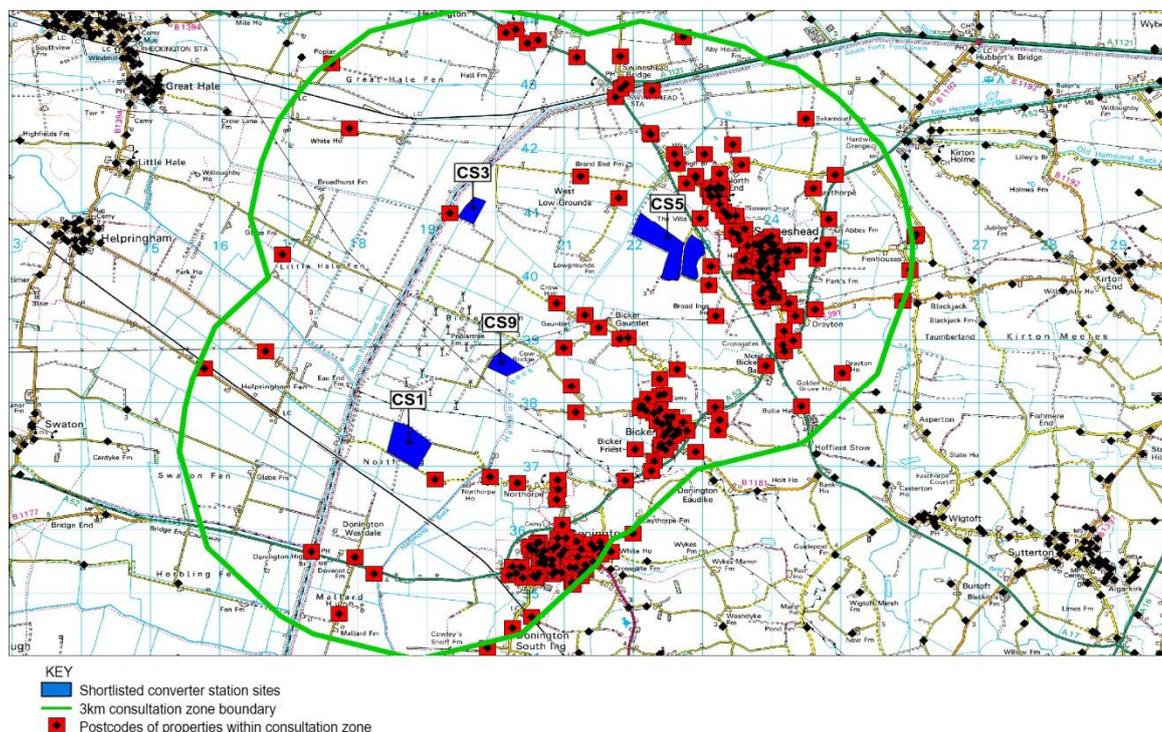


Figure 3.1 Landfall Consultation Zone



**Figure 3.2 Converter Station Consultation Zone**

3.2.2 In March 2016 the Viking Link project team briefed elected Members of the potentially affected local authorities, providing an introduction to the project and detail on the information to be consulted on during Phase 1. A copy of the presentation is available on the project website, <http://www.viking-link.com/>. Details of these meetings are set out below in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2 Dates of Elected Member Briefings		
Date	Council / Constituency	Attendees
14 March 2016	Lincolnshire County Council	County councillors
14 March 2016	Boston Borough Council	Borough councillors
17 March 2016	South Holland District Council	District councillors
18 March 2016	North Kesteven District Council	District councillors
23 March 2016	East Lindsey District Council	District councillors

### 3.3 Statutory stakeholders and other stakeholder groups

3.3.1 Stakeholders that the project has had engagement with to date includes:

- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- Historic England

- Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
- Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service
- Heritage Lincolnshire
- National Trust
- Internal Drainage Boards (Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board / Witham Fourth Drainage Board / Black Sluice Drainage Board)
- Marine Management Organisation

**Table 3.3 Stakeholder Meetings**

Date of Meetings	Stakeholder
8th September 2015 16th November 2015 18th January 2016 21st June 2016 21st July 2016	Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service
28th September 2015	Marine Management Organisation
19 <sup>th</sup> November 2015 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2016 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2016 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2016 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2016	Natural England
23rd November 18th January 2016 6th July 2016	Environment Agency
18 <sup>th</sup> January 2016 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2016 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2016 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2016	Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
5 <sup>th</sup> August 2015 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2016 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2016 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2016	Lindsey Marsh IDB, Witham Fourth IDB, Black Sluice IDB
31 <sup>st</sup> March 2016 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2016 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2016	Heritage England, Heritage Lincolnshire
17 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	National Trust

**Table 3.3 Stakeholder Meetings**

Date of Meetings	Stakeholder
21 <sup>st</sup> June 2016	
21 <sup>st</sup> July 2016	

### 3.4 MPs and MEPs

- 3.4.1 Local Members of Parliament and Members of European Parliament have been informed about the proposals and the consultation and engagement programme to date.
- 3.4.2 Project updates have been provided by email to relevant MEPs and MPs and briefing meetings have been held with Victoria Atkins (MP for Louth & Horncastle), Matthew Warman (MP for Boston and Skegness) and Stephen Phillips (MP for Sleaford and North Hykeham). A briefing was offered to John Hayes (MP for South Holland & The Deepings).
- 3.4.3 During Phase 1 consultation, a site visit to the shortlisted landfall sites was undertaken with Victoria Atkins and members of the NGVL team. This took place on 7th May 2016.
- 3.4.4 Details of meetings and correspondence with MPs and MEPs are given in Table 3.4.

**Table 3.4 Meetings and Correspondence with MPs and MEPs**

Date	Member of Parliament	Constituency	Details
6 March 2015	Sir Peter Tapsell. Mark Simmonds	Louth and Horncastle Boston and Skegness	Letter – introducing project
6 March 2015	Roger Helmer Emma McClarkin Glenis Willmott Margot Parker Andrew Lewer	Members of European Parliament	Letter – introducing project
22 May 2015	Victoria Atkins Matt Warman	Louth and Horncastle Boston and Skegness	Letter – introducing project
22 July 2015	Victoria Atkins Matt Warman	Louth and Horncastle Boston and Skegness	Letter/email – to update on the project as qualified for ‘cap and floor’ regime.
22 July 2015	Roger Helmer Emma McClarkin Glenis Willmott Margot Parker Andrew Lewer	Members of European Parliament	Letter/email – to update on the project as qualified for ‘cap and floor’ regime.
29 September 2015	Victoria Atkins Matt Warman	Louth and Horncastle Boston and Skegness	Letter/email update on the project – now in a

Table 3.4 Meetings and Correspondence with MPs and MEPs			
Date	Member of Parliament	Constituency	Details
			position to explain more about the proposals and how we consult with the local communities.
29 September 2015	Roger Helmer Emma McClarkin Andrew Lewer	Members of European Parliament	Meeting
6 January 2016	Matt Warman	Boston and Skegness	Meeting
14 January 2016	Stephen Phillips	Sleaford and North Hykeham	Letter/email introduction to the project
27 January 2016	Victoria Atkins Stephen Phillips	Louth and Horncastle Sleaford and North Hykeham	Meeting
3 February 2016	John Hayes	South Holland and The Deepings	Email – introduction to project and offer of meeting
23 February 2016	Victoria Atkins Matt Warman Stephen Phillips John Hayes	Louth and Horncastle Boston and Skegness Sleaford and North Hykeham South Holland and The Deepings	Email update and copied into letter sent to landowners whose land occupies potential landfall and converter station sites
23 February 2016	Roger Helmer Emma McClarkin Glenis Willmott Margot Parker Andrew Lewer	Members of European Parliament	Email update and copied into letter sent to landowners whose land occupies potential landfall and converter station sites
14 March 2016	Victoria Atkins Matt Warman Stephen Phillips John Hayes	Louth and Horncastle Boston and Skegness Sleaford and North Hykeham South Holland and The Deepings	Email update on project re local authority meetings
5 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	Victoria Atkins Matt Warman Stephen Phillips John Hayes	Louth and Horncastle Boston and Skegness Sleaford and North Hykeham South Holland and The Deepings	Update on project and invitation to participate in Phase 1 consultation
5 <sup>th</sup> April 2016	Roger Helmer	Members of European	Update on project and

Table 3.4 Meetings and Correspondence with MPs and MEPs			
Date	Member of Parliament	Constituency	Details
	Emma McClarkin Glenis Willmott Margot Parker Andrew Lewer	Parliament	invitation to participate in Phase 1 consultation
25 April 2016	Matt Warman	Boston and Skegness	Meeting
7 May 2016	Victoria Atkins	Louth and Horncastle	Meeting and site visit
8 June 2016	Victoria Atkins Matt Warman Stephen Phillips John Hayes	Louth and Horncastle Boston and Skegness Sleaford and North Hykeham South Holland and The Deepings	Letter/ email update on project
8 June 2016	Roger Helmer Emma McClarkin Glenis Willmott Margot Parker Andrew Lewer	Members of European Parliament	Letter/ email update on project
4 July 2016	Victoria Atkins Matt Warman Stephen Phillips John Hayes	As above	Letter/ email update on project re surveys
4 July 2016	Roger Helmer Emma McClarkin Glenis Willmott Margot Parker Andrew Lewer	Members of European Parliament	Letter/ email update on project re surveys

### 3.5 Parish Councils

- 3.5.1 Following guidance from Local Planning Authority officers received in December 2015, NGVL arranged to meet with parish councillors from each parish and town council in the vicinity of potential converter station sites and landfall points. NGVL's initial studies had identified 21 potential converter station sites and five potential landfall sites. These were located within 13 parish and town council areas.
- 3.5.2 Members of the project team presented information to introduce the project and sought comments from the councillors on what is important to their local areas and how best to engage with their local communities. Members of the public were also present at some of these briefings. Details of these meetings are given below in Table 3.5.

Table 3.5 Parish Council Presentations		
Date	Council / Constituency	Attendees
11 January 2016	Chapel St Leonards Parish Council	Parish councillors
11 January 2016	Swineshead Parish Council	Parish councillors
11 January 2016	Ingoldmells Parish Council	Parish councillors
12 January 2016	Skegness Town Council	Town councillors
20 January 2016	Helpringham Parish Council	Parish councillors
20 January 2016	Great Hale Parish Council	Parish councillors
20 January 2016	Little Hale Parish Council	Parish councillors
21 January 2016	Theddlethorpe Parish Council	Parish councillors
4 February 2016	Donington Parish Council	Parish councillors
8 February 2016	Mablethorpe and Sutton Town Council	Town councillors
12 February 2016	Huttoft Parish Council	Parish councillors
23 February 2016	Anderby Parish Council	Parish councillors and member of public

- 3.5.3 The chairman of Bicker Parish Council suggested that a public event would be more appropriate than a parish council briefing and a public drop in information event was held on 9th March in Bicker Village Hall. Twenty local residents and stakeholders attended this event.
- 3.5.4 A copy of the presentation made to the parish and town councils is attached as Appendix 1 and a copy of the display boards from the Bicker public information event is attached as Appendix 2.

## 4 Phase 1 Consultation

### 4.1 Phase 1 consultation (overview)

4.1.1 Phase 1 consultation was held for six weeks from Monday 11 April 2016 until Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2016. Six public consultation events were held within the potentially affected parishes, three at the shortlisted landfall site options and three in the affected parishes of the shortlisted converter station site options. The aims of the consultation were:

- To give stakeholders an early insight into the proposals being put forward by NVGL;
- To seek feedback from stakeholders on the respective merits and limitations of the shortlisted landfall and converter station site options put forward for consideration;
- To consider this feedback when determining preferred sites; and
- For there to be a widespread local understanding of the project ahead of the next phase of consultation and progression of the proposals.

4.1.2 On 11 April 2016, to coincide with the start of Phase 1 consultation, NGVL published the Viking Link Strategic Options Report on the project website to provide background information on how Bicker Fen had been selected as the GB connection point.

4.1.3 NGVL also published the Landfall and Converter Station Site Selection Report to provide detailed information on the site options, how they had been identified and assessed and the process by which the shortlist of options for consultation had been developed. A non-technical summary of the Landfall and Converter Station Site Selection Report was also published.

### 4.2 Local Authorities, statutory stakeholders and other stakeholder groups

4.2.1 On the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016 emails were sent to local authority officers and representatives of statutory and other stakeholder groups notifying them about the start of Phase 1 consultation and providing links to the published reports. They were also invited to participate in the consultation and provide feedback on behalf of their respective organisations. Letters were sent, via email, to:

- Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service;
- Environment Agency;
- Heritage England;
- Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire;
- Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust;
- Natural England;
- Marine Management Organisation;
- RSPB;

- Lincolnshire County Council;
- East Lindsey District Council;
- North Kesteven District Council;
- South Holland Council;
- Boston Borough Council; and
- Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership.

### 4.3 MPs and MEPs

4.3.1 On the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016 letters and emails were sent to the four Members of Parliament and five Members of the European Parliament, as listed in 3.4, inviting them to participate in the consultation.

### 4.4 Parish councils

4.4.1 Each of the parish councils listed in Table 3.5 was sent a letter on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016 providing details of the consultation events and inviting them to participate in the consultation.

4.4.2 Neighbouring parish councils were also invited to participate. Councillors from the following parishes were invited to the public consultation events on the landfall site options:

- Bilsby, Farlesthorpe and Markby Parish Council
- Mumby Parish Council
- Cumberworth Parish Council

4.4.3 Councillors from the following parishes were invited to the converter station site option consultation events:

- Swaton Parish Council
- Horbling Parish Council
- Heckington Parish Council
- South Kyme Parish Council

### 4.5 Landowners

4.5.1 Letters were sent directly to 264 landowner properties that had been identified through desktop mapping as those that could potentially be affected by the converter station and landfall elements of the project. The letters advised that NGVL was considering the development of the Viking Link project which may include building equipment on their land. Recipients were invited to attend the public consultation events to find out more about the project, participate in the consultation and speak to the NGVL land agents.

4.5.2 A further 64 landowner properties were sent a letter advising them that their property would not be affected by the converter station and landfall elements of the project following earlier correspondence indicating their land may be affected. The letter included an invitation for these landowners to attend the events if they were still interested.

## **4.6 Local communities**

4.6.1 Consultation with local communities has involved both local residents and local businesses, using a variety of contact methods and media.

4.6.2 Consultation zones were drawn up and comment sought from planning authorities as to their appropriateness. Officers from two of the relevant local planning authorities responded and confirmed their agreement. Maps to show the zones are shown in figures 3.1 and 3.2.

4.6.3 Letters providing information about the project, including the public exhibition dates, and inviting recipients to participate in the consultation were sent to approximately 4,500 residential properties and local businesses within the consultation zones as follows:

- 1,548 letters to residents and businesses located within a consultation zone created to incorporate local properties within the vicinity of the landfall sites, as well as areas further inland to incorporate potential cable route options and access points to the site options.
- 3,058 letters to residents and businesses located within a 3 km boundary from the edge of the four shortlisted converter station sites.

4.6.4 The letters also included details of the project website and how to get in touch by telephone, email or letter to provide comments or find out further information. A copy of the letter is included as Appendix 3.

4.6.5 Posters, with details of the time and locations of the events, were produced and sent to Clerks of Parish Councils to display on local notice boards. A copy of a poster is included as Appendix 4.

4.6.6 A member of the project community relations team visited each parish prior to the start of consultation to ensure the letters and posters had been delivered. They also visited large mobile home areas close to the shortlisted landfall sites to ensure residents were aware of the consultation.

4.6.7 Local press and broadcast media were briefed on the project and a press release was issued with information about the project and details of the public exhibitions.

4.6.8 Copies of press cuttings relating to the project and Phase 1 consultation are included in Appendix 5.

4.6.9 BBC Look North television news team attended the event at Anderby Village Hall on 21 April 2016 and broadcast details of the public consultation later that evening.

## **4.7 Public consultation events**

4.7.1 Public consultation events were held to give the public an opportunity to view information materials and comment on the site options for the landfall point and converter station.

4.7.2 These events were attended by 505 people in total and further details are given in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 Phase 1 Consultation Event Attendance				
Location	Date	Time	Converter station/landfall	Attendance
Swineshead Village Hall	Thursday 14 April 2016	12pm-8pm	Converter station	165
Bicker Village Hall	Saturday 16 April 2016	10am-4pm	Converter station	65
Anderby Village Hall	Thursday 21 April 2016	12pm-8pm	Landfall	35
Ruby Hunt Centre, Donington	Friday 22 April 2016	12pm-8pm	Converter station	60
Huttoft Village Hall	Saturday 23 April 2016	10am-4pm	Landfall	65
Grange and Links Hotel, Sandilands	Wednesday 27 April 2016	12pm-8pm	Converter station	115

4.7.3 The public consultation events were run as ‘drop in’ sessions, where attendees could turn up at any point within the given times to view the information on show, speak to members of the project team and provide their feedback on the proposals.

4.7.4 Upon arrival, attendees were greeted by a member of the project team, invited to sign in and offered three documents: a booklet version of the exhibition panels; a copy of the non-technical summary of the Landfall and Converter Station Site Selection Report; and a feedback questionnaire, as well as freepost envelopes so they could return the questionnaire at a later date if more convenient.

4.7.5 Attendees were given the option of having a member of the project team accompany them around the panels or to view them alone and ask questions as and when needed. Project team members present at the events specialised in a range of disciplines. They included:

- Representatives of NGVL
- Project engineers
- Environmental consultants
- Community relations advisors
- Maritime offshore consultants (at the landfall events)
- Lands Agents

4.7.6 Two sets of information panels were produced (Appendices 6 and 7), one provided detailed information on the landfall site options and the other focussed on the converter station site options. Each set also provided basic information on the other element of the project.

- 4.7.7 In addition to the information panels, larger maps and copies of the Landfall and Converter Site Selection Report were made available. There was also a laptop computer showing the project consultation video, and a laptop computer showing a 3D flyround animation of an indicative converter station.

## 4.8 Project website

- 4.8.1 As well as attending public consultation events, stakeholders were able to obtain information on the proposals from the project website ([www.viking-link.com](http://www.viking-link.com)) before, during and after the six-week public consultation period. All information from the consultation events was published on the website, including downloadable PDFs of the information display panels and the feedback questionnaires.
- 4.8.2 Over the course of the six-week consultation there were 1,392 individual sessions on the project website from 995 individual users. From these sessions there were 4,886 individual page views.
- 4.8.3 Stakeholders were also able to ask questions and submit their feedback via email and telephone during the Phase 1 consultation period.
- 4.8.4 The project website will continue to serve as the primary source of information for the project up to the submission of a planning application and beyond.



## 5 Phase 1 Consultation Feedback

### 5.1 Consultation feedback channels

5.1.1 The consultation sought to engage a broad range of interested parties, including local community groups, landowners, residents, businesses and elected officials, local authorities and statutory stakeholders. Feedback was invited through a range of channels:

- By completing feedback questionnaires distributed at consultation events
- By emailing to [vikinglink@communityrelations.co.uk](mailto:vikinglink@communityrelations.co.uk)
- By writing to the freepost address at FREEPOST VIKING LINK
- By filling out the comments form on the project website and emailing to the project email address
- By telephoning 0800 731 0561

### 5.2 Managing Feedback

5.2.1 Copper Consultancy, which manages the consultation process for NGVL, logged all feedback received into the stakeholder tracker system. Each piece of feedback was assigned a unique reference number for audit and reference purposes.

5.2.2 A total of 588 pieces of correspondence was received during the six-week consultation period. A large proportion of this were photocopied, proforma letters from residents in and around the village of Swineshead. These letters, although identical, were logged with individual reference numbers and the issues raised were considered in the identification of the preferred converter station site.

5.2.3 The table below gives a breakdown of the type of feedback received:

Feedback Type	Count
Email	31
Letter	11
'Proforma' letter	413
Telephone call	0
Online comment	2
Questionnaire	131
<b>Total</b>	<b>588</b>

- 5.2.4 These totals include the responses received from statutory consultees, local residents, businesses and community groups.
- 5.2.5 In addition to feedback received within the advertised consultation period, late consultation responses received up to and including Friday 3 June were included within the analysis.
- 5.2.6 One piece of feedback was received after this date and before this report was finalised. This was an additional proforma letter as described above. It was reviewed and no new issues were raised.
- 5.2.7 The feedback received and the NGVL responses are provided in this report in Chapters 6 (Landfall) and Chapter 7 (Converter Station) and appendices 10 -11.

### 5.3 Feedback Received General Themes

#### Landfall Sites

- 5.3.1 The following list presents an overview of the key consultation themes identified in relation to the shortlisted landfall sites:
- Traffic and Transport;
  - Noise and Vibration;
  - Agricultural Land;
  - Environmental Impact;
  - Socio-economic and Tourism;
  - Ecology / Biodiversity Impacts;
  - Hydrology and Land Drainage;
  - Archaeology and Cultural Heritage;
  - EU Referendum;
  - Project Need;
  - Project Benefits;
  - Project Funding;
  - Project Development and Site Selection;
  - Coordination with other Projects;
  - Sea Defences;
  - Construction Impact;
  - Project Security;
  - Property Value and Compensation; and
  - Cable Routeing.
- 5.3.2 Further information on the key themes raised in feedback is contained in Volume 2.

### Converter Station Sites

5.3.3 The following presents an overview of the key consultation themes identified in relation to the shortlisted converter station site options:

- Traffic and Transport;
- Noise and Vibration;
- Agricultural Land;
- Landscape and Visual Impact;
- Socio-Economic and Tourism;
- Ecology / Biodiversity Impacts;
- Urban Design and Virtual Reality Modelling;
- Archaeology and Cultural Heritage;
- Hydrology and land drainage;
- Planning;
- Electric and Magnetic Fields;
- Health Effects;
- Environmental Impacts;
- Air Quality;
- Communication / Consultation Approach;
- EU Referendum;
- Project Development and Site Selection;
- Cable Routeing;
- Construction Impact;
- Coordination with other Projects;
- Construction Impact; and
- Property Value and Compensation.

5.3.4 Further information on the key themes raised in feedback is contained in Volume 2.





## CONTACT US

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You can find out more information by:



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**0800 731 0561**



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If you, or someone you know, would like information in Braille, audio, large print or another language, please call us on the freephone number above.