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# Concept for Public Participation

## TEN-E Regulation EU347/2013

September 2016

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# 1. Introduction

## Viking Link

Viking Link is a proposed 1400 Mega Watt (MW) High Voltage Direct Current electricity interconnector (DC) connecting the British and Danish transmission systems connecting at Bicker Fen 400 kilo Volt (kV) substation in Lincolnshire Great Britain and Revsing in southern Jutland in Denmark,

Viking Link is being jointly developed by National Grid Viking Link Limited (NGVLL) and Energinet.dk. In Great Britain the project is being promoted by NGVLL.

The Viking Link project was included in the Union List of Projects of Common Interest (PCI) under The Regulation for the Trans-European Energy Infrastructure (EU 347/2013) (hereby referred to as the TEN-E Regulation) on 18 November 2015. The list was adopted by Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/891 and the Viking Link project is therefore a PCI.

Viking Link will cross through four Member States which are, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark, and the nominated National Competent Authority (NCA) for each are set out in Table 1, below. The NCAs are required to coordinate and facilitate the “Comprehensive Decision” on the project for each of the territories. More information on the requirements of the NCAs can be found in Article 8(1) of the TEN-E Regulation.

The purpose of this document is to provide the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) acting on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with the necessary information to satisfy the Concept for Public Participation as described in the TEN-E Regulation.

The consultation and engagement programme will include stakeholder engagement, proactive engagement with consultees, the media, general public and has included early discussion of strategic options with local authorities (ahead of public engagement) intended to aid the scoping and assessment of options for the project. This approach meets Viking Link’s obligations under the TEN-E Regulation and the consenting regimes in the respective Member States.

National Grid Viking Link Limited and Energinet.dk will submit a report on the consultation alongside the relevant onshore consent and marine licence applications in each of the Member States as required by article 9(4) of the TEN-E Regulation summarising the results of the public participation activities

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<sup>1</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016R0089&from=EN>

A Concept for Public Participation has been produced for each territory and can be found on each website:

In English: [www.viking-link.com](http://www.viking-link.com)

In Danish: [www.viking-link.dk](http://www.viking-link.dk)

In Dutch: [www.viking-link.nl](http://www.viking-link.nl)

In German: [www.viking-link.de](http://www.viking-link.de)

*Table 1: National Competent Authorities*

Territory	National Competent Authority	Caseworker
<b>UK</b>	Marine Management Organisation (MMO) <sup>2</sup>	Ms. Abbey Pennington abbey.pennington@marinemanagement.org.uk (+ 44) (0) 2080265061
<b>Denmark</b>	Energy Agency/Energistyrelsen	Ms. Helga Hubeck-Graudal hhg@ens.dk (+45) 3392 7526
<b>Germany</b>	Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency/Bundesamt Für Seeschifffahrt Und Hydrographie (BSH) <sup>3</sup>	Ms. Lea Haefke Lea.Haefke@bsh.de (+ 49) (0) 40 3190-3528
	Federal Network Agency/Bundesnetzagentur	Robin Dornauf Robin.dornauf@bnetza.de (+49) (0) 228 14 - 5504
<b>The Netherlands</b>	Ministry of Economic Affairs/ Ministerie van Economische Zaken	Mr. Pim van Loon P.vanLoon@minez.nl (+31) 6 55438570

<sup>2</sup> In the case of the Viking Link Project the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) formally known as the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has delegated authority to co-ordinate the TEN-E process to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO)

<sup>3</sup> This is to be confirmed as the BSH is expected to be appointed as the delegated authority by the Bundesnetzagentur.

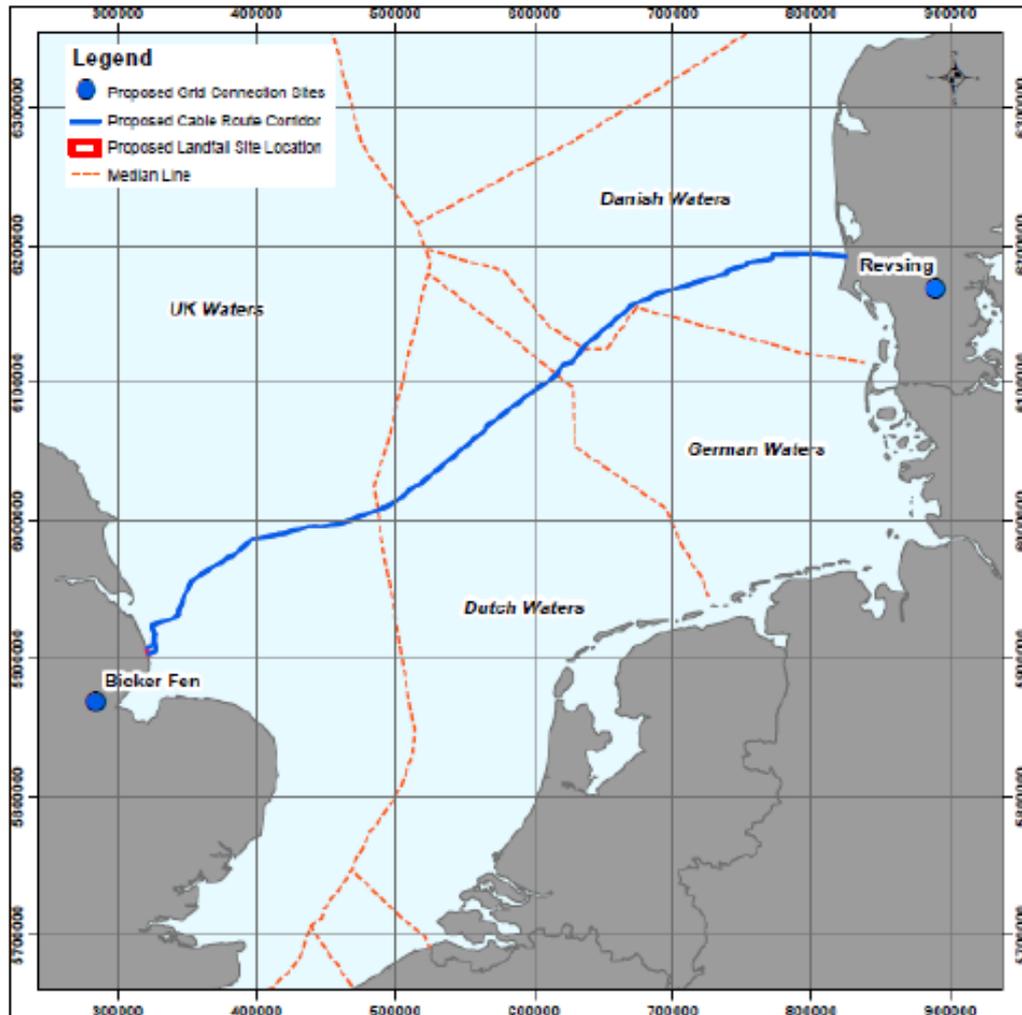


Figure 1: Map of the Viking Link project

### General Description

Viking Link will be made up of submarine and underground cables, with an optional fibre optic cable for telemetry and control purposes, connected to the converter station and an electricity substation in Great Britain and Denmark allowing electricity to flow in either direction between the two countries. It will be made up of the following main elements, please see figure 2 for illustration:

#### The North Sea

A pair of HVDC submarine cables (with optional fibre optic cable) extending for approximately 630 km between the UK and Denmark coastlines will be buried in the seabed. The submarine cable route corridor will pass through UK, Dutch, German and Danish EEZs.

The UK

- Approximately 230 km High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) submarine cables within the UK EEZ
- Approximately 55 km HVDC onshore underground cables from the coast in the UK to a converter station near Bicker Fen
- A converter station to convert electricity between Direct Current (DC) and Alternating Current (AC) and vice versa
- High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) underground cables from the converter station to the existing substation at Bicker Fen in Lincolnshire, UK
- New equipment within the existing substation

The Netherlands

- Approximately 165 km HVDC submarine cables within the Dutch EEZ

Germany

- Approximately 30 km HVDC submarine cables within the German EEZ

Denmark

- Approximately 210 km HVDC submarine cables within the Danish EEZ
- Onshore underground HVDC cables from the coast in Western Denmark to a converter station at Revsing
- A converter station to change the electricity between DC and AC and vice versa
- HVAC connection between the converter station to the existing substation at Revsing, near Vejen
- New equipment within the existing substation

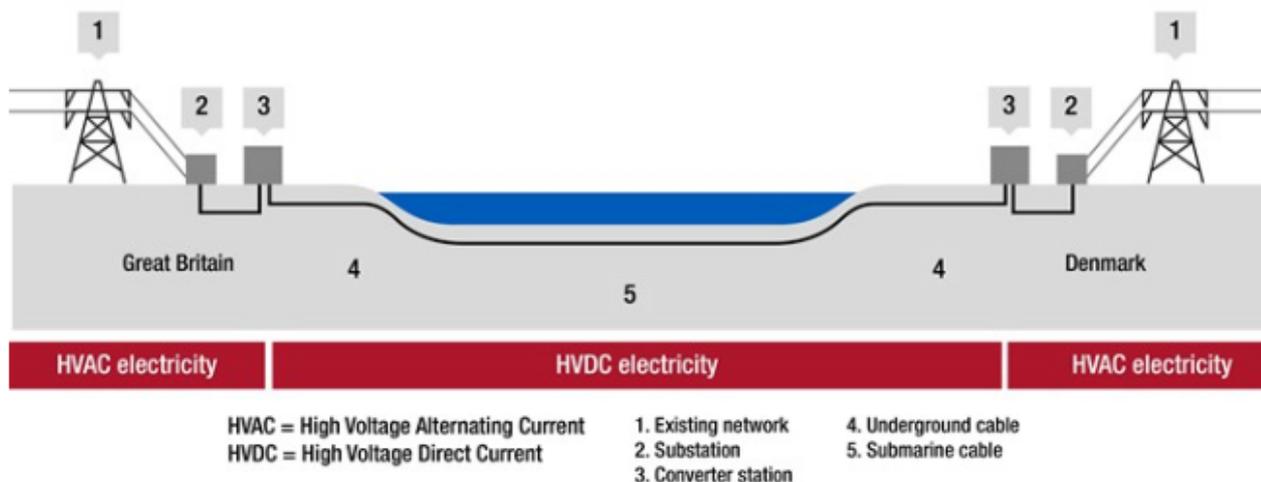


Figure 2: Main elements of an electricity interconnector

## 2. Public Consultation Process in the United Kingdom

### Pre-Application Consultation

#### The Planning Process

The UK Onshore Scheme and the UK Offshore Scheme of Viking Link will be consented by different bodies and under different legislative frameworks.

Table 2 sets out the legislative frameworks that will govern the permits and licences for the UK aspects.

*Table 2: Legislative framework for permits and licences in the UK*

Infrastructure	Legislation	Consenting Authority
UK Offshore Scheme	Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA09)	Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
UK Onshore Scheme	Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA90)	Multiple Local Planning Authorities incl. East Lindsey District Council, Boston Borough Council, South Holland District Council and possibly North Kesteven District Council depending on the onshore cable route chosen

It is noted that the jurisdiction of the MCAA09 is seaward of the Mean High Water Mark whilst the jurisdiction of the TCPA90 is landward of the Mean Low Water Mark. The area between the Mean Low Water Mark and the Mean High Water Mark, also known as the intertidal area, is therefore subject to dual jurisdiction. The UK Offshore Scheme relates to work supporting an application under the MCAA09 whilst the UK Onshore Scheme relates to work supporting multiple applications under the TCPA90.

In promoting Licence and Consent applications for the UK Onshore and UK Offshore Schemes Viking Link considers consultation to be a cornerstone to its approach. Viking Link is cognisant of:

#### National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The importance of pre-application engagement is recognised in the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), adopted in March 2012, which states that:

*“Early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties. Good quality pre-application discussion enables better coordination between public and private resources and improved outcomes for the community” (Section 188, page 45).*

### Marine Policy Statement (MPS)

The UK'S Marine Policy Statement identifies a need for the consultation with terrestrial planning authorities and statutory stakeholders as part of a marine licence application. It states the application should:

*“Be taken after appropriate liaison with terrestrial planning authorities and other regulators and in consultation with statutory and other advisors when appropriate”*

### **Stakeholder Engagement**

Against this background, National Grid Viking Link Limited has already commenced and will continue to undertake a programme of engagement with the local community and relevant statutory and non-statutory stakeholders, to ensure that they have the opportunity to consider and inform the proposals prior to submission of a planning or marine licence application. The consultation will include engagement around both the UK Onshore and Offshore Schemes.

The objectives of this engagement strategy and programme are as follows:

- To meet the requirements of the TEN-E Regulation and comply with the NPPF and MPS and the councils Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)
- To ensure that the local community, its elected representatives and stakeholders are fully engaged in the plans at the pre-application stage
- To demonstrate how feedback has been incorporated in the revised proposals, and to explain why, if it has not been

Effective community involvement should ensure that people:

- Have access to information
- Can express their opinions and ideas and feel confident that there is a process for considering those ideas
- Can comment on formal proposals
- Get feedback and can be informed about progress and outcomes

National Grid Viking Link Limited has engaged Copper Consultancy Limited, a specialist community relations consultancy, to support the project, and co-ordinate public consultations for the UK Onshore Scheme. Intertek have been engaged to support the environmental assessments for the UK Offshore Scheme and their knowledge and experience supplemented by that of Specialist Marine Consultants Ltd

acting as Fisheries Liaison will be used to ensure engagement and consultation takes place in a timely manner for the UK Offshore Scheme.

### Scope of Consultation

National Grid Viking Link Limited will consult with stakeholders and communities potentially affected by, or interested in, either or both of the UK Onshore and UK Offshore Schemes.

Broadly, the potentially affected communities are considered to be those who live or work/operate locally to either or both of the UK Onshore or UK Offshore Schemes.

Indicative details of the stakeholders to be consulted are set out in Table 3 below.

*Table 3: Details of the stakeholders to be consulted*

Scheme	Particulars
<b>UK Onshore Scheme</b>	East Lindsey District Council Boston Borough Council North Kesteven District Council South Holland District Council Lincolnshire County Council Landowners & Tenants Parish councils Local communities Natural England Environment Agency Historic England Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Lincolnshire Countryside Service National Farmers Union Countryside Landowners Association Heritage Lincolnshire National Trust

### UK Onshore Scheme Consultation

Stakeholder and community engagement lies at the heart of this consultation programme, and early engagement has and will continue to be undertaken.

Public consultation for the UK Onshore Scheme is being conducted in two phases. Phase 1 consultation presented information and sought views on the site options for the landfall point and the converter station whilst Phase 2 consultation will present information and seek views on the onshore cable route.

### Phase 1 Consultation

Prior to the commencement of Phase 1 consultation considerable stakeholder engagement was undertaken. This engagement is set out in Table 4 below:

*Table 4: Pre Phase 1 Stakeholder Engagement*

Date	Council / Constituency	Attendees
6 January 2016	Boston and Skegness constituency	Matthew Warman MP
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
27 January 2016	Louth and Horncastle constituency	Victoria Atkins MP
27 January 2016	Sleaford and North Hykeham constituency	Stephen Phillips MP
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 members of public
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

On 9 March 2016 and following discussions with Bicker Parish Council, and public information event was held in Bicker where local residents were invited to view the information that had been presented to parish councils listed above. The event was held from 12pm to 8pm. Twenty local residents attended.

Phase 1 was held between 4 April 2016 and 20 May 2016. Given the distance between the landfall and the converter station locations, the events were tailored to the locations where the consultation events were held; By way of example, events held near the proposed converter station locations had exhibition panels and feedback forms tailored to the converter station. In addition to the tailored information, wider project information was also provided including landfall information available at the converter station public events and converter station information being made available at landfall public events. Common to both exhibitions was information pertaining to the project across the four Member States.

Letters and Consultation Zones

Letters providing information about the project and inviting recipients to participate in the Phase 1 consultation events were sent to approximate 4,500 residential properties and local businesses as follows:

- 3,058 letters to residents and businesses located within a 3km boundary from the edge of the four shortlisted converter station sites
- 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

Both consultation zones were agreed with the relevant local planning authorities and are shown in maps below.

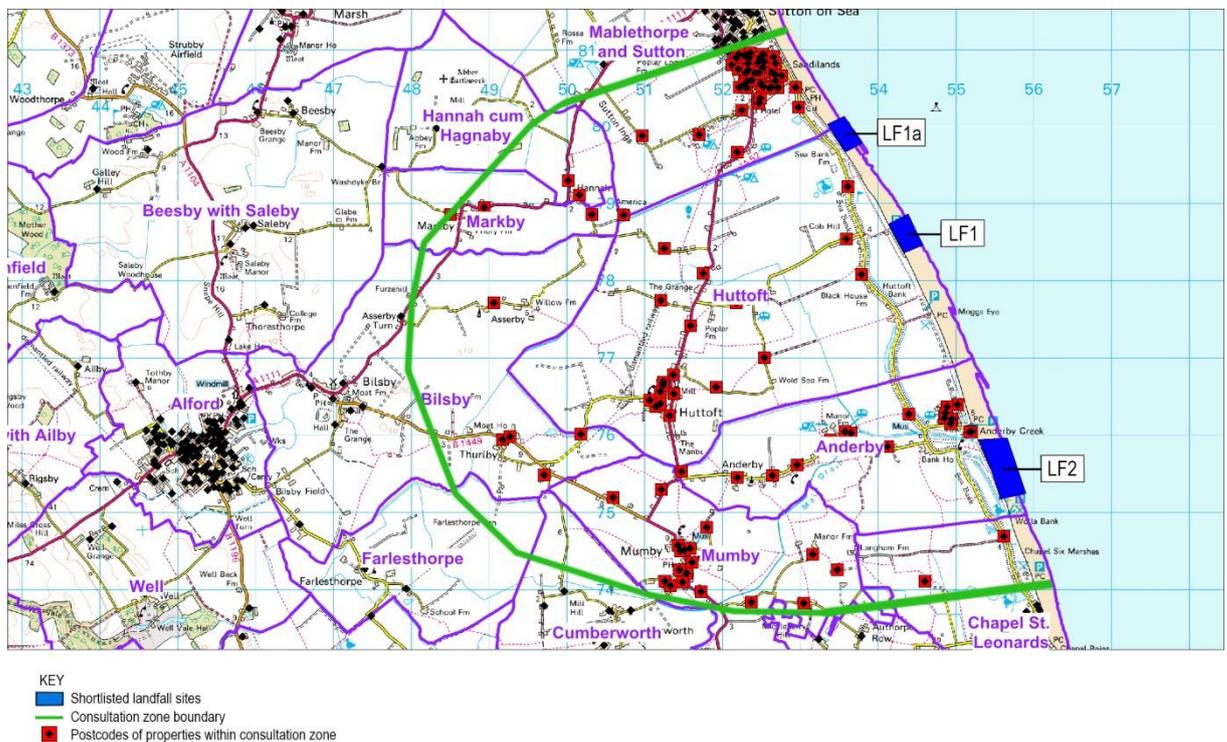


Figure 3: Landfall Sites Consultation Zone

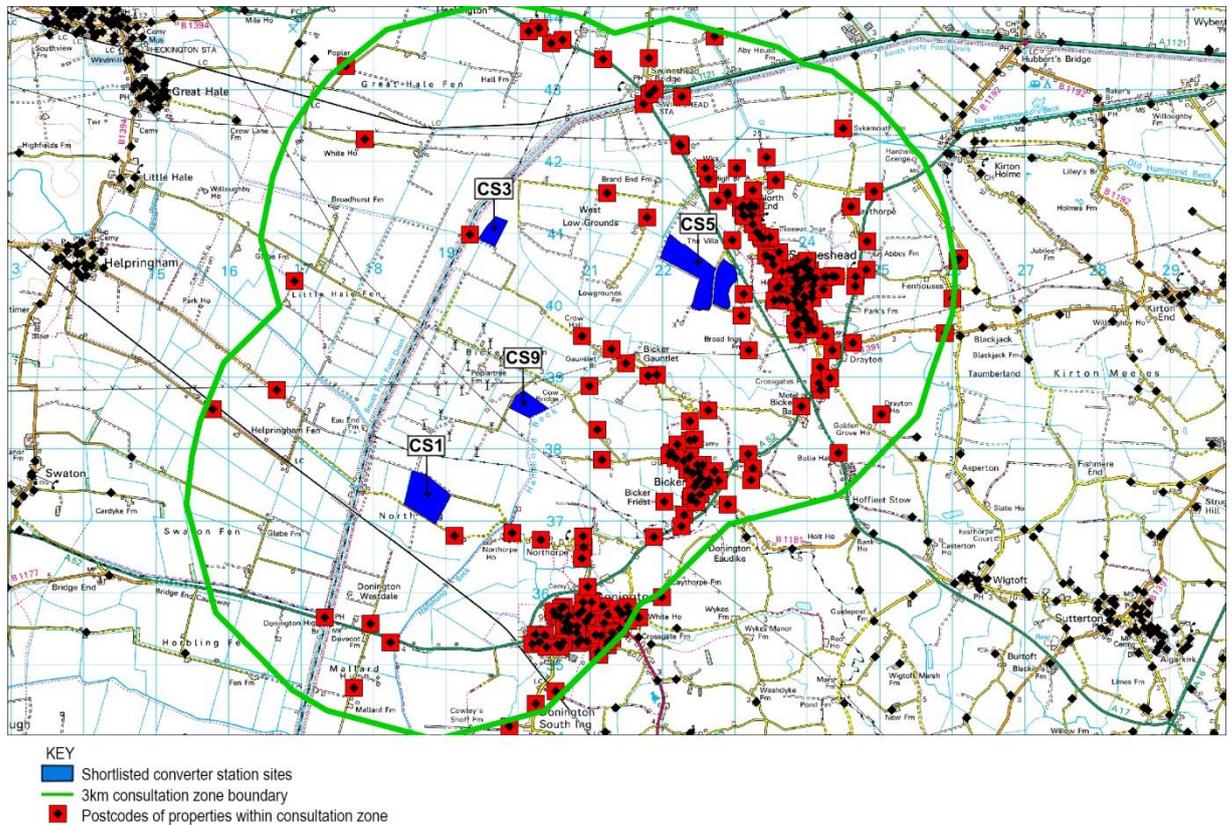


Figure 4: Converter Station Sites Consultation Zone

Phase 1- Consultation Event Information

Table 5 below provides information regarding the Phase 1 Consultation Events held throughout April 2016

Table 5: UK Onshore Scheme Phase 1 Consultation Events

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

In total 505 people attended the Phase 1 consultation events.

Feedback has been sought through the locationally tailored feedback forms. National Grid Viking Link Limited will carefully consider feedback from the local community and other stakeholders as it makes its decision on which landfall and converter station site will be progressed as its preferred sites.

The total number of pieces of correspondence received during the six-week consultation period was 589 (534 relating to the converter station site and 45 relating to the landfall , within these figures 10 responses were received from Statutory Consultees).

UK Offshore Scheme

Development of the UK Offshore Scheme has been undertaken through ongoing consultation with specific organisations both statutory and non-statutory that have responsibility for, or an interest in, the area being considered.

Feedback from these organisations has allowed NGVLL to identify a marine route corridor which is being surveyed during the summer of 2016.

*Table 6: UK Offshore Scheme Organisations Consulted*

UK Offshore Scheme	MMO JNCC CEFAS Natural England Historic England Environment Agency The Crown Estate Public Health England Maritime and Coastguard Agency Trinity House Royal Yachting Association Cruising Association Chamber of Shipping Harbour Masters Commercial Fishermen British Sub-Aqua Club British Divers Marine Life Rescue Whale and Dolphin Conservation Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authorities National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations Ministry of Defence Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (Oil & Gas Department)
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## EIA Scoping Input

National Grid Viking Link Limited intends to submit a separate Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for each scheme as part of its Onshore and Offshore consent applications.

National Grid Viking Link Limited will seek a scoping opinion from the affected authorities on the appropriate scope of the EIA to be carried out for the UK Onshore and UK Offshore Schemes. The process by which feedback is provided affords a further opportunity for statutory and non-statutory stakeholder engagement.

### UK Onshore Scheme - Planning Application

After a local planning authority has received a planning application under the TCPA90, it will undertake a period of consultation where views on the proposed development can be expressed. The formal consultation period will normally last for 21 days, and the local planning authority will identify and consult a number of different groups.

The main types of local planning authority consultation are:

- Public consultation – including consultation with neighbouring residents and community groups
- Statutory consultees – where there is a requirement set out in law to consult a specific body, who are then under a duty to respond providing advice on the proposal in question
- Any consultation required by a consultation direction – where there are further, locally specific, statutory consultation requirements as set out in a consultation direction
- Non statutory consultees where there are planning policy reasons to engage other consultees who, whilst not designated in law – are likely to have an interest in a proposed development

As the TCPA90 applications will be EIA Development and accompanied by an ES the local planning authority should make a decision on the proposal within the statutory time limit unless a longer period is agreed in writing with the applicant. The statutory time limits are 16 weeks for applications for major development which is subject to an EIA,

Statutory publicity requirements for TCPA90 applications, which the local planning authority have to undertake, include:

- Site notice or neighbour notification letter;
- Newspaper Advertisement; and
- Website

### UK Offshore Scheme - Marine Licence Application

As the Marine Licence application will be EIA Development, further consultation will also take place and National Grid Viking Link Limited must:

- a) *publish in two local newspapers for two consecutive weeks, and in the Fishing News a notice containing prescribed information (5 notices in total such newspapers or other publications as it thinks fit);*
- b) *supply copies of: the Marine Licence application; the environmental statement; any further information; and a letter stating that representations in response to the consultation should be made in writing to the MMO within 42 days of the date of such letter, to such consultation bodies as it considers appropriate;*
- c) *must supply a copy of the ES to an European Economic Area (EEA) State if that EEA State requests it; and*
- d) *must consult the authorities of any EEA State to which information has been provided;*

and may:

- e) *publicise the Marine Licence application and the ES in such other manner (if any) as it considers appropriate; and*
- f) *supply prescribed materials to another EEA State if it considers that that EEA state is significantly affected by the Marine Application.*
- g) *supply prescribed materials to another EEA State if it considers that that EEA state is significantly affected by the Marine Application.*

The MMO may direct National Grid Viking Link Limited to undertake the various consultation steps on its behalf. The timeframe for consultation is likely to be no less than 42 days, as the MMO is obliged to allow 42 days consultation with the statutory consultation bodies in relation to the ES

### Public Participation

Phase 2 consultations commenced in September 2016 with a series of public events to be held in Lincolnshire. NGVLL will present information on the cable route options and will seek views before confirming the proposed alignment for the onshore cables in the UK.

Cognisant of the visual impact of a converter station within a 5 km vicinity of the Bicker Fen 400 kV substation views will also be sought on design concepts/options for the converter station.

Consultation zones will be agreed with local Planning Authorities and invitations will be sent to residents and businesses within the agreed zones.

In addition to local residents Stakeholders will be consulted during Phase 2. Stakeholders identified are set out in Table 7 below. This list is not exhaustive and may be added to as further Stakeholders are identified.

*Table 7: UK Onshore Scheme Stakeholders*

Onshore Stakeholders
East Lindsey District Council

Boston Borough Council  
 South Holland District Council  
 Lincolnshire County Council  
 Landowners & Tenants  
 Parish councils  
 Local communities  
 Natural England  
 Environment Agency  
 Historic England  
 Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust  
 Lincolnshire Countryside Service  
 National Farmers Union  
 Countryside Landowners Association  
 Heritage Lincolnshire  
 National Trust  
 Internal Drainage Boards

Ahead of Phase 2 Consultation briefings have been held for elected members of County, District and Borough Councils. Briefing opportunities are also being sought with local MP's and MEP's. Table 8 provides information of elected member briefings undertaken and / or planned.

*Table 8: Elected Member Briefings*

Date	Council	Attendees
7 July 2016	East Lindsey District Council	District councillors
14 July 2016	South Holland District Council	District councillors
25 July 2016	Lincolnshire County Council	County councillors
17 August 2016	Boston Borough Council	Borough councillors

A report will be published following each phase of consultation providing information on the feedback received. The report will set out the feedback received and how NGVLL has taken it into account in developing the proposals.

Given the nature and scale of the GB elements of the Viking Link project public participation is envisaged through a series of Public Participation events. Stakeholders will be notified of the consultation events using a variety of means, including letters, the project website and invitations to Parish councils.

A set of exhibition panels will be used to explain the project (attached at Appendix xx). Staff will be on hand to answer any questions relating to the project. Visitors to the events will be provided with a paper copy of the exhibition panels and a feedback form which can either be handed in at the event or posted back using the Viking Link Freepost address

Figure 5 below shows the overall Viking Link project area and overlain with the areas to which invitation letters were sent to affected stakeholders. An example of the invitation letter is attached at Appendix xx

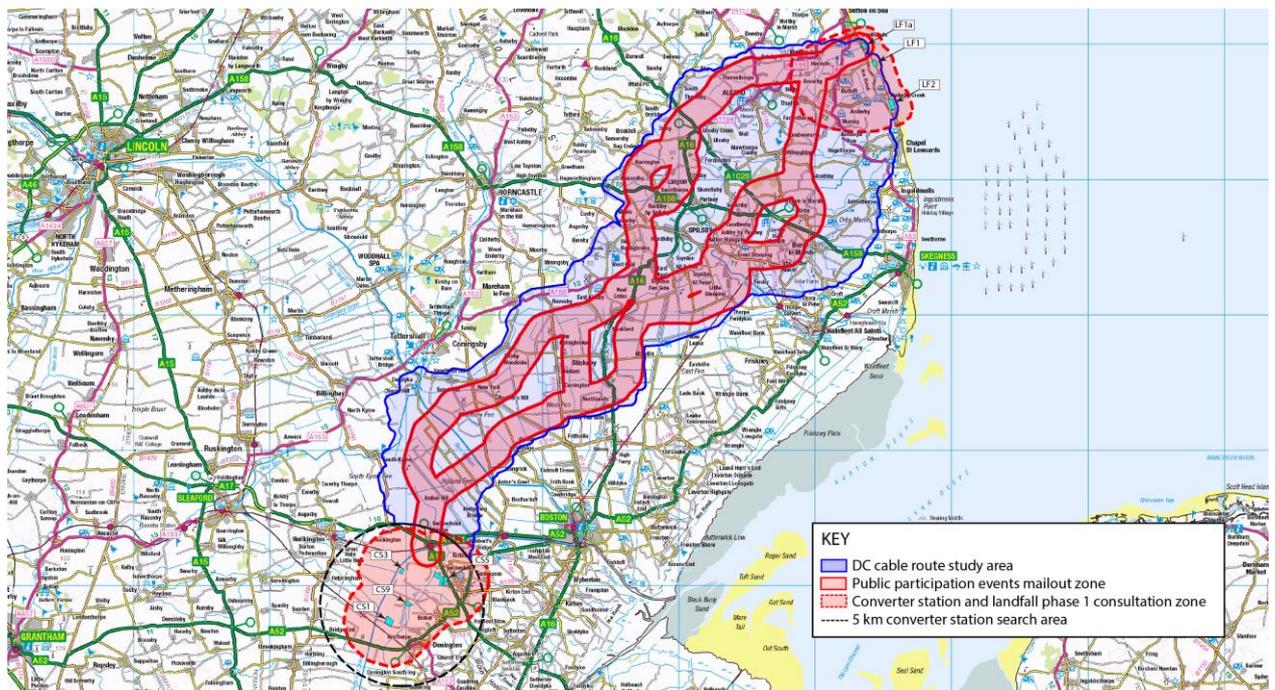


Figure 5: Public Participation Events Consultation Zones

The dates and venues for the Public Participation events are set out in Table 9 below:

Table 9: TEN-E UK Consultation Events

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 5JA	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	PE20 3RJ	Saturday 6th August 2016	12.30am – 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

## Resourcing

Members of the Viking Link project team will be present at each of the events and will be available to answer questions on a range of disciplines including elements of the project in other Member States.

Members of the project team that will be present at these events will be drawn from:-

- Representatives of National Grid Viking Link Limited
- Project Engineers
- Environmental Consultants
- Community Relations Advisors
- Maritime Consultants
- Fisheries Liaison Officer
- Lands Agent
- Agricultural Liaison Officer

## Feedback

All feedback received during consultation and public participation events will be recorded and considered. A separate Feedback Report will then be produced and published.

## TEN-E Compliance

Table 10 below, demonstrates how NGVLL has complied with the requirements of the TEN-E Regulations and the UK Manual of Procedures for Public Participation

*Table 10: Checklist of TEN-E Regulation requirements*

Requirement	Detail	Comment
Creation of Dedicated Project Website with links to the European Commission's website and a link to the Department of Energy & Climate Change's website on which the TEN-E UK Manual of Procedures has been published	Separate Member State specific websites have been established: In English: <a href="http://www.viking-link.com">www.viking-link.com</a> In Danish: <a href="http://www.viking-link.dk">www.viking-link.dk</a> In Dutch: <a href="http://www.viking-link.nl">www.viking-link.nl</a> In German: <a href="http://www.viking-link.de">www.viking-link.de</a>	Requirement completed. Dedicated project website regularly updated
Publication of Project Information Leaflet	Available on dedicated project websites in English, Dutch, German and Danish	Completed and published on dedicated project website. Available at: <a href="http://www.viking-link.com/media/1080/uk-a4-vikinglink.pdf">www.viking-link.com/media/1080/uk-a4-vikinglink.pdf</a>
Publication of Non Technical Summary	Non Technical Summary being produced – Project information Leaflet fulfilling this until it is produced;	To be published in August 2016 and made available on Project Website
GB Public Participation Events	Participation Events being undertaken between 27 <sup>th</sup> July and 19 <sup>th</sup> August	In progress - dates, Venues and Resources set out in Section 2.2 above
Other Member State Public Participation Events	Denmark – 13 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2016 Netherlands – 6 <sup>th</sup> July 2016 Germany – 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2016  Compliance to hold Public Participation Events within 2 months across Member States affected by the Viking Link project is demonstrated	Complete Complete Complete

### 3. Summary Statement and Contact Details

Viking Link confirms its compliance with the TEN-E Regulation requirements in respect of

- the establishment of a dedicated project website with links to the European Commission's website
- a link to the Department of Energy & Climate Change's website on which the TEN-E UK Manual of Procedures has been published
- the production of a Project information Leaflet of 15 pages or less; and
- commencement of public consultation in each Member State within the required two month period

Further information about the project can be found by visiting the Viking Link project website:

In English: [www.viking-link.com](http://www.viking-link.com)

In Danish: [www.viking-link.dk](http://www.viking-link.dk)

In Dutch: [www.viking-link.nl](http://www.viking-link.nl)

In German: [www.viking-link.de](http://www.viking-link.de)

## 4. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Copy of Invitation Letter to Public Participation Events

Appendix 2 – Copy of Public Participation Event Exhibition Panels

## Appendix 1 – Copy of Invitation Letter to Public Participation Events

Post: FREEPOST VIKING LINK  
 Tel: 0800 731 0561  
 Email: vikinglink@communityrelations.co.uk



15 July 2016

Dear Resident

### Viking Link: Public participation events - July and August 2016

Viking Link is a proposed 1400 Mega Watt (MW) high voltage Direct Current (DC) electricity link between the British and Danish electrical transmission systems connecting at Bicker Fen substation in Lincolnshire and Revsing in southern Jutland, Denmark. The project will involve the construction of a converter station in each country and the installation of submarine and underground cables between each converter station and underground Alternating Current (AC) cables between the converter station and substation in each country.

Over the coming weeks, we are holding a series of public participation events to provide an opportunity for local residents, landowners and stakeholders to find out more about our project and to comment on our proposals. Members of the project team will be present to answer any questions and to discuss any concerns or comments you may have.

The events will be held at the following locations:

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

\* this event will focus on offshore and maritime activities



**National Grid Viking Link Limited**  
 1 - 3 Strand  
 GB-London WC2N 5EH  
 Company No. 9075537

We recently held a public consultation on the possible options for a landfall point along the Lincolnshire coast and on options for a suitable location for a converter station, close to the National Grid Bicker Fen substation. We would like to thank everyone who provided feedback on the options and we expect to confirm our preferred sites over the coming weeks. We will write separately to everyone who participated in the consultation.

The next stage of the project will be to identify the best route corridors 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. We expect to carry out a public consultation on where the cables may be installed in September.

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

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the project community relations team on 0800 731 0561 or email: [vikingslink@communityrelations.co.uk](mailto:vikingslink@communityrelations.co.uk).

Please feel free to pass on this invitation to others who you feel would be interested in our project or the public participation events.

We look forward to seeing you at the events.

Yours faithfully



Oliver Wood  
Project Director

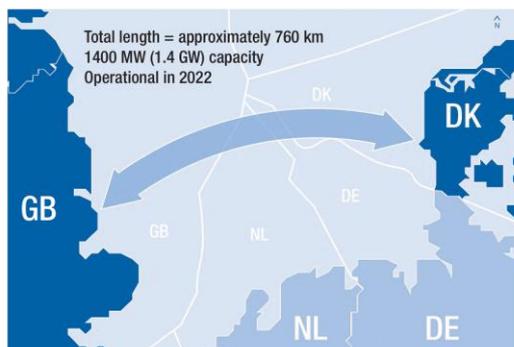
**Appendix 2 – Copy of Public Participation Event Exhibition Panels**



**Welcome to Viking Link**

Viking Link is a proposed 1400 Mega Watt (MW) high voltage direct current (DC) electricity link between the British and Danish transmission systems connecting at Bicker Fen substation in Lincolnshire and Revsing in southern Jutland, Denmark.

Viking Link will allow electricity to be exchanged between Great Britain and Denmark.



The project is being jointly developed between National Grid Viking Link Limited and Energinet.dk.

National Grid Viking Link Limited (NGVL) is a wholly owned subsidiary of National Grid Group and is legally separate from National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc (NGET) which has the licence to own and operate the high voltage electricity transmission system in England and Wales.

Energinet.dk is an independent public enterprise owned by the Danish state as represented by the Ministry of Energy, Utilities and Climate. It owns, operates and develops the Danish electricity and gas transmission systems.

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## Why we're here today

We're here today to introduce the Viking Link project, to explain what we want to build and to answer any questions you may have.



Later in the summer, we will hold a public consultation on the cable route corridor options identified. We will provide more information on what we want to build and where it may be located, and we will seek your feedback on our proposals. We will also be consulting on the converter station building design with residents in the vicinity of the preferred site.

### We are here to help

If you have any questions or concerns, we are here to help. Please do get in touch.

Tel: 0800 731 0561

Email: [vikinglink@communityrelations.co.uk](mailto:vikinglink@communityrelations.co.uk)

Write: FREEPOST VIKING LINK

Our telephone service is available between 9am and 5.30pm (Monday to Friday). Outside of these hours an answerphone is in operation and messages will be picked up during the next working day.

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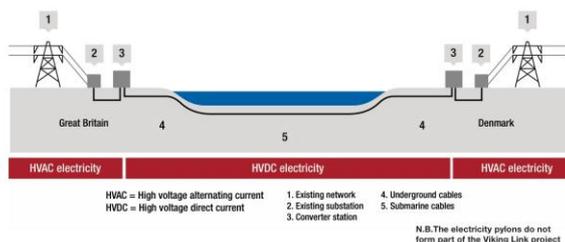
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## What is Viking Link?

Viking Link will involve the construction of a converter station in each country and the installation of submarine and underground cables between each converter station and underground cables between the converter station and substation in each country.

The cables will run for approximately 760 km between Great Britain and Denmark and will require the use of high voltage direct current (DC) technology. The electricity networks in Great Britain and Denmark both use high voltage alternating current (AC). Viking Link will use DC technology because it is more effective at transmitting large volumes of electricity over longer distances and provides more control over the power flow.

The diagram below shows the different parts of an interconnector:



The converter station in each country will change the electricity between DC and AC, which is what we use in our homes.

Each end of the link will be connected to an existing substation which will need to be developed to accommodate the new connection. In Great Britain, Viking Link will connect to the existing NGET 400 kV substation at Bicker Fen, Lincolnshire via AC cables. Connecting to the substations will enable the electricity to be delivered to homes and businesses.

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# VikingLink

nationalgrid

## Getting more connected

**Interconnectors bring benefits to both consumers and producers.**

Great Britain faces a major challenge in how it continues to meet the country's increasing energy needs and in addressing the problem of climate change.

Interconnectors like Viking Link can help address these challenges and can bring many benefits, including:

- Improving diversity and security of energy supply by enabling the import of electricity generated from neighbouring interconnected markets.
- Helping the Government meet its carbon reduction commitments by providing access to a well-developed, low cost renewable energy market.
- Lowering the cost of electricity through cross-border trade in electricity and shared use of the cheapest generation sources. This can help consumers in an expensive market to benefit from cheaper imports.
- Increasing market for producers, such as wind power generators – interconnectors increase opportunities to sell electricity, reducing surplus and adding value.
- Facilitating competition in the European market and the optimal use of resources across European Union (EU) Member States.



The European Commission has identified Viking Link as a Project of Common Interest (PCI). This means it should deliver significant benefits for at least two European Member States, further support market integration and competition, enhance security of energy supply and contribute to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. PCIs are governed under Regulation (EU) No 347/2013 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure, referred to as the TEN-E Regulations.

In Great Britain there are four operational interconnectors which together total 4 GW - around 5% of existing electricity generation capacity. National Grid has two further projects under construction. Nine more interconnectors are being developed.

For every 1 GW of new interconnector capacity it is estimated Britain's wholesale power prices could reduce by 1-2%. 4-5 GW of new links to Europe could unlock up to £1 billion per year of benefits to energy consumers.

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## Connecting to the network



Bicker Fen substation

Viking Link applied to National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) for a connection to the national electricity transmission network. NGET undertook a study of possible connection options and a number of different options were considered along the east of England. NGET together with Viking Link identified the National Grid Bicker Fen substation as the most appropriate connection point.

Details of all the options identified and the assessments are included in a Connection Point Selection Report provided by NGET and a Strategic Options Report produced by NGVL. Copies of these reports can be viewed here today and are available on the Viking Link website.

This information is provided as background and does not form part of the consultation.

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## Who we've been speaking to already

For the last 12 months, we've been talking to local planning authorities, statutory bodies and other stakeholder groups to discuss our proposed Viking Link project.

In the spring we held our first phase of public consultation with local communities in the areas where we had identified potential sites for a landfall on the Lincolnshire coast and a converter station within the vicinity of NGET's Bicker Fen substation.

### Phase One consultation

From 11 April to 20 May 2016 we held our first phase of consultation with local residents, parish councils and stakeholders close to our shortlisted site options for a landfall on the Lincolnshire coast and a converter station close to Bicker Fen substation.

The purpose of the consultation was to help us identify our preferred landfall and converter station sites.

Six public exhibitions were held and over 500 local residents attended the exhibitions.

We received over 580 pieces of individual feedback during the consultation, which has been analysed by the Viking Link project team. The main areas of feedback were:

- Visual impact of the converter station
- Impact on traffic and roads
- Impact to farmland.

A Consultation Feedback Report will be published in the coming weeks.



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## Approach to cable routeing

All our cables will be buried underground and when our construction work is completed, they will not be visible.

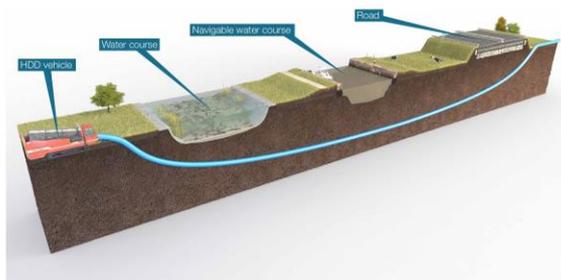
We need to route two underground DC cables for approximately 55-60 km between the landfall site and converter station. Typically, the cables will be buried in a trench to a depth of approximately 1.5 m depending on ground conditions, field drainage and local activities.

We will also need to identify a suitable route for underground high voltage AC cables between the converter station and Bicker Fen substation.

We will need to carry out a range of surveys and assessments and hold detailed discussions with local authorities, statutory organisations, landowners and other stakeholders. There are many factors which need to be taken into account, including:

- Impact on local communities
- Land usage and drainage
- Environmental constraints
- Ecology
- Archaeology and cultural heritage
- Impact on transport routes
- Accessibility
- Potential cumulative impacts with other projects in the region
- Constructability

**When we have more information, we will consult with parish councils and local residents to identify the most appropriate route corridor for the cables.**



This diagram shows the horizontal directional drilling (HDD) technique crossing under a road and water courses.

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## Our approach to selecting a cable route

Our approach is broadly made up of three steps:

- Step 1 – Identification of a cable route search area
- Step 2 – Development and assessment of route corridors within the cable route search area
- Step 3 – Development and assessment of route alignment within the route corridors

We are currently at step one which is why we are here today. The map below shows the cable route search area:



The next phase of our work is to carry out steps two and three. Later on in the summer we will be consulting on the cable route corridor options identified.

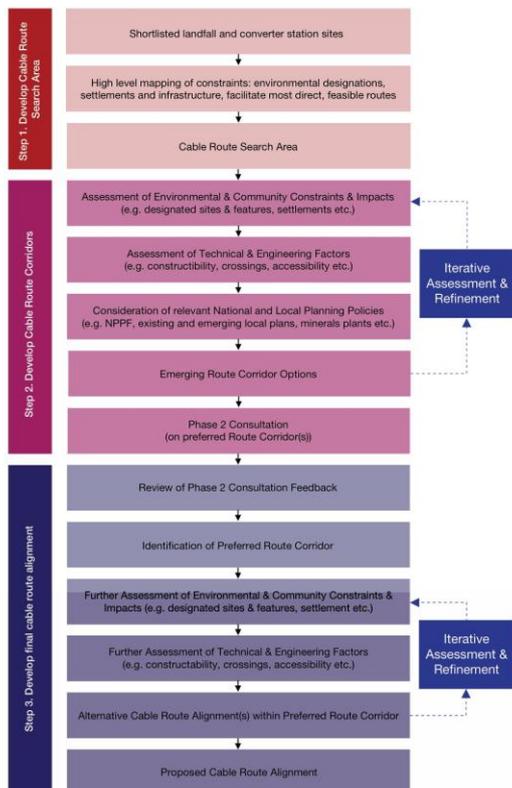
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## Cable routeing process

The flow chart below sets out how we are going about selecting the cable route:



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## Installing the cable route

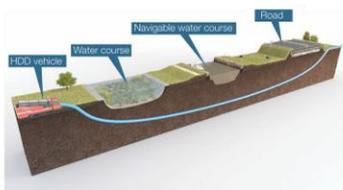
We need to install a pair of Direct Current (DC) cables for approximately 55-60 km from the landfall to the converter station. We will also need to install Alternating Current (AC) cables from the converter station to Bicker Fen substation. The exact length of the AC cables will depend on which converter station site we choose and could be up to 5 km.

The exact method of cable installation will depend on the constraints and obstacles encountered but will typically involve a combination of:

**Open cut or direct burial** where the cable is installed in an excavated trench which is then backfilled.

**Cable jointing** where two adjacent cable sections are joined together in a joint bay. This occurs in a "clean" covered environment.

**Trenchless methods** such as Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) or pipe-jacking.



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## Installing the cable route

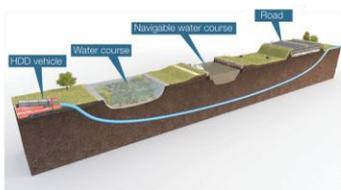
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## Submarine cable route

The submarine cables are a major part of the Viking Link project.

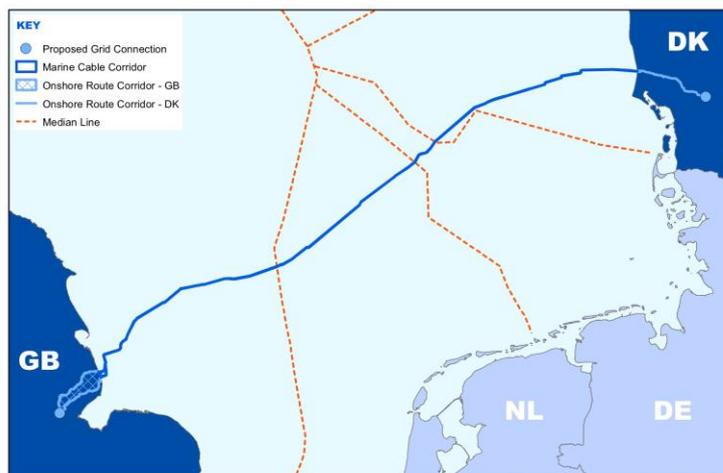
They will run for approximately 650 km between the coasts of Great Britain and Denmark, crossing through British and Danish territorial waters and the Exclusive Economic Zones of Great Britain, the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark.

We have carried out desktop surveys to identify any constraints, such as environmental designations and important navigational routes. We have also been speaking to relevant stakeholders, national authorities and other organisations.

Many cable route options were reviewed during the development phase, including two potential cable route corridors for the submarine cables in British waters.

A full marine survey is being carried out. This survey will collect information about the seabed and sub-seabed and will help us in our assessments.

When we have finalised our proposals we will submit an application for permits to install, operate and decommission the submarine cable in all four European jurisdictions.



**Please let us know if you think there is something we should take into consideration along the identified submarine cable route corridor.**

## Working in the local community

We are committed to being good neighbours and we want to work with you as we develop our proposals.

We are at an early stage of our design work and we aim to minimise any disruption during our survey and exploratory work as well as during the construction work.

We will carry out a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to understand any potential impacts of our proposals. The report from this assessment, called an Environmental Statement, will be submitted as part of our planning application. We will also submit a Construction Management Plan which will set out how we manage and mitigate impacts during construction.

### Submarine cabling

Submarine cables are installed using large specialist vessels which are able to transport and lay long sections of cables (up to 100 km in length). The cables will be buried in the seabed. Some cable joints will need to be made at sea during the installation process.

### Onshore cabling

The DC and AC underground cables will be installed using a variety of methods including open cut installation and trenchless techniques, which could include horizontal directional drilling (HDD) depending upon the ground conditions and obstacles along the cable routes. Cable joints will need to be made at sections along the route during installation. These will not be visible once the work is completed.

### Converter station

Construction of the converter station will depend on the final design and technology used. The site preparation, ground works and construction of buildings will be followed by the installation of electrical equipment.

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## Viking Link and Brexit



Following the result of the EU referendum on 23 June 2016 we are aware that you will have questions on how the outcome will affect the development of the Viking Link project.

National Grid and its partner, Energinet.dk, believe there is a strong business case for Viking Link. The project, which will be jointly funded by National Grid and Energinet.dk, has been granted regulatory approval by Ofgem, which closely scrutinises costs and benefits in the interests of GB consumers.

The outcome of the referendum does not influence the decision and proposals to build and operate Viking Link between the UK and Denmark. We remain fully committed to the project as it serves to deliver significant benefits by ensuring a more secure, sustainable and affordable source of electricity supply to the GB consumer.

### A message from National Grid

National Grid believes energy must be a key priority area as the Government begins negotiations on how Britain's exit from the European Union (EU) will be handled.

While this result means that Britain will leave the EU, it is important that we retain access to the European Internal Energy Market (IEM), which provides stability for energy companies and helps keep household bills down.

Some non-EU countries are members of this market and we will be working closely with the Government and others in the energy sector to ensure we continue to enjoy the advantages of access. UK energy security depends on gas and electricity from the IEM and it is essential therefore that we take no risks with that.

Much will now depend on the upcoming negotiations, which is why the issue of energy needs to be treated with the highest importance by the Government as the negotiations on Britain's exit begin. We do not expect any major impact on the company as a result of the vote and we are well-placed to deal with any short-term uncertainty while those discussions take place.

We will continue to work closely with our European partners to ensure security of supply while the negotiations take place.



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## Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to visit today's public participation event. We hope you found it useful and we look forward to seeing you during our second phase of consultation. If you have any immediate questions one of our project team here today will be happy to speak with you. If you have any questions outside of this event you can contact the project community relations team using the information below.

## Next steps

We are holding a number of similar public participation events in locations across the cable route search area along with an event for marine and fishing stakeholders in Grimsby.

### Phase 2 consultation

Later in the summer, we will consult with local communities to hear their views before identifying the preferred DC and AC cable route corridor options. In addition, residents in the vicinity of the preferred converter station site will be consulted on the building design.

We will notify you before the start of consultation and inform you of dates, times and locations for public exhibitions and where you can find all the relevant information.

In the meantime, if you have any questions please speak to a member of the team today or contact our community relations team using the information below.

## Contact us



You can find out more information by:



calling our freephone number:  
**0800 731 0561**



Sending an email to:  
**vikinglink@communityrelations.co.uk**



Writing to our freepost address at:  
**FREEPOST VIKING LINK**



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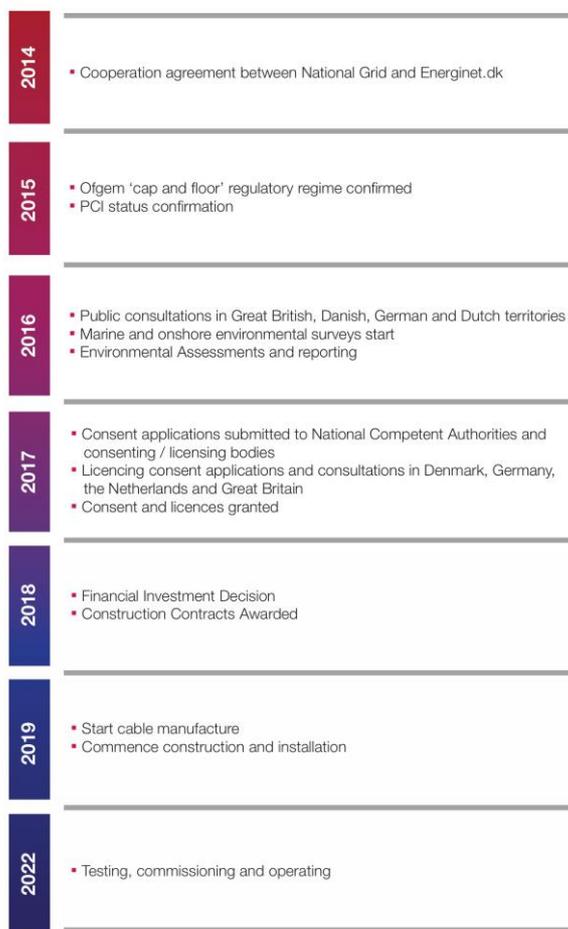
If you, or someone you know, would like information in Braille, audio, large print or another language, please call us on the freephone number above.



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## Project timeline

We aim to be operational by 2022



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**Viking Link – Contact Us**

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By post: FREEPOST VIKING LINK