

VikingLink

nationalgrid

UK Onshore Scheme

Environmental Statement

Volume 2 Document ES-2-A.01

Chapter 01

Introduction

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Environmental Statement Volume 2			
ES Reference	Chapter	Chapter Title	
ES-2-A.01	Ch01	Introduction	
ES-2-A.02	Ch02	Development of the UK Onshore Scheme	
ES-2-A.03	Ch03	The UK Onshore Scheme	
ES-2-A.04	Ch04	Environmental Impact Assessment Methods	
ES-2-B.01	Ch05	The Proposed Underground DC Cable	
ES-2-B.02	Ch06	Intertidal Zone	
ES-2-B.03	Ch07	Geology & Hydrogeology	
ES-2-B.04	Ch08	Water Resources & Hydrology	
ES-2-B.05	Ch09	Agriculture & Soils	
ES-2-B.06	Ch10	Ecology	
ES-2-B.07	Ch11	Landscape & Visual Amenity	
ES-2-B.08	Ch12	Archaeology & Cultural Heritage	
ES-2-B.09	Ch13	Socio-economics & Tourism	
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ES-2-B.11	Ch15	Noise & Vibration	
ES-2-B.12	Ch16	Register of Mitigation	
ES-2-C.01	Ch17	The Proposed Converter Station	
ES-2-C.02	Ch18	Geology & Hydrogeology	
ES-2-C.03	Ch19	Water Resources & Hydrology	
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ES-2-C.10	Ch26	Noise & Vibration	
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ES-2-D.01	Ch28	Cumulative Effects	
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Glossary & Abbreviations

Glossary of Terms	
Term	Meaning
AC electricity transmission	Electric power transmission in which the voltage varies in a sinusoidal fashion. This is the most common form of electricity transmission and distribution.
base scheme design	The design of the UK Onshore Scheme for the purposes of the planning application.
connection point	The existing Bicker Fen 400 kV Substation; the point on the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS) where Viking Link connects.
the Contractor	Party or parties responsible for the detailed design and construction UK Onshore Scheme.
converter station	Facility containing specialist equipment (some indoors and some potentially outdoors) for the purposes of converting electricity from AC to DC or DC to AC.
DC electricity transmission	Electric power transmission in which the voltage is continuous. This is most commonly used for long distance point to point transmission.
detailed scheme design	The design of the Scheme developed by the Contractor within the Limits of Deviation (AC and DC cables) and Rochdale Envelope (converter station).
landfall	The area between Mean Low Water Springs and Mean High Water Springs where the Onshore and Offshore Schemes meet.
Limits of Deviation	These define the maximum extents of the corridor for which planning permission is sought and within which proposed DC and AC cable routes may be installed.
the Project	Viking Link, from the connection point at Revsing Substation in Denmark to the connection Bicker Fen Substation in Great Britain).
Rochdale Envelope	This defines the parameters of the proposed converter station for which planning permission is sought including its location, layout and dimensions.
the Scheme	UK Onshore Scheme from MLWS to the connection point comprising underground AC and DC cables, converter station and access road.
Transition Joint Pit	Buried concrete pit where onshore and submarine cables are physically jointed together.

List of Abbreviations	
Abbreviation	Meaning
AC	Alternating Current
BBC	Boston Borough Council
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide

List of Abbreviations	
Abbreviation	Meaning
DC	Direct Current
DECC	Department for Energy and Climate Change
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ELDC	East Lindsey District Council
ES	Environmental Statement
GW	gigawatt
ha	hectares
HVDC	High Voltage Direct Current
km	kilometre
km ²	square kilometre
kV	kilovolt
LPA	Local Planning Authority
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
MLWS	Mean Low Water Springs
MMO	Marine Management Organisation
MW	megawatt
NCA	National Competent Authority
NGET	National Grid Electricity Transmission plc
NGIHL	National Grid Interconnector Holdings Limited
NGVL	National Grid Viking Link Limited
NKDC	North Kesteven District Council
Ofgem	Office of Gas and Electricity Markets
PCI	Project of Common Interest
SHDC	South Holland District Council
TCC	Temporary Construction Compound
TCPA	Town and Country Planning Act 1990
TJP	Transition Joint Pit
TEN-E	Trans-European Networks for Energy
TWA	Temporary Works Area

1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This Environmental Statement (ES) reports the results of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the UK onshore components of Viking Link ('the Project') which are located above Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS). This comprises approximately 67.16 kilometres (km) of underground high voltage Direct Current (DC) cable from the proposed landfall at Boygriff to the proposed converter station at North Ing Drove, a converter station and approximately 2.34 km of underground high voltage Alternating Current (AC) cable from the converter station to the existing Bicker Fen 400 kilovolt (kV) Substation as well as a 2.8 km permanent access road from the converter station to the A52. These components are hereafter referred to as the UK Onshore Scheme (or 'the Scheme').

1.2 About Viking Link

Overview of the Project

1.2.1 Viking Link is a proposed 1,400 megawatt (MW) high voltage DC electricity link between the British and Danish electricity transmission networks. Figure 1.1 provides a schematic overview of Viking Link. It comprises approximately 762 km of onshore and submarine DC electricity transmission cables between new converter stations which are in turn connected to the high voltage electricity transmission networks at existing substations at Revsing, Jutland in Denmark and at Bicker Fen, Lincolnshire in Great Britain. Viking Link will enable Great Britain and Denmark to trade energy as a commodity within the European Energy Market. This will strengthen Great Britain's and Denmark's economies, improve the security of their electricity supplies and put downward pressure on wholesale electricity prices providing British and Danish consumers with access to cheaper, low carbon energy.

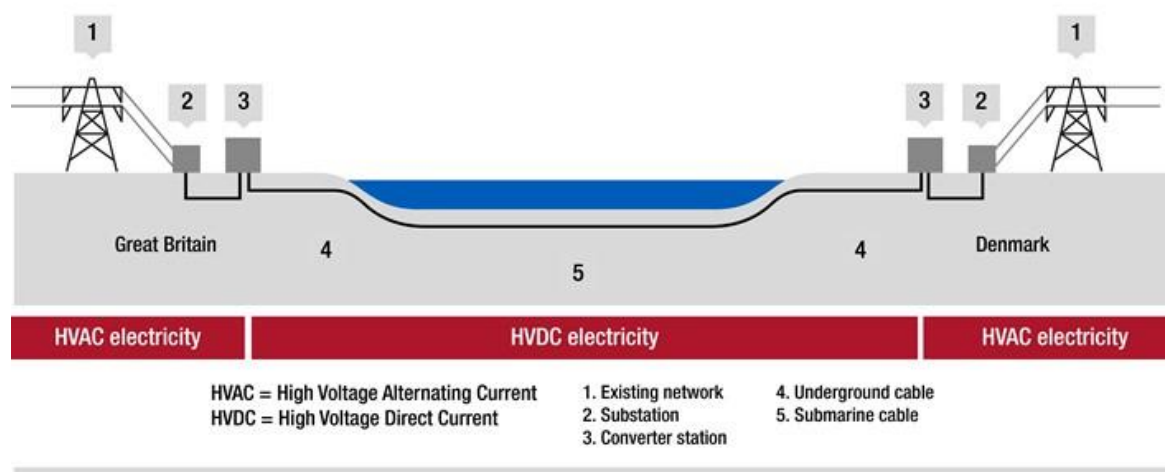


Figure 1.1 Viking Link: Schematic Overview

1.2.2 Figure 1.2 provides a geographic overview of Viking Link from existing substations at Revsing, Jutland in Denmark and at Bicker Fen, Lincolnshire in Great Britain. Due its long linear transboundary nature the Project requires different consents, licences or permissions in different jurisdictions. For the purposes of EIA and seeking the necessary consents, licences or permissions, Viking Link has been split as follows:

- The Danish (DK) Onshore Scheme comprising all works onshore in Denmark approximately 75 km of onshore DC cables, a converter station and less than 1 km of onshore AC cables connecting the Project to the existing substation at Revsing.
- The Offshore Scheme comprising approximately 620 km of submarine DC cables from Denmark to Great Britain crossing the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.
- The UK Onshore Scheme: comprising all works onshore (above Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) in the UK including approximately 67.16 km onshore DC cables, a converter station and approximately 2.34 km of onshore AC cables connecting the Project to the existing Bicker Fen 400 kV Substation.

1.2.3 Further details about the consents which are required for each of the above are provided in section 2 of this chapter.

The UK Onshore Scheme

1.2.4 The Scheme comprises the following:

- At the proposed landfall installation of two (2) submarine high voltage DC cables between MLWS and a Transition Joint Pit (TJP);
- From the TJP Installation of two (2) onshore high voltage DC cables between the landfall at Boygriff and the converter station at North Ing Drove in South Holland;
- Construction of associated Temporary Construction Compounds (TCC) and Temporary Works Areas (TWA) and temporary vehicle access arrangements;
- Erection of converter station buildings and outdoor electrical equipment together with the formation of internal roads and erection of security fencing and provision of landscaping;
- Formation of a permanent access road from the A52 to the converter station site including a bridge crossing of Hammond Beck;
- Installation of up to six (6) onshore high voltage AC cables between the converter station at North Ing Drove and the existing Bicker Fen 400 kV Substation;
- Installation of link pillars along the AC cable route for inspection and maintenance purposes, these will be contained within fenced areas;
- Installation of two substation bays at Bicker Fen 400 kV Substation to connect Viking Link to the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS);
- Installation of temporary and permanent land drainage works as well as temporary water management areas; and

- Installation of fibre-optic cable(s) with the high voltage AC and DC cables for the purpose of monitoring cable performance.

1.2.5 Figure 1.3 illustrates the extent of the planning application boundary of the Scheme within which all of the above works will be undertaken. It occupies approximately 1,480 ha (14.80 km²) of which:

- Approximately 1,316 ha (13.16 km²) relates to the proposed DC underground cable route including land required during construction; and
- Approximately 164 ha (1.64 km²) relates to the proposed converter station, AC underground cable route and permanent access road including land required during construction.

The Applicant

1.2.6 Viking Link is being jointly developed by National Grid Viking Link Limited (NGVL) and Energinet with NGVL wholly responsible for the development of the UK Onshore Scheme. NGVL is a wholly owned subsidiary of National Grid Interconnector Holdings Limited (NGIHL). NGVL is part of the National Grid group of companies but is separate from National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET) which operates the high voltage electricity transmission network in Great Britain and owns the high voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales.

1.2.7 NGET operates under an electricity transmission licence granted under the Electricity Act 1989. As a separate company, NGVL operates under a separate electricity interconnector licence which was granted by the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) in 2014. As separate companies, interactions between NGVL and NGET are undertaken on an 'arm's length' basis and are bound by business separation obligations enforced by Ofgem.

Need for the Project

1.2.8 A number of specialist studies have demonstrated the need for, and benefits of, increasing interconnection capacity between the UK and Europe, in particular as a means for addressing energy security, sustainability and affordability. The UK currently has four interconnectors to neighbouring European countries which provide 4 gigawatts (GW) of interconnection capacity. Additional interconnectors are proposed that would double interconnection capacity to the equivalent of approximately 10% of the total existing electricity generated in the UK (based on 2014 figures). Viking Link would make an important contribution to the UK's interconnection capacity, increasing it by 1,400 MW and providing enough electricity to power millions of homes.

1.2.9 The need case Viking Link is described in the Planning Statement (Ref 1.1). It sets out the key legislative, policy and other drivers which underline the need for the Project. A summary of this need case is also provided in chapter 3 which describes the UK Onshore Scheme (ES-2-A.03).

2 Consenting Requirements

2.1 Project of Common Interest

2.1.1 The European Commission has developed guidelines to assist in the development of energy networks within Europe. These networks will play an important role in ensuring an efficient energy market within Europe and providing security and diversification of energy supply. These guidelines are known as the European Union's Trans-European Networks for Energy (TEN-E) Regulation. They set out guidance for streamlining the permitting process for major energy infrastructure projects that contribute to European energy networks. These projects are referred to as Projects of Common Interest (PCI). PCIs are projects which deliver benefits for connected European Member States, further support market integration and competition, enhance security of energy supply, and contribute to reducing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. Viking Link has been confirmed as a PCI under the TEN-E Regulation.

2.1.2 Under the TEN-E Regulation, Member States are required to designate a National Competent Authority (NCA), who is responsible for coordinating the permitting process for PCIs. In the case of Viking Link, the UK NCA role has been delegated by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) for tasks relating to the facilitation and co-ordination of the permit granting process. It is important to note that the MMO's role does not replace that of the Local Planning Authorities (LPA) in the decision making process, the MMO's role as NCA is to coordinate the decision making process with the relevant LPA's in the UK and the other jurisdictions affected by Viking Link in order to reach a 'Comprehensive Decision'. The Comprehensive Decision comprises all of the consents and permits necessary for a developer to be granted authorisation for construction of a PCI. Outline planning permission is not considered to be sufficient for an authorisation to be granted and therefore is not part of the Comprehensive Decision. In order to comply with the definition of the Comprehensive Decision in the TEN-E Regulation, NGVL is seeking full planning permission for the UK Onshore Scheme. Detailed guidance on how TEN-E has been implemented in the UK is set out in the 'Manual of Procedures: The permitting process for Projects of Common Interest in the UK' published by the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) (Ref 1.2).

2.2 Consents Required for Viking Link

2.2.1 Whilst this ES accompanies applications to the affected LPAs for full planning permission for the UK Onshore Scheme it is considered helpful to set out all of the consents which are required for Viking Link and which in combination will constitute the Comprehensive Decision referred to above. Table 1.1 below summarises the primary consents which are required.

Table 1.1 Consents required for Viking Link

Component		Consents Required
Viking Link	DK Onshore Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning Permission under the Planning Act 2015 (district plan and addendum municipality spatial plan) as well as EIA permit under the Planning Act 2015 and EIA legislation for the onshore elements comprising installation of approximately 75 km of onshore DC cables, construction of a converter station and installation of less than 1 km of onshore AC cables.
	Offshore Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offshore installation permit from the relevant Danish authorities under the Act of Energinet 2011 for the installation of submarine cables routed within the Danish EEZ. Permit from the relevant German authorities under the Federal Mining Act (Bundesberggesetz) paragraph 133 Section 1 Nr. 1 and 2 for the installation of submarine cables routed within the German EEZ. Water Permit (Waternvergunning) and permit under the Act on Nature Conservation 2017 (Wet natuurbescherming) from the relevant Dutch authorities for the installation of submarine cables routed within the Dutch EEZ. Marine licence from the MMO under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 for the installation of submarine cables routed within the UK EEZ.
	UK Onshore Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning permissions from East Lindsey District Council (ELDC), Boston Borough Council (BBC), North Kesteven District Council (NKDC) and South Holland District Council (SHDC) for the installation of up to 67.16 km of onshore DC cables, construction of a converter station and installation of 2.34 km of onshore AC cables.

2.3 Consents Required for the UK Onshore Scheme

2.3.1 Planning permission for the Scheme is being sought under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA). Due its long linear nature the Scheme crosses four LPA boundaries (see Figure 1.3) requiring multiple planning applications to be submitted, as summarised below:

- To ELDC for the installation of approximately 51.60 km of proposed underground DC cable, and associated temporary works.
- To BBC for the installation of approximately 9.78 km of proposed underground DC cable, approximately 1.13 km of proposed AC underground cable, and associated temporary works.
- To NKDC for the installation of approximately 4.80 km of proposed underground DC cable, and associated temporary works.
- To SHDC for the proposed converter station, 2.8 km long permanent access road, approximately 0.98 km of proposed underground DC cable, approximately 1.21 km of proposed AC underground cable, and all associated temporary works.

2.3.2 A description of the UK Onshore Scheme is contained in chapter 3 of the ES (ES-2-A.03) with more detailed descriptions of its main components in chapter 5 The Proposed DC Underground Cable (ES-2-B.01) and chapter 17 The Proposed Converter Station (ES-2-C.01).

3 The Environmental Statement

3.1 Requirement for Environmental Impact Assessment

- 3.1.1 In May 2017 European Directive 2014/52/EU was transposed into UK legislation by the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ('the 2017 EIA Regulations'). Under the transitional arrangements the 2017 EIA Regulations do not apply to projects for which a scoping opinion was sought prior to May 2017. Scoping for the Scheme was undertaken in August in 2016 meaning that the 2017 EIA Regulations do not apply. Consequently the EIA of the Scheme has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements set out in the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011 (as amended 2015) ('the 2011 EIA Regulations').
- 3.1.2 The 2011 EIA Regulations implement European Directive 2011/92/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment ('the EIA Directive') for the purposes of applications for planning permission under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The 2011 EIA Regulations include two schedules of development which are derived from the EIA Directive:
- Schedule 1 Development (Annex I of the EIA Directive): Development of this type requires that an EIA is undertaken and the results described in an ES which accompanies the application.
 - Schedule 2 Development (Annex II of the EIA Directive): Development of this type may require that an EIA is undertaken depending on the scale of the development, its characteristics and the sensitivity of the environment in which the development will take place. The results of the EIA must be described in an ES which accompanies the application.
- 3.1.3 There is no reference to interconnector projects or the components that they comprise (converter stations, onshore or submarine cables) in either Schedule 1 or 2 of the 2011 EIA Regulations (or Annex I or II of the EIA Directive). However, having regard to the ruling of the European Court that the EIA Directive has a '*wide scope and broad purpose*' (Ref 1.3), the fact that a particular type of development is not specifically identified in one of the Schedules (or Annexes) does not necessarily mean that it falls outside the scope of the Regulations. Consequently, as a responsible developer, NGVL considered it appropriate that an EIA of the Scheme be undertaken and the results reported in this ES.
- 3.1.4 It should be noted that separate EIAs have been undertaken for the DK and Offshore Schemes in accordance with the relevant EIA legislation as appropriate. The results of those EIAs accompany licence or consent applications for those specific components of the Project. A Bridging Document (Ref 1.4) which provides a consolidated summary of the results of the individual EIAs has been prepared and forms part of the planning application.

3.2 This Environmental Statement

3.2.1 The structure of the ES is set out below in Table 1.2. It comprises four volumes:

- **Volume 1 – Non-Technical Summary.** This is intended to be readily accessible to the general public. It is concise and written in non-technical language providing a description of Viking Link, in particular the Scheme and a summary of the assessment of likely significant environmental effects and proposed mitigation measures.
- **Volume 2 – Main Report.** This comprises the main text including a description of the Scheme (including the alternatives considered), the baseline conditions, an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects resulting from the Scheme, and proposed measures to mitigate those effects. Due to the nature of the Scheme and the LPAs involved this volume comprises four parts:
 - **Part A:** Introductory chapters which provide some background to Viking Link and the UK Onshore Scheme and a description of the approach to EIA.
 - **Part B:** Underground DC cable chapters which provide a detailed description of the proposed DC cable route and specialist impact assessments chapters.
 - **Part C:** Converter station chapters provide a detailed description of the proposed converter station, proposed permanent access road and proposed AC cable route and specialist impact assessments chapters.
 - **Part D:** Conclusions which summarise the results of the assessment by discipline and for each LPA.
- **Volume 3 – Figures.** This comprises supporting figures, plans and other illustrations or visualisations which are cross referenced throughout Volume 2.
- **Volume 4 – Technical Appendices.** This comprises the supporting technical information such as baseline surveys which are cross referenced throughout Volume 2.

Table 1.2 Environmental Statement Structure			
ES Ref	Vol./Ch. No.	Title	Author
Volume 1 Non-Technical Summary			
ES-1-0.01	Vol 1	Non-Technical Summary	AECOM
Volume 2 Main Report			
ES-2-A.01	Ch01	Introduction	AECOM
ES-2-A.02	Ch02	Development of the UK Onshore Scheme	AECOM
ES-2-A.03	Ch03	The UK Onshore Scheme	AECOM
ES-2-A.04	Ch04	Environmental Impact Assessment Methods	AECOM
ES-2-B.01	Ch05	The Proposed Underground DC Cable	AECOM
ES-2-B.02	Ch06	Intertidal Zone	RPS
ES-2-B.03	Ch07	Geology & Hydrogeology	AECOM
ES-2-B.04	Ch08	Water Resources & Hydrology	RPS

Table 1.2 Environmental Statement Structure			
ES Ref	Vol./Ch. No.	Title	Author
ES-2-B.05	Ch09	Agriculture & Soils	Wardell Armstrong
ES-2-B.06	Ch10	Ecology	TEP
ES-2-B.07	Ch11	Landscape & Visual Amenity	AECOM
ES-2-B.08	Ch12	Archaeology & Cultural Heritage	Arcadis Consulting
ES-2-B.09	Ch13	Socio-economics & Tourism	Arcadis Consulting
ES-2-B.10	Ch14	Traffic & Transport	AECOM
ES-2-B.11	Ch15	Noise & Vibration	RPS
ES-2-B.12	Ch16	Register of Mitigation	AECOM
ES-2-C.01	Ch17	The Proposed Converter Station	AECOM
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ES-2-C.10	Ch26	Noise & Vibration	RPS
ES-2-C.11	Ch27	Register of Mitigation	AECOM
ES-2-D.01	Ch28	Cumulative Effects	AECOM
ES-2-D.02	Ch29	Summary of Assessment & Conclusions	AECOM
Volume 3 Figures			
ES-3-A.01	Part A Figures	Figures for chapters 1-4	-
ES-3-B.01	Part B Figures	Figures for chapters 5-15	-
ES-3-C.01	Part C Figures	Figures for chapters 17-26	-
ES-3-D.01	Part D Figures	Figures for chapter 28	-
Volume 4 Technical Appendices (follows Volume 2 Structure in so far as it is applicable)			

3.3 Availability of the Environmental Statement

- 3.3.1 Hard copies of the ES are available to the public for viewing in the offices of the LPAs. Electronic copies of the ES can also be downloaded from the project website.
- 3.3.2 Further information about Viking Link can be requested by contacting:

- Freephone number – 0800 731 0561
- Email – vikinglink@communityrelations.co.uk
- Freepost – FREEPOST VIKING LINK

3.4 Other Supporting Documents

3.4.1 A number of other documents form part of the planning application in addition to the ES. The ES may cross refer to other documents within the application and vice versa, these supporting documents are set out below in Table 1.3.

Table 1.3 Other Planning Application Documents	
Reference	Document Title
VKL-08-39-G500-028	Statement of Community Involvement
VKL-08-39-G500-029	Planning Statement
VKL-08-39-G500-011	Design & Access Statement
VKL-08-39-G500-012	Design Code
VKL-08-39-G500-010	Flood Risk Assessment
VKL-08-39-G500-015	Outline Drainage Strategy
VKL-08-39-G500-013	Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (Converter Station)
VKL-08-39-G500-014	Outline Traffic Management Plan (Converter Station)
VKL-08-39-G500-017	Outline Waste Management Plan
VKL-08-39-G500-021	Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (DC cable)
VKL-08-39-G500-022	Outline Traffic Management Plan (DC cable)
VKL-08-39-G500-027	Outline Access Management Plan
VKL-08-39-G500-026	Soil Handling and Storage Protocol
VKL-08-39-G500-024	Tree Survey Report
VKL-07-37-J800-003	Project Bridging Document

4 References

- Ref 1.1 National Grid Viking Link (August 2017) UK Onshore Scheme: Planning Statement
- Ref 1.2 Department of Energy & Climate Change, May 2014, THE TEN-E REGULATION EU347/2013 Manual of Procedures: The permitting process for Projects of Common Interest in the UK
- Ref 1.3 The Court of Justice of the European Union case C- 72/95 (Kraaijeveld v Holland)
- Ref 1.4 National Grid Viking Link (August 2017) Viking Link: Bridging Document

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