

# Community Matters



Swans at Hammond Beck keeping our contractors company at the converter site

## Welcome to the third edition of the Viking Link newsletter, 'Community Matters'.

I hope you and your families are keeping well as we all continue to go about our home and working lives' under increased COVID-19 tier restrictions.

As always, the welfare of our employees, contractors and the local community remains our priority. Working with our contractors, we have implemented stringent health and safety measures aligned to current government guidance to protect all of our people and the communities that we are working in. The support we have been given throughout the county allowing us to continue with our work, safely, has been fantastic. Thank you.

Since I wrote to you last, you may have noticed that project construction activity is now well underway at various locations across Lincolnshire. I am pleased to say the project remains on track and key milestones have been achieved, from the installation of a new access road to the converter station to preparing and establishing work compounds along the cable route.

We also held our inaugural virtual Community Liaison Group meeting in October 2020, and I would like to thank all of the community representatives that took the time to attend and contribute.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we have had to postpone our Schools Programme and Parish Council Forums, but we are hoping to reschedule these events as soon as it is safe to do so.

Finally, as we approach the end of the year, on behalf of everyone on the project, I would like to wish season's greetings to you all for Christmas and the New Year.



For further project information please visit the Viking Link website. If you have any questions, please get in touch using the contact details below.

**Mike Elmer**  
Project Director, Viking Link

## Contact us:

If you have any questions, please contact our team at:

**Freephone:** 0800 731 0561

**Post:** FREEPOST VIKING LINK

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

**Website:** [www.viking-link.com](http://www.viking-link.com)



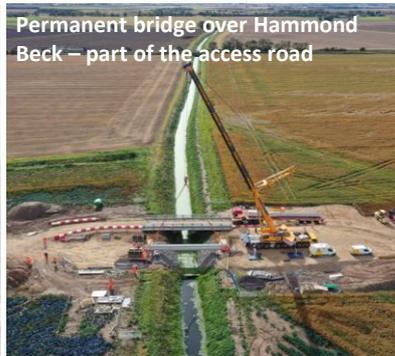
Viking Link is co-financed by the European Union's Connecting Europe Facility.

# Project updates

Viking Link project construction works remain on schedule, achieving a number of key milestones along the way. Working with our contractors, the following works have been completed.



2.8km access road to the converter station site reduces construction traffic on local roads



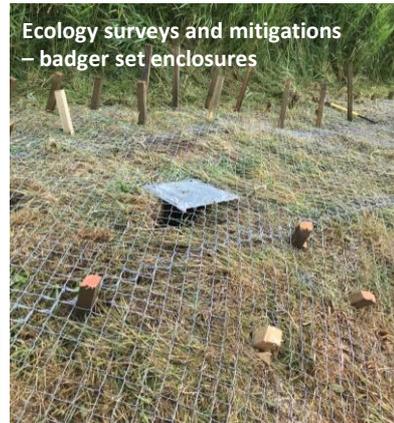
Permanent bridge over Hammond Beck – part of the access road



Hydrogen Fuel Unit installed at converter site to power welfare units eliminates the use of diesel generators



Haul road, compound and drilling preparation works at the landfall site in Sandilands



Ecology surveys and mitigations – badger set enclosures



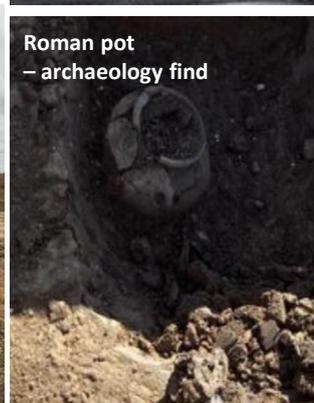
Seabed surveys and safe ordnance removal



Project offices in West Keal



Archaeology surveys at the converter site



Roman pot – archaeology find



New subsea cable laying vessel 'Leonardo Da Vinci'

Viking Link plays a vital role in supporting the drive to decarbonise the UK's power supply on the journey to a net zero carbon energy system. The interconnector will enable access to a cleaner greener supply of electricity, increase energy security and make energy affordable for consumers. To ensure this critical infrastructure project remains on track, our teams will be working throughout December 2020 with the exception of the statutory UK bank holidays.

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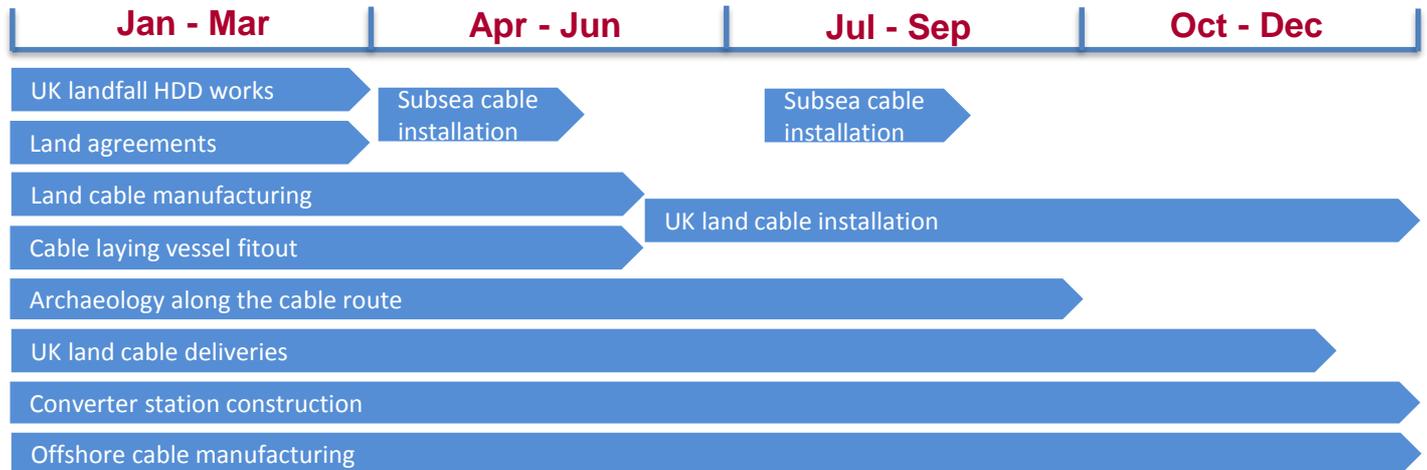


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# Upcoming project milestones in 2021

Over the next few months the project will begin the construction of the converter station building and continue works in preparation for cable installation activities due to commence in Spring 2021. Both are key milestones for the project. The timeline below provides an overview of construction activities planned for 2021.



*All project milestone dates planned for 2021 are subject to change due to COVID-19.*

## Community Engagement

### Community Liaison Groups

Our first Community Liaison Group meeting took place on 1 October 2020. Due to current COVID-19 restrictions we held a virtual meeting attended by local Lincolnshire representatives from county, district, borough and parish councils, third party interest groups and internal drainage boards. Together with our contractors, we provided an update on the project activities that have been progressed to date and took a look ahead at the works planned over the next few months. Updates covered works at the converter station (Siemens), cable route preparation works (Balfour Beatty), landfall works (Prysmian) and our community engagement and community contribution initiatives.

We would like to thank the attendees for their time and contribution to the meeting and we look forward to meeting you again at the next meeting in early 2021. Until it is safe to meet face-to-face and hold separate Community Liaison Groups and Parish Council Forums, these meetings will continue to be held online with invitations extended to parish council members. The meeting minutes and presentation slides are available on the Viking Link website.

### Construction work notifications

As works have progressed along the cable route and at the converter station site, traffic management signs have been, and will continue to be, placed at relevant locations providing the local community with advanced notice of traffic management controls due to be implemented. All traffic management restrictions implemented are approved by Lincolnshire County Council via the Temporary Traffic Regulation Order process.

## Community Contribution

### Education Programme

In January 2020, Viking Link launched an education programme delivering STEM subject based workshops to pupils in 10 schools along the cable route in Lincolnshire. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions and the consequential school closures, we have had to postpone the Viking Link Schools programme during 2020. However, we are working closely with the schools to schedule a safe return in the new year.

### Age UK

Viking Link is working with Age UK Lincolnshire and Age UK Lindsey to identify how we can support these charities in tackling loneliness and making a positive contribution to the local residents. To date, we have donated face masks and hand sanitisers for distribution to local care homes. We are supporting Age UK Lincolnshire help set up and launch a new food service and we are assisting Age UK Lindsey with food donations for their coffee mornings and lunch clubs.

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