

# Community Matters



Viking Link's cable pull barge off the coast of Lincolnshire, Sandilands

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

As always, I hope you and your families have been keeping safe and well as we come out of the latest Covid restrictions.

The welfare of our employees, contractors and the local community remains our priority and we still continue to maintain the stringent health and safety measures we implemented back in March 2020. Although restrictions eased after 19<sup>th</sup> July, together with our contractors, we have decided not to ease our measures immediately but to wait until we can assure everyone will not be adversely affected by relaxing our measures.

I am pleased to say that the project's construction activity is progressing to schedule even though we had severe weather conditions to deal with at the beginning of the year. We've achieved some key milestones since I last wrote to you in December 2020, these include the completion of the access road from the A52 at the converter site (near Bicker Fen), completing the converter foundation works ready for the main structures, commencing the horizontal directional drilling works along the cable route, installing the cable ducts at the landfall site (through which the cable will be inserted) and laying the first 50km section of subsea cable.

Working closely and in partnership with our principle contractors we have recommenced our support and local community initiatives, which has been a challenge during Covid, but I'm really pleased with the progress the team have made to date. We have held 2 further virtual Community Liaison Group meetings this year in February and recently in July. I would like to thank all of the community representatives who took the time to attend.

Finally, I wanted to let you know that I will be leaving my role as Viking Link Project Director at the end of September 2021. The new Project Director, Phil Sandy, has already joined the team and we will work together over the next few weeks to ensure a smooth handover



It has been a pleasure and a privilege to lead such an amazing project with a wonderful team of people without whom this project wouldn't be possible.

**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.

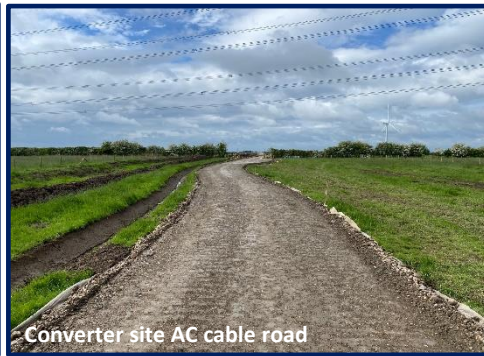


## Project updates

Viking Link project construction works remain on track and to programme. Below are some pictures illustrating the key milestones achieved during 2021 to date.



Converter site access road from the A52



Converter site AC cable road



Converter site Piling works



Land Horizontal Directional Drilling



Cable Drum movements



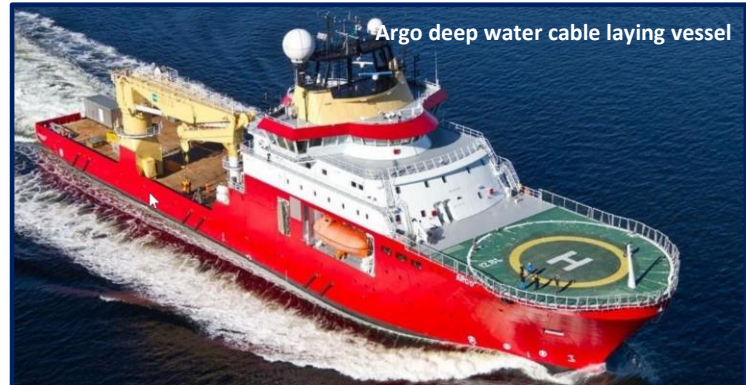
Archaeology works



Leonardo da Vinci cable laying vessel



Atalanti shallow water cable laying vessel



Argo deep water cable laying vessel

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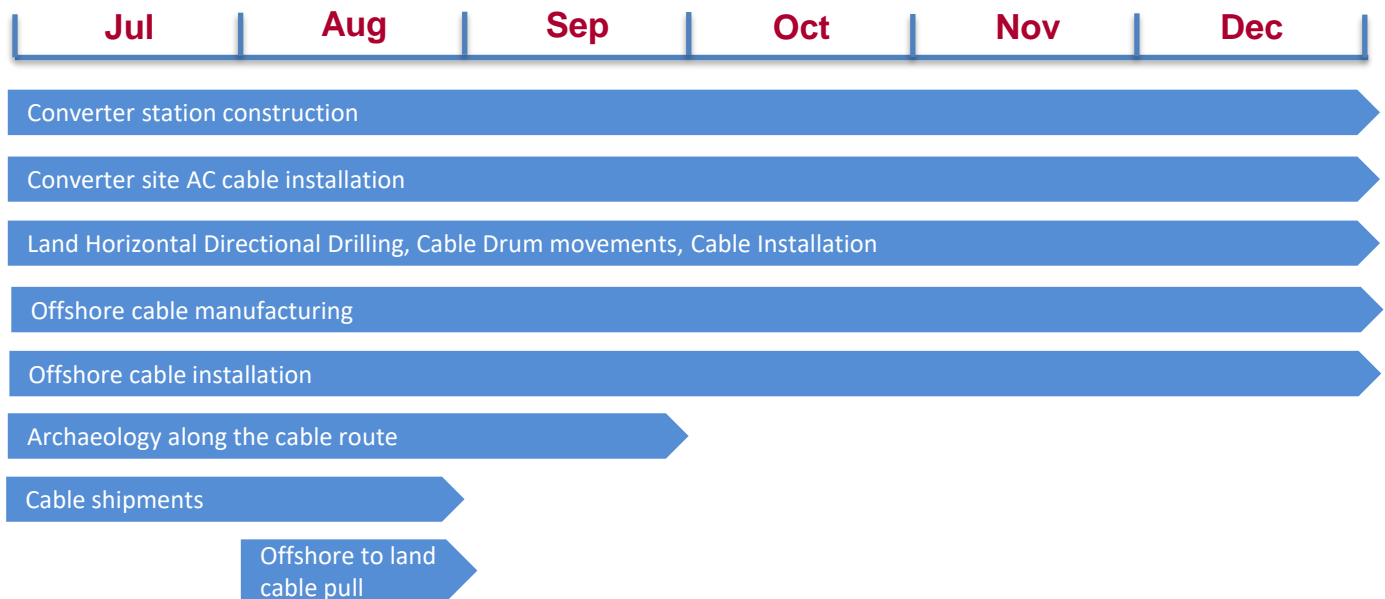


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## Upcoming project milestones until the end of 2021

The timeline below provides an overview of all the construction activities planned until the end of 2021.



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

**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.**

## Community Engagement

### Community Liaison Groups

The project has now held 3 Community Liaison Group meetings in October 2020, February 2021 and July 2021 – all virtually due to Covid restrictions. The meetings are attended by local Lincolnshire representatives and are a forum for the Viking Link team, including our main contractors, to provide project progress updates and take any questions from the attendees. As always, we would like to thank the attendees for their time and contribution to the meetings. The meeting minutes and presentation slides are available on the Viking Link website.

### Construction work notifications

The project is committed to ensuring we cause the least amount of impact as possible to the local community whilst undertaking our works. We continue to place traffic management signs at our work locations and pride ourselves on providing advance notice to local residents. More recently, we communicated to over 3,000 residents and businesses that were potentially impacted by our latest cable movement activities, delivering cable from the Port of Boston to various sites along the cable route.

All traffic management restrictions we implement are approved by Lincolnshire County Council via the Temporary Traffic Regulation Order process.

### Our website

We have made improvements to our website, providing monthly forward looking project works updates and making the site easier to navigate. Further improvements will be coming soon.

### Viking Link project video

Together with our joint venture partners, Energinet, we have launched a new project video which provides an overview, objectives and benefits of the project. You can view the video at [www.viking-link.com](http://www.viking-link.com)

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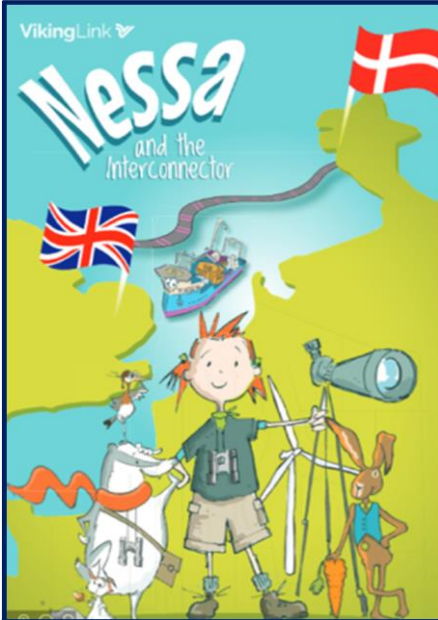


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# Community Contribution

Together with our contractors, we've been working hard to continue with our ongoing commitment to support local communities with various programmes and are looking to identify new initiatives that we can support. As you can imagine, with the Covid restrictions in place, it has been difficult to provide support to as many programmes as we would have liked. However, below is a snapshot of what support we have provided.



Earlier in the year we launched our very own educational workbook to our schools programme. We are reaching out to over 35 other schools in the Lincolnshire area to offer this free STEM aligned resource. A downloadable version is available on our [website](#).



Siemens Energy is running a virtual work experience week for 30 pupils at Haven High School. The programme is aligned to the national curriculum topic of renewable energy.



In March, we re-launched our schools programme. We have now hosted 3 virtual workshops based on Archaeology, Electricity & Circuits and most recently, Wind Energy. The pupils are given an overview of each subject area, how it relates to Viking Link construction works and then they get stuck into a practical workshop identifying skeleton bones, building their own electricity circuits and constructing quirky wind turbines. All of the equipment required for the workshops was couriered to the schools.

Together with our main contractors, Balfour Beatty and Siemens Energy, we donated PPE, stationery, outdoor games and PE equipment to the schools to support the pupils' return to school after lockdown in March. It's great to hear the pupils are using and enjoying the items.



The project supported Age UK Lindsey with a minibus renovation which was launched in May that will be used to reach out to approximately 150 isolated elderly residents in the area providing them with technology usage support. The project has also donated raffle prizes for Age UK's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and continue to provide food donations.



The Balfour Beatty team collected 6 large bags of waste during a beach clean at Anderby Creek in March.



And the Siemens Energy team has also been out litter picking twice along the A52 supporting the Donington Litter Picking Group.



Balfour Beatty donated 85 Easter eggs to the children's ward at Boston Pilgrim Hospital.



Balfour Beatty supported Lincs Wildlife Trust with some vegetation clearance.



Siemens Energy attended a STEM careers day at Boston College. The team spoke to students about different types of STEM based careers that can be pursued in large projects such as Viking Link.

***Viking Link will continue to work with our contractors to support as many local initiatives as we reasonably can that address loneliness, education and environment.***

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