

# Community Matters



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

I am Mike James, Head of Interconnector Operations & Maintenance for the North of England. I am delighted to say that Viking Link is now operational.

My team will remain onsite at the UK Converter Station in Bicker Fen to oversee and maintain Viking Link.

Since our last newsletter in 2023, Viking Link has achieved many key milestones. These can be found on the following pages, alongside our community initiatives in partnership with our contractors.

Looking back on the key milestones achieved, I am reminded of the vital role Viking Link will play in supporting the drive to decarbonise the UK's power supply on the journey to a net zero carbon energy system.

As we begin the new year, we reflect on the incredible journey Viking Link has undergone and I want to thank everyone in the community for your continued support and understanding throughout the duration of the project.



**Mike James - Interconnector Operations & Maintenance North**

## 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

Below are some images that illustrate the key milestones achieved over the last 6 months.



Images from the Leonardo da Vinci laying Viking Link's offshore cable

The final section of the state-of-the-art high voltage subsea cable, which joins Bicker Fen in Lincolnshire with Jutland in Denmark, was completed offshore in the North Sea by Prysmian Group's Cable Laying Vessel "Leonardo da Vinci" and the team. The complex cable joining process took place in Danish waters and took several days to complete. It involved lifting the sections of cables out of the water and expertly joining each conductor/strand together on the Cable Laying Vessel.



Images of the UK converter station (left) and the Danish converter station (right) where the cable testing took place

The final cable testing for the world's longest onshore and subsea HVDC interconnector took place at the end of August 2023 to prove the integrity of the cables between the two countries. The test took place between the UK Converter site at Bicker Fen and the Danish Converter site at Revsing. The cable was tested to 735,000 volts equivalent to 1.4 times its operational voltage of 525,000 volts, which proved the cable terminations, land and submarine joints. The Viking Link Team worked alongside principal contractors Prysmian Group to carry out the tests.

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# Digging for Britain - Viking Link



Digging for Britain filming for BBC



Archaeologists excavating on site

**Archaeological discoveries from an Anglo-Saxon cemetery, excavated by Wessex Archaeology for the Viking Link project featured in BBC's Digging for Britain this January. Archaeologists uncovered the buried remains of over 20 people alongside a range of grave goods including knives, jewellery and pottery vessels. From these 250 artefacts, experts know the cemetery dates to the 6th and 7th centuries AD.**

Jacqueline McKinley, Principal Osteoarchaeologist, Wessex Archaeology, said: "Although many Anglo-Saxon cemeteries are known in Lincolnshire, most were excavated decades ago when the focus was on the grave goods, not the people buried there. Excitingly, here we can employ various scientific advancements, including isotopic and DNA analyses. This will give us a far better understanding of the population, from their mobility to their genetic background and even their diet."

As this research unfolds, the team from Wessex Archaeology hope to greatly extend our understanding of Anglo-Saxon life and death in the region. The Digging for Britain episode is available on BBC iPlayer.

## Viking Link is now operational

**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 enables access to a cleaner, greener supply of electricity, increased energy security and makes energy affordable for consumers.**

Viking Link is National Grid's sixth interconnector. The company already has five operational cables joining the UK with France (IFA and IFA2), The Netherlands (BritNed), Belgium (Nemo Link) and Norway (North Sea Link).

Now in operation, Viking Link will enable fast and flexible energy to be shared between the two countries, from where it is generated to where it is needed most. Flowing at the flick of a switch, interconnectors can

respond quickly to changes in supply and demand, making them an ideal partner to intermittent renewable energy.

Between 2020 and 2030, National Grid expects its interconnectors will have helped the UK to avoid around 100 million tonnes of carbon emissions and by 2030, 90% of the energy imported through the company's interconnectors will be from zero carbon energy sources.

**Our website:** All information about Viking Link can be found at [www.viking-link.com](http://www.viking-link.com)

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# Community Contribution

Over the past five years Viking Link, alongside our contractors, have been working hard in a commitment to support local communities with various programmes. Below is a snapshot of the most recent support that has been delivered in our final stages.



## UK Festival of Archaeology events

In conjunction with the National Festival of Archaeology week, Viking Link hosted three interactive drop in events. These were held in Boston, Spilsby and Lincoln to showcase a series of Roman and Anglo-Saxon objects found during work to build National Grid's Viking Link Interconnector.

Over 1000 visitors attended and were able to handle objects, including pottery and jewellery, and talk to experts about the items discovered beneath the soil in Lincolnshire.

Please scan the adjacent QR code to view the Youtube video compilation of footage filmed during the excavation of sites found during the Viking Link project.



## Future Fest Career events

Viking Link, alongside our principal contractor, Siemens Energy, took part in supporting Future Fest 2023 in July.

The careers event for South & East Lincolnshire supported secondary school pupils in the Boston Borough, East Lindsey and South Holland District Councils.

Despite the event coinciding with strikes, a total of 830 young people attended.

Lots of engagement took place throughout the day, with the aim of inspiring the next generation of engineers. We showcased Viking Link and the incredible feat of engineering, as well as providing information as to how students can be part of this exciting journey on the road to net zero.



## Siemens Energy Donington and Age UK Lindsey Christmas Meals

The Viking Link project team and its contractors provided Christmas spirit by supporting festive lunches during December 2023. Volunteers from both Siemens Energy and National Grid attended to support the events.

Working with our principal contractor Siemens Energy in Donington and Age UK Lindsey in Horncastle, the team served over 120 guests from local communities.



## Age UK Winter Warmth Packs

Viking Link worked with Age UK Lindsey to mobilise a team to pack Winter Warmth bags during December 2023. Vulnerable people within the community will receive the bags of support.

The team spent 1 day packing 180 Winter Warmth bags. Included in the bags were blankets, hand warmers, socks, snacks and other household items to help retain heat.

## School sessions

Viking Link worked with Wessex Archaeology and Headland Archaeology (UK) to deliver an interactive STEM based workshop to over 350 pupils in schools along the cable route.

This was the 7th session delivered in local schools since partnerships began in 2019.

The pupils learnt about the role of Archaeologists and how they complete excavations as well as discovering about the local Roman and Anglo-Saxon history of the area.

Activities such as virtual reality, artefact handling and pot making took place across 8 schools throughout the week.

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