

Viking Link confirms preferred underground cable route corridor

The project has identified the purple route corridor as the preferred option, connecting the landfall site at Boygrift and the preferred converter station site at near Donington.

14 Dec 2016

During September and October this year, National Grid Viking Link (NGVL) consulted on two cable route corridor options (purple and orange corridors) between the preferred landfall site at Boygrift, near Sandilands and the preferred converter station site at North Ing Drove, near Donington.

The project has identified the purple route corridor as the preferred cable corridor option for the underground direct current cables and an optional smaller fibre optic cable.

Subject to survey, the team believes the purple corridor is best placed to balance potential impacts on the environment and local communities, with technical and engineering requirements. The benefits of the purple route corridor include:

- Avoids larger settlements which will help to reduce potential construction impacts
- Avoids the lower lying coastal areas, where there is a higher water table and more watercourses and drains to cross
- Provides more opportunities for direct access to the construction works from existing roads

Oliver Wood, National Grid Viking Link Project Director, said: "Local opinion played an important part in this decision. We selected this purple route corridor as our preferred cable corridor after careful consideration of all the feedback received during the consultation we held between September and October, along with the results of environmental and technical assessments.

"We'd like to thank everyone who took part in the consultation and came along to our events in Lincolnshire. Over the coming months, we will continue to work with landowners and carry out further technical and environmental surveys to help us develop the detailed route alignment for the underground cables."

The consultation also invited thoughts on the design options for the proposed converter station. This feedback will be discussed with South Holland District Council prior to a planning application being made and as we work with them to develop a detailed design code for the converter station.

Following public consultation in the spring, NGVL announced a preferred landfall location where the onshore underground cables will be connected to the subsea/submarine cables, at Boygrift, near Sandillands, East Lindsey. The team also confirmed a preferred site for the converter station, at North Ing Drove, near Donington, South Holland.

More detailed information on why we selected the purple cable route corridor is set out in our [UK Onshore Scheme Preferred Route Corridor Report](#).

Contact for media information only

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Notes for editors

Viking Link

Viking Link is a proposed high voltage direct current (DC) electricity link connecting the electricity systems of Denmark and Great Britain and will run between Bicker Fen, in Lincolnshire, and Revsing, Southern Jutland in Denmark. The project is being developed in co-operation between NGVL and Energinet.dk, the Danish electricity transmission system operator.

The interconnector will help provide our country with a secure supply of affordable electricity and help the move towards more renewable and low carbon sources of energy.

It would involve laying a pair of high voltage, DC cables, each approximately 15 centimetres (6 inches) in diameter, between a converter station in each country. The converter stations will change the electricity between direct current and alternating current used in our homes and businesses.

Interconnectors

To meet rising energy demands, National Grid is increasingly looking to join the GB electricity transmission system to other countries' electricity networks via interconnectors. Links with France, known as IFA (Interconnexion France Angleterre), and the Netherlands, known as BritNed, are in operation. In addition, links with Belgium, known as Nemo Link, and with Norway, known as North Sea Link, are under construction. A second link with France, called IFA2, is in development.

An interconnector allows countries to exchange power, helping to ensure safe, secure and affordable energy supplies.

An interconnector is made up of two converter stations – one in each country – connected by cables. Converter stations convert electricity between Alternating Current (AC) and Direct Current (DC). AC is used on land, to power our homes, businesses and services, while DC is used for sending electricity along the high voltage subsea cables.

Viking Link is a proposed 1400 Mega Watt, high voltage DC electricity link between the British and Danish electricity transmission networks, connecting at Bicker Fen substation in Lincolnshire and Revsing in Denmark. The project will involve building a converter station in each country and installing subsea and underground cables between the two converter stations. Underground cables would then take power from the converter stations to electricity substations in each country, from where the electricity can be transmitted to homes and businesses across each country.

The Viking Link interconnector project is being jointly developed by National Grid Viking Link Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of National Grid Group, and Energinet.dk, which owns, operates and develops the Danish electricity and gas transmission systems.

NGVL is legally separate from other companies within the National Grid Group.

NGVL is a separate legal entity to National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET). NGET holds the licence to own and operate the electricity transmission network.

This is enforced by the energy regulator Ofgem.

Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.

- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.

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