

LionLink Community Newsletter

Spring 2024



Overview of the project

This is the second edition of our quarterly community newsletter. In this edition, we provide an update on the LionLink project and answer key questions on the construction process.

LionLink is a new subsea electricity cable (known as an interconnector) proposed to run between Great Britain and the Netherlands. The project is being developed by National Grid Ventures (NGV).

LionLink will play an important role in reducing the UK's reliance on fossil fuels and supporting the UK government's objectives to create a secure, reliable, and affordable energy supply for UK households.

In March 2024, we published a consultation feedback report, which explained our analysis of the feedback received to our 2022 and 2023 public consultations and how they informed our decision to shortlist Southwold and Walberswick for our cable landfall location, and Saxmundham for the site of our converter station.

We received over 1,300 pieces of feedback during this consultation, and we are grateful to everyone who took the time to tell us what they think of our proposals. All feedback was analysed and considered to inform our proposals and our chosen sites. Alongside this, we submitted our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate, which explains the further surveys and studies we will be undertaking to further refine our plans.

The report can be found via nationalgrid.com/lionlink

Lionlink will deliver a range of benefits, including:



Supplying up to 1.8 gigawatts (GW) of electricity – enough to power approximately 2.5 million homes



Strengthening the UK's national energy security



Lowering energy bills – LionLink is expected to save UK consumers almost £300 million in its first ten years of operation



Providing clean, green, renewable energy – the carbon savings of its first year is equivalent to taking nearly 600,000 cars off the road.

LIONLINK

FAQs: construction

Here are answers to some of the common questions raised about the impact of construction during public consultation.

How will LionLink coordinate with other projects in Suffolk?

We are working closely with other developers in the area to explore opportunities to coordinate activities and minimise impacts on local communities and the environment. This could include:

- co-location of onshore infrastructure i.e., converter stations on the same site
- coordinating construction activities, i.e., to reduce traffic and traffic noise
- reducing potential environmental and social impacts. i.e., coordinating construction works where possible.

How will you manage construction traffic?

We will produce a draft construction management plan (CMP) and a traffic management plan (TMP) that will set out ways to reduce our impact on the local community. The CMP and TMP will be agreed with Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council. These plans will consider key times like the bird breeding season, wintering bird season, and tourism patterns to minimise construction traffic impact where possible.

How will tourism impacts be considered during construction?

A socio-economic assessment will be undertaken as part of the EIA and reported within the Environmental Statement. This will include an assessment of the impact on the local tourism industry, including ways to manage impacts where necessary.

We are working with local business groups to help businesses engage with the project including feeding into our plans to manage any impact on important local industries.



Our upcoming webinars

Following the release of our Consultation Report, we are hosting two identical webinar sessions to update you on the LionLink project. There will also be an opportunity to ask the project team any questions you may have.

Please visit nationalgrid.com/lionlink to register for our webinar sessions.

When?

6:00 - 7:30pm Tuesday 23 April 2024

6:00 - 7:30pm Thursday 25 April 2024

Restoration works explained

How long will LionLink take to build?

Construction is anticipated to take approximately 4 years. Construction of each stage of the project will be phased. Anticipated timescales are as follows:

- installation of cable landfall, the point where the cables transition from the seabed to the land, at either Southwold or Walberswick: approximately 12 months
- installation of cable corridor between the landfall site and converter station: up to 3 years
- construction of converter station: up to 4 years.

Each stage of construction will have a CMP in place to identify any impacts and mitigations required.

How will air quality impacts be considered during construction?

A construction air quality assessment will be undertaken as part of the EIA process. Any impacts to air quality will be short term and temporary for the duration of the construction phase. This assessment will identify any mitigation measures required to minimise adverse impacts.

How will the impact on sea life be considered during construction?

Our offshore cable routes have been developed to avoid or minimise impacts to protected habitats and species, as well as commercial and leisure marine users.

What visible infrastructure will there be after construction?

The converter station will be the key piece of permanent infrastructure for the project and we understand that residents have an interest in how this will look. There will be opportunities for the Saxmundham community to engage in the development of the appearance of the converter station in later stages of the project.

Post construction, all cables will be buried underground at the landfall site. Some small-scale infrastructure may remain visible above ground, including a possible kiosk (similar to a telecoms junction box) behind the landfall site should we need to boost fibre optic signals for the subsea systems.

How are restoration works undertaken along the cable route?

Trenchless construction methods such as Horizontal Directional Drilling will be used to install the cable at the landfall site. Where the cable is installed via a trench it is intended that all soil excavated will be stored and reused on site to reinstate the land to pre-construction conditions on conclusion of works.

Excavated soils will be reinstated in sequence – sub-soil and then topsoil. Where seeding is required to restore that land to its original condition, this will take place after the backfilling of the trenches and replacement of the topsoil. The land will be reinstated to pre-construction condition and to the reasonable satisfaction of the landowner.


Post-restoration surveys will be carried out across all reinstated land to determine whether the land has been restored to the required standards. An aftercare programme will then be agreed with the landowner, and (if applicable) tenant farmer, in order to ensure the long-term success of the restoration works.



Before and after:

We know that people want to understand what the impact of construction will be on the local area. These images are examples of past projects and show what to expect during construction and restoration of the cabling route.

The images on the right are based on engineer drawings and Google Earth images of previous interconnector construction sites.



Past project 1



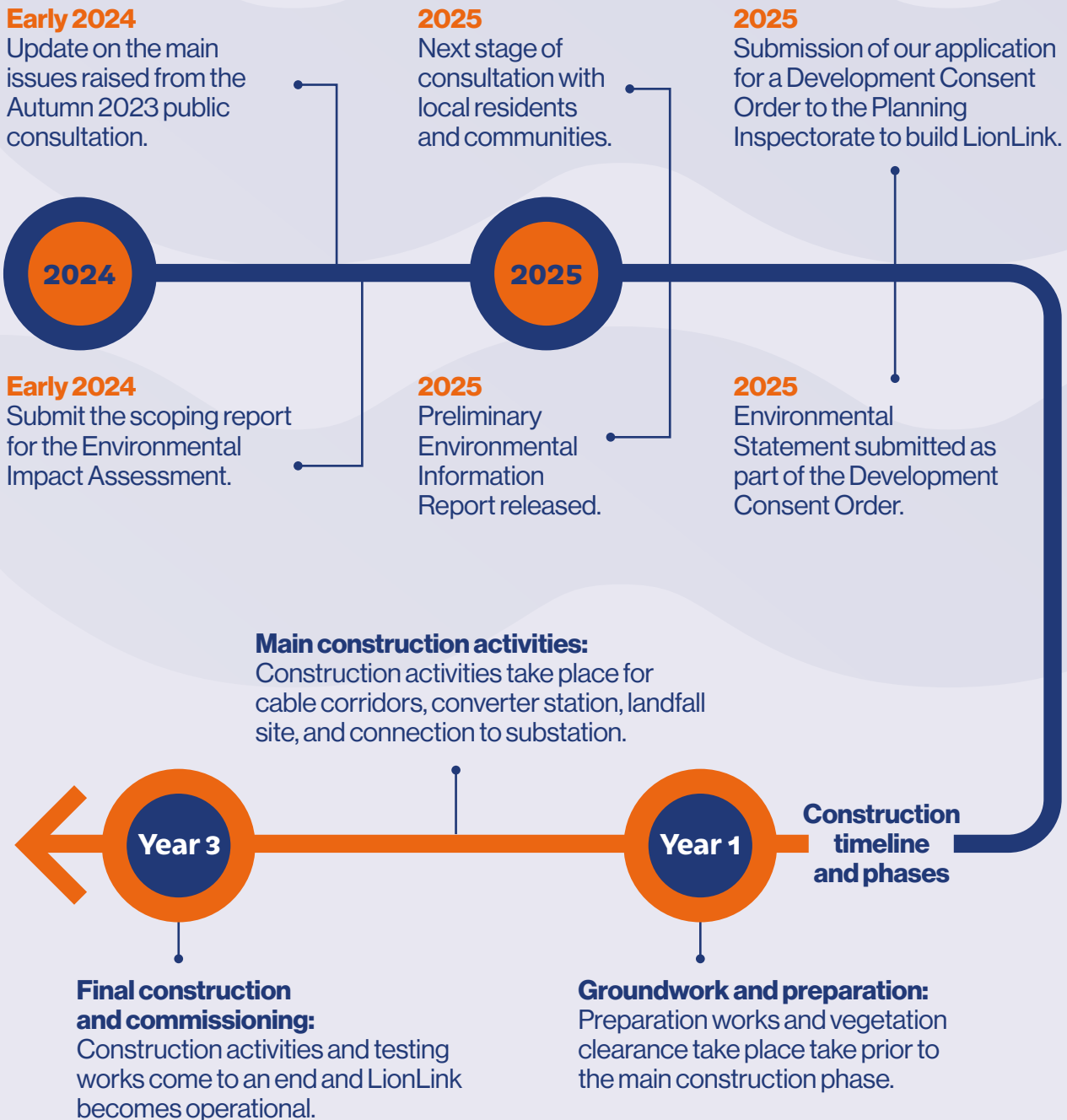
Images showing the cable route site prior to construction (TOP), during construction (MIDDLE) and six months post-construction (BOTTOM).

Past project 2



Landfall site before construction (TOP), site during construction (MIDDLE), site after restoration works (BOTTOM).

Below is a breakdown of the timeline for the project including construction works





Our commitments to the local community

This newsletter is the second in a series of regular communications that you will receive from LionLink updating you on the project.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in the LionLink project. We are committed to providing transparency and community involvement throughout the project's duration, as well as fostering environmental stewardship in each phase of the project.

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LIONLINK :