

LionLink Community Newsletter

Winter 2024



Welcome to the Winter edition of our quarterly LionLink community newsletter, our last of 2024. This edition summarises our activity in 2024 and outlines our plans for 2025.

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 our reliance on fossil fuels and supporting the UK government's objectives to create a secure, reliable, and affordable energy supply for UK households.

Lionlink will deliver a range of benefits, including:



Supplying up to 1.8 gigawatts 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: 2024 in review

This has been a pivotal year for the project, some of our key milestones included:

March 2024 – We issued our non-statutory consultation report, which summarised how the feedback received during our 2022 and 2023 public consultations helped identify our preferred landfall, cable route, and converter station site locations.

We also submitted our Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report to the Planning Inspectorate. The report detailed the further surveys and technical studies we will undertake to refine our plans. This will help to inform our Environmental Statement, which will be submitted as part of the project's planning application. Find out more in our [Spring 2024 newsletter](#) online.

April 2024 – We held a series of webinars to provide an update on the project and explain how your feedback to date helped us identify our latest shortlisted site locations. This was also an opportunity for you to put your questions to the project team directly.

Spring -Autumn 2024 – 84% of LionLink is offshore, so to understand our impacts on marine habitats, we conducted further seabed surveys across our offshore cable route. These surveys will help ensure that the cables can be safely installed, and any impacts mitigated. Find out more in our [Summer 2024 newsletter](#) online.

Summer-Autumn 2024 – In August we began investigation surveys to gather data on ground conditions. Results of these surveys will help to inform the development of the project design, including landfall point, cable route, and our methods of construction.

Update on Nautilus

As you may be aware, NGV is also developing plans to deliver Nautilus, an interconnector allowing renewable energy to flow between the UK and Belgium and power around 1.7 million homes in the UK.

In July 2024, Ofgem announced that it was consulting all interested stakeholders on the possibility of connecting Nautilus at Friston, Suffolk, as part of its Initial Project Assessment.

As a result of this consultation, Ofgem has now concluded that the Isle of Grain, Kent, is a viable option for connecting Nautilus to the grid. We have always advocated for the Isle of Grain as the best location for Nautilus given it's already a major hub for energy infrastructure and has the potential to offer the shortest offshore cable route to Belgium. This view was reinforced by community and stakeholder feedback. Now that Ofgem has approved Nautilus, we will develop the project at Grain rather than at Friston.

LionLink: looking ahead to 2025

Statutory consultation

We expect to hold our statutory consultation in Autumn 2025, where we will present our updated proposals. You will be able to directly speak to members of our project team and provide us with your feedback on our refined designs.

The feedback received during the consultation will influence the final design of the project, ensuring that community views are considered and incorporated where possible.

Further information on our consultation will be advertised closer to the time.

Next Steps

Spring 2025

- Selection of preferred landfall site
- Pre-consultation community update events (details TBC)
- Archaeology works along the cable route and preferred sites

2026

- Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Statement finalised



Our commitment to you

If you would like to keep up to date with the latest news on LionLink and to receive a virtual copy of this newsletter, please sign up via our website or by scanning the QR code.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in the LionLink project

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