

Introduction to LionLink

National Grid Ventures (NGV) is developing plans to build LionLink, a new subsea cable (known as an interconnector) between the UK and the Netherlands. LionLink will bring offshore wind energy to the UK by connecting to a Dutch offshore wind farm. It will enable the flow of energy between the UK and Dutch electricity systems.

LionLink will connect enough energy to the UK's electricity grid to power approximately 2.5 million homes. It will play an important role in keeping household energy bills down and providing the UK with a secure and reliable energy supply.

Lionlink will deliver a range of benefits, including:



Strengthening the UK's national energy security

Supplying enough energy to power approximately 2.5 million homes



Lowering energy bills

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



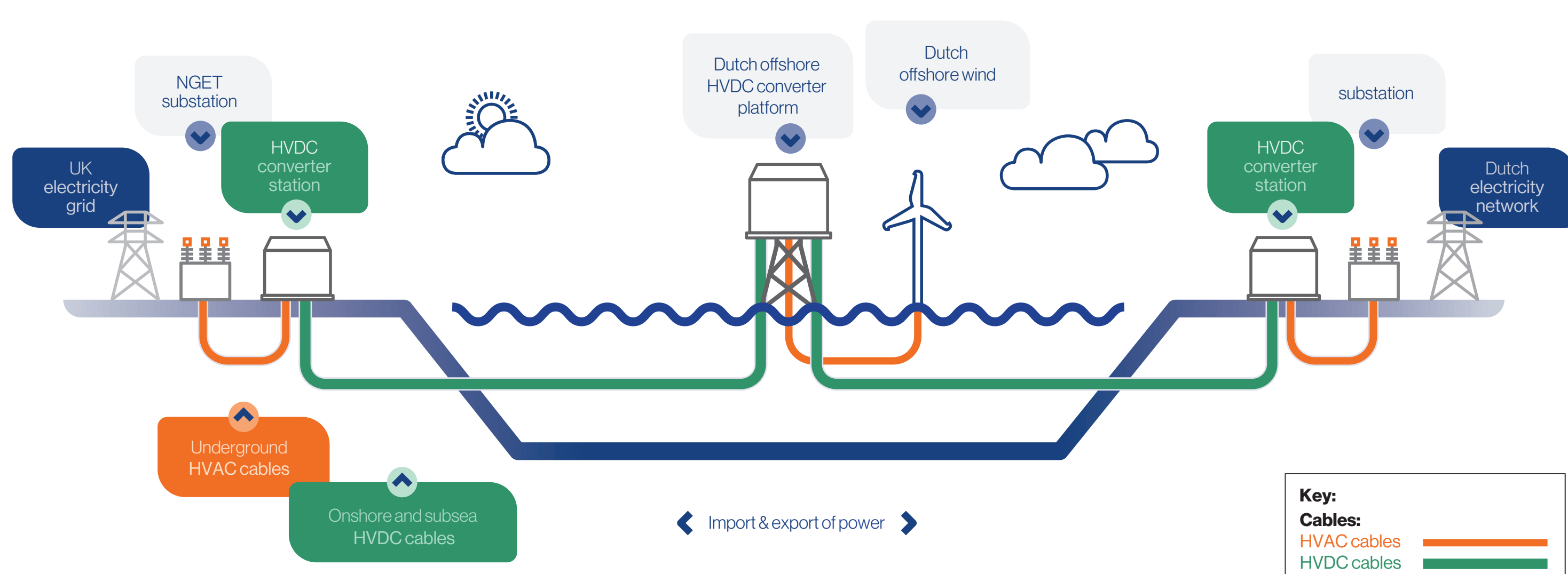
Providing clean, green, renewable energy

The carbon savings of its first year is equivalent to taking nearly 600,000 cars off the road



How will LionLink work?

LionLink will transmit electricity under the North Sea through underground subsea cables, which will come onshore at a landfall point. The electricity will then be transmitted via underground cables to the converter site.



Infrastructure

Landfall site

The landfall site at Walberswick will be where the subsea cables are brought onto the land and are connected to the onshore cables. There will be no visible infrastructure left on the beach or shoreline.

Converter station

At the converter station in the Saxmundham area, power will be converted from High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) into High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) so that it is ready to be fed into the high-voltage grid.

Substation

Energy is then transferred to a substation to connect to the grid to be used by homes and businesses. A connection from the existing electricity grid will be made via the planned substation near Friston.

Cabling

All cables for LionLink will be subsea or underground. A subsea HVDC cable will connect Great Britain to the Netherlands, connecting to the UK via our landfall site and then onshore to our converter station.

Underground HVAC cabling will then connect our converter station to the substation in the Friston area.

An offshore converter station platform

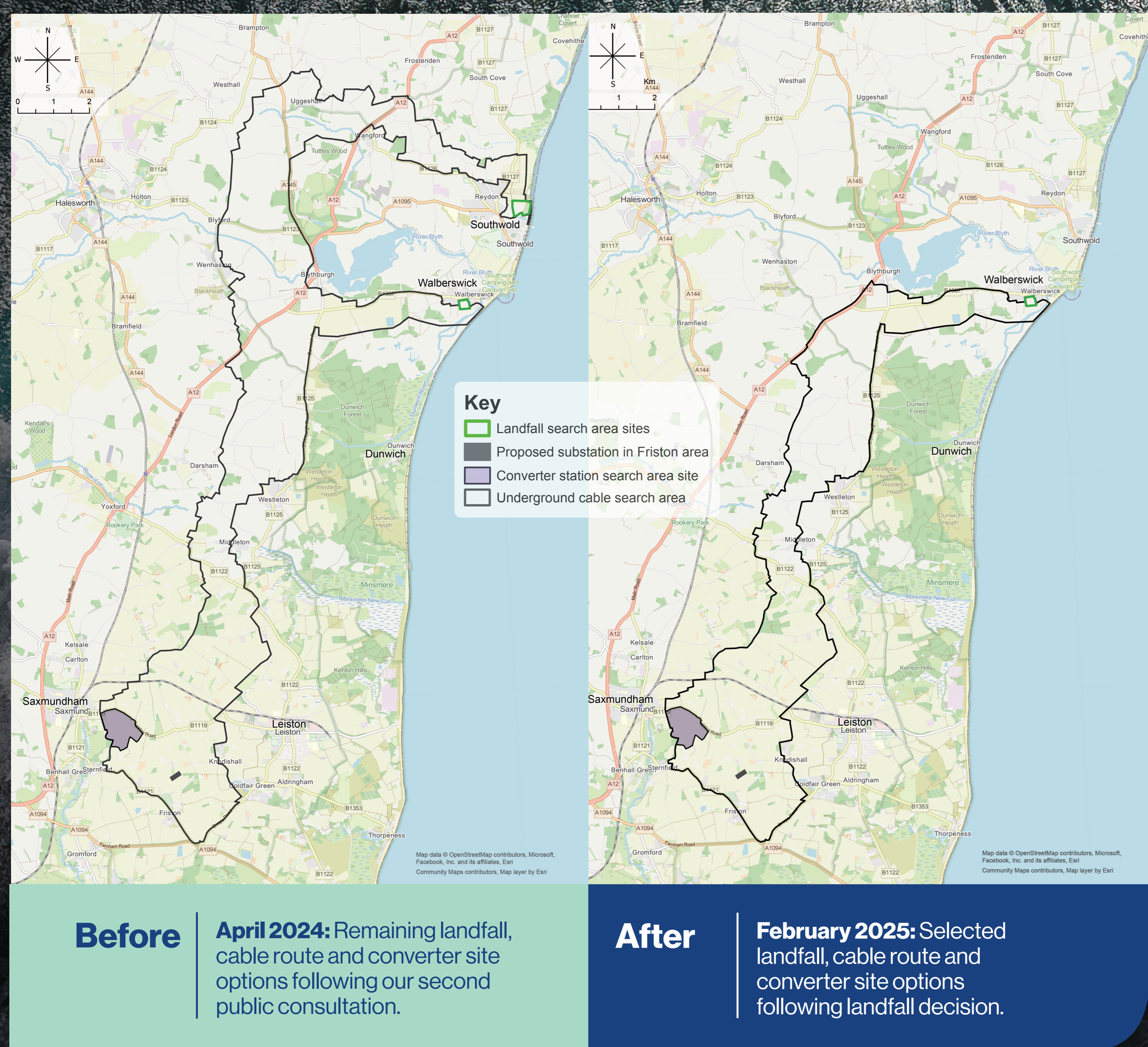
This will have capacity to connect to Dutch offshore wind. The offshore converter station will be in Dutch territorial waters and will be owned by our Dutch partners, TenneT.



Walberswick landfall decision

Introducing the selected landfall site: Walberswick

Following extensive analysis, we have chosen Walberswick as our selected landfall site. The landfall site north of Southwold has been discounted, and no construction will take place in Southwold.



Why Walberswick?

Shorter onshore cable route

The Walberswick landfall site requires a shorter onshore cable route to the proposed converter station site in Saxmundham (19.9 km) compared to the Southwold route (32.8 km).

This shorter route reduces the overall environmental impact and disruption to residents, requires fewer materials, construction sites, and vehicle movements.

Lower combined environmental impact

The Walberswick landfall site has a lower combined environmental impact compared to Southwold.

Special construction techniques, such as underground drilling, would avoid adverse impacts on the Minsmere-Walberswick Special Protection Area (SPA).

Fewer heritage trees and hedgerows will be lost with the shorter route to Walberswick, as well as fewer crossings of waterways and utility pipes.

Reduced traffic disruption

Allows use of farm tracks to create access roads which avoid the main road into Walberswick village.

Southwold site would have more HGV movements to build additional flood defences and would likely disrupt the Southwold Pier car park.

More sustainable coastal location

Walberswick is less susceptible to coastal erosion and flooding so is a more suitable option long term.

Offshore considerations

While Walberswick's offshore cable route is 3 km longer, this has only a marginal influence on the overall impact of the project on the marine environment.

What is a 'search area'?

Search areas are the broad area in which infrastructure is being considered for development. For example, this means that works will not be required across the entirety of the converter station, landfall and cable route boundaries shown on this map. The exact placement of our onshore infrastructure will be defined as part of our consent application.

Next Steps



We are now working to an operational date of 2032 and our statutory consultation will take place in Autumn/Winter 2025.

This consultation will provide:

- details of our latest proposals and design
- the findings of our Preliminary Environmental Information Report and proposed mitigation measures
- proposed construction methodology and timetable
- information on community benefits and local initiatives.

The statutory consultation will be the final opportunity to provide feedback on our preferred options before they are submitted as part of the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO).

Timeline

2025

Spring 2025

- Selection of preferred landfall site.
- Community drop-ins and webinar.
- Archaeological works along the cable route and preferred sites.

Autumn 2025

- Statutory consultation.
- Preliminary Environmental Information Report published.

2026

- Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Statement finalised.
- Development Consent Order (DCO) submitted.

2026

For more information on LionLink please contact:

LionLink Interconnector

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