

VikingLink

nationalgrid

UK Onshore Scheme

Phase 2 Consultation

Feedback Report Volume 1

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Viking Link is a proposed 1400 megawatt (MW) high voltage direct current (DC) electricity link (or interconnector) between the British and Danish transmission systems which will allow electricity to be exchanged between the two countries equivalent to around 1.3% of Great Britain's current usage. It is being jointly developed by National Grid Viking Link Limited (NGVL) and its development partner Energinet.dk (ENDK).

1.1.2 An overview of Viking Link is illustrated in Figure 1.1. The Project comprises approximately 760km of DC onshore and offshore electricity transmission cables between new converter stations at each end of the link. These are in turn connected to the high voltage electricity transmission networks at existing substations in Bicker Fen, Lincolnshire in Great Britain and at Revsing, south Jutland in Denmark.

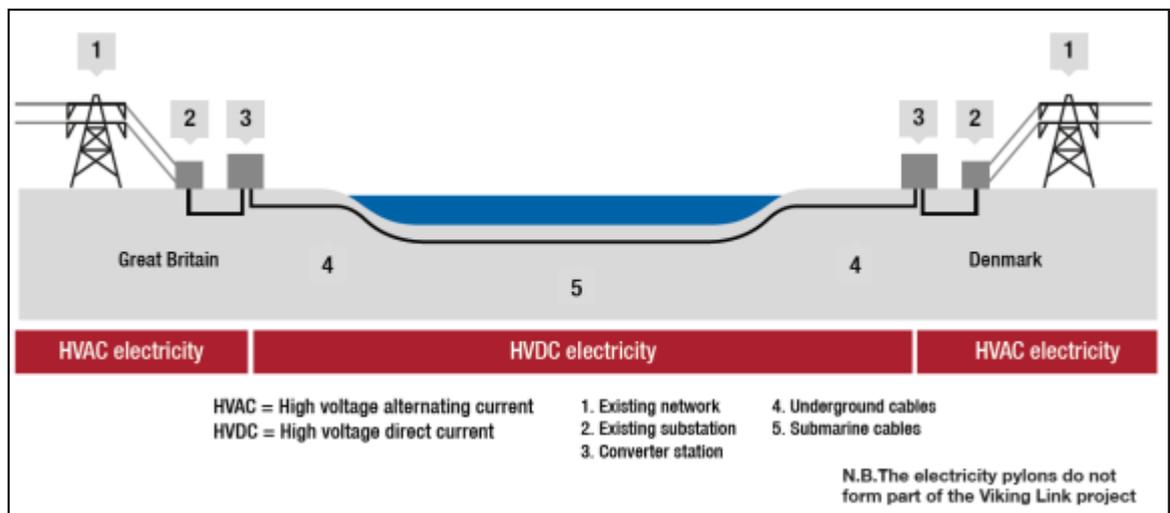


Figure 1.1 Overview of Viking Link

1.1.3 More specifically the Project comprises the following:

- In Denmark, referred to as the 'DK Onshore Scheme':
 - New equipment within an existing 400 kV substation and a high voltage alternating current (AC) connection between the existing electricity transmission system and a new converter station;
 - New converter station to change electricity between AC and DC or vice versa depending on direction of operation;

- Onshore underground DC cables from a converter station to the coast in western Denmark.
 - In the North Sea (Danish, German, Dutch and United Kingdom Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ)), referred to as the 'Offshore Scheme':
 - Approximately 650 km of submarine DC cables buried in the seabed for as much of their length as practicable.
 - In the United Kingdom, referred to as the 'UK Onshore Scheme':
 - Onshore underground DC cables from the Lincolnshire coast to a new converter station;
 - New converter station to change electricity between DC and AC or vice versa depending on direction of operation;
 - AC cables from the converter station to new equipment within an existing substation which connects to the existing electricity transmission system.
- 1.1.4 The interconnector will enable more effective use of renewable energy, access to sustainable electricity generation and improved security of electricity supplies. Thus it will have socioeconomic benefits for both Denmark and Great Britain and the wider European community.
- 1.1.5 Viking Link has been designated a Project of Common Interest (PCI) under the TEN-E Regulations. These set out guidelines to assist in the development of energy networks within Europe, in particular streamlining the permitting process for major energy infrastructure projects that contribute to European energy networks. Under the TEN-E Regulations, developers are required to consult with all stakeholders and provide an opportunity for them to attend meetings, comment on proposals and discuss any concerns they may have on the Project.

1.2 Purpose of the report

- 1.2.1 NGVL is currently undertaking a comprehensive pre-application engagement programme on the Viking Link project.
- 1.2.2 This report presents a detailed account of the stakeholder engagement and public consultation which has been undertaken following the Phase 1 Consultation. It includes details of the Public Participation Events which were held in July and August 2016 and the Phase 2 Consultation held from Monday, 5 September 2016 to Friday, 14 October 2016.
- 1.2.3 The Public Participation Events were held to introduce the Project to local residents, landowners and stakeholders across the Cable Route Corridor Search Area and give people the opportunity to comment on proposals at an early stage.
- 1.2.4 The Phase 2 Consultation sought views on the underground DC cable route corridor options between the preferred landfall site at Boygriff, East Lindsey and the preferred converter station site at North Ing Drove, South Holland.
- 1.2.5 The Phase 2 Consultation also sought views on the design style options for the converter station building.

- 1.2.6 This report also sets out the feedback received, along with NGVL's responses to the key issues and themes raised.

1.3 Structure of the report

- 1.3.1 This Consultation Feedback Report is split into three volumes.

- 1.3.2 Volume 1 is structured as follows:

Chapter 1 – provides a general introduction about the Project

Chapter 2 – outlines the approach to the Phase 2 Consultation and engagement undertaken

Chapter 3 – details the delivery of the Phase 2 Consultation

Chapter 4 – provides a summary of the Phase 2 Consultation feedback received.

- 1.3.3 Volume 2 is structured as follows:

Chapter 5 – provides NGVL's responses to feedback on cable route corridors

Chapter 6 – provides NGVL's responses to feedback on converter station design styles

Chapter 7 – provides NGVL's responses to the Phase 2 Consultation feedback - stakeholders.

- 1.3.4 Volume 3 of this report contains chapter 8, the appendices.

2 Approach to consultation

2.1 Overview

2.1.1 NGVL has committed to engage with stakeholders throughout the development of the Project. The objectives of the engagement activities are:

- to engage and consult publicly on the Project;
- to seek feedback to help inform NGVL's decisions; and
- to ensure NGVL delivers a compliant and robust consultation programme to support its planning applications.

2.1.2 The development of the UK Onshore Scheme has been set out in two stages. The first stage was the identification and assessment of options for landfall and converter station sites (siting) and the second stage was the identification and assessment of the underground DC cable route corridor options (routeing) as well as converter station design style options.

2.1.3 To complement this, a phased approach to consultation has been adopted to allow feedback from stakeholders to be fed into the decision-making process at points where it can influence the development of the proposals.

2.1.4 All engagement and consultation activity undertaken takes into account NGVL's and Energinet.dk's approaches to community engagement. These require that consultation activity include:

- explaining the Project;
- explaining the options and why here, and why now;
- linking the Project to the community;
- explaining the benefits;
- listening to feedback;
- minimising impact; and
- ensuring sustainability.

2.1.5 NGVL has delivered two phases of consultation and a series of Public Participation Events. The *UK Onshore Scheme Phase 1 Consultation Feedback Report (VKL-08-06-G500-003)* was published in August 2016 and sets out the feedback received on the shortlisted site options for the landfall point and converter station.

2.1.6 This report sets out the feedback received during the Public Participation Events and the Phase 2 Consultation.

2.1.7 All engagement activity which takes place between the end of the Phase 2 Consultation and the submission of the necessary planning applications will be set out in a final consultation report which will accompany those applications.

- 2.1.8 NGVL intends to apply for planning permission for the UK Onshore Scheme in Great Britain, to mean low water springs through the local planning process (under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) and has reviewed the Statements of Community Involvement (SCI) published by each of the relevant local authorities within the vicinity of the UK Onshore Scheme. The SCIs set out how each local authority expects developers to carry out public engagement and consultation on proposals and NGVL has considered the guidance in these documents when planning the consultation and engagement activities outlined in the following chapters.
- 2.1.9 The potentially affected local planning authorities are:
- East Lindsey District Council;
 - Boston Borough Council;
 - North Kesteven District Council; and
 - South Holland District Council.
- 2.1.10 NGVL has also consulted with Lincolnshire County Council, in its capacity as the local highways and lead local flood authority.
- 2.1.11 East Lindsey District Council has its own SCI. The authority strongly encourages early engagement in order to help council officers, councillors and members of the public obtain a better understanding of the project. The East Lindsey District Council SCI can be found at: <http://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=1424&p=0>. The SCI recognises that: *'Pre-application discussions between the developer and the local authority are vitally important in providing a better mutual understanding of all planning issues and potential constraints that may be relevant to the proposal'*. NGVL has met and continues to engage with the relevant local authorities as part of the evolution of the Project.
- 2.1.12 Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council have a combined SCI produced by the South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee. Section three of their SCI relates to 'community involvement and planning applications' and highlights how the authorities expect developers to engage with communities prior to a planning application being submitted.
- 2.1.13 North Kesteven District Council shares its SCI with other authorities making up the Central Lincolnshire area (Lincoln City Council and West Lindsey District Council). The SCI dictates that, for some developments, pre-application consultation must take place. Each individual authority provides guidance on this. The Central Lincolnshire SCI can be found at: <https://www.lincoln.gov.uk/resources/assets/attachment/full/0/9338.pdf>. Page 5 of the SCI acknowledges that: *'Applicants are encouraged to involve the local community when preparing their proposal, even if legally they don't have to. Such engagement can be beneficial to both the applicant and the community, as it can foster transparency, and enable proposals to respond to local needs and desires'*. NGVL considers its Phase 2 Consultation has enabled the community and local authority to input into the development of the proposals for the Project.
- 2.1.14 The South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee SCI can be found at: <http://www.boston.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=9647&p=0>. Page 17 of the document advises that: *'Consultation prior to specific planning applications being submitted is not currently a*

statutory responsibility of either LPA or developer. However, the three partner LPAs actively encourage developers to seek involvement of the community at this stage'. NGVL considers its Phase 2 Consultation is in line with this pre-application consultation position.

- 2.1.15 Lincolnshire County Council has its own SCI. Although the County Council will not determine the planning submission, it is the local highway authority and lead local flood authority and will advise on any submission in this capacity. NGVL has, therefore, considered the recommendations in the document. As with the other local authorities, Lincolnshire County Council recommends engagement with the local community and consideration of feedback received prior to a planning application being submitted. Lincolnshire County Council's SCI can be found at: <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/planning-and-development/statement-of-community-involvement/>.

2.2 Phase 1 Consultation

- 2.2.1 The Phase 1 Consultation was held over a six-week period in April and May 2016, during which statutory and non-statutory consultees, landowners and members of the public living in the vicinity of the shortlisted site options for a landfall point and converter station were asked for their views on those site options.
- 2.2.2 Six public consultation events were attended by more than 500 people, with the vast majority attending the events relating to the converter station site options. A total of 588 responses were received, which included responses received from statutory consultees, local residents, businesses and community groups.
- 2.2.3 The feedback received and NGVL's responses to the general themes can be found in the *UK Onshore Scheme Phase 1 Consultation Feedback Report (VKL-08-06-G500-003)*.
- 2.2.4 Following the Phase 1 Consultation, landfall option LF1a at Boygriff, East Lindsey was selected as the preferred landfall site and converter station site CS1 at North Ing Drove, South Holland was selected as the preferred converter station site. Both locations are subject to survey.

2.3 Public Participation Events

- 2.3.1 During July and August 2016, NGVL held a series of events to introduce the Project to local residents, landowners and stakeholders across the Cable Route Corridor Search Area. Parish councils were invited attend the events for a project briefing. The events gave local residents the opportunity to attend meetings, comment on the proposals and discuss any concerns about the Project at an early stage. The events also met the requirements for a Project of Common Interest in accordance with the European Union's Trans-European Energy Regulation (the TENE Regulation)¹.

¹ EU Regulation 347/2013 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure (TEN-E Regulation) came into force on 17 April 2013. The TEN-E Regulation helps build and finance the EU's priority energy

- 2.3.2 Seven events were held at key locations between the landfall site options and the existing Bicker Fen Substation. Members of the project team were present at all events to meet visitors and to answer any questions they had. An additional event was held at Grimsby and focused on offshore marine activities.
- 2.3.3 A total of 235 people visited the events, with Little Steeping Village Hall being the event with the largest attendance.
- 2.3.4 Table 2.1 sets out the details of the Public Participation Events.

Table 2.1 Details of Public Participation Events			
Venue	Date	Time	Number of attendees
Little Steeping Village Hall	Wednesday 27 July	1.30pm-8pm	63
Aby Village Hall	Tuesday 2 August	1.30pm-8pm	12
Orby Village Hall	Wednesday 3 August	1.30pm-8pm	26
Huttoft Village Hall	Friday 5 August	1.30pm-8pm	41
Holland Fen Village Hall	Saturday 6 August	12.30pm-4pm	12
St James Hotel, Grimsby	Thursday 11 August	2pm-8pm	0
Stickford Victory Hall	Thursday 18 August	1.30pm-8pm	46
Partney Village Hall	Friday 19 August	1.30pm-8pm	35
Total			235

- 2.3.5 Members of the public, landowners and stakeholders were encouraged to provide comments on the proposals through a range of channels:
 - by completing and handing in the feedback forms or questionnaires distributed at the events, or returning them by post using the freepost envelopes provided;
 - by emailing to vikinglink@communityrelations.co.uk;
 - by writing to the freepost address at FREEPOST VIKING LINK; and

infrastructure projects in order to connect EU countries currently isolated from European energy markets, strengthen existing cross border interconnections, and help integrate renewable energy supply.

- by telephoning 0800 731 0561 (phone lines were operational between 9am and 5:30pm, Monday to Friday – excluding bank holidays. A telephone answering service was available outside these times).

2.3.6 A total of 15 comment forms were received during the four-week period. Details of the comments received can be found in appendix 1.

2.3.7 Of the feedback received, most people were complimentary of the events and the information and personnel available. Others commented that there was not enough specific detail about the route of the cable corridors and they would have preferred to have had this information available.

2.3.8 NGVL’s responses to the comments can be found in section 5.2 of Volume 2 of this report.

2.4 Local authority and stakeholder workshops and briefings

2.4.1 Throughout June, July and August 2016, NGVL held a series of meetings and workshops with statutory stakeholders and local authority officers, and briefings with local authority members.

2.4.2 Table 2.2 sets out the workshops and meetings held with statutory stakeholders.

Date of meetings	Purpose of meetings	Attendees
21 June 2016	Onshore Routeing Workshops	Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service Natural England Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Historic England Heritage Lincolnshire National Trust Lindsey Marsh Internal Drainage Board (IDB) Witham Fourth IDB Black Sluice IDB
21 July 2016	Onshore Routeing Workshops	Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service Natural England Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Historic England Heritage Lincolnshire National Trust

Table 2.2 Stakeholder workshops and meetings		
Date of meetings	Purpose of meetings	Attendees
3 August 2016	Onshore Routeing Workshops	Environment Agency Lindsey Marsh Internal Drainage Board (IDB) Witham Fourth IDB Black Sluice IDB
4 August 2016	Introduction to Viking Link UK Onshore Scheme	National Farmers Union
28 September 2016	Introduction to Viking Link UK Onshore Scheme	Canal and River Trust

2.4.3 Table 2.3 sets out the meetings held with local authority officers.

Table 2.3 Local authority meetings		
Date of meetings	Purpose of meetings	Attendees
21 June 2016	Onshore Routeing Workshop	Lincolnshire County Council East Lindsey District Council North Kesteven District Council South Holland District Council
24 June 2016	Update meeting	Boston Borough Council
3 August 2016	Targeted Routeing Workshop	Lincolnshire County Council East Lindsey District Council North Kesteven District Council South Holland District Council

2.4.4 Between July and August 2016, the Viking Link Project Team briefed elected members of the potentially affected local authorities, providing a project update since the Phase 1 Consultation and the emerging thinking on routeing to inform the Phase 2 Consultation. North Kesteven District Council elected for a written update to its members.

2.4.5 Table 2.4 overleaf provides details of the member briefings.

Table 2.4 Elected member briefings		
Date of briefing	Council	Attendees
7 July 2016	East Lindsey District Council	District councillors
14 July 2016	South Holland District Council	District councillors
25 July 2016	Lincolnshire County Council	County councillors
17 August 2016	Boston Borough Council	Borough councillors

- 2.4.6 The output from these briefings and workshops, along with feedback from the Public Participation Events, helped to inform the underground DC cable route corridor options which were taken forward to public consultation and the approach taken.

3 Phase 2 Consultation delivery

3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1 Two continuous underground cable route corridor options were identified that would connect the preferred landfall site at Boygriff, East Lindsey to the preferred converter station site at North Ing Drove, South Holland. These were called the Orange Route Corridor and the Purple Route Corridor and are shown below in Figures 3.1 and 3.2 respectively.
- 3.1.2 Phase 2 Consultation was held over a six-week period from Monday, 5 September 2016 to Friday, 14 October 2016. Ten public consultation events were held within parishes along the Purple and Orange Route Corridors identified and in each of the parishes of the preferred converter station site and preferred landfall site. The aims of the consultation were:
- to seek feedback from stakeholders on cable route corridor options;
 - to seek feedback from stakeholders on design styles for the converter station; and
 - to ensure widespread local understanding of the Project.
- 3.1.3 More information on the cable route corridors and how they were identified can be found in the *UK Onshore Scheme Route Corridor Selection Report (VKL-08-06-G500-001)*.



Figure 3.1 Orange Route Corridor



Figure 3.2 Purple Route Corridor

- 3.1.4 Following comments received from Phase 1 Consultation, NGVL considered two architectural styles for the proposed converter station. These styles are ‘contextual’ and ‘functional’.
- 3.1.5 The ‘contextual’ style is influenced by the common appearance of agricultural buildings and adapts them to the requirements of the converter station.
- 3.1.6 The ‘functional’ style is based on simple architectural forms using contemporary colour-graded façade materials. The two colour options used for the ‘functional’ style are blue and green.
- 3.1.7 An artist’s impressions of the ‘contextual’ style and two examples of the ‘functional’ style are shown in Figures 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5 respectively.



Figure 3.3 Converter station 'contextual' design



Figure 3.4 Converter station 'functional' blue design



Figure 3.5 Converter station ‘functional’ green design

3.1.8 To coincide with the start of the Phase 2 Consultation, NGVL published the following documents on the project website to provide information for stakeholders to consider as part of the consultation process:

- *UK Onshore Scheme Route Corridor Selection Report (VKL-08-06-G500-001) (Parts 1 and 2)* to provide detailed information on the corridor options, how they had been identified and assessed and the process by which the shortlist of options for consultation had been developed;
- *UK Onshore Route Corridor Selection Non-Technical Summary (VKL-08-06-G500-06)*;
- *Purple and Orange Route Corridor Book of Plans (VKL-08-06-G500-04 and VKL-08-06-G500-05 respectively)* showing close-up maps along each of the cable route corridor options;
- Converter station indicative photomontages;
- Converter station fly-around;
- public exhibition display panels; and
- Phase 2 Consultation feedback form (downloadable and online versions).

3.2 Local authorities, statutory stakeholders and other stakeholder groups

3.2.1 NGVL wrote to all local authority officers and representatives of statutory and other stakeholder groups informing them of NGVL's choice of the preferred landfall and converter station sites and providing links to the published reports. The letter was sent on 22 August 2016 and also notified stakeholders about the start of the Phase 2 Consultation and included details of the ten public consultation events. They were invited to participate in the consultation and provide feedback on behalf of their respective organisations. Letters were sent, via email, to:

- East Lindsey District Council;
- Boston Borough Council;
- Lincolnshire County Council;
- North Kesteven District Council;
- South Holland District Council;
- Natural England;
- Historic England;
- The National Trust;
- The Crown Estate;
- The Environment Agency;
- Marine Management Organisation;
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds;
- Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board;
- Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board;
- Witham Fourth District;
- National Farmers Union;
- Lincolnshire Association of Agricultural Valuers;
- Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Services;
- Country Land and Business Association;
- Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership;
- Heritage Trust for Lincolnshire; and
- Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust.

3.2.2 An example of the letter sent to local authority officers and representatives of statutory and other stakeholder groups can be found in appendix 2.

3.3 MPs and MEPs

3.3.1 On Monday, 22 August 2016, NGVL wrote to the four MPs and five MEPs whose constituencies are potentially affected by the two underground cable route corridor options or the landfall or converter station sites. A list of those MPs and MEPs can be found in appendix 3. The letter

informed them of NGVL's choice of preferred landfall and converter station sites and invited them to participate in the Phase 2 Consultation.

3.3.2 Copies of the letters sent to MPs and MEPs can be found in appendix 4.

3.4 Parish councils

3.4.1 Each of the parish councils potentially affected by the cable route corridor options were written to on Monday, 22 August 2016 informing them of NGVL's choice of preferred landfall and converter station sites and inviting them to participate in the consultation. A list of those parish councils written to can be found in appendix 5.

3.4.2 The parish councils were also sent electronic and paper versions (where postal addresses were known) of posters to publicise the Phase 2 Consultation. The poster gave a short introduction to the Project, explained the upcoming consultation and also provided information about the events, including details of venues, dates and times. The parish councils were asked to display the posters on parish, village and community noticeboards.

3.4.3 An example of the letter sent to the parish councils as well as the posters sent for display can be found in appendices 6 and 7 respectively.

3.5 Landowners

3.5.1 On 24 August 2016, NGVL sent letters to 1,279 landowners identified as owning land within either of the two underground cable route corridor options or within the vicinity of the landfall or converter station sites. The letters advised that NGVL was developing the Viking Link project and their land fell within the cable route corridors that were being taken forward to consultation.

3.5.2 All landowners were invited to attend the public consultation events where they could find out more about the Project, speak with the NGVL land agents and members of the project team, as well as provide feedback.

3.5.3 The letter also informed the landowners that the project land agents, Dalcour Maclaren, would be in contact to arrange access for surveys.

3.5.4 An additional 328 letters were sent to landowners that were involved in the Phase 1 Consultation because their land fell within the areas identified for the shortlisted landfall and converter station sites. The letters were sent as part of the commitment to keep these landowners informed as the Project progressed.

3.5.5 Examples of the letters sent to landowners can be found in appendix 8.

3.5.6 In addition, meetings have been held with representative organisations including the National Farmers Union, the Lincolnshire Association of Agricultural Valuers and the Country Landowners Association.

3.6 Local communities

- 3.6.1 Consultation with local communities involved both local residents and local businesses, using a variety of contact methods and the media.
- 3.6.2 A consultation zone was established based on the approach followed during the Phase 1 Consultation. A buffer of 1 km either side of the underground cable route corridor options was used to form the consultation zone. Where the edge of the consultation zone divided a small community or row of properties, the zone was extended accordingly. The area around the landfall site was also extended to include additional properties.
- 3.6.3 NGVL sought feedback from the local planning authorities on Monday, 22 August 2016 regarding the approach taken to establish the consultation zone, but no direct feedback was received from local planning officers. A map showing the consultation zone can be found in appendix 9.
- 3.6.4 Letters providing information about the Project, including the dates of the public consultation events, and inviting recipients to participate in the consultation were sent to more than 11,100 residential properties and local businesses within the consultation zone.
- 3.6.5 One version of the letter was sent to properties that were within the consultation zones used during the Phase 1 Consultation activity as these recipients already had knowledge of the Project. The second version varied slightly to include an introduction to the Project as this was the first letter many property owners and residents would have received from NGVL.
- 3.6.6 The letters also included details of the project website and how to get in touch by telephone, email or letter to obtain further information about the Project or to provide feedback. Examples of the two letters sent can be found in appendix 10.
- 3.6.7 Local press and broadcast media were briefed on the Project and a press release was issued on Monday, 22 August 2016 with information about the preferred locations for the landfall and converter station sites, and details of the second phase of consultation and the planned public events.
- 3.6.8 A summary of the media coverage relating to the Phase 2 Consultation can be found in appendix 11.

3.7 Public consultation events

- 3.7.1 Public consultation events were held to give the public an opportunity to view information about the Project and speak with members of the project team, as well as to provide comments on the Orange and Purple Underground cable route corridor options and the design styles for the converter station. The events were run as 'drop-in' sessions, where attendees could turn up at any point within the given times.
- 3.7.2 These events were attended by 647 people in total and further details about venues, dates and attendees are provided in Table 3.1 overleaf.

Table 3.1 Details of public consultation events			
Venue	Date	Time	Number of attendees
Bicker Village Hall	Wednesday 7 September	2pm-8pm	52
Grange and Links Hotel, Sandilands	Thursday 8 September	2pm-8pm	119
The Ruby Hunt Centre, Donington	Friday 9 September	2pm-8pm	29
Stickney Village Hall	Saturday 10 September	12pm-4:30pm	81
Orby Village Hall	Wednesday 14 September	2pm-8pm	75
Helpringham Memorial Hall	Thursday 15 September	2pm-8pm	24
Alford Corn Exchange	Friday 16 September	2pm-8pm	71
Little Steeping Village Hall	Thursday 22 September	2pm-8pm	81
Partney, Dalby and Dexthorpe Victory Hall	Monday 3 October	2pm-8pm	74
Hubberts Bridge Community Centre	Tuesday 4 October	2pm-8pm	41
Total			647

3.7.3 Upon arrival, attendees were greeted by a member of the project team, invited to sign in and offered three documents: a booklet version of the exhibition panels; a copy of the non-technical summary of the *Route Corridor Selection Report (VKL-08-06-G500-06)*; and a feedback questionnaire, as well as a freepost envelope so they could return the questionnaire at a later date if they wished.

3.7.4 Attendees were given the option of having a member of the project team accompany them around the panels or to view them alone and ask questions as and when needed. Project team members present at the events specialised in a range of disciplines. The team included:

- representatives of NGVL;
- project engineers;
- environmental consultants;
- community relations advisers; and
- land agents.

3.7.5 Nineteen information panels were displayed at each event, providing attendees with an overview of the Project and including information on:

- preferred landfall and converter station site options;
- design styles for the converter station;
- Orange and Purple Route Corridors;
- the process for installing the cable; and
- the timeline for the Project to commissioning in 2022.

3.7.6 Copies of the information panels can be found in appendix 12.

3.7.7 In addition to the information panels, larger maps of the Orange and Purple Route Corridors were made available for people to view. At the majority of events there was also a television showing a 3D fly-around animation of indicative converter station layouts.

3.8 Project website

3.8.1 Stakeholders were able to obtain information on the proposals from the project website (www.viking-link.com) before, during and after the six-week public consultation period, as well as attending public consultation events. The details of the project website were included in all correspondence to stakeholders.

3.8.2 Over the course of the six-week consultation period there were 1,912 individual sessions on the project website from 1,424 individual users. From these sessions there were 6,071 individual page views.

3.8.3 The project website will continue to serve as the primary source of information for the Project up to, and beyond, the submission of a planning application.

4 Phase 2 Consultation feedback

4.1 Consultation feedback channels

4.1.1 The consultation sought to engage a broad range of interested parties, including local community groups, landowners, residents, businesses, elected representatives, local authorities and statutory stakeholders. Feedback was invited through a range of channels:

- by completing and handing in the feedback forms or questionnaires distributed at consultation events, or returning them by post using the freepost envelopes provided;
- by completing and submitting the feedback form online;
- by downloading the feedback form on the project website, completing and sending via email to the project email address (vikinglink@communityrelations.co.uk);
- by emailing to vikinglink@communityrelations.co.uk ;
- by writing to the freepost address at FREEPOST VIKING LINK; and
- by telephoning 0800 731 0561 (phone lines were operational between 9am and 5:30pm, Monday to Friday – excluding bank holidays. A telephone answering service was available outside these times).

4.1.2 A copy of the feedback form used can be found in appendix 13.

4.2 Managing feedback

4.2.1 All consultation feedback was logged and analysed to identify different points, issues or concerns raised by respondents.

4.3 Responses received

4.3.1 A total of 114 responses were received. The table below gives a breakdown of the type of feedback received.

Table 4.1 Feedback received by type	
Feedback type	Number of responses
Feedback form (paper version)	87
Feedback form (electronic version)	3
Email	17
Letter	7
Telephone call	0

Table 4.1 Feedback received by type	
Feedback type	Number of responses
Total	114

4.3.2 These totals include the responses received from statutory consultees, landowners, local residents, businesses and community groups. The table below gives a breakdown of feedback received by respondent.

Table 4.2 Feedback received by respondent	
Respondent type	Number of responses
Statutory consultees	11
Local authorities	4
Landowners	14
Parish councils	8
Elected representatives (MPs, MEPs, councillors)	0
Members of the public	77
Total	114

4.3.3 In addition to feedback received within the advertised consultation period, late consultation responses received up to and including Monday, 31 October 2016 were included within the analysis.

4.3.4 The feedback received and the NGVL responses to the issues raised are provided in Volume 2 of this report.

4.4 Feedback received general themes

Orange and Purple Route Corridor options

4.4.1 The following key themes identified were common to both the Orange and Purple Route Corridor options:

- socio-economic and tourism impact;
- impact on agriculture land and soils;
- traffic and transport;
- property value;

- compensation;
- coordination with other projects;
- sea defences;
- ecology/biodiversity impact;
- landscape and visual impact;
- electric magnetic fields;
- construction impact;
- hydrology and land drainage;
- communication/consultation approach;
- archaeology and cultural heritage;
- cable routeing;
- noise and vibration;
- project need; and
- general comments.

Converter station design style options

4.4.2 In addition to stating a preference for one of the three design style options, the key themes identified in relation to the preferred converter station site were:

- site security;
- traffic and transport;
- landscape and visual impact;
- noise;
- community investment;
- scale and appearance;
- cost, materials and supply chain;
- ecology/biodiversity impacts;
- agricultural land;
- cumulative impact with other projects;
- construction impact;
- property value and compensation;
- screening;
- height reduction;
- operational lighting;
- radio telemetry; and
- hydrology and land drainage.

Landfall and offshore cable

4.4.3 The key themes identified as part of Phase 2 Consultation in relation to landfall and offshore cable were the same as those raised during Phase 1 Consultation and as such NGVL's response to those themes can be found in the *UK Onshore Scheme Phase 1 Consultation Feedback Report (VKL-08-06-G500-003)*.

4.4.4 The key themes identified were:

- sea defences;
- construction impact;
- site selection;
- existing infrastructure;
- ecology/biodiversity impacts;
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest;
- hydrology and land drainage;
- archaeology;
- visual impact;
- noise and vibration;
- coordination with other projects;
- environmental impact; and
- traffic and transport.

Consultation

4.4.5 The key themes identified in relation to consultation were:

- quality of information;
- value of consultation; and
- quality of exhibitions and materials.

General

4.4.6 Other key themes identified in relation to the Project which were not attributed to the above topics were:

- project need;
- socio-economic and tourism;
- compensation;
- transport;
- coordination with other projects; and

- support for project.

CONTACT US



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