

## Viking Link Interconnector Project Code of Practice

In advance of construction commencing on the Viking Link UK Onshore Scheme, National Grid Viking Link Limited (NGVL) would like to confirm their commitments to you, as a land owner or occupier. This Code of Practice provides information on the working practices of NGVL. For the avoidance of doubt, NGVL shall mean the company and their contractors engaged for the construction phase of the Viking Link project.

The Code of Practice is structured as follows:

- **Section 1** Planning and Pre-Construction
- **Section 2** Construction Phase
- **Section 3** Restoration Phase
- **Section 4** Other Matters
- **Section 5** Supervision
- **Section 6** Legal

### 1. PLANNING AND PRE-CONSTRUCTION



#### 1.1 Continuation of Normal Farming Activities

NGVL suggests occupiers do not change their normal agricultural operations just because of the possibility of NGVL undertaking cable installation works in accordance with the arrangements set out in this documentation.

## 1.2 Surveys

NGVL will need to survey the proposed cable route. A number of surveys may be required to determine any constraints or potential difficulties in the installation of the cables, e.g. ecological or archaeological features. NGVL will give owners/occupiers as much notice as reasonably practicable before taking access and in any event it will be no less than 14 days prior notice.

## 1.3 Trial Holes and Boreholes

NGVL will only drill boreholes or excavate trial holes in advance of the main construction work where they are necessary to establish ground conditions and after consultation between the occupier and NGVL or their representative. The work will be carried out so as to cause the least practicable disturbance to the occupier and NGVL will pay, in accordance with the National Grid Land Rights Strategy, appropriate compensation for any damage or disturbance caused.

## 1.4 Construction Working Width

In addition to the Easement Strip in which the cables will be situated, NGVL will require a Construction Working Width during the construction phase.

The Construction Working Width will be for access for all purposes associated with the cable installation works including access to third parties land affected by the cable works and storage of soil.

## 1.5 Land Outside the Construction Working Width

NGVL require land outside the Construction Working Width for the purposes of (but not limited to) the following activities and facilities:

- portable cabins;
- welfare facilities including portable toilets;
- secure works compound;
- storage of plant and/or materials;
- temporary access roads; and
- additional surface lines cables in case of emergency only.

This land would be used in connection with the construction of NGVL's assets and should this be necessary, then you will be informed.

The location and the extent of this land will be agreed with the landowner and will be documented in a separate lease or licence agreement to be provided by NGVL.

## 1.6 **Commencement of Work**

The work will, so far as it is reasonably practicable, be carried out in accordance with a programme of which the landowners and occupiers will be kept informed. At least 10 working days' notice will be given to the owners and occupiers of all land along the route of the proposed cable before entry is made on such land. Where reasonably possible NGVL will afford the landowner/occupier time to remove standing crops before access is taken in an attempt to mitigate losses.

## 1.7 **Record of Condition**

NGVL will prepare and supply to the landowner and occupier at its own expense a record of the condition of any affected land or property prior to taking entry for the purposes of carrying out the construction works.

## 1.8 **Timber**

NGVL will only remove any trees within the Construction Working Width after consultation between NGVL and landowners and occupiers. All timber will remain the property of the timber owner or be cut and disposed of in accordance with the reasonable requirements of the timber owner.

## 1.9 **Fencing the Construction Working Width**

NGVL will provide fencing along the Construction Working Width as necessary for the protection of members of the public and animals and to avoid trespass. Unless otherwise agreed with the occupier, the method of fencing the Construction Working Width will be a fence adequate for the purpose of excluding any stock kept on adjoining land and, where no such stock is kept, posts and ropes or wire will be used. Crossing points (to facilitate the passage of persons, stock or agricultural equipment) will be installed to enable reasonable access across the Construction Working Width at appropriate locations. All temporary fencing will be maintained in position throughout the construction works until the land has been reinstated, unless otherwise agreed with the occupier. NGVL will exercise all reasonable care and undertake all reasonable measures to ensure that all working areas and accesses are made secure from entry by trespassers.

## 1.10 **Biosecurity, Soil Pests and Diseases**

NGVL, in conjunction with the landowner and occupiers directly affected by the cable construction works, will take such reasonable biosecurity precautions as may be necessary to avoid the spreading of pests and

diseases having regard to the recommendations and guidance as prescribed by the appropriate agricultural government department and will also seek to agree reasonable precautions against the spreading of pests and diseases with any landowner or occupier prior to entry onto any land or property.

## 1.11 **Straying Stock**

NGVL will, after consultation with the occupier take all necessary precautions to prevent the straying of livestock onto the Construction Working Width and will compensate the owner of such livestock for all injury, death or loss arising where such straying is due to any act or omission on the part of NGVL following production of a report from a veterinary expert.

## 1.13 **Protection and Reinstatement of Services**

NGVL will ensure that:

- Provisions are made to maintain existing services during the course of the works, and
- If any existing services are affected by the works it will take all reasonable steps to reinstate the services to their previous condition immediately before the works were commenced.

## 1.14 **Protection of Water Supplies**

NGVL will take all necessary precautions to protect all watercourses and water supplies against pollution and take all proper steps to reduce to the minimum any interference with water supplies.

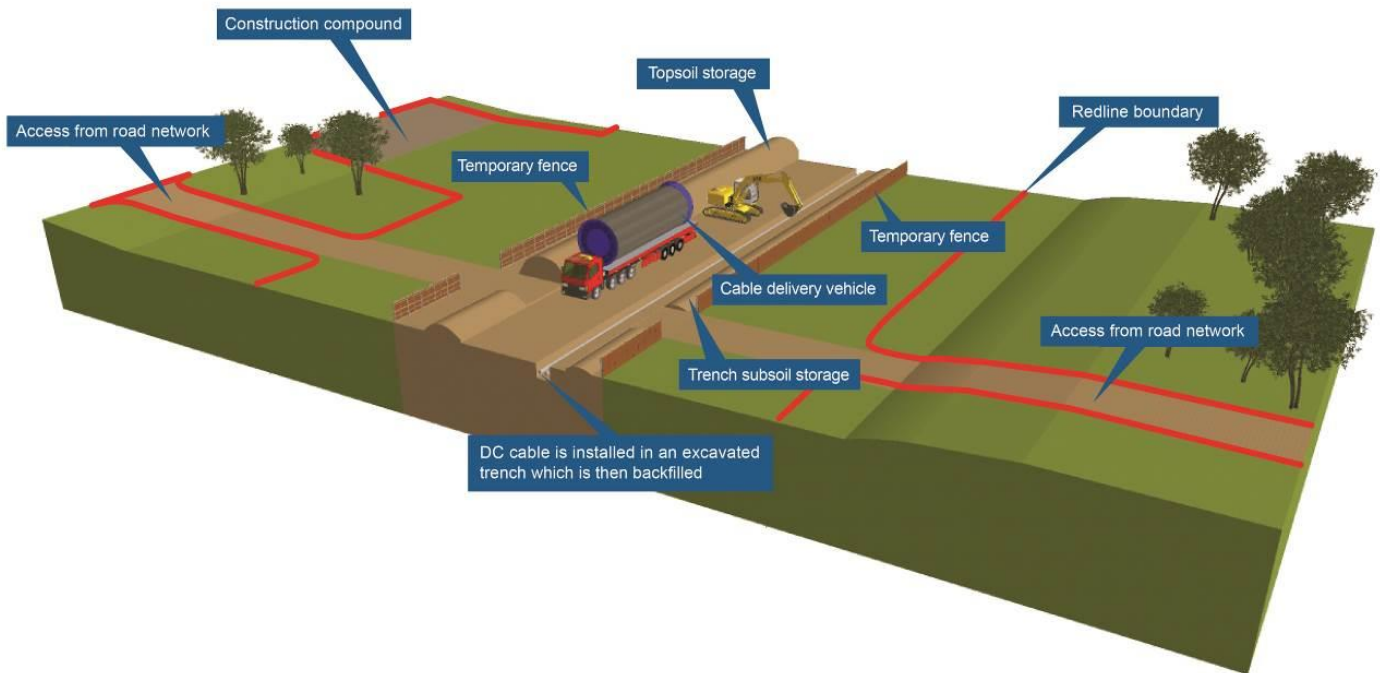
## 1.15 **Fishing and Sporting Rights**

NGVL will take all reasonably practicable steps to protect fishing and sporting rights and will pay compensation for any loss or damage to such rights arising out of the construction of the works.

## 1.16 **Poaching and Dogs**

NGVL will instruct contractors that their employees must not carry out poaching nor bring dogs on to the Construction Working Width and working areas except as may be necessary for security or other reasonable purposes.

## 2. CONSTRUCTION PHASE



**NOT TO SCALE**

*Diagram to show typical Construction Working Width.*

### 2.1 Methods of Construction

Two main methods of construction will be used – “open trenching” where the land will be excavated for the cable to be installed, or possibly ducting for the cable to be pulled through, and then backfilled with a protective tile above; and “trenchless” methods which utilises Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) or similar technology to provide ducting for the cable to be pulled through.

### 2.2 Open Trenching

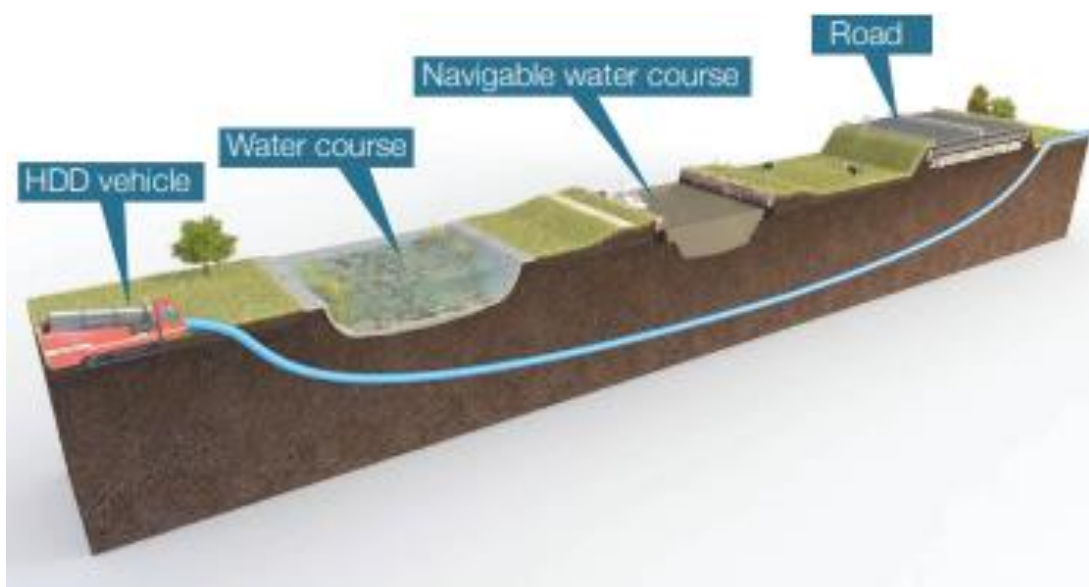
The Construction Working Width will be cleared of crops, brush, hedges, fences, non-saleable timber, tree roots and debris, and materials arising will be disposed of accordingly.

In the course of excavation all topsoil will so far as reasonably practicable be kept separate and topsoil and subsoil will be replaced carefully after the completion of cable installation operations. Stripped topsoil will be kept separate and stacked on one side of the Construction Working Width. It will be kept free from the passage of vehicles and plant. Topsoil of a special nature such as soil associated with hedge-banks or road verges of an environmentally sensitive nature should be stored separately.

The width of topsoil to be stripped will generally be that required to contain the trench, the excavation plant, the temporary haul road to facilitate the construction works and the width required for stacking the subsoil.

## 2.2 “Trenchless” methods

Where “trenchless” methods are to be used, NGVL will consult with the occupier so as to ensure that the works will cause the least practicable damage and disturbance to the land.



*Diagram to show examples of where trenchless methods are necessary*

## 2.3 Depth of Cables

The cable will generally be laid so as to avoid as far as possible continued interference with normal agricultural operations. It will be laid to contour with a depth of cover of not less than 1200 mm (approximately 47 inches) from the original surface to the top of the protective tiles except where necessary for good engineering reasons and with the agreement of the owner and/or occupier.

## 2.4 **Support of Structures**

Temporary underpinning, supports and other protective measures for buildings, structures and apparatus in or adjacent to the trench will be of proper design and sound construction and will be securely placed to the reasonable satisfaction of the landowner or occupier and of NGVL or their representative.

## 2.5 **Land Drains**

NGVL will instruct a suitably qualified drainage consultant to provide conceptual pre and post construction drainage plans where requested. These will show the preferred drainage design based upon the indicative cable route. Final design will depend on the location of the cable.

In many cases the laying of new land drains will be required to keep the affected and adjoining land of the owner and/or occupier in good order. In all cases where it is reasonably practicable and proportionate to do so the Construction Working Width will be restored to a condition no worse than as at the date of the pre-construction drainage assessment which will be undertaken immediately prior to the commencement of the construction works, or if to the extent such damage cannot be made good and where not reasonably practical to do so to, the landowner will be compensated.

The methods to be employed in repairing damage to field drainage systems and/or carrying out any additional drainage work determined as being necessary will be agreed with the landowner and/or occupier and, failing an agreement being reached, will be referred to an expert acceptable to both parties. Where possible, plans of any existing drainage schemes should be made available.

It is NGVL's policy that where proven to be required to secure the integrity of the drainage system to facilitate the installation of the cables, header drains (cut off drains) will be installed before construction begins.

NGVL will ensure that suitably qualified drainage sub-contractors are employed.

The position of all land drains cut by or disturbed during excavation work will immediately following their location be prominently marked by pegs at both sides of the trench or recorded on a Global Positioning System (GPS) device/surveying system.

In cases where land is let on any agricultural tenancy, agreements regarding repairs and reinstatement will involve the occupier (or in the absence of a formal tenancy agreement, the landowner).

After the cable has been installed, NGVL will carry out the drainage works as agreed between NGVL and the landowner or occupier as appropriate. The timing of these works is to be discussed and agreed between NGVL and the occupier.

Post construction maintenance is responsibility of the landowner following expiry of the contractor liability period. Assuming that the landowner has maintained any drainage installed as per best practice, then NGVL will be responsible for any repairs or losses resulting from defects for the duration of the easement.

### 3. RESTORATION PHASE



#### 3.1 Roads

Private roads and footpaths will be made good where reasonably practicable to a condition equivalent to that existing before the commencement of the construction works.



## 3.2 Land

Agricultural land will be made good to a condition as near as reasonably practicable to that existing before the commencement of the works to the reasonable satisfaction of the landowner or occupier. The topsoil of agricultural land will be left in a loose, friable and workable condition to its original full depth over the whole Construction Working Width. If the owner or occupier so requires, subsoil to an appropriate depth, normally not less than 300 millimetres (approximately 12 inches) will be loosened with an agricultural cultivator where the topsoil has been removed.

## 3.3 Field and Farm Boundaries

NGVL will make good or replace any fences and walls removed during construction with proper materials in each case. Hedges and hedgerow trees will be re-planted. As an illustration of hedge and hedgerow reinstatement, where required and agreed with the landowner or occupier, hedges will be replaced by whips protected by suitable fencing.

## 3.4 Claims for Crop Loss, Damage and Disturbance

NGVL will pay reasonable and proper compensation for all proven crop loss, damage and disturbance arising out of the construction of the works. Any disputed claims for compensation will be referred to an expert for arbitration.

## 4. OTHER MATTERS

### 4.1 Inspection and Maintenance

Except in the case of an emergency, notice will where practicable be given to the occupier of any subsequent entry needed to the land for the purposes of maintenance or inspection of the cables.

### 4.2 Land Management Payments

If land is taken out of production by NGVL so that it does not meet the requirements for establishing entitlement under the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) or under any other statutory land management support scheme, the claimant will take all reasonable measures to meet normal eligibility criteria including, where reasonable, the acquisition of alternative BPS entitlements. Ensuring they are fully mitigating any losses.

NGVL will compensate for any loss of Basic Payment (BP) or payment under any other statutory Land Management Support Scheme unavoidably

incurred where eligible land is taken out of production during or after the construction works and which does not qualify for payment due to NGVL carrying out or proposing to carry out works. In accordance with the arrangements set out in this documentation NGVL will use all reasonable endeavours to provide the landowner and the occupier with such information as it can to enable BPS and like payments to be obtained.

#### 4.3 **Changes of Ownership or Occupation**

NGVL will make regular contact with landowners and occupiers of the land crossed by cables, to maintain correct records in order to assist NGVL in carrying out effective maintenance and protection of the cables. Contact details for NGVL will be provided upon completion of cable installation works, so that owners and occupiers can notify NGVL of any changes in ownership or interest in the land.

#### 4.4 **Protection of the Cable**

Certain activities will be restricted on the easement strip in order to protect the cables, the easement strip being 15 metres for the Direct Current (DC) cables and 25 metres for the Alternating Current (AC) cables in width with an additional width at locations of difficult engineering. Whilst most regular agricultural operations will still be possible, owners and occupiers must not do anything that is likely to result in interference with or damage to the cables. There is no restriction on normal agricultural operations that do not affect the cable with the exception of land drainage works. Owners and occupiers should notify NGVL as soon as possible of any planned works in the vicinity of the cables, for example - any activity involving works 600 mm (approximately 24 inches) or more from the surface should be notified to NGVL prior to them taking place.

NGVL will carry out periodic inspections and therefore will require access to and along the easement strip. The easement strip should therefore be kept clear of scrub growth and the like.

### 5. **SUPERVISION**

5.1 NGVL will appoint an Agricultural Liaison Officer (ALO) to provide a point of contact for landowners during construction. The ALO will be available to discuss any issues that might arise. Contact details will be provided prior to construction commencing.

5.2 Upon completion, the ALO will provide contact details for any future issues, to include the Plant Protection team.

## 6. LEGAL

6.1 NGVL will comply with all statutory requirements in respect of the works.

6.2 Upon completion of the works, NGVL will serve a Completion Notice to the landowner. Included with this will be “as built” plans where possible.

National Grid Viking Link Limited  
Dated 11 April 2018