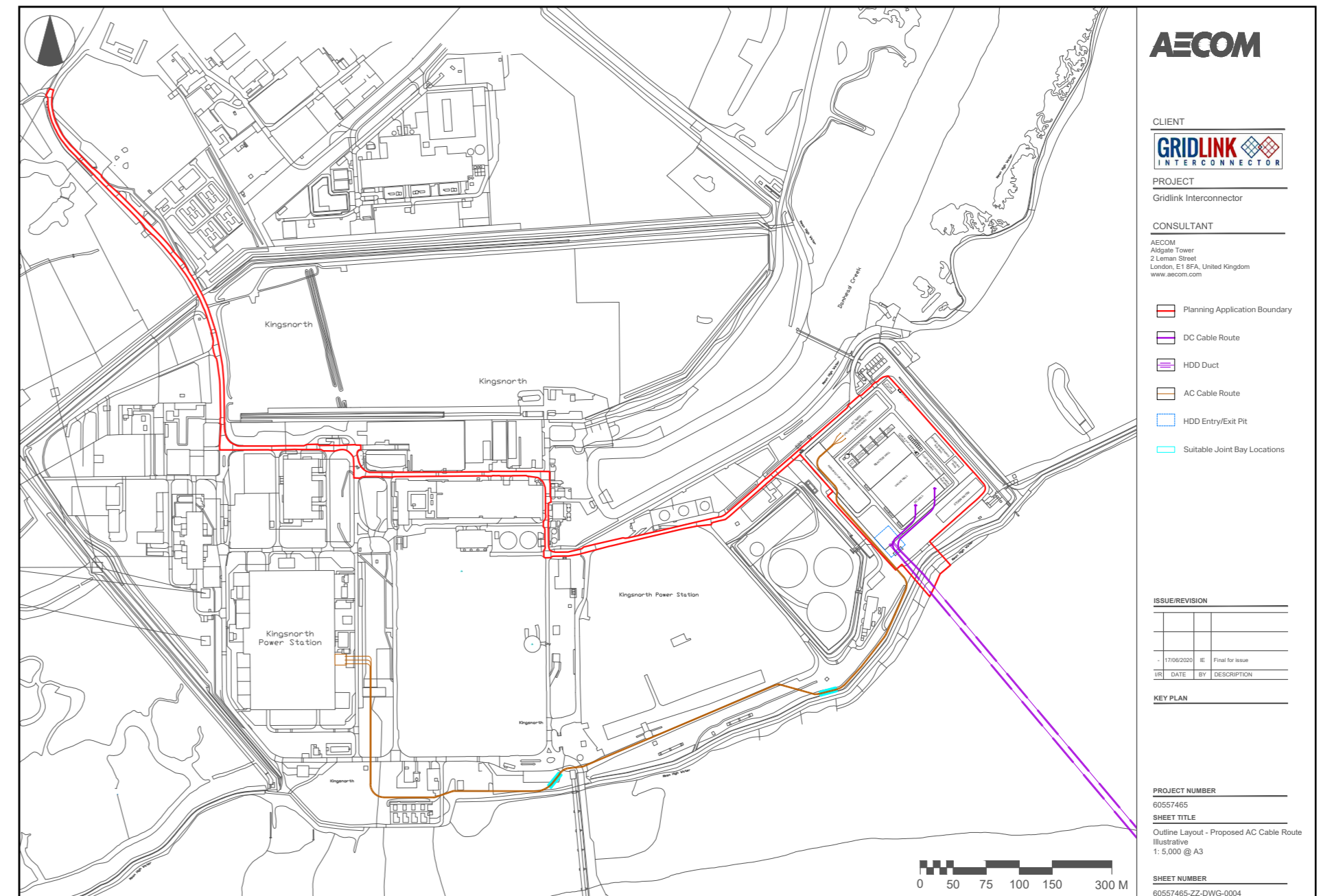


THE CONSTRUCTION OF GRIDLINK IN THE UK



Aerial Photo of the Converter Station Site at Kingsnorth



The GridLink Site at Kingsnorth

THE PLANNING APPLICATION SITE

The converter station is located on the site of the former heavy fuel oil tank farm of the coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth. The six large oil tanks have been demolished and removed as part of the decommissioning of the power station, so that only the circular concrete tank bases remain. As part of the construction of the converter station, the soil around the tanks will be removed and any oil contamination will be remediated. An access road also will be constructed from the main gate of the former power station on Eschol Road to the converter station site.

The submarine cable will be installed under the sea defences by horizontal directional drilling (HDD) to arrive at the converter station site. This means that the sea defences and inter-tidal mudflats will not be disturbed by the installation of the cable. Once the cable emerges from the HDD, it will be directly connected to the converter station.

The underground cable from the converter station to the National Grid 400 kV substation will be installed next to the sea defences so that it does not conflict with any other future developments on the former power station site. The underground cable will connect into the substation at a spare bay allocated to GridLink, so that there is no requirement to extend the substation.

PLANNING PERMISSION AND MARINE LICENCE

GridLink Interconnector Ltd will be applying for planning permission from Medway Council to redevelop part of the former coal-fired power station site in Kingsnorth into a converter station. The underground cables are also within the former coal-fired power station site, and they are subject to permitted development rights because they are underground and form part of electricity transmission infrastructure.

For the submarine cable, GridLink Interconnector Ltd will be also applying for a marine licence from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to install the cable in UK waters, including in the Medway Estuary, Thames Estuary and southern North Sea.

Other permits will be required for the construction works, including an environmental permit from the Environment Agency for works near flood defences, land drainage consent from the Lower Medway Internal Drainage Board and river works licences from Peel Ports and the Port of London Authority.

GridLink Interconnector Ltd aims to obtain planning permission and the marine licence by early 2021, with construction beginning about a year later in early 2022. The GridLink interconnector project would then be constructed and operational by 2025.