

10 WAYS THAT GRIDLINK IS MINIMISING ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Mitigation measures have been embedded into the GridLink project to avoid, when possible, any negative environmental effects, reduce negative effects that cannot be avoided and, as a last resort, compensate for any residual effects.

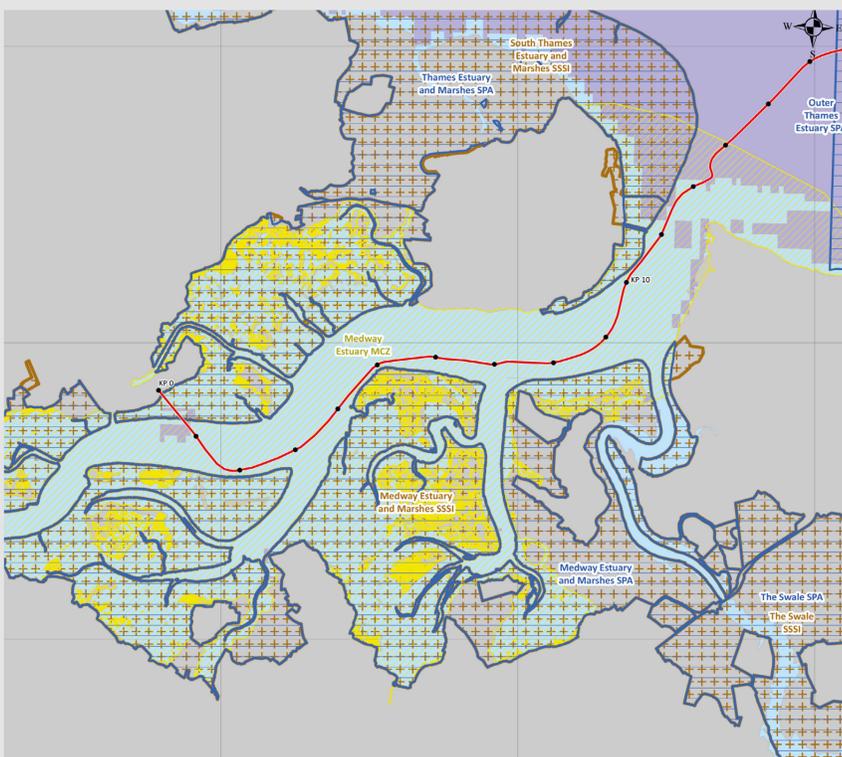
10 specific measures that GridLink has adopted are:

1. The converter station is located on a 'brownfield' site at the former Kingsnorth coal-fired power station site. Therefore, it is situated in an industrial area where similar types of development previously existed.
2. High standards of architectural design and landscaping will be applied to the converter station, including colour and finish of buildings compatible with the surrounding environment.
3. All cables will be underground – no new overhead transmission lines are required for the GridLink interconnector project.
4. The submarine cable route has been carefully chosen to avoid or minimise the section required within sensitive environmental features and protected sites, fishing grounds and shipping lanes or anchorages.
5. The submarine cable comprises two cables bundled together so that only one seabed trench is needed. This means that the footprint of the cable installation is minimised.
6. The submarine cable crosses the shoreline at Kingsnorth by horizontal directional drilling underneath the inter-tidal mudflats and sea defences. Therefore, the protected ecological site and the sea defences are not physically disturbed.



Kingsnorth Converter Station Site

7. The submarine cable installation methods have been selected to minimise the effects on the seabed and suspension of sediment in the water column, with particular attention to the possible need for rock placement to protect the cable at crossings of existing cables or for other reasons. Where necessary, strict limitations have been imposed on the techniques that can be used and timing of works.
8. A range of good international industry practices, tailored to the site-specific requirements at Kingsnorth, are incorporated into construction activities, including for noise control, site lighting, traffic management, temporary construction laydown, soil storage, control of hazardous substances and waste management.
9. Monitoring of the environment will be carried out before and after construction works and cable installation to identify any changes caused by implementation of the GridLink interconnector project, and chance-find procedures will be prepared in case of discovery of any archaeological heritage, wrecks or Unexploded Ordnance (UXO).
10. A Fishing Liaison Officer, Client representatives on board vessels and marine mammal observers will be engaged during cable installation activities, to ensure that good communications with fishermen and other stakeholders are maintained, all mitigation measures are implemented and the disruption caused by the cable installation is minimised.



Designated Environmental Sites in the Medway Estuary