



September 2020

# Statement of Community Involvement

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**GridLink Interconnector**

GridLink Interconnector Ltd

[becg.com](http://becg.com)

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# Executive Summary

GridLink Interconnector Ltd is developing the GridLink Interconnector project (GridLink). The project is a new 1,400MW high voltage direct current (HVDC) electricity cable that will provide a link for transmission of electricity between the national grids of the UK and France. The cable connects the National Grid 400 kV sub-station at Kingsnorth in Kent, UK to the RTE 400 kV sub-station at Warande near Dunkerque in Nord Region, France. The cable route passes through the Medway Estuary and Thames Estuary, before turning south-east to cross the southern North Sea to the French coast.

The plans include a new converter station being developed at the former Kingsnorth coal-fired power station site and an underground cable between the proposed converter station to the existing Kingsnorth sub-station owned by National Grid.

GridLink will be submitting an outline planning application under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to Medway Council for the onshore development of the project in the UK. Additionally, GridLink will be submitting an application for a Marine Licence under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) for the offshore elements of the project.

As part of the pre-application consultation, GridLink planned a series of public exhibitions and a public meeting. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, GridLink revised its consultation plans to comply with Government guidelines on the congregation of people at public venues. Instead, a virtual consultation programme has been carried out comprising a virtual exhibition, live chat session and online public meeting, along with two physical information points. The virtual consultation programme was approved by Medway Council and the MMO.

As part of the extensive community engagement programme supporting the scheme, local residents and other stakeholders were given the opportunity to give their feedback on the proposals at all stages of the public consultation via a number of different channels. A freephone information line, website and project email address were made available throughout the course of the pre-application stage for interested parties to receive further information, register for the online public meeting and provide their feedback.

The project website has been in existence since November 2017. Within the website a virtual exhibition was hosted from **Monday 31 August** until **Friday 11 September 2020** to provide the local community with the opportunity to find out more about the proposals, register for the online public meeting and to submit their feedback. A feedback form was made available for visitors to complete online. The virtual exhibition will continue to remain on the website throughout the development consent procedures. The website also provides a second mechanism for contacting GridLink via a Contact Us form.

A live chat session was held as part of the virtual exhibition on **Friday 4 September** and an online public meeting was held virtually via the GoToMeeting platform on **Friday 11 September**.

To ensure as many local people as possible could hear about the public consultations, a flyer was posted to residents in the Hoo St Werburgh Parish Council area, inviting them to view the virtual exhibition, attend the live chat session and/or the online public meeting, and to provide feedback.

Media advertisements, a press release and a Facebook page were used to publicise the consultation events and options to communicate with GridLink. The flyer was delivered to 4,809 addresses and the Facebook page via a boosted advertisement reached 8,378 people within the ME3 postcode area.

GridLink has carefully reviewed all the feedback received to date and, where possible, has evolved the proposals to address the comments raised by the local community and stakeholders. The main comments raised by the local community have been addressed within this document and the applications for planning permission and Marine Licence.

GridLink is committed to engaging with the local community and, following the submission of the applications, will ensure that interested parties and key stakeholders remain informed and updated regarding the proposals.

This document provides a chronological account of the pre-application consultation undertaken and a review of the feedback received.

# 1. Introduction

- 1.1 GridLink is developing plans for the GridLink interconnector; a submarine high voltage direct current electricity cable to connect the National Grid 400kV sub-station at Kingsnorth, Kent, UK to the RTE 400 kV sub-station at Warande, Dunkerque, France.
- 1.2 The GridLink interconnector would enable a two-way flow of electricity between the UK and France, so that any surpluses in power generation can be exported and unexpected breakdowns in the national grids can be compensated for to ensure security of supply.
- 1.3 GridLink Interconnector Ltd is responsible for the development, proposed construction and operation of the GridLink interconnector project (GridLink).
- 1.4 GridLink is wholly owned by iCON Infrastructure Partners III; a long term and well respected investor in energy, utilities and transportation infrastructure companies.
- 1.5 This document provides a chronological account of the consultation activity that has been undertaken during the pre-application stages of the applications for planning permission and a Marine Licence and the activity that GridLink proposes to undertake post-submission.
- 1.6 In order to assist with the community consultation and communication, GridLink appointed Built Environment Communications Group (BECG), a specialist communications consultancy, to organise and manage the public consultations.

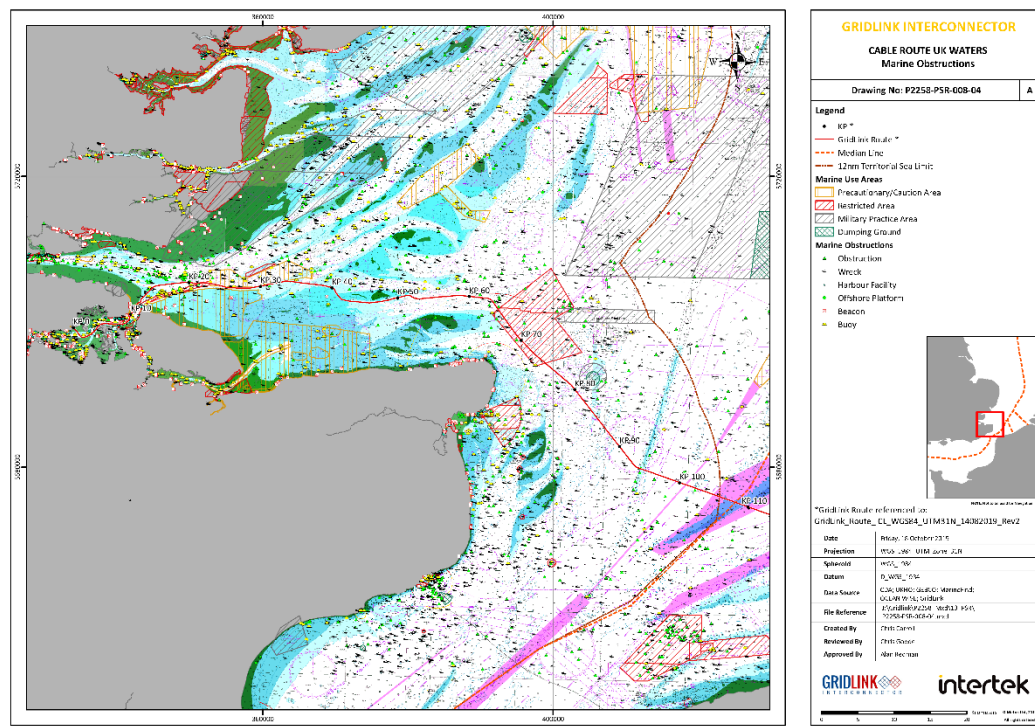
## 2. Background

### 2.1 The Proposal

- 2.1.1 GridLink is a new 1,400MW high voltage direct current (HVDC) electricity cable that will provide a link for transmission of electricity between the national grids of the UK and France. The cable connects the National Grid 400 kV sub-station at Kingsnorth in Kent, UK to the RTE 400 kV sub-station at Warande near Dunkerque in Nord Region, France. The subsea cable route passes through the Medway Estuary and Thames Estuary, before turning south-east to cross the southern North Sea to the French coast.

### 2.2 Offshore Elements

- 2.2.1 The UK offshore elements of GridLink's proposals, as depicted below, comprise a submarine High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) cable.



*Chart depicting the proposed GridLink submarine HVDC cable route*

### 2.3 Onshore Elements

- 2.3.1 The UK onshore elements of GridLink's proposals, as depicted below, comprise:
- Landfall location, situated at the former coal-fired power station site in Kingsnorth, where the submarine HVDC cable crosses the shoreline to directly connect with a new converter station;
  - New converter station to convert electricity from Direct Current (DC) to Alternating Current (AC);
  - Underground high voltage alternating current (HVAC) cable running from the converter station to an existing spare bay at the National Grid sub-station in Kingsnorth.
- 2.3.2 No extension is required to the substation, nor any new overhead lines.



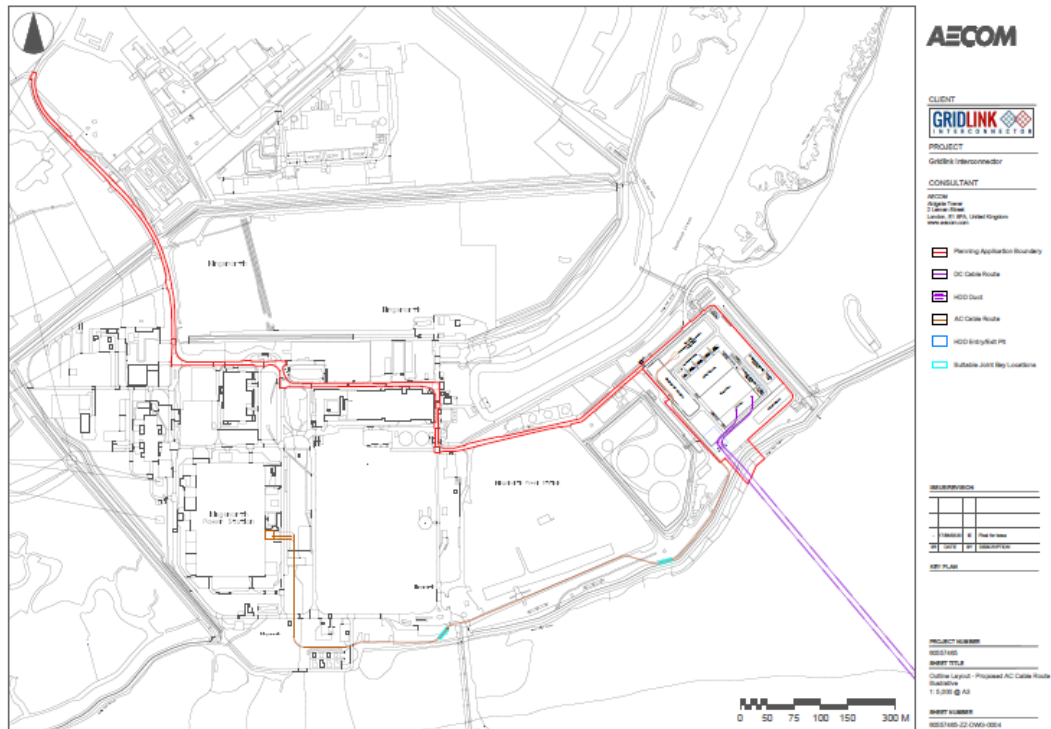


*A satellite image depicting the proposed GridLink converter station and the existing National Grid sub-station in Kingsnorth*

## 2.4 Converter Station

- 2.4.1 The GridLink converter station is proposed to be located on land at the former coal-fired power station site in Kingsnorth, Kent. The onshore UK HVAC cable route is planned to be developed between the proposed GridLink converter station site into a spare bay at the existing National Grid sub-station in Kingsnorth, Kent.
- 2.4.2 A converter station converts electricity between AC, which we use in our homes, and DC which is used for transporting the electricity between the UK and France. We need to transport the electricity as DC because it is more efficient over very long distances.
- 2.4.3 A typical converter station includes a range of specialist equipment, some of which must be located indoors in a series of buildings, up to 25m tall. A typical converter station includes a control room, transformers, equipment similar to a typical substation, and technology to convert between DC and AC electricity.





*A site plan depicting the proposed GridLink converter station and the underground HVAC cable route to the existing National Grid sub-station in Kingsnorth*

## 3 Pre-application Consultation

### 3.1 Medway Council's Statement of Community Involvement

- 3.1.1 GridLink has complied with the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which states that *"early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning application system for all parties."*
- 3.1.2 The NPPF also highlights that *"good quality pre-application discussion enables better coordination between public and private resources and improved outcomes for the community."*
- 3.1.3 Medway Council updated its Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) in August 2020. The pertinent section of the SCI regarding pre-application consultation is highlighted below:

#### **Working with developers**

- *Where developers are proposing major or sensitive developments, the Council expects pre-application consultation and ongoing engagement. This should be carried out by developers or their agents to the standards set out in this SCI.*
- *The NPPF highlights the link between well-designed places and effective engagement. It states: 'Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities. Being clear about design expectations, and how these will be tested, is essential for achieving this. So too is effective engagement between applicants, communities, local planning authorities and other interests throughout the process'.*
- *Applicants of major developments are expected to submit a separate Statement of Community Involvement to explain how they have built engagement into the development proposal process.*
- *The NPPF states: 'Applicants should work closely with those affected by their proposals to evolve designs that take account of the views of the community. Applications that can demonstrate early, proactive and effective engagement with the community should be looked on more favourably than those that cannot'.*
- *The Council encourages developers to present significant development proposals to councillors at early stages in the planning process, before submitting an application. These presentations are useful in advising members about the proposals and raising key issues. The Council also encourages the use of models and materials to help communicate the scope and impact of developments.*

#### **Encouraging early involvement with neighbours in small-scale proposals**

- *The Council encourages applicants to talk to their neighbours informally before finalising their plans and submitting their application.*
- *There are added benefits to both local people and applicants in involving neighbours at an early stage. For applicants, it can inform them of issues that they can address prior to a planning application being submitted saving time and avoiding conflict. For neighbours, it allows them to have an input before proposals reach an advanced stage.*

- 3.1.4 Government guidance and Medway Council's SCI encourage pre-application discussions and community involvement. As a result, the public consultation programme had a number of key objectives, including:
- To encourage as much input as possible from the local community, including residents, interest groups, councillors and businesses;

- To provide the community with a genuine opportunity to provide feedback on the plans;
- To allow people to become actively involved in the process;
- To identify and address any issues raised by the local community and stakeholders.

3.1.5 Therefore, GridLink has undertaken a detailed programme of community consultation.

## 3.2 Statement of Virtual Consultation

3.2.1 GridLink prepared a Statement of Virtual Consultation to define the plans for the virtual consultation events.

3.2.2 **A copy of the Statement of Virtual Consultation can be found in Appendix 1.**

3.2.3 GridLink has engaged with Medway Council's formal pre-application process and obtained the council's approval for GridLink's virtual consultation plans.

3.2.4 Medway Council commented as below on the Statement of Virtual Consultation:

*I think in view of the difficult circumstance that we are all working under due to Covid19, I think the approach you have put forward would enable you to publicise the application and potentially facilitate opportunity for wider members of the public to participate and comment on your scheme.*

*I have no adverse comments to make.*

*Please note that the result of your virtual consultation would need to be converted to a presentable document as part of your application.*

3.2.5 GridLink also sought the views of the MMO on the proposed change to a virtual consultation. MMO commented as below:

*I can confirm that we have reviewed the proposals and are content with your plan to change the public consultation to a virtual/online consultation.*

## 3.3 Medway Council and Hoo St Werbergh Parish Council

3.3.1 GridLink felt it was important to discuss the proposals for the project with elected representatives of local communities in advance of the wider public consultation.

3.3.2 The GridLink project falls within the context of ongoing public consultations by Uniper with Medway Council and Hoo St Werbergh Parish Council for the overall redevelopment of the former Kingsnorth power station site into the MedwayOne commercial park. As GridLink has the potential to be one of the first occupants of one of the plots within the wider Uniper masterplan, it was important to update members on the GridLink (only) planning and its place within the overall redevelopment of the area.

3.3.3 Therefore, GridLink participated in two presentations for councillors ("Members Briefing") at Medway Council on **26 February 2019** and **28 October 2019**. The presentations included the following:

- GridLink project summary
- UK planned and existing electricity interconnectors
- European Commission and Brexit
- GridLink project design
- Project geography
- Connection to national grids in the UK and France

- Cable route and converter station sites
  - New change to converter station site at Kingsnorth
  - Updated cable route in Medway Estuary
  - Crossing the Medway Estuary and Marshes SPA/MCZ/SSI
  - Converter station site
  - Grid connection
  - UK development consents and permits
  - Timetable for planning application and other consents
  - Public consultations
- 3.3.4 GridLink also contacted Hoo St Werbergh Parish Council and provided information about the project and planned public consultations, although COVID-19 has prevented a presentation to the parish councillors. However, GridLink gave a presentation (via ZOOM) to Hoo St Werburgh and Chattenden Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group on **26 August 2020**.
- 3.3.5 The presentation provided an overview of the project, the need for interconnectors, the upcoming consultation and the project timescales
- 3.3.6 Members of the group raised a number of issues/topics:
- Impact of noise from piling (experience had shown it can be heard in Hoo)
  - Disturbance to birds
  - Consultations with Natural England, RSPB and Kent Wildlife Trust
  - Benefits to renewable energy
  - Ways to communicate the public consultation to residents in Hoo
  - Wall lizards found adjacent to the Uniper site
  - Scale of construction works – majority of work would involve the construction of the converter station as opposed to a small amount of work to connect into the spare bay at the sub-station
- 3.3.7 The meetings provided the local community representatives with an opportunity to discuss the proposals with members of the project team and ask any questions they had with regards to the project.

## 3.4 Website

- 3.4.1 A dedicated project website was set up with information available to view by the public from November 2017.
- 3.4.2 The website is hosted at <https://gridlinkinterconnector.com/>. During the pre-application stage a button was added to the homepage to directly access the UK virtual exhibition.
- 3.4.3 The website address was printed on all collateral produced as part of the public consultation process.
- 3.4.4 The following information is displayed on the GridLink website:
- Background to GridLink;
  - Project information;
  - The design of the converter stations;
  - The design of the offshore/onshore cables;
  - Non-Technical Summary;
  - Environmental considerations;
  - Details of public consultation in the UK and France;

- Project timescales;
- News about the project;
- Benefits;
- UK virtual exhibition;
- Contact details

3.4.5 During August, the website was visited 593 times.

3.4.6 **A screenshot of the website homepage with the virtual exhibition button can be found in Appendix 2.**

## 3.5 Virtual Exhibition

3.5.1 GridLink held a virtual public exhibition open to the public to view from Friday 28 August which could be accessed via the GridLink website using this link – <https://gridlinkinterconnector.com/>

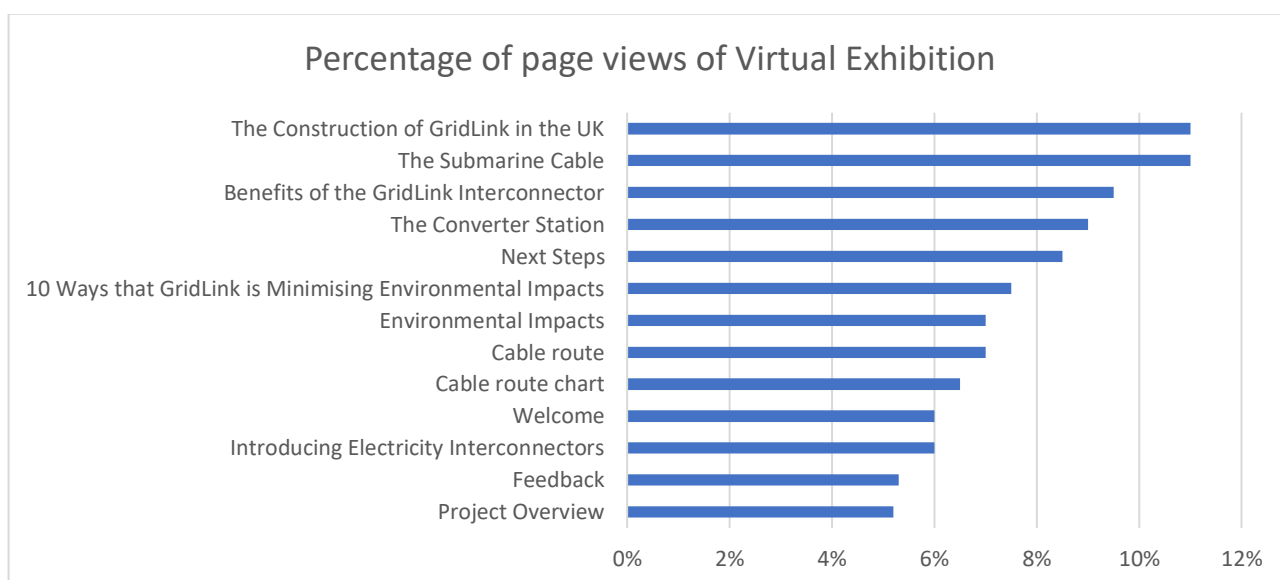
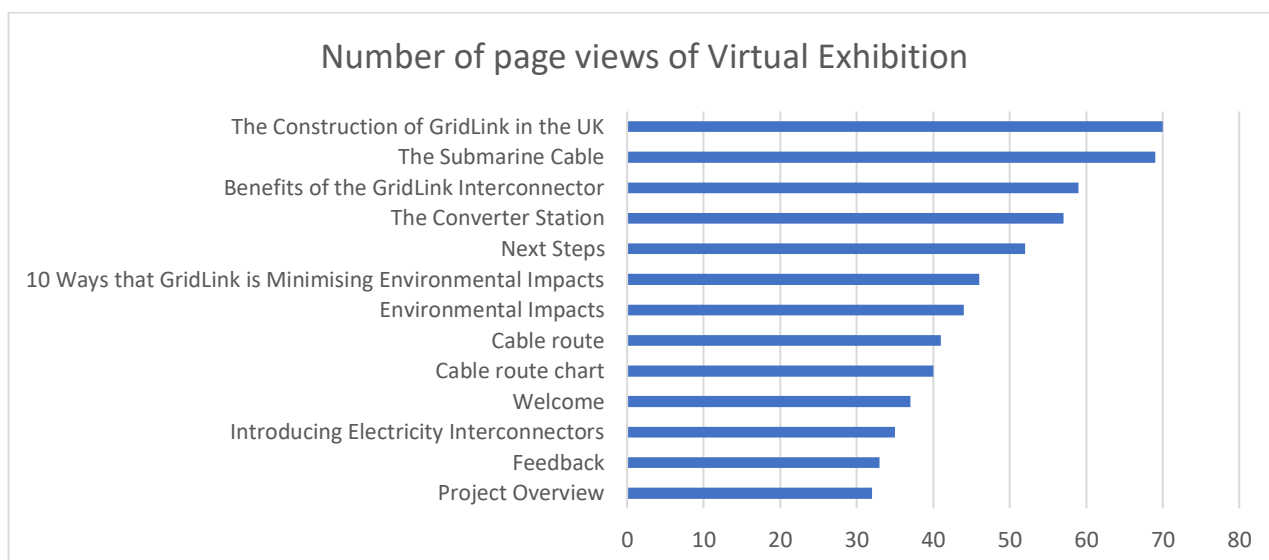
3.5.2 The exhibition displayed the following information:

- Welcome;
- Project overview;
- Introducing electricity interconnectors;
- Benefits of the GridLink interconnector;
- The construction of the GridLink Interconnector in the UK
- The submarine cable
- The converter station;
- Environmental impacts;
- 10 ways that GridLink is minimising its environmental impacts;
- Next steps;
- Cable route chart
- Cable route
- A feedback form for members of the public to provide their views;
- A public meeting registration form.

3.5.3 From Friday 28 August to Friday 11 September, the number of unique visitors to the virtual exhibition during this time was 198. Visitors were able to view all the material available on the virtual exhibition at any time. The exhibition boards where people viewed the information most frequently were:

- The construction of the GridLink Interconnector in the UK;
- The submarine cable;
- Benefits of the GridLink Interconnector;
- The converter station.

3.5.4 The tables below show the number of page views per exhibition board and the percentage of these views.



**3.5.5 A screenshot of the virtual exhibition homepage can be found in Appendix 3.**

**3.5.6 A copy of the virtual exhibition boards can be found in Appendix 4.**

**3.5.7** Visitors were able to provide feedback from Friday 28 August to Friday 11 September via an online feedback form in the virtual exhibition. *The virtual exhibition and feedback form will remain available to view until the completion of the development consent procedures.*

**3.5.8** Visitors could also request a hard copy feedback form enclosed with a freepost envelope to be sent to them. The feedback form enabled residents to indicate whether they were/were not supportive of GridLink's proposals and provide feedback on the scheme.

**3.5.9 Screenshots of the virtual exhibition feedback form can be found in Appendix 5.**

**3.5.10 A copy of the paper feedback form can be found in Appendix 6.**

- 3.5.11 On Friday 4 September GridLink provided an online chat function which was active from 4.30pm until 8.30pm. This allowed members of the public to talk to the project team, ask any questions and provide any feedback they had regarding the proposal.
- 3.5.12 Despite nine visitors to the website during this session, none of the visitors took the opportunity to ask questions of the project team.

## 3.6 Online Public Meeting

- 3.6.1 GridLink held an online public meeting on **Friday 11 September** from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.
- 3.6.2 The online public meeting was facilitated by the GoToMeeting platform, allowing members of the public the chance to attend the meeting online via an email link or a dial-in phone number.
- 3.6.3 Members of the public could register for the online public meeting through an online registration form which could be accessed on the virtual exhibition homepage. 36 people clicked on the registration form during this period.
- 3.6.4 The GridLink project team provided information about the plans and were available for members of the public to speak to. The project team was represented by the following personnel:
- David Barber    GridLink
  - Jamie Gordon    BECG
  - Anna Farley    Intertek
  - Jane McEwen    AECOM
- 3.6.5 Mr Gordon introduced the webinar and outlined the key headlines of the project and explained how attendees could engage during the webinar and submit questions to the project team.
- 3.6.6 Mr Barber presented a detailed summary of the project, with key details and an aerial fly-over video of the converter station site and underground HVAC cable route.
- 3.6.7 Ms McEwen outlined the onshore elements of the scheme and the planning process, explaining the associated planning considerations and implications.
- 3.6.8 Ms Farley explained the offshore elements of the scheme and the marine licencing process, and the proposed mitigation measures.
- 3.6.9 The online public meeting then moved into a question and answer session.
- 3.6.10 3 persons registered to attend the public meeting and one member of the public joined the event. The questions raised during the public meeting are summarised in Section 5 Responses to Comments.
- 3.6.11 **A screenshot of the public meeting registration form available at the virtual exhibition can be found in Appendix 7.**



## 3.7 Information Points

- 3.7.1 GridLink displayed its plans at two information points with literature about the proposal that could be taken away.
- 3.7.2 The two information points located were at:
- Dockside Outlet Centre, Maritime Way, St Mary's Island, Chatham, ME4 3ED
  - Riverside Country Park Café, 333 Lower Rainham Road, Gillingham, ME7 2XH
- 3.7.3 The two information points were set up and available to view from Friday 28 August until Friday 11 September.
- 3.7.4 At each information point, a GridLink pull-up banner was installed. The pull-up banner contained the following information:
- An overview of the GridLink project;
  - Virtual exhibition dates;
  - Live chat session details;
  - Online public meeting details including how to register;
  - Information point details;
  - Contact information including website, Freephone and email.
- 3.7.5 **A copy of the pull-up banner can be found in Appendix 8.**
- 3.7.6 At each information point the following were displayed on a leaflet stand and available to take away:
- Consultation flyer;
  - Information leaflet;
  - Non-Technical Summary;
  - Hard copies of the virtual exhibition material
- 3.7.7 The information points leaflet dispensers were restocked on Friday 4 September.
- 3.7.8 **A photograph of the Dockside Outlet Centre information point can be found in Appendix 9.**
- 3.7.9 **A photograph of the Riverside Country Park Café information point can be found in Appendix 10.**
- 3.7.10 **A copy of the consultation flyer can be found in Appendix 11.**
- 3.7.11 **A copy of the information leaflet can be found in Appendix 12.**
- 3.7.12 The Non-Technical Summary can be viewed using this link to the GridLink website – [https://gridlinkinterconnector.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/GridLink\\_non-technical\\_summary\\_rev4\\_18\\_08\\_2020\\_EN.pdf](https://gridlinkinterconnector.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/GridLink_non-technical_summary_rev4_18_08_2020_EN.pdf).
- 3.7.13 **A screenshot of the Non-Technical Summary front cover can be found in Appendix 13.**

3.7.14 Over the two week period, visitors took the following number of items from the two information points:

- |                             |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| • Consultation flyer        | 64 copies |
| • Information leaflet       | 57 copies |
| • Non-Technical Summary     | 5 copies  |
| • Exhibition board material | 5 copies  |

## 3.8 Information Leaflet

3.8.1 An information leaflet was produced to provide a summary of GridLink's proposals.

3.8.2 The information leaflet contained the following information:

- GridLink Interconnector Project
- Key facts
- Alternatives
- The converter stations;
- The cable;
- Environmental impacts and mitigation measures;
- Project of Common Interest;
- Stakeholder engagement;
- Preliminary timeline;
- Contact details.

3.8.3 The project leaflet was available to take away at the information points and was also available to download via the project website at <https://gridlinkinterconnector.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Project-Leaflet.pdf>

3.8.4 **A copy of the information leaflet can be found in Appendix 12.**

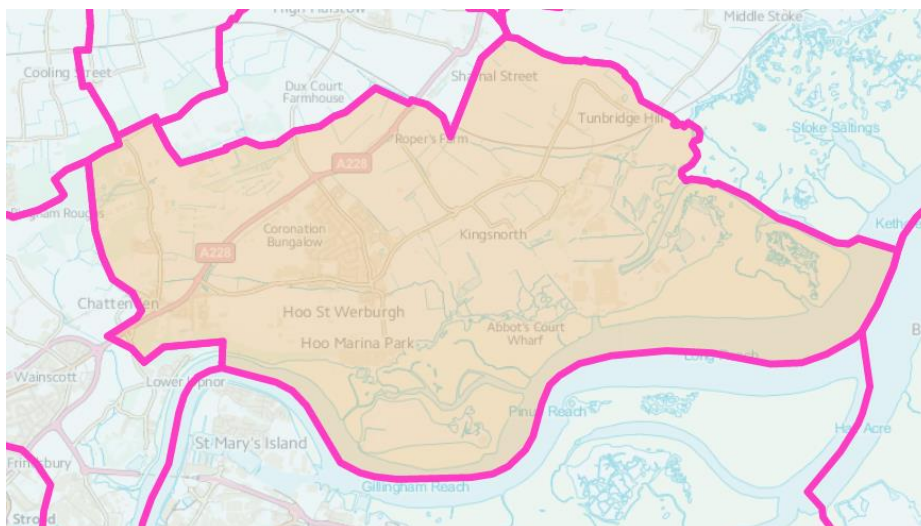
## 3.9 Consultation Flyer

3.9.1 A consultation flyer was produced to promote GridLink's public consultation. Information about the following was provided:

- Virtual exhibition;
- Live chat session;
- Online public meeting;
- Contact information including website, Freephone and email.

3.9.2 The consultation flyer was available to take away at the information points.

3.9.3 The consultation flyer was posted to 4,809 addresses within the Hoo St Werburgh Parish Council area on Wednesday 2 September.



*Flyer distribution area in Hoo St Werburgh (shaded orange)*

**3.9.4 A copy of the consultation flyer can be found in Appendix 11.**

## 3.10 Media Relations

**3.10.1** To publicise the virtual exhibition, live chat and online public meeting, advertisements were placed in the Medway Messenger and Kent and Sussex Courier during the week commencing Monday 24 August. The advertisements ran for one week in the Medway Messenger and for two consecutive weeks in the Kent and Sussex Courier.

**3.10.2** The newspaper advert contained the following information:

- An overview of the GridLink project;
- Virtual exhibition dates;
- Live chat session details;
- Online public meeting details, including how to register;
- Information point details;
- Contact information including website, Freephone and email.

**3.10.3 A copy of the Medway Messenger newspaper advert can be found in Appendix 14.**

**3.10.4 A copy of the Kent & Sussex Courier newspaper adverts can be found in Appendix 15.**

**3.10.5** A press release was also issued to the Medway Messenger, Kent and Sussex Courier, Kent online/Medway, Kent Live, KMFM Radio and Radio Sunlight. The press release contained the following information:

- An overview of the GridLink project;
- Virtual exhibition dates;
- Live chat session details;
- Online public meeting details, including how to register;
- Information point details;
- Contact information including website, Freephone and email.

**3.10.6 A copy of the press release can be found in Appendix 16.**

3.10.7 Kent Online published the following article on Friday 28 August 2020: [Plans for underwater electricity cable between UK and France to be submitted to Medway Council](#)

3.10.8 A screenshot of the Kent Online article can be found in Appendix 17.

3.10.9 Information about the plans was posted on Kent Online and the Medway Messenger's social media pages. Screenshots of the pages are provided below.



## 3.11 Facebook Page and Advert

3.11.1 A dedicated Facebook page for the GridLink project and public consultation was set up on Tuesday 1 September called "A new electricity interconnector from Kingsnorth to Dunkerque".

3.11.2 The page can be accessed via [www.facebook.com/A-new-electricity-interconnector-from-Kingsnorth-to-Dunkergue-107691957732263](https://www.facebook.com/A-new-electricity-interconnector-from-Kingsnorth-to-Dunkergue-107691957732263)

3.11.3 The following information was displayed on the Facebook page and advertisement:

- An overview of the GridLink project;
- Virtual exhibition dates;
- Live chat session details;
- Online public meeting details including how to register;
- Information point details;
- Contact information including website, Freephone and email.

3.11.4 This was promoted via an advertisement and obtained 8,378 impressions up to Friday 11 September.

3.11.5 Facebook events for the live chat session on **Friday 4 September** and the online public meeting on **Friday 11 September** were set up to provide further publicity.

3.11.6 **Screenshots of the GridLink Facebook page and advertisement can be found in Appendix 18.**

## 3.12 Hoo St Werbergh Parish Council Poster

3.12.1 GridLink provided a poster to Hoo St Werbergh Parish Council to advertise and promote the public consultation on notice boards for local residents.

3.12.2 The poster contained the following information:

- An overview of the GridLink project;
- Virtual exhibition dates;
- Live chat session details;
- Online public meeting details including how to register;
- Information point details;
- Contact information including website, Freephone and email.

3.12.3 The two notice boards are located on Main Road, Hoo, close to the shopping centre.

3.12.4 **A copy of the Hoo St Werburgh Parish Council poster can be found in Appendix 19.**

## 3.13 0808 Freephone Telephone

3.13.1 During the consultation, access to a freephone telephone enquiry line was offered to those who wished to find out more about the proposals, register for the online public meeting or give their comments, via the telephone.

3.13.2 The telephone number (0808 196 5569) was in operation Monday-Friday between the hours of 9.00am and 5.30pm. Outside of these hours, a message facility was available for voicemails to be left and responded to at the earliest opportunity to ensure information was readily available and queries or concerns addressed.

3.13.3 Information was given to callers where possible and if questions were of a technical nature, these were passed on to project team members.

3.13.4 Two members of the public telephoned the freephone line. One requested a hard copy of the exhibition boards. These were posted out together with a hard copy of the feedback form and a postage-paid reply envelope. The second caller rang to register for the online public meeting.

## 4 Feedback Forms

### 4.1 Feedback form responses

- 4.1.1 There was one feedback form completed during the virtual exhibition out of a total of 33 people who viewed the form online (out of 198 visitors to the exhibition). There were no email enquiries, responses by post and the two telephone calls asked for information and registration for the online public meeting as detailed in 3.13.4 above.
- 4.1.2 The tables below provide an analysis of the response received to the specific questions asked on the online feedback form. The respondent, a resident from Chattenden, who completed the form did not add any additional comments.

Total no. of responses	Support	No View	Oppose
1	1	0	0

#### Q1. Have you found the information presented at the public consultation helpful in addressing concerns or questions you may have had?

Total no. of responses	Yes	No
1	1	0

#### Q2. Do you have any additional comments with regard to the public consultation or future engagement?

Total no. of responses	Support	No view	Do not support
1	0	1	0

#### Q3. What are your views on the need for electricity interconnectors to improve the links between different countries?

Total no. of responses	Support	No view	Do not support
1	1	0	0

#### Q4. What are your views on the location of the converter station and underground cables at Kingsnorth?

Total no. of responses	Support	No view	Do not support
1	1	0	0

#### Q5. What are your views on the proposed approach to mitigating environmental impacts?

Total no. of responses	Support	No view	Do not support
1	1	0	0



**Q6. What are your views on the submarine cable route in the Medway Estuary and Thames Estuary?**

Total no. of responses	Support	No view	Do not support
1	1	0	0

**Q7. What are your views on the shore crossing of the submarine cable at Kingsnorth?**

Total no. of responses	Support	No view	Do not support
1	1	0	0

**Q8. What are your views on the proposed approach to mitigating environmental impacts?**

Total no. of responses	Support	No view	Do not support
1	1	0	0

**Q9. Do you have any environmental concerns related to the GridLink interconnector project?**

No comments provided	
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**Q10. Do you have any other comments related to the GridLink interconnector project?**

No comments provided	
----------------------	--

## 5 Online Public Meeting

- 5.1 The questions asked and comments made during the online public meeting are summarised below, together with the answers given by GridLink.
- 5.2 **What steps have you taken to ensure that people are consulted effectively during the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown?**
- 5.3 Through our experience of delivering community engagement for projects like this, we have actually seen an increased response from previous projects [for participation in online public meetings compared to face-to-face public meetings]. This is perhaps due to people having more time and greater accessibility due to working from home and having enhanced digital engagement methods.
- 5.4 We are committed to engaging with the community about the plans for the GridLink Interconnector.
- 5.5 We have promoted ways to engage with us through the press, social media and delivered flyers to 4,800 addresses in the Hoo St. Werbergh Parish area. We provided two local information points in public spaces with high footfall, such as parks, which made information publicly available. We have also held briefing meetings with representatives from Medway Council and the Neighbourhood Steering Group.
- 5.6 We understand that these methods are unusual but given the unprecedented circumstances, we have sought to make our consultation as accessible as possible.
- 5.7 **Do you see there being any environmental effects from this project that are not covered by your environmental report?**
- 5.8 As part of putting together a planning application for this development, we are required to assess any effects that this development would have during construction. Our assessments have concluded that there are no significant environmental effects and that any effects will be properly mitigated.
- 5.9 Our report assumes the 'worst case' scenario, so we do not anticipate any further environmental effects arising from this scheme. In fact, any environmental impact may be smaller than mentioned in the report.
- 5.10 **Will your consultation process be ongoing throughout the length of the scheme?**
- 5.11 We are holding consultation events like this public meeting voluntarily; whilst we are not required to as part of the planning process, we are committed to engaging with the local community and those likely to be impacted by the scheme. Our engagement will be ongoing throughout the development of this scheme.
- 5.12 **How do you engage with Medway Council?**
- 5.13 We have been assigned a dedicated case officer within Medway Council and our discussions with Medway Council officers have been ongoing for a number of years now.

- 5.14 **What is your experience on delivering projects of this scale?**
- 5.15 We have brought together a project team that has a lot of experience within this field and has a strong track record of delivering projects of this nature, from handling the consultation process, navigating the planning process, to managing the construction of the scheme.
- 5.16 Intertek is a marine consultant and has worked on many schemes similar to GridLink's scheme. Like the rest of the team, the company went through a bidding process to be chosen to be part of project.
- 5.17 Intertek always learn lessons from every project it works on and builds on their experience. For instance, they have worked before on projects affecting the Thames Estuary and this stood them in good stead to engage effectively with the marine community for the GridLink project.
- 5.18 **This project will extend over to France. Have there been efforts to engage with those in the French fishing industry that may be impacted by the scheme?**
- 5.19 Yes, there have been efforts to ensure that anyone likely to be affected by the scheme has a chance to engage with us about the scheme. We have a dedicated fisheries liaison officer in the UK and we are making efforts to have similar engagements in France.
- 5.20 We will be holding similar consultation events in France, such as a virtual public meeting.
- 5.21 **Will this scheme only be used by the UK?**
- 5.22 The interconnector can only transport energy – we cannot transmit our own power under EU law. Therefore, anyone can rent the capacity of the interconnector, whether that be from the UK to France, or France to the UK. There are therefore benefits for both countries.
- 5.23 This provides further benefits, for example, if there is surplus energy from the UK, the interconnector can be used to provide energy to France and vice versa, thereby maximising the use of renewable energy.
- 5.24 **Will the scheme be affected by Brexit?**
- 5.25 From an engineering and commercial perspective, no.
- 5.26 Economically, there have already been assessments into the financial implications of Brexit on this project, such as the exchange rate for the pound to the euro or trading under WTO rules. There have also been assessments into the expected usage from France and the other European countries, to ensure that there is demand for the interconnector. The assessments conclude that the benefits of the project are not affected by Brexit.
- 5.27 Politically, there are many benefits from this scheme for both the UK and the EU economically and – through providing renewable energy – environmentally.
- 5.28 **Has your consultation feedback been affected by being virtual, rather than in person?**
- 5.29 The consultation process for the GridLink Interconnector includes both virtual methods such as a virtual exhibition, public meetings and online feedback forms, and physical methods such as arranging for copies of exhibition boards to be posted and offering physical feedback forms with freepost envelopes.

- 5.30 Offering both virtual and physical engagement methods help to ensure the local community and stakeholders can readily access information and engage with the consultation process for this scheme, despite the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

## 6 Post-Application Consultation

### 6.1 Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement

- 6.1.1 GridLink will ensure that information continually flows through existing channels to interested parties, particularly using the website <https://gridlinkinterconnector.com/> as a mechanism to provide updated information as the project progresses.
- 6.1.2 GridLink will also respond positively to any requests for meetings or teleconferences with stakeholders to continue and enhance the communications to date.

### 6.2 Updating Materials

- 6.2.1 The materials available on the website, <https://gridlinkinterconnector.com/> will be updated at key milestones and whenever there is a significant change to the GridLink project.
- 6.2.2 The virtual exhibition will remain in place until completion of the development consent procedures, expected in early 2021.

### 6.3 Updating the Community

- 6.3.1 GridLink will update all persons who register an interest in being kept informed via the website or acknowledged that they wish to be updated on the feedback forms.
- 6.3.2 GridLink will also issue press releases through local printed media, radio and social media when significant milestones are achieved or events occur.

## 7 Conclusion

- 7.1 This Statement of Community Involvement summarises the extensive engagement activities, consultation and feedback received during the pre-application period. Through these activities, the applicant has demonstrated its commitment to conduct an early and proactive programme of community involvement.
- 7.2 The GridLink website, 0808 phone number and email address will remain active throughout the development phase, providing the opportunity for ongoing stakeholder engagement and communications from interested parties.
- 7.3 The applicant will continue to engage proactively and positively with stakeholders and the public to inform them about the progress of the project to seek further feedback from the community.

## 8 Appendices

**Appendix 1** – Statement of Virtual Consultation

**Appendix 2** – Website Homepage

**Appendix 3** – Virtual Exhibition Homepage

**Appendix 4** – Virtual Exhibition Boards

**Appendix 5** – Virtual Exhibition Feedback Form

**Appendix 6** – Public Meeting Registration Form

**Appendix 7** – Hard Copy Feedback Form

**Appendix 8** – Pull-up Banner

**Appendix 9** – Dockside Outlet Centre Information Point

**Appendix 10** – Riverside Country Park Café Information Point

**Appendix 11** – Consultation Flyer

**Appendix 12** – Project Leaflet

**Appendix 13** – Non-Technical Summary

**Appendix 14** – Medway Messenger Newspaper Advert

**Appendix 15** – Kent & Sussex Courier Newspaper Advert

**Appendix 16** – Press Release

**Appendix 17** – Media Coverage

**Appendix 18** – Facebook Page/Advert

**Appendix 19** – Hoo St Werburgh Parish Council Poster



# Appendix 1 – Statement of Virtual Consultation

## GridLink Interconnector Statement of Virtual Consultation

### 1. Introduction

GridLink will shortly be submitting an outline planning application to Medway Council for its proposed interconnector project. The GridLink Interconnector Project is a 1,400MW high voltage electricity cable that will provide a link for transmission of electricity between the national grids of the UK and France.

The cable connects the National Grid 400 kV sub-station at Kingsnorth in Kent, UK to the RTE 400 kV sub-station at Warande near Dunkerque in Nord Region, France.

The cable route passes through the Medway Estuary and Thames Estuary, before turning south-east to cross the southern North Sea to the French coast.

### 2. COVID-19

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic it has become necessary to change the original plans to hold a series of public exhibitions and a public meeting at venues in the local area. Our intention was to host public exhibitions (subject to availability) during mid-September at:

- Hoo Village Hall
- Dockside Shopping Centre
- Riverside Park Café

Additionally, our plans included a public meeting to be held in the evening at Hoo Village Hall or other local venue. However, at this stage we have been unable to secure a venue for the public exhibitions and public meeting. Many local venues are either completely closed or are only operating on minimal opening hours, with restrictions in place for entry. Sample venues contacted include:

Venue	Availability
Hoo Sports Centre	Reopens on 15 August but limited to restricted gym/sports classes
Hoo Institute	Reopens on 17 August but no guests allowed
Hoo Library	Currently opening on very limited opening hours
Hoo St Werbergh Church	Only open for religious services at the moment
Hoo Village Hall	Not available on September weekdays but possibly at weekends with restrictions
Riverside Park Café	The café is open, but only for takeaways served at the hatchery. However, they can accommodate an information point
Dockside Shopping Centre	Could potentially be offered an empty unit, but there are too many restrictions in place on number of visitors at any one time. However, they can accommodate an information point

As it is unclear how long the restrictions will be in place for public facing meetings, we are now proposing to host virtual public exhibitions and an online public meeting. Such a virtual process has been endorsed as best practice by the National Infrastructure Planning Association.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.nipa-uk.org/uploads/news/NIPA\\_paper\\_on\\_DCOs\\_and\\_the\\_coronavirus\\_pandemic\\_21\\_April\\_2020\\_.pdf](https://www.nipa-uk.org/uploads/news/NIPA_paper_on_DCOs_and_the_coronavirus_pandemic_21_April_2020_.pdf)

### **3. Virtual Exhibition**

Virtual exhibitions have been used very successfully in recent times to inform local communities about developments in their area and to provide opportunities for local residents and stakeholders to record their views and feedback about development proposals.

It is intended that a virtual exhibition is set up on the project website, clearly showing people where they can provide feedback on our plans. The virtual exhibition will display exactly the same material that would have been used as part of a traditional public exhibition, with the option to join a live chat session with members of the project team during one of the days. The virtual exhibition will be highly visible from the website home page and an extra tab will be added to the website during the consultation period. Once inside the virtual exhibition, visitors will be guided to the information boards and the online feedback form. The schedule for the public exhibition is:

- Live exhibition with feedback mechanism running from Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August until Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September. Available online through the project website
- Live chat session with members of the project team on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September from 16.30 to 20.30

For interested parties without access to the internet, copies of the exhibition boards and the feedback form (together with a postage-paid envelope) will be provided on request.

### **4. Online Public Meeting**

GridLink will host an online public meeting on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020 from 18.30 to 20.30. The meeting will be set via the online platform GoToMeeting (This facility can accommodate up to 250 people in a live session). Additionally, a telephone number will be provided to enable those without access to the internet the opportunity to dial in and join the meeting.

Presentations will be made by members of the project team and there will be a live question and answer session. Attendees will be asked to provide any interim questions they have prior to the meeting so that we can tailor the presentations.

### **5. Registering for the public meeting**

Interested parties will be requested to register their interest in attending the online public meeting. The form will ask attendees to provide an email address so that the link can be sent to them in advance of the meeting. In addition to the link, dial in numbers and access codes will be issued for those without access to the internet. The form will also provide an opportunity to ask questions in advance.

People will be able to register via a number of means:

- Highly visible registration form available through the website
- Email
- 0800 freephone number

### **6. Information Points**

GridLink has managed to secure two venues for displaying information about the project and how residents can find out more. Literature such as the project leaflet, Non-Technical Summary and a flyer about the consultation programme will be available in the lead up to the public meeting date. The information points will be displayed at:

- Dockside Shopping Outlet
- Riverside Park Café

### **7. Consultation Flyer**

A consultation flyer will provide all the necessary dates and contact details for the online consultation and will be displayed at the information points. This will include:

- Website for virtual exhibition and the dates available
- Details of the “live chat” session
- Online public meeting – date and time
- How to register for the public meeting
- Freephone 0800 number for people without access to the internet to request further information, attend the public meeting or to order a hard copy of the public exhibition material, including the online questionnaire
- Dedicated email address

## 8. Publicising the events

The virtual public exhibition and public meeting, in addition to the information points, will be publicised across a number of channels including:

- Advertisements in the local print and online newspapers
  - Medway Messenger
  - Kent and Sussex Courier (part of Kent Live)
- Social media (Facebook and Twitter see table below)
- Posters for Hoo Parish Council noticeboards
- Press releases to local broadcast and printed media
  - Medway Messenger
  - Kent Online
  - Kent Live
  - KMFM Radio
  - Radio Sunlight

The below table shows identified social media accounts that will be approached to provide publicity of the virtual consultation.

Name/Organisation	Role	Handle
Hoo St Werbergh Parish Council	Local Parish Council	Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/HooParishCouncil/">https://www.facebook.com/HooParishCouncil/</a>
Medway Messenger	Media	Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/MedwayMessenger/">https://www.facebook.com/MedwayMessenger/</a> Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/MedwayMessenger">https://twitter.com/MedwayMessenger</a>
Kent Online/ Medway	Media	Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/KentOnline/">https://www.facebook.com/KentOnline/</a> Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/Kent_Online">https://twitter.com/Kent_Online</a>
Kent Live (includes the Kent and Sussex Courier)	Media	Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/kentlivenews/">https://www.facebook.com/kentlivenews/</a> Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/KSCourier">https://twitter.com/KSCourier</a>
KMFM Radio	Media	Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/kmfmoofficial/">https://www.facebook.com/kmfmoofficial/</a> Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/kmfmoofficial">https://twitter.com/kmfmoofficial</a>
Radio Sunlight	Media	Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/RadioSunlight/">https://www.facebook.com/RadioSunlight/</a> Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/radiosunlight">https://twitter.com/radiosunlight</a>

## **8. Contact methods**


Interested parties will be able to contact members of the project team through a variety of means:

- Dedicated 0808 number, which will be live throughout the consultation period
- Project email address
- Contact us form via the website

The 0808 number will be available Monday to Friday from 09.00 to 17.30. Outside of these hours a messaging service will be provided with instant relaying of recorded messages to members of the project team.

The Freephone information line will remain live throughout the consultation process, providing those without access to the internet an opportunity to request paper copies of the consultation materials hosted at the virtual exhibition, raise queries with the project team and to join the public meeting via the telephone.


## Appendix 2 – Website Homepage



UK Virtual Exhibition

English Français


HOMEABOUT USPROJECT INFORMATIONPUBLIC CONSULTATIONTIMELINETENDERSLATEST NEWSCONTACT US




# PORT OF DUNKERQUE

GRIDLINK INTERCONNECTOR IN NUMBERS


2025 COMPLETION





1.4GW INTERCONNECTOR

153KM CABLE



## IMPROVING THE SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY IN EUROPE

GridLink interconnector is a new 1.4GW high voltage electricity interconnector between UK and France helping each country to meet its energy needs for the next 25 years.

Once operational, GridLink will transport sufficient electricity to supply 2.2 million households in France and the UK.

### Introducing GridLink

GridLink is a significant new infrastructure project that will lay two High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) cables under the sea to connect Dunkerque in France and Kingsnorth in UK.

Its total subsea route length will be 137km, making it one of the shortest interconnectors between UK and Europe. GridLink is a major step forward in addressing UK and France's future energy needs.

GridLink has been selected as a Project of Common Interest (PCI) by the European Commission. PCIs are key cross border infrastructure projects that link the energy systems of European countries to help achieve energy policy and climate change objectives. As a PCI, GridLink has also been successful in securing a development funding grant of up to €15.1 million from the Connecting Europe Facility, a European funding initiative developed to direct investment into strategic infrastructure projects.

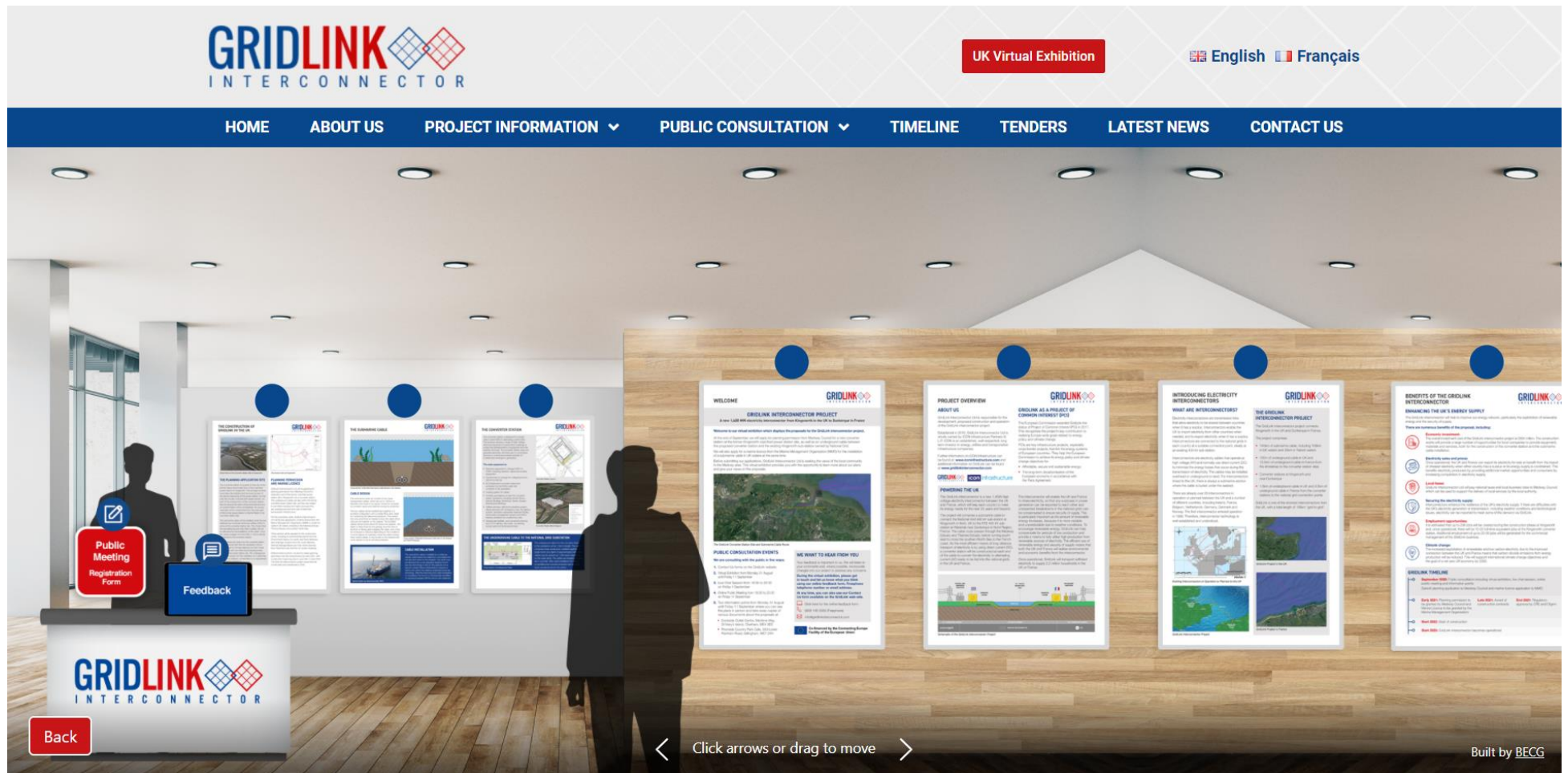
LATEST NEWS>

PROJECT OF COMMON INTEREST>

LE RÉSEAU DE TRANSPORT D'ÉLECTRICITÉ>

CONTACT US>

## Appendix 3 – Virtual Exhibition Homepage





## Appendix 4 – Virtual Exhibition Boards

# WELCOME



## GRIDLINK INTERCONNECTOR PROJECT

**A new 1,400 MW electricity interconnector from Kingsnorth in the UK to Dunkerque in France**

Welcome to our virtual exhibition which displays the proposals for the GridLink interconnector project.

At the end of September, we will apply for planning permission from Medway Council for a new converter station at the former Kingsnorth coal-fired power station site, as well as an underground cable between the proposed converter station and the existing Kingsnorth sub-station owned by National Grid.

We will also apply for a marine licence from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) for the installation of a submarine cable in UK waters at the same time.

Before submitting our applications, GridLink Interconnector Ltd is seeking the views of the local community in the Medway area. This virtual exhibition provides you with the opportunity to learn more about our plans and give your views on the proposals.



*The GridLink Converter Station Site and Submarine Cable Route*

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENTS

We are consulting with the public in five ways:

1. Contact Us forms on the GridLink website
2. Virtual Exhibition from Monday 31 August until Friday 11 September
3. Live Chat Session from 16:30 to 20:30 on Friday 4 September
4. Online Public Meeting from 18:30 to 20:30 on Friday 11 September
5. Two information points from Monday 31 August until Friday 11 September where you can see the plans in person and take away copies of various documents about the proposals at:
  - Dockside Outlet Centre, Maritime Way, St Mary's Island, Chatham, ME4 3ED
  - Riverside Country Park Café, 333 Lower Rainham Road, Gillingham, ME7 2XH

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU**

Your feedback is important to us. We will listen to your comments and, where possible, incorporate changes into our project to address any concerns.

During the virtual exhibition, please get in touch and let us know what you think using our online feedback form, Freephone telephone number or email address.

At any time, you can also use our Contact Us form available on the GridLink web-site.

-  Click here for the online feedback form  
 0800 196 5569 (Freephone)  
 [info@gridlinkinterconnector.com](mailto:info@gridlinkinterconnector.com)



Co-financed by the Connecting Europe  
Facility of the European Union



## PROJECT OVERVIEW



### ABOUT US

GridLink Interconnector Ltd is responsible for the development, proposed construction and operation of the GridLink interconnector project.

Established in 2016, GridLink Interconnector Ltd is wholly owned by ICON Infrastructure Partners III, L.P. ICON is an established, well-respected, long term investor in energy, utilities and transportation infrastructure companies.

Further information on ICON Infrastructure can be found at: [www.iconinfrastructure.com](http://www.iconinfrastructure.com) and additional information on GridLink can be found at [www.gridlinkinterconnector.com](http://www.gridlinkinterconnector.com).



### GRIDLINK AS A PROJECT OF COMMON INTEREST (PCI)

The European Commission awarded GridLink the status of Project of Common Interest (PCI) in 2017. This recognises the project's key contribution to realising Europe-wide goals related to energy policy and climate change.

PCIs are key infrastructure projects, especially cross-border projects, that link the energy systems of European countries. They help the European Commission to achieve its energy policy and climate change objectives for:

- Affordable, secure and sustainable energy;
- The long-term decarbonisation of the European economy in accordance with the Paris Agreement.

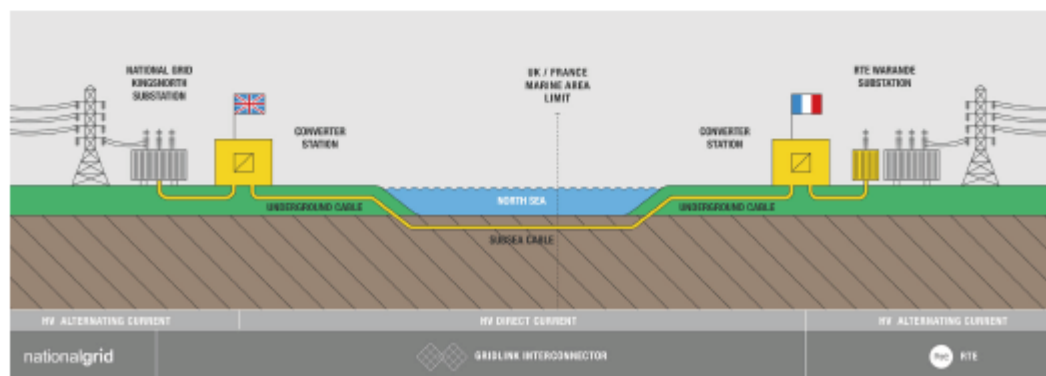
### POWERING THE UK

The GridLink interconnector is a new 1.4GW high voltage electricity interconnector between the UK and France, which will help each country to meet its energy needs for the next 25 years and beyond.

The project will comprise a submarine cable to connect the National Grid 400 kV sub-station at Kingsnorth in Kent, UK to the RTE 400 kV sub-station at Warande near Dunkerque in Nord Region, France. The cable route passes through the Medway Estuary and Thames Estuary, before turning south-east to cross the southern North Sea to the French coast. As the most efficient means of long distance transport of electricity is by using direct current (DC), a converter station will be constructed at each end of the cable to convert the electricity to alternating current (AC) ready to be fed into the national grids in the UK and France.

The interconnector will enable the UK and France to share electricity, so that any surpluses in power generation can be exported to each other and unexpected breakdowns in the national grids can be compensated to ensure security of supply. This is particularly important as the amount of renewable energy increases, because it is more variable and unpredictable due to weather conditions. To encourage renewable energy, GridLink can help compensate for periods of low production and provide a means to fully utilise high production from renewable sources of electricity. The efficient use of renewable energy and security of supply means that both the UK and France will realise environmental and economic benefits from the interconnector.

Once operational, GridLink will transport sufficient electricity to supply 2.2 million households in the UK or France.



Schematic of the GridLink Interconnector Project

# INTRODUCING ELECTRICITY INTERCONNECTORS

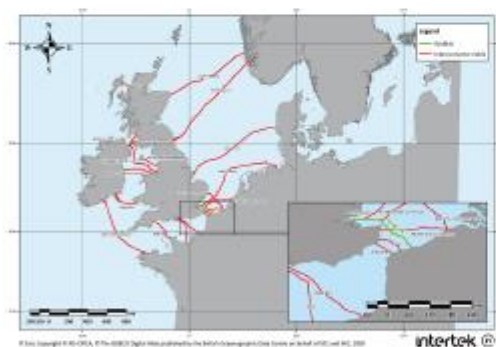


## WHAT ARE INTERCONNECTORS?

Electricity interconnectors are transmission links that allow electricity to be shared between countries when it has a surplus. Interconnectors enable the UK to import electricity from other countries when needed, and to export electricity when it has a surplus. Interconnectors are connected to the national grids in each country at a suitable connection point, ideally at an existing 400 kV sub-station.

Interconnectors are electricity cables that operate at high voltage (HV) and normally use direct current (DC) to minimise the energy losses that occur during the transmission of electricity. The cables may be installed overhead or underground on land. For interconnectors linked to the UK, there is always a submarine section where the cable is buried under the seabed.

There are already over 20 interconnectors in operation or planned between the UK and a number of different countries, including Ireland, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Denmark and Norway. The first interconnector entered operation in 1986. Therefore, interconnector technology is well-established and understood.



Existing Interconnectors in Operation or Planned to the UK



GridLink Interconnector Project

## THE GRIDLINK INTERCONNECTOR PROJECT

The GridLink interconnector project connects Kingsnorth in the UK and Dunkerque in France.

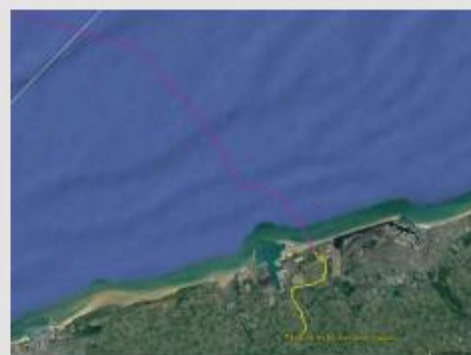
The project comprises:

- 140km of submarine cable, including 108km in UK waters and 32km in French waters
- 100m of underground cable in UK and 13.5km of underground cable in France from the shorelines to the converter station sites
- Converter stations at Kingsnorth and near Dunkerque
- 1.5km of underground cable in UK and 3.5km of underground cable in France from the converter stations to the national grid connection points

GridLink is one of the shortest interconnectors from the UK, with a total length of 159km "grid to grid".



GridLink Project in the UK

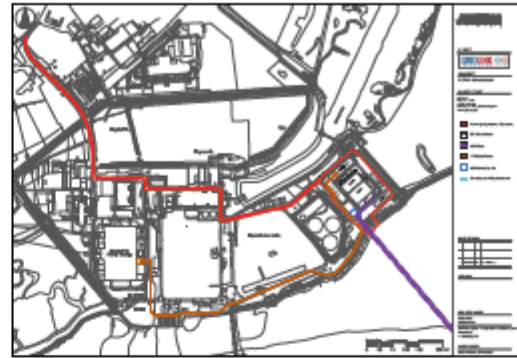


GridLink Project in France

## 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.

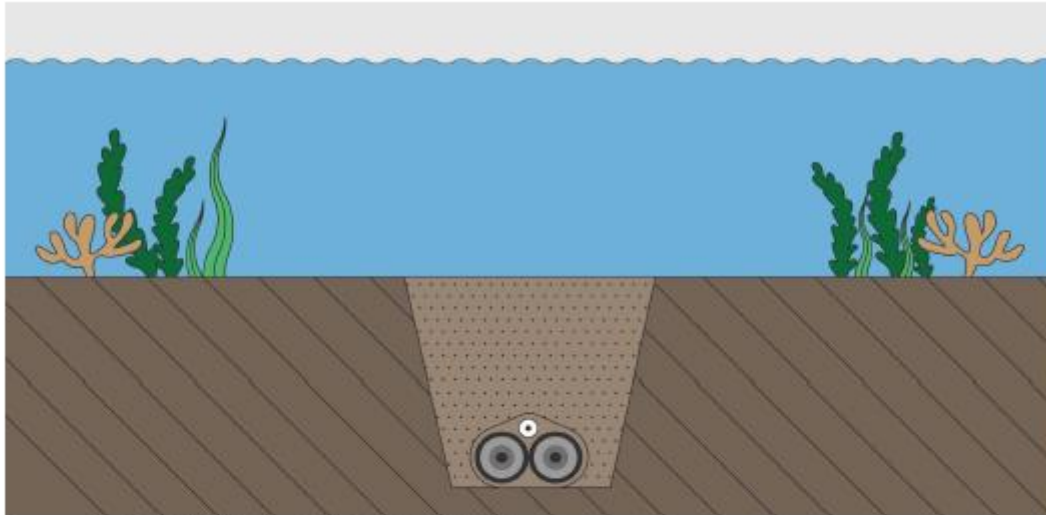
For the submarine cable, GridLink Interconnector Ltd will be also applying for a marine licence from the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to install the cable in UK waters, including in the Medway Estuary, Thames Estuary and southern North Sea.

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.



## THE SUBMARINE CABLE

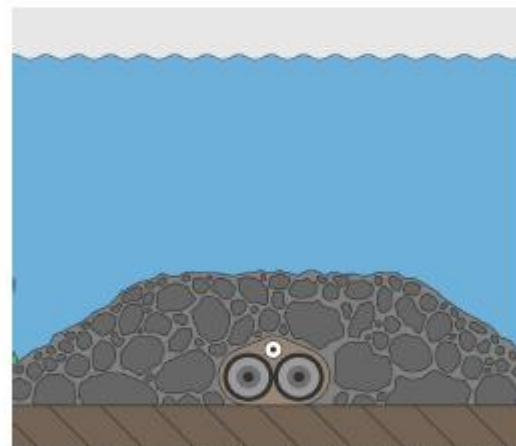


*Cross-section of Bundled Submarine Cable Buried in the Seabed*

### CABLE DESIGN

The submarine cable will consist of two mass impregnated cables, which are up to 150mm in diameter and made of a copper conductor encased by insulation layers and steel armouring for protection.

The two cables will be installed tied together in a bundled configuration with a smaller fibre-optic cable for monitoring and telecommunications. This means that only one trench is needed to bury the cable which reduces the footprint on the seabed. The bundled cables will be buried about 2m below the seabed – the depth is determined by the geology and the risks of anchors or fishing gear snagging the cable, and it may be increased or reduced depending on the conditions. In some places, for example where the cable crosses other buried cables, it may be laid on the seabed with rocks placed on top to provide protection.



*Cross-section of Bundled Submarine Cable laid on the Seabed with Rock Protection*



*Typical Cable-Lay Vessel (courtesy: NKT)*

### CABLE INSTALLATION

The submarine cable is installed by a cable-lay vessel, which feeds the cable from a turntable into the sea and down to the seabed. The cable may be directed into a pre-prepared seabed trench (pre-lay trenching) or laid on the seabed and a second vessel follows afterwards to prepare a trench into which the cable is positioned (post-lay trenching). After the trenching and cable installation is completed, the trench is mechanically backfilled or natural processes infill the trench with sediment.

## THE CONVERTER STATION

The converter station is designed to convert direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC). The process requires a range of high voltage electrical equipment housed within buildings to protect the sensitive items of equipment from the weather and dust. The converter station does not generate electricity, and there are no combustion sources or chemical processes (except for a diesel-fired emergency generator).

### The main equipment is:

- Electrical equipment to change HVDC to HVAC, including reactors, valves and ancillary equipment;
- Transformers to change the voltage level from 525 kV to 400 kV;
- AC Switchyard to provide control and protection for the HVAC cable that connects to the substation;
- Cooling system for valves;
- Ancillary and balance of plant for converter station operations, including Control Room, Service Building, Workshop, Stores, Spares/ Maintenance Building;
- Utilities services, telecommunications system, diesel generator (for emergency use), fire-fighting system, domestic wastewater treatment facility, stormwater management system and HVA/C heating-ventilation-air conditioning units;
- General site facilities, such as security fencing and CCTV, lighting, site roads, car parking, access gate and landscaped areas.

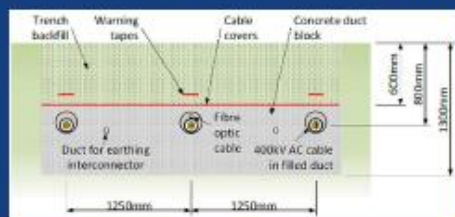


Converter Station Layout



Converter Station Block Diagram

## THE UNDERGROUND CABLE TO THE NATIONAL GRID SUBSTATION



Cross-section of Underground Cable

The underground cable from the converter station to the substation will be 1.5km in length. The cable comprises three conductors, installed together in a single trench at a depth of approximately 0.8m. The cables may be spaced up to 1.25m apart depending on the cable rating. The cables are installed in ducts set in concrete. After cable installation the trench is backfilled and concrete protection and warning layers are placed above the cables.

## BENEFITS OF THE GRIDLINK INTERCONNECTOR



### ENHANCING THE UK'S ENERGY SUPPLY

The GridLink interconnector will help to improve our energy network, particularly the exploitation of renewable energy and the security of supply.

There are numerous benefits of the proposal, including:



#### **Economic investment:**

The overall investment cost of the GridLink interconnector project is £800 million. The construction works will provide a large number of opportunities for local companies to provide equipment, materials and services, both for the construction of the converter station and the submarine cable installation.



#### **Electricity sales and prices:**

Once operational, the UK and France can export its electricity for sale or benefit from the import of cheaper electricity when either country has a surplus or its energy supply is constrained. This benefits electricity producers by providing additional market opportunities and consumers by increasing competition in electricity supply.



#### **Local taxes:**

GridLink Interconnector Ltd will pay national taxes and local business rates to Medway Council, which can be used to support the delivery of local services by the local authority.



#### **Securing the electricity supply:**

Interconnectors enhance the resilience of the UK's electricity supply. If there are difficulties with the UK's electricity generation or transmission, including weather conditions and technological issues, electricity can be imported to meet some of the demand via GridLink.



#### **Employment opportunities:**

It is estimated that up to 200 jobs will be created during the construction phase at Kingsnorth and, once operational, there will be 10-20 full-time equivalent jobs at the Kingsnorth converter station. Additional employment of up to 20-30 jobs will be generated for the commercial management of the GridLink business.



#### **Climate change:**

The increased exploitation of renewables and low carbon electricity due to the improved connection between the UK and France means that carbon dioxide emissions from energy production will be reduced. This will support international climate change objectives and the goal of a net zero UK economy by 2050.

### GRIDLINK TIMELINE





## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS



### GRIDLINK AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The GridLink interconnector project will offer a significant benefit to the achievement of climate change objectives of the UK and European Union.

By improving the transmission network available to renewable energy, it will enable surplus renewable energy that currently cannot be exploited to be imported/exported and also provide security of supply from other energy sources if renewable energy is lower than expected. This will encourage the full use of renewable resources to displace fossil fuels and reduce carbon emissions as a result.

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

GridLink Interconnector Ltd is committed to high standards of environmental management for the lifetime of the project.

Like all interconnector projects, GridLink involves the construction of converter stations and installation of submarine and underground cables, which inevitably have the potential to cause environmental impacts.

However, the potential environmental effects can be avoided or minimised by the appropriate design of the project and its implementation, including converter station site selection, cable route selection, choice of technology, building design, construction techniques and operating systems.

**Detailed environmental studies have assessed the potential impacts and risks to the environment from the project, which fall into six main categories:**

- Disruption to shipping, navigation and fishing;
- Disturbance of protected ecological sites, marine organisms (fish, whales and dolphins, etc), archaeological sites or wrecks by cable installation vessels, underwater noise, sediment in the water column and/or lighting;
- Changes to seabed conditions after the submarine cable is installed, resulting in changes to sedimentation, seabed scour and snagging hazards for anchors and fishing gear;
- Temporary disturbance of local residents and ecological impacts from construction activities, vehicles and workers, including construction traffic, noise and lighting;
- Visual and landscape impact from converter station buildings;
- Operational noise from the converter station.

The key environmental sensitivities near to the converter station site and submarine cable route are the protected environmental sites comprising the intertidal mudflats along the Medway Estuary, anchorages and shipping lanes, and fishing grounds for shellfish (cockles, oysters) and fish.

Environmental studies and assessments of these and other environmental impacts have been carried out by independent environmental consultants on behalf of GridLink. The environmental reports will be included as part of the planning application and marine licence application.

Extensive surveys and consultations with navigation authorities, fishermen associations, other marine users and environmental organisations have been carried out to inform the environmental assessments and make sure that local issues and sensitivities are properly considered.

By taking this information into account and incorporating mitigation measures into the GridLink project, we are confident that the new interconnector will be compatible with its surroundings and co-exist with existing marine users without any significant environmental impacts.



*Drop Down Video Survey of the Seabed*

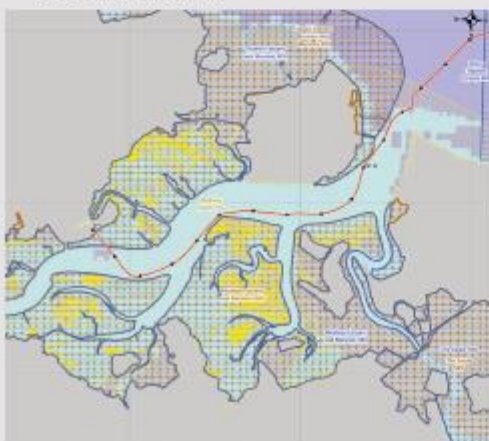
## 10 WAYS THAT GRIDLINK IS MINIMISING ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS



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.



*Designated Environmental Sites in the Medway Estuary*



*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.



## NEXT STEPS



Thank you for viewing our virtual exhibition – we hope you found the information helpful.

GridLink Interconnector Ltd is committed to consulting with the local community and, before submitting our planning application to Medway Council and marine licence application to the Marine Management Organisation, we would be grateful if you would take the time to complete an online feedback form.

### KEY DATES

#### Virtual Exhibition

- The virtual exhibition is available to view online from Monday 31 August until Friday 11 September 2020

#### Live Chat Session

- A live chat session with members of the project team will be held between 16.30 and 20.30 on Friday 4 September

#### Online Public Meeting

- An online public meeting will be held from 18.30 to 20.30 on Friday 11 September. Anyone can register to attend this meeting, which will be hosted on the online meeting platform GoToMeeting. Dial in details will be provided for those without access to the internet. Please contact us to find out more

#### Information Points

- Two information points are in place from Monday 31 August until Friday 11 September
- The two information points are located at:
  - Dockside Outlet Centre, Maritime Way, St Mary's Island, Chatham, ME4 3ED
  - Riverside Country Park Café, 333 Lower Rainham Road, Gillingham, ME7 2XH
- The information points will have copies of our information leaflet, flyer, non-technical summary and the virtual exhibition boards



View Our Plans Online



Visit our Web-site



Participate in our Public Consultations

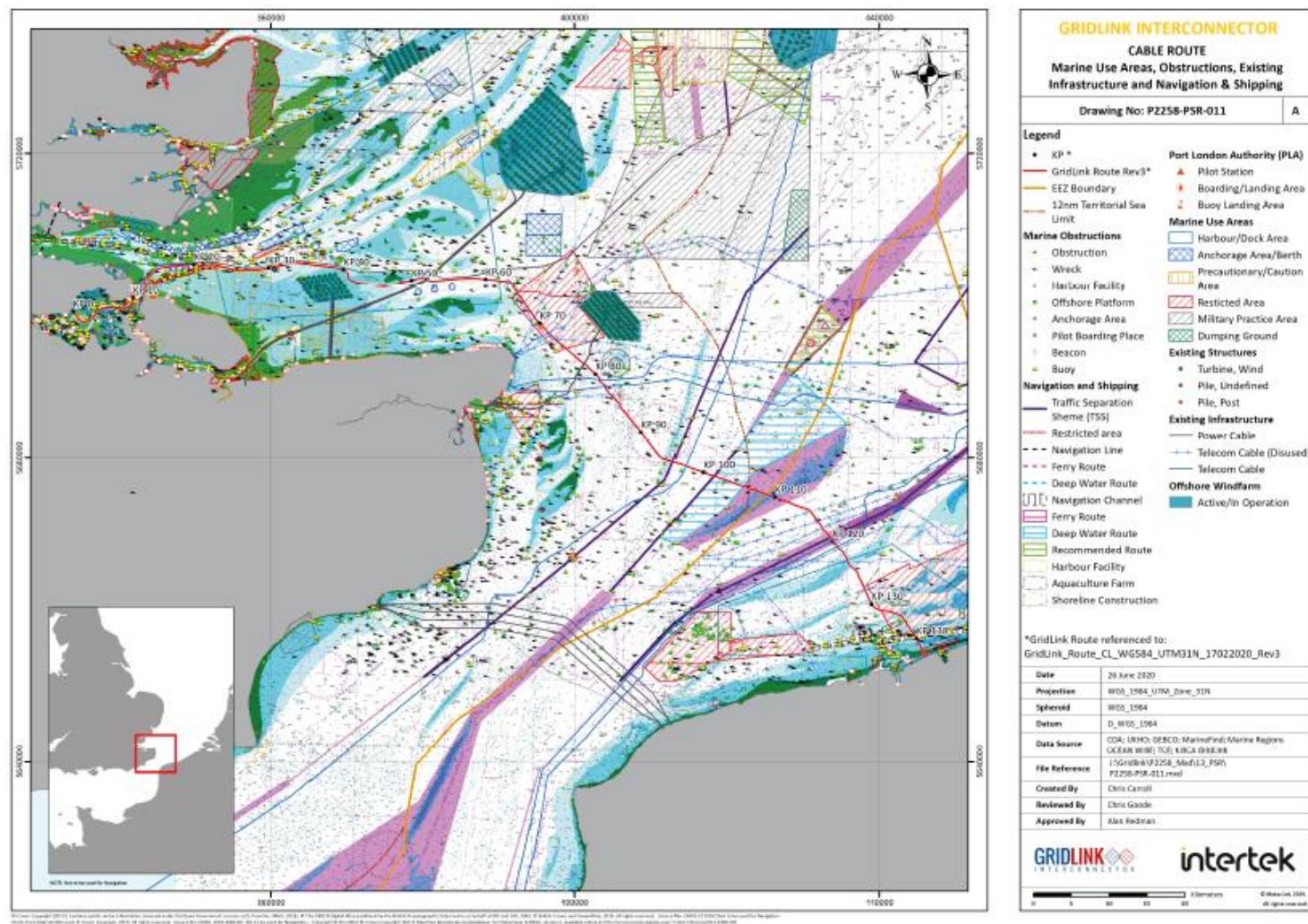
### HAVE YOUR SAY

Please get in touch and let us know what you think using our online feedback form, Freephone number or email address.

- Click here for the online feedback form
- 0808 196 5569 (Freephone)
- [info@gridlinkinterconnector.com](mailto:info@gridlinkinterconnector.com)







## Appendix 5 – Virtual Exhibition Feedback Form

### Feedback

Step 1 of 7

14%

#### Privacy Statement

By filling-in this online form you are agreeing that BECG can hold and process your personal data in relation to this public consultation exercise.

- BECG will only share your personal data with the project team for planning evaluation purposes only.
- Your identifiable, personal data will not be used for any other purposes without your consent.

BECG will use your data to:

- Send you updates about the project (where you provide us with your contact details).
- Develop a Statement of Community Consultation (or similar document) about this public consultation that will be submitted to the planning authority or similar body; this will be a publicly available document. Your comments will be anonymous, and we will only identify you in these reports with your express permission.

If you provide us with your contact details, we might also contact you to ask you more about the comments you've made.

BECG acts on behalf of GridLink Interconnector Ltd to run public consultation activities.

#### Your details

If you choose not to fill in all parts of this section, we will not be able to include your comments in the consultation process.

**Name \***

▼

Title First name or initial Last

**Postcode \***

**Age group \***

☐ Under 13

☐ 13-17

☐ 18-24

☐ 25-34

☐ 35-44

☐ 45-54

☐ 55-64

☐ 65-74

☐ 75-84

☐ 85+

#### Your contact details

We will use these details to contact you and update you on the proposals. You don't have to fill in this section if you'd rather we didn't contact you.

**Address**

Address 1 Address 2 Town/City County

**Email**

**Telephone**

If you would like to receive updates about the project, please check the appropriate box below, otherwise, leave blank.

☐ Email

☐ Post

☐ Telephone

Next

# Feedback



Step 2 of 7

28%

## Public consultations

**Have you found the information presented at the public consultation helpful in addressing concerns or questions you may have had?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

**Do you have any additional comments with regard to the public consultation or future engagement?**

Previous

Next

# Feedback

Step 3 of 7

42%

## Need for interconnectors

What are your views on the need for electricity interconnectors to improve the links between different countries?

☐ Support

☐ Do not support

☐ No view

## Comments

Previous

Next

## Feedback

Step 4 of 7

57%

### Converter statios

**What are your views on the location of the converter station and underground cables at Kingsnorth?**

☐ Support

☐ Do not support

☐ No view

**What are your views on the proposed approach to mitigating environmental impacts?**

☐ Support

☐ Do not support

☐ No view

### Comments

Previous

Next

## Feedback

Step 5 of 7

71%

### Submarine cable route

What are your views on the submarine cable route in the Medway Estuary and Thames Estuary?

☐ Support

☐ Do not support

☐ No view

What are your views on the shore crossing of the submarine cable at Kingsnorth?

☐ Support

☐ Do not support

☐ No view

What are your views on the proposed approach to mitigating environmental impacts?

☐ Support

☐ Do not support

☐ No view

### Comments

Previous

Next



# Feedback

Step 6 of 7

85%

## Environmental concerns

Do you have any environmental concerns related to the GridLink interconnector project?

Previous

Next

## Feedback

Step 7 of 7

100%

### Further comments

Do you have any other comments related to the GridLink interconnector project?

☐ I'm not a robot



### Data Protection

We hold all personal data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679 and your personal data will not be transferred outside of the European Economic Area. You can see our full Privacy Statement, Data Protection Policy, Data Retention Policy and find out how to make a Subject Access Request at the following website address [becg.com/dp](https://becg.com/dp) or by contacting us on 01962 893 893 / [dataprotection@becg.com](mailto:dataprotection@becg.com).

Previous

Submit

## Appendix 6 – Online Public Meeting Registration Form



### GridLink Interconnector Project - Online Public Meeting

Fri, Sep 11, 2020 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM BST

[Show in My Time Zone](#)

#### GRIDLINK INTERCONNECTOR PROJECT

A new 1,400 MW electricity interconnector from Kingsnorth in the UK to Dunkerque in France.

The GridLink Interconnector Project is a 1,400MW high voltage electricity cable that will provide a link for transmission of electricity between the national grids of the UK and France.

The cable connects the National Grid 400 kV sub-station at Kingsnorth in Kent, UK to the RTE 400 kV sub-station at Warande near Dunkerque in Nord Region, France.

The subsea cable route passes through the Medway Estuary and Thames Estuary, before turning south-east to cross the southern North Sea to the French coast. A converter station will be constructed at the former Kingsnorth power station site, together with a short underground electricity cable to the National Grid sub-station.

\*Required field

First Name\*

Last Name\*

Email Address\*

Zip/Postal Code\*

☐ By clicking this button, you submit your information to the webinar organizer, who will use it to communicate with you regarding this event.

Register

# Appendix 7 – Hard Copy Feedback Form

## FEEDBACK FORM PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Proposals for the GridLink Interconnector



Thank you for taking the time to consider the proposals for the new GridLink Interconnector Project. Please let us know your thoughts on our proposals by filling out and submitting this feedback form.

### PRIVACY STATEMENT

By filling in this form, you are agreeing that Built Environment Communications Group ("BECG") can hold and process your personal data in relation to this public consultation exercise.

- BECG will only use your personal data for the purpose of reviewing feedback on the GridLink proposals.
- Your identifiable, personal data will not be used for any other purposes without your consent.

BECG will use your data to:

- Send you updates about the project (where you provide us with your contact details and request such information to be provided).
- Develop a Statement of Community Involvement (or similar document) about this public consultation that will be submitted to the planning authority or similar body; this will be a publicly available document. Your comments will be anonymous.

We may also contact you to ask more about the comments you've made to ensure that our understanding is correct.

BECG acts on behalf of GridLink Interconnector Ltd as the organiser of the public consultation activities.

### PLEASE COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS IN BLOCK CAPITALS

Once completed, please fold this feedback form and post it back to us using the free post envelope provided.

#### YOUR DETAILS

If you choose not to fill in all parts of this section, we will not be able to include your comments in the consultation process.

Title (Miss/Mrs/Ms/Mr/Other):

First Name or Initial:

Surname:

Postcode:

Age Group (please circle):

Under 13	13-17	18-24	25-34
35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74
75-84	85+		

#### YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

We will use these details to contact you and update you on the proposals. You don't have to fill in this section if you'd rather we didn't contact you.

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

- ☐ Please tick here if you would like to receive news and updates regarding the GridLink Interconnector Project

### DATA PROTECTION

We hold all personal data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679 and your personal data will not be transferred outside of the European Economic Area. You can see our full Privacy Statement, Data Protection Policy, Data Retention Policy and find out how to make a Subject Access Request at the website address [becg.com/dp](http://becg.com/dp) or contact us by telephone on 01962 893 893 or e-mail at [dataprotection@becg.com](mailto:dataprotection@becg.com).

## YOUR FEEDBACK

### Our Consultation

All feedback forms and contributions to the public consultation will be considered by GridLink.

Where practicable, alterations, improvements or other changes to the proposals will be evaluated to address the comments received.

### PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

**1. Have you found the information presented at the public consultation helpful in addressing concerns or questions you may have had?**

☐ Yes ☐ No

**2. Do you have any additional comments with regard to the public consultation or future engagement?**

Additional comments:

### NEED FOR INTERCONNECTORS

**3. What are your views on the need for electricity interconnectors to improve the links between different countries?**

☐ Support ☐ Do not support ☐ No view

Additional comments:

### CONVERTER STATION

**4. What are your views on the location of the converter station and underground cables at Kingsnorth?**

☐ Support ☐ Do not support ☐ No view

**5. What are your views on the proposed approach to mitigating environmental impacts?**

☐ Support ☐ Do not support ☐ No view

Additional comments:

#### SUBMARINE CABLE ROUTE

6. What are your views on the submarine cable route in the Medway Estuary and Thames Estuary?

☐ Support ☐ Do not support ☐ No view

7. What are your views on the shore crossing of the submarine cable at Kingsnorth?

☐ Support ☐ Do not support ☐ No view

8. What are your views on the proposed approach to mitigating environmental impacts?

☐ Support ☐ Do not support ☐ No view

Additional comments:

#### ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

9. Do you have any environmental concerns related to the GridLink interconnector project?

#### FURTHER COMMENTS

10. Do you have any other comments related to the GridLink interconnector project?

**THANK YOU FOR TAKING TIME TO REVIEW OUR PROPOSALS FOR THE GRIDLINK INTERCONNECTOR PROJECT.**

Please return your completed feedback form no later than Friday 18 September.

For more information, please contact us via: Email: [info@gridlinkinterconnector.com](mailto:info@gridlinkinterconnector.com) | Tel: 0808 196 5569

## Appendix 8 – Pull-up Banner



The GridLink Interconnector Project is a 1,400MW high voltage electricity cable that will provide a link for transmission of electricity between the national grids of the UK and France.

The cable connects the National Grid 400 kV sub-station at Kingsnorth in Kent, UK to the RTE 400 kV sub-station at Warande near Dunkerque in Nord Region, France.

The cable route passes through the Medway Estuary and Thames Estuary, before turning south-east to cross the southern North Sea to the French coast.



GridLink cable route and converter station sites



Cable route through Medway Estuary

### YOUR VIEWS MATTER

We will shortly be submitting a planning application to Medway Council. Prior to this, we would like to hear your views on our proposals. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we will be hosting a virtual exhibition from Monday 31st August until Friday 11th September. Details about the exhibition and how you can provide your feedback can be found on our project website [www.gridlinkinterconnector.com](http://www.gridlinkinterconnector.com).

You will be able to direct questions to members of the project team during our live chat session on Friday 4th September between 16.30 and 20.30.

Additionally, we will be holding an online public meeting on Friday 11th September from 18.30 to 20.30. Anyone can register to attend this meeting, which will be hosted by the online meeting platform GoToMeeting, with dial in details for those without access to the internet. Please contact us for details.

If you do not have access to the internet, please call us on 0808 196 5569 so we can arrange for a paper copy of the exhibition material to be sent to you. In the meantime, please help yourself to the information in the leaflet stand.

### KEY FACTS

- Nominal capacity of 1.4GW, enough to meet the electricity supply needs of around 2.2 million homes
- 140km of submarine cable – 108km in UK territorial waters and 32km in French territorial waters
- Less than 11m of onshore underground cable in the UK and 13.5km of onshore underground cable in France
- Converter stations at Kingsnorth in the UK and Warande, near Dunkerque in France
- To connect from the converter stations to the national grids in each country, 1.5km of underground cable in the UK and 3km in France
- No new overhead lines
- Investment cost of approximately 900 million euros

### CONTACT US

You can contact us in a number of ways:

Website: [www.gridlinkinterconnector.com](http://www.gridlinkinterconnector.com) | Freephone: 0808 196 5569

Email: [info@gridlinkinterconnector.com](mailto:info@gridlinkinterconnector.com)



Co-financed by the Connecting Europe Facility of the European Union



## Appendix 9 – Information Point at Dockside Outlet Centre

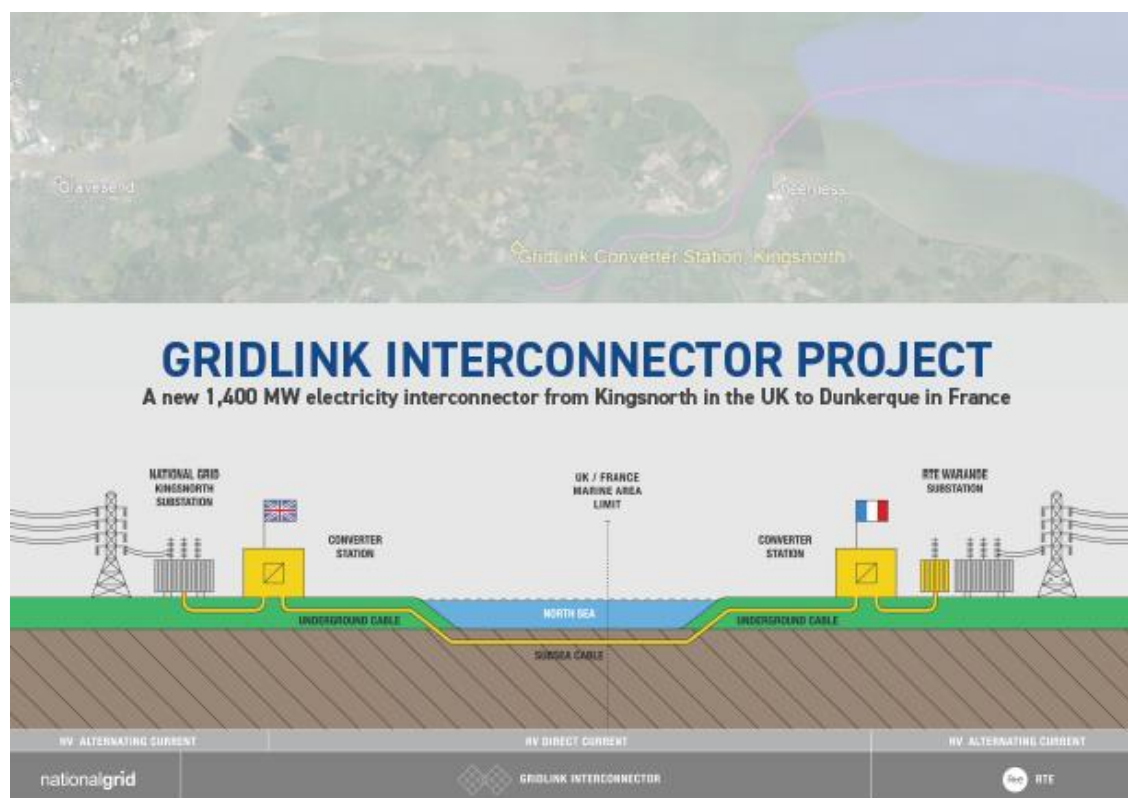


## Appendix 10 – Information Point at Riverside Country Park Café





## Appendix 11 – Consultation Flyer



**YOUR VIEWS MATTER**

Please visit our virtual exhibition at [www.gridlinkinterconnector.com](http://www.gridlinkinterconnector.com)

### CONTACT US

You can contact us in a number of ways:

Website: [www.gridlinkinterconnector.com](http://www.gridlinkinterconnector.com)  
Freephone: 0808 196 5569  
Email: [info@gridlinkinterconnector.com](mailto:info@gridlinkinterconnector.com)



Co-financed by the Connecting Europe Facility of the European Union

### KEY DATES

#### VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

- The virtual exhibition will be available online from Monday 31st August until Friday 11th September 2020.

#### LIVE CHAT SESSION

- A live chat session with members of the project team during the virtual exhibition will be held on Friday 4th September from 16.30 until 20.30.

#### ONLINE PUBLIC MEETING

- An online public meeting will be held on Friday 11th September from 18.30 to 20.30. Anyone can register to attend this meeting, which will be hosted on the online meeting platform GoToMeeting. Dial in details will be provided for those without access to the internet. Please contact us to find out more.

## Appendix 12 – Information Leaflet

### PROJECT OF COMMON INTEREST

GridLink has been awarded the status of Project of Common Interest (PCI) by the European Commission in April 2018.

A PCI is a key cross border infrastructure project that links the energy systems of EU countries.

They are intended to help the EU achieve its energy policy and climate objectives: affordable, secure and sustainable energy for all citizens, and the long-term de-carbonisation of the economy.

The URL link to the European Commission's PCI infrastructure transparency platform is provided below:

[https://ec.europa.eu/energy/topics/infrastructure/projects-common-interest\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/energy/topics/infrastructure/projects-common-interest_en)

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

GridLink intends to positively engage with local communities, local businesses, interest groups and all statutory and non-statutory stakeholders in relation to the development, construction and operation of the GridLink interconnector project.

Public consultations include public meetings, thematic meetings with interest groups, web-site, and information points at local community centres.



Public meeting held in Bourbourg, near Dunkerque



Information Point at Loon Plage, near Dunkerque

### PRELIMINARY TIMETABLE

**August 2019:** Announcement of tenders for Engineering, Procurement and Construction contracts

**October 2020:** Applications for development consents and permits (UK and France)

**December 2020:** Marine License granted (UK)

**January 2021:** Outline Planning Permission granted (UK)

**July 2021:** Engineering, Procurement and Construction contracts awarded for HVDC cable system and converter stations

**September 2021:** Maritime public area utilization rights granted and building permit granted (France)

**November 2021:** Approval of regulatory scheme by national regulatory authorities (UK and France)

**January 2022:** Start of construction

**June 2024:** Commissioning

**January 2025:** Commercial Operations Date

### WHO ARE WE?

The GridLink Interconnector Project is owned by GridLink Interconnector Ltd. The company has been established to develop, construct and operate the new interconnector.

GridLink Interconnector Ltd is wholly owned by iCON Infrastructure LLP. iCON is a respected, independent investment company who invests the capital of pension funds, insurance companies and other asset managers into long term, infrastructure investments.



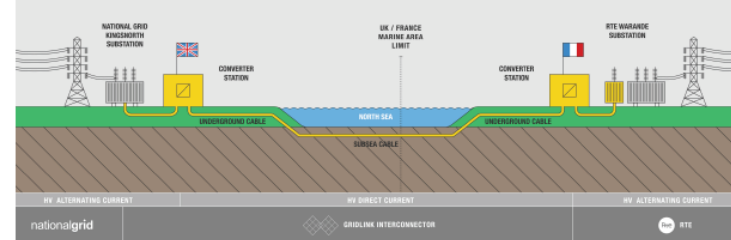
### FURTHER INFORMATION

Please visit our web-site for further information:  
[www.gridlinkinterconnector.com](http://www.gridlinkinterconnector.com)



## GRIDLINK INTERCONNECTOR PROJECT

A new 1,400 MW electricity interconnector between the UK and France



The GridLink Interconnector Project is a 1,400MW high voltage electricity cable that will provide a link for transmission of electricity between the national grids of the UK and France.

The cable connects the National Grid 400 kV sub-station at Kingsnorth in Kent, UK to the RTE 400 kV sub-station at Warande near Dunkerque in Nord Region, France.

The cable route passes through the Medway Estuary and Thames Estuary, before turning south-east to cross the southern North Sea to the French coast.



GridLink cable route and converter station sites

Co-financed by the Connecting Europe Facility of the European Union

### KEY FACTS

- High voltage, direct current subsea cable
- Nominal capacity of 1.4GW, which corresponds to electricity supply for 2.2 million homes
- 140km of submarine cable – 108km in UK territorial waters and 32km in French territorial waters
- After crossing each coastline, 13.5km of underground cable in France and <1 km of underground cable in UK
- Converter stations in France and UK
- To connect from the converter stations to the national grids in each country, 3km of underground cable in France and 1.5km in UK
- Investment cost of approximately 900 million euros

Diversifies sources of supply  
Improves integration of renewable energy  
Helps network stability  
Reduces grid system constraints

## ALTERNATIVES

GridLink has selected the cable route and converter station sites after extensive studies of alternative routes and sites.

The studies have included desk-top research of published information, bathymetric, geophysical, geotechnical and environmental surveys, consultations with navigation authorities (Grand Port Maritime de Dunkerque, Port of London Authority, Peel Ports) and coordination with third party cable owners.

Key alternatives for the submarine cable route that have been studied are:

- Submarine cable routes in the Thames Estuary to the north and south of the BritNed cable and the Pan Sands sandbank
- Alternative routes around London Array and Thanet windfarms, other restricted areas and obstacles, and at crossings of other cables
- Approaches to the shoreline at Dunkerque.

The converter station sites have been chosen as close as possible to the connection points to the national grids in UK and France at existing industrial sites – the former E.on coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth and the designated Zone de Grandes Industries (ZGI) at Dunkerque.

The sites have been selected based on sufficient size, commercially available, accessible to the cable connections, compatible industrial context and minimisation of environmental impacts.



Dunkerque Onshore Cable Route and Converter Station Site

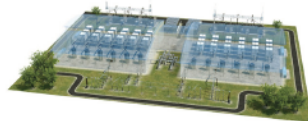


Kingsnorth Converter Station Site

## THE CONVERTER STATIONS

The converter stations change the high voltage direct current to alternating current and adjust the voltage to 400 kV for the connection to the national grids in UK and France.

Each converter station comprises a main building divided into sections called a DC Hall, Valve Hall and Reactor Hall. Buildings accommodating the ancillary facilities, such as a control room, utilities services, spares, materials storage, workshop and maintenance, may be attached to the main building or separate buildings



Typical converter station layout  
(image courtesy of Siemens)

## THE CABLE

The cable system comprises two cables. Each cable will have a copper conductor wrapped in insulation and armoured to protect it from external damage. The cables will be up to 150 mm in diameter.



Typical subsea high voltage  
direct current cable

The submarine cable is buried under the seabed by a cable-lay vessel.



Typical subsea cable-lay vessel

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

GridLink is committed to high standards of environmental management for the lifetime of the project.

All electricity cables are buried under the seabed and on land – there are no new overhead transmission lines.

The converter station sites are located in designated industrial areas where similar types of developments already exist or are planned.

Detailed environmental studies will assess any potential impacts and risks to the environment from cable installation, construction of converter stations and future operations.

The main potential submarine environmental effects from the subsea cable are:

- Disruption to shipping and navigation and fishing by cable installation vessels and changes to seabed conditions
- Disturbance of protected species or designated features of protected sites by marine operations, underwater noise and/or lighting
- Suspended solids in the water column and changes to siltation patterns
- Damage to marine archaeological heritage and wrecks
- Scour caused by changes to seabed conditions
- Snagging hazards for anchors and fishing gear.

The main potential onshore environmental effects from the construction of the underground cables and converter stations are:

- Temporary disturbance of land and ecological impacts from construction vehicles and workers, including construction traffic generation, construction noise, disturbance of watergangs (in France only) and lighting
- Operational noise, visual and landscape impact from converter station buildings and loss of agricultural production after trench reinstatement (in France only).

The project is transboundary in that infrastructure is installed in the UK and France, but the only cross-border impacts that may occur are localised effects from cable installation across the boundary between the territorial waters of the UK and France caused by cable installation vessels or sediment mobilisation in the water column.

GridLink will implement mitigation measures 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. Therefore, a range of mitigation measures have been incorporated into the planning, design and construction works in accordance with this principle:

- Cable routing to avoid or minimise the section required within sensitive environmental features and protected sites
- Design of cable crossings to minimise the requirement for rock placement and risk of scour
- Selection of cable installation methods and seabed intervention measures that minimise the effects on the seabed and suspension of sediment in the water column
- Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) to install cables below sensitive environmental features at the surface, including at shore crossings, road/rail/canal crossings and major watergang crossings
- Incorporation of a range of good international industry practices into construction activities, including for noise control, site lighting, traffic management, temporary construction laydown, soil storage, control of hazardous substances and waste management
- High standards of architectural design and landscaping, including colour and finish of buildings compatible with the surrounding environment.

Monitoring of the environment will be carried out before and after cable installation/ construction works to identify any changes caused by implementation of the project, and chance find procedures will be prepared in case of discovery of archaeological heritage, wrecks or Unexploded Ordnance (UXO).

Fishing liaison and engagement with navigation authorities, environmental authorities and interest groups has been initiated at an early stage and will be continued throughout construction to ensure good communications with stakeholders are maintained.

## Appendix 13 – Non-Technical Summary



### **GRIDLINK INTERCONNECTOR NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

*under Article 9(7) of EU Regulation No. 347/2013 on guidelines for  
trans-European energy infrastructure  
(TEN-E Regulation)*

prepared by

**GridLink Interconnector Ltd**

August 2020

Rev. 2



Co-financed by the Connecting Europe  
Facility of the European Union



# Appendix 14 – Medway Messenger Newspaper Advertisement

Newsdesk: 01634 227803

www.kentonline.co.uk

August 27-September 2, 2020 Trusted News 27

## MEMORY LANE

If you have any memories you'd like to share with the Medway Messenger, call the newsroom on 01634 227803 or email [poock789@btinternet.com](mailto:poock789@btinternet.com)

### £10 fine for shooting of rare bird

Ospreys were virtually extinct in Britain and had not bred in the country since 1902.

Yet gamekeeper Frederick Marshall, of Ranscombe Farm Cottages, Cuxton, managed to shoot one in 1966.

"It was dusk when I shot it," he told magistrates. "I am a bird lover and would never have shot it if I had known it was an osprey. I saw the head of the bird as it plucked a newly-killed pheasant."

Peter Conder, assistant secretary of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said ospreys had been exterminated in Britain mostly because of persecution by fishermen. It would have been migrating to Africa to spend the winter when it was killed.

Marshall was fined £10 and the magistrates ordered that the bird's skin should be given to the British Museum.

Defending Marshall, Mr Noel Boucher said the osprey was as rare in Kent as lions in Piccadilly.

His client was a victim of circumstance.

## Whatever happened to the last man on the list?

The bachelor boys of Cuxton were being snapped up like hot cakes in the early 1960s. By August 1966, only Gordon Crowhurst, 35, remained single.

It was in 1960 that Harry Booth, steward of Cuxton Social Club, opened a book on the village's eight eligible men. In April 1966, Ian Swaisland, 36, had become the seventh to marry, at odds of 100 to one.

The last man standing was at 300-1, and this was rapidly extended to 300-1. So, Harry Booth had every reason to hope he would stay single.

When the book was first opened the story became national news. In those days Cuxton only boasted 1,000 villagers, of which only about four were single young ladies. At that stage the favourites to marry were given odds of 5-2 while those least likely were at 100-1.

The publicity generated by the story brought dozens of husband-seeking girls from outside the village to the Social Club dances, putting heavy pressure on the determined eight.



Gordon Crowhurst, the last bachelor in the village, is rewarded with a special cup presented by runner-up Ian Swaisland. Looking on is Harry Booth who ran the book

They also began to receive unsolicited letters from far

and wide. The bachelors, it was reported, were beginning to feel as if they were listed in a lonely-hearts club.

and blackboard rubber was kept busy changing the odds, as liaisons were formed, and matrimony seemed to raise its head.

"One by one they took that short but life-changing walk up the aisle," said Gordon.

"It looks as if he'll make it," said Ian Swaisland. "The others have all dispersed to various marital homes, one by one. At least one emigrated to Canada. But Gordon is making a last stand."

"Don't get me wrong," said Gordon in 1966. "I like girls. I go out with lots of them."

But I am not going to get married. You can come back years from now and there still won't be a line through my name. I am more interested in cars. You can change them when you feel like it."

But did he survive as a bachelor? If you know, please get in touch via [poock789@btinternet.com](mailto:poock789@btinternet.com), or telephone the newsroom on 01634 227803.

### Tragedy of brother's loving deed

When he saw his sister's tri-cycle in the road, two-year-old Anthony Wilson, son of Sgt and Mrs Harry Wilson, of Millburn Road, Gillingham, dashed to retrieve it.

Somehow, he became tangled under the legs of a baker's horse and received injuries from which he died.

It was 1940, Baker's roundman, Frederick Curd, of Star Mill Lane, Chatham, said he turned the van around when the horse shied and he was amazed to see a man picking up a small child. He had not seen the child before.

Aubrey Cooper, an insurance agent of Romney Road, Gillingham, said the horse passed over the child and kicked him. There was no contact with the wheels of the van.

A doctor who examined Anthony said he had a cut to his head, but there was no sign of brain injury. He was not unconscious. But he died the following day from a cerebral haemorrhage.

The coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death.



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Cofinanced by the Connecting Europe Facility of the European Union

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## Appendix 15 – Kent and Sussex Courier Newspaper Advertisements

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2020 **COURIER** 13

### News

#### Journeys derailed



The derailed train close to Tonbridge depot  
NETWORK RAIL

A DERAILED train caused three days of disruption for travellers in West Kent and East Sussex.

The incident happened on Sunday morning when the train, said to be travelling at a slow speed, was leaving the Tonbridge depot. There were no passengers on board at the time.

The line was finally cleared during the early hours of Wednesday. A spokesman for Southeastern said: "Thank you for your patience while our Network Rail colleagues worked to re-rail the train and fix the damage it caused over the last few days."

## Seatfinder adds weight to train social distancing

COMMUTERS will be weighed as part of a new service aimed at promoting social distancing on trains.

Southeastern's new "Seatfinder" predicts how busy a particular train is likely to be. The technology calculates the weight of carriages on previous comparable journeys and works out how many people were on board at the time.

John Backway, head of retail at Southeastern, said: "The next couple of months will see many people returning to the railway network as schools and workplaces try to get back to a new normal."

"During this period, many of our regular passengers will want to

adjust their travel patterns based on government guidance, so we're pleased to be introducing this new solution to the rail sector that helps address this."

"Our teams at Southeastern have worked extremely hard to make the data available and accessible to help passengers plan their journeys and support social distancing to ensure they can be confident of a safe travel experience."

The service will be rolled out more widely on Southeastern's app and journey planner website next month. This will also include data to highlight the type and status of on-board toilet facilities, bringing

another new feature that is also industry-leading.

It will provide passengers with the status of hand washing facilities via Southeastern's app and announcements at stations.

Southeastern is the first rail operator in the UK to collate its train capacity information in this way and share it directly with passengers. It is also the first operator in the UK to make this data available through rail industry open data feeds, so third party developers can access it.

Seatfinder covers 93% of Southeastern stations. To access the service, visit [www.southeasternrailway.co.uk/seatfinder](http://www.southeasternrailway.co.uk/seatfinder)



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## News

but appreciates the array of green space and leisure activities.

She said: "It's sad because the shops are closing and not re-opening. When we first came there were coffee shops, department stores, niche places and potteries. It was really nice. Now it's the same as anywhere else and sad in a way."

"I can't see why people come here for the shopping but we're close to very nice parks - Haynesden Park, Barden Lakes - and the schools, particularly grammar schools."

Emma Pocock, 38, has lived in Tonbridge for 17 years. She also

moved to the town because of its location for reaching the capital, but only really fell in love with the area when she started a family.

Emma said: "We moved here because it was easy to get to London. Originally we were working in London. Now, with a family it's great. There's so much to do."

"There's all the entertainment, really good schools and it's just a nice friendly place. It's very small in a weird sort of

way," she continued. "Everybody knows everybody. When I was working in London you don't get that at all. You go to the station, get on the train and come back home."

"I never saw Tonbridge for the first 10 years I lived here but once you have a family, everybody knows everybody and it's just a really kind and friendly place."

Oliver Hodges, from Savills Sevenoaks, believes the town strikes an attractive balance between accessibility to London and affordability compared with neighbouring towns.

He said: "From our perspective we certainly saw a busy market even before the implementation and changes to the stamp duty. That certainly helped fuel it even further, which is encouraging."

"Access to the city is important, it's a good train line. You get a seat there as well."

"Further up the track you tend to have to stand in normal commuting times. Schools are obviously also a big draw."

"Your money goes, arguably 10%, 20% further compared to some of the other key commuter towns within a few miles of Tonbridge and



Emma Pocock moved to Tonbridge when she was 21 and is now raising a family in the town

You can drive off to the coast, get the train into London, before Covid-19 happened. It's very convenient

Ray Want



Ray Want has lived in Tonbridge for 50 years with his wife Bobbie

There's all the entertainment, really good schools and it's just a nice friendly place

Emma Pocock

grown. With what's gone on recently - that pent up demand for space and coming out of London - it sort of has all the ingredients people want."



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## Appendix 16 – Press Release



### Community consultation on the GridLink Interconnector Project

GridLink will shortly be submitting a planning application to Medway Council for permission to construct a new electricity interconnector between the UK and France. Prior to this we want to seek the views of the local community on our plans. Members of the public and local stakeholders are invited to view our virtual exhibition and to provide their feedback on our proposals. The virtual exhibition will be available online from Monday 31 August until Friday 11 September at [www.gridlinkinterconnector.com](http://www.gridlinkinterconnector.com)

The GridLink Interconnector Project is a 1,400MW high voltage electricity cable that will provide a link for transmission of electricity between the national grids of the UK and France. The cable connects the National Grid 400 kV sub-station at Kingsnorth in Kent to the RTE 400 kV sub-station at Warande near Dunkerque in Nord Region, France. The cable route passes through the Medway Estuary and Thames Estuary, before turning south-east to cross the southern North Sea to the French coast.

As part of the consultation process, a live chat session with members of the project team during the virtual exhibition will be held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September from 16.30 to 20.30. Please log onto the website to join us.

Additionally, we will be hosting an online public meeting on Friday 11 September from 18.30 until 20.30. Anyone can register to attend this meeting, which will be held via an online meeting platform. Dial in details can be provided for those without access to the internet. Please contact us on 0808 196 5569 or [info@gridlinkinterconnector.com](mailto:info@gridlinkinterconnector.com) or visit the website for more details.

A representative from GridLink said:

*"We hope as many people as possible will take a look at our virtual exhibition, which provides an opportunity to learn more about our plans and to give your views on the proposals which, where possible, will be incorporated into our final designs.*

*"We also look forward to the opportunity of speaking directly to members of the local community during our online public meeting and we would encourage you to sign up to attend."*

Leaflets and material about the project will be displayed at two information points from Monday 31 August until Friday 11 September (during normal opening times) at:

- Dockside Outlet Centre, Maritime Way, St Mary's Island, Chatham, ME4 3ED
- Riverside Country Park Café, 333 Lower Rainham Road, Gillingham, ME7 2XH.

Additional information about GridLink can also be found on our web-site at [www.gridlinkinterconnector.com](http://www.gridlinkinterconnector.com)

For further information contact Carole Riley at [carole.riley@becg.com](mailto:carole.riley@becg.com)



## Appendix 17 – Media Coverage

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## Plans for underwater electricity cable between UK and France to be submitted to Medway Council

[KENT TRAVEL NEWS](#)[SIGN ME UP FOR NEWS ALERTS](#)

By [Matt Leclerc](#) [mleclerc@thekmgroupp.co.uk](mailto:mleclerc@thekmgroupp.co.uk)[Read all comments](#) | 5

Published: 12:54, 28 August 2020 | Updated: 14:41, 28 August 2020

[f](#)[t](#)[r](#)[p](#)[g+](#)[in](#)[e](#)

Plans have been revealed for a huge underwater electricity cable transferring high voltage power between Kent and France.

The GridLink project – which is set to be switched on in 2025 and supply 2.2 million homes on both sides of the Channel – is due to be submitted for planning permission imminently.



The high voltage link will connect the national grids of France and the UK. Stock picture

A public consultation will take place before the plans are sent off to Medway Council which will decide whether to allow the 1,400MW cable link to go ahead.

The exhibition, which is being hosted virtually and with information stands in Chatham and Gillingham, launches on Bank Holiday Monday until September 11.

The 153km cable will connect the national grid at Kingsnorth Power Station to the French network at Warande near Dunkerque.


It will be routed through subsea cables under the Medway and Thames estuaries and the southern North Sea to the French coast.

A live chat with members of the team will be held on September 4 from 4.30pm to 8.30pm. An online meeting will also take place from 6.30pm to 8.30pm on September 11.

## Appendix 18 – Facebook Page/Advertisement

### GRIDLINK INTERCONNECTOR PROJECT

A new 1,400 MW electricity interconnector from Kingsnorth in the UK to Dunkerque in France



**A new electricity interconnector from Kingsnorth to Dunkerque**  
Energy company

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#### About

A new 1,400 MW electricity interconnector is being built, from Kingsnorth in the UK to Dunkerque in France. View our plans online: [www.gridlinkinterconnector.com](http://www.gridlinkinterconnector.com) Freephone: 0800 196 5569 Email: [info@gridlinkinterconnector.com](mailto:info@gridlinkinterconnector.com)

4 people like this

5 people follow this

<http://www.gridlinkinterconnector.com/>

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Energy company

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**A new electricity interconnector from Kingsnorth to Dunkerque** added an event.

2 September at 12:13 ·

**THIS FRIDAY AT 18:30**

**Gridlink Interconnector Online Public Meeting** Interested

You like A new electricity interconnector from Kings

Like Comment Share

**A new electricity interconnector from Kingsnorth to Dunkerque** added an event.

2 September at 12:11 ·

**FRI, 4 SEP**


**Gridlink Interconnector Live Chat** Interested

You like A new electricity interconnector from Kings

Like Comment Share

**A new electricity interconnector from Kingsnorth to Dunkerque** updated their cover photo.


1 September at 17:02 ·



**GRIDLINK INTERCONNECTOR PROJECT**  
A new 1,400 MW electricity interconnector from Kingsnorth in the UK to Dunkerque in France

#### Photos

See all



#### Upcoming events

See all

**THIS FRIDAY AT 18:30**

**Gridlink Interconnector Online Public Meeting**

## Appendix 19 – Hoo St Werburgh Parish Council Poster



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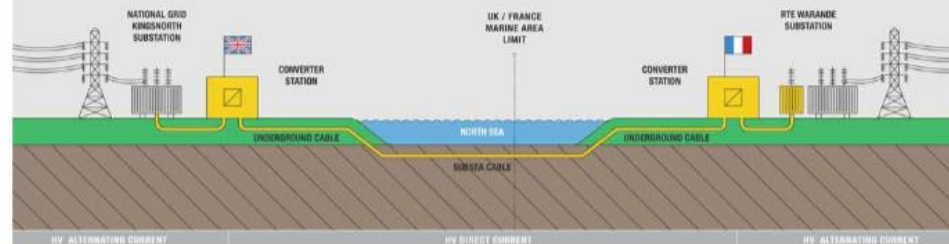
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