LionLink Community Newsletter

Autumn 2025

In this edition of our community newsletter, we summarise our activity in 2025 and take a closer look at what to expect in 2026 for LionLink.

National Grid Ventures (NGV) is developing plans to build LionLink, a new subsea electricity cable (known as an interconnector) between the UK and the Netherlands. By connecting to a Dutch offshore wind farm, LionLink will bring offshore wind energy to the UK with the capacity to deliver up to 2 gigawatts (GW) of electricity, enough to power approximately 2.5 million homes.

A message from our Project Director, Alex Marsh:

2025 has been a significant year for LionLink as we have continued to refine our proposals ahead of statutory consultation.

Following our recent survey work – including seismic surveys and ground investigations – we have made strong progress in refining the cable route and developing our proposals. These efforts build towards our statutory consultation, which is set for January 2026. This marks a significant milestone, not just for LionLink, but for the UK's journey towards net zero and a more secure, affordable energy future.

Earlier this year, we announced our preferred landfall site for LionLink following further technical assessments and feedback from our previous non-statutory consultation.

As LionLink develops, we are committed to engaging with the local community further and supporting initiatives in the area, continuing to build on the success of our existing partnerships.

In line with this commitment, we are proud to continue our partnership with fuel poverty charity National Energy Action (NEA) to support vulnerable communities through the distribution of winter warmth packs. Now in its second consecutive year, the initiative will see 10 volunteers packing 300 boxes of winter essentials that will provide crucial support to households across Suffolk.

We appreciate your continued interest and will be issuing a further newsletter to invite you to our statutory consultation in the new year.

Looking ahead to 2026

What is statutory consultation?

Statutory consultation refers to a consultation undertaken with the community and stakeholders ahead of submitting our application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to the Planning Inspectorate. We will be presenting our refined proposals, including our preferred converter station and landfall site, giving you a final opportunity to help shape our application for development consent.

The aim of our statutory consultation is to:

- Present our current proposals for LionLink
- Detail the ways in which feedback from our earlier consultations, along with additional work carried out since, has informed our proposals
- Provide a forum to answer your questions
- Gather feedback to help shape our final proposals.

What will it involve?

During the consultation, we will be publishing a comprehensive set of materials outlining our updated plans. These will include siting and routing maps, design options for the proposed onshore infrastructure, and our project overview document.

The consultation will also include a series of in-person events and webinars, providing you with the opportunity to speak with the project team. As we prepare for statutory consultation, we have undertaken further surveys along the cable route.

These surveys help to shape both the environmental and technical aspects of our evolving proposals, which we will be presenting during our statutory consultation, including how the project plans to mitigate the impacts of construction on communities along the cable route.

Surveys included:

- Seismic and topographic surveys – to build up a clear image of ground conditions near the landfall site
- Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) surveys – to compare land quality before and after construction
- Archaeological surveys – to identify the potential presence, nature and condition of any remains along the route
- Magnetometry surveys – to detect objects underground near the landfall site
- Ground Investigation surveys – to assess ground conditions across LionLink's route, supporting our design work

Next steps

We are continuing to refine our proposals and look forward to sharing further information with you in the lead-up to our statutory consultation in January 2026.

2026

- **Statutory consultation** January to March 2026
- **DCO application** 2026

2027

- **Examination** 2027

2028

- **Decision** 2028

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