Preliminary Environmental Information Report Volume 2

Appendix 24.2 Outline Fisheries Liaison and Coexistence Plan

LLK1-CEA-REP-ENV-000007_AP2

Revision 0.0

October 2025

LIONLINK

Contents

1 Outline Fisheries Liaison and Coexistence Plan

1.1 The Objective of the Plan

1.1.1 This Outline Fisheries Liaison and Coexistence Plan (oFLCP) has been prepared by National Grid LionLink Limited (NGLLL) (the Applicant) for use in UK waters during all LionLink Project construction phases.

1.1.2 The Project comprises a new interconnector (offshore hybrid asset) with a capacity of up to two gigawatts (GW) between the National Transmission Systems of Great Britain (GB) and the Netherlands, including a connection into a wind farm located in Dutch waters. The Project is located partly in the territory of GB and partly in the territory of the Netherlands. The portion of the Project within the territory of GB consists of a new converter station, and subsea and underground high voltage direct current cables.

1.1.3 This oFLCP has been prepared for the portion of the Project within the inshore and offshore waters of the territory of GB only, which is the subject of the Deemed Marine Licence (referred to as the Proposed Offshore Scheme).

1.1.4 The objective of this oFLCP is to clearly set out how commercial fishing activity can co-exist with the works required to survey and install the Proposed Offshore Scheme.

1.1.5 This oFLCP builds on the existing relationship established through the consultation undertaken in developing the Project and provides the high level objectives and principles to be taken in respect to the ongoing liaison and engagement with the local fishing industry post consent and through the construction phase.

1.1.6 This oFLCP also summarises the key areas of potential interaction between the Proposed Offshore Scheme and local fishing communities; outlines the environmental measures proposed; and identifies how any issues that may arise would be managed and communicated. A more detailed FLCP will be produced post consent, once further details and specific construction schedules are available.

1.1.7 This oFLCP relates to the construction phase only, however should it be required a further FLCP will be provided for the operational phase.

1.1.8 This document should be read alongside **Chapter 24 Commercial Fisheries** and **Appendix 24.1 Supporting Commercial Fisheries Information** of this Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).

2 Guidance

2.1.1 This oFLCP has been developed with reference to the LionLink PEIR which provides impact assessments relevant to commercial fisheries and associated environmental measures. This document is provided to establish overarching principles that will be adopted should the Project secure consent. This document will be updated post PEIR to accompany the Environmental Statement and application for development consent.

2.1.2 It follows key guidance and information from:

a. Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group (FLOWW) Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments. Recommendations for Fisheries Liaison. (FLOWW, 2014) (Ref 1).
b. FLOWW Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries Disruption Settlements and Community Funds. (FLOWW, 2015) (Ref 2)
c. OEUK Liaison with Fishing Industry on the UKCS. (OEUK, 2023) (Ref 3)
d. ESCA Guideline 01 – Fishing Liaison July 2018. (ESCA, 2018)(Ref 4)
e. Joint Fisheries Statement November 2022. (DEFRA, 2022) (Ref 5)

2.1.3 It is noted that the Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments Recommendations for Fisheries Liaison is currently under review, and any subsequent updates of this oFLCP would take into consideration any new guidance.

3 Background

3.1 LionLink

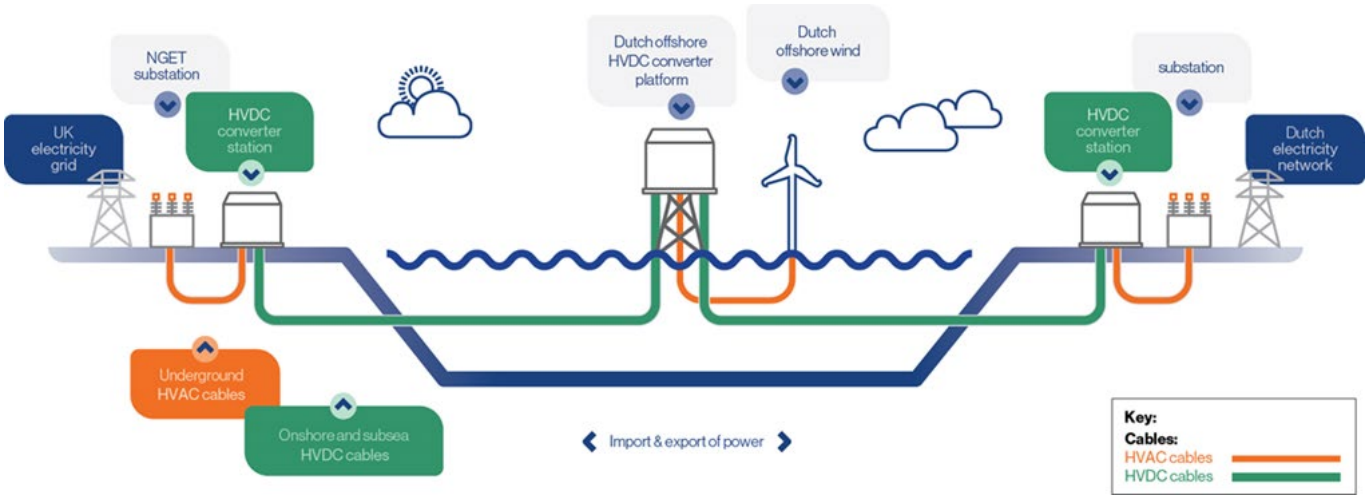
3.1.1 The Proposed Offshore Scheme is sited within the English marine environment, through inshore and offshore waters, and up to Mean High Water Springs (MHWS).

3.1.2 The Proposed Offshore Scheme Draft Order Limits include the proposed Landfall site at Walberswick, a proposed Offshore HVDC Cable Corridor which routes in a north-easterly direction from the proposed Landfall across the Southern North Sea to the GB/Netherlands Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) boundary. This is illustrated in **Inset 3.2.**

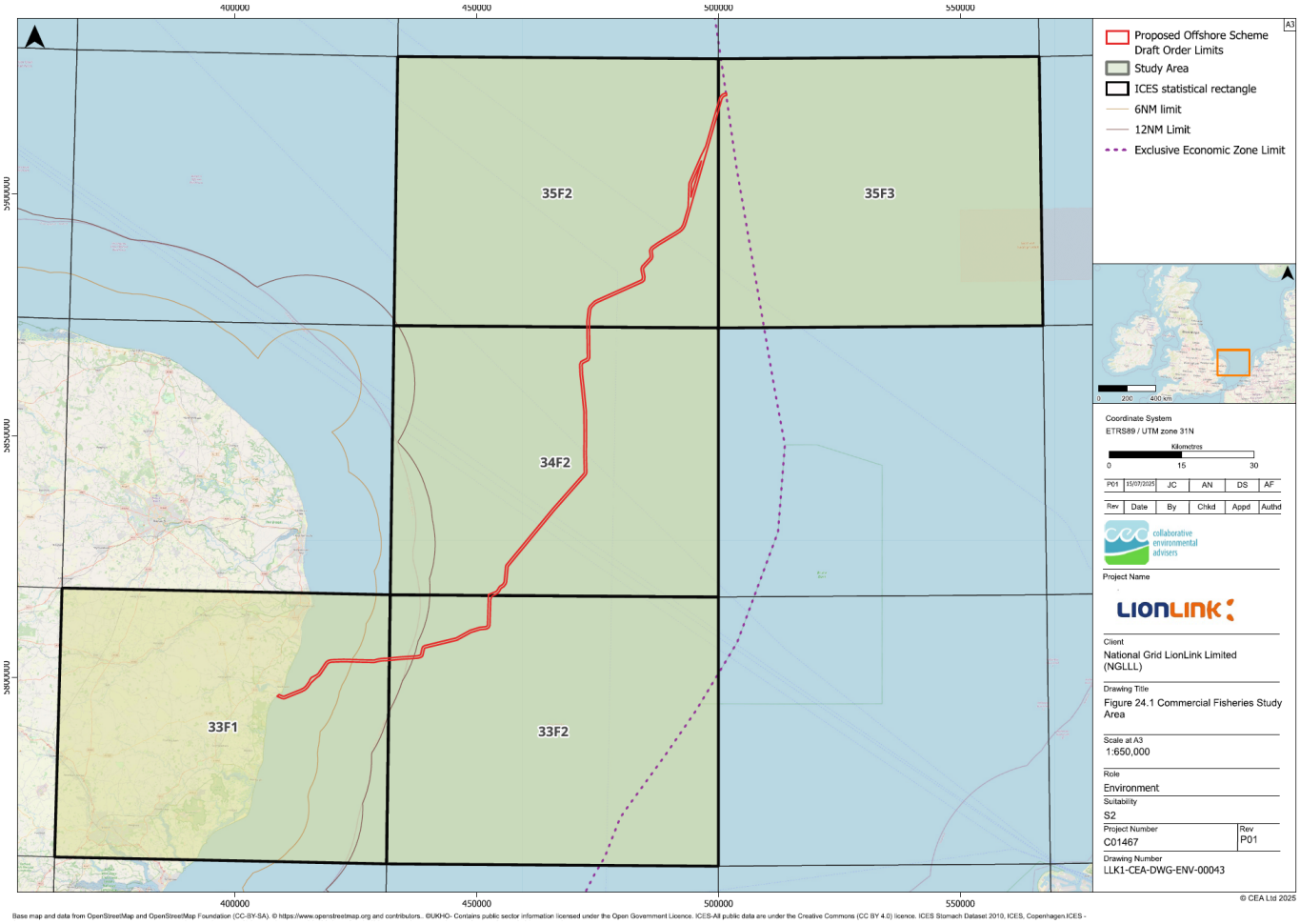
3.1.3 The key elements of the Proposed Offshore Scheme are summarised below and shown in **Inset 3.1.**

3.1.4 The Proposed Offshore Scheme comprises of approximatley 182 km of subsea HVDC cable from the landfall at Walberswick, Suffolk, England to where it meets the EEZ boundary between English and Dutch waters. The submarine cable system would consist of two bundled HVDC cables, a dedicated metallic return (DMR) cable and a fibre optic cable for control and monitoring purposes.

Inset 3.1: Illustration of the Project



Inset 3.2: Proposed Offshore Scheme



3.2 Scope of works and programme

3.2.1 The construction programme for the Proposed Offshore Scheme will commence at the earliest 2028 and be completed by 2032. Operation would commence in 2032.

3.2.2 Works at the proposed landfall at Walberswick may commence in 2028 with installation of the Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) and ducts ahead of the main works.

3.2.3 Flexibility is required in the construction programme in order to accommodate a range of uncertainties.

3.2.4 The exact timing of the submarine cable installation works will be dependent upon the date of the contract award for the works, time required for detailed design and cable manufacture, availability of cable installation and other vessels and any restrictions to mitigate potential effects on features of conservation interest, fisheries or other sensitive receptors. **Table 3.1** presents an indicative list of the main activities to be undertaken. A final list of activities will not be known until the post-consent decision.

Table 3.1: Proposed activities

Activity	Description
Pre-installation activities	
Pre-installation survey	Although detailed marine surveys have been undertaken for the Proposed Offshore Scheme, further surveys would be carried out prior to the start of cable installation. The objectives of these surveys would be: • To confirm that no new obstructions have appeared on the seabed since the 2024 marine surveys were undertaken; • To establish the final position for infrastructure crossings; • To establish a reference seabed level against which the depth of burial of cables can be compared; • To determine the position of any potential Unexploded Ordnance (UXO); • To support the micro-routeing of the cables around any mobile bedforms, archaeological features, UXOs or sensitive habitats; and • To provide a pre-installation baseline should it be required for post-construction monitoring purposes. The pre-installation surveys would likely be conducted using a range of marine survey techniques including: ○ Multi-Beam Echo Sounder (MBES): used to record water depth, prepare a three dimensional (3D) digital terrain model of the seabed, and to identify relevant bedforms and bathymetry. ○ Side Scan Sonar (SSS): maps the seabed surface and is used for identification of sediment types, obstacles lying on the seabed, such as wrecks, debris, and surface-laid or exposed pipelines and cables that might affect cable installation. ○ Sub-Bottom Profiling (SBP): directs a pulse of acoustic energy into the seabed. Using reflections from the sub-surface geology it can assess the thickness, stratification, and nature of the seabed sediments. ○ Magnetometer: passive detection of magnetic anomalies compared to the earth's magnetic field. Such anomalies can be caused by geological faults and buried metallic objects such as UXO, pipelines, cables and archaeological features.
Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Identification	A detailed UXO specific pre-construction survey using a magnetometer array would be undertaken prior to seabed clearance and cable lay, to characterise and investigate any anomalies that may be UXO, in more detail. Activities associated with the lift and shift of any confirmed UXO are to be included in the application for development consent. UXO Clearance (e.g., low order detonation, high order detonation) would be the subject of a separate Marine Licence and environmental impact assessment.

Activity	Description
Route preparation	
Boulder Clearance	Geophysical data would be used to inform the requirement for boulder clearance within the proposed Offshore HVDC Cable Corridor. It may be possible to micro-route around boulders, however if there are large volumes present in the area, they would need to be cleared away from the cable route centreline so that burial equipment can operate.
Pre-lay grapnel run (PLGR)	The objective of a PLGR is to clear any debris from the seabed which could be detrimental to the cable installation process. The PLGR vessel (typically a construction support vessel) tows a wire which has a chain of specially designed hooks, or grapnels on it. It is towed along the centreline until it encounters debris
Sand wave clearance and disposal of dredged material	In areas where mega ripples (wave heights <1.5m) and sand waves (wave heights >1.5m) have formed along the proposed Offshore HVDC Cable Corridor, pre-sweeping may be undertaken prior to cable burial to: • Allow the burial equipment to safely move along the cable centreline (avoiding steep slopes); and • Allow the burial equipment to reach the required burial depth (preventing future cable exposures).
Preparation of infrastructure crossings	The Proposed Offshore Scheme crosses over several types of third-party infrastructure which have been identified through desk top studies and the marine characterisation survey. The crossing of infrastructure is made with the prior agreement of the owners following a negotiated formal Crossing Agreement. This would lay out the design of the crossing, describing aspects such as crossing angle, the vertical separation to be achieved between the Proposed Offshore Scheme and the third-party asset. A typical crossing would consist of a separation layer of either rock or mattresses and then another layer of rock to protect the new cables.
Offshore Construction	
Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) and duct installation	Up to three High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) ducts would be installed, exiting in the nearshore (between 5m and 9m Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT) water depth contours). The HDD would be started on land and directed out to sea, to avoid disturbance of the Minsmere and Walberswick Heath Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and coastal cliffs and beach. Each drill would reach up to 25m at their maximum depth. For each borehole a pilot hole will be drilled and then widened to the full diameter required. The primary HDD activity that interacts with the marine environment is when the HDD breaks through the sediment (or punches out) onto the seabed. During the HDD punch out, drilling fluid and cuttings would be released from the bore on to the seabed.

Activity	Description
Cable pull-in and Cable Lay and Burial	Following the completion of preparation activities, the cable lay operations would commence. The cable lay vessel would stand off a short distance from the HDD exit point. A winch rope would be floated out to the cable lay vessel (CLV) from the HDD exit point. The rope would be attached to the cable and winched back in pulling the cable behind. Floats will be attached to the cable. When the cable reaches the HDD exit point, divers would start to remove the floats allowing the cable to enter the HDD. The cable pull would continue until the cable enters the transition joint bay above MHWS. Once the cable is in position, the remaining floats would be removed and the cable will be allowed to sink to the seabed, monitored by divers. Once the cables have been pulled through to shore the CLV would proceed to move away from the landfall along the cable route installing the cable to the required depth of lowering.
Jointing	CLVs are limited in the length of cable they can carry in a single load therefore the cables would be installed in sections connected by a cable joint. At the cable joint position, the end of the installed cable would be temporarily left on the seabed whilst the CLV returns to port to pick up a new cable length. The cable joint would be made on board the CLV and would take up to two weeks per joint location. During this time the CLV would maintain position. Once the cable joint has been made, the CLV would continue to lay the next cable section.
Remedial – external cable protection	External cable protection may be required in various areas along the Proposed Offshore Scheme. Areas that require protection would include: • Infrastructure crossings; and • Areas where depth of burial cannot be achieved.
Post-lay survey	Geophysical surveys would be undertaken periodically to monitor cable burial and the status of external cable protection e.g., remedial or at infrastructure crossings.

3.3 Fishing Community

3.3.1 The LionLink draft Order Limits extend through an area that supports a wide range of commercial fishing activities, with vessels from several ports all fishing throughout the year (please refer to **Chapter 24 Commercial Fisheries**, and **Appendix 24.1** of this PEIR for further information). The majority of fishing vessels are <10m in length. **Inset 3.3** illustrates the main fishing ports from which vessels may work and are likely to receive landings from the five International Council for the Exploration of Seas (ICES) rectangles which overlap with the Proposed Offshore Scheme. These 5 ICES rectangles constitute the 'Study Area' used in the commercial fisheries preliminary environmental impact assessment. Further details are shown in **Table 3.2**.

3.3.2 The UK fleet represents just over 21% of vessels that fish within the Study Area, however their catch value in 2023 equated to approximately 39% of the total catch value in the study area. Of this 39%, 70% of the catch value was caught by the nearshore fleet (vessels <10m).

Inset 3.3: Main fishing ports within proximity of the Proposed Offshore Scheme

Key

Ports catch weight in 2015

- Less than 1 tonne
- 1-100 tonnes
- 101-500 tonnes
- 501-1,000 tonnes
- 1,001-10,000 tonnes

Table 3.2: Number of vessels registered at ports local to the Study Area (August 2025)

Home Port	Registered vessels under 10m (Shellfish Licence) (Ref 6)	Registered vessels over 10m (Shellfish Licence) (Ref 7)
Aldeburgh and Orford	6 (4)	-
Felixstowe	12 (7)	-
Harwich	18 (9)	1 (1)
Lowestoft	20 (8)	3 (1)
Sizewell Beach	1 (1)	-
Southwold	10 (7)	-
Wivenhoe	5 (1)	
Total	**72 (37)**	**4 (2)**

3.3.3 The local fleet uses a range of gear types targeting different species depending on the season. Most under 10m vessels use multiple methods dependent on the season and availability of species. The Proposed Offshore Scheme is fished throughout the year. **Table 3.3** shows the main species landed by gear type as UK vessel size.

Table 3.3: Main species landed by gear type and vessel size (based on analysis of 2023 landings data for the ICES rectangle within the Study Area)

Gear	10m and under	Over 10m
Beam Trawl	-,	Sole, plaice, brill and turbot
Demersal sein	-	Squids, flounder and flukes, and brill
Demersal Trawl	Sole, Whiting and Cod	Greater weever, spotted ray and squid
Dredge		Cockles
Drift and fixed nets	Bass, herring and sole	Bass, Herring and smooth-hound
Handlines	Bass, mackerel and cod	-
Longlines	Bass cod and thornback ray	Bass, Cod and smooth-hound
Pelagic Trawl	Herring, sprats and whiting	Herring, mackerel, horse mackerel
Pots and Traps	Whelks, lobsters and crabs	Crabs, whelks, lobsters

4 Fisheries Liaison and Coexistence Principles

4.1 Overarching principles

4.1.1 The Applicant is committed to providing effective liaison with local, regional, national and transboundary fisheries stakeholders relevant to the Proposed Offshore Scheme. The overarching principles of the fisheries coexistence plan include (but are not limited to):

a. conducting construction activities relevant to the Proposed Offshore Scheme whilst ensuring the health and safety of the project workforce and third parties (e.g. fishing vessels);
b. undertaking construction activities whilst minimising any disturbance to other activities as far as reasonably practicable; and
c. providing accurate information in relation to construction activities to local fishers in a timely manner in order to support coexistence.

4.1.2 Once the detailed sequence of activities for the construction period has been determined, advance communications, Notice to Mariners (NtMs) and Kingfisher Bulletin notifications will be issued to inform other sea users, including fishers. These will be updated throughout the construction period as required and in line with the requirements of Conditions on the deemed Marine Licence.

4.2 Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO)

4.2.1 The benefits of early and ongoing consultation between the Applicant and the fishing community is recognised and the Applicant have appointed a Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) to communicate with fishers that work along the Proposed Offshore Scheme. Fisheries liaison will continue pre and post construction and the Applicant will endeavour to maintain good communication and the free flow of relevant information to all parties.

4.2.2 Additional fishing liaison roles may include an Offshore Fisheries Liaison Officer (OFLO) if the works require it. In the appointment of an OFLO it is recognised that local fishermen's knowledge of fishing practices and vessels in the area can reduce interactions between fishing activity and construction works. An outline of the fishing liaison roles and responsibilities is given in the following sections.

4.2.3 The FLO will be the first point of contact for any queries/concerns regarding the Proposed Offshore Scheme. The duties of the FLO representing LionLink include:

a. Establishing and maintaining a strong positive working relationship with the local fishing industry acting as the day-to-day contact, organising meetings as required and maintaining the flow of information between parties.
b. To monitor fishing activities along the Proposed Offshore Scheme.

c. Maintaining an updated log /register of active fishermen, fishing associations along the cable route, including name of vessel, method of fishing, owner etc.
d. To distribute relevant information and NtM of any LionLink related activities that could potentially interact with fisheries stakeholders.
e. Having a detailed understanding and awareness of the local fishing industry advising the Applicant of potential impacts of proposed works, fishing activities along the cable route, relevant fishermen's concerns and any timing sensitivities.
f. To be familiar with relevant conditions attached to all licences, permits, consents and agreements obtained by the Applicant (and its Contractors) e.g., deemed Marine Licence, Crown Estate Licence.

4.2.4 During the construction phase the FLO will be included on daily reports and will transmit any information to fishers if deemed relevant. The FLO will be required to liaise with the local fishing industry regarding any up and coming works which may impact on fisheries operations. The FLO will ensure that fishers are made aware of all operations in progress; and are given early and adequate warning to enable such vessels to take action, wherever possible, in order that interference between fishing and the proposed works are minimised. If works are delayed or over-run, then this will be communicated to the fishing industry at the earliest opportunity.

4.3 Offshore Fisheries Liaison Officer (OFLO) (if required)

4.3.1 Prior to the commencement of any major works the Applicant may also appoint an OFLO, who will be present on the works vessel or guard vessel during offshore activities. The role will be undertaken by someone who has a commercial fishing background, and ideally is familiar with the Project.

4.3.2 An OFLO would be maintained on board survey and construction vessels as required. The primary responsibilities of the OFLO would be:

a. To regularly broadcast survey and construction vessel locations, operations, schedules, safety zones and health and safety requirements on relevant radio very high frequencies (VHF) and medium frequencies during operations.
b. To maintain daily contact with fishing vessels observed to be within the vicinity of the work areas of survey and construction vessels and communicate upcoming plans and ideally work towards the relocation of any fishing gear present within the defined construction corridors, if required.
c. To keep the masters and watch officers of survey and construction vessels informed of fishing vessels in the vicinity of their vessels working area and the gears and modes of operation of such vessels.
d. To maintain daily contact with the onshore LionLink FLO.

5 Information Exchange

5.1.1 Disseminating information to all parties as early as possible and ensuring that effective lines of communication are maintained is key to an ongoing productive working relationship with fisheries stakeholders. The FLO will be responsible for establishing contact lists for the Fishermen's organisations and individuals, along the Proposed Offshore Scheme.

5.1.2 Notices shall be given to sea users in the area of operations via NtMs, Kingfisher Bulletins, NAVTEX, NAVAREA warnings, email, telephone and text as appropriate.

5.2 Notices to Mariners (NtMs)

5.2.1 NtMs shall be issued and distributed in good time, prior to the start of works and in line with Conditions on the deemed Marine Licence. Notices will be distributed by the FLO via email, letter and text where appropriate. Notices shall include as much information as possible, relevant to fishing activities. This should include, but not be limited to:

a. A description of works due to be undertaken.
b. Vessel name and contact number.
c. A start date and proposed end date for the works.
d. Whether operations are 24-hour.
e. Whether buoys will be placed (e.g., at anchor positions) and if so, what are the lighting sequences etc.
f. Whether any equipment will be left on the seabed.
g. All work positions must be given in WGS84 Degrees and decimal minutes.
h. An accompanying admiralty chart showing the work area.

5.2.2 All NtMs will also be published on the LionLink Project website - (https://www.nationalgrid.com/national-grid-ventures/lionlink/about)

5.3 Final Installation Coordinates

5.3.1 The Applicant will provide the coordinates for the following at the end of construction:

a. Final installed position of cables.
b. Final positions (including dimensions) of crossings.
c. Final position of any remedial external cable protection (including dimensions and type of protection).

5.3.2 Final as-laid coordinates will be provided to KIS-ORCA and the UK Hydrographic Office for inclusion on Fishermen's Awareness Charts and Admiralty Charts.

6 Safety

6.1 COLREGs

6.1.1 Project vessels will comply with the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (COLREGs) (as amended) and UK Standard Marking Schedule for Offshore Installations, particularly with respect to the display of lights, shapes and signals.

6.2 Safety Zones

6.2.1 During all works the Applicant will aim to minimise the disruption to fishing activities along the Proposed Offshore Scheme but for the safety of all mariners, will request a safety zone around any works vessels, typically this would be a distance of 500m. This is a standard approach for all offshore works and in line with COLREGs. Should a fishing vessel need to enter an area within proximity of a work vessel, this must be communicated, requested and discussed by VHF radio before approaching.

6.2.2 A guard vessel may be on site to inform fishing vessels of anchor positions or other hazards to navigation and fishing. Should a fishing vessel need to enter the area enclosed by the anchors, this must be communicated, requested and discussed by VHF radio before approaching.

6.3 Guard Vessels

6.3.1 The Applicant (or its contractors) will secure the services of guard vessels to ensure that construction works proceed smoothly and safely and fishing disruption is minimised. The Applicant have committed to providing guard vessels where appropriate e.g., where there is significant navigational traffic and risk assessment identifies a guard vessel is necessary or where the cable is exposed on the seabed i.e., between cable lay and burial / protection.

6.3.2 No guard vessels have been contracted yet. Guard vessels employed by the Applicant (or its contractors) will be suitable for the role and have the ability to withstand the expected weather conditions and other operating requirements, and the captain(s) and crew(s) shall have suitable and sufficient knowledge and experience of the construction operations and cable protection roles. Guard vessels will be sourced locally wherever possible to do so.

7 Embedded design mitigation and control measures

7.1 Overview

7.1.1 Mitigation has been relied upon in the environmental impact assessment process to avoid or reduce the potential significant adverse effects of the Proposed Offshore Scheme. Known mitigation measures at this stage of pre-application have been summarised and collated with the mechanisms by which they could be secured in **Appendix 29.1.A Outline Schedule of Environmental Commitments and Measures** of the PEIR.

7.1.2 Consideration has been given to key types of mitigation:

a. Design and embedded mitigation (also known as primary mitigation) - defined as mitigation that is embedded into the design or 'intrinsic' to the Proposed Offshore Scheme. These include efforts undertaken to modify the location, design or methods used;
b. Additional mitigation (also known as secondary or foreseeable mitigation) - defined as additional measures or actions required to reduce likely significant effects. These would not be taken into account within the initial assessment of effects, but applied because the assessment concludes that without additional mitigation significant effects could not be avoided; and
c. Control measures (also known as tertiary or inexorable mitigation) - defined as required regardless of any environmental assessments. These are actions undertaken to meet legislative requirements or actions that are standard best practice used to manage commonly occurring impacts.

7.1.3 The design and embedded mitigation and control measures for the Proposed Offshore Scheme relevant to commercial fisheries are outlined in **Table 7.1** and **Table 7.2** respectively.

7.1.4 Several management plans will be provided as Outline Management Plans with the application for development consent to support the Deemed Marine Licence (DML). These will include an Outline Offshore Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and the Outline Fisheries Liaison and Coexistence Plan (FLCP), this document. Final management plans will be submitted in accordance with the DML to discharge the licence conditions.

7.1.5 The compliance mechanism for the design and embedded mitigation and control measures is through the DML secured through the Development Consent Order (DCO), and/or the CEMP or FLCP secured through the DML.

7.1.6 The Applicant would ensure that all work that is undertaken during construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning complies with the requirements of relevant national and international legislation.

7.1.7 Mitigation measures will continue to be developed in consultation with the local fishing industry. A preliminary list of all mitigation is provided in **Appendix 29.1.A Outline Schedule of Environmental Commitments and Measures** of this PEIR. A final list of all mitigations will be provided with the ES in the application for development consent.

Table 7.1: Design and embedded mitigation measures for commercial fisheries

Commitment Reference Code	Measure	Compliance Mechanism
OD01	All cables will be installed in one trench.	CEMP secured by DML
OD02	HVDC cables will be bundled together to minimise the EMF profile.	CEMP secured by DML
OD04	The intention is to bury the cables in the seabed, except in areas where trenching is not possible e.g. where ground conditions do not allow burial or at infrastructure crossings.	CEMP secured by DML
OD05	External cable protection shall only be used where it can be demonstrated that adequate burial depth cannot be achieved (e.g., where ground conditions do not allow burial or at infrastructure crossings); the footprint of any external protection shall be the minimum required to ensure adequate cable protection and stability.	CEMP secured by DML
OD06	In sites designated for benthic features, cable protection materials will be selected to match the environment (e.g. rock of similar grade as the receiving environment) where feasible.	CEMP secured by DML
OD07	Design and construction will be carried out in accordance with International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC) Recommendations.	CEMP secured by DML
OD08	Micro-routeing within the Order Limits to avoid sensitive environmental constraints and minimise the risk of exposure by seabed mobility.	CEMP secured by DML
OD11	Cable protection (including infrastructure crossings) would be designed to prevent the risk of fishing gear snagging.	CEMP secured by DML
OD12	Routine surveys and inspections of the cables and associated protection measures would be conducted through the lifetime of the project, to ensure they remain in good condition, and adequately protected.	CEMP secured by DML

Table 7.2: Control measures relevant to commercial fisheries

Commitment Reference Code	Measure	Compliance Mechanism
OC06	As-built locations of cables and external cable protection will be supplied to The Crown Estate, UKHO (Admiralty) and Kingfisher Information Services for inclusion in Admiralty and KIS-ORCA charts.	DML secured through DCO
OC07	External cable protection (excluding crossing locations) shall not reduce chart datum by more than 5%, unless agreed in advance with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and appropriate navigation authorities. If external cable protection at any location including crossings does impact on navigable depth, such locations shall be marked in accordance with Trinity House requirements and suitably marked on navigation charts.	DML secured through DCO
OC15	A Fisheries Liaison Officer (FLO) and fisheries working group(s) will be maintained throughout installation to ensure project information is effectively disseminated, dialogue is maintained with the commercial fishing industry and access to home ports is maintained during the main fishing season. Details of the FLO will the included in the Construction Fisheries Liaison and Coexistence Plan.	FLCP and DML secured through DCO
OC16	Timings of any temporary areas of exclusion from fishing grounds will be clearly communicated via a Notice to Mariners (NtM).	FLCP and DML secured through DCO
OC17	A procedure for the claim of loss of/or damage to fishing gear will be developed and details included in the Construction Fisheries Liaison and Coexistence Plan	FLCP secured by DML
OC18	During the course of cable route clearance, specific activities would be completed to remove items from the seabed. Out of Service cables would be removed as per industry guidelines (International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC) Recommendation 1), larger debris including lost fishing gear would be removed prior to cable installation and a pre-lay grapnel run would be completed to ensure smaller debris is removed. In the event that abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear ('ALDFG') is encountered, it may be necessary in certain circumstances to bring ALDFG onto the vessel deck. In these instances, marked ALDFG will be returned to the MMO/local IFCA for onward retrieval by the owner of the marked gear, in line with existing best practice. Not all gear (particularly 'active' gear) is marked; if necessary to bring onto the vessel deck, unmarked gear will be disposed of via conventional onshore waste channels.	CEMP secured by DML
OC19	Cut cable end locations and associated weights shall be accurately noted and charted and positions given to the FLO	CEMP secured by DML

Commitment Reference Code	Measure	Compliance Mechanism
	at the earliest opportunity for onward communication to the fishing industry.	
OC20	In the event that cable exposures are identified during routine maintenance surveys, the location of these will be shared with fisheries stakeholders and where necessary, additional temporary measures put in place (e.g., marker buoys, use of guard vessels, etc), until a repair or remediation can be implemented.	FLCP secured by DML
OC21	Guard vessel(s), using RADAR with Automatic RADAR Plotting Aid (ARPA) to monitor vessel activity and predict possible interactions, will be employed to work alongside the installation vessel(s) during cable installation works and to protect any temporary cable exposures during installation.	CEMP secured by DML
OC26	Timely and efficient communication will be given to sea users in the area via Notices to Mariners (NtM), Kingfisher Bulletins, Radio Navigation Warnings Navigational Telex (NAVTEX and Navigational Areas (NAVAREA) warnings and/or broadcast warnings.	DML secured through DCO

Topic Glossary and Abbreviations

Term	Definition
Development Consent Order (DCO)	An order made by the Secretary of State pursuant to the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) granting development consent for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project. It grants consent to develop the approved project and may include (among other things) powers to compulsorily acquire land and rights where required and deemed marine licences for any offshore works.
Draft Order Limits	The area of land identified as being subject to the DCO application. The Draft Order Limits are made up of the land required both temporarily and permanently to allow for the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Proposed Scheme. All onshore parts of the Proposed Onshore Scheme are located within England and offshore parts of the Proposed Offshore Scheme are located within English territorial waters to 12 Nautical Miles and then up to the United Kingdom (UK) Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) boundary at sea.
Environmental Statement (ES)	The ES is a document that sets out the likely significant effects of the project on the environment. The ES is the main output from the EIA process. The ES is published as part of the DCO application.
Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)	The zone in which the coastal state exercises the rights under Part V of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. These rights relate principally to the water column and may extend to 200 nautical miles from baselines. This is distinct from territorial waters, which for the UK extend 12 nautical miles from the coast.
Outline Offshore Construction Environmental Management Plan (Outline Offshore CEMP)	Describes the control measures and standards proposed to be implemented to provide a consistent approach to the environmental management of the construction activities of the Proposed Offshore Scheme.
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	The PEIR is a document, compiled by the Applicant, which presents preliminary environmental information, as part of the statutory consultation process. This is defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 as containing information which “is reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view

Term	Definition
	of the likely significant environmental effects of the development (and of any associated development)" (Section 12 2. (b)). This PEIR describes the Proposed Scheme, sets out preliminary findings of the EIA undertaken to date, and the mitigation measures proposed to reduce effects. The PEIR is published at Statutory Consultation stage for information and feedback.
Project (the)	The LionLink Project (hereafter referred to as the 'Project') is a proposal by National Grid LionLink Limited (NGLLL) and TenneT. The Project is a proposed electricity link between Great Britain (GB) and the Netherlands with a capacity of up to 2.0 gigawatts (GW) of electricity and will connect to Dutch offshore wind via an offshore platform in Dutch waters. The Project is the collective term used to refer to the proposal for all aspects (onshore and offshore) of the proposed interconnector between GB and the Netherlands.
Proposed Offshore Scheme	The term used when referring to the offshore elements of the Proposed Scheme, seaward of the mean high-water springs to the EEZ boundary at sea.
Study Area	The ICES rectangles that overlap the Proposed Offshore Scheme, namely 33F1, 33F2, 34F2, 35F2 and 35F3 which encompass the study area.

Acronym/ Phrase/ Abbreviation	Definition
ALDFG	Abandoned, Lost or Discarded Fishing Gear
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan
CLV	Cable Lay Vessel
COLREGs	International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972
DCO	Development Consent Order
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
dML	Deemed Marine Licence
DMR	Dedicated Metallic Return
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
ES	Environmental Statement
ESCA	European Subsea Cables Association
FLCP	Fisheries Liaison and Coexistence Plan
FLO	Fisheries Liaison Officer

Acronym/ Phrase/ Abbreviation	Definition
FLOWW	Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables
GB	Great Britain
GW	Gigawatt
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
HDPE	High-density Polyethylene
HDVC	High Voltage Direct Current
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of Seas
ICPC	International Cable Protection Committee
Km	Kilometre
LAT	Lowest Astronomical Tide
MBES	Multibeam Echo Sounder
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
NAVAREA	Navigational Area
NGLLL	National Grid LionLink Limited
NTS	National Transmission System
NTM	Notice to Mariners
OFLO	Offshore Fisheries Liaison Officer
oFLCP	Outline Fisheries Liaison and Coexistence Plan
OOS	Out-Of-Service
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
PLGR	Pre-lay Grapnel Run
SBP	Sub Bottom Profiler
SSS	Side Scan Sonar
The Applicant	National Grid LionLink Limited
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
VHF	Very High Frequency

References

Ref 1 FLOWW (2014) FLOWW Best Practice Guidelines for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries Liaison January 2014. (Online) Available at: https://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/media/1775/ei-km-in-pc-fishing-012014-floww-best-practice-guidance-for-offshore-renewables-developments-recommendations-for-fisheries-liaison.pdf (Accessed 29 August 2025)

Ref 2 FLOWW (2015) FLOWW Best Practice Guidance for Offshore Renewables Developments: Recommendations for Fisheries Disruption Settlements and Community Funds. (Online) Available at: https://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/media/1776/floww-best-practice-guidance-disruption-settlements-and-community-funds.pdf (Accessed 19 September 2025)

Ref 3 OEUK (2023) Liaison with the Fishing Industry on the UKCS. (Online) Available at: OGUK_Guidelines (Accessed 19 September 2025)

Ref 4 ESCA (2018) ESCA Guideline 01 – Fishing Liaison July 2018 (Online) Available at: Guidelines (Accessed 19 September 2025)

Ref 5 DEFRA (2022) Joint Fisheries Statement November 2022. (Online) Available at: Joint_Fisheries_Statement_JFS_2022_Final.pdf (Accessed 19 September 2025)

Ref 6 MMO (2025) Vessel lists 10 metres and under. (Online) Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/vessel-lists-10-metres-and-under (Accessed 29 August 2025)

Ref 7 MMO (2025) Vessel lists over 10 metres. (Online) Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/vessel-lists-over-10-metres (Accessed 29 August 2025)

National Grid LionLink Limited

Company number 14722364

1-3 Strand

London

WG2N-5EH

United Kingdom

nationalgrid.com