

LionLink Community Newsletter

Autumn 2026



In this edition of our community newsletter, we look back at our recent targeted consultation and share what happens next 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. LionLink is a first-of-its-kind technology, which will connect to the Dutch offshore wind farm, Nederwiek 3.

LionLink will help make the UK's energy supply more secure by increasing the amount of electricity that can be shared between countries. Energy security is a growing priority and stronger cooperation with European nations will play a key role for the UK. By connecting to a Dutch offshore wind farm, LionLink would supply up to 2 gigawatts (GW) of electricity, enough to power around 2.5 million homes. This will cut reliance on fossil fuels, help reduce price volatility and contribute to a more secure and stable energy system.

We recognise that communities hosting infrastructure play an important role in enabling projects such as LionLink.

An update from Alex Marsh, LionLink Project Director

Alex leads the delivery of the LionLink project and continues to work closely with local communities as we develop our plans. In his latest update, Alex reflects on LionLink's targeted consultation that took place earlier this summer and outlines the next steps for the project.

“ It's been a significant period of engagement for LionLink, with consultation activity taking place across the local area. I'd like to thank everyone who has engaged with LionLink at any stage and provided us with feedback. We appreciate that reviewing this information and sharing your views takes time and effort.

Before providing an update on the next steps for LionLink, I would like to acknowledge the recent wildfires at Dunwich Heath. Like many others, we were saddened to see the impact on local communities, businesses and this much valued area. Our thoughts remain with everyone affected and we hope to see the area recover in the months ahead.

As we move forward, we remain mindful of the importance of the local environment and communities that could be affected by our proposals.

The focus for my team is now on reviewing the feedback received through consultation and continuing to refine our proposals. Alongside this, we are preparing the detailed information we'll submit as part of our application for Development Consent.

This will include an Environmental Statement, setting out the potential effects of constructing and operating LionLink. We'll also submit a range of other documents needed to support our application. Once submitted, these documents will be published by the Planning Inspectorate and made available for people to review.

Thank you for your continued engagement. We will keep communities informed as our work progresses and look forward to continuing these conversations on how LionLink can best support communities in the area. ”

LIONLINK

Targeted consultation engagement

This summer we completed our targeted consultation, which took place from Tuesday 7 July to Wednesday 5 August 2026.

During the consultation period, we sought feedback on specific changes from those most directly affected by the updated proposals. These included:



An updated landfall location at Walberswick (G3), further from the village.



Changes to the construction area near Lymballs Lane, including the temporary haul road.



Alternative options for construction access at Benhall Railway Bridge.



Refinements to project boundaries and access locations along the route.

We also wrote to people closest to the changes to confirm two further updates to the project:

- selecting the western option presented at statutory consultation as our preferred route for part of the underground cable corridor.
- a reduction in the proposed construction working hours.

Further information about the proposed changes and the materials published as part of the targeted consultation can be found on our project website.

We saw a high level of interest and engagement during the consultation period, including:

328 feedback responses from the local community

68 people attended our online webinar

6,267 visits to the project website

Ahead of our targeted consultation, we published our Statutory Consultation Summary Report, setting out the feedback received during the statutory consultation and how this was being considered.

Our Consultation Report will explain how we carried out each stage of consultation, who we consulted, the feedback we received and how this was considered as our proposals developed. The report will be submitted as part of our application for a Development Consent Order (DCO).



Survey works

Ground Investigation surveys – October 2026

We are undertaking non-intrusive surveys as a continuation of previous surveys to confirm ground conditions. These surveys are building on the extensive work already carried out.

The proposed surveys are currently scheduled to commence during the week commencing 12 October 2026 and are expected to be completed within a period of up to 14 days. The programme has been planned to avoid the October half-term period, recognising that visitor numbers and tourism activity in the area may increase during this time.

Public Rights of Way will remain open, although people using the paths may occasionally be asked to wait briefly while survey activities are carried out. We would like to thank the local community for its patience and cooperation while these works are undertaken.

You can read more about our upcoming surveys on our website. Find the latest information at www.nationalgrid.com/lionlink

Looking ahead

We are continuing to refine the project design, coordinate with other developers and engage with stakeholders as we prepare our DCO application. Following submission of the application to the Planning Inspectorate in 2027, the project will progress through a number of key stages.

DCO application – 2027

We will submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate in 2027. As we prepare our application, we will continue to keep communities informed and explain how members of the public can get involved.

Acceptance, pre-examination and examination

The Planning Inspectorate will have 28 days to decide whether to accept our application. If accepted, members of the public will be able to register to participate in the examination process and share their views. The examination can last up to six months.

Recommendation and decision

Within three months of the examination, the Examining Authority will make its recommendation. The Secretary of State will then have three months to make a decision.

Community benefit

Community benefit was a key topic during our consultations this year. We heard a wide range of views, ideas and suggestions from local people, community groups and stakeholders about how LionLink could best support the area. We are carefully considering this feedback as we continue to develop our proposals.

Our aim is to ensure that our approach reflects local priorities and delivers meaningful, lasting value for communities that will host LionLink's infrastructure.

We are working closely with other projects in the area, including Sea Link, to consider potential approaches to community benefit and share feedback from local communities about the types of support that would provide the greatest value.

While this work continues, we are already delivering a range of initiatives across the local area through our wider social value programme. This includes partnering with local organisations, like Catch22, to deliver activities that support communities both during project development and beyond.

Latest school engagement

We are continuing to build our relationship with Yoxford and Peasehall Primary School as part of our wider commitment to supporting local schools and communities.

On 11 August, members of the LionLink team spent the day volunteering at the school, helping with practical tasks ahead of the new school year. This included cleaning more than 100 classroom chairs, helping to extend their lifespan and keep them in use for longer.

The visit is one of several ways we have supported local schools, and we look forward to identifying further opportunities to support pupils, staff and the wider school community.

Contact us

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