

The Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP
The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
c/o The Planning Inspectorate

By email to: lionlinkinterconnector@planninginspectorate.gov.uk
For the attention of: Ms Louise Harraway – Case Manager

12 January 2026

Reference: EN020033

Dear Ms Harraway,

LionLink – Statutory consultation between Tuesday 13 January 2026 and Tuesday 10 March 2026

Notification in accordance with section 46 ‘duty to notify Secretary of State of proposed application’ of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended)

National Grid Lion Link Limited (“NGLL”) (the “Applicant”) of 1-3 Strand, London, United Kingdom, WC2N 5EH intends to apply to you (as the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero) under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the “Act”) for a Development Consent Order (“DCO”) (the “Application”).

LionLink (the “Project”) comprises a new subsea electricity cable (known as an interconnector) between the UK and the Netherlands. This subsea cable will have the capacity to deliver up to 2 gigawatts of electricity, which will be vital in supporting greater energy security and delivering more affordable energy for consumers. LionLink will bring offshore wind energy to the UK by connecting to a Dutch offshore wind farm, whilst also enabling the flow of energy between the UK and Dutch electricity systems.

The Great Britain (“GB”) elements of the Project comprise the proposed onshore infrastructure in England, and the proposed offshore infrastructure within UK territorial waters, up to the UK Exclusive Economic Zone (“EEZ”) boundary at sea. These GB elements are referred to as the “Proposed Scheme” and comprise:

- A connection to Kiln Lane Substation, located north of Friston. Kiln Lane Substation already has development consent as part of other third-party DCOs. However, the existing consent does not include sufficient connection capacity for the Proposed Scheme and therefore consent will be sought for amendments to Kiln Lane Substation. To account for the unlikely scenario that the Kiln Lane Substation is not delivered by the existing consents, the Applicant will also seek to consent delivery of the Kiln Lane Substation in its entirety, as an alternate consenting scenario;
- Proposed Underground High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) cables (of up to 2.2km in length) between the Kiln Lane Substation and the proposed Converter Station;
- Proposed Converter Station (containing buildings up to 26m in height, excluding external infrastructure and potential architectural treatments) located east of Saxmundham and south of the B1119 Saxmundham Road;
- Proposed Underground High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) cables (approximately 20km in length) between the proposed Converter Station and Landfall;
- Landfall at Walberswick; and
- Proposed Offshore HVDC cables (up to 182km in length) from the Landfall at Walberswick to the edge of the UK EEZ.

The Proposed Scheme would also involve diversions of third-party assets, drainage, environmental mitigation, and permanent access roads (where they have not already been delivered by other developers). In the scenario that the Kiln Lane Substation is delivered as part of the Proposed Scheme, modifications to existing overhead line infrastructure would be required.

The construction phase will involve a range of temporary activities including working areas for construction equipment and machinery, site offices, storage, bellmouths, access roads, haul roads, watercourse crossings and diversions of public rights of way.

The Application will seek powers for the Applicant to construct, operate, maintain and decommission the Proposed Scheme. It will also cover:

- The temporary and permanent compulsory acquisition of land and/or rights which are required for the Proposed Scheme;
- Overriding easements and other rights over or affecting the land for the Proposed Scheme;
- The application and/or disapplication of legislation relevant to the Proposed Scheme; and

- Such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, permits and consents as are necessary and convenient, including Deemed Marine Licences.

On Tuesday, 23 August 2022, the former Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy issued a direction under Section 35 of the Act that the Proposed Scheme should be treated as a development for which development consent is required.

Environmental Impact Assessment

The Applicant notified the former Secretary of State in writing under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the “2017 Regulations”) that they intend to provide an Environmental Statement (“ES”) in respect of the Proposed Scheme. The Proposed Scheme is therefore an “EIA development” for the purposes of the 2017 Regulations and an ES will form part of the Application. The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (“PEIR”) and associated PEIR Non-Technical Summary (“PEIR NTS”) available as part of this consultation contains the information compiled so far about the environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Scheme.

Statutory Consultation

This letter represents the Applicant’s notification to the Secretary of State of the proposed application, pursuant to section 46 ‘Duty to notify Secretary of State of proposed application’ of the Act.

Prior to submitting the Application, the Applicant is required to consult with a variety of persons (“prescribed persons”) about the Application, in accordance with section 42 of the Act, regulation 3 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (the “2009 Regulations”) and regulations 11 and 13 of the 2017 Regulations.

The Applicant is consulting on its Proposed Scheme from **Tuesday, 13 January 2026 until Tuesday, 10 March 2026**.

The Applicant will issue a letter and/or email (the “Consultation Letter”) accompanied by specific consultation documents (the “Consultation Pack”) to the prescribed persons by 13 January 2026. Examples of the Consultation Letter are enclosed.

Consultation documents and events

The Consultation Pack which will be provided to the prescribed persons comprises:

- Consultation leaflet;
- Paper copy of feedback form;
- Freepost envelope; and
- Section 48 notice.

The contents of the Consultation Pack (with the exception of the Freepost envelope) is available to download from the following secure file share link:

Enclosed documents

The Applicant has prepared several other consultation documents, including the PEIR, PEIR NTS and plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Proposed Scheme. The consultation documents will be available for inspection by stakeholders free of charge on the project website (under the 'Library' tab) from **9am on Tuesday, 13 January 2026 until Tuesday, 10 March 2026**:

<https://www.nationalgrid.com/national-grid-ventures/lionlink/library>. A link to the project website will be shared with the prescribed persons as part of the Consultation Letter.

Copies of the other consultation documents, including the PEIR and plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Proposed Scheme, will be available for inspection by stakeholders free of charge at the Applicant's consultation exhibition events.

Details about the exhibition events, and online webinars are provided in the enclosed section 48 notice. Stakeholders can register to attend the public webinars on the project website:

<https://www.nationalgrid.com/national-grid-ventures/lionlink/about>.

Fees will not be charged for reasonable requests to print hard copies of consultation documents (including plans or maps), with the exception of those relating to the full PEIR. Due to the scale of the full PEIR, a cost of £0.37p per page will be charged to cover the printing and postage of a hard copy.

Reference copies of certain consultation documents (including the PEIR NTS and key drawings showing the nature and location of the Proposed Scheme) will also be available for inspection by stakeholders free of

charge from **Tuesday, 13 January 2026 until Tuesday, 10 March 2026**,
at the deposit locations and times listed below:

Deposit location	Address	Opening hours
Saxmundham Town Council	The Town House, Station Approach, Saxmundham, IP17 1BW	Monday: 9am - 4pm Tuesday: 9am - 4pm Wednesday: 9am - 4pm Thursday: 9am - 4pm Friday: 9am - 4pm Saturday: Closed Sunday: Closed
Southwold Library	Old Hospital Hub, Field Stile Road, Southwold, IP18 6LD	Monday: Closed Tuesday: 10am - 1pm, 2pm - 6pm Wednesday: 10am - 1pm, 2pm - 6pm Thursday: 10am - 1pm, 2pm - 6pm Friday: 10am - 1pm, 2pm - 6pm Saturday: 9:30am - 1pm, 2pm - 5pm Sunday: 11am - 4pm
Leiston Library	Main Street, Leiston, IP16 4ER	Monday: Closed Tuesday: 9:30am - 7:30pm Wednesday: Closed Thursday: 9:30am - 5:30pm Friday: 9:30am - 1pm, 2pm - 5pm Saturday: 9:30am - 1pm, 2pm - 5pm Sunday: 10am - 3pm
Saxmundham Library	Block B, Street Farm Road, Saxmundham, IP17 1AL	Monday: Closed Tuesday: 9.30am - 5.30pm Wednesday: 9.30am - 5.30pm Thursday: Closed Friday: 9.30am - 5.30pm Saturday: 10am - 1pm Sunday: 10am - 3pm
Halesworth Library	Bridge Street, Halesworth, IP19 8AD	Monday: 9am - 1pm Tuesday: 9am - 5pm Wednesday: 9am - 5pm Thursday: Closed Friday: 9am - 5pm Saturday: 9am - 5pm Sunday: 10am - 3pm

Duty to publicise

Section 48 of the Act requires the Applicant to publicise its proposed application by publishing a notice (“section 48 notice”).

The section 48 notice will be published for two successive weeks in the Eastern Daily Press, East Anglian Daily Times and Ipswich Star newspapers circulating within the vicinity of the Proposed Scheme on 12 and 19 January 2026. The section 48 notice will also be published once in The Guardian (on 12 January 2026), The London Gazette (on 15 January 2026), Lloyd’s List (on 14 January 2026) and Fishing News (on 15 January 2026).

Regulation 13 of the 2017 Regulations requires the Applicant to send a copy of the section 48 notice to the “consultation bodies” and to any person notified to the Applicant by the Secretary of State, at the same time as publishing the notice, in accordance with regulation 11(1)(c) of the 2017 Regulations. A copy of the section 48 notice is enclosed and will be sent to the relevant consultation bodies on or around 13 January 2026, as part of the Consultation Pack.

The section 48 notice will also be erected within the Proposed Scheme boundary (at approximately 5km intervals) by 13 January 2026.

Further information and response deadline

Further details about the consultation are contained within the “Statement of Community Consultation” (“SoCC”).

In accordance with Section 47(2) of the Act, the Applicant consulted East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council on the SoCC, as the local authorities for the Proposed Scheme. Regard was given to comments received from the local authorities to inform the SoCC.

A copy of the SoCC is available within the secure file share link provided above. The SoCC was published in local newspapers and on the project website on Wednesday 10 December 2025. The SoCC was also made available for inspection by stakeholders free of charge at deposit locations from Wednesday 10 December 2025.

The deadline stated in the Consultation Letter (and on the section 48 notice) for the receipt of comments and representations on the Proposed Scheme is **23:59 on 10 March 2026**. Postal responses will be accepted if they are received by **16 March 2026**.

The Applicant would be grateful for confirmation of safe receipt of this notification of the proposed application and enclosed documents. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Applicant at the following email address: info@lionlink.nationalgrid.com.

Yours sincerely,

The LionLink Project Team

Enclosures (via a secure file share link):

- Statement of Community Consultation;
- Examples of the Consultation Letter;
- Consultation leaflet;
- Paper copy of feedback form; and
- Section 48 notice.