

LIONLINK PROJECT

Supplementary Non-Statutory Consultation Report

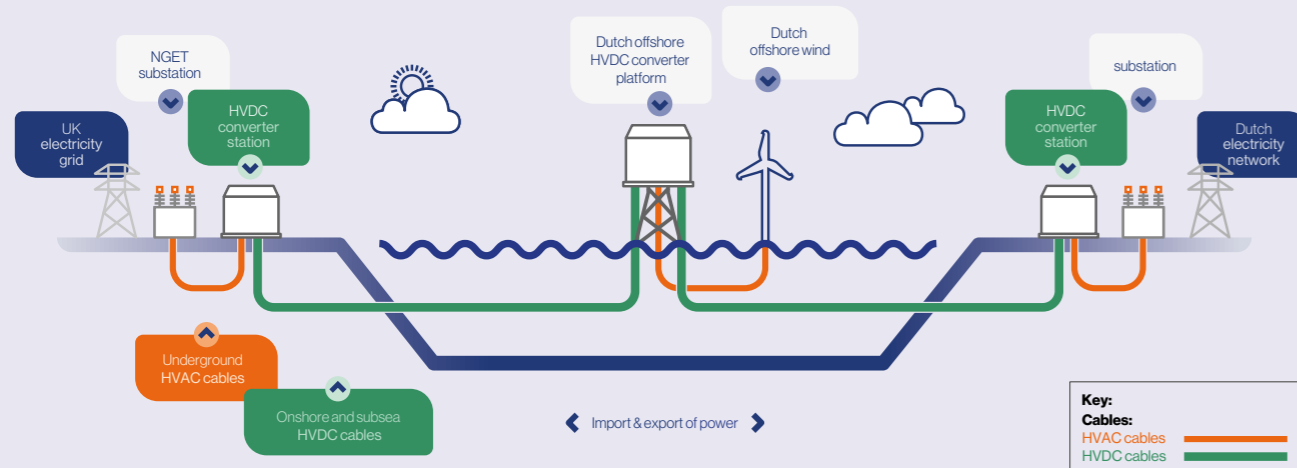
Executive Summary
March 2024



LIONLINK

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

National Grid Ventures (NGV) is developing plans to build a new subsea electricity cable (known as an interconnector) between Great Britain and the Netherlands. The project, called LionLink, will play an important role in reducing the UK's reliance on fossil fuels and supporting the UK government's objectives to create a secure, reliable, and affordable energy supply for UK households.



How will LionLink work?

To be built, LionLink must successfully gain a Development Consent Order (DCO). The DCO for LionLink will be submitted to the government in 2026. As part of the preparation for this, National Grid Ventures has been consulting the community and statutory consultees about its plans for this project.

This report provides a summary of the feedback we have received during this process and sets out how we have used this feedback to shape our plans for LionLink, and our response to some of the other issues raised as part of the consultation process.

Lionlink will deliver a range of benefits, including:

-  The opportunity to supply up to **1.8 gigawatts (GW)** of electricity – enough to power approximately **2.5 million homes**.
-  LionLink is expected to save UK consumers almost **£300 million** in its first ten years of operation.
-  First year total carbon emission savings equivalent to taking nearly **600,000 cars off the road**.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Our first non-statutory consultation was held from Monday 24 October until Sunday 18 December 2022 and provided an opportunity for communities and statutory consultees to view and comment on our initial siting and routing options. Details of the consultation undertaken, feedback received and our then responses to feedback can be found in our [interim report](#) published in August 2023.

The feedback received during our first non-statutory consultation resulted in some refinements to our proposals, including:

- an alternative landfall site at Walberswick, which was considered to have the potential to reduce access constraints and traffic impacts

- an alternative onshore cable corridor to the north of Southwold, which was considered to have the potential to reduce impacts on designated sites of ecological importance.

Following our interim report, NGV held a second non-statutory consultation to ensure that the community and statutory consultees were able to provide feedback on the new options identified. This consultation took place between Friday 8 September 2023 and Friday 3 November 2023.



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK



We received over 1,300 pieces of feedback during this consultation, and we are grateful to everyone who took the time to tell us what they think of our proposals. All feedback was analysed and considered in order to inform our proposals and our emerging site preferences. As part of this analysis, we identified a number of recurring themes. These included:

1. Suggestions of alternative infrastructure in Suffolk
2. The impact of construction on local tourist industries
3. Local ecology and biodiversity concerns
4. Construction methodologies and concerns over restoration work
5. Preference for coordinating with other renewable energy projects planned for the region to share infrastructure
6. Health and community impacts
7. Archaeology and local heritage impacts
8. Feedback on consultation
9. Concerns around land quality.

The [Supplementary Non-Statutory Consultation Report](#) sets out to provide our latest responses to the themes raised, as well as detail how the feedback received has informed our optioneering process.

In considering the feedback received to both non-statutory consultations, alongside wider technical and environmental assessments, we have now identified preferred options for our landfalls, cabling route, and converter station. These sites are referred to as our emerging preferences. As part of this process we have also discounted some options presented at both consultations.



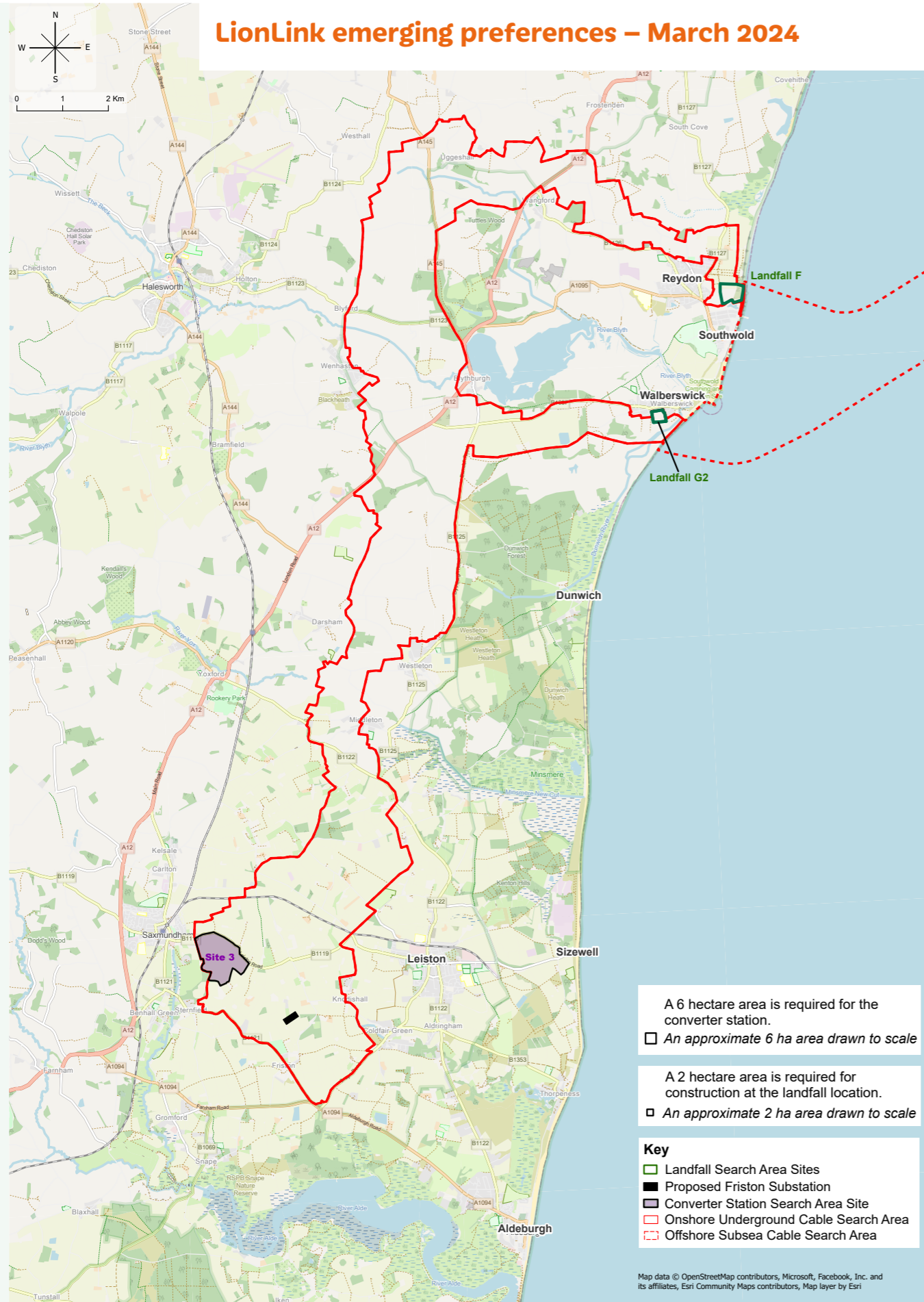
LIONLINK EMERGING PREFERENCES

The following emerging preferences have now been identified as locations for our landfalls, converter station and underground cable routes, (see page 6).

- **Landfall F (Reydon/Southwold) and Landfall G2 (alternative Walberswick).** Landfall at Dunwich and Aldeburgh were discounted due to potential adverse impacts on heritage (for Dunwich) and protected European offshore designations (for Aldeburgh) and associated technical constraints. Landfall at Reydon/Southwold (F) or Walberswick (G2) will allow for the shortest offshore cable route and the least environmental disruption to protected areas.

- **Converter Station Site 3 (Saxmundham).** Due to the impacts Site 4 and Site 5 would have on environmental designations and heritage, as well as greater construction impacts, Site 3 emerged as the preferred option due to the potential for coordination of converter sites with Sea Link.
- **Cable route north of Southwold or cable route from Landfall G2.** Other routes were discounted given their corresponding landfalls had been discounted.

For further information on how these sites have been identified, the full [Non-Statutory Consultation Feedback Report](#) can be found here.



NEXT STEPS

We will now progress the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process to undertake more detailed studies into the options that have become our emerging preferences. Our EIA scoping report will be submitted in March 2024 to the Planning Inspectorate.

We will then be consulting with the public again as part of our statutory consultation, scheduled for 2025.

The timeline for the project is as follows:





Contact us

We value your views and will continue to work with local communities and stakeholders, to develop the proposals further. If you have any feedback on LionLink you can contact us directly via the details below:

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