LionLink Project

Ground investigation works update

August 2024

LIONLINK

The LionLink project will shortly be undertaking ground investigation surveys across the scheme including landfall and cable route sites, due to start late August 2024.

National Grid Ventures (NGV) is developing plans to build a new subsea cable (known as an interconnector) between Great Britain and the Netherlands. The project, called LionLink, will connect to a Dutch offshore windfarm and connect the GB and Dutch electricity grids. 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.

Summary of works

To support the design development process, we will be undertaking ground investigation (GI) survey works across the scheme, including our preferred landfall sites and cable route. In addition, non-intrusive surveys will be undertaken at landfall sites.

The purpose of the surveys is to gather data on ground conditions, which will inform LionLink's design.

The surveys will:

- Identify soil and rock types beneath the surface and depths
- Gather soil and rock samples to test their strength
- Collect samples to check for any pollution or contamination in the ground
- Measure how well the ground conducts heat and check its acidity level
- Learn about the water levels and conditions underground
- Determine if the materials can be reused for construction on the site
- Identify the type of agricultural land

Duration of works

The first surveys are expected to start late August 2024, there will be a four-month construction window for short duration localised works installing boreholes, there will then be a period of intermittent monitoring.

Since the surveys are taking place in several locations, the timings will differ from place to place. The individual works will only last a few days and vary depending on location.

We will issue letters to households and businesses close to the survey locations to provide more details on the works.

The works will be taking place from **Monday to Friday.**

We will keep local communities updated on progress via the surveys page on our dedicated project website.

Survey methods

There will be two principal methods for undertaking surveys during this period:

1. **Boreholes**
   - Special drilling equipment will be used to drill holes in the ground. The rig is approximately 7m tall when set up and needs a fenced working area of approximately 15m by 8m, depending on ground conditions.
   - Each borehole could be as deep as 35m, taking up to four days to complete.
   - After drilling, monitoring equipment will be placed into the boreholes to assess the ground.
   - Decommissioning and removal works will be carried out upon completion of the monitoring period. Boreholes will be backfilled and land reinstated.

2. **Trial pits**
   - Trial pits will be mechanically excavated to take relevant samples. The fenced working area around the excavator will be approximately 10m by 10m.
   - Land will be reinstated following the works.
   - Each trial pit installation should take up to two hours, with three or four covered over one working day.

Access

The equipment and workers will access the sites using existing farm tracks and roads.

For beach works there are limited access points so the required machinery will be transported along the beach at low tide to the borehole location.

Where Public Rights of Way pass close to our worksites, we will conduct a risk assessment and additional safety measures, such as fencing and signage.

All rights of access will be agreed with landowners.

Contact us

We will aim to keep disruption to a minimum. If you have any further questions or queries about our upcoming surveys, you can contact our team in the following ways:

- **Email us** – Send an email to info@lionlink.nationalgrid.com
- **Call us** – You can contact the team on 0800 083 1787 (Mon - Fri, 9am-5.30pm)
- **Write to us** - Letters can be posted free of charge to Freepost NGV LionLink (no further postage required)

To find out more about LionLink, please visit our project website at nationalgrid.com/lionlink

National Grid LionLink Limited
Company number 14722364
1-3 Strand
London
WG2N-5EH
United Kingdom
nationalgrid.com/lionlink