



**November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022**

## **XLINKS HOLDS PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON GROUND-BREAKING RENEWABLE ENERGY CONNECTION PLAN**

- *Calls for local input in Devon to capture views on proposal to connect 3.6GW of low-cost, reliable, renewable power from Morocco to the GB electricity grid*
- *Proposals are a vital part of the Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project, which aims to help lower consumer energy prices, enhance national energy security, and meet decarbonisation targets*

Xlinks, a private renewable energy company headquartered in the UK, will this week begin a period of public consultation in Devon regarding its plans to connect 3.6GW of reliable renewable energy from Morocco to the GB electricity grid. The company is calling for local input to further shape its plans, minimise potential disruption during construction, and maximise benefit to the region.

A series of Public Information Days will be held to share with the Devon community proposals for 14.7km of underground High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) cabling, from landfall at Cornborough, and construction of a HVDC to High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) converter station site to the southwest of the existing National Grid substation located between Gammaton and Alverdiscott.

Having worked with National Grid to identify the optimal location to connect to the GB electricity grid, Xlinks has developed its plans in line with the rural character of North Devon. All cables will be installed underground, with land reinstated to its previous use. There will be no permanent infrastructure above-ground along the route. Upon completion, the Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project will be capable of meeting approximately 8% of Britain's annual electricity demand, enough renewable energy to power over 7 million British homes.

The period of public consultation runs from Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 until Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022. All responses will be considered ahead of the submission of a full planning application to the Local Planning Authority in early 2023.

The Public Information Days are open to all and are being held on:

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 from 12.30pm to 8.00pm** at Huntshaw Parish Hall, Huntshaw, Devon, EX38 7HH

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022 from 12.30pm to 8.00pm** at Caddsdow Business Support Centre, Caddsdow Industrial Park, Clovelly Road, Bideford, Devon, EX39 3DX



All exhibition material will also be available to view online throughout the consultation period at [www.xlinks.co/devon](http://www.xlinks.co/devon).

**Nigel Williams, Project Director, HVDC Transmission, Xlinks said:** "The need for a project like ours grows by the day. Amid rising volatility in international energy markets, it promises an exclusive and near-constant supply of reliable renewable energy, free from the environmental and weather constraints of UK-based generation.

"The proposed onshore works in Devon represent a vital part of the plan and we're very much looking forward to discussing them. This consultation will help ensure we have the fullest understanding of how to minimise disruption during construction, and how we can be a good neighbour to the local community and the natural environment. We will also explore all opportunities to contribute to social and economic development in Devon."

**Ends**

**Notes to Editors**

**About Xlinks**

Xlinks exists to capture the power of nature to generate a near constant, low-cost energy supply and connect it to the point of consumption in real time.

The Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project will be a new electricity generation facility entirely powered by solar and wind energy combined with a battery storage facility. Located in Morocco's renewable energy rich region of Guelmim Oued Noun, it will be connected exclusively to Great Britain via 3,800km HVDC sub-sea cables.

Alongside the consistent output from its solar panels and wind turbines, an onsite 20GWh/5GW battery facility will provide sufficient storage to reliably deliver each and every day, a dedicated, near-constant source of flexible and predictable clean energy for Britain, designed to complement the renewable energy already generated across the UK.

For more information, visit [www.xlinks.co/devon](http://www.xlinks.co/devon).

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