

Community Newsletter

February 2025

We recently submitted an application to the Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') for the UK elements of Xlinks' Morocco-UK Power Project.

Our application was accepted by the Planning Inspectorate on 19 December 2024. The Proposed Development has been given application number **EN010164**. Being accepted by the Planning Inspectorate means that the application can progress to the Examination stage, which will commence later this year.

This newsletter updates you on the most recent stage of the process and provides details on how you can make representations on the application and how to stay involved over the months ahead. We look forward to hearing from you.

What's new?

Following several months of consultation and engagement, we submitted an application for Development Consent to the Planning Inspectorate in November 2024. The Morocco-UK Power Project is recognised as being nationally significant, recognising the major contribution it can make to meeting the UK's need for affordable, clean, secure and reliable energy.

The application includes a range of relevant documents which will help you understand the Proposed Development, including how we have taken stakeholder feedback on board, and how we have assessed the potential impact of the Proposed Development on the environment – both onshore and offshore.

Further information, including this documentation, is available on the Planning Inspectorate's website at the following link:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010164>

You can also access the information by scanning the QR code at the bottom of this page.

A period in which residents may make representations on the DCO application will run until **13 March 2025**. This newsletter contains further information on the best way to make a representation.



Our DCO Application

The application for a Development Consent Order covers the UK elements of the Xlinks' Morocco-UK Power Project, which would, once completed, be capable of providing affordable, clean energy to power the equivalent of 7 million homes. This equates to approximately 8% of Great Britain's electricity needs by the early 2030s.

Having consulted thoroughly with a wide range of stakeholders, we have submitted an application which will provide this renewable power effectively and efficiently, whilst minimising disruption and avoiding and mitigating any negative effects on the local environment.

See below for an updated summary of the UK elements of the Proposed Development:

1 Offshore cables: Electricity will move between Morocco and the UK along four cables buried beneath the seabed. This will use proven high voltage direct current (HVDC) technology, which is already used to transport electricity between the UK and other parts of Europe. The approximate length of the cable corridor in UK waters is 370km.

2 Landfall: The offshore cables will join a set of onshore cables at Cornborough Range, 4km west of Bideford. This will take place underground in a safe and secure casing called a 'joint bay'.

3 Onshore cables: Four cables will run between the landfall at Cornborough Range and the converter stations. These will all be buried underground in pairs. The cable route has been refined over the course of detailed engagement with residents, landowners and local community groups to minimise any negative impacts arising from constructing the route.

4 Converter stations: We need to convert electricity from the HVDC used to transport it efficiently from Morocco to high voltage alternating current (HVAC) before it can be connected to the National Grid and used in our homes.

We propose to do this at two converter stations at the old Webbery Showground, close to the point that the Proposed Development connects into the National Grid. Each converter station will be able to convert 1.8GW of electricity from HVDC to HVAC.

The siting and design of the converter station has been subject to several significant changes since we initially consulted on the Proposed Development. We have arrived at a design which reduces visual impact and limits the number of vehicle movements required during the construction phase.

5 Connection point: The Proposed Development would connect into the National Grid at Alverdiscott Substation. This will allow for the onward transmission of 3.6GW of electricity to where it's needed in the country. 12 HVAC cables will link the converter stations to the substation.

6 Highways works: The construction of the Proposed Development will require a number of highways works and road improvements along the cable route to facilitate access to the temporary construction compounds and operational access to the Converter Site.

Environmental Impact Assessment

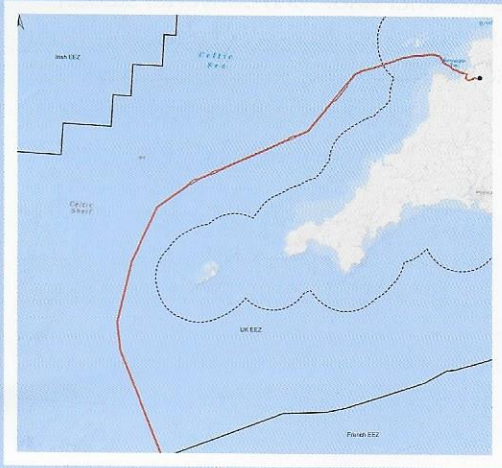
After a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment process, which considered potential impacts of both the onshore and offshore elements of the Proposed Development, we have submitted a four-volume Environmental Statement (ES) as part of the application. The ES is a successor to the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) which was presented during the statutory consultation on the Proposed Development last year.

We looked at a range of topics to help us to identify potential impacts, find ways to avoid them, and propose mitigation where necessary to minimise any negative effects of the Proposed Development. This has meant assessment of topics including noise, air quality, traffic & transport, climate change, socio-economics, and ecology (both onshore & offshore). Details on how to view the ES, alongside the other documents submitted with the DCO application, are found on the back page of this newsletter.

Delivering real benefits

Now that our application for development consent has been accepted for Examination, we are preparing for the Examination phase of the process later this year. During this period, we are also continuing to work on ideas for a Community Benefit Fund to accompany the Proposed Development. We have already held meetings with Torrington District Council and Devon County Council regarding the development of a potential fund, the size and governance of which will be worked out over the months to come.

We would welcome input from local people with ideas on how the Community Benefit Fund can be set up to meet local needs. Please get in touch using the contact details at the back of this newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you.



Inset of offshore cables



Boundary not to scale

Next steps

The next stage of the process, prior to the Examination, includes the 'Relevant Representations' period.

This will run until **13 March 2025**. During this period, any person may make representations on the application. All representations must be made on the Planning Inspectorate's Registration and Relevant Representation Form, and give the grounds on which it is made.

The Registration and Relevant Representation Form will be made available by the Planning Inspectorate. The form can be found by visiting the Xlinks' Morocco-UK Power Project page on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website: <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010164>

You can find out more about our updated proposals and provide a Relevant Representation by:

- The Application form and the accompanying documents, drawings, plans and maps, including the ES and draft DCO, are available to view electronically and download, free of charge, under the "Documents" tab on the Xlinks' Morocco-UK Power Project page of the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website.
- The Application documents will be available to view online at least until the end of the Relevant Representation period at **23:59:59 on 13 March 2025**
- If you have any further questions regarding the Proposed Development, please get in touch with us by phoning **0800 038 3486**, emailing hello@xlinks.co or by writing to **Xlinks' Morocco-UK Power Project, FREEPOST SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL**
- Scan the QR code below for more information



Venues facilitating digital review of the Application documents

If you do not have home access to the internet, a review of the application documents can be made at the below venues during the Relevant Representation period.

Venue	Opening Hours
Bideford Library, Arts Centre, The Quay, Bideford EX39 2EY	09:30-18:00 Mon-Fri (closed Wednesday) 09:30-13:30 Sat
Northam Library, Fore St, Northam, Bideford EX39 1AW	10:00-13:00 Mon 10:00-18:00 Wed 10:00-17:00 Fri 10:00-13:00 Sat
Barnstaple Library, Tuly St, Barnstaple EX31 1EL	09:00-18:00 Mon 09:00-18:00 Tues 10:00-18:00 Wed 09:00-18:00 Thurs 09:00-18:00 Fri 09:00-17:00 Sat
Torrington Library, Castle Hill, South St, Great Torrington, Torrington EX38 8AA	10:00-13:00 Mon 10:00-18:00 Tues 10:00-17:00 Thurs 10:00-13:00 Fri & Sat
Appledore Library, The Quay, Appledore, Bideford EX39 1QS	10:00-13:00 Tues 14:00-17:00 Wed 10:00-12:00 Thurs 10:00-12:00 Sat
Braunton Library, Chaloners Rd, Braunton EX33 2ES	14:00-17:00 Tues 10:00-13:00 Wed 09:00-13:00 Thurs 10:00-17:00 Fri 10:00-13:00 Sat

Contact us

Phone: **0800 038 3486**

Email: hello@xlinks.co

Website: www.xlinks.co/devon

Post: **Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project, FREEPOST SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL**



**Morocco-UK
Power Project**

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