



## **Community Consultation Commitment**

**Our Community Consultation Commitment explains how we will engage and consult on the proposals and how feedback can be provided prior to a planning application being submitted to Torridge District Council under the Town and Country Planning Act (1990) (TCPA) by Xlinks Ltd on the Xlinks Renewable Energy Development in Devon.**

The Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project will deliver a reliable source of low-cost renewable power from Morocco to the GB electricity grid, free from the environmental and weather constraints holding back UK-based generation.

It's a near-constant supply of renewable power at a scale to make a real difference – 3.6GW, meeting c.8% of Great Britain's annual electricity demand. Ultimately, the project can help lower consumer prices and enable more UK-based renewables. Xlinks Ltd is seeking consent for this renewable energy development under the Town and Country Planning Act and as part of this are undertaking a public consultation process, which is detailed below.

We are committed to engaging fully and thoroughly with a wide range of local stakeholders and the public and prior to submitting a full planning application in summer 2023.

## **Proposed development**

This stage of this project looks to secure consent for the development of UK infrastructure to be implemented onshore, the other elements of the Xlinks strategy will be consented separately.

The planning application will seek to gain permission for:

- Approximately 14km of underground High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) cabling, from landfall at Cornborough Range.
- Construction of a HVDC to HVAC Converter Station site in close proximity (to the west) of the existing National Grid substation located between Gammaton and Alverdiscott.

The Xlinks team is committed to exploring all opportunities to contribute to local social and economic development, and to being a good neighbour to Devon's communities and natural environment.

## **Planning process**

Xlinks Ltd will apply under the Town and Country Planning Act (1990) (TCPA) for consent to develop the land-based infrastructure. More information on the planning process and timeline will be provided on this Project website and through engagement and consultation with local stakeholders and the public.

## **Environmental Impact Assessment**

For proposed projects such as Xlinks Renewable Energy Development the applicant needs to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and produce an Environmental Statement (ES) to accompany the full planning application.

The ES sets out an assessment of a project's likely significant environmental effects, along with any proposed mitigation.

More information on the EIA for the Project will be communicated through the Project website and via engagement and consultation with local stakeholders and the public.

## **Engagement and consultation scope and timetable**

Following feedback from the local community at our first public exhibitions, we extended our project timeline and worked to enhance our proposals.

There are now three key enhancements to our proposals:

- Converter station site relocated to the old Webbery Showground, closer to the National Grid substation and substantially screened.
- Alternative underground cable route avoids Abbotsham village.
- Further detail available on construction methods. Updated transport routes employ temporary haul roads and marine delivery to minimise disruption on local roads.

It is our intention to further consult on the updated proposals from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 to Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023.

We are holding further Public Information Days to share information about our plans and seek feedback from stakeholders and the local community. These are drop-in events and are being held on:

### **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023 from 12.30pm to 8.00pm**

Huntshaw Parish Hall, Huntshaw, Devon, EX38 7HH

### **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023 from 12.30pm to 8.00pm**

Alverdiscott Community Hall, Stoney Cross, Bideford, Devon, EX39 4PZ

### **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 from 12.30pm to 8.00pm**

Caddsdow Business Support Centre, Caddsdow Industrial Park, Clovelly Road, Bideford, Devon, EX39 3DX

Xlinks Ltd will engage and consult on this renewable energy development using the methods below:

- **Project website** – documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Project will be made available at [www.xlinks.co/devon](http://www.xlinks.co/devon)
- **Community letters** – to be sent to those most likely to be affected by the development, re-introducing the Project and detailing the consultation process and how they can take part.
- **Stakeholder letters** – Letters will be issued to local stakeholders to re-introduce the Project and plans for consultation.
- **Public information days** – these are drop in events at locations we discussed with Torridge District Council and local stakeholders. All information provided at the public information days will be made available on the Project website for those who are unable to attend the events in person.
- **Media** – public notices/press releases/advertisements will be issued prior and during the consultation to provide details of the consultation process and how to take part. The North Devon Gazette will be used to advertise the consultation locally.

### **Feedback Mechanisms**

The following mechanisms will be used to gather comment and feedback on the proposals.

- **Feedback forms (during consultation)** – will be available at the public information days and online at [www.xlinks.co/devon](http://www.xlinks.co/devon). We will also post hard copies upon request
- **Email** – written feedback can be sent to [hello@xlinks.co](mailto:hello@xlinks.co)
- **Post** – written feedback can also be posted to Xlinks Ltd, Kingfisher House, 1 Radford Way, Billericay, CM12 0EQ
- **Telephone** – register your comments or request a call back **01271 268830**

### **Post consultation**

Following pre-application consultation we will analyse the feedback received and where possible seek to address feedback through further development of our plans. A full Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) will be submitted with the full planning application proposed in summer 2023.