

The Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project

Section 48 - Planning Act 2008 (as amended)

Regulation 4, Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

Notice publicising a proposed application for a Development Consent Order

Notice is hereby given that Xlinks 1 Ltd of Kingfisher House, Woodbrook Crescent, Billericay, Essex, United Kingdom, CM12 0EQ ("the Applicant") intends to make an application to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the "Secretary of State") under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the "Act") for a Development Consent Order ("DCO") (the "Application"). The Applicant intends to make the Application by the end of 2024. The Application is to authorise the construction and operation (which includes maintenance) of those elements of the Morocco-UK Power Project (the "Project") which are located in the UK (the "Proposed Development").

The Proposed Development could deliver 3.6 Gigawatts ("GW") of low carbon electricity to the UK's electricity grid and could improve the security and diversity of the UK's electricity supply. The Secretary of State recognised last year that elements of the Proposed Development are nationally significant and therefore directed under Section 35 of the Act that the Proposed Development should be treated as development for which development consent is required.

All onshore elements of the Proposed Development are located within the administrative area of Torridge District Council in the County of Devon. The offshore elements of the Proposed Development extend from Cornborough Range, also in Torridge, to the seaward limit of the UK's Exclusive Economic Zone ("EEZ").

The Proposed Development is split into three distinctive elements, as follows:

Onshore elements

- Two independent 1.8GW converter stations plus external equipment, landscaping and other ancillary buildings (the "Converter Site") to convert electricity from Direct Current ("DC") into Alternating Current ("AC") before transmission to the National Grid, located west of the existing National Grid Alverdiscott 400 kilovolt ("kV") substation.
- 12 High Voltage Alternating Current ("HVAC") cables connecting the Converter Site into the National Grid Alverdiscott 400kV substation, each approximately 1.2 kilometres ("km") in length.
- A new 400kV substation to replace the existing National Grid Alverdiscott 400kV substation, to the immediate east of the existing substation.
- 4 High Voltage Direct Current ("HVDC") cables to link the onshore converter stations to a landfall site at Cornborough Range, buried in bundled pairs with 6 fibreoptic cables in a corridor approximately 14.5km long and approximately 65 metres ("m") wide.

Landfall site

- A landfall point at Cornborough Range on the Devon coast, about 2.5km south of Westward Ho! and 4km west of Bideford, hosting two Transition Joint Bays to transition from offshore HVDC cables to onshore HVDC cables.

Offshore elements

- HVDC cables which would bring electricity from its generation to the landfall point, which are located within the UK EEZ in a corridor approximately 370km in length and between 500m and 1.5km wide. These would be in bundled pairs with 6 fibreoptic cables.

The Proposed Development will include other required works, such as temporary access roads, highway works, temporary works compounds, work sites, ancillary works, temporary and permanent

utility connections, permanent utility diversions, biodiversity net gain offsetting, and any other works identified as necessary to enable the Proposed Development.

The Application will seek authorisation for the compulsory acquisition of land and interests in and rights over land, the overriding of easements and other rights, the temporary use of land, the application and/or disapplication of legislation relating to the Proposed Development, and such ancillary, incidental and consequential provisions, licences, property rights, permits and consents as are necessary and/or convenient.

The Proposed Development is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development, as defined by The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. An Environmental Statement will therefore be submitted as part of the proposed Application, which will contain information about the environmental effects of the Proposed Development.

Information currently available about the likely significant environmental impacts of the Proposed Development will be set out in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (“PEIR”) that will form part of the consultation documents.

Consultation on the proposals will take place from **Thursday 16 May 2024 until 11:59pm on Thursday 27 June 2024**. The Applicant is making available a number of ways to find out more about the Proposed Development including:

- Holding public exhibitions at the locations and times below
- Reading the consultation materials detailed in this notice
- Visiting the consultation website, www.xlinks.co/devon
- Contacting the Applicant directly with questions using the details in this notice

Date and time	Venue
Monday 20 May, 4pm-8pm	Abbotsham Village Hall, Abbotsham, Bideford EX39 5AP
Tuesday 21 May, 4pm-8pm	Alverdiscott Village Hall, Stoney Cross, Bideford EX39 4PZ
Wednesday 22 May, 12:30pm-4:30pm	Offshore stakeholder event - Caddsdow Business Centre, Caddsdow Industrial Park, Clovelly Rd, Bideford EX39 3BE
Wednesday 29 May, 6pm-7:30pm	Webinar – please visit www.xlinks.co/devon to register
Friday 31 May, 1pm-5pm	Pollyfield Community Centre, Avon Rd, Bideford EX39 4BL
Saturday 1 June, 11am-3pm	Huntshaw Parish Hall, Huntshaw, EX38 7HH
Wednesday 5 June, 6pm-7:30pm	Webinar – please visit www.xlinks.co/devon to register

All documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Proposed Development, including the PEIR, will be available to download free of charge from Thursday 16 May 2024 until 11:59pm on Thursday 27 June 2024 on www.xlinks.co/devon

The Applicant intends to make copies of the consultation materials showing the nature and location of the Proposed Development available for inspection free of charge from Thursday 16 May 2024 at locations in the vicinity of the Proposed Development, listed below, for the duration of the consultation period (until 11:59pm on Thursday 27 June 2024). Please visit www.xlinks.co/devon to check the most

up to date information on all locations and the arrangements in place for inspecting the documents. Alternatively, you can contact us on the details below.

Venue	Opening hours*
Northam Library, Fore St, Northam, Bideford EX39 1AW	Monday/Saturday: 10am - 1pm* Wednesday/Friday: 10am - 5pm Tuesday/Thursday/Sunday: CLOSED
Pollyfield Community Centre, Avon Rd, Bideford EX39 4BL	9:30am – 11pm Monday to Sunday

**Please check opening hours with the venue before attending*

Copies of the consultation materials may be requested during the consultation period from the Applicant using the e-mail address, postal address or Freephone number provided below:

- **By post:** Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project consultation FREEPOST SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL
- **Online:** www.xlinks.co/devon
- **By email:** hello@xlinks.co
- **By phone:** 0800 038 3486

Any enquiries relating to the consultation materials, documents, plans and maps can be made to the Applicant using the telephone number listed above.

Copies of consultation documents on USBs, as well as hard copies of the consultation booklet and consultation questionnaire, will be made available free of charge on request. Given the size of the document, requests for hard copies of the PEIR will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. To cover printing costs a reasonable charge may apply, to be paid by the recipient, up-to a maximum of £750 for the whole suite. To request these materials in hard copy or an alternative format, please get in touch with us using the contact information in this notice.

How to respond to consultation

Any person may comment on the proposals or otherwise respond to this publicity. Responses must be received between **Thursday 16 May 2024 and 11:59pm on Thursday 27 June 2024**. A consultation questionnaire is available as part of the consultation, and the consultation website will also allow the submission of electronic consultation responses. When providing your response, please include your name and address or, if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous, your postcode only. Please also confirm the nature of your interest in the Proposed Development. Please supply any response to:

- **By post:** Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project consultation FREEPOST SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL
- **Online:** www.xlinks.co/devon
- **By email:** hello@xlinks.co

Responses must be received no later than 11.59pm on Thursday 27 June 2024.

The Applicant will consider and have regard to all responses received by the above deadline when developing its Application for a DCO once consultation has closed. Copies may be made available in due course to the Secretary of State, PINS and other relevant statutory authorities so that feedback can be considered as part of the process. The Applicant will request that any personal details are not placed on public record and these will be held securely by the Applicant and its agents in accordance with the data protection law and will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and subsequent application for the DCO and, except as noted above, will not be passed to third parties. Responses will form the basis of a Consultation Report that will be one of the factors taken into consideration by the Secretary of State when deciding whether the Application can be accepted for examination. Therefore,

in providing any comment, it should be borne in mind that the substance of it may be communicated to others as part of the Consultation Report.

If you would like further information about this notice, the consultation or the Proposed Development, please contact the project team by using one of the contact methods provided above.