

Community Newsletter

May 2024

We are now holding a statutory public consultation on our updated proposals for the UK elements of the Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project (the 'Project').

Our consultation will be held from:
Thursday, 16 May 2024 - Thursday, 27 June 2024

During the consultation period, you'll be able to view our proposals by attending events and/or webinars or viewing the documents online.

The aim of the consultation is to inform you about the latest updates to our proposals and hear your thoughts and feedback.

This newsletter provides details of how you can find out more about our proposals and take part in the consultation process.

What's changed?

Last year, the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the 'Secretary of State') designated the Project as nationally significant. This recognised the major contribution the Project could make to the country's need for affordable, clean, secure and reliable energy.

The change means we need to apply for a Development Consent Order (DCO) from the Secretary of State to construct and operate the Project, rather than seeking planning permission from Torridge District Council.

Consultation is an important part of the DCO process as it enables the public and stakeholders to comment on the proposals. The proposals we are presenting at this stage have been refined in the light of feedback from previous consultation. Changes include updates to the layout of the converter stations and the routing of cables onshore.

This consultation is a further opportunity to provide your feedback on our updated proposals. The feedback we receive, along with our ongoing environmental and technical assessments, will help inform the proposals we submit as part of our DCO application.



Our proposals

The Project aims to provide affordable, clean energy to power the equivalent of 7 million homes and be capable of supplying 8% of Great Britain's electricity needs within a decade. The following outlines our proposals:

1 Offshore cables

Electricity will move between Morocco and the UK along four cables buried in 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, about 2.5km south of Westward Ho! and 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. We have carefully considered feedback from previous consultations, as well as potential environmental impacts, in proposing the route for the cables. For example, the planned cable route now avoids Abbotsham Village.

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 used in this country's electricity system and our homes.

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

We have updated our proposals for the converter stations since the last consultation to further reduce their potential impact. By rotating the eastern converter station and moving it southwards, we have reduced how visible it would be from key locations in the area.

This also reduces the number of vehicle movements needed to build the converter stations.

5 Connection point

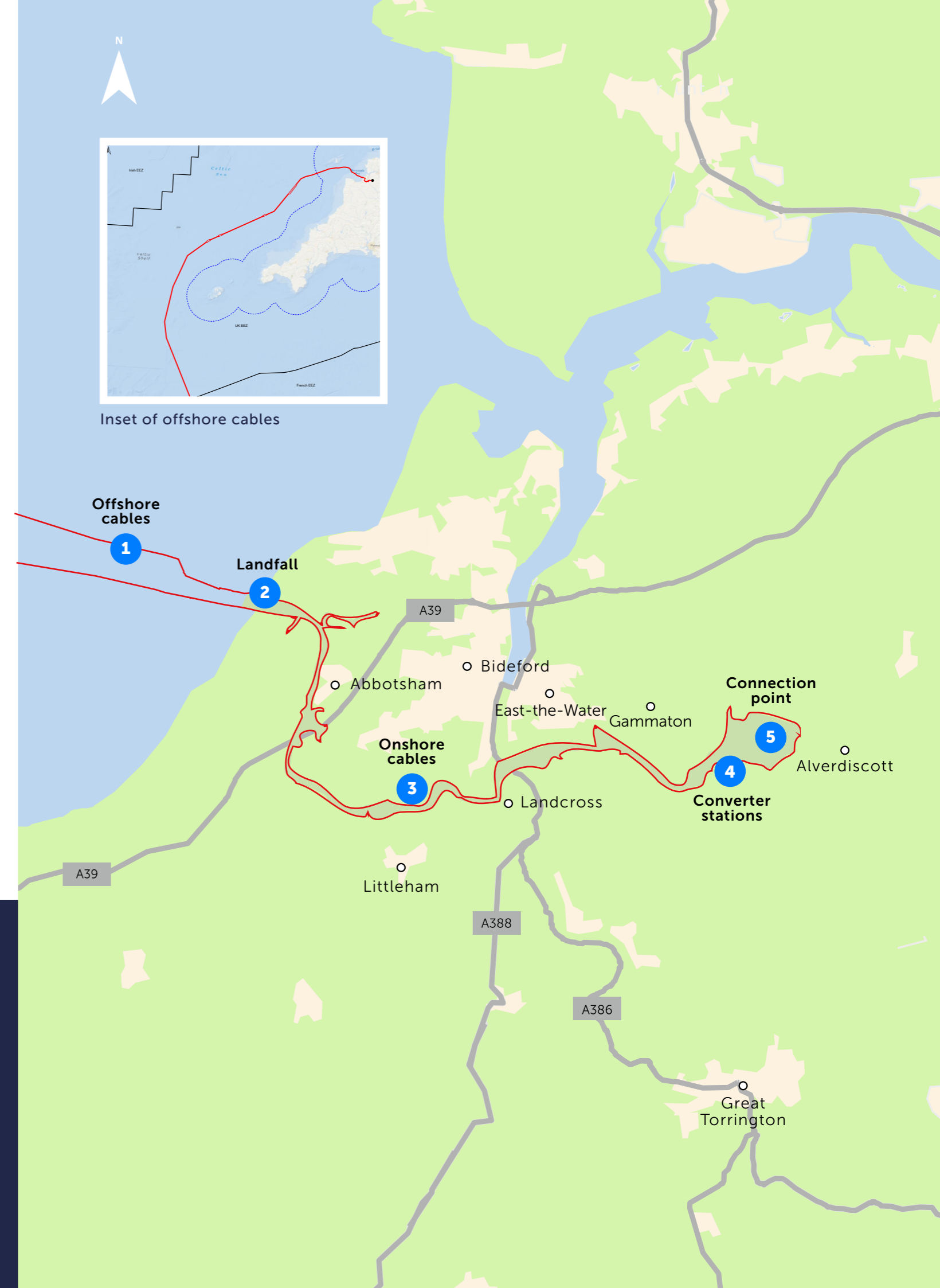
The Project would connect into the National Grid at Alverdiscott Substation. This will allow for the onward transmission of 3.6GW of electricity to where it's needed in the country. 12 HVAC cables will link the converter stations to the substation.

Protecting the environment

At the same time as refining our proposals, we have also looked at how they might impact the environment. This is called an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The EIA helps us make the most of the Project's environmental benefits – but also means we can identify, avoid or address negative impacts. We have looked at topics including landscape and views, noise, transport, air quality, and wildlife and habitats.

We are now ready to publish the initial findings of our EIA. These are included in a document called the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) that we have published as part of this consultation. You can find details of how to view the PEIR on the back page of this newsletter.

Feedback from this consultation will inform our ongoing EIA. We will submit a document called an Environmental Statement (ES) setting out the final results of our assessments as part of our DCO application.



Find out more

You can find out more about our updated proposals and take part in the consultation by:

- Getting in touch with us by phoning **0800 038 3486**, emailing hello@xlinks.co or writing to **Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project consultation, FREEPOST SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL**
- From the start of the consultation period, viewing consultation materials online at xlinks.co/devon
- **Coming along to one of our exhibitions or online events**
- **Getting in touch by post, email or phone to request a printed copy of our consultation booklet and questionnaire or a USB containing all the consultation materials.**
We will post these to your address free of charge. Requests for printed copies of the PEIR will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- From the start of the consultation period, **collecting a copy of our consultation booklet and questionnaire from the following locations** (please check opening hours), where a printed copy of the PEIR will also be available to review:

Document deposit points*

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

Monday to Sunday: **9:30am - 11pm**

*Please check opening hours with the venue before attending

In person or online exhibition events

Monday 20 May 2024, 4pm - 8pm

Abbotsham Village Hall, Abbotsham, Bideford EX39 5AP

Tuesday 21 May 2024, 4pm - 8pm

Alverdiscott Village Hall, Stoney Cross, Bideford EX39 4PZ

Friday 31 May 2024, 1pm - 5pm

Pollyfield Community Centre, Avon Rd, Bideford EX39 4BL

Saturday 1 June 2024, 11am - 3pm

Huntshaw Parish Hall, Huntshaw, EX38 7HH

Sign-up for a Webinar

Wednesday 29 May 2024, 6pm - 7:30pm

Wednesday 5 June 2024, 6pm - 7:30pm

Please visit www.xlinks.co/devon to register

Share your views

Your feedback at this stage will help us to refine our proposals before we submit a DCO application. All feedback received will be summarised and responded to in the Consultation Report, which will form part of our DCO application. We look forward to hearing from you on all aspects of the UK elements of the Project as part of this consultation.

Your views are important and we welcome your feedback on the Project by:

- Completing an online questionnaire at: xlinks.co/devon
- Submitting your comments or completed questionnaire by email to: hello@xlinks.co
- Submitting your questionnaire or comments by post (no stamp required) to **Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project consultation FREEPOST SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL**

All responses must be received by the consultation deadline of **11:59pm on Thursday 27 June 2024**.

Contact us

Phone: **0800 038 3486**

Email: hello@xlinks.co

Website: www.xlinks.co/devon

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



**Morocco-UK
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