

6th March 2017

Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team
c/o North Kesteven District Council,
District Council Offices,
Kesteven Street,
Sleaford
NG34 7EF

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: Emerging Central Lincolnshire Local Plan consultation representation

National Grid Viking Link (NGVL), together with its development partner Energinet.dk, are proposing to develop an electricity interconnector between Great Britain and Denmark. The project is known as Viking Link and will enable Great Britain to trade energy as a commodity with the European Energy Market.

Viking Link will consist of approximately 760km of Onshore and Offshore cables connecting Great Britain's and Denmark's electricity networks. The cables carry High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) and will have capacity equivalent to 1.3% of Great Britain's current usage.

Permission for the Onshore Scheme, from Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) at the landfall point at the Lincolnshire Coast to Bicker Fen substation, will be sought under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (the 1990 Act).

In August 2016, NGVL announced the preferred converter station site which is located at North Ing Drove in South Holland. The latest announcement in December 2016 was the preferred cable route corridor for the proposed onshore HVDC underground cable route.

Week commencing 6th March 2017, NGVL publically announced the preferred eastern and western options within the preferred route corridor. It is now confirmed that, subject to survey, the preferred cable alignment will route within the North Eastern route corridor option and the South Western route corridor option. The preferred South Western option sits within land in the local authority area of North Kesteven District Council, resulting in the submission of a planning application to this District Council.

As required by the 1990 Act, the development will need to have regard to both adopted and emerging planning policy, including the emerging Central Lincolnshire Local Plan(April 2016). NGVL have previously submitted a written representation to Central Lincolnshire dated [26th May 2016] in relation to Policy LP2 and Policy LP19, proposed for inclusion in the emerging Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (April 2016). A copy of the previous representation is enclosed in Appendix 1.

Please find below comments made on behalf of NGVL in relation to these emerging policies, as proposed to be amended by the 'Schedule of the Main Modifications' (January 2017), for the purpose of public consultation. The requested amendments are simply clarifications to the policy wording rather than representing substantive changes.

NGVL are keen to engage positively with Central Lincolnshire in relation to Viking Link and to take the opportunity to ensure that Viking Link is considered in the plan-making process.

Policy LP2: The Spatial Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy (Reference no. MM/2 in Main Modifications)

NGVL would like to reiterate the previously suggested policy wording change of Section 8 of Policy LP2 (Countryside), as amended in the 'Schedule of the Main Modifications' for the purpose of public consultation, to ensure the infrastructure necessary for renewable energy development is included. NGVL request that the following wording is adopted (suggested text is in red):

"... development will be regarded as being in the countryside and as such restricted to:

- That which is demonstrably essential to the effective operation of agriculture, horticulture, forestry, outdoor recreation, transport or utility services;*
- Renewable energy generation and infrastructure necessary to support renewable energy projects;*
- Proposals falling under policy LP55; and*
- To minerals or waste development in accordance with separate Minerals and Waste Local Development Documents."*

Policy LP19: Renewable Energy Proposals

NGVL requests the following text is included to make specific reference to infrastructure which is necessary to support renewable energy projects reflecting the nature of projects such as interconnectors. The suggested wording is as follows (suggested text in red):

"... proposals for non-wind renewable technology (including supporting infrastructure for such development) will be assessed on their merits, with the impacts, both individual and cumulative, considered against the benefits of the scheme, taking account of the following.."

East Lindsey District Council (ELDC) have recognised and included additional wording in draft Policy SP19 in the emerging East Lindsey Core Strategy (Publication Version, November 2016), so as to enable inclusion of supporting infrastructure for energy development. Draft policy SP19 wording now reads:

"Large scale renewable energy development, development for the transmission and interconnection of electricity, and infrastructure required to support such development, will be supported where their individual or cumulative impact is, when weighed against the benefits, considered to be acceptable in relation to...

- a) Residential amenity;*
- b) Surrounding landscape, townscape and historic landscape character, and visual qualities;*
- c) The significance(including the setting) of a historic garden, park, battlefield, building, conservation area, archaeological site or other heritage asset;*
- d) Sites or features of biodiversity or geodiversity importance, or protected species*
- e) The local economy;*
- f) Highway safety; and*
- g) Water environment and water quality"*

It is important for large-scale, cross boundary projects such as Viking Link that there is consistency across the local policy of neighbouring planning authorities. NGVL note the need for authorities to co-operate across boundaries in the delivery of major infrastructure and see the importance in emerging and extant policies having a level of consistency when it comes to energy infrastructure as suggested in the relevant paragraphs from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) below;

Paragraph 179 (NPPF):

“Local planning authorities should work collaboratively with other bodies to ensure that strategic priorities across local boundaries are properly co-ordinated and clearly reflected in individual Local Plans. Joint working should enable local planning authorities to work together to meet development requirements which cannot wholly be met within their own areas”.

Paragraph 181 (NPPF):

“Local planning authorities will be expected to demonstrate evidence of having effectively cooperated to plan for issues with cross-boundary impacts when their Local Plans are submitted for examination.”

NGVL look forward to continuing work with the local authorities in the future to deliver this important infrastructure project. NGVL would also like to take this opportunity to ask to remain informed on the progression of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (April 2016).

Further information regarding the proposed scheme and the next steps can be found at <http://www.viking-link.com>.

Yours faithfully,

Jamie-Leigh Baxter
Consents Officer
National Grid



Appendix 1



26.05.16

Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Team
c/o North Kesteven District Council
District Council Offices
Kesteven Street
Sleaford
NG34 7EF

Dear Sir/Madam,

NATIONAL GRID VIKING LINK – WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS TO THE PROPOSED SUBMISSION VERSION OF THE EMERGING CENTRAL LINCOLNSHIRE LOCAL PLAN

National Grid Viking Link (NGVL), together with its development partner Energinet.dk, are proposing to develop an electricity interconnector between Great Britain and Denmark. The project is known as Viking Link and will enable Great Britain to trade energy as a commodity with the European Energy Market.

Viking Link will consist of approximately 760km of Onshore and Offshore cables connecting Great Britain's and Denmark's electricity networks. The cables carry High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) and will have a capacity equivalent to 1.3% of Great Britain's current usage.

Permission for the Onshore Scheme, from Mean Low Water Springs (MLWS) at the landfall point at the Lincolnshire Coast to Bicker Fen substation (approximately 55km inland), will be sought under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 ("the 1990 Act").

NGVL are currently identifying a number of possible cable routes, and the Project may include land in the local authority areas of North Kesteven District Council, South Holland District Council, Boston Borough Council and East Lindsey District Council. As required by the 1990 Act, the development will need to have regard to both adopted and emerging planning policy, including the emerging Central Lincolnshire Local Plan.

NGVL are keen to engage with Central Lincolnshire in relation to the Project and take the opportunity to ensure that Viking Link is considered in the plan-making process.

Please find below comments made on behalf of NGVL in relation to specific policies proposed for inclusion in the emerging Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (April 2016).

Policy LP2: The Spatial Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy

Policy LP2 seeks to direct development by order of geographic preference and provides specific guidance for development proposed in a countryside location.

Given the linear nature of the Viking Link project, it is likely that the majority of the scheme will be located in the countryside.

Section 7 of Policy LP2 (Hamlets and Countryside) seeks to restrict development in countryside locations unless it is specifically stipulated in policy LP55 or it is within an area listed in the policy itself. Whilst "renewable energy generation" is cited in the policy wording, NGVL request that "supporting infrastructure" is specifically included in Policy LP2 (to reflect the nature and extent of linear infrastructure projects such as Viking Link). NGVL's suggested wording is as follows (suggested additional text is in red):