

Proposed Converter Station

# The Eastern Link Project

## Offshore cabling and converter station

# Project so far

**SP Energy Networks is working with National Grid to develop some of the longest underwater HVDC links in the world, which will play a vital role in facilitating the growth of renewable generation and achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions.**

To help meet those targets, SP Energy Networks is consulting on a vital new energy link between Scotland and England, known as the Eastern Link Project.

To enable us to deliver this crucial project, we need to build a new substation and converter station and lay underground cables and marine cables at our preferred locations in East Lothian.

### Current project status

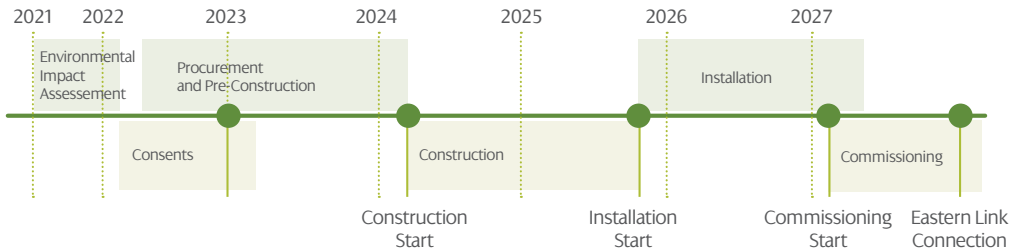
We are currently in the planning phase of the project and will be seeking planning consent from East Lothian Council before we proceed. A key part of our process is engaging with the local community on our proposals, so it is important you give us your feedback.

We have previously held two consultations, the first in August 2021 on the overall project, which focused on giving an overview of the plans in their entirety and included the substation, converter

station and the marine cabling. The second consultation focused solely on the substation and was held in October and November 2021.

The upcoming consultation, running from January 31st to February 28th focuses on the converter station and the marine cables. During this consultation, we would like to hear your views on these specific aspects of the project. How you can make your views known and further information is included in this leaflet.

The consultation underway is the final step in our consultation on the project and is the statutory pre-application consultation required for both the onshore aspects of the project and the marine cables. Once the planning and marine licence applications are submitted there will be a further opportunity for comments on the project before East Lothian Council and Marine Scotland determine the outcome.



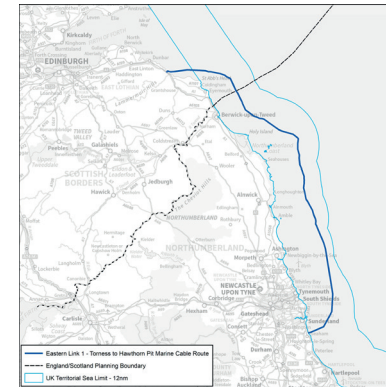
# Marine Cabling

The proposed site for the cable landing, substation and converter station near Torness is supported by the already existing electricity infrastructure and network capacity in place.

Thorntonloch beach is the landing site for cables coming onshore from the Neart na Gaoithe (NnG) and Berwick Bank offshore wind farms off the

eastern coast of Scotland. The Eastern Link cables will land to the south of the beach and will be installed using horizontal directional drilling thus avoiding direct impacts on the beach, the A1 and the East Coast Mainline railway.

The total length of marine cabling between East Lothian and Durham is 176km.



Map of proposed sites



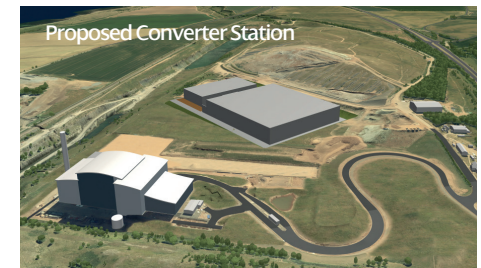
Boundaries of converter station and cables.

# Converter Station

Converter stations are crucial for controlling the voltage of electricity 'stepping down' the high voltage of electricity running up and down the country to lower voltage electricity suitable for everyday use. The proposed converter station has been located away from residential locations and communities, but close enough to the coast to reduce the length of underground cabling required.

The new converter station is planned to be located east of the Dunbar Energy Recovery Facility, at Oxwell Mains East Lothian. This site has been chosen because it is in an existing industrial environment minimising the environmental effect of the facility and further reduces any impact on local residential properties or businesses in the area.

Field survey work has been undertaken to understand the current landscape features and



identify sensitive locations to be considered as part of the environmental impact assessment.

The assessment will consider key views from locations across the local area and how the converter station can be integrated into the landscape. Mitigation will then be identified to help reduce any potential significant effects. Depending on the final design we would expect main construction activities to take 2 to 3 years to enable the project to be fully up and running by 2027.

# How you can get involved

We will be holding an online virtual public consultation via our dedicated website:  
[https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/eastern\\_link\\_introduction.aspx](https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/eastern_link_introduction.aspx)

You will be able to book a one to one meeting with the project team so that you can ask any questions you may have. You can also view physical consultation materials at Innerwick Library, EH42 1SE between the 31st January and 28th February.

We will also be handing out information at the Asda supermarket in Dunbar, EH42 1LE, on the 15th and 23rd of February between 10am and 2pm.

You can also share your views by phone on 0800 093 1664, or email us at: [info@tornesseasternlink.com](mailto:info@tornesseasternlink.com)



---

## We Want Your Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and your local knowledge will help us better understand the local area and any potential impact the project may have on the community.

We will listen to everyone's views and, where practical, aim to resolve any concerns or consider mitigation measures if required. We have also engaged with subject matter experts' and targeted groups relating to the environmental landscape, land, marine welfare and others to understand any potential issues or constraints in advance of any work taking place.

We will continue to have these conversations and liaise with you throughout the lifecycle of the project.

Due to the ongoing restrictions surrounding Covid-19, our public consultation will be online and can be accessed at:  
[https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/eastern\\_link\\_introduction.aspx](https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/eastern_link_introduction.aspx)

