

The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero  
c/o The Planning Inspectorate  
National Infrastructure Directorate  
Temple Quay House  
Temple Quay  
Bristol  
BS16PN

Your reference: EN010164

15 May 2024

Dear Ms Jo Shanks

**Section 46 Planning Act 2008 (as amended)**  
**Duty to notify Secretary of State of a proposed application**  
**Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project**

The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the “Secretary of State”) is hereby notified in accordance with section 46(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the “Act”), of Xlinks 1 Ltd’s (the “Applicant”) intention to submit a Development Consent Order (“DCO”) application to the Secretary of State to authorise the construction and operation (which includes maintenance) of the elements of the Morocco-UK Power Project (the “Project”) which are located in the UK (the “Proposed Development”). The Applicant intends to make this application by the end of 2024.

We have previously provided notification pursuant to Regulation 8(1)(b) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the “EIA Regulations”) that the Proposed Development is an Environmental Impact Assessment development (“EIA development”), as defined by those regulations and an Environmental Statement will be submitted as part of the DCO application.

The submission of the application will follow a period of statutory pre-application consultation carried out pursuant to section 42, section 45, section 47 and section 48 of the Act, the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 (the “APFP Regulations”), and the EIA Regulations. The consultation will commence on **Thursday 16 May 2024 and run until 11:59pm on Thursday 27 June 2024.**

**Summary of 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 the Proposed Development is Nationally Significant and therefore directed under Section 35 of the Act that elements of

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 Torrridge District Council in the County of Devon. The offshore elements of the Proposed Development extend from Cornborough Range, also in Torrridge, 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 fiberoptic 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 fiberoptic 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 proposed 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 “EIA development” for the purposes of the EIA Regulations. The Applicant has therefore produced a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (“PEIR”) which contains preliminary information about the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development, together with a non-technical summary of this information. Further environmental studies and assessments are being undertaken, and a full Environmental Statement will be produced and submitted with the proposed application.

### **Consultation documents**

Section 46(1) of the Act requires the Applicant to send to the Secretary of State the information that it intends to provide to consultees under section 42 of the Act, on or before commencing section 42 consultation. As such, please find enclosed the information that is being sent to the section 42 consultees identified:

- A covering letter sent to those consultees pursuant to section 42(1)(a), section 42(1)(aa) and section 42(1)(b) and a cover letter sent to those consultees pursuant to section 42(1)(d), which include a link to the following in the Document Library at [www.xlinks.co/devon](http://www.xlinks.co/devon) available from the start of consultation period on **Thursday 16 May 2024**:
  - A consultation booklet, which provides more information about the Proposed Development and includes a plan showing the proposed red-line boundary of the Proposed Development.
  - A consultation questionnaire which may be used to provide feedback on the proposals.
  - Notice of the proposed application which has been publicised in accordance with section 48 of the Act and the requirements set out in regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations (for section 42(1)(a) and (b) consultees only), sent in accordance with regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations.

These documents, as well other consultation material, including the PEIR and accompanying non-technical summary, will be available free of charge at a series of public events, at deposit points within the vicinity of the Proposed Development and on our Project website: [www.xlinks.co/devon](http://www.xlinks.co/devon) from the start of the consultation period on **Thursday 16 May 2024**.

We are providing this information in an electronic form to minimise the provision of paper or electronic documentation which has to be physically handled. If, however, the Secretary of State requires the material in an alternative format, please do not hesitate to contact us.

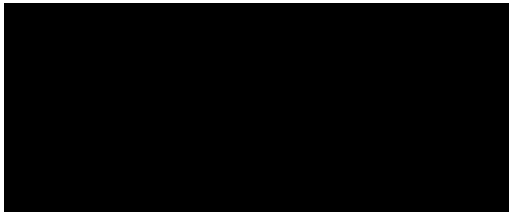
In addition to these documents, there will be additional information on our website, [www.xlinks.co/devon](http://www.xlinks.co/devon) from the start of the consultation period and through public exhibitions in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. Further details of the consultation arrangements can be found in the section 48 notice.

Further details of the consultation arrangements are set out in the Statement of Community Consultation (“SoCC”) which is available to consultees on the Project website at: [www.xlinks.co/devon](http://www.xlinks.co/devon).

Preparation of the SoCC was informed by the views of the host local authorities and, as required by section 47 of the Act, notice of publication of the SoCC is being published in relevant newspapers.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us on [hello@xlinks.co](mailto:hello@xlinks.co) or 0800 038 3486. We would be grateful for acknowledgment that this notice has been received as a record of compliance.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Hardy  
Project Director