

XLINKS' MOROCCO-UK POWER PROJECT

Consultation Report

**Annex F: Section 42 and Section 46 notification
Appendices F-1 to F-2**

Document Number: 5.2

PINS Reference: EN10164/APP/5.2

Section 37(3)(c) Planning Act 2008

APFP Regulations: Regulation 5(2)(q)

November 2024

For Issue

XLINKS' MOROCCO – UK POWER PROJECT

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For Issue	Application	SEC Newgate UK	Xlinks 1 Ltd	Xlinks 1 Ltd	November 2024

Prepared by:

SEC Newgate UK Ltd

Prepared for:

Xlinks 1 Limited

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1 LETTERS TO CONSULTEES UNDER SECTION 42 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008

1.1 Consultees under Section 42(1)(a) and (b) of the Planning Act 2008

1.1.1 Letter issued 9 May 2024

This is inserted overleaf. The signature has been redacted using Adobe Acrobat for data protection reasons.

Name
Address
Address
Address
Address

9 May 2024

Dear [Insert recipient name],

**Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project Development Consent Order (the “Order”)
Statutory pre-application consultation: Thursday 16 May 2024 until 11:59pm on Thursday 27 June 2024**

**Section 42 Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the “Act”): Duty to consult on a proposed application
Notification under Regulation 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms
and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (“APFP Regulations”)
The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (“EIA
Regulations”)**

Xlinks 1 Limited (the “Applicant”) writes in relation to the launch of a statutory consultation in accordance with sections 42, 43, 44, 45, 47 and 48 of the Act for the elements of the Morocco-UK Power project (the “Project”) which are located in the UK (the “Proposed Development”). The consultation starts on **Thursday 16 May 2024 and runs until 11:59pm on Thursday 2024**. This letter explains how to take part in the public consultation and invites you to share your views on our proposals.

Why we are writing to you

This letter has been sent to you as part of a statutory consultation exercise carried out pursuant to section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the “Act”). The Applicant is consulting you in your capacity as a prescribed consultee under section 42(1)(a), section 42(1)(aa), section 42(1)(b), and/or section 43 of the Act and Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations in respect of Proposed Development.

The statutory consultation will run from **Thursday 16 May 2024 until 11:59pm on Thursday 27 June 2024**. Following this statutory consultation period, the intention is for the Applicant to finalise the application for the Proposed Development having had regard to the consultation responses received. The Applicant would then submit to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the “Secretary of State”) an application for a Development Consent Order (“DCO”) that would authorise the construction and operation (which includes maintenance) of the Proposed Development. The Planning Inspectorate (“PINS”) will administer the process on behalf of the Secretary of State. The Applicant intends to make this application by the end of 2024.

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 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 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 Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") development for the purposes of the EIA Regulations. As part of the consultation, we are seeking views on the potential environmental effects of the proposals. This information is detailed in the 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.

How you can find out more

The statutory consultation will run from **Thursday 16 May 2024 until 11:59pm on Thursday 27 June 2024** and the Applicant would welcome your feedback at this stage. There are a range of ways that you can find out more about the Proposed Development and take part in the consultation.

The Applicant will be hosting a number of public events to allow people to find out more about the Proposed Development at the following times and locations:

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

As part of our consultation, we will publish a consultation booklet showing the nature and location of the Proposed Development and a questionnaire for respondents to share their feedback with us. We have also prepared a Statement of Community Consultation (“SoCC”) in accordance with section 47 of the Act, which sets out how we will undertake the statutory consultation for the proposed application with those people living and working in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. The SoCC will be available on the Project website: www.xlinks.co/devon and at the deposit points listed below in this letter.

Copies of all consultation documents – as well as the PEIR – will be available to view and download free of charge on the project website from the start of the consultation period on **Thursday 16 May 2024** via the Document Library at the following link: www.xlinks.co/devon.

Printed copies of these documents will be available to inspect free of charge at the following deposit points in the vicinity of the Proposed Development during the consultation period:

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 consultation documents on USBs, as well as hard copies of the consultation booklet, consultation questionnaire and consultation newsletter, 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 using the contact information below.

In accordance with regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations, we also enclose a notice of the proposed application which will be publicised in accordance with section 48 of the Act and the requirements set out in regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations.

Responding to the consultation

The Applicant is now consulting on the proposed application and the PEIR and would be grateful for your comments. Any response or representation in respect of the proposed application must (i) be received by the Applicant **on or before 11:59pm on Thursday 27 June 2024**, (ii) be made in writing, (iii) state the grounds of the response or representation, (iv) indicate who is making the response or representation, and (v) give an address to which correspondence relating to the response or representation may be sent. You may use the questionnaire to provide any response or submit your own form of response (provided it is in writing).

Any responses to this consultation or other representations in respect of the Proposed Development should be sent to the following:

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

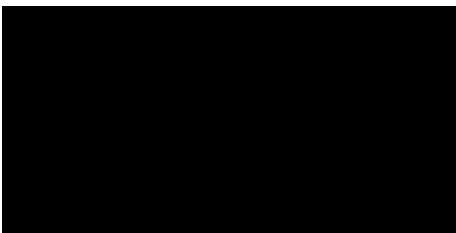
Consultation commences on Thursday 16 May 2024. All responses must be received by 11:59pm on 27 June 2024.

Any comments received will be analysed and had regard to by the Applicant and any of its appointed agents. Copies may be made available in due course to the Secretary of State, the PINS and other relevant statutory authorities so that feedback can be considered as part of the process. We will request that any personal details are not placed on public record and will be held securely by the

Applicant and its agents in accordance with 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 also 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 also be communicated to others as part of the Consultation Report.

Should you have any queries in relation to the consultation materials or to discuss our proposals further, please do not hesitate to contact us on hello@xlinks.co or 0800 038 3486.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Hardy
Project Director

1.1.2 Letter issued 31 May 2024

This is inserted overleaf. The signature has been redacted using Adobe Acrobat for data protection reasons.

Name
Address
Address
Address

31 May 2024

Dear [Insert recipient name],

**Xlinks' Morocco-UK Power Project Development Consent Order (the "Order")
Extended statutory pre-application consultation: Thursday 16 May 2024 until 11:59pm on Thursday 11 July 2024**

**Section 42 Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the "Act"): Duty to consult on a proposed application
Notification under Regulation 3 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 ("APFP Regulations")
Regulation 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ("EIA Regulations")**

Xlinks 1 Ltd (the "Applicant") writes in relation to its ongoing statutory public consultation in accordance with sections 42, 43, 44, 45, 47 and 48 of the Act for the elements of the Morocco-UK Power Project (the "Project") which are located in the UK (the "Proposed Development"). The Applicant wrote to you on Thursday 9 May 2024 notifying you of a statutory public consultation on the Proposed Development from Thursday 16 May 2024 until 11:59pm on Thursday 27 June 2024, including the availability of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report ("PEIR") online and at deposit points.

The Applicant has become aware that Volume 4, Chapter 3: Socio-economics and Tourism was missing from the copy of the PEIR in the Document Library at www.xlinks.co/devon and that Volume 4, Appendix 2.2: Landscape Character Baseline Technical Report and Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report were missing from copies of the PEIR in the Document Library at www.xlinks.co/devon and Northam Library and Pollyfield Community Centre.. These documents are now available in the Document Library at www.xlinks.co/devon and at the physical locations set out above No other consultation information has changed since our letter of Thursday 9 May 2024.

The Applicant has decided to extend the deadline for responses to **11:59pm on Thursday 11 July 2024** to allow further time for you to consider the documents and respond. **Any response received to date remains valid and will be considered and had regard to by the Applicant.** We welcome any further responses based on the information in this letter.

For further details, please see the notice provided in accordance with section 48 of the Act, regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations and Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations enclosed. You can also register for a webinar about the Proposed Development scheduled for 6:00pm-7:30pm on Wednesday 5 June 2024 by contacting us using the details in this letter.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us on hello@xlinks.co or 0800 038 3486.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Hardy
Project Director

1.2 Consultees under Section 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act 2008

1.2.1 Letter to category 1 and 2 interests issued 15 May 2024

This is inserted overleaf. The signature has been redacted using Adobe Acrobat for data protection reasons.

Name
Address
Address
Address
Address

15 May 2024

Dear [Insert recipient name],

**Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project Development Consent Order (the “Order”)
Statutory pre-application consultation: Thursday 16 May 2024 until 11:59pm on Thursday 27 June 2024**

Section 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the “Act”): Duty to consult on a proposed application

Notification under Regulation 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (“APFP Regulations”)

The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (“EIA Regulations”)

Xlinks 1 Ltd (the “Applicant”) writes in relation to the launch of statutory consultation in accordance with section 42, 43, 44, 45, 47 and 48 of the Act for the elements of the Morocco-UK Power Project (the “Project”) which are located in the UK (the “Proposed Development”). The consultation starts on **Thursday 16 May 2024 runs until 11:59pm on Thursday 27 June 2024**. This letter explains how to take part in the public consultation and invites you to share your views on our proposals.

Why we are writing to you

This letter is sent to you as part of a statutory consultation exercise on the Proposed Development carried out pursuant to section 42(1)(d) of the Act. The Applicant is consulting with you as, having carried out diligent inquiry, it considers that you may be a person who is either (1) an owner, lessee, tenant, or occupier of land within the Proposed Development's boundary; (2) a person who holds an interest in the land or has the power to sell or convey the land or release the land within the Proposed Development's boundary; or (3) might be entitled to make a relevant claim if the Order were to be made and implemented.

The statutory consultation will run from **Thursday 16 May 2024 until 11:59pm on Thursday 27 June 2024**. Following this statutory consultation period, the intention is for the Applicant to finalise the application for the Proposed Development having had regard to the consultation responses received. The Applicant would then submit to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the “Secretary of State”) an application for a Development Consent Order (“DCO”) that would authorise the construction and operation (which includes maintenance) of the Proposed Development. The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) will administer the process on behalf of the Secretary of State. The Applicant intends to make this application by the end of 2024.

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 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").

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Offshore elements

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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 Environmental Impact Assessment (“EIA”) development for the purposes of the EIA Regulations. As part of the consultation, we are seeking views on the potential environmental effects of the proposals. This information is detailed in the 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.

How you can find out more

The statutory consultation will run from **Thursday 16 May 2024 until 11:59pm on Thursday 27 June 2024** and the Applicant would welcome your feedback at this stage. There are a range of ways that you can find out more about the Proposed Development and take part in the consultation.

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Wednesday 29 May, 6pm-7:30pm	Webinar – please visit www.xlinks.co/devon to register
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As part of our consultation, we will publish a consultation booklet showing the nature and location of the Proposed Development and a questionnaire for respondents to share their feedback with us. We have also prepared a Statement of Community Consultation (“SoCC”) in accordance with section 47 of the Act, which sets out how we will undertake the statutory consultation for the proposed application with those people living and working in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. The SoCC will be available on the Project website: www.xlinks.co/devon and at the deposit points listed down in this letter.

Copies of these consultation documents – as well as the PEIR – will be available to view and download free of charge on the project website from the start of the consultation period on **Thursday 16 May 2024** via the Document Library at the following link: www.xlinks.co/devon.

Printed copies of these documents will be available to inspect free of charge at the following deposit points in the vicinity of the Proposed Development during the consultation period:

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 consultation documents on USBs, as well as hard copies of the consultation booklet, consultation questionnaire and consultation newsletter, 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 using the contact information below.

Responding to the consultation

The Applicant is now consulting on the proposed application and the PEIR and would be grateful for your comments. Any response or representation in respect of the proposed application must (i) be received by the Applicant on or before **11:59pm on Thursday 27 June 2024**, (ii) be made in writing, (iii) state the grounds of the response or representation, (iv) indicate who is making the response or representation, and (v) give an address to which correspondence relating to the response or representation may be sent. You may use the questionnaire to provide any response or submit your own form of response (provided it is in writing).

Any responses to this consultation or other representations in respect of the Proposed Development should be sent to the following:

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

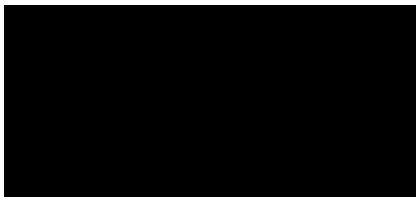
Consultation commences on **Thursday 16 May 2024**. **All responses must be received by 11:59pm on Thursday 27 June 2024**.

Any comments received will be analysed and had regard to by the Applicant and any of its appointed agents. Copies may be made available in due course to the Secretary of State, the PINS and other relevant statutory authorities so that feedback can be considered as part of the process. We will request that any personal details are not placed on public record and will be held securely by the Applicant and its agents in accordance with 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 also 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 also be communicated to others as part of the Consultation Report.

Should you have any queries in relation to the consultation materials or to discuss our proposals further, please do not hesitate to contact us on hello@xlinks.co or 0800 038 3486.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Hardy
Project Director

1.2.2 Letter to category 1 and 2 interests issued 31 May 2024

This is inserted overleaf. The signature has been redacted using Adobe Acrobat for data protection reasons.

Name
Address
Address
Address

31 May 2024

Dear [Insert recipient name],

Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project Development Consent Order (the "Order")
Extended statutory pre-application consultation: Thursday 16 May 2024 until 11:59pm on Thursday 11 July 2024
Section 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the "Act"): Duty to consult on a proposed application
Notification under Regulation 3 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 ("APFP Regulations")
Regulation 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ("EIA Regulations")

Xlinks 1 Ltd (the "Applicant") writes in relation to its ongoing statutory public consultation in accordance with sections 42, 43, 44, 45, 47 and 48 of the Act for the elements of the Morocco-UK Power Project (the "Project") which are located in the UK (the "Proposed Development"). The Applicant wrote to you on Thursday 15 May 2024 notifying you of a statutory public consultation on the Proposed Development from Thursday 16 May 2024 until 11:59pm on Thursday 27 June 2024, including the availability of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report ("PEIR") online and at deposit points.

The Applicant has become aware that Volume 4, Chapter 3: Socio-economics and Tourism was missing from the copy of the PEIR in the Document Library at www.xlinks.co/devon and that Volume 4, Appendix 2.2: Landscape Character Baseline Technical Report and Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report were missing from copies of the PEIR in the Document Library at www.xlinks.co/devon and Northam Library and Pollyfield Community Centre. These documents are now available in the Document Library at www.xlinks.co/devon and at the physical locations set out above. No other consultation information has changed since our letter of Thursday 9 May 2024.

The Applicant has decided to extend the deadline for responses to **11:59pm on Thursday 11 July 2024** to allow further time for you to consider the documents and respond. **Any response received to date remains valid and will be considered and had regard to by the Applicant.** We welcome any further responses based on the information in this letter.

For further details, please see the notice provided in accordance with section 48 of the Act, regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations and Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations enclosed. You can also register for a webinar about the Proposed Development scheduled for 6:00pm-7:30pm on Wednesday 5 June 2024 by contacting us using the details in this letter.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us on hello@xlinks.co or 0800 038 3486.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Hardy
Project Director

1.2.3 Letter to category 3 interests issued 31 May 2024

This is inserted overleaf. The signature has been redacted using Adobe Acrobat for data protection reasons.

Name
Address
Address
Address
Address

31 May 2024

Dear [Insert recipient name],

**Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project Development Consent Order (the “Order”)
Statutory pre-application consultation: Friday 31 May 2024 until 11:59pm on Thursday 11 July 2024**

I am writing to you as part of a statutory consultation on our proposals for the elements of the Morocco-UK Power Project (the ‘Project’) which are located in the UK (the ‘Proposed Development’). This is a proposal to connect renewable energy generation in Morocco into the UK’s electricity transmission system.

Why we are writing to you

To build the Proposed Development, we need to apply for a Development Consent Order (‘DCO’) from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the ‘Secretary of State’). One of the requirements for doing this is that we identify and consult with people who have a legal interest in land which may be affected by our proposals – this is a legal duty set out in section 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act 2008.

Your property is close to one of our construction sites or one of the principal roads that we propose to use for vehicles travelling to and from parts of the Proposed Development, either while we are building it or once it is operational. This would include a small number of occasions when we need to work out of hours to move very large item like a transformer that cannot be broken up (called an ‘Abnormal Indivisible Load’). As a result, you may have what is identified in section 44 of the Planning Act 2008 as a ‘category 3’ interest in land affected by the Proposed Development and may be entitled to make a relevant claim if the DCO is made and implemented. None of your land is required for the Proposed Development.

We want to understand your views on how our proposals may affect you, so we are writing formally to you under section 42(1)(d) and section 44 of the Planning Act 2008 to consult you on them. This is called a ‘statutory consultation.’

How you can find out more

You can respond to our consultation between **Friday 31 May 2024 until 11:59pm on Thursday 11 July 2024** and we would welcome your feedback at this stage. We have enclosed a notice and newsletter setting out more details about the Proposed Development – please note that we have extended the consultation period since the newsletter was originally produced. There are a range of other ways that you can find out more about the Proposed Development and take part in the consultation.

We will be hosting a number of public events to allow people to find out more about the Proposed Development at the following times and locations:

Date and time	Venue
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

As part of our consultation, we have published a consultation booklet showing the nature and location of the Proposed Development and a questionnaire for respondents to share their feedback with us. We have also prepared a Statement of Community Consultation (“SoCC”) in accordance with section 47 of the Act, which sets out how we will undertake the statutory consultation for the proposed application with those people living and working in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. The SoCC will be available on the Project website: www.xlinks.co/devon and at the deposit points listed down in this letter.

Copies of these consultation documents – as well as the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (the ‘PEIR’) and non-technical summary – are available to view and download free of charge on the project website via the Document Library at the following link: www.xlinks.co/devon.

Printed copies of these documents will be available to inspect free of charge at the following deposit points in the vicinity of the Proposed Development during the consultation period:

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 consultation documents on USBs, as well as hard copies of the consultation booklet, consultation questionnaire and consultation newsletter, 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 using the contact information below.

Responding to the consultation

We are now consulting on the proposed application and the PEIR and would be grateful for your comments. Any response or representation in respect of the proposed application must (i) be received by us on or before **11:59pm on Thursday 11 July 2024**, (ii) be made in writing, (iii) state the

grounds of the response or representation, (iv) indicate who is making the response or representation, and (v) give an address to which correspondence relating to the response or representation may be sent. You may use the questionnaire to provide any response or submit your own form of response (provided it is in writing).

Any responses to this consultation or other representations in respect of the Proposed Development should be sent to the following:

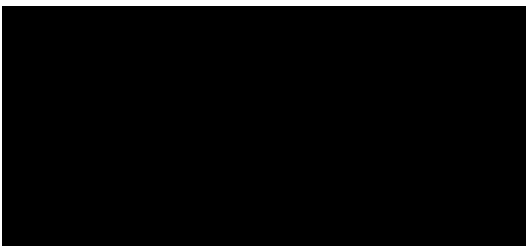
- By post: Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project consultation FREEPOST SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL
- Online: www.xlinks.co
- By email: hello@xlinks.co

Consultation commences on **Friday 31 May 2024**. **All responses must be received by 11:59pm on Thursday 11 July 2024**.

Any comments received will be analysed and had regard to by us and any of our appointed agents. Copies may be made available in due course to the Secretary of State, the Planning Inspectorate and other relevant statutory authorities so that feedback can be considered as part of the process. We will request that any personal details are not placed on public record and will be held securely by us or our agents in accordance with 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 also 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 also be communicated to others as part of the Consultation Report.

Should you have any queries in relation to the consultation materials or to discuss our proposals further, please do not hesitate to contact us on hello@xlinks.co or 0800 038 3486.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Hardy
Project Director

2 NOTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 46 OF THE PLANNING ACT 2008

2.1 Applicant's letter

This is inserted overleaf. The signature has been redacted using Adobe Acrobat for data protection reasons.

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 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 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 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 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.

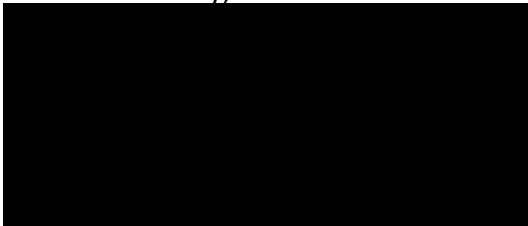
In addition to these documents, there will be additional information on our website, www.xlinks.co/devon from the start of the consultation period and through public exhibitions in the vicinity of the Proposed Development. Further details of the consultation arrangements can be found in the section 48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

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 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

2.2 Acknowledgement by the Planning Inspectorate

This is inserted overleaf.



National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Customer Services: 0303 444 5000
e-mail: XLinks@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

By email only

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN010164

Date: 15 May 2024

Dear Richard Hardy

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Section 46 and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 – Regulation 8

Proposed application by Xlinks 1 Limited for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project

Acknowledgement of receipt of information concerning proposed application

Thank you for your letter of 15 May 2024 and the following documentation:

- Section 46 letter
- Section 42.1(a) and Section 42.1(b) consultation letter
- Section 42.1(d) consultation letter

I acknowledge that you have notified the Planning Inspectorate of the proposed application for an Order granting development consent for the purposes of section 46 of the Planning Act 2008 and supplied the information for consultation under section 42. The following reference number has been given to the proposed application, which I would be grateful if you would use in subsequent communications:

EN010164

I also acknowledge notification in accordance with Regulation 8(1)(b) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 that you propose to provide an environmental statement in respect of the Proposed Development.

I will be your point of contact for this application – contact details are at the top of this letter.

The role of the Planning Inspectorate in the application process is to provide independent and impartial advice about the procedures involved and to have open discussions with potential applicants, statutory bodies and others about the processes and requirements of

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk>



the regime. It is important that you keep us accurately informed of your timetable and any changes that occur.

We will publish advice we give to you or other Interested Parties on our website and, if relevant, direct parties to you as the Applicant. We are happy to meet at key milestones and/or provide advice as the case progresses through the Pre-application stage.

Once you have prepared draft documents we are able to provide technical advice, in particular on the draft Development Consent Order, Explanatory Memorandum, the Consultation Report and any draft Habitats Regulations Assessment. You may therefore wish to build this into your timetable.

In the meantime, you may wish to have regard to the guidance and legislation material provided on our website including the Infrastructure Planning (Fees) Regulations 2010 (as amended) and associated guidance, which you will need to observe closely in establishing the correct fee to be submitted at the successive stages of the application process.

When seeking to meet your pre-application obligations you should also be aware of your obligation under the current data protection legislation to process personal data fairly and lawfully.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Spencer Barrowman

Spencer Barrowman
Case Manager

This decision was made by officials on behalf of the Secretary of State under delegated powers.

This communication does not constitute legal advice.

Please view our [Privacy Notice](#) before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.