

Viking/DL/15

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The Viking Link Project,
National Grid,
31 Homer Road,
SOLIHULL
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For the attention of Oliver Wood
Viking Link Project Director

Dear Sir,

APPLICANT: The Viking Link Project,
PROPOSAL: National Grid Interconnector Holdings
Viking Link
LOCATION: East Lindsey District to Boston Borough

Many thanks for the recent meeting held at Tedder Hall, and your introduction to the Viking Link Project. It was most helpful.

In essence, the proposal envisions a cable link from Denmark to the UK with landfall likely along Lincolnshire's east coast, probably in the vicinity of Anderby Creek, with a cable route then proceeding generally southwards, linking with the substation/converter station at Bicker Fen within Boston District.

You were aware that the proposal to lay a cable for the proposed off-shore wind farm at Triton Knoll follows a similar route. That proposal will be the subject of a DCO to be submitted in late April this year.

Since that meeting I have been in further contact with my colleagues at Boston Borough. We are likely to be pursuing a co-operative approach to the scheme. As there are no above ground installations within East Lindsey, I would reiterate much of what is said in the Boston letter to you in relation to the cable route.

Their final paragraph reads;

However, your comment at the end of our meeting at Manby when you said, in respect of our repetition of the issues of route sharing, that it is 'very much on the radar' is, with respect, a total underestimation of the seriousness of this issue in officer's minds. It is not enough for this matter to be 'on the radar' it

should be targeted as your number one priority to address and satisfactorily resolve, and I make no apologies for repeating this further to you.

East Lindsey wholeheartedly concurs with both the sentiments in that paragraph and the force with which they are expressed.

I cannot emphasise enough the urgent need for you to be in constructive discussion with RWE. It would be a public relations disaster in my judgement if Triton Knoll were to lay a cable at huge expense, subsequently reinstate the land, only for the Viking Link to repeat the whole exercise shortly after.

Those involved in the Coastal Grazing Marsh project (Natural England, Lincs County Council, Heritage Lottery fund etc) and the Coastal Country Park (Natural England, Lincs County Council, Grazing Marsh project, Lincs Trust for Nature Conservation etc), together with landowners, and all communities through which the route will pass, will understandably, again in my judgement, be dumbfounded.

If route or trench 'sharing' is not possible, the most rigorous explanation as to the reasons why not will be fundamental.

Hopefully now this is an extremely large 'blip' on your radar.

I trust you will accept this very strong message in the spirit of how it is sent. At the very outset it behoves us to identify obstacles and issues that could lead to delay and objection. Trench sharing is such an issue.

I look forward to your further thoughts and sincerely trust that we can find a route through this.

Yours faithfully

David Loveday