

**THE NATIONAL GRID NORTH SEA LINK LIMITED (EAST SLEEKBURN) COMPULSORY  
PURCHASE ORDER 2016**

**Statement of Reasons**

1. **Introduction**
- 1.1 This is the Statement of Reasons for National Grid North Sea Link Limited (company registration number 08082344 and referred to in this statement as '**NGNSL**') for the making of the National Grid North Sea Link Limited (East Sleekburn) Compulsory Purchase Order 2016 ('**the Order**').
- 1.2 The Order, if confirmed, will authorise NGNSL to purchase compulsorily land and rights in land to enable it to construct an electrical interconnector between the UK and Norway, known as North Sea Link (formerly called NGN Link) ('**the Project**').
- 1.3 NGNSL is part of the National Grid group, which owns and operates the electricity transmission infrastructure in the UK. Through other subsidiaries, National Grid also links the UK electricity transmission system to other countries' networks via electrical interconnectors to meet energy demands in the UK. Links with France, known as IFA (Interconnexion France Angleterre), and the Netherlands, known as BritNed, have already been developed.
- 1.4 The company name was originally National Grid NSN Link Limited. The name was changed to National Grid North Sea Link Limited on 22nd October 2015 to reflect and more accurately describe the scope of the Project. The change of name does not affect the legal status of the company and all other details including the registered number and address of National Grid North Sea Link Limited remain unchanged and its obligations, rights and liabilities are unaffected.
- 1.5 The Project is a joint project between NGNSL, part of the National Grid group, and the Norwegian electricity transmission system owner and network operator, Statnett System Operator ('**Statnett**'), and will give both countries improved electricity network reliability and security, access to competitive and sustainable electricity generation and increasing energy from renewable sources thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- 1.6 This statement is prepared in accordance with Section 11 of Department for Communities and Local Government Guidance on Compulsory Purchase Process and the Crichel Down Rules for the disposal of surplus land acquired by, or under the threat of compulsion which gives guidance on what should be included with the Statement of Reasons (adapted and supplemented as necessary according to the circumstances of this particular Order).
- 1.7 This statement therefore includes the following sections:
  - 1.7.1 **Section 2** identifies the powers under which the Order will be made;
  - 1.7.2 **Section 3** sets out the background for the Project and a description of the proposals for the use of the Order Land;
  - 1.7.3 **Section 4** sets out the interests and rights to be acquired under the Order;
  - 1.7.4 **Section 5** sets out a description of the land subject to the Order ('**the Order Land**') and its location;
  - 1.7.5 **Section 6** sets out NGNSL's approach to acquiring required interests and rights in the Order Land by agreement and provides and update on how negotiations are progressing;
  - 1.7.6 **Section 7** sets out the purpose of the Order and the need for compulsory purchase;

- 1.7.7 **Section 8** describes the planning policy position in relation to the Order Land and the Project;
  - 1.7.8 **Section 9** justifies the use of compulsory purchase powers, and sets out their compatibility with the Human Rights Act and the European Convention on Human Rights;
  - 1.7.9 **Section 10** covers other special considerations that apply to the Order;
  - 1.7.10 **Section 11** summarises the environmental impact assessment undertaken for the project;
  - 1.7.11 **Section 12** explains the funding for the Project;
  - 1.7.12 **Section 13** details related applications;
  - 1.7.13 **Section 14** sets out the conclusion of this Statement of Reasons;
  - 1.7.14 **Section 15** explains where those interested may find further information; and
  - 1.7.15 **Section 16** sets out a list of further documents which NGNSL may rely on in the event of an inquiry.
- 1.8 In summary, this statement sets out the justification for seeking compulsory purchase powers within the Order and will show that there is a compelling case in the public interest for compulsory purchase powers to be granted.
- 1.9 This statement is separate to, and independent from, the Statement of Case that NGNSL will be required to prepare in case of an inquiry into the Order.
2. **Powers under which the Order is made**
- 2.1 The Order is made under section 10 of and Schedule 3 to the Electricity Act 1989.
- 2.2 Paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 3 provides that:
- "the Secretary of State may authorise a licence holder to purchase compulsorily any land required for any purpose connected with the carrying on of the activities which the licence holder is authorised by the licence to carry on."*
- 2.3 Paragraph 1(2) clarifies that licence holders are authorised to acquire rights in land as well as the title to land, and that this can be done by creating new rights as well as by acquiring existing rights.
- 2.4 NGNSL was granted an Interconnector Licence under section 6(1)(e) of the Electricity Act 1989 on 20 June 2013 from Ofgem.
- 2.5 The activity which NGNSL is authorised to carry out under the licence is *"the participation of National Grid NSN Link Limited in the operation of the NSN Link interconnector, an electricity interconnector between Great Britain and Norway connecting at Blyth 400kV substation in Great Britain"*.
- 2.6 The interconnector licence granted to NGNSL incorporates a standard condition which relates to compulsory purchase:
- "The powers and rights conferred by or under the provisions of Schedule 3 to the Act (Compulsory Acquisition of Land etc. by Licence Holders) shall have effect in relation to the licensee to enable the licensee to carry on the activities authorised by this licence and which relate to:*

- (a) *the construction or extension of the licensee's interconnector;*  
*or*
- (b) *activities connected with the construction or extension of the licensee's interconnector or connected with the operation of the licensee's interconnector."*

2.7 NGNSL may therefore be authorised to purchase compulsorily land and/or rights required to enable NGNSL to carry on the activities authorised by its licence and in particular to purchase the land and rights required to enable it to construct or extend the Project interconnector or for activities connected with the interconnector's construction, extension or operation. All of the land and the rights in land proposed to be acquired under the Order are needed for these purposes.

### 3. **North Sea Link**

3.1 The Project is a proposed high voltage direct current ('**HVDC**') electrical interconnector with an approximate capacity of 1,400 megawatts which will allow the transfer of electrical power via subsea cables between the electricity transmission networks of the United Kingdom (at East Sleekburn near Blyth) and Norway (Kvilldall) in order to facilitate trading of electricity between the two markets in either direction.

3.2 The Project is being developed by NGNSL, part of the National Grid group, and Statnett which is part of the national electricity transmission company in Norway. National Grid plc, through its subsidiaries, owns and operates gas and electricity infrastructure in the UK. One of National Grid plc's subsidiary companies, National Grid Electricity Transmission plc ('**NGET**') separately owns the electricity transmission network in England and Wales and operates the high voltage electricity transmission system for the whole of Great Britain.

3.3 The National Grid group has interests in other electricity transmission interconnector projects: National Grid Interconnectors Limited owns 50 percent of the assets in, and jointly operates, the France – GB electricity transmission interconnector with Réseau de Transport d'Électricité ('**RTE**'). With its partner Tennet, National Grid Interconnector Holdings Limited ('**NGIH**') is a shareholder in the 50:50 joint venture, Britned Developments Limited, which owns and operates the Netherlands – GB electricity transmission interconnector. National Grid is also developing a number of further interconnectors.

3.4 The Project is to be constructed and owned on a 50/50 basis by National Grid and Statnett under a bespoke partnership agreement. The parties will jointly build, but each party will subsequently own, its own part of the interconnector. The legal relationship between the two parties is governed and managed through an ownership agreement.

3.5 The Project will consist of subsea and underground cables connected to a converter station in each country, allowing electricity to flow in either direction between the two countries' electricity transmission networks, depending on the supply and demand in each country. Using subsea cables, the Project will provide interconnection between two High Voltage Alternating Current ('**HVAC**') electricity systems. Using HVDC technology enables the Project to avoid the need to synchronise the two interconnected AC networks.

3.6 The Project comprises three elements:

- 3.6.1 the UK onshore development;
- 3.6.2 the subsea cables (in UK and Norwegian Waters); and
- 3.6.3 the Norwegian onshore development.

These components are, for the most part, covered by different consent regimes.

3.7 The proposed subsea cables would run from Cambois Bay to Hylsfjorden passing through UK and Norwegian waters.

- 3.8 Ofgem's view is that the Project will bring benefits to GB consumers by improving the operation of the GB transmission system, and increasing security of supply. Ofgem agreed in principle to the Project being included in the cap and floor regime on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014.
- 3.9 The interconnector infrastructure on land in the UK will comprise:
- 3.9.1 two high voltage direct current (HVDC) submarine cables between the mean low water mark and the transition joint pit (TJP), where the submarine and land cables will be jointed;
  - 3.9.2 two HVDC onshore underground cables from the converter station to the TJP on the coast at Cambois Beach;
  - 3.9.3 a converter station in East Sleekburn, on land adjacent to the former Blyth Power Station coal stocking area, used to convert the HVDC power used to link to high voltage alternating current (HVAC) for use in the national transmission system and vice-versa; and
  - 3.9.4 six HVAC underground electricity land cables to connect to a new National Grid Electricity Transmission Plc (NGET) Gas Insulated Switchgear (**GIS**) substation adjacent to the existing Blyth electricity substation.
- 3.10 The onshore infrastructure will be replicated in very similar configuration in Norway. Consent for the following components above the mean low water mark has been granted by the Norwegian Authorities:
- 3.10.1 HVDC subsea and onshore underground cables;
  - 3.10.2 tunnel from Suldal Fjord to Suldal Lake;
  - 3.10.3 a converter station; and
  - 3.10.4 HVAC cables from the converter station via a new connection to a new substation.

*Offshore cables*

- 3.11 The Project will include two subsea HVDC cables between the landfall points at Cambois Bay in the UK and Kvildall, Norway. The size of the subsea cables will be approximately 15cm in diameter.
- 3.12 The subsea cables will be laid separately and joined to the HVDC onshore underground cables in a TJP. The approximate distance between the Mean Low Water Mark and the TJP will be 500m.
- 3.13 The TJP will be an excavated pit (approximately 12m long x 5m wide x 3m deep) with a reinforced concrete plinth laid in its base. The cables will be jointed on the plinth and once this is undertaken, the excavation will be backfilled to the original ground levels. On completion of the works, there will not be any visible sign of the TJP on the surface.
- 3.14 The foreshore is owned by Northumberland County Council. As the cables continue seaward they will be installed on the seabed. The seabed up to 12 nautical miles from the mean low water mark is owned by the Crown Estate. A licence over this part of the seabed is being negotiated between NGNSL and the Crown Estate and this land is not included within the Order. Heads of Terms have been agreed between the parties. The grant of the licence is agreed in principle and ongoing negotiations are limited to outstanding commercial points.

*Onshore HVDC cables - UK*

- 3.15 The HVDC onshore underground cables will connect the subsea cables to the converter station (a distance of approximately 3km).
- 3.16 From the landfall, two cables will be unloaded from the cable laying vessel and pulled up the beach to the TJP and laid in an excavated trench at approximately 1-3m depth. From the TJP the cables will be pulled in from drums delivered by road and laid in a single excavated trench across the road and agricultural field towards the Northumbrian Water Treatment plant and the Network Rail crossing.
- 3.17 The cables will be pulled through separate horizontal directionally drilled pipes under the railway at a minimum depth of 4.5m. From the railway crossing the cables will be laid in a trench approximately 2 metre deep through grassed areas of Ferguson Business Park. In this area a joint bay will be formed to join separate cable lengths together, once completed the joint bay will not be visible above ground.
- 3.18 From the joint bay the cables will again be laid in open trenches at approximately 1m depth the majority of the way to the converter station, however directional drilling may be required at certain pinch points including the crossing of a large concreted area, and a deep culvert known as "Cow Gut" and the agricultural land grass verge. The cable will be delivered on drums and pulled into the pre-excavated trenches of battered construction. To enable the construction works to take place adjacent to the trench there will be a haul road and areas to store removed top soil.

#### *Converter Station*

- 3.19 The converter station will convert the electric current between direct current ('**HVDC**'), which is used for long distance transmission in the subsea cables, and alternating current ('**HVAC**'), which is used in the UK electricity transmission system.
- 3.20 The converter station will be constructed on land immediately to the east of the A189 spine road, to the north of East Sleekburn. The site is located approximately 1.5km north east of Blyth, on the north side of the Blyth estuary and approximately 1km inland from the Northumberland coastline. Access to the converter station is proposed via an existing site entry point off Brock Lane.
- 3.21 The converter station will comprise a series of interconnected buildings and occupy a final constructed footprint of approximately 15 acres. It will be designed to have a 40 year lifespan. The converter station buildings would be metal clad buildings and are not expected to exceed 25m in height. The site will have secure perimeter fencing and drainage from the converter station site to an outfall at the Sleekburn River. The footprint excludes the laydown areas required for the period of construction.

#### *HVAC Cables between Converter Station and Grid Connection Point*

- 3.22 A new Gas Insulated Switchgear (**GIS**) substation is needed at adjacent to the existing Blyth 275kV substation to connect the Project to the national electricity transmission system. This will be owned, constructed and operated by NGET.
- 3.23 NGET intend to design and construct the new substation to the west of the existing Blyth substation. It is anticipated that the footprint will not exceed 20mx240m with a height of 15m. The Planning application for the substation will be submitted by NGET on around 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016 and it is anticipated that the application will be decided by February 2017. NGNSL will update the Secretary of State as to the status of the application in due course.
- 3.24 Six HVAC underground cables will run between the converter station to a new HV substation to connect to the existing high voltage electricity transmission grid, with additional smaller fibre optic cables, no more than 6cm in diameter, for protection and control of the grid connection points at the sub-station. The main electricity cables will be approximately 15cm in diameter and installed in trenches approximately 1m deep. The cables will be installed in ducts or pre-excavated trenches depending on the local requirements. The total length of the HVAC cable route is approximately 1km.

#### **4. Land and Rights sought under the Order**

- 4.1 The Order Land includes the UK onshore cable element of the Project, the HVDC cables to the UK landward side of mean low water, the converter station site and the AC cables from the converter station site to the new substation and associated drainage.
- 4.2 Land below the mean low water mark is outside of the scope of the Order Land as it is owned by the Crown Estate.
- 4.3 It is essential for the deliverability of the Project that NGNSL has sufficient powers to ensure the construction and operation of the converter station. Rights only do not provide this certainty and the degree of control required over the land. It is therefore necessary for the freehold acquisition of this land (plot 25) to be included within the Order.
- 4.4 In respect of the onshore cables (both HVAC and HVDC), once installed, they will be wholly underground. After construction, it will only be necessary for NGNSL to have rights over the surface of the land to maintain and access the cables. Therefore, NGNSL is seeking all rights necessary in the Order Land:
- 4.4.1 to construct and place new electricity interconnector infrastructure within, upon or over the land and thereafter to retain, inspect, maintain, repair, alter, renew, replace, remove and use the electricity interconnector infrastructure;
  - 4.4.2 to use the land as a working and compound area for construction, inspection, maintenance, repair, alteration, renewal, replacement and removal of the electricity interconnector infrastructure;
  - 4.4.3 to protect the electricity interconnector infrastructure; prevent interference with, damage or injury to the electricity interconnector infrastructure or its operation, or interference with or obstruction of access to it;
  - 4.4.4 to prevent any works on or use of the land which may interfere with or damage the electricity interconnector infrastructure or which interferes with or obstructs access to the interconnector infrastructure;
  - 4.4.5 to access the land and access adjoining land in connection with the electricity interconnector infrastructure;
  - 4.4.6 to fell, trim and lop all trees, bushes and other vegetation which obstructs or interferes with the exercise of those rights;
  - 4.4.7 to execute such other works for the purpose of or incidental to the construction, use or maintenance of the electricity interconnector infrastructure including but not limited to drainage works; and
  - 4.4.8 to carry out any activities ancillary or incidental thereto.

#### **5. The Order Land**

- 5.1 The Order Land covers approximately 70 acres, encompassing 500 metres of subsea underground cable, approximately 4km of onshore underground cable and 15 acres for the converter station site (not including the construction laydown area).
- 5.2 The route of the subsea cables runs through the foreshore area of Cambois Beach, between the average low water mark and landfall. The route of the subsea cables to Cambois Beach has been confirmed by geophysical and geotechnical survey. The two subsea cables will be installed in a single trench, from mean low water to the TJP. The subsea cables will be approximately 15cm in diameter, installed in a trench approximately 1-2m wide and buried to a target depth of between 1m and 3m. The precise depth of burial depends on the nature of the material encountered and the risk of damage to the cable.

- 5.3 The two onshore underground cables (each approximately 15cm in diameter) will be installed in a trench approximately 1m wide and 1m deep. The cable routes are approximately 23m wide to accommodate the laying of the cables as well as the trenches and working room required for construction and maintenance. The onshore underground cable route has been identified between the subsea cables' landfall and the converter station taking account of the following:
- 5.3.1 designated sites of nature conservation;
  - 5.3.2 presence of protected species;
  - 5.3.3 proximity to residential areas;
  - 5.3.4 archaeology;
  - 5.3.5 highways;
  - 5.3.6 planning proposals;
  - 5.3.7 watercourses;
  - 5.3.8 risk of encountering contamination;
  - 5.3.9 utilities and services; and
  - 5.3.10 land use.
- 5.4 The Order Land includes 33 plots of land in total and is required for the following purposes:
- 5.4.1 Plot 1 is required for the cable landfall and a working area for the installation and maintenance of the cables as well as access for construction and maintenance. Ultimately, permanent rights will not be required over the whole of this plot. However, the nature of the installation techniques at the landfall site means that flexibility is required to accommodate any variations to the design that might emerge after works commence. Therefore the Order seeks rights over a reasonable and proportionate area of land.
  - 5.4.2 Further refinement will be possible once a Sea Bed Survey and Cable Burial Risk Assessment has been undertaken in 2017 which will reveal constraints and environmental sensitivities which may impact upon the final positioning of the cable. The ultimate landfall point of the cable will depend upon tide and wind conditions and the need to ensure that the cable can be installed safely. The land is owned by Northumberland County Council.
  - 5.4.3 Plots 2 to 23 and part of 25 are required for the HVDC cables connecting the subsea cables to the converter station. These plots will also include associated working areas, laydown areas, compounds and accesses for the construction, installation and maintenance of the cables.
  - 5.4.4 The cables will run under the highway and through agricultural land and the Ferguson Business Park. The route alignment for the cables has been determined to avoid nearby settlements as much as possible and is also influenced by the crossing angle required by Network Rail for the railway at plot 11. Due to the characteristics of the cable, this alignment is the only way to achieve the required crossing angle. Through the Ferguson Business Park, the route runs along an existing area of grassed verge and hardstanding which will reduce the impact of the cable installation on the land. These plots are in a variety of different ownerships.
  - 5.4.5 Plots 24 and the majority of plot 25 are required for the converter station and associated works. The converter station needs to be sited in this area due to its proximity to the connection point designated by NGET. Plots 24 and 25

represent the nearest suitably designated industrial land, limit the impact on nearby settlement and benefit from good access links. The detailed design of the converter station is yet to be finalised and some flexibility is therefore required at this stage. This land is owned by Arch (Commercial Enterprise) Limited.

- 5.4.6 An area of approximately 15 acres is required for the footprint of the converter station site and the permanent acquisition of land in plot 25 will be limited to what is ultimately required for construction, access, operation and maintenance. The remaining area of plots 24 and 25 will be used for construction purposes and will be restored and returned to the landowner post-construction.
- 5.4.7 Plots 25 (part), 27, 29, 31, 32 and 33 are required for HVAC cables to connect to the NGET substation from the converter station along with working areas for construction, maintenance, operation and access. The connection point is yet to be confirmed by NGET and therefore sufficient flexibility is required at this stage for the cable route. Therefore, the Order seeks a reasonable and proportionate area of land to provide the required flexibility.
- 5.4.8 Plots 25 (part), 26, 28 and 30 are required for surface water drainage from the converter station site.
- 5.5 The Order Land is in a variety of ownerships. Nine of the plots are unregistered land and five are in unknown ownership (please see paragraph 6.5 below). The largest landowner is Arch (Commercial Enterprise) Limited.
- 5.6 The Order Land includes part of the Northumberland Shores Site of Special Scientific Interest and the Blyth Estuary Site of Nature Conservation Importance.
- 6. **NGNSL's Approach to Acquiring Interests and Rights in Land by Agreement**
  - 6.1 NGNSL has been negotiating with the owners and occupiers of the Order Land to seek to acquire the land, necessary rights and interests by voluntary agreement. NGNSL will continue to negotiate in parallel with seeking compulsory purchase powers, which will be used only as a last resort in order to ensure the deliverability of the Project.
  - 6.2 Discussions with landowners have been positive and NGNSL are confident of securing the necessary land and rights by voluntary agreement.
  - 6.3 To date:
    - 6.3.1 an option agreement has been entered into with Arch (Commercial Enterprise) Limited for the converter station site. NGNSL entered into the option for a lease on 2 May 2014 in respect of this land; however, whilst positive negotiations are continuing, the option expires on 31 December 2016 and the necessary rights have not yet been secured. Therefore, whilst it is expected that the required interests will be acquired voluntarily, it is essential for NGNSL to include the freehold acquisition of this land in the Order to safeguard the deliverability of the Project; and
    - 6.3.2 heads of terms have been agreed with Banks Property Limited in relation to plot 5.
  - 6.4 Whilst NGNSL will continue to seek agreement with landowners, it is considered necessary to also have compulsory acquisition powers over the Order Land for the following reasons:
    - 6.4.1 Generally only an option is obtained by agreement. The compulsory powers therefore provide a fallback should the voluntary agreements fail and the owner is unwilling to grant the relevant land interest or right once the option has been exercised.



- 6.4.2 Comprehensive compulsory purchase powers encourage affected landowners to come to the negotiating table in the first instance and, importantly, to conduct negotiations in the context of the ultimate compulsory acquisition process with a view to reaching a deal.
  - 6.4.3 Including all interests in a compulsory purchase order enables all of the required rights to be obtained in the same way and through one process, potentially by General Vesting Declaration ('GVD').
  - 6.4.4 Compulsory acquisition by GVD is effective against all interests in the land, so avoiding the risk of the landowner failing to disclose a relevant interest, which could give rise to a ransom situation; the GVD is effective even against interests that may be unknown to the landowner and the promoter of the scheme.
  - 6.4.5 Acquisition of all easements by single GVD avoids any argument that individual easements cannot benefit the grantee's undertaking due to lack of direct connection to the remainder of the grantee's undertaking at the time of grant – the alternative being to ensure completion of all negotiated easements on the same day which is impracticable.
  - 6.4.6 Compulsory powers are more readily enforceable, so reducing additional risk, cost and delay.
- 6.5 Department for Communities and Local Government 'Guidance on Compulsory Purchase Process and the Crichton Down Rules for the disposal of surplus land acquired by, or under the threat of compulsion' recognises that, whilst compulsory purchase should be a last resort, valuable time will be lost if an acquiring authority waits until voluntary negotiations have broken down before initiating the compulsory purchase process and that it is often sensible for formal procedures to be initiated in parallel. NGNSL has initiated compulsory acquisition procedure to ensure that all required rights and interests are secured within the timeframe necessary to implement the Project. However, as stated above, positive voluntary negotiations are ongoing and will continue and NGNSL are confident are obtaining the required land and rights in this way.
- 6.6 The guidance further recognises the utility of the acquiring authority initiating compulsory purchase procedures in signalling the seriousness of the acquiring authority's intention to landowners which may help to facilitate more meaningful negotiations. As stated above, NGNSL is committed to continuing negotiations and obtaining the necessary rights voluntarily where possible. NGNSL's approach is therefore in accordance with this guidance.
- 6.7 Further, as there are 5 parcels of land (plots 3, 4, 13, 26 and 27) where, after using all reasonable endeavours, the ownership remains unknown, and a further 4 parcels of land (plots 10, 11, 12 and 14) where ownership is presumed but unregistered, it is necessary to seek to acquire the land compulsorily to ensure the Project can be delivered.

## 7. **The Purpose of the Order and the Need for Compulsory Purchase powers**

- 7.1 The purpose of the Order is to enable the comprehensive implementation of the Project, an interconnector between the United Kingdom and Norway's national electricity transmission systems. Electricity interconnection is considered by Ofgem to have many benefits:
- 7.1.1 improving competition by creating larger effective markets, thereby making electricity market prices more efficient;
  - 7.1.2 making electricity supply more secure by increasing access to generation in periods of system or energy shortage;
  - 7.1.3 making electricity generation dispatch more efficient by providing access to the most efficient units over a larger area. This can also help to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions; and

- 7.1.4 improving integration between variable generation and demand (for example, wind and solar renewable energy generation) by harnessing the diversity between output in different locations and improving access to the balancing services and other production flexibility needed to maintain security and quality of electricity supply.
- 7.2 The Project will deliver electrical interconnector infrastructure for which there is a strong public interest, on two principal grounds:
  - 7.2.1 Increasing energy from renewable sources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and
  - 7.2.2 Ensuring the competitiveness, sustainability and security of Europe's energy supply.
- 7.3 The North East of England, in particular the Blyth area offers one of the shortest distances between mainland UK and Norway. This is an important aspect in terms of minimising the amount of subsea cable required which, in turn, minimises the marine environmental impact and the investment cost. Blyth has a strong connection with the renewable energy industry particularly wind energy. In addition, both Blyth and Kvildall offer robust connection points into the National Electricity Transmission systems, thereby minimising the need for further additional works to reinforce these networks.

#### *Renewable Energy*

- 7.4 The Project will support the domestic and European objective of reaching renewable and climate change targets. The UK has two key environmental targets relating to renewable energy and greenhouse gas emissions. First, the European Union's 20/20 vision for energy sets a target of 20% of European energy to come from renewable sources by 2020. The Renewable Energy Strategy published in July 2009 identified that for the UK to meet its share of the EU target, 30% of the UK's electricity would have to come from renewable sources by 2020. The second target is incorporated in the Climate Change Act 2008 and sets a target of an 80% reduction in UK greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2050. This equates to a 34% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 as specified by the Climate Change Committee.
- 7.5 The UK Government's vision to ensure safe, secure and affordable supplies for the future involves the construction of a new fleet of nuclear generation, rapid expansion of renewable energy and the development of interconnector projects. To meet the targets set out at 7.4 and the targets in the European Commission's 3<sup>rd</sup> energy package which states that 15% of the UK's demand for energy needs to be generated from the renewable sources by 2020, the UK will need an energy portfolio of 34% wind generating capacity by 2020. This is a dramatic increase on the 11% wind generating capacity which the UK achieved in 2015
- 7.6 In both the UK and Norway more electricity is being generated from renewable sources, including onshore and offshore wind. By its nature, wind generation is intermittent, and interconnectors such as the Project support an increase in wind generating capacity by allowing fluctuations in supply and demand to be managed effectively. It does this by enabling renewable energy from one geographical market to be used in another market: if too much renewable energy is generated in one region, the energy that is surplus to requirements can easily be transmitted through the interconnector to a region where the level of demand is higher. This will support the European renewable and climate change targets. It will also reduce the demand for non-renewable energy sources.
- 7.7 The UK and Norway are both signatories to the North Seas Countries Offshore Grid Initiative, with the objective of co-ordinating offshore wind energy and infrastructure developments in the North Sea. Interconnection between countries is a pre-requisite to achieving this co-ordination.

#### *Europe's Energy Supply*

- 7.8 The Project also supports European energy supply policies. The European Commission strategy document "Europe 2020" recognises the urgent need to upgrade Europe's energy infrastructure and to interconnect networks across borders to meet the EU's core energy policy objectives of competitiveness, sustainability and security of supply. The particular need to transport and balance energy from renewable sources is also recognised in European policy. Despite the existence of common rules for the internal market in electricity, the European Commission recognises that the internal market remains fragmented due to insufficient interconnections between national energy networks.
- 7.9 The Project will bring both long and short term local economic benefit and enhance opportunities for the integration of renewable energy to meet climate change targets.
- 7.10 Electricity interconnectors can act as either a source of generation or demand for the two connected transmission systems and are vital for ensuring a competitive and well-functioning integrated market for energy. Despite the existence of common rules for the international market in electricity, the European Commission recognises that the internal market remains fragmented due to insufficient interconnectors between national energy networks.
- 7.11 The European Union has a target to increase the transmission capacity between its member states, with the stated wish to see each country establish an interconnector capacity of around 10% of its own installed generation capacity. In a report on achieving the 10% electricity interconnection target, 'Making Europe's electricity grid fit for 2020', dated 17 November 2015, the European Parliament also recognised the importance of the quantity of energy flowing between countries and the quality of such connections.
- 7.12 The key benefits of the project are to:
- 7.12.1 allow energy to flow in either direction between the UK and Norway benefitting both countries by ensuring a secure and affordable energy supply;
  - 7.12.2 contribute to managing fluctuations in supply and demand as more power is generated by renewable sources and therefore indirectly providing better opportunities for development of renewable energy projects in both countries; and
  - 7.12.3 increase the potential for the UK to trade with the wider power markets.
- 7.13 The Project would be bi-directional allowing the import and export of energy between the UK and Norway largely determined by any price differential between the two remote systems. Power will be bought in the lower priced country and sold in the higher priced country.
- 7.14 The Project will contribute to further integration of the North-European power markets, hence supporting the ambition for increased renewable energy production in the whole region and contributing towards the EU's 2020 goals.
- 7.15 Security of supply is also another major rationale for the development of the Project. By enabling participants in the GB and Norwegian markets to trade electricity, North Sea Link will increase security and diversify both countries' electricity supply. The trading of electricity between GB and Norway will support the electricity security needs of both countries and also wider within Europe.
- 7.16 Accordingly, the development of the Project supports the European Commission's requirement for a wider electricity market within Europe, with electricity being traded throughout Europe and utilised more efficiently netting demand with supply. This should also see an overall reduction in the cost of wholesale electricity prices which would be reflected in the cost of electricity for consumers across Europe.
- 7.17 The need for investment in energy infrastructure is reflected in European policy, and was the main impetus for the formal adoption of the Trans-European Energy (TEN-E) Infrastructure Guidelines on 14th October 2013. They provide a strategic framework for

the long-term energy infrastructure provision within the EU and introduce a list of 248 key energy infrastructure projects, known as Projects of Common Interest (PCI) (of which the Project is one), which form an integral part of achieving both the EU's energy policy goals and economic strategy.

- 7.18 In order to be included as a PCI, the Project and other projects were required to meet set criteria. This included:
- 7.18.1 Providing significant benefits for at least two European Member States,
  - 7.18.2 Contributing to market integration and competition,
  - 7.18.3 Enhancing security of supply, and
  - 7.18.4 Reducing CO<sup>2</sup> emissions.
- 7.19 In 2002 the EU Council set a target for all Member States to have electricity interconnection capacity equivalent to at least 10% of their installed production capacity by 2005. The UK is still failing to meet this target – in 2015 GB interconnection capacity was 4.4%.
- 7.20 The Project is one of several interconnector projects currently under development. Taking into account these other projects, the Project will contribute 15% of a total interconnection capacity of 8.8GW for the UK. The Project would represent 1.7% of the UK's installed generation capacity in 2015.
- 7.21 The Project is a cornerstone in the network development plans for the countries surrounding the North Sea basin, and is of high priority. There is currently no existing connection between the UK and Norwegian transmission system.
- 7.22 The Project will contribute to further integration of the North-European power markets, hence supporting the ambition for increased renewable energy production in the whole region and contributing towards the EU's 2020 goals.

## 8. **The Planning Position**

### *Planning Application*

- 8.1 Outline planning permission under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the UK onshore elements of the Project was granted by Northumberland County Council on 7 November 2014 (reference number 13/03524/OUTES). A non-material amendment to the planning permission (reference 16/01588/NONMAT) was granted in relation to the planning permission on 6 June 2016 to allow phased construction of the project. Accordingly there is outline planning permission for the use of the Order Land for the Project.
- 8.2 Documents submitted in support of the application included:
- 8.2.1 Environmental Statement – this includes a description of the Project, an outline of the alternatives considered, a description of the likely significant effects on the environment and a description of measures envisaged to prevent, reduce or where possible off-set any significant adverse impacts on the environment.
  - 8.2.2 Planning, Sustainability and Economic Statement – this provides the planning context and background. It also provides the details of the Project and sets out how it fits with local, regional and national planning policy.
  - 8.2.3 Design and Access Statement - Section 62 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) requires a Design and Access Statement to be submitted with most forms of planning applications. This statement sets out the design and access principles and concept of the proposed converter station and substation development components including an outline as to how these are reflected in the development layout, visual appearance and landscaping proposals.

- 8.3 The elements of the development covered by the outline planning consent comprises the high voltage direct current (HVDC) underground cables from the Mean Low Water Mark to the converter station; the converter station; and the high voltage alternating current (HVAC) underground cables from the converter station to a new substation and the drainage system from the convertor station to the Sleekburn River. The new substation will be owned and operated by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) and is subject to a separate planning application.
- 8.4 The elements of the Project that fall outside the jurisdiction of the Local Planning Authority (Northumberland County Council) comprise high voltage direct current (HVDC) subsea cables passing through UK (English and Scottish) and Norwegian waters, and onshore infrastructure in Kvilldal, Norway comprising onshore underground cables, a converter station and connection into an existing substation.
- 8.5 A Marine Licence was granted by the Marine Management Organisation on 1 December 2015 (reference number MLA/2013/00436) under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 for installation of the subsea cables from the median line to the high water high mark.
- 8.6 A full assessment of national, regional and local policy can be found in the Planning, Sustainability and Economic Statement that accompanied the planning application. A brief summary of some of the relevant policies is set out below.

#### *European Policy*

- 8.7 As noted above, under the TEN-E Regulation, PCIs are considered to be necessary to implement the EU's energy priority corridors and areas. As the Project has been designated as a PCI, its construction is considered to be necessary to implement EU energy policy.
- 8.8 On 26 March 2010, the European Council agreed to the Commission's proposal to launch a new strategy, "Europe 2020". One of the priorities of the Europe 2020 strategy is sustainable growth to be achieved by promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy. The strategy put energy infrastructures at the forefront as part of the flagship initiative, "Resource efficient Europe", by underlining the need to urgently upgrade Europe's networks, interconnecting them at the continental level, in particular to integrate renewable energy sources.
- 8.9 The Commission Communication, "*Energy infrastructure priorities for 2020 and beyond – A Blueprint for an integrated European energy network*", followed by the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council conclusions of 28 February 2011 and the European Parliament resolution of 6 July 2011, called for a new energy infrastructure policy to optimise network development at European level for the period up to 2020 and beyond, in order to allow the Union to meet its core energy policy objectives of competitiveness, sustainability and security of supply.
- 8.10 The European Council Conclusion of 4 February 2011 underlined the need to modernise and expand Europe's energy infrastructure and to interconnect networks across borders, in order to make solidarity between Member States operational, to provide for alternative supply or transit routes and sources of energy and develop renewable energy sources in competition with traditional sources.
- 8.11 In linking the UK and Norwegian electricity transmission networks, the Project is fully supported by European policy.

#### *National Policy*

- 8.12 There is strong policy support at national level for the Project. The Energy White Paper 2007 set out four key goals for energy policy and identified the challenges currently faced.
- 8.13 The Project will support the use of renewable energy which is important in meeting these challenges. The Project will support renewable energy connected to the UK's national electricity transmission system because the opportunity to export power when generation exceeds demand means that there is an additional potential market for renewables

developers. This will support the development of renewable energy generation in the UK, assist in meeting the challenges related to security of supply and encourage investment in generation.

- 8.14 The Project will create a substantial interconnection capacity between Norway and the UK, this in turn will:
- 8.14.1 Improve the security of supply for both the UK and Norwegian energy markets, with the potential to benefit wider European markets;
  - 8.14.2 Expand the environmental profile of the UK's energy consumption mix, through the introduction of alternative renewable energy sectors; and
  - 8.14.3 Remove the volatility in UK energy production, through the stabilisation abilities of hydropower. This in turn enables further UK renewables investments that are required to reach climate change targets.
- 8.15 Norway is particularly suitable for a new interconnector. It has substantial renewable energy generation from its hydropower stations. It also provides further opportunities to diversify the UK's interconnector portfolio, as there are proposed interconnectors between Norway and Central Europe, providing additional opportunities to trade power between the UK and wider continental European power markets.
- 8.16 It is anticipated that the interconnector would bring benefits to both countries given that the electricity generation and transmission patterns are different and complementary, securing electricity supplies for the UK and Norway, increasing the potential for shared use of renewable energy from both countries, and provide additional transmission capacity for suppliers and generators of electricity to trade more efficiently.
- 8.17 In terms of UK renewable energy volatility, the UK is one of the world's largest producers of wind energy. However by its nature, wind generation is intermittent. It is necessary to have plant and equipment that can respond to rapid changes in generating output. Interconnectors, such as the Project, provide an effective way to manage these fluctuations in supply and demand, by enabling power to flow between different countries' transmission networks.
- 8.18 The National Policy Statements, approved by Parliament in July 2011, set out the most recent Government policy for the delivery of major energy infrastructure. These are a material consideration in England and Wales, including those which fall under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).
- 8.19 The Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) notes that it is critical that the UK continues to have secure and reliable supplies of electricity as we make the transition to a low carbon economy. The NPS notes that "existing transmission and distribution networks will have to evolve and adapt in various ways to handle increases in demand".
- 8.20 The National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) highlights that the new electricity generating infrastructure that the UK needs to move to a low carbon economy, while maintaining security of supply, will be heavily dependent on the availability of a fit for purpose and robust electricity network. That network will need to be able to support a more complex system of supply and demand and cope with generation occurring in locations of greater diversity.
- 8.21 The National Planning Policy Framework ('**NPPF**') published in March 2012 sets out the Government's planning policies for England. In support of the NPPF goal of delivering sustainable development the Project will help to build a strong and competitive economy by creating jobs and create a cluster of high technology industry in the area. Good design has been incorporated in the Project and the potential effects on the natural environment as a result of the Project have been assessed in accordance with the NPPF. The Project also helps meet the challenge of climate change by supporting the use of renewable energy.

### *Local Policy*

- 8.22 Current planning policies for Northumberland are contained in a number of documents that were produced and approved by the former Local Planning Authorities.
- 8.23 The Project falls within the former District of Wansbeck. The Wansbeck District Local Plan was adopted in July 2007 and currently forms part of the Consolidated Planning Policy Framework for Northumberland County Council.
- 8.24 The Northumberland Local Development Plan is currently being prepared and is therefore a material consideration in the determining of planning applications.
- 8.25 Table 4.1 of the Planning, Sustainability and Economic Statement sets out the relevant adopted 'saved' local planning policies from the Wansbeck District Local Plan and Table 4.2 sets out relevant draft policies from the Preferred Options stages of the emerging Core Strategy which apply to the Order land. The Core Strategy is still under preparation and consultation on major modifications to the Core Strategy have taken place in 2016.
- 8.26 The location of the proposed Converter Station is on land allocated in the emerging local development plan for large-scale, non-estate industrial development which is consistent with the proposals to form the Blyth Estuary Renewable Energy Zone (BEREZ). The Core Strategy allocates 36 hectares of land (including the converter station site) which benefits from the East Sleekburn Local Development Order to 2019 for development. The major modifications to the core strategy suggests the removal of an area of development land on the adjacent site owned by RWE Npower however the proposed converter station site remains within the proposed development allocation.
- 8.27 In summary, whilst the Project comprises a bespoke *sui generis* form of development (the converter station), it does not conflict with the policies, aims and objectives of the development plan, and does in fact complement the local and wider aspirations of the area, in particular the low carbon energy sectors.
- 8.28 As the cables will be buried underground and as the construction impacts will be temporary, there are no anticipated significant adverse environmental or planning effects.
9. **Justification for the use of CPO and Compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998**
- 9.1 In determining whether or not to confirm the Order, the Secretary of State must have regard to any interference with human rights, the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998 and the European Convention on Human Rights (**'the Convention'**). The Secretary of State must consider whether, on balance, the case for compulsory purchase justifies interfering with the human rights of the owners and occupiers of the Order Land.
- 9.2 Article 1 of the First Protocol for the Convention states that "...every natural or legal person is entitled to peaceful enjoyment of his possessions" and "no one shall be deprived of his possessions except in the public interest and subject to the conditions provided for by the law and by the general principles of international law". NGNSL is satisfied that there is a compelling case in the public interest for the compulsory purchase of the Order Land, given the public policy support for the construction and operation of the Project. The public benefits associated with the Project are set out earlier in this Statement of Reasons. NGNSL considers that the Order will strike a fair balance between the public interest in the implementation of the Order and those private rights which will be affected by the Order. Any powers which are exercised under the Order would be done so in accordance with law.
- 9.3 Article 6 of the Convention provides that: "in determining his civil rights and obligations...everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law". All persons affected by the Order will be notified, will have the right to make representations and objections to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and objecting parties will have the right to be heard at a public inquiry. It has been held that statutory processes are in compliance with Article 6 of the Convention.

- 9.4 Those whose interests are acquired under the Order will also be entitled to compensation which will be payable in accordance with the Compulsory Purchase Compensation Code. The Compensation Code has been held to be compliant with Article 8 and Article 1 of the First Protocol to the Convention.
- 9.5 NGNSL has sought to keep any interference in the rights of those with interests in the Order Land to a minimum. The land within the Order has been limited to the minimum required for the interconnector infrastructure to be installed, operated and maintained. Furthermore, the route of the underground cables and associated infrastructure has been selected so as to minimise the impact on settlement and land use as far as possible.
- 9.6 The requirements of the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Convention, particularly the rights of property owners, have therefore been fully taken into account. There is a compelling case in the public interest for the Order to be made and confirmed, and the interference with the private rights of those affected that would be the inevitable result of the exercise of compulsory purchase powers conferred by the Order would be lawful, justified and proportionate.

## 10. **Special Considerations**

- 10.1 Schedule 3 to the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 (**'the 1981 Act'**) applies to compulsory purchase of rights over certain specified types of land and affords it special protection.

### *Open Space Land*

- 10.2 Paragraph 6 of Schedule 3 to the 1981 Act contains restrictions which apply to the acquisition of rights over open space, allotments and common land.
- 10.3 "Open space" in this context means any land laid out as a public garden, or used for the purpose of public recreation, or land being a disused burial ground.
- 10.4 Plot 1 comprising the beach area falls within the above definition of 'open space'. This land is in the ownership of Northumberland County Council.
- 10.5 As the ground above the cables is to be reinstated following the construction, an application will be made to the Secretary of State for a certificate under para 6(1)(a) that the land "when burdened with that right, will be no less advantageous to those persons in whom it is vested and other persons, if any, entitled to rights of common or other rights, and to the public, than it was before".

### *Local Authority Land and Statutory Undertakers Land*

- 10.6 Paragraph 4 of Schedule 3 to the 1981 Act contains restrictions which apply to the acquisition of rights over local authority and statutory undertakers land.
- 10.7 Northumberland County Council owns land in Plots 1, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 14.
- 10.8 The following parcels of land are held by statutory undertakers:
- 10.8.1 Innogy RWE owns land in Plot 22;
  - 10.8.2 Network Rail owns land in Plot 11; and
  - 10.8.3 Northumbrian Water owns land in plot 7
- 10.9 However, paragraph 4(2) of Schedule 3 provides that a compulsory purchase order shall not be subject to special parliamentary procedure where the person acquiring the interest is a statutory undertaker. As NGNSL holds an interconnector licence under the Electricity Act 1989, it is a statutory undertaker for the purposes of the 1981 Act. Accordingly, special parliamentary procedure does not apply.

## 11. **Environmental Impact Assessment**



- 11.1 The Project would allow the bi-directional transfer of electrical power between the UK and Norway via subsea cables bringing both short and long term local economic benefit, wider benefit to electricity consumers in the UK and Europe and enhanced opportunities for the integration of renewable energy to meet climate change targets. However, NGNSL recognises that the Project could also have some detrimental effects, and has sought to minimise these as far as possible.
- 11.2 NGNSL has aimed to minimise and mitigate the environmental effects of the Project. Northumberland County Council considered the proposed development in the context of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England) Regulations 2011 and provided a screening opinion that it would require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out given the scale of the development and the potential effects on the Northumberland Shore SSSI and Blyth and Sleekburn Estuary Local Wildlife Site. NGNSL carried out an EIA and submitted an Environmental Statement ('ES') to accompany its application for planning permission for the Project. The full ES is available on the project website at [www.nsninterconnector.com](http://www.nsninterconnector.com).
- 11.3 The assessments undertaken on the various components of the Project have not identified any significant adverse long-term effects, either in isolation or when considered in combination. Any impacts identified as part of the assessments are considered to be localised and temporary and appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented to avoid, offset or reduce impacts. Any residual impacts identified are not considered to be significant.

## 12. **Funding**

- 12.1 The Project is jointly owned and financed by NGNSL, in equal shares with Statnett SV, the Norwegian Transmission System Operator and Owner (TSO). NGNSL holds a provisional TSO license which will be enacted in due course following further consultation by Ofgem.
- 12.2 Ofgem has awarded the cap and floor regime to the Project as it is in the interests of UK consumers, security of supply and facilitates improvement in climate change.
- 12.3 Under the cap and floor mechanism, if the TSO's revenues exceed the cap, then revenue above the cap is returned to consumers. If revenues fall below the floor then consumers top up revenues to the level of the floor. For the Project, Ofgem have calculated an indicative cap and floor levels based on the Final Project Assessment (FPA) issued under consultation in October 2016.
- 12.4 The regime design includes a further assessment of costs at the end of the construction period, thereby introducing certainty for the consumer and at which point the final cap and floor is determined. The outcome of the FPA assessment is that the range of the provisional annual floor level will be £50m-£60m and the range of provisional annual cap level will be £90m-£105m.
- 12.5 NGNSL has factored land acquisition costs and payment of compensation claims into its financial calculations for the funding of the Project and these costs will be fully met as and when they are required (including any early payments).
- 12.6 Therefore, NGNSL considers that the Project is financially viable.

## 13. **Related Applications, Appeals, Orders etc.**

### *Planning permission*

- 13.1 As noted in 8.1 above, NGNSL's planning application for the UK onshore elements of the Project was granted on 7 November 2014 by Northumberland County Council.
- 13.2 As noted at 3.23 above, it is expected that NGET will submit the planning application for the substation I around 20 October 2016.

### *Marine Licence*

- 13.3 As noted at 8.4 above, for the subsea cables within UK territorial waters, a marine licence was granted by the Marine Management Organisation on 1 December 2015 (reference number MLA/2013/00436).

*Crown Estate Licence*

- 13.4 As noted at 3.14 above, heads of terms have been agreed with the Crown Estate for a licence over the seabed for the installation of the offshore cables.

*International elements*

- 13.5 On 13 October 2015, the Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy granted Statnett a licence to construct the interconnector.
- 13.6 The onshore development in Norway has been assessed and consented under the Norwegian Energy Act in accordance with an environmental report submitted with the application.
- 13.7 A licence was granted by the Norwegian Energy Authorities for in 2001 for the cable installation between the Norwegian landfall (Hysten) and the UK/Norway median line. In 2008 the licence was extended until 2018.
- 13.8 All land rights and licences required to construct the interconnector in Norway were granted prior to the placing of contracts for construction. Therefore consents required for the Norwegian element of the work will not impede the delivery of the project.

14. **Conclusion**

- 14.1 NGNSL may be authorised to purchase compulsorily the land and rights in the land required to enable NGNSL to carry on the activities authorised by its licence and in particular to purchase land or rights required to enable it to construct the Project or for activities connected with the interconnector's construction, extension, operation and maintenance.
- 14.2 The construction of the Project is in the public interest, it is supported by national energy policy and national planning policy, and does not conflict with local planning policy.
- 14.3 All of the rights and interests in land proposed to be acquired under the Order are required for the purpose of constructing, operating and maintaining the Project and are reasonable and proportionate. NGNSL does not propose to acquire any rights or interests beyond those that are reasonably required.
- 14.4 There are no impediments to the implementation of the Order.
- 14.5 Accordingly, there is a compelling case in the public interest that the Order should be confirmed.

15. **Further Information**

- 15.1 The Order, schedule and related maps are available for inspection at:
- 15.1.1 Bedlington Station Library, Station Road, Bedlington, NE22 5HB; and
- 15.1.2 East Bedlington Parish Council, 15 Station Street, Bedlington, NE22 7JN.
- 15.2 The documents are also available on the project website [www.northsealink.com](http://www.northsealink.com).
- 15.3 Further information about the Project can be obtained by calling freephone 0800 298 0405 between 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday (an answerphone service is available outside these core hours), emailing [NSLinterconnector@communitycomms.co.uk](mailto:NSLinterconnector@communitycomms.co.uk) or writing to Freepost RSLG-YXEU-BJUC NSL Interconnector PO BOX 68215, London, SW1P 9UJ.

## 16. List of Documents

16.1 In the event that it becomes necessary to hold a public inquiry into the Order, NGNSL may refer to the documents listed below. The list is not exhaustive and NGNSL may also refer to additional documents in order to address any objections made to the Order:

- 16.1.1 National Grid (North Sea Link Limited) Compulsory Purchase Order 2016 and map
- 16.1.2 Section 11 of Department for Communities and Local Government Guidance on Compulsory Purchase Process and the Crichel Down Rules
- 16.1.3 National Grid NSN Link Limited's Interconnector Licence, Ofgem, 20 June 2013
- 16.1.4 European Commission Communication COM (2010), Europe 2020: A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth
- 16.1.5 Regulation (EU) No 347/2013 of 17 April 2013 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure ('the TEN-E Regulation')
- 16.1.6 List of 'Projects of Common Interest' under the TEN-E Regulation, as set out in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1391/2013 of 18 November 2015
- 16.1.7 European Commission Communication COM (2010) 0677 'Energy infrastructure priorities for 2020 and beyond – A Blueprint for an integrated European energy network'
- 16.1.8 Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council conclusions of 28 February 2011 (6950/11)
- 16.1.9 The European Parliament resolution of 6 July 2011 (2010/2242/(INI))
- 16.1.10 The European Council conclusion of 4 February 2011 (EUCO 2/1/11 REV 1 CO EUR 2 CONCL1)
- 16.1.11 Renewable Energy Strategy, Cm 7686, DECC, 15 July 2009
- 16.1.12 The Energy White Paper 2007 (CM 7124)
- 16.1.13 The Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), July 2011
- 16.1.14 The National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5), July 2011
- 16.1.15 The National Planning Policy Framework
- 16.1.16 Wansbeck District Local Plan (2007)
- 16.1.17 Planning permission 13/03534/OUTES dated 7 November 2014
- 16.1.18 Non-material amendment reference 16/01588/NONMAT dated 6 June 2016
- 16.1.19 Environmental Statement accompanying the planning application
- 16.1.20 Planning, Sustainability and Economic Statement for UK Onshore Construction of the UK-Norway Electricity Interconnector (NSN Link) accompanying the planning application
- 16.1.21 Design and Access Statement accompanying the planning application

- 16.1.22 Marine Licence granted for the subsea cables within UK territorial waters by Marine Management Organisation dated 1 December 2015 (reference number MLA/2013/00436).

**National Grid North Sea Link Limited**

**14 October 2016**