

# Scotland to England Green Link – SEGL1

Torness to Hawthorn Pit

Public information exhibition and events - February 2022

## About our SEGL1 project

**As the UK shifts away from traditional forms of fuel to heat homes, charge vehicles, and power businesses, there will be greater need for green electricity throughout the country.**

To help deliver the green energy we need across the UK, we are proposing the construction of two new High Voltage Direct Current links, which will function as electricity superhighways from Scotland to England. SEGL1 is one of these projects and, if approved, it will run from the Torness area in East Lothian to Hawthorn Pit in County Durham.

We are hosting an online public information exhibition on our project website (details below), to give you the opportunity to learn more about SEGL1, find out how public consultation feedback has been taken on board, and ask our project team questions.

The exhibition and events will take place from Monday 7 February to Saturday 19 February, and the exhibition will remain online until the submission of the planning application to Durham County Council in spring 2022.



## Join our online public information events

Our online events and one-to-one calls are open to everyone and are easy to join.

### Live chat sessions

We are holding live chat sessions on our SEGL1 website with members of the project team who can answer your questions in real-time via a chat messenger. There is no need to pre-register for the live chat sessions.

- **10am – 2pm Tuesday 8 February**
- **2pm – 8pm Thursday 10 February**
- **11am – 5pm Saturday 19 February**

### Webinar

We are holding an online webinar via the SEGL1 website on the project from **6:30pm – 7:30pm** on **Wednesday 16 February**. This will include a presentation on the project, followed by a Q&A session with the SEGL1 project team.

To join the online event, please pre-register via the SEGL1 website by **1pm Wednesday 16 February** or call **0808 1968 405**.

### One-to-one calls

If you would like a one-to-one telephone or video call with a member of the project team, please call or email our community relations team, using the below contact details.

Our community relations team will work with you to arrange a call with a relevant member of the project team at a suitable time. The one-to-one calls will take place between **9am – 6pm, Monday 7 February to Saturday 19 February**.

Website: [nationalgrid.com/segl1](https://nationalgrid.com/segl1)  
Email: [info@segl1.nationalgrid.com](mailto:info@segl1.nationalgrid.com)  
Freephone: **0808 1968 405**

# About our SEGL1 public information exhibition and online events

Our public information exhibition follows on from our public consultation, held in spring 2021, where we took feedback on our proposals from landowners, residents, organisations and local elected members.

The purpose of our public information events is to show people how our plans have evolved and answer any questions they have at this stage. There will be further opportunity to give formal feedback during the planning application process after we have submitted our outline planning application to Durham County Council and the statutory period of consultation opens. During this time, you will be able to comment on the planning application via the Council's planning portal.

The Council will then decide whether to approve our proposed project.

## The impact of COVID-19 on our events

Given the uncertainties there have been around COVID-19 and the remaining self-isolation requirements, we will be hosting a digital public information exhibition and series of online events via our dedicated website – [www.nationalgrid.com/segl1](http://www.nationalgrid.com/segl1).

## About our proposal

**The UK is committed to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and as the country moves away from historical fuel sources like coal and oil to heat homes, and power vehicles and businesses, we will need more renewable power like green electricity.**

The construction of SEGL1 and its sister project SEGL2, will create two electrical High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) links from Scotland to England.

These links will increase the capability of our network between Scotland, with its many renewable energy sources, and the rest of the UK.

If approved, SEGL1 will run from the Torness area in East Lothian to Hawthorn Pit (between Murton and South Hetton) in County Durham, via the North Sea. If approved, SEGL2 will run from Peterhead in Aberdeenshire to Drax in North Yorkshire.

Both SEGL1 and SEGL2 are essential to meet the UK's net zero commitments and deliver a cleaner, greener future.

## What we plan to build

**We are proposing to build a new converter station in the field south of Jade Business Park and a new substation next to our existing substation at Hawthorn Pit.**

We also propose to install a 10km underground cable from the coastline just north of Seaham, to the new converter station and substation at Hawthorn Pit, which are critical components of our project. The converter station will convert the DC electricity to AC electricity and connect to the new substation which will enable it to be transmitted around the country.



This is an illustrative image of what our proposed converter station could look like. Further images will be available on our website from 7 February as part of our public exhibition.

## Reducing the impacts of the converter station and substation

During our consultation last spring, we were asked about the impacts of the converter station and substation. We take great care to minimise the impact of our work, both for local communities and the environment. Below we've set out some of our proposed mitigation measures.

- The proposed location for the converter station is south of Jade Business Park and next to woodland. The new substation is proposed alongside the existing substation. These locations have been chosen to integrate both into the landscape.
- Our project team is developing a landscape masterplan that incorporates new public open space, replacement habitats and biodiversity net gain of at least 10%, landscape planting, and public rights of way.
- We propose to remove three existing pylons and replace them with a single pylon to connect the new substation to the existing overhead line.

Visit our website after 7 February to view visuals of what the converter station and substation could look like. Alternatively, please get in touch to request printed materials.

## Our proposed route

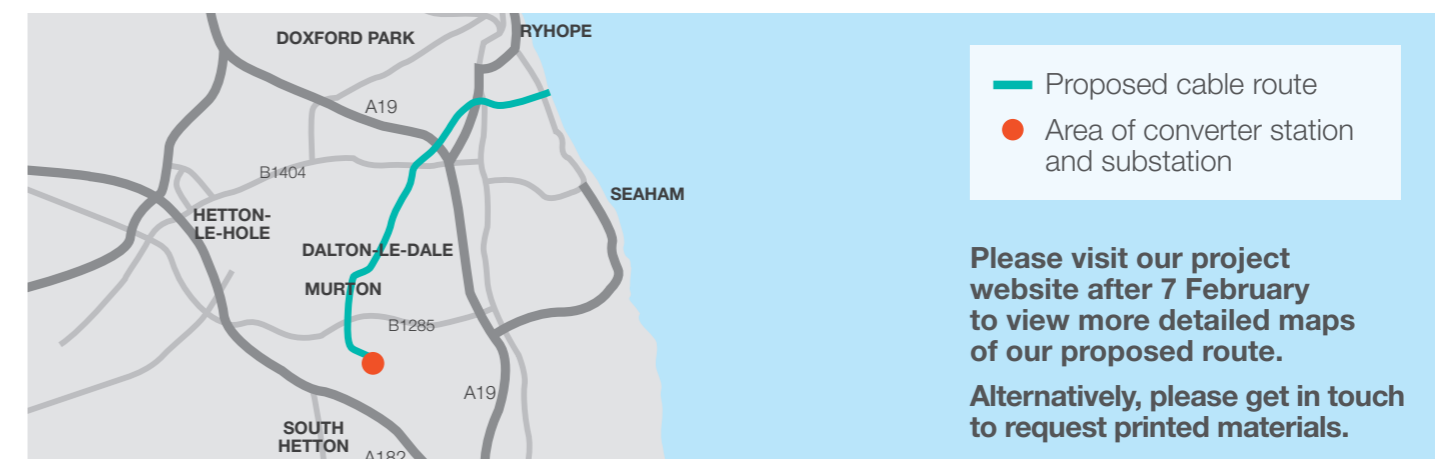
**Our cable will come ashore just north of Seaham in County Durham and will travel underground for around 10km to Hawthorn Pit.**

### Our cable route on land

During our consultation last spring, some people suggested that making landfall at Nose's Point and following the old mineral line might be a better route for our underground cables. We have taken another look and after a further comprehensive review, our original route remains our preferred option for the following reasons:

- Following the mineral line in its entirety would cause a great deal of disruption to Seaham including its harbour, residents' homes, businesses, compared to the original route.
- Due to the nature of the seabed around Nose's Point we don't think it possible to protect the cable by burial meaning that we would need to use alternative methods that may create obstacles to vessels and disturb both operations at the port and potentially marine habitats.
- Nose's Point has very complex topography and geology, for example, its height would present significant challenges and increase both risk when installing the cable and during its lifetime.
- Making landfall at Nose's Point would increase the length of the offshore portion of the cable by 5km, so overall there wouldn't be a significant reduction in cable length.

Therefore, we consider that our proposed route, from north of Seaham to Hawthorn Pit, strikes the right balance between onshore and offshore environmental considerations, minimising impacts on residents and helping us meet our responsibility to provide affordable electricity infrastructure.



- Proposed cable route
- Area of converter station and substation

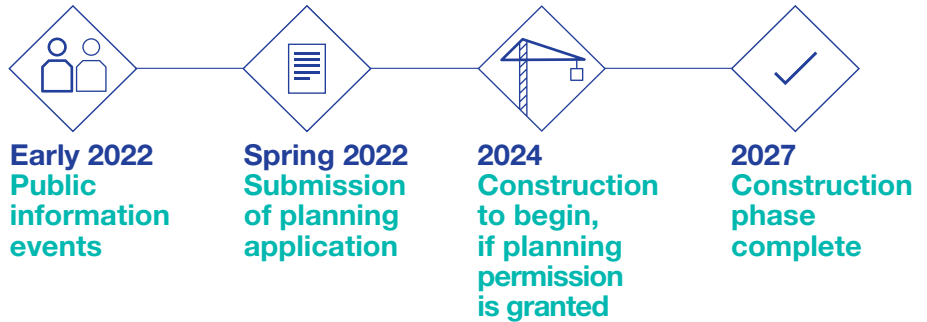
**Please visit our project website after 7 February to view more detailed maps of our proposed route.**

**Alternatively, please get in touch to request printed materials.**

## When will the work happen?

If approved, construction is expected to begin in 2024 and finish in 2027.

We held our public consultation in spring 2021 and we will soon be holding our public information exhibition and events.



## Being a good neighbour

**Due to the very nature of what we do – connecting people to the energy we all use – National Grid is at the heart of communities.**

We are members of the Considerate Constructors Scheme, and abide by the Code of Considerate Practice, which encourages best-practice approaches above and beyond statutory requirements. We're committed to keeping disruption to a minimum and will proactively share information with affected communities through our SEGL1 website.

We know that our responsibility as a business goes beyond safely building new energy infrastructure to enable a cleaner, fairer and affordable future. We want to make a lasting positive impact where we build our projects to help those areas and communities thrive and to support a sustainable future.

Here are some of the ways we're planning to do that through this project:

- **Improving biodiversity**

We are developing a landscape masterplan that incorporates new public open space and replacement habitat, to enhance the biodiversity of the local area.

- **Community Grant Programme**

When operating in an area, charities and community groups can apply for funding of up to £20,000 for projects that meet local community needs by providing a range of social, economic and environmental benefits.

## Landowners on our route

**If you're an affected landowner or occupier, you should have been contacted by our land agents, Bell Ingram, directly. If you haven't been approached by the team and you think that your land will be directly affected by our project, please contact Bell Ingram on 01845 522095.**

Bell Ingram will be in touch with all affected landowners and occupiers shortly to share the project's latest proposals and commence more detailed discussions regarding the project.

## Keep in touch

If you would like to get in touch with a member of our Community Relations Team, please use the details below:

**0808 196 8405**  
[nationalgrid.com/seg1](https://nationalgrid.com/seg1)  
[info@SEGL1.nationalgrid.com](mailto:info@SEGL1.nationalgrid.com)

**See our digital exhibition on our website for more detail - [nationalgrid.com/seg1](https://nationalgrid.com/seg1)**

