



# EGL1

EASTERN GREEN LINK

## Eastern Green Link 1

From Torness, East Lothian to Hawthorn Pit, County Durham

Welcome to the EGL1 project newsletter - August 2025

### **We have started construction of our Torness and Murton converter stations.**

EGL1 is a two-gigawatt high voltage direct current "HVDC) electrical 'superhighway' that will run from the Torness area in East Lothian, to Hawthorn Pit in County Durham, via the North Sea. Once complete, it will carry enough electricity for 2 million homes.

The project will unlock Scotland's vast renewable energy reserves by scaling up the UK's capacity to transport clean energy from where it is generated to where it is needed. It will also increase the resilience and energy security of the UK's transmission networks.

After a long period of community consultation and refining our plans for EGL1 and enabling works to ready the site in Torness and Hawthorn Pit, we have started construction on our two converter stations.

In the coming months and years construction will also begin work on our 20 km of onshore underground cable and 176 km of subsea cable.

Since our previous newsletter in February 2024 (which can be viewed online), we have reached a number of significant milestones.

In November 2024, Ofgem approved a £2.5bn funding package and land was acquired for the converter station at Hawthorn Pit, County Durham, including Coop House Wood.

One of our main contractors, Prysmian, also completed nearshore geophysical surveys and offshore geotechnical to support the design of two land-to-sea cables, with ground investigations finalised at the converter station site and a substation construction compound established 230 metres west of Jade Business Park.

Most recently, our Reserved Matters application for the Murton Converter Station has been approved by Durham County Council.



## What is EGL1?

EGL1 is a 196 km long high voltage direct current (HVDC) link. A HVDC link functions like a superhighway for electricity, allowing large amounts of power to be transmitted over long distances before being fed into the electrical grid.

Through its multi-directional design, it will also increase the resilience and energy security of the UK's transmission networks.

The project started construction in March 2025, following full approval from local planning authorities and Ofgem. It is expected to be operational by 2029.

## Why is EGL1 needed?

As the country shifts away from traditional forms of fuel to heat homes, charge vehicles and power businesses, there is greater need for home-produced, clean electricity.

By the end of this decade, the UK Government also aims for every home in the country to be powered by offshore wind and has set a 50-gigawatt offshore wind connections target by 2030.



**Matt Barton,**  
Project Director for EGL1

It's fantastic to see the first steps of construction work being taken on EGL1. This project will play a vital role in strengthening the UK's renewable energy accessibility, and its significance towards the energy transition cannot be overstated. I'm grateful to the communities that will host our work in the years ahead, and I remain firmly committed to ensuring we leave a lasting, positive legacy for generations to come.





## EGL1 groundbreaking ceremony

We were proud to hold our EGL1 Groundbreaking Ceremony in Torness and North Berwick, East Lothian, on Thursday 13th February 2025.

Torness, SP Energy Networks CEO, Nicola Connelly and National Grid Electricity Transmission President of Strategic Infrastructure, Carl Trowell, were joined by Minister for Housing and MSP for East Lothian, Paul McLennan, to mark construction getting underway.

We confirmed an £8m fund has been approved by Ofgem to support communities and deliver social, environmental and economic benefits where the cable meets land in East Lothian and County Durham. Set to open later this year, the fund recognises the important contribution communities will play in hosting vital energy infrastructure and strengthening energy security.

Minister for Housing and MSP for East Lothian, Paul McLennan, said:

*"As a key energy hub, East Lothian is at the heart of Scotland's renewable growth, driving economic opportunities for both the region and the country."*

*"The £2.5 billion joint investment from SP Energy Networks and National Grid Electricity Transmission highlights their dedication to enhancing energy security while delivering significant social, economic, and environmental benefits to local communities hosting this vital infrastructure."*

*"I look forward to ongoing collaboration as the project advances and am eager to work with both organisations to advance local job opportunities and ensure the funds bring real benefits to East Lothian communities."*





Site of the Murton Converter Station

## Project update – works in England

We have been making preparations for the main construction phase, which started in March. Recent progress includes:

- **Site compound preparation** – Work has begun on a compound to support the construction of the converter station. Starting in September, we will be setting up contractors offices, welfare facilities and parking. This work will be complete in 2026.
- **Archaeological investigations** – Further archeological investigations were completed in March, across three areas of the converter station site, following initial work in summer 2024.
- **Marine surveys** – Throughout July, Geotechnical survey were undertaken close to the shore around Seaham Hall Beach to gather data about seabed conditions. The data gathered is helping finalise the design of the landfall installation



Site of the Hawthorn Pit substation

## Upcoming works at Hawthorn Pit

- **Bridleway relocation** - The bridleway has now been permanently moved adjacent to a new tree line on higher ground to ensure user safety and separate it from construction traffic. This move to higher ground will also alleviate historic flooding issues.
- **Temporary haul road installation** - A 500-metre haul road will connect the substation site to Jade Business Park with safe, 24/7 crossing measures also installed at two bridleway intersections. At the bridleway crossings, a 3-meter-wide stretch of the bridleway will be surfaced with tarmac and installed with drainage. Most of the haul road is temporary and following completion of our works we will restore the land to its previous use.
- **Path diversion** - Due to safety concerns, permissive paths around the existing substation will become inaccessible for the duration of our works. Footpaths west of Jade Business Park will be rerouted with clear signage that will also be in place whilst the temporary paths are in use.
- **Flooding concerns** - We are putting in place drainage arrangements, reviewed and approved by Durham County Council, which will help alleviate flood risks at site. We will continue to monitor those arrangements during construction.

## EGL1 reserved matters application

We can confirm that the **Reserved Matters application for the Murton Converter Station** was approved by **Durham County Council** in July 2025. This application provides details on key design elements, including access, final appearance, landscaping, and layout of the converter station.

While the Reserved Matters application was being considered, we continued to progress with **temporary works** that do not form part of the permanent construction. These included **site mobilisation, welfare setup, minor civils, cut/fill, and drainage works** to support the early stages of the project.

We remain committed to keeping local communities and stakeholders informed and will continue to provide updates as we move forward.



Site of the Torness converter station

## Project update – works in Scotland

Ground investigations, which began late last year, have been the main activity on site. Looking ahead:

**Torness Converter Station** – The main construction works on the converter station site are set to get underway this summer. These works will be subject to factors such as East Lothian Council's planning approval of the reserved matters and associated conditions.

**Enabling works** – Our contractor, Metlen Energy & Metals, have begun to prepare the ground for the temporary welfare area delivering over 500 tonnes of stone per day in order to build the platform.

**Traffic management** – All HGVs will access the site via the A1 (Cement Works exit), A1087, and the existing access road. Northbound vehicles will use Spott Roundabout to turn south, avoiding carriageway crossings.





Site of the Torness converter station

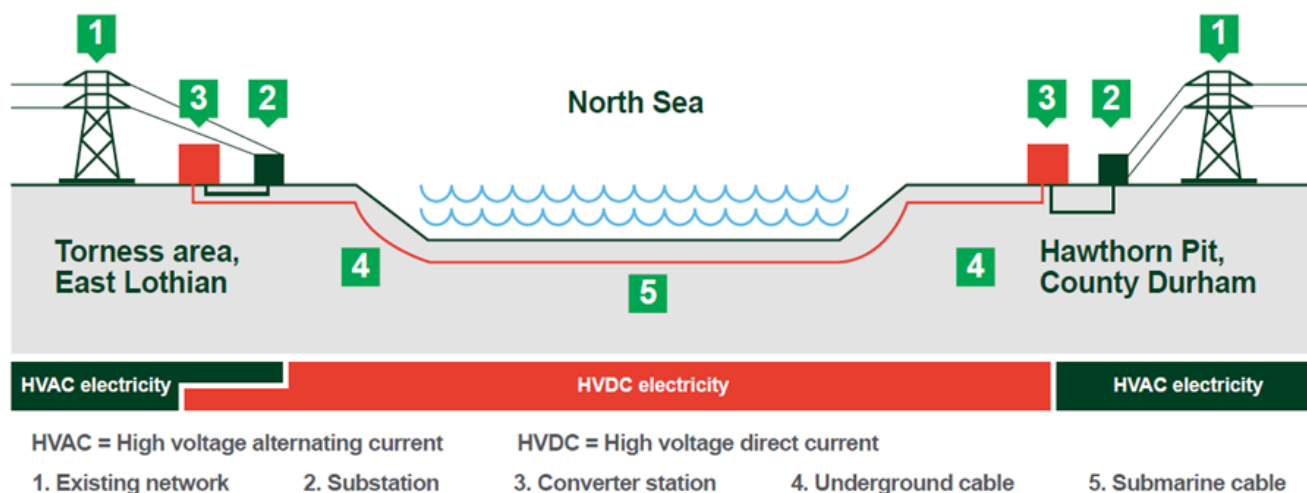
## Project update – offshore works

The installation of 176 km of marine cable under the seabed running from Thorntonloch Beach in East Lothian to the beach just north of Seaham in County Durham.

Seabed preparation activities - Survey and boulder clearance works, which started in 2024 across the marine route, will continue this year.

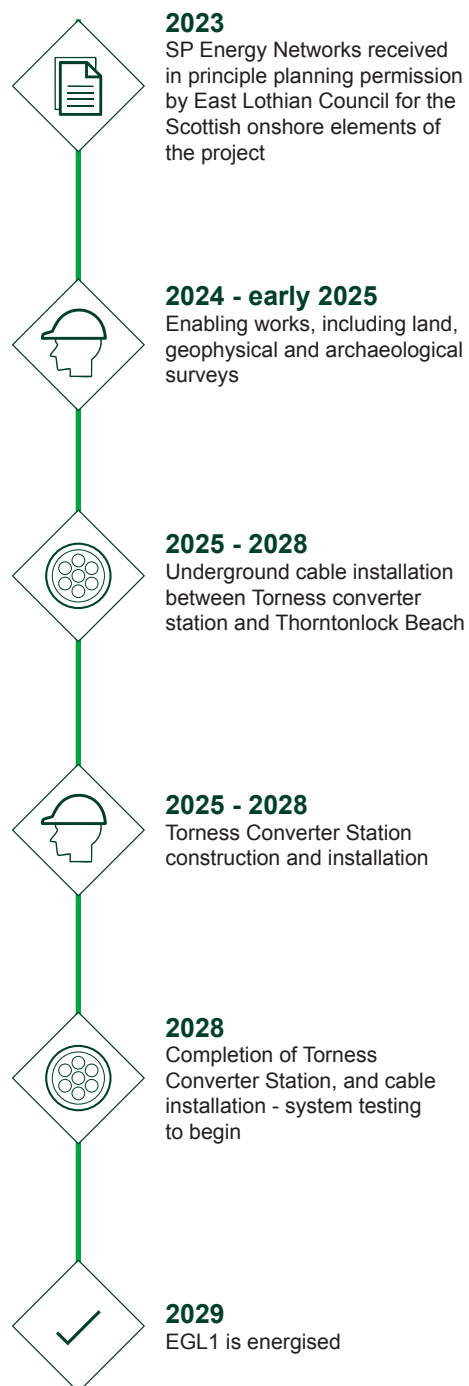
Geotechnical surveys – From 10 July – 29 July, a Jack-Up Barge was sited off Seaham Hall Beach to take core samples of the seabed. From 22 July, a similar platform was installed offshore in Torness to obtain information about the seabed. The data gathered will help inform the design of the cable installation, which is due to begin in 2027.

## How will EGL1 work?

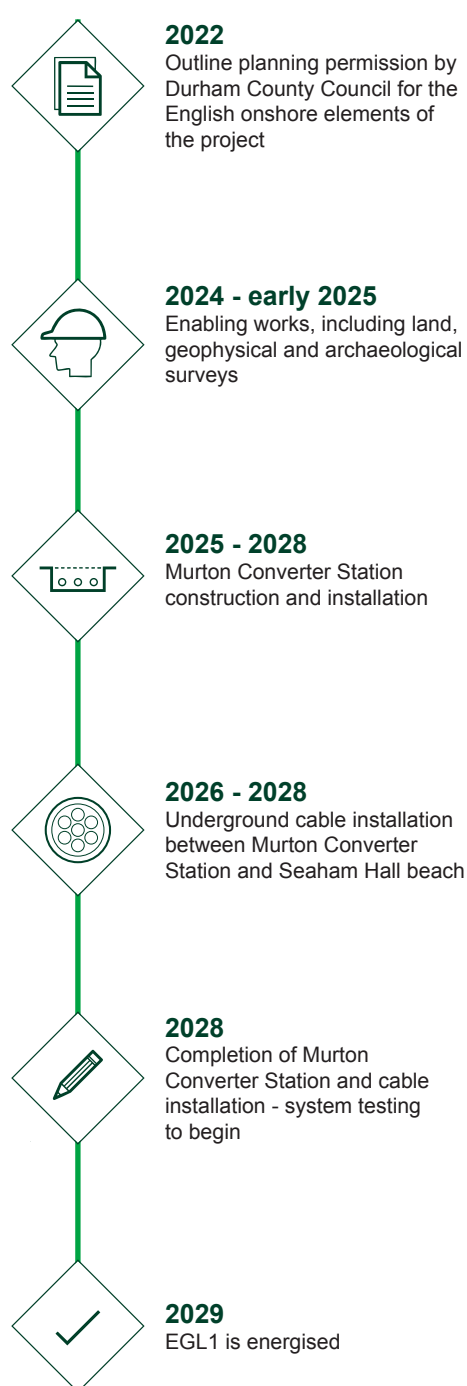


## Project high level timeline

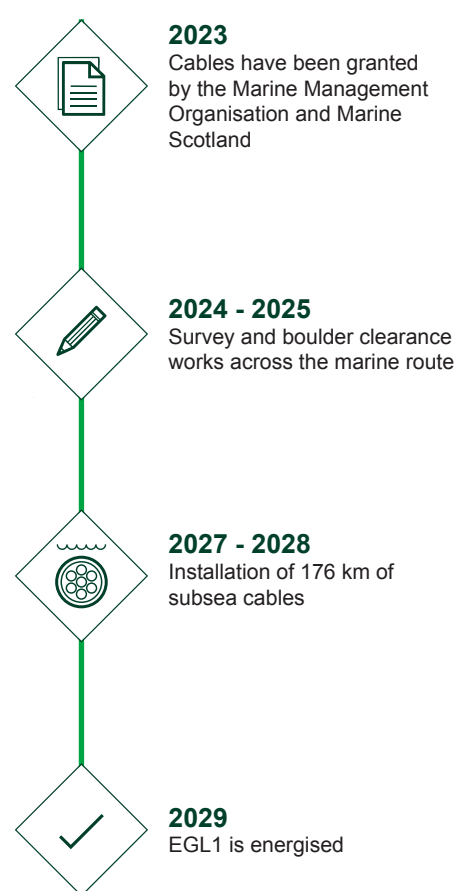
### Scottish onshore works



### English onshore works



### Marine works



### Minimising disruption

Due to the nature of our work, some disruption to local communities is unavoidable. However, we will do everything possible to minimise the impact of our construction works.

We will contact impacted communities again closer to when work is beginning in local areas.

## Community Benefit Fund

We recognise the role that communities are playing in the energy transition and want to deliver fair and enduring benefits to ensure local communities benefit from hosting new transmission infrastructure.

This is why we were thrilled to confirm in March that an £8m fund has been approved by Ofgem to support communities and deliver social, environmental and economic benefits where the cable meets land in East Lothian and County Durham.

- The fund will be assigned to deliver community benefit programmes that deliver social, economic and environmental benefits for the communities hosting the EGL1 project.
- We want to get this right for our communities; therefore, we will be actively engaging and listening to local communities and their representatives, to ensure that programmes respond to their needs and maximise benefits for the community and wider region.
- As businesses regulated by Ofgem, we must deliver best value for consumers and the communities we serve. We will be transparent in our approach, reporting on the funding impacts and social value delivered.

- This engagement, along with government guidance on community benefits, will help to shape our strategy for delivering community benefit.
- We will of course keep you updated with any further progress. Local communities can now register for updates on the Community Benefit Fund's progress on the EGL1 website [here](#).



**Please note, other developers, not Eastern Green Link 1, are carrying out work including vegetation clearance, between Jade Business Park and the A19**

We do not anticipate any disruption to residents as there will be minimal vehicle movements and only minor works.

**Find out more about EGL1 by visiting our new website:**

[www.easterngreenlink1.co.uk](http://www.easterngreenlink1.co.uk)

Keep updated with our works



## Need to speak to us?

You can call or email us at  
[contact@easterngreenlink1.co.uk](mailto:contact@easterngreenlink1.co.uk)

Freephone 0808 196 8405  
Our lines are open between 9am and 5pm on weekdays.

[easterngreenlink1.co.uk](http://easterngreenlink1.co.uk)