



Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010151

Section 55 Application Checklist

Document Reference: 1.6

April 2025



## Quality information

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## Section 55

### Acceptance of Applications Checklist

**Appendix 2 of** Advice on the preparation and submission of application documents

**Version: January 2025**

## Section 55 Acceptance of Applications Checklist

Relevant sections of the Planning Act 2008 can be viewed at legislation.gov.uk, here: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/>

All other secondary legislation referred to in this checklist is searchable, here: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/>

**DISCLAIMER:** This Checklist is a non-statutory checklist for the Planning Inspectorate to complete. Completion or self-assessment by the Applicant does not hold weight at the Acceptance stage. Unless specified, all references to the Planning Inspectorate are made in relation to functions being carried out on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Section 55(2) Acceptance of Applications					
1	Within 28 days (starting day after receipt) the Planning Inspectorate must decide whether or not to accept the application for Examination.	Date received	28-day due date	Date of decision	
Section 55(3) – the Planning Inspectorate may only accept an application if it concludes that:		Planning Inspectorate comments			
Section 55(3)(a) and s55(3)(c): It is an application for an order granting development consent					
2	In accordance with sections(s) 14 to 30 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008), is the development a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) (or does it form part of an NSIP); and does the application state on the face of it that, in accordance with s31 of the PA2008, it is an application for a Development	<p>Yes.</p> <p><i>The Application Cover Letter (Document Ref: 1.2) states:</i></p> <p><i>“We are pleased to enclose an application submitted on behalf of Beacon Fen Energy Park Limited (the Applicant) (Company number 13347752) for a Development Consent Order (‘DCO’), that has been submitted to the Secretary of State (the ‘SoS’) for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, under Section</i></p>			

	<p>Consent Order (DCO) under the PA2008, or equivalent words? Does the application specify the development to which it relates (i.e. which category or categories in s14 to 30 does the Proposed Development fall)?</p> <p>If the development does not fall within the categories in s14 to 30, has a direction been given by the Secretary of State under s35 of the PA2008 for the development to be treated as development for which development consent is required?</p> <p><i>37 of 'The Planning Act 2008' (the 2008 Act) in respect of the Beacon Fen Energy Park.</i></p> <p><i>The Applicant is seeking development consent for the construction, operation (and maintenance), and decommissioning of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating facility of over 50MW capacity and battery energy storage system (BESS), with associated export and connection infrastructure to the National Grid Bicker Fen Substation ('the Proposed Development').</i></p> <p><i>A DCO is required for the Proposed Development as it falls within the definition and thresholds for a 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project' (a NSIP) under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1) and (2) of the 2008 Act, as it is an onshore generating station in England that would have a generating capacity greater than 50MW. As such, a DCO application is required to authorise the Proposed Development in accordance with Section 31 of the 2008 Act. The DCO, if made by the Secretary of State (the SoS) for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) would be known as the 'Beacon Fen Energy Park Order' (the Order). The NSIP and associated development are formally described in Schedule 1 of the draft DCO (<b>Document Ref: 3.1</b>) and the Planning Statement (<b>Document Ref: 5.5</b>)."</i></p>
3	<b>Summary: Section 55(3)(a) and s55(3)(c)</b>
<b>Section 55(3)(e): The Applicant in relation to the application made has complied with Chapter 2 of Part 5 (pre-application procedure)</b>	
4	<p>In accordance with Regulation 8 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations), did the Applicant (prior to carrying out consultation in accordance with s42) either</p> <p>Yes. On 19 April 2023, the Applicant notified the Secretary of State (SoS) under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations) that it proposes to provide an Environmental Statement (ES) in respect of the Proposed Development and by virtue of Regulation 6(2)(a), the Proposed Development is 'EIA development'.</p>

	<p>(a) request the Planning Inspectorate adopt a Screening Opinion in respect of the development to which the application relates, or (b) notify the Planning Inspectorate in writing that it proposed to provide an Environmental Statement in respect of that development?</p>	<p>The Applicant also formally requested a Scoping Opinion from the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 10 of the EIA Regulations, accompanied by the necessary information to inform the request, the Scoping Report.</p> <p>The Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report is provided in Appendix 1.1 (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.1). The Planning Inspectorate's Scoping Opinion, dated 26 May 2023, is also provided in Appendix 1.2 (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.2). The Scoping Opinion acknowledges the Applicant's notice at paragraph 1.0.1. Notice of the Applicant's proposal to provide an Environmental Statement was given prior to carrying out consultation in accordance with s42 of the PA 2008.</p>
5	<p>Have any Adequacy of Consultation Representations been received from 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' local authorities; and if so, do they confirm that the Applicant has complied with the duties under s42, s47 and s48?</p> <p>Section 55(4) of the PA2008 provides that the Planning Inspectorate must have regard to the Consultation Report, and any Adequacy of Consultation Representations received.</p>	<p>No such representations have been received by the Applicant. However, it is envisaged that the Planning Inspectorate will request upon submission of the Application that relevant local authorities provide an adequacy of consultation statement pursuant to s55(4)(b) of the PA 2008 and PINS Advice 'Advice for Local Authorities'. The Applicant is not aware of any issues that the local authorities have had with the adequacy of consultation.</p>
<b>Section 42: Duty to consult</b>		
Did the Applicant consult the applicable persons set out in s42 of the PA2008 about the proposed application?		
6	<p>Section 42(1)(a) persons prescribed?</p> <p>The persons prescribed are the statutory consultees set out in Schedule 1 of The</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The approach to identifying and consulting persons under s42(1)(a) is described in Chapter 7 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.1). The</p>

	Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations).	Applicant has provided a list of persons consulted under s42(1)(a) in the table at Appendix 7.1 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.4). Examples of the different letters sent to Section 42(1)(a) consultees, local authorities and non-prescribed consultees along with the plans are included at Appendix 7.4 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.4). An example of the Section 48 Notice is included at Appendix 7.5 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.4).
7	Section 42(1)(aa) the Marine Management Organisation(MMO)?  The MMO must be consulted in any case where the Proposed Development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in s42(2) of the PA2008.	Consultation with the MMO was not applicable; this has been clarified in Appendix 1.1 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.2).
8	Section 42(1)(b) each local authority within s43?  Definition of 'local authority' in s43(3) of the PA2008: The 'B' authority where the application land is in the authority's area; the 'A' authority where any part of the boundary of A's area is also a part of the boundary of B's area; the 'C' authority (upper tier) where the application land is in that authority's area; the 'D' authority (upper tier) where such an authority shares a boundary with a 'C' authority.	Details of Section 43 consultees can be found at Chapter 7.2 and Table 7.1 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.1) and details of how they were consulted with can be found at Chapter 7.3 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.1).
9	Section 42(1)(c) the Greater London Authority (if in Greater London area)?	Not applicable – the Proposed Development does not fall within Greater London, therefore the Greater London Authority is not a relevant consultee in respect of the Proposed Development.

10	<p>Section 42(1)(d) each person in one or more of s44 categories?</p> <p>Category 1: owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of land; Category 2: person interested in the land or has power to sell and convey the land or to release the land; Category 3: persons who would or might be entitled to make a relevant claim.</p>	Yes
<b>Section 45: Timetable for s42 consultation</b>		
11	Did the Applicant notify s42 consultees of the deadline for receipt of consultation responses; and if so was the deadline notified by the Applicant 28 days or more starting with the day after receipt of the consultation documents?	Details of how Section 44 consultees were identified can be found in the Land Referencing Methodology, within Chapter 7 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.1). An example of the letters sent to Section 44 consultees is included at Appendix 7.6 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.4).
<b>Section 46: Duty to notify the Planning Inspectorate of proposed application</b>		
12	Did the Applicant supply information to notify the Planning Inspectorate of the proposed application; and if so, was the information supplied to the Planning Inspectorate on or before the date it was sent to the s42 consultees? Was this done on or before commencing consultation under s42?	<p>In accordance with Section 46, PINS was notified of the start of the Section 42 Consultation by the Applicant by letter (sent by e-mail only) on 16 January 2024. A copy of the Section 46 Notification is provided at Appendix 7.9 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.4).</p> <p>PINS acknowledged receipt of the Section 46 notification by email only on 18 January 2024. A copy of PINS' acknowledgement letter is provided at Appendix 7.10 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.4). In light of the above, it is considered that the Applicant has complied with Section 46 of the 2008 Act.</p> <p>The Applicant also re-notified the SoS in accordance with Section 46 about the first targeted consultation on 29 February 2024 (by email only). A copy of the letter is included at Appendix 9.5 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref:</p>

		<p>5.1.4). PINS acknowledged receipt of the Section 46 notification by email only on 1 March 2024. A copy of the second PINS acknowledgement letter, which is dated 6 March 2024, is provided at Appendix 9.6 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.4).</p> <p>The Applicant also re-notified the SoS in accordance with Section 46 about the second targeted consultation on 13 December 2024 (by email only). A copy of the letter is included at Appendix 10.6 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.4). PINS acknowledged receipt of the Section 46 notification by email only on 17 December 2024</p>
<b>Section 47: Duty to consult local community</b>		
13	Did the Applicant prepare a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) on how it intended to consult people living in the vicinity of the land?	A SoCC was prepared in the period between non-statutory and statutory consultation and published on or around 29 November 2023. A copy of the final SoCC is provided in Appendix 5 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.2).
14	Were 'B' and (where relevant) 'C' authorities consulted about the content of the SoCC; and if so, was the deadline for receipt of responses 28 days beginning with the day after the day that 'B' and, where applicable, 'C' authorities received the consultation documents?	<p>The draft SoCC (see Appendix 5.1) was submitted via email to the relevant local authorities (Lincolnshire County Council (LCC); North Kesteven District Council (NKDC); Boston Borough Council (BBC)) on 4 October 2023.</p> <p>It was requested that feedback on the SoCC was returned by 5pm on 8 November 2023. This provided a 36-day long consultation period, eight days longer than the 28-day period required by Section 47(3) of the 2008 Act.</p> <p>Copies of the emails sent to the local authorities requesting their feedback can be found at Appendix 5.2 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.2).</p> <p>LCC's response was received on 20 October 2023. A copy of the response can be found at Appendix 5.3 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.2).</p>

		<p>NKDC's response was received on 8 November 2023. A copy of the response can be found at Appendix 5.4 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.2).</p> <p>BBC's response was received on 8 November 2023. A copy of the response can be found at Appendix 5.5 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.2).</p>
15	Has the Applicant had regard to any responses received when preparing the SoCC?	<p>Yes. The Applicant has had regard to all responses from local authorities consulted on the draft SoCC. Table 5.1 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.1) describes how the Applicant had regard to the comments received from the local authorities and how the Applicant has had regard to them.</p>
16	Has the SoCC been made available for inspection on a website maintained by or on behalf of the Applicant; and has a notice been published in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land which states where and when the SoCC can be inspected?	<p>A printed notice publicising the SoCC was placed in the local publications on the dates of publication shown in Table 5.2 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.1). Copies of the notices can be found at Appendix 5.7 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.2).</p> <p>Paper copies of the SoCC were placed in the local public information points shown in Table 5.3 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.1) from 29 November 2023 to 31 March 2024. Photographic evidence of the SoCC in the public information points can be found at Appendix 5.9 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.2).</p> <p>A digital copy of the SoCC was published on the Project website on 29 November 2023 here: <a href="https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk/documents/">https://www.beaconfenenergypark.co.uk/documents/</a></p>
17	In accordance with Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations, does the SoCC set out whether the development is EIA development; and does it set out how the Applicant intends to publicise	<p>The SoCC included confirmation that "The Proposed Development is considered an 'EIA development' under Schedule 2 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017" (Paragraph 5.1.3) and that "A PEIR (Preliminary Environmental Information Report) will be prepared and made available as part of the statutory consultation" (Paragraph 5.1.5). A</p>

	and consult on the Preliminary Environmental Information?	copy of the published SoCC can be viewed at Appendix 5.6 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.2). Section 9 of the SoCC describes the variety of consultation methods the Applicant proposes to use including how the PEIR would be publicised and consulted on.
18	Has the Applicant carried out the consultation in accordance with the SoCC?	The SoCC Compliance Checklist at Table 5.4 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.1) demonstrates how the Applicant undertook statutory consultation in accordance with the SoCC
<b>Section 48: Duty to publicise the proposed application</b>		
19	Did the Applicant publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner set out in Regulation 4(2) of the (as amended) APFP Regulations 2009?	Yes. The Applicant publicised the proposed application in accordance with the requirements of Section 48 of the PA 2008 and Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations as outlined below. Details of the Section 48 consultation are described in Chapter 8 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.1).
	<b>Newspaper(s)</b>	<b>Date</b>
a)	for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the Proposed Development would be situated;	The Boston/Sleaford Target 10 and 17 January 2024
b)	once in a national newspaper;	The Guardian 10 January 2024
c)	once in the London Gazette and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette; and	London Gazette 10 January 2024
d)	where the proposed application relates to offshore development – (i) once in Lloyds List; and	<i>Not applicable</i> <i>Not applicable</i>

	(ii) once in an appropriate fishing trade journal?				
20	Did the s48 notice include the required information set out in Regulation 4(3) of the (as amended) APFP Regulations 2009?	The s48 notice published in respect of the statutory consultation a copy of which can be found in of the Consultation Report Appendix 8.1 (Document Ref: 5.1.4) contained the required information as set out in the following sections.			
	Information	Paragraph	Information	Paragraph	
a)	the name and address of the Applicant.	1	b)	a statement that the Applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Secretary of State	1
c)	a statement as to whether the application is EIA development	8	d)	a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the Proposed Development	3 4 and 5
e)	a statement that the documents, plans and maps were available on a website maintained by or on behalf of the Applicant. The statement must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The nature and location of the Proposed Development</li> <li>• The address of the website</li> <li>• The place on the website</li> <li>• A telephone number which can be used to contact the Applicant for enquiries in relation to the documents, plans and maps.</li> </ul>	11 and 12	f)	the latest date on which those documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection	10

g)	whether a charge will be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge	11 and 13	h)	details of how to respond to the publicity	15
i)	a deadline for receipt of those responses by the Applicant, being not less than 28 days following the date when the notice is last published	17			
21	Are there any observations in respect of the s48 notice provided above?				
22	Has a copy of the s48 notice been sent to the EIA consultation bodies and to any person notified to the Applicant in accordance with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations?		The Applicant sent a copy of the Section 48 notice to all the consultation bodies (as defined). Copies of the documents sent to all consultation bodies (as defined) can be found at Appendices 7.4, 7.5 and 7.6 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.4).		
<b>s49: Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity</b>					
23	Has the Applicant had regard to any relevant responses to the s42, s47 and s48 consultation?		The Applicant's response to Section 42 consultation responses received can be found in the tables at Appendix 7.8, Appendix 9.10 and Appendix 10.8 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.4). The Applicant's response to Section 47 consultation responses received can be found in the table at Appendix 6.24 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.3).		
<b>S50(3) Regard to guidance about pre-application procedure</b>					
24	To what extent has the Applicant had regard to statutory guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects'?		The Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.1) demonstrates how the Applicant has had regard to the guidance. While consultation was conducted and completed under the Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process guidance which was in force at the time, sections 1 and 2 of the Consultation Report		

	The Planning Inspectorate must have regard to the extent to which the Applicant has had regard to guidance issued under s50.	(Document Ref: 5.1.1 demonstrates how the current guidance has also been complied with.
25	<b>Summary: Section 55(3)(e)</b>	
<b>s55(3)(f) and s55(5A): The application (including accompaniments) achieves a satisfactory standard having regard to the extent to which it complies with section 37(3) (form and contents of application) and with any standards set under section 37(5) and follows any applicable guidance under section 37(4)</b>		
26	Is it made in the prescribed form as set out in Schedule 2 of the APFP Regulations, and does it include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a brief statement which explains why it falls within the remit of the Planning Inspectorate; and</li> <li>• a brief statement that clearly identifies the location of the application site, or the route if it is a linear scheme?</li> </ul>	Yes. The Application is made in the prescribed form as set out in Schedule 2 of the APFP Regulations. A statement that explains why the application falls within the remit of the Secretary of State is provided in Section 4 of the Application Form (Document Ref: 1.1) and the Cover Letter (Document Ref: 1.2), amongst other locations within the documentation. Section 6 of the Application Form provides a brief statement that describes the location of the Proposed Development. The location of the Proposed Development is also shown on the Location Plan (Document Ref: 2.1).
27	Is it accompanied by a Consultation Report?	Yes. A Consultation Report (Document Ref: 5.1.1) and Appendices to the Consultation Report (Document Refs: 5.1.2 to 5.1.4) are provided with the Application.
28	In accordance with Regulation 5(4) of the APFP Regulations, where a plan comprises three or more separate sheets, has a key plan been provided showing the relationship between the different sheets?	Yes; key plans have been provided for all plans containing three or more sheets including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location Plan (Document Ref: 2.1)</li> <li>• Land Plans (Document Ref: 2.2)</li> <li>• Crown Land Plan (Document Ref: 2.3)</li> <li>• Works Plan (Document Ref: 2.4)</li> <li>• Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans (Document Ref: 2.5)</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan of Cable Route Working Width (Document Ref: 2.23)</li> </ul>	
29	Is it accompanied by the documents and information set out in APFP Regulation 5(2)?	Yes. The documents and information required by APFP Regulation 5(2) are set out as listed below. The Guide to the Application (Document Ref: 1.3) states the documentation submitted with the respective Document References and APFP Regulation references.	
Information	Document	Information	Document
a)	<p>Where applicable, the Environmental Statement required under the EIA Regulations and any scoping or screening opinions or directions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Environmental Statement comprises the following documents, which form part of the Application:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ES Non-Technical Summary (Application Document Ref. 6.1);</li> <li>• ES Volume 1: Main Reports (Document Ref: 6.2 ES Vol. 1, 6.2.1 to 6.2.19);</li> <li>• ES Volume 2: Appendices (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.1 to 6.3.104);</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	b)	<p>The draft Development Consent Order (DCO)</p> <p>The DCO Application is accompanied by the Draft Development Consent Order (Document Ref: 3.1) in the validated statutory instrument template. The validation report (unnumbered) and success email (Document Ref: 3.3) are also enclosed.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ES Volume 3: Figures (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol. 3, 6.4.1 to 6.4.80).</li> </ul> <p>The Environmental Statement is based on the Scoping Report, provided in Appendix 1.1 of the ES (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.1); and Scoping Opinion, provided in Appendix 1.2 of the ES (6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.2)</p>			
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	
c)	An Explanatory Memorandum explaining the purpose and effect of provisions in the draft DCO	d)	An Explanatory Memorandum to the draft Development Consent Order (Document Ref: 3.2) has been submitted with the DCO Application which explains the intended purpose and effect of	Where applicable, a Book of Reference  Yes. The Application includes a Book of Reference (Document Ref. 4.3). This meets DCLG's Planning Act 2008: guidance related to procedures for the compulsory acquisition of land.

			the provisions of the draft Development Consent Order (Document Ref: 3.1).			
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?			Is this of a satisfactory standard?		
e)	A copy of any Flood Risk Assessment	Yes. The Application includes a Flood Risk Assessment at Appendix 11.1 (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol. 2, 6.3.81)	f)	A statement whether the proposal engages one or more of the matters set out in section 79(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (statutory nuisances) and if so how the Applicant proposes to mitigate or limit them	Yes. A Statutory Nuisance Statement (Document Ref. 5.3) is provided as part of the Application.	
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?			Is this of a satisfactory standard?		
h)	A Statement of Reasons and a Funding Statement (where the application involves any Compulsory Acquisition)	Yes. The Application includes a Statement of Reasons (Document Ref. 4.1). In addition, a Funding Statement is also provided (Document Ref. 4.2).	i)	A Land Plan identifying:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the land required for, or affected by, the Proposed Development;</li> <li>(ii) where applicable, any land over which it is</li> </ul>	Yes. The Application includes the Land Plans (Document Ref. 2.2) showing the land required/affected by the Proposed Development. These are in accordance with Regulation 5(2)(i) of the APFP Regulations. Plots and descriptions listed within the Book of Reference (Document Ref. 4.3) are consistent with the plots shown on the Land Plans.	

			<p>proposed to exercise powers of Compulsory Acquisition or any rights to use land;</p> <p>(iii) any land in relation to which it is proposed to extinguish easements, servitudes and other private rights; and</p> <p>(iv) any special category land and replacement land</p>	
j)	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	k)	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	
j)	<p>A Works Plan showing, in relation to existing features:-</p> <p>(i) the proposed location or (for a linear scheme) the proposed route and alignment of the development and works; and</p>	<p>The Application includes the Works Plan (Document Ref: 2.4) The Works Plans accord with APFP Regulation 5(2)(j) and show the proposed location of the development and the limits within which the</p>	<p>Where applicable, a plan identifying any new or altered means of access, stopping up of streets or roads or any diversions, extinguishments or creation of rights of way or public rights of navigation</p>	<p>Yes. The Application includes Rights of Way, Streets and Access Plan (Document Ref. 2.5). These plans are in accordance with Regulation 5(2)(k) of the APFP Regulations.</p>

	(ii) the limits within which the development and works may be carried out and any limits of deviation provided for in the draft DCO	works are proposed to be carried out.		
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	
I)	<p>Where applicable, a plan with accompanying information identifying:-</p> <p>(i) any statutory or non-statutory sites or features of nature conservation eg sites of geological or landscape importance;</p> <p>(ii) habitats of protected species, important habitats or other diversity features; and</p> <p>(iii) water bodies in a river basin management plan,</p>	<p>Yes. the Application includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 7 – Ecology (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol.1, 6.2.7)</li> <li>• Appendix 7.4 Great Crested Newt Habitat Suitability Index and eDNA Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.23)</li> <li>• Appendix 7.5 Wintering Bird Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.24)</li> <li>• Appendix 7.6 Breeding Bird</li> </ul>	<p>m)</p> <p>Where applicable, a plan with accompanying information identifying any statutory or non-statutory sites or features of the historic environment, (eg scheduled monuments, World Heritage sites, listed buildings, archaeological sites and registered battlefields) together with an assessment of any effects on such sites, features or structures likely to be caused by the Proposed Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 8 – Cultural Heritage (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol.1, 6.2.8)</li> <li>• Appendix 8.1 Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.45)</li> <li>• Appendix 8.2 Heritage Statement (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.46)</li> <li>• Appendix 8.3 Aerial and LiDAR Assessment - Solar Array (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.47)</li> <li>• Appendix 8.4 Aerial and LiDAR Assessment - Access and Cable Routes (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.48)</li> <li>• Appendix 8.5 Written Scheme of Investigation for Geophysical Survey for the Solar Array</li> </ul>

<p>together with an assessment of any effects on such sites, features, habitats or bodies likely to be caused by the Proposed Development</p>	<p>Report Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.25)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appendix 7.7 Bat Activity Survey</li> <li>• (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.26)</li> <li>• Appendix 7.8 Badger Report (Confidential) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.27) (public facing cover sheet also supplied for website)</li> <li>• Appendix 7.9 Riparian Mammals Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.28)</li> <li>• Appendix 7.10 Reptile Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.29)</li> <li>• Appendix 7.11 Botanical Survey Report</li> <li>• (Solar Array Area) Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.30)</li> <li>• Appendix 7.12 Great Crested</li> </ul>			<p>(Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.49)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appendix 8.6 Geophysical Survey Summary Report - Solar Array Parts 1 to 5 (Document Refs: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.50 to 6.3.54)</li> <li>• Appendix 8.7 Written Scheme of Investigation for Geophysical Survey of the Cable and Access Routes (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.55)</li> <li>• Appendix 8.8 Geophysical Survey Report - Cable and Access Routes Parts 1 to 21 (Document Refs: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.56 to 6.3.71e)</li> <li>• Appendix 8.9 Written Scheme of Investigation for Trial Trenching (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.72)</li> <li>• Appendix 8.10a Trial Trenching Report - Solar Array Appendix (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.73a)</li> <li>• Appendix 8.10b Trial Trenching Report - Targeted Area on the Access Route Part 1 (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.73b)</li> <li>• Appendix 8.10b Trial Trenching Report - Targeted Area on the Access Route Part 2 (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.73c)</li> </ul> <p>Appendix</p>
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	<p>Newt Survey Report (Solar Array Area) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.31)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appendix 7.13 Bat Roost Assessment Report (Solar Array Area) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.32)</li> <li>• Appendix 7.14 Invertebrate Report (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.33)</li> <li>• Appendix 7.15 Botanical Survey Report</li> <li>• (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.34)</li> <li>• Appendix 7.16 Bat Roost Assessment Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.35)</li> <li>• Appendix 7.17 Wintering Bird Survey Report</li> </ul>		<p>8.11 Archaeological Mitigation Strategy (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.74)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Figure 8.1.1 Designated Heritage Assets within 5km (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol.3, 6.4.48)</li> <li>• Figure 8.1.2 Scoped in Designated Heritage Assets within 5km (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol.3, 6.4.49)</li> <li>• Figure 8.2 Non-Designated Heritage Assets by Period within 2km (Sheet 1-5) (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol.3, 6.4.50)</li> <li>• Figure 8.3 Field Reference (Sheet 1-2) (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol.3, 6.4.51)</li> <li>• Figure 8.4 Historic Landscape Characterisation (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol.3, 6.4.52)</li> <li>• Figure 8.5 Geophysical survey interpretation of the DCO Order Limits (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol.3, 6.4.53)</li> <li>• Figure 8.6 Aerial and LiDAR interpretation (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol.3, 6.4.54)</li> <li>• Figure 8.7 Trial Trenching Plan with Archaeological Remains Highlighted (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol.3, 6.4.55)</li> </ul>
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	<p>(Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.36)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appendix 7.18 Bat Activity Survey Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.37)</li> <li>• Appendix 7.19 Riparian Mammal Survey Report (Cable route and access road) Parts 1 to 4 (Document Refs: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.38 to 6.3.41)</li> <li>• Appendix 7.20 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (Cable route and access road) (Document Ref: 6.3 ES Vol.2, 6.3.42)</li> <li>• Appendix 7.21 Solar Farm Great Crested Newt Survey Report (Cable route and</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Figure 8.8 Historic Mapping (Solar Array Area) (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol.3, 6.4.56)</li> </ul>
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	<p>access road)  (Document Ref: 6.3  ES Vol.2, 6.3.43)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appendix 7.22  Beacon Fen Solar  Farm Breeding Bird  Survey Report  Parts 1 to 3 (Cable  route and access  road) (Document  Refs: 6.3 ES Vol.2,  6.3.44a to 6.3.44c)</li> <li>• Figure 7.1  International Sites  within 20km of the  Site (Document  Ref: 6.4 ES Vol.3,  6.4.44)</li> <li>• Figure 7.2 SSSI  within 10km of Site  (Document Ref: 6.4  ES Vol.3, 6.4.45)</li> <li>• Figure 7.3 Local  Wildlife Sites within  2km (Document  Ref: 6.4 ES Vol.3,  6.4.46)</li> <li>• Figure 7.4 Ancient  Woodland/Priority  Habitat within 1km  of the Site</li> </ul>		
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n)	<p>Is this of a satisfactory standard?</p> <p>Where applicable, a plan with any accompanying information identifying any Crown land</p>	<p>(Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol.3, 6.4.47)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Figure 11.3 Superficial Geology (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol.3, 6.4.64)</li> <li>• Figure 11.4 Bedrock Geology (Document Ref: 6.4 ES Vol.3, 6.4.65)</li> </ul>	<p>Is this of a satisfactory standard?</p>	
	<p>o)</p> <p>Yes the Application includes Crown Land Plans (Document Ref: 2.3)</p>	<p>Any other plans, drawings and sections necessary to describe the development consent proposal showing details of design, external appearance, and the preferred layout of buildings, structures, drainage, surface water management, means of vehicular and pedestrian access, any car parking and landscaping</p>	<p>Yes. The Application is supported by the following plans and drawings which are provided under Regulation 5(2)(o) of the APFP Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location Plan (Document Ref: 2.1)</li> <li>• Illustrative Layout Plan of Battery Energy Storage System and On-Site Substation (Document Ref:2.6)</li> <li>• Illustrative Solar Table Cross Section and Elevation (Document Ref:2.7)</li> <li>• Illustrative Centralised Inverter installation cross-section (Document Ref:2.8)</li> </ul>	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illustrative Conversion Unit installation cross-section (Document Ref:2.9)</li> <li>• Illustrative BESS installation cross-section and elevation (Document Ref:2.10)</li> <li>• Illustrative Elevation Views Sections A-A and B-B (Document Ref:2.11)</li> <li>• Illustrative Elevation Views Sections C-C and D-D (Document Ref:2.12)</li> <li>• Illustrative Bespoke Access Road cross-section: single slope (Document Ref:2.13)</li> <li>• Illustrative Internal Track cross-section: single slope) (Document Ref:2.14)</li> <li>• Illustrative Bespoke Access Road cross-section: dual slope (Document Ref:2.15)</li> <li>• Illustrative Internal Track cross-section: dual slope (Document Ref:2.16)</li> <li>• Illustrative Temporary Bridge designs for Bridges over Watercourses (Document Ref:2.17)</li> <li>• Illustrative Permanent bridge designs for Bridges over Watercourses (Document Ref:2.18)</li> </ul>
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illustrative Culvert crossing cross-section views (Document Ref:2.19)</li> <li>• Illustrative Direct drilling type A &amp; B cross-section views (Document Ref:2.20)</li> <li>• Illustrative Direct drilling type C &amp; D cross-section views (Document Ref:2.21)</li> <li>• Illustrative Drainage Trench cross-section views (Document Ref:2.22)</li> <li>• Plan of Cable Route Working Width (Document Ref:2.23)</li> <li>• Illustrative Layout of Cable Route Temporary Construction Compounds (Document Ref:2.24)</li> <li>• Bespoke Access Road: Long Sections (Document Ref:2.25)</li> <li>• Land take options (Bicker Fen substation) (Document Ref:2.26)</li> <li>• Bicker Fen Substation layout (Document Ref:2.27)</li> <li>• Bicker Fen Substation sectional drawings (Document Ref:2.28)</li> <li>• GIS building drawing (Bicker Fen substation) (Document Ref:2.29)</li> <li>• Illustrative Details for Fence on Perimeter of Solar Array Site (Document Ref:2.30)</li> </ul>
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plantation Removal (Bicker Fen 400kV Substation) (Document Ref:2.31)</li> </ul>
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?		Are they of a satisfactory standard?	
p)	Any of the documents prescribed by Regulation 6 of the APFP Regulations:	Yes, the Application includes an Electricity Grid Connection Statement (Document Ref: 7.1).	q)	<p>Any other documents considered necessary to support the application</p> <p>The following documents have been included in support of the Application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application Cover Letter (Document Ref:1.2)</li> <li>• Notices for Statutory Publicity (Document Ref: 1.4)</li> <li>• Pre Application Programme (Document Ref:1.5)</li> <li>• Section 55 Application Checklist (Document Ref: 1.6)</li> <li>• Validation Report Success Email (Document Ref: 3.3)</li> <li>• Land and Rights Negotiations Tracker (Document Ref: 4.4)</li> <li>• Planning Statement (Document Ref: 5.5)</li> <li>• Design and Access Approach Document (Document Ref: 5.6)</li> <li>• Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (Document Ref: 7.2)</li> <li>• Biodiversity Net Gain Strategy (Document Ref: 7.3)</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement of Common Ground With Lincolnshire County Council (Document Ref: 8.1)</li> <li>• Statement of Common Ground With North Kesteven District Council (Document Ref: 8.2)</li> <li>• Statement of Common Ground With Boston Borough Council (Document Ref: 8.3)</li> <li>• Statement of Common Ground With Anglian Water (Document Ref: 8.4)</li> <li>• </li> </ul>
	Are they of a satisfactory standard?		Are they of a satisfactory standard?	
30	Are there any observations in respect of the documents provided at Box 29 (a) to (q) above?			
31	<p>In accordance with Regulation 5(2)(g) of the APFP Regulations, is the application accompanied by a report identifying any European site(s) to which Regulation 48 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &amp;c.) Regulations 1994 applies; or any Ramsar site(s), which may be affected by the Proposed Development, together with sufficient information that will enable the Secretary of State to make an appropriate assessment of the</p> <p>Yes, the Application includes a Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment (Document Ref: 5.2).</p>			

	implications for the site if required by Regulation 48(1)?	
32	In accordance with Regulation 5(2)(r) of the APFP Regulations, if requested by the Planning Inspectorate, have two paper copies of the application form and other supporting documents and plans been provided?	The Planning Inspectorate has confirmed to the Applicant that two paper copies of the application form or other application documents and plans would not be necessary.
33	Has the Applicant had regard to statutory guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Application form guidance'?	Yes. The Application Cover Letter (Document Ref: 1.2) confirms that the Applicant has had regard to the statutory guidance on the preparation of the DCO Application.
34	<b>Summary - s55(3)(f) and s55(5A)</b>	

### The Infrastructure Planning (Fees) Regulations 2010 (as amended)

#### Pre-application fee

35	<p>Were all pre-application fees paid before the application was made?</p> <p>Pre-application services for which a fee can be charged is defined in Regulation 2A(8) and includes services listed within Schedule 1 of the Fees Regulations 2010. Fees for pre-application services apply to all proposed applications, from the inception meeting. These fees must be paid within 28 days of the invoice. If the applicant fails to pay the fee within 28 days, the Planning Inspectorate will not provide the applicant with any further pre-</p>	<p>On 19 April 2023, the Applicant notified the Secretary of State (SoS) under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations) that it proposes to provide an Environmental Statement (ES) in respect of the Proposed Development and also requested a formal a Scoping Opinion from the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 10 of the EIA Regulations. Therefore, charging for the pre-application service will not begin until 1 April 2025.</p> <p>The Applicant is awaiting an invoice from PINS for the six months of pre-application services from 1 April. Once received, the Applicant will make the payment within 28 days.</p>
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	application services or take any further steps in relation to the proposed application.	
<b>Fees to accompany an application</b>		
36	<p>Was the fee paid at the same time that the application was made?</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate must charge the Applicant a fee in respect of the decision by the Planning Inspectorate under section 55 of the PA2008. If the Applicant fails to pay the fee, the Planning Inspectorate need not consider the application until payment is received. The fee must be paid at the same time that the application is made</p>	<p>The required fee on submission of £8,946.00 was paid to PINS by BACS in two instalments. The first payment was received by the PINS finance team on 31 March 2025. The second payment for the balance was made on 2 April 2025 and was received by the PINS finance team on 7 April 2025.</p>