



Planning Inspectorate  
Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

# Section 55

## Acceptance of Applications Checklist

**Appendix 3 of** [Advice on the preparation and submission of application documents](#)

**Version: March 2025**

## Steeple Renewables Project 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
		<b>14 May 2025</b>	<b>11 June 2025</b>	<b>11 June 2025</b>
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 consent order (DCO) under the PA2008, or equivalent words? Does the application specify the development to	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>The proposed development set out in <b>schedule 1</b> of the <b>Draft DCO (Doc 3.1)</b> includes development falling within the categories in s14(1)(a), 15(1) and 15(2) of the PA2008. The development is for the construction of a generating station; and satisfies section 14 of the PA2008, including subsection a.</p> <p>This is consistent with the summary provided in <b>section 4</b> of the <b>Application Form (Doc 1.3)</b> which states that the application is for an NSIP.</p>		

	<p>which it relates, meaning 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>	
3	<b>Summary: Section 55(3)(a) and s55(3)(c)</b>	The Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the <b>Draft DCO (Doc 3.1)</b> includes development for which development consent is required.
<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	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 (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><b>Yes</b></p> <p>On 19 April 2024 the applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate in accordance with regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA regulations of its intention to provide an environmental statement in respect of the proposed development. The notification was received before the start of statutory consultation on 19 April 2024.</p> <p>A copy of the notification letter is provided at <b>appendix D</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1.1)</b>.</p>
5	Have any adequacy of consultation representations (AoCR) been received from 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' local authorities; and if so, do they	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>There are 13 host and neighbouring authorities, of which 12 responded to the Planning Inspectorate's invitation to make an AoCR dated 16 May 2025.</p>

<p>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>All 12 responding authorities confirmed in their AoCR that either the applicant had complied with its duties under s42, s47 and s48 of the PA2008 and/ or that their authority had no comments/ objections to make. These local authorities were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leicestershire County Council (D authority)</li> <li>• West Lindsey District Council (A authority)</li> <li>• Bassetlaw District Council (B authority)</li> <li>• Nottinghamshire County Council (C authority)</li> <li>• North Lincolnshire Council (D authority)</li> <li>• Bolsover District Council (A authority)</li> <li>• Nottingham City Council (D authority)</li> <li>• City of Doncaster Council (D authority)</li> <li>• Lincolnshire County Council (D authority)</li> <li>• Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (D authority)</li> <li>• Newark and Sherwood District Council (A authority)</li> <li>• Mansfield District Council (A authority)</li> </ul> <p>Bolsover District Council and Lincolnshire County Council stated that the councils didn't have much involvement, but are of the view that the applicant have adequately consulted and was of a satisfactory level.</p> <p>All AoCRs received have been carefully considered and are available to view on the Find a National Infrastructure Project website: <a href="https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010163/documents">https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010163/documents</a></p>
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Section 42: Duty to consult		
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 Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the APFP regulations).</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>The applicant has provided a list of persons consulted under s42(1)(a) on 3 March 2025 at <b>appendix D-1</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1.1)</b>.</p> <p>A sample of the letter sent to s42(1)(a) consultees is provided at <b>appendix D-2</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1.1)</b>.</p>
7	<p>Section 42(1)(aa) the Marine Management Organisation(MMO)?</p> <p>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.</p>	<b>N/A</b>
8	<p>Section 42(1)(b) each local authority within s43?</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><b>Table 14</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> lists the relevant local authorities that were identified and consulted under s43 and s42(1)(b) on 3 March 2025.</p> <p>The host 'B' <b>authority</b> was consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bassetlaw District Council</li> </ul> <p>The host 'C' authority was consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nottinghamshire County Council</li> </ul> <p>The boundary 'A' authorities were consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Lindsey District Council</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newark and Sherwood District Council</li> <li>• Mansfield District Council</li> <li>• Bolsover District Council</li> </ul> <p>The boundary 'D' authorities were consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lincolnshire County Council</li> <li>• Derbyshire County Council</li> <li>• Nottingham City Council</li> <li>• North Lincolnshire Council</li> <li>• City of Doncaster Council</li> <li>• Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council</li> <li>• Leicestershire County Council</li> </ul> <p>A sample of the letter sent to s42(1)(b) relevant authorities is provided at <b>appendix D-2</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1.1)</b>.</p>
9	Section 42(1)(c) the Greater London Authority (if in Greater London area)?	<b>N/A</b>
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</p> <p>Category 2: person interested in the land or has power to sell and convey the land or to release the land</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><b>Paragraph 5.7.10</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> states that all persons identified under s42(1)(d) were consulted on 20 January 2025.</p> <p><b>Paragraph 5.7</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> summarise how the applicant made diligent inquiry to seek to identify and consult persons with an interest in lands affected by the <b>Draft DCO (Doc 5.1)</b>. The full methodology undertaken by the applicant is provided in <b>Paragraph 5.7</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b>.</p>

	Category 3: persons who would or might be entitled to make a relevant claim	<p>The persons consulted under s42(1)(d) are listed at <b>appendix D-1</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1.1)</b>.</p> <p>A sample of the letter is provided at <b>appendix D-2</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1.1)</b>.</p>
<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?	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>A sample of the letter sent to s42 consultees is provided at <b>appendix D-2</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1.1)</b>.</p> <p>The sample letter dated 20 January 2025 confirmed that consultation commenced on 20 January 2025 and closed on 3 March 2025, providing more than the required minimum time for receipt of responses.</p>
<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><b>Yes</b></p> <p>The applicant gave notice under s46 on 20 January 2025, which was before the beginning of s42 consultation.</p> <p>A copy of the s46 notification letter is provided at <b>appendix D-4.2</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1.1)</b>.</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?	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>A copy of the applicant's final SoCC is provided at <b>appendix C-5</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1.1)</b>.</p>

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><b>Yes</b></p> <p>The applicant sent the draft SoCC to Bassetlaw District Council ('B Authority') and Nottinghamshire County Council ('C' authority) on 6 November 2024 and set a deadline of 4 December 2024 for responses; providing the required minimum time for responses to be received.</p>
15	Has the applicant had regard to any responses received when preparing the SoCC?	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><b>Chapter 4.4 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> provides a summary of the consultation responses from Bassetlaw District Council and Nottinghamshire County Council in respect of the draft SoCC and demonstrates how the applicant had regard to their content.</p> <p>Examples of changes from the draft SoCC to the final SoCC include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social media used to promote consultation</li> <li>• Amendments to a table.</li> </ul> <p>The Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the applicant had regard to the responses received when preparing the SoCC.</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><b>Yes</b></p> <p>The final SoCC was made available at the following locations, which is reasonably convenient having regard to the location of the proposed development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gainsborough Library</li> <li>• Retford Library</li> <li>• Sturton Hall and Conference Centre</li> <li>• Applicant Website.</li> </ul>

		<p>A notice stating when and where the final SoCC could be inspected was published in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Retford Times on 9 January, 16 January and 23 January 2025</li> <li>• The Nottingham Post on 16 January and 23 January 2025</li> <li>• The Guardian on 9 January 2025</li> <li>• The London Gazette on 9 January 2025</li> </ul> <p>The published SoCC notice, provided at <b>appendix C-5</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1.1)</b> states where and when the final SoCC was available to inspect.</p> <p>Clippings of the published advertisements are provided at <b>appendix C-6.6</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1.1)</b>.</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 and consult on the preliminary environmental information?	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><b>Paragraph 2.2</b> of the final <b>SoCC</b> at <b>appendix C-5</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1.1)</b> sets out that the development is EIA development and sets out how the applicant intended to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information.</p>
18	Has the applicant carried out the consultation in accordance with the SoCC?	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><b>Paragraph 5</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> set out how the community consultation was carried out in line with the final SoCC.</p> <p><b>Table 20</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> sets out how the applicant has complied with the commitments set out in the final SoCC.</p> <p><b>Table 20</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> provide evidence that the commitments within the final SoCC have been carried out.</p>

Section 48: Duty to publicise the proposed application			
19	Did the applicant publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner set out in regulation 4(2) of the APFP regulations?	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><b>Paragraph 5.10.2</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> states:</p> <p>“As per the requirements of Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations, a notice pursuant to section 48 of the PA 2008 was published: 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; b) once in a national newspaper; c) once in the London Gazette.”</p> <p><b>Table 1</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> displays the newspapers and dates of s48 publicity as set out below.</p> <p>A copy of the s48 notice is provided at <b>appendix C-6.1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1.1)</b>.</p> <p>Clippings of the published notices set out below are provided at <b>appendix C-6.6 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1.1)</b>:</p>	
		Newspaper(s)	Date
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;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Retford Times</li> <li>The Nottingham Post</li> </ul>	9, 16, and 23 January 2025  16 and 23 January 2025
b)	once in a national newspaper;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Guardian</li> </ul>	9 January 2025
c)	once in the London Gazette and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette; and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The London Gazette</li> </ul>	9 January 2025

d)	where the proposed application relates to offshore development –  (i) once in Lloyds List; and  (ii) once in an appropriate fishing trade journal?	N/A	N/A		
20	Did the s48 notice include the required information set out in regulation 4(3) of the APFP regulations?	<b>Yes</b> The published s48 notice, supplied at <b>appendix C-6.1</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1.1)</b> , contains the required information as set out below:			
<b>Information</b>		<b>Paragraph</b>	<b>Information</b>	<b>Paragraph</b>	
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	6	d)	a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the proposed development	1
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:  • the nature and location of the proposed development  • the address of the website  • the place on the website  • a telephone number which can be used to contact the applicant for	9	f)	the latest date on which those documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection	9

g)	enquiries in relation to the documents, plans and maps		h)		
	whether a charge will be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge	12		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		15	
21	Are there any observations in respect of the s48 notice provided above?				
	No				
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?	<b>Yes</b>  A copy of the s48 notice was sent to the EIA consultation bodies as part of the s42 consultation, as confirmed in <b>paragraph 3.3.4</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> .  A sample of the s42 consultation letter provided at <b>appendix D-1</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1.1)</b> confirms a copy of the s48 notice was enclosed.			
s49: Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity					
23	Has the applicant had regard to any relevant responses to the s42, s47 and s48 consultation?	<b>Yes</b>  <b>Chapter 6.7</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> sets out how the applicant had regard to the consultation responses received; including whether or not responses led to changes to the application.			

		The actions informed by the consultation responses appear to be reflected in the final form of the application as submitted. Where a particular response has not led to a change in the application, it is sufficiently clear that regard was had to it.
<b>S50(3) Regard to guidance about pre-application procedure</b>		
24	<p>To what extent has the applicant had regard to statutory guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects'?</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate must have regard to the extent to which the applicant has had regard to guidance issued under s50.</p>	<p><b>Appendix G-4</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1.1)</b> states that the applicant has had regard to all relevant statutory guidance. Having reviewed the application, overall, The Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the applicant has identified and had regard to the relevant statutory guidance.</p> <p>The applicant submitted an Adequacy of Consultation Milestone statement on 19 March 2025 and had issued a Programme Document during the pre-application stage as part of new requirements for the pre-application stage introduced in 2024. However, the Programme Document did not contain much of the expected content as set out at paragraph 10 of the government's statutory guidance on the pre-application stage and the applicant did not take account of our s51 advice on the Programme Document issued on 19 November 2024.</p> <p>It is also noted that the applicant has not provided an Issues Tracker and Potential Main Issues for Examination document, which is also a primary service feature of the new pre-application service as set out in the Inspectorate's 2024 Pre-application Prospectus. A copy of the Issues Tracker and Potential Main Issues for Examination document will be requested in our s51 advice accompanying the acceptance decision, which should be received by the Inspectorate before the opening of relevant representations.</p>
25	<b>Summary: Section 55(3)(e)</b>	The applicant has complied with chapter 2 of part 5 (pre-application procedure) of the PA2008.

**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)**

26	<p>Is it made in the prescribed form as set out in schedule 2 of the APFP regulations, and does it include:</p> <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>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><b>Section 4</b> of the <b>Application Form (Doc 1.3)</b> explains why the development falls within the remit of The Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p><b>Section 5</b> of the <b>Application Form (Doc 1.3)</b> provides a brief non-technical description of the site and <b>section 6</b> provides the location of the proposed development.</p> <p>A <b>Location Plan (Doc 6.1)</b> has been provided.</p>
27	Is it accompanied by a consultation report?	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>The application is accompanied by a <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> and <b>Consultation Report Appendices (Doc 5.1.1)</b>.</p>
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?	<p><b>No</b></p> <p>The <b>Land Plan (Doc 2.1)</b> does not have a key plan. The accompanying section 51 advice letter provides further clarification.</p>
29	Is it accompanied by the documents and information set out in APFP regulation 5(2)?	The documents and information required by APFP regulation 5(2) are set out in the documents and locations within the application as listed below:

Information		Document	Information		Document
a)	Where applicable, an environmental statement required under the EIA regulations and any scoping or screening opinions or directions	<b>Document 6.1 – Environmental Statement Non Technical Summary</b>  <b>Documents 6.2.0 – 6.2.19 – Environmental Statement Technical Chapters</b>  <b>Documents 6.3.1 – 6.3.17 – Environmental Statement Technical Appendices</b>  <b>Documents 6.4.1 – Environmental Statement Figures</b>	b)	a draft development consent order (DCO)	<b>Draft Development Consent Order (Doc 3.1)</b>
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b>		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b>
c)	An explanatory memorandum explaining the purpose and effect of provisions in the draft DCO	<b>Explanatory Memorandum (Doc 3.2)</b>	d)	Where applicable, a book of reference	<b>Book of Reference (Doc 4.3)</b>

e)	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b>	f)	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b>
	A copy of any flood risk assessment	<b>Document 5.3 and 6.3.8 – Environmental Statement Appendix 8.1 Flood Risk Assessment</b> <b>Document 7.5 Sequential and Exception Test</b>		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	<b>Statement of Statutory Nuisance (Doc 5.4)</b>
h)	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b>	i)	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b>
	A statement of reasons and a funding statement (where the application involves any compulsory acquisition)	<b>Statement of Reasons (Doc 4.1)</b> <b>Funding Statement (Doc 4.2)</b>		A land plan identifying: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the land required for, or affected by, the proposed development</li> <li>where applicable, any land over which it is proposed to exercise powers of compulsory acquisition or any rights to use land</li> </ul>	<b>Land Plans (Doc 2.1)</b>

j)			k)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>any land in relation to which it is proposed to extinguish easements, servitudes and other private rights; and</li> <li>any special category land and replacement land</li> </ul>	
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b> (with minor discrepancies as noted in box 30)		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b> (with minor discrepancies as noted in box 30)
	A works plan showing, in relation to existing features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the proposed location or (for a linear scheme) the proposed route and alignment of the development and works; and</li> <li>the limits within which the development and works may be</li> </ul>	<b>Works Plans (Doc 2.2)</b>		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	<b>Access and Rights of Way Plan (Doc 2.3)</b>

l)	carried out and any limits of deviation provided for in the draft DCO		m)		
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b> (with minor discrepancies as noted in box 30)		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b> (with minor discrepancies as noted in box 30)
	<p>Where applicable, a plan with accompanying information identifying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>any statutory or non-statutory sites or features of nature conservation, for example sites of geological or landscape importance</li> <li>habitats of protected species, important habitats or other diversity features; and</li> <li>water bodies in a river basin management plan;</li> </ul>	<p><b>i) and ii)</b></p> <p><b>Document 2.29 – Plans of Statutory and Non-Statutory Nature Conservation Sites</b></p> <p><b>Figure 2 of Document 5.5 Information to Inform a Habitats Regulations Assessment</b></p> <p><b>The assessment of these is within documents 5.5 (Information to Inform a Habitats Regulations Assessment), 6.2.7 (ES Chapter 7) and 6.3.7 (ES Chapter Appendices)</b></p>		<p>Where applicable, a plan with accompanying information identifying any statutory or non-statutory sites or features of the historic environment, (for example 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>	<p><b>Document 2.30 – Plan of Statutory and Non-Statutory Historical or Scheduled Monument Sites and Document 6.4.9 – ES Chapter 9 figures</b></p> <p><b>The assessment of these is within documents 6.2.9 (ES Chapter 9) and 6.3.9 (ES Chapter Appendices)</b></p>

n)	together with an assessment of any effects on such sites, features, habitats or bodies likely to be caused by the proposed development	<b>iii) Document 2.28 – Plan of Waterbodies in a River basin Management Plan</b>  <b>The assessment of these is within documents 6.2.8 (ES Chapter 8) and 5.3 and 6.3.8 (ES Chapter Appendices including a Flood Risk Assessment and Water Framework Directive Assessment)</b>	o)		
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b> (with minor discrepancies as noted in box 30 below)		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b>
	Where applicable, a plan with any accompanying information identifying any crown land	<b>N/A - No Crown Land identified</b>		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	<b>Order Limits (Doc 2.4)</b> <b>Field Numbering Plan (Doc 2.5)</b> <b>Site Layout (Doc 2.6)</b> <b>Cable Crossing Plan (Doc 2.35)</b>

p)			q)	management, means of vehicular and pedestrian access, any car parking and landscaping	
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<b>N/A</b>		Are they of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b> (with minor discrepancies as noted in box 30 below)
	Any of the documents prescribed by regulation 6 of the APFP regulations	<b>Grid Connection Statement (Doc 5.8)</b>		Any other documents considered necessary to support the application	<b>Covering Letter (Doc 1.2)</b> <b>Application Form (Doc 1.3)</b> <b>Application Guide (Doc 1.4)</b> <b>ES Appendix 4.1 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (Doc 6.3.4)</b> <b>ES Appendix 4.2 Outline Decommissioning Plan (Doc 6.3.4)</b> <b>ES Appendix 7.14 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (Doc 6.3.7)</b> <b>Details of other Consents and Licenses (Doc 5.9)</b> <b>Planning Statement (Doc 7.1)</b> <b>Design and Access Statement (Doc 7.3)</b> <b>ES Appendix 4.3 - Outline Fire Risk Management Plan (Doc 6.3.4)</b>

				<b>Figure 6.5a Visual Receptors (Settlements, A Roads, B Roads and Long Distance Routes) (Doc 6.4.6)</b>
	Are they of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b>		Are they of a satisfactory standard?
				<b>Yes</b> (with minor discrepancies as noted in box 30 below)
30	Are there any observations in respect of the documents provided at box 29 (a) to (q) above?			
	<p><b>Waterbodies in a River Bain Management Plan (Doc 2.28)</b>  Within Document 2.28 (Waterbodies in a River Bain Management Plan), the similar colours used means that it is hard to differentiate between the two groundwater bodies labelled. The applicant is advised to amend this colour scheme.</p> <p><b>Waterbodies in a River Bain Management Plan (Doc 2.28)</b>  There are some inconsistencies between Document 2.28 (Waterbodies in a River Bain Management Plan) and Document 6.4.8 (ES Figure 8.1). These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Figure 2.28 only shows a partial route of the waterbodies labelled, whereas these are shown in full on ES Figure 8.1</li> <li>• The labelled routes of some water bodies are also inconsistent between the two figures</li> <li>• Figure 8.1 omits the label for the Seymour Drain given on Figure 2.28</li> <li>• Figure 8.1 shows the Mother Drain and New Ings Drain, however these are not included on Figure 2.28. It is presumed this is because these fall within the geographic catchment of the River Trent Catchment and therefore do not have a WFD status of their own, however the applicant is requested to clarify this.</li> </ul> <p><b>Figure 6.5a Visual Receptors (Settlements, A Roads, B Roads and Long Distance Routes) (Doc 6.4.6)</b>  The document received opens as ‘6.4.6 Figure 6.5c Visual Receptors (Settlements, A Roads, B Roads and Minor Roads)’. It is requested in the s51 advice letter that we receive the correct version before the Relevant Representation period begins.</p> <p><b>Land Plans (Doc 2.1)</b>  The Plan is missing a Key Plan. The cut lines and plot labelling could be clearer.</p> <p><b>Works Plans (Doc 2.2)</b></p>			

	<p>The plans have no cut lines, the legend describes areas as Work Order but the dDCO use work numbers. Inclusion of Works Numbers on the shaded areas would aid comprehension. Minor improvements suggested to improve comprehension.</p> <p><b>Access and Rights of Way Plan (Doc 2.3)</b></p> <p>The plan has no cut lines.</p> <p><b>Order Limits (Doc 2.4)</b></p> <p>The plan has no cut lines.</p> <p><b>Site Layout (Doc 2.6)</b></p> <p>The plan has no cut lines. Also another plan has been overlapped on a few pages.</p> <p><b>Cable Crossing Plan (Doc 2.35)</b></p> <p>The plan has no cut lines. Also another plan has been overlapped on a few pages.</p> <p><b>Design and Access Statement (Doc 7.3)</b></p> <p>The Design Access Statement and Appendix 4.5 of the ES contain information related to Good Design and the design principles as applied to the Proposed Development. The Applicant may wish to consolidate this information into a separate Design Approach Document for ease of reference, and as per other DCO Applications for solar farms.</p> <p>Section 51 advice has been issued to the applicant and is available to view on the Find a National Infrastructure Project website: <a href="#">s51 advice following acceptance letter</a></p>		
31	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="208 954 952 1316"> <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</p> </td><td data-bbox="952 954 2112 1316"> <p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>A <b>Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report</b> is provided at <b>Document 5.5</b></p> <p>The HRA Report identifies relevant European sites and the likely effects on those sites. It is considered that the information provided in the report is adequate for acceptance.</p> <p>Note: The Examining Authority will be able to ask questions during the examination. This may result in additional information being required to inform</p> </td></tr> </table>	<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</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>A <b>Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report</b> is provided at <b>Document 5.5</b></p> <p>The HRA Report identifies relevant European sites and the likely effects on those sites. It is considered that the information provided in the report is adequate for acceptance.</p> <p>Note: The Examining Authority will be able to ask questions during the examination. This may result in additional information being required to inform</p>
<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</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>A <b>Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report</b> is provided at <b>Document 5.5</b></p> <p>The HRA Report identifies relevant European sites and the likely effects on those sites. It is considered that the information provided in the report is adequate for acceptance.</p> <p>Note: The Examining Authority will be able to ask questions during the examination. This may result in additional information being required to inform</p>		

	appropriate assessment of the implications for the site if required by regulation 48(1)?	the HRA Report and the competent authority. Depending upon the type and availability of information required it may not be possible to obtain this during the statutory timetable of the examination.
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?	No hard copies requested.
33	Has the applicant had regard to statutory guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Application form guidance'?	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><b>Section 1.8</b> of the <b>Covering Letter (Doc 1.2)</b> explains how the applicant has had regard to statutory guidance on the application form.</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the applicant has demonstrated regard to the guidance principles.</p>
34	<b>Summary - s55(3)(f) and s55(5A)</b>	<p>The Planning Inspectorate concludes that the application (including accompaniments) has been prepared to a standard that it considers satisfactory.</p> <p>In respect of the discrepancies identified in box 30 of this checklist, to help facilitate an efficient and effective examination of the application s51 advice has been provided to the applicant in conjunction with the decision to accept the application. That advice is published on the Find a National Infrastructure Project website, here: <a href="#">s51 advice following acceptance letter</a></p>
<b>The Infrastructure Planning (Fees) Regulations 2010</b>		
<b>Pre-application fee</b>		
35	Were all pre-application fees paid before the application was made?	The fees for providing the applicant with basic pre-application services were received on 9 May 2025; before the application was made.

	<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 The Infrastructure Planning (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-application services or take any further steps in relation to the proposed application.</p>	
<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 fee was received on 6 May 2025; before the application was made.</p>

<b>Role</b>	<b>Electronic signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
Case Manager	Spencer Barrowman	11 June 2025
Acceptance Inspector	Max Wiltshire	11 June 2025

