



Lime Down

Solar Park

Cover Letter and Schedule of Compliance with Section 55

**September 2025
Revision 1**

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010168

Document Reference: APP/1.1

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)



Lime Down Solar Park Ltd
Unit 25.7 Coda Studios
189 Munster Road
London
SW6 6AW

Deborah Allen
Case Manager
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

19 September 2025

Dear Ms Allen,

Planning Act 2008 - Application for a Development Consent Order for Lime Down Solar Park

Application Reference: EN010168

On behalf of Lime Down Solar Park Limited (the 'Applicant') I am pleased to enclose an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) (the 'Application') pursuant to section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) for the proposed Lime Down Solar Park (the 'Scheme').

1 Subject of the Application

- 1.1.1 The Applicant is seeking a DCO for the construction, operation (including maintenance), and decommissioning of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) panel array and associated development comprising a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), substations, grid connection infrastructure and other infrastructure integral to the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the Scheme.
- 1.1.2 The Solar PV electricity generating station and BESS would be located within five land parcels referred to as Lime Down A, B, C, D and E (the Solar PV Sites). The Cable Route Corridor is the area within which the export connection cables would be located, running for approximately 22 km from Lime Down D and connecting the Solar PV Sites to the National

Grid at the existing Melksham Substation, as well as connecting each of the Solar PV Sites.

- 1.1.3 The Scheme is predominantly located within the administrative boundary of Wiltshire Council, with two small areas of existing highway (being junctions onto the A46), totalling 0.15 ha, located within the administrative area of South Gloucestershire Council. The area surrounding the Solar PV Sites comprises a number of rural villages and hamlets, including Sherston (approximately 300 m north of Lime Down A), Luckington (approximately 830 m west of Lime Down C), Corston (approximately 480 m east of Lime Down D), Hullavington (approximately 700 m south of Lime Down D), and Rodbourne (approximately 150 m southeast of Lime Down E). The town of Malmesbury is located approximately 3 km northeast of Lime Down B.
- 1.1.4 The Application is required as the Scheme is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1) and (2) of the PA 2008, being an onshore generating station in England with a capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW). In accordance with section 103 of the PA 2008, the decision as to whether to grant development consent will be made by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the 'Secretary of State').
- 1.1.5 The NSIP and associated development are described in Schedule 1 of the **Draft DCO [EN010168/APP/3.1]**.

2 Application Fee and Documentation Enclosed

- 2.1.1 A fee of £8,946 has been paid by the Applicant by BACS transfer to the account of the Planning Inspectorate on 2 September 2025. The Planning Inspectorate acknowledged that the payment was received on 12 September 2025.
- 2.1.2 The Application has been uploaded to the Planning Inspectorate's SharePoint site, as confirmed in the pre-submission meeting held on 14 August 2025.
- 2.1.3 In accordance with the Planning Inspectorate's Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Preparation and Submission of Application Documents, a GIS shapefile showing the Order limits for the Scheme was issued to the Planning Inspectorate via email on 1 September 2025, more than 10 working days in advance of the submission of the Application. The draft Electronic Application Index was also submitted to the Planning Inspectorate via email on 1 September 2025. The final version of the **Electronic Index [EN010168/APP/1.4]** is submitted alongside the Application.

- 2.1.4 A completed **Section 55 checklist [EN010168/APP/1.1]** is included with this Cover Letter to assist with the Planning Inspectorate's compliance check of the Application.
- 2.1.5 The following Application documents contain confidential information and should therefore be redacted:
- **Environmental Statement (ES) Volume 2, Figure 9-2-1 to 9-2-5 Badger Setts – Solar PV Sites [EN010168/APP/6.2];**
 - **ES Volume 2, Figure 9-2-6 to 9-2-10 Badger Setts – Cable Route Corridor [EN010168/APP/6.2];**
 - **ES Volume 3, Appendix 9-2 Badger Survey Report [EN010168/APP/6.3]; and**
 - **ES Volume 3, Appendix 9-8 Schedule of Protective Ecological Buffers [EN010168/APP/6.3].**
- 2.1.6 These documents have been marked as 'confidential' in the **Electronic Index [EN010168/APP/1.4]** and the **Guide to the Application [EN010168/APP/1.5]**.

3 Application Formalities

- 3.1.1 The Application is made in the form required by section 37(3)(b) of the PA 2008. The Application documents comply with the requirements in Section 37 of the PA 2008 and those set out in:
- a. The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations).
 - b. The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (The EIA Regulations).
 - c. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) 'Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects Guidance on the pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects' (April 2024).
 - d. The DLHUC 'Planning Act 2008: Nationally significant infrastructure projects – Application form guidance' (June 2013).
 - e. The Planning Inspectorate's 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Preparation and Submission of Application Documents' (August 2024).
- 3.1.2 It has been confirmed to the Planning Inspectorate that the Application will be published (with any necessary redactions and without any confidential

documents) on the Planning Inspectorate's website after acceptance of the Application.

4 Scheme Description

- 4.1.1 A non-technical description of the Scheme is included within the **Introduction to the Application [EN010168/APP/1.3]**. A more technical description is detailed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: The Scheme [EN010168/APP/6.1]**.

5 Need for the Scheme

- 5.1.1 The Scheme will generate a significant amount of renewable energy, with a connection agreement for the supply of up to 500 MW to the National Electricity Transmission System from July 2029. The Application is accompanied by a **Statement of Need [EN010168/APP/7.1]** which provides further detail on the need for the Scheme in the context of rising household energy bills, energy security concerns and the urgency of action necessary to achieve Net Zero by 2050. The Statement of Need concludes:

"The meaningful and timely contributions offered by the Scheme to UK decarbonisation and security of supply, while helping lower bills for consumers throughout its operational life, will be critical on the path to net zero beyond delivery of the government's 'Clean Power by 2030' mission.

Without the Scheme, a significant and vital opportunity to develop a large-scale low carbon generation scheme will have been passed over, increasing materially the risk that future Carbon Budgets and the net zero 2050 target will not be achieved."

6 Consent Flexibility

- 6.1.1 As the technology associated with the Scheme is rapidly evolving, the **Draft DCO [EN010168/APP/3.1]** and **Works Plan [EN010168/APP/2.3]** propose a degree of flexibility to allow the latest technology to be used at the time of construction.
- 6.1.2 In terms of design, a number of the design features and aspects of the Scheme cannot be confirmed at this stage. The parameters within which the Scheme is proposed to be constructed and operated are provided in the **Design Principles and Parameters [EN010168/APP/7.4]** document.
- 6.1.3 Further, as detailed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 6: EIA Methodology [EN010168/APP/6.1]**, the 'Rochdale Envelope' approach has been applied within the Environmental Statement to ensure a robust assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Scheme, in accordance with

the Planning Inspectorate's 'Advice Note Nine: Using the Rochdale Envelope'. Therefore, as is relevant for each technical discipline, the maximum (and where relevant, minimum) parameters for the elements where flexibility needs to be retained have been assessed using the Rochdale Envelope approach. The approach also recognises that the worst-case parameter for one technical assessment may differ from another, ensuring that worst case overall impacts are predicted. The design parameters are secured by the **Draft DCO [EN010168/APP/3.1]**.

7 Habitats Regulations Assessment

7.1.1 The Application includes a **Habitats Regulations Assessment Report [EN010168/APP/7.10]** which considers whether the Scheme is likely to have an effect on areas that have been internationally designated for nature conservation purposes and has been carried out having regard to Regulation 5(2)(g) of the APFP Regulations.

7.1.2 The **Habitats Regulations Assessment Report [EN010168/APP/7.10]** concludes that:

“with the adoption of mitigation measures, no significant adverse effects on site integrity of the Bath and Bradford-on-Avon Bats SAC or the Severn Estuary SAC, Seven Estuary SPA, or the Severn Estuary Ramsar site are deemed likely, either in isolation or in combination with other projects.”

8 Compulsory Acquisition

8.1.1 The land over which the Applicant is seeking powers of compulsory acquisition of land, rights and interests and powers of temporary possession in the **Draft DCO [EN010168/APP/3.1]** is listed in the **Book of Reference [EN010168/APP/4.3]**. The **Statement of Reasons [EN010168/APP/4.1]** also provides details of powers sought and the **Land and Rights Negotiations Tracker [EN010168/APP/4.4]** provides details of the negotiations with affected persons to date.

8.1.2 The Book of Reference **[EN010168/APP/4.3]** has been submitted in compliance with Regulation 5(2)(d) of the APFP Regulations, and in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Guidance related to procedures for compulsory acquisition of land' (September 2013).

8.1.3 Details of the adequacy of the funding for compensation are set out in the **Funding Statement [EN010168/APP/4.2]**. The **Statement of Reasons [EN010168/APP/4.1]** and **Funding Statement [EN010168/APP/4.2]** have been submitted in compliance with Regulation 5(2)(h) of the APFP Regulations.

9 Other Consents and Licences

- 9.1.1 A summary of other consents and licences likely to be required in addition to those being requested as part of the **Draft DCO [EN010168/APP/3.1]** is included in the **Consents and Agreements Position Statement [EN010168/APP/7.7]**.

10 Pre-application Consultation

- 10.1.1 The Applicant has had due regard to the pre-application consultation requirements of the PA 2008, the guidance on pre-application consultation issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and its pre-application discussions held with the Planning Inspectorate as required by Section 50(3) of the PA 2008.
- 10.1.2 In accordance with section 37(3)(c) of the PA 2008, the Application is accompanied by a **Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]** and **Consultation Report Appendices [EN010168/APP/5.2]**, which provide details of compliance with sections 42, 46, 47, 48 and 49 of the PA 2008, the APFP Regulations, the EIA Regulations, and the relevant guidance.
- 10.1.3 The **Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]** sets out the responses to non-statutory, statutory and targeted consultation and sets out how the Applicant has had careful regard to the relevant responses received through the design iteration and evolution of the Scheme in accordance with section 49 of the PA 2008.

11 Artificial Intelligence

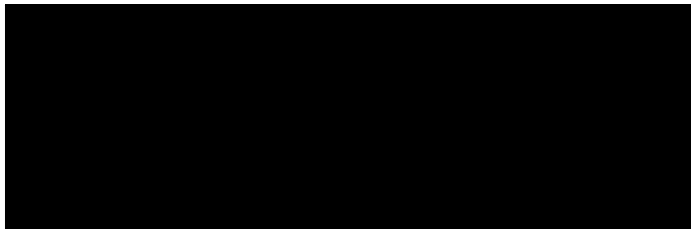
- 11.1.1 The Applicant confirms that Artificial Intelligence has not been used to create or alter any part of the application documents, information or data submitted with the Application.

12 Other Matters

- 12.1.1 In accordance with Regulation 5(5) of the APFP Regulations, the Applicant retains all responses to the consultation carried out under Part 5 of the PA 2008 and can make the responses available to the Planning Inspectorate and/or the Secretary of State upon request.
- 12.1.2 The Applicant will keep all Application documents under review and will endeavour to provide updates where it is considered necessary during the examination of the Application. These updates will consider any questions and comments received from the Examining Authority and Interested Parties.

- 12.1.3 We look forward to hearing from you in relation to a formal acceptance of the Application. If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us using the details provided below.

Yours sincerely



Will Threlfall

Senior Project Development Manager

On behalf of Lime Down Solar Park Limited



Section 55

Acceptance of Applications Checklist

Appendix 2 of [Advice on the preparation and submission of application documents](#)

Version: September 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 the 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 'PA 2008'), 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 PA 2008, it is an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) under the PA 2008, or equivalent words?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The Scheme set out in Schedule 1 of the Draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [EN010168/APP/3.1] includes development that is defined as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under Sections 14(1)(a), 15(1) and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) by virtue of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scheme comprises the construction of a generating station (Section 14(1)(a) of the PA 2008); 		

	<p>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 PA 2008 for the development to be treated as development for which development consent is required?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be located in England (Section 15(2)(a) of the PA 2008); • It would not generate electricity from wind (Section 15(2)(aa) of the PA 2008); • It would not be an offshore generating station (Section 15(2)(b) of the PA 2008); and • Its capacity would be more than 50MW (Section 15(2)(c) of the PA 2008). <p>The Cover Letter and Schedule of Compliance with Section 55 [EN010168/APP/1.1] states that the application is an application for a DCO under the PA 2008.</p>
3	Summary: Section 55(3)(a) and s55(3)(c)	The application includes development for which development consent is required.
Section 55(3)(e): The Applicant in relation to the application made has complied with Chapter 2 of Part 5 (pre-application procedure)		
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 (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>Yes.</p> <p>On 16 July 2024 the Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate in accordance with Regulation 8(1)(b) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 of its intention to provide an Environmental Statement (ES) in respect of the Scheme. Notice of the Applicant's proposal to provide an ES was given prior to the carrying out of consultation in accordance with Section 42 of the PA 2008.</p> <p>A copy of the notification letter is provided at Appendix B: EIA Scoping of the Consultation Report Appendices [EN010168/APP/5.2].</p>

5	<p>Have any adequacy of consultation representations (AoCR) 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 AoCRs received.</p>	<p>The Applicant consulted with Wiltshire Council on the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report, who confirmed that the statutory consultation was delivered in accordance with the Statement of Community Consultation. Wiltshire Council's response to the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone can be viewed in the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone Report that was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 19 June 2025 and is available on the Lime Down Solar Park webpage.</p>
Section 42: Duty to consult		
Did the Applicant consult the applicable persons set out in s42 of the PA 2008 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>Yes.</p> <p>The Applicant has provided a list of persons consulted under s42(1)(a) between 29 January 2025 and 19 March 2025 in Appendix G: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 of the Consultation Report Appendices [EN010168/APP/5.2].</p> <p>A sample letter sent to s42(1)(a) consultees is provided at Appendix G: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 of the Consultation Report Appendices [EN010168/APP/5.2].</p> <p>The Applicant undertook further targeted consultation between 3 June 2025 and 11 July 2025 on fifteen changes which resulted in small increases to the Order Limits following Statutory Consultation, as set out in Chapter 11: Targeted Consultation on a Series of Proposed Boundary Changes, of the Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1]</p>
7	<p>Section 42(1)(aa) the Marine Management Organisation(MMO)?</p>	<p>Yes, however the Scheme does not affect any of the areas specified in s42(2). The MMO still provided feedback to the consultation, and this feedback can be</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.	viewed in Appendix G: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 of the Consultation Report Appendices [EN010168/APP/5.2] .
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>Yes.</p> <p>Table 8-1 of the Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1] lists the relevant local authorities that were identified and consulted under s43 and s42(1)(b) on 29 January 2025 and 19 March 2025.</p> <p>'B' authorities consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Council • South Gloucestershire Council <p>'A' authorities consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Forest District Council • Vale of White Horse District Council • Cotswold District Council • Test Valley Borough Council • New Forest National Park Authority • Dorset Council • West Berkshire Council • Bath and North East Somerset Council • Somerset Council • Swindon Borough Council

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxfordshire County Council • Gloucestershire County Council • Hampshire County Council • Bristol City Council • Stroud District Council • Monmouthshire County Council • Forest of Dean District Council <p>A sample of the letter sent to s42(1)(b) relevant authorities is provided at Appendix G: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 of the Consultation Report Appendices [EN010168/APP/5.2].</p>
9	Section 42(1)(c) the Greater London Authority (if in Greater London area)?	<p>N/A</p> <p>The Scheme is not located within Greater London and therefore the Greater London Authority is not a relevant consultee.</p>
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>Yes.</p> <p>Chapter 8: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 of the Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1] states that all persons identified under s42(1)(d) were consulted from 29 January 2025 and 19 March 2025.</p> <p>Section 8.6: Identifying Section 44 Consultees of the Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1] summarise how the Applicant made diligent inquiry to seek, identify and consult persons with an interest in lands affected by the Draft Development Consent Order [EN010168/APP/3.1]. The full methodology undertaken by the Applicant is provided in Section 8.6 of the Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1].</p>

	Category 3: persons who would or might be entitled to make a relevant claim.	<p>A sample of the letter dated 22 January 2025 is provided at Appendix G: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 of the Consultation Report Appendices [EN010168/APP/5.2].</p> <p>The persons consulted under s42(1)(d) are listed at Appendix G: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 of the Consultation Report Appendices [EN010168/APP/5.2].</p>
Section 45: Timetable for s42 consultation		
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>Yes.</p> <p>A sample of the letter sent to s42 consultees is provided at Appendix G: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 of the Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1].</p> <p>The sample letter confirmed that consultation commenced on Wednesday 29 January 2025 and closed on Wednesday 19 March 2025 (a period of 49 days), providing more than the required minimum time for receipt of responses. Any consultees that received a consultation letter outside of this consultation period also received 28 days or more for receipt of responses.</p>
Section 46: Duty to notify the Planning Inspectorate of proposed application		
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>Yes.</p> <p>The Applicant notified the Secretary of State, via the Planning Inspectorate, in writing under Section 46 of the PA 2008 on 27 January 2025, that it was intending to commence consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008. Notification under Section 46 was provided before consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 commenced on 29 January 2025.</p> <p>The Applicant included the following consultation documents with this notification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a covering letter;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • example copies of the Section 42 covering letters (including examples for prescribed consultees, the MMO, local authorities and landowners); • A copy of section 47 and section 48 notices (including details of the public consultation events and the locations where the consultation documents could be inspected free of charge); • A copy of the final Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC); and • Copies of consultation materials, including the consultation newsletter, feedback form and project information booklet. <p>A copy of the s46 notification letter and a copy of s46 notification acknowledgement letter from the Planning Inspectorate are provided at Appendix G: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 of the Consultation Report Appendices [EN010168/APP/5.2].</p>
Section 47: Duty to consult local community		
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>Yes.</p> <p>The Applicant prepared and published a SoCC that set out how the Applicant proposed to consult people living in the vicinity of the land. A copy of the final SoCC is provided at Appendix E: Publication and Compliance with the SoCC of the Consultation Report Appendices [EN010168/APP/5.2].</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>Yes.</p> <p>The Applicant formally consulted with Wiltshire Council on the draft SoCC between 30 October and 06 December 2024. Before this period, the Applicant shared an early working draft of the SoCC on 22 October, receiving comments back from Wiltshire Council on 28 October 2024.</p> <p>South Gloucestershire Council were not consulted on the draft SoCC as they were not classified as a host local authority at that stage. Targeted consultation</p>

		included additional areas of land within South Gloucestershire's administrative boundary, and they became a host host authority at this stage. South Gloucestershire were consulted on the approach to targeted consultation as set out in Section 8.5: Identifying Section 42 Consultees of the Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1] .
15	Has the applicant had regard to any responses received when preparing the SoCC?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Appendix D: Preparation of Statement of Community Consultation of the Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1] provides a summary of the comments provided by Wiltshire Council on the draft SoCC and demonstrates how the Applicant has had regard to their comments.</p> <p>Examples of changes from the draft SoCC to the final SoCC include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An extension to the period of statutory consultation from 6 weeks to 7 weeks. • Inclusion of a schematic map with a supporting key to visually articulate the location of the development area and component parts of the Scheme relative to existing communities and infrastructure. • Confirmation that a press release will be issued to local and regional media outlets at the start of consultation, towards the end of consultation as a 'final call for feedback' and further to consultation closing to provide a summary of participation and what happens next. • Inclusion of additional organisations and parish councils that were suggested for inclusion as stakeholders to be consulted as part of the wider engagement process. • Action on the recommendation to include more parish councils in the list provided describing wider consultation in accordance with Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008. • Written clarification on how feedback will be recorded in the Consultation Report.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation that the Consultation Leaflet being direct mailed to the 14,000+ addresses in the Core Consultation Zone would begin landing from 27 January 2025, providing advance notice. • Agreement to start online information events at 18.30 (instead of the 17.30 start time initially suggested) to facilitate participation
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>Yes.</p> <p>The final SoCC was made available at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corsham Library, Springfield Community Campus, Beechfield Road, Corsham, Wiltshire, SN13 9DN • Melksham Library, Melksham Community Campus, Market Place, Melksham, Wiltshire, SN12 6ES • Malmesbury Library, 24 Cross Hayes, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, SN16 9BG • Chippenham Library, Timber Street, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN15 3EJ <p>A notice stating when and where the final SoCC could be inspected was published in the Wiltshire Gazette and Herald on 16 January 2025 and the Wiltshire Times on 17 January 2025. The published SoCC notice, provided in Appendix E: Publication and Compliance with the SoCC of the Consultation Report Appendices [EN010168/APP/5.2] states where and when the final SoCC was available to inspect.</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>Yes.</p> <p>Section 8 of the final SoCC in Appendix E: Publication and Compliance with the SoCC of the Consultation Report Appendices [EN010168/APP/5.2] 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>Yes.</p> <p>Section 6.5: Adherence to the Contents of the SoCC of the Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1] sets out how the community consultation was carried out in line with the final SoCC.</p> <p>Table 6-4: Summary of commitments made in the SoCC and how the Applicant fulfilled these of the Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1] sets out how the Applicant has complied with the commitments set out in the final SoCC.</p> <p>Appendix E: Publication and Compliance with the SoCC of the Consultation Report Appendices [EN010168/APP/5.2] provides 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 (as amended) APFP Regulations 2009?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The Applicant prepared and publicised the application in the prescribed manner set out in the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 by publishing a s48 notice. The s48 notice was published in the following publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire Gazette and Herald on 16 and 23 January 2025; • Wiltshire Times on 17 and 24 January 2025; • The Guardian on 22 January 2025; and • The London Gazette on 24 January 2025 <p>The s48 notice included a deadline of 19 March 2025 for receipt of responses to the publicity. The final notice was published on 24 January 2025, which clearly stated the consultation start and end dates, therefore exceeding the 28 days statutory minimum response time.</p>

		Chapter 9 of the Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1] provides information about the s48 notice. Table 9-1 of the Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1] provides details of the newspapers and dates of publication of the s48 notices as set out below. A copy of the s48 notice is provided at Appendix H: Section 48 Notice of the Consultation Report Appendices [EN010168/APP/5.2] . Clippings of the published notices are provided at Appendix H: Section 48 Notice of the Consultation Report Appendices [EN010168/APP/5.2] .		
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">Wiltshire Gazette and Herald on 16 and 23 January 2025; andWiltshire Times on 17 and 24 January 2025.	See box to the left.	
b)	once in a national newspaper;	The Guardian.	22 January 2025	
c)	once in the London Gazette and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette; and	The London Gazette.	24 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 - the proposed application does not relate to offshore development.		

20	Did the s48 notice include the required information set out in Regulation 4(3) of the (as amended) APFP Regulations 2009?	Yes , a copy of the notice is provided at Appendix H: Section 48 Notice of the Consultation Report Appendices [EN010168/APP/5.2] .			
Information		Paragraph	Information		Paragraph
a)	the name and address of the Applicant	Paragraph 2 of the s48 notice.	b)	a statement that the Applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Secretary of State	Paragraph 2 of the s48 notice.
c)	a statement as to whether the application is EIA development	Paragraph 6 of the s48 notice.	d)	a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the proposed development	Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the s48 notice.
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"> • 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 enquiries in relation to the documents, plans and maps. 	Paragraphs 7 and 13 of the s48 notice.	f)	the latest date on which those documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection	Paragraph 8, 9 and 10 of the s48 notice.

g)	whether a charge will be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge	Paragraph 15 of the s48 notice.	h)	details of how to respond to the publicity	Paragraphs 16 to 20 of the s48 notice.
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	Paragraph 18 of the s48 notice.			
21	Are there any observations in respect of the s48 notice provided above?				
	N/A				
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?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>A copy of the s48 notice was sent to the EIA consultation bodies as part of the s42 consultation, as confirmed in Chapter 9 of the Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1].</p> <p>A sample of the s42 consultation letter provided at Appendix G: Statutory Consultation under Section 42 of the PA 2008 of the Consultation Report Appendices [EN010168/APP/5.2] confirms that a copy of the s48 notice was enclosed with the consultation material.</p>			
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?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Chapter 10 of the Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1] sets out how the Applicant has had regard to the consultation responses received including whether or not responses led to changes to the Application.</p>			

S50(3) Regard to guidance about pre-application procedure		
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>Section 3.2 of Chapter 3 of the Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1] states that the Applicant has taken into consideration all relevant statutory and other guidance, including statutory guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the preapplication process'.</p> <p>Chapter 3 of the Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1] sets out how the Applicant has complied with the relevant legislation and guidance. This is also presented in Appendix A: Statement of Compliance of the Consultation Report Appendices [EN010168/APP/5.2].</p>
25	Summary: Section 55(3)(e)	The Applicant has complied with Chapter 2 of Part 5 (pre-application procedure) of the PA 2008.
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"> a brief statement which explains why it falls within the remit of the Planning Inspectorate; and a brief statement that clearly identifies the location of the application site, or the route if it is a linear scheme? 	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Section 4 of the Application Form [EN010168/APP/1.2] explains why the development falls within the remit of the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>Section 5 of the Application Form [EN010168/APP/1.2] provides a brief non-technical description of the site and section 6 provides the location of the Scheme.</p> <p>A Location Plan [EN010168/APP/2.1] has been provided.</p>
27	Is it accompanied by a Consultation Report?	Yes.

		The application is accompanied by a Consultation Report [EN010168/APP/5.1] and supporting Consultation Report Appendices [EN010168/APP/5.2] .			
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. These are provided for all relevant plans provided in Volume 2, Plans [EN010168/APP/2.1-2.11] .			
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	
a)	Where applicable, the environmental statement required under the EIA Regulations and any scoping or screening opinions or directions	An Environmental Statement together with supporting figures and appendices has been submitted with the Application: Environmental Statement Main Report Chapters [EN010168/APP/6.1] Environmental Statement Figures [EN010168/APP/6.2]		b)	The draft development consent order (DCO) The Application is accompanied by the Draft Development Consent Order [EN010168/APP/3.1] in the validated statutory instrument template.

c)		Environmental Statement Appendices [EN010168/APP/6.3] Environmental Statement Non-Technical Summary [EN010168/APP/6.4] The Environmental Statement is based on the EIA Scoping Report, and EIA Scoping Opinion. A tabulated summary of scoping comments and how the comments have been complied and is provided in the ES Volume 3, Appendix 1-2 Scoping Opinion Responses, [EN010168/APP/6.3].	d)		
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	The Planning Inspectorate can conclude that these are of a satisfactory standard.		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	The Planning Inspectorate can conclude that these are of a satisfactory standard.
	An explanatory memorandum explaining the purpose	An Explanatory Memorandum [EN010168/APP/3.2]		Where applicable, a book of reference	A Book of Reference [EN010168/APP/4.3] is provided and meets the requirements of DCLG's

e)	and effect of provisions in the draft DCO	has been submitted with the Application which explains the purpose and effect of the Draft Development Consent Order [EN010168/APP/3.1] .	f)		(now MHCLG) Planning Act 2008: guidance related to procedures for the compulsory acquisition of land (2013).
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	The Planning Inspectorate can conclude that these are of a satisfactory standard.		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	The Planning Inspectorate can conclude that these are of a satisfactory standard.
	A copy of any flood risk assessment	A Flood Risk Assessment is provided in accordance with Regulation 5(2)(e) of the APFP Regulations at ES Volume 3, Appendix 11-1 to 11-9: Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy [EN010168/APP/6.3] .		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	A Statutory Nuisance Statement [EN010168/APP/7.6] is provided with the Application in accordance with Regulation 5(2)(f) of the APFP Regulations.
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	The Planning Inspectorate can conclude that these are of a satisfactory standard.		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	The Planning Inspectorate can conclude that these are of a satisfactory standard.

h)	A statement of reasons and a funding statement (where the application involves any compulsory acquisition)	The Application is accompanied by a Statement of Reasons [EN010168/APP/4.1] and a Funding Statement [EN010168/APP/4.2] .	i)	A land plan identifying:- (i) the land required for, or affected by, the Proposed Development; (ii) where applicable, any land over which it is proposed to exercise powers of Compulsory Acquisition or any rights to use land; (iii) any land in relation to which it is proposed to extinguish easements, servitudes and other private rights; and (iv) any special category land and replacement land	The Application is accompanied by the Land Plan [EN010168/APP/2.2] showing the land required and affected by the Scheme and any land over which it is proposed to exercise powers of Compulsory Acquisition or any rights to use land. The Land Plan [EN010168/APP/2.2] is provided in accordance with Regulation 5(2)(i) of the APFP Regulations. Plots and descriptions listed within the Book of Reference [EN010168/APP/4.3] are consistent with the plots shown on the Land Plan [EN010168/APP/2.2] .
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	The Planning Inspectorate can conclude that these are of a satisfactory standard.		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	The Planning Inspectorate can conclude that these are of a satisfactory standard.

j)	A works plan showing, in relation to existing features:- (i) the proposed location or (for a linear scheme) the proposed route and alignment of the development and works; and (ii) the limits within which the development and works may be carried out and any limits of deviation provided for in the draft DCO	The Application is accompanied by the Works Plan [EN010168/APP/2.3] , which is provided in accordance with Regulation 5(2)(j) of the APFP Regulations and show the proposed location of the Scheme and the limits within which the works are proposed to be carried out.	k)	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	The Application is accompanied by the Streets Plan [EN010168/APP/2.4] , the Public Rights of Way Plan [EN010168/APP/2.5] and the Access Plan [EN010168/APP/2.6] These plans are provided in accordance with Regulation 5(2)(k) of the APFP Regulations.
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	The Planning Inspectorate can conclude that these are of a satisfactory standard.		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	The Planning Inspectorate can conclude that these are of a satisfactory standard.
	l) Where applicable, a plan with accompanying information identifying:- (i) any statutory or non-statutory sites or	The Application is accompanied by: (i)	m)	Where applicable, a plan with accompanying information identifying any statutory or non-statutory sites or	The Application is accompanied by: Statutory and Non-Statutory Features of the Historic

<p>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, together with an assessment of any effects on such sites, features, habitats or bodies likely to be caused by the proposed development</p>	<p>Statutory and Non-Statutory Sites or Features of Nature Conservation Plan [EN010168/APP/2.9]</p> <p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity [EN010168/APP/6.1]</p> <p>(ii) TPO and Hedgerow Plan [EN010168/APP/2.7]</p> <p>(iii) Waterbodies in a River Basin Management Plan [EN010168/APP/2.8]</p> <p>ES Volume 1, Chapter 11: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage</p>	<p>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>	<p>Environment Plan [EN010168/APP/2.10]</p>
<p>Is this of a satisfactory standard?</p>	<p>The Planning Inspectorate can conclude that these are of a satisfactory standard.</p>	<p>Is this of a satisfactory standard?</p>	<p>The Planning Inspectorate can conclude that these are of a satisfactory standard.</p>

n)	Where applicable, a plan with any accompanying information identifying any Crown land	The Application is accompanied by a Crown Land Plan [EN010168/APP/2.11] , prepared in accordance with Regulation 5(2)(n) of the APFP Regulations.	o)	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	The Application is accompanied by the following plans and drawings provided under Regulation 5(2)(o) of the APFP Regulations: Location Plan [EN010168/APP/2.1]
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	The Planning Inspectorate can conclude that these are of a satisfactory standard.		Are they of a satisfactory standard?	The Planning Inspectorate can conclude that these are of a satisfactory standard.
p)	Any of the documents prescribed by Regulation 6 of the APFP Regulations:	A Grid Connection Statement [EN010168/APP/7.5] accompanies the Application as required by Regulation 6 (1)(a)(i) of the APFP Regulations.	q)	Any other documents considered necessary to support the application	The Application includes the following additional documents considered necessary to support the Application: Cover Letter and Schedule of Compliance with Section 55 [EN010168/APP/1.1] Introduction to the Application [EN010168/APP/1.3]

				Electronic Application Index [EN010168/APP/1.4] Land and Rights Negotiation Tracker [EN010168/APP/4.4] Statement of Need [EN010168/APP/7.1] Planning Statement [EN010168/APP/7.2] Design Approach Document [EN010168/APP/7.3] Design Principles and Parameters [EN010168/APP/7.4] Consents and Agreements Position Statement [EN010168/APP/7.7] Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Report [EN010168/APP/7.8] Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Appendix: Statutory Biodiversity Metric Calculation [EN010168/APP/7.9] Water Framework Directive Assessment [EN010168/APP/7.11] Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.12]
--	--	--	--	---

				<p>Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.13]</p> <p>Outline Decommissioning Strategy [EN010168/APP/7.14]</p> <p>Outline Soil Resources Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.15]</p> <p>Outline Site Waste Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.16]</p> <p>Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.17]</p> <p>Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.18]</p> <p>Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy [EN010168/APP/7.19]</p> <p>Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan [EN010168/APP/7.20]</p> <p>Outline Battery Safety Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.21]</p> <p>Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan [EN010168/APP/7.22]</p>
--	--	--	--	--

					Equality Impact Assessment [EN010168/APP/7.23] Potential Main Issues for Examination [EN010168/APP/7.24] Outline Water Resources Strategy [EN010168/APP/7.25] Commitments Register [EN010168/APP/7.26]
	Are they of a satisfactory standard?	The Planning Inspectorate can conclude that these are of a satisfactory standard.		Are they of a satisfactory standard?	The Planning Inspectorate can conclude that these are of a satisfactory standard.
30	Are there any observations in respect of the documents provided at Box 29 (a) to (q) above?				
	N/A				
31	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, &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 implications for the site if required by Regulation 48(1)?		Yes. A Habitats Regulations Assessment Report [EN010168/APP/7.10] has been provided. The Habitats Regulations Assessment Report [EN010168/APP/7.10] identifies relevant European sites and the likely effects on those sites. The Habitats Regulations Assessment Report [EN010168/APP/7.10] confirms that the Scheme does not affect any European site(s) to which Regulation 48 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 applies or any Ramsar site(s).		

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?	Available on request.
33	Has the Applicant had regard to statutory guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Application form guidance'?	Yes. The DCLG guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Application Form Guidance' has been used to prepare the Application Form [EN010168/APP/1.4] . The Applicant considers that the Application submission has been provided in the form set out by this guidance.
34	Summary - s55(3)(f) and s55(5A)	The Application complies with the requirements of section 55(3)(f) and section 55(5A) of the PA 2008. The Planning Inspectorate can conclude that the Application (including accompaniments) has been prepared to a standard that it considers satisfactory.
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 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</p>	All pre-application fees have been paid before the application was made.

	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.	
Fees to accompany an application		
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>	The fee was paid on 1 September 2025 and confirmed as received by the Planning Inspectorate on 12 September 2025, before the application was made.

Role	Electronic signature	Date
Case Manager		
Acceptance Inspector		