



# Meridian Solar Farm

EN010169

Volume 1

Application Forms

1.5 Section 55 Checklist

APFP Regulation 5(2)(q)

Infrastructure Planning (Applications:  
Prescribed Forms and Procedure)  
Regulations 2009

March 2026

## 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>20 March 2025</b>	<b>17 April 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	<b>Yes.</b> The Scheme as set out in the <b>Draft DCO</b> (Doc Ref. 3.1) comprises a generating station with a capacity greater than 100 MW, and the installation of above ground electric lines greater than two kilometres in length and a nominal voltage of 132 kV or greater. The Scheme therefore qualifies as an NSIP under sections 14(1)(a), 14(1)(b), 15(2) and 16 of the PA 2008.		

	<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>	
<b>Section 55(3)(e): The Applicant in relation to the application made has complied with Chapter 2 of Part 5 (pre-application procedure)</b>		
4	<p>In accordance with regulation 8 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA regulations), did the applicant (prior to carrying out consultation in accordance with s42) either (a) request the Planning Inspectorate adopt a screening opinion in respect of the development to which the application relates, or (b) notify the Planning Inspectorate in writing that it proposed to provide an environmental statement in respect of that development?</p>	<p>The Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate, in accordance with Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations, that they proposed to provide an Environmental Statement in respect of the Scheme. The notification was given to the Planning Inspectorate before statutory consultation commenced on 24 April 2025.</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><b>Yes.</b> Lincolnshire County Council commented on the adequacy of consultation to confirm it was satisfied an appropriate level of consultation had been conducted.</p>

	Section 55(4) of the PA2008 provides that the Planning Inspectorate must have regard to the consultation report, and any AoCRs received.	
<b>Section 42: Duty to consult</b>		
Did the Applicant consult the applicable persons set out in s42 of the PA2008 about the proposed application?		
6	<p>Section 42(1)(a) persons prescribed?</p> <p>The persons prescribed are the statutory consultees set out in Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations).</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> The Applicant has supplied a list of persons consulted under Section 42(1)(a) at <b>Appendix G: Section 42 Consultees</b> to the <b>Consultation Report</b> (Doc Ref. 5.1).</p> <p>The list of persons consulted was informed by Column 1 of the Schedule to The Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024 (which is to be substituted for Table 1 in The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009), as well as parties who were identified specifically by the Planning Inspectorate when developing its Scoping Opinion.</p> <p>The <b>Consultation Report</b> (Doc Ref. 5.1) outlines the approach to identify consultees under Section 42(a) and when they were consulted.</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>	<p><b>Not applicable.</b> The MMO was not consulted as the Scheme does not involve development within any of the areas outlined in Section 42(2).</p>

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. Appendix G: Section 42 Consultees</b> to the <b>Consultation Report</b> (Doc Ref. 5.1) sets out the local authorities consulted under Section 43 of the PA 2008.</p> <p>The 'A' authorities (i.e. lower tier neighbouring authorities) consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boston Borough Council</li> <li>• Fenland District Council</li> <li>• King's Lynn and West Norfolk District Council</li> <li>• North Kesteven District Council</li> <li>• South Kesteven District Council</li> </ul> <p>The 'B' authority (i.e. host lower tier) consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Holland District Council</li> </ul> <p>The 'C' authority (i.e. host upper tier) consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lincolnshire County Council</li> </ul> <p>The 'D' authorities (i.e. upper tier or unitary neighbouring authorities) consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cambridgeshire County Council</li> <li>• Leicestershire County Council</li> <li>• Norfolk County Council</li> <li>• North East Lincolnshire Council</li> <li>• North Lincolnshire Council</li> <li>• North Northamptonshire Council</li> <li>• Nottinghamshire County Council</li> <li>• Peterborough City Council</li> <li>• Rutland County Council</li> </ul>
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9	Section 42(1)(c) the Greater London Authority (if in Greater London area)?	<b>Not applicable.</b> The Scheme is not located within Greater London.
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>Category 3: persons who would or might be entitled to make a relevant claim.</p>	<p>Yes. Section 7.2 of the <b>Consultation Report</b> (Doc Ref. 5.1) outlines the methods by which the Applicant made diligent inquiry to identify and consult persons with an interest in lands (PILs) impacted by the Scheme and when they were consulted.</p> <p>The full methodology is provided in the <b>Statement of Reasons</b> (Doc Ref. 4.1). A list of those persons consulted under Section 42(1)(d) is provided in the <b>Book of Reference</b> (Doc Ref. 4.3) and a sample of the letter sent can be found in <b>Appendix E</b> to the <b>Consultation Report</b> (Doc Ref. 5.1).</p> <p>As detailed within Sections 11 and 12 of the <b>Consultation Report</b> (Doc Ref. 5.1), two further targeted consultations were carried out. One between 24 September and 22 October 2025, and another between 8 January and 5 February 2026. The scope of these targeted consultations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PILs who were newly identified as a result of the proposed changes and were therefore being consulted on a statutory basis; and</li> <li>• PILs who were previously consulted at statutory consultation and who the Applicant believed had additional land interests affected by the changes.</li> </ul> <p>An example copy of a targeted consultation letter issued to newly identified PILs, or PILs that were already consulted at statutory consultation, is provided at <b>Appendix J</b> and <b>Appendix L</b> of the <b>Consultation Report</b> (Doc Ref. 5.1).</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><b>Yes.</b> A copy of the letter sent to Section 42 consultees as part of the statutory consultation is enclosed in <b>Appendix E</b> to the <b>Consultation Report</b> (Doc Ref. 5.1). This letter confirms the date the statutory consultation started on 24 April 2025 and closed on 8 June 2025, therefore providing more than the required minimum 28 days for receipt of responses.</p> <p>As detailed within Section 7.2 of the <b>Consultation Report</b> (Doc Ref. 5.1), two 'D' authorities were accidentally omitted from the mailing list. The Applicant subsequently notified these consultees, and they were provided with a minimum of 28 days to respond to the statutory consultation materials.</p> <p>As detailed within Section 11 and Section 12 of the <b>Consultation Report</b> (Doc Ref. 5.1), further targeted consultations were carried out between 24 September and 22 October 2025, and between 8 January and 5 February 2026. Interested parties were notified by letter and provided 28-days to respond, in line with the 28-day statutory minimum.</p>
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**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><b>Yes.</b> Prior to commencing the statutory consultation, the Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate of its intention to submit an application for development consent in accordance with Section 46 of the PA 2008. A letter was sent electronically to the Planning Inspectorate on 23 April 2025 prior to the statutory consultation beginning on 24 April 2025. A copy of the letter sent to the Planning Inspectorate is included at <b>Appendix F: Section 46 Notification to the Planning Inspectorate</b> of the <b>Consultation Report</b> (Doc Ref. 5.1).</p> <p>A response from the Planning Inspectorate acknowledging receipt of the notification was received 9 May 2025.</p>
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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?	<b>Yes.</b> The Applicant prepared a <b>Statement of Community Consultation</b> (SoCC) as prescribed in Section 47 of the PA 2008. See <b>Appendix C: Statement of Community Consultation</b> to the <b>Consultation Report</b> (Doc Ref. 5.1) for a copy.
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?	<b>Yes.</b> The Applicant consulted the local planning authorities (South Holland District Council and Lincolnshire County Council) on the content of the draft SoCC in accordance with Section 47(3) of the PA 2008. A copy of the draft SoCC sent to the local authorities is included at <b>Appendix C: Statement of Community Consultation</b> to the <b>Consultation Report</b> (Doc Ref. 5.1).
15	Has the applicant had regard to any responses received when preparing the SoCC?	<b>Yes.</b> Section 6.5 of the <b>Consultation Report</b> (Doc Ref. 5.1) details how the Applicant has had regard to the responses received by South Holland District Council and Lincolnshire County Council.
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?	<b>Yes.</b> The SoCC was made publicly available for inspection on the Meridian Solar Farm project website. Printed copies of the SoCC were made available for inspection at the Crowland Library.  A notice was published in a local newspaper, the Spalding Voice, on 17 April and 24 April 2025. This notice included details of where and when the SoCC could be inspected. A copy of these notices is included at <b>Appendix D: Published Section 47 and Section 48 Notices</b> of the <b>Consultation Report</b> (Doc Ref. 5.1).

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?	<b>Yes.</b> Section 3.4 of the <b>SoCC</b> (Appendix C to the <b>Consultation Report</b> (Doc Ref. 5.1)) confirms the Scheme is an EIA development and sets out how the Applicant intends to publicise and consult on preliminary environmental information.																		
18	Has the applicant carried out the consultation in accordance with the SoCC?	<b>Yes.</b> The Applicant has carried out the consultation in accordance with the SoCC. Section 6.7 of the <b>Consultation Report</b> (Doc Ref. 5.1) sets out the requirements within the SoCC and details of how the Applicant has complied.																		
<b>Section 48: Duty to publicise the proposed application</b>																				
19	Did the applicant publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner set out in Regulation 4(2) of the (as amended) APFP Regulations 2009?	<b>Yes.</b> A Section 48 notice was published in the Spalding Voice, the Guardian and the London Gazette. A copy of the notice is included at <b>Appendix D: Published Section 47 and Section 48 Notices</b> (Doc Ref. 5.1).																		
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th><b>Newspaper(s)</b></th> <th><b>Date</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="2">a)</td> <td rowspan="2">for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the Proposed Development would be situated;</td> <td>Spalding Voice</td> <td>17 April 2025 24 April 2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>b)</td> <td>once in a national newspaper;</td> <td>The Guardian</td> <td>24 April 2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>c)</td> <td>once in the London Gazette and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette; and</td> <td>London Gazette</td> <td>24 April 2025</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					<b>Newspaper(s)</b>	<b>Date</b>	a)	for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the Proposed Development would be situated;	Spalding Voice	17 April 2025 24 April 2025			b)	once in a national newspaper;	The Guardian	24 April 2025	c)	once in the London Gazette and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette; and	London Gazette	24 April 2025
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d)	where the proposed application relates to offshore development – (i) once in Lloyds List; and (ii) once in an appropriate fishing trade journal?	<b>Not applicable.</b> The Scheme 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?	<b>Yes.</b> The Applicant included the required information within the Section 48 notice. A copy of the notice is included at <b>Appendix D: Published Section 47 and Section 48 Notices</b> (Doc Ref. 5.1).	
<b>Information</b>		<b>Paragraph</b>	
a)	the name and address of the applicant.	b)	a statement that the applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Secretary of State
	Paragraph 1, beginning “ <i>Notice is hereby given...</i> ” contains the name and address of the Applicant.		Paragraph 1, beginning “ <i>Notice is hereby given...</i> ” states that the Applicant intends to make an application.
c)	a statement as to whether the application is EIA development	d)	a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the proposed development
	Paragraph 10, beginning “ <i>The Scheme is an Environmental Impact Assessment...</i> ” states the application is an EIA development.		Paragraph 5, beginning “ <i>The Proposed Application comprises...</i> ” summarises the main proposals and the location/route of the Scheme.
e)	a statement that the documents, plans and maps were available on a website maintained by or on behalf of	f)	the latest date on which those documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection
	Paragraph 13, beginning “ <i>The Consultation Documents are available...</i> ” states that		Paragraph 11, beginning “ <i>The Applicant is undertaking...</i> ” states that

	<p>the Applicant. The statement must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the nature and location of the Proposed Development</li> <li>• the address of the website</li> <li>• the place on the website</li> <li>• a telephone number which can be used to contact the applicant for enquiries in relation to the documents, plans and maps.</li> </ul>	<p>the documents are available to view on the website for the Scheme.</p> <p>Paragraph 4 onwards, beginning “<i>The land required for the...</i>” summarises the nature and location of the Scheme.</p> <p>Paragraph 13, beginning “<i>The Consultation Documents are available...</i>” provides the location and address of the website.</p> <p>Paragraph 23, beginning “<i>if you have any questions...</i>” contains a telephone number through which the Applicant can be contacted.</p>			<p>the materials will be available from 24 April 2025 to 8 June 2025.</p>
g)	<p>whether a charge will be made for copies of any of the</p>	<p>Paragraph 19, beginning “<i>All Consultation</i></p>	h)	<p>details of how to respond to the publicity</p>	<p>Paragraphs 20 to 21, beginning “<i>Comments and representations in</i></p>

	documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge	<i>Documents, including the SoCC...</i> states a charge of £0.35 per page will be made for hard copies.		<i>response...</i> sets out details of how to respond publicly.
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 21, beginning <i>“Responses must be received by the Applicant”</i> states that responses must be received by 11:59pm on 8 June 2025.		
21	Are there any observations in respect of the s48 notice provided above?			
	<b>No.</b>			
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 Section 48 notice was sent to the EIA consultation bodies, as defined in Regulation 3 of the EIA Regulations, as part of the statutory consultation. A sample of letter sent is included in <b>Appendix E: Statutory Consultation Materials</b> (Doc Ref. 5.1) which confirms a copy of the Section 48 notice was included.		
<b>s49: Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity</b>				
23	Has the applicant had regard to any relevant responses to the s42, s47 and s48 consultation?	<b>Yes.</b> The <b>Consultation Report</b> (Doc Ref. 5.1), <b>Appendix H: Section 42 Applicant’s Responses</b> and <b>Appendix I: Section 47 Applicant’s Responses</b> set out how the Applicant has had regard to the consultation responses		

		<p>received as part of the statutory consultation including where a response has led to a change to the Scheme.</p> <p><b>Appendix K: Targeted Consultation Applicant’s Responses</b> and <b>Appendix L: Additional Targeted Consultation – Materials and Applicant’s Response</b> set out how the Applicant had regard to the consultation response received as part of the two further consultations.</p>
<p><b>S50(3) Regard to guidance about pre-application procedure</b></p>		
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 A: Consultation Compliance Checklist</b> to the <b>Consultation Report</b> (Doc Ref. 5.1) demonstrates that the Applicant conducted its consultation in compliance with the “Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant infrastructure Projects,” issued in April 2024 under Section 50.</p>
25	<p><b>Summary: Section 55(3)(e)</b></p>	
<p><b>s55(3)(f) and s55(5A): The application (including accompaniments) achieves a satisfactory standard having regard to the extent to which it complies with section 37(3) (form and contents of application) and with any standards set under section 37(5) and follows any applicable guidance under section 37(4)</b></p>		
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> </ul>	<p><b>Yes.</b> Section 4 of the <b>Application Form</b> (Doc Ref. 1.2) explains why the Scheme is within the remit of the Planning Inspectorate. Section 5 of the <b>Application Form</b> (Doc Ref. 1.2) provides a brief non-technical description of the application site and Section 6 of the <b>Application Form</b> (Doc Ref. 1.2) describes the location of the Scheme.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a brief statement that clearly identifies the location of the application site, or the route if it is a linear scheme?</li> </ul>	A <b>Location Plan</b> (Doc Ref. 2.1) has been submitted as part of the DCO Application.								
27	Is it accompanied by a consultation report?	<b>Yes.</b> The DCO Application is accompanied by a <b>Consultation Report</b> (Doc Ref. 5.1) and supporting appendices.								
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?	<b>Yes.</b> A key plan is included on the plans.								
29	Is it accompanied by the documents and information set out in APFP Regulation 5(2)?	Yes. The documents and information required by APFP Regulation 5(2) are listed below and detailed within the <b>Guide to the Application</b> (Doc Ref. 1.3), <b>Navigation Document</b> (Doc Ref. 1.4) and <b>Electronic Application Index</b> (Doc Ref. 1.6).								
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b) The draft development consent order (DCO)	<b>Draft Development Consent Order</b> (Doc Ref. 3.1)									

		Volume 6 comprises three parts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ES Chapters</b> (Doc Ref. 6.1)</li> <li>• <b>ES Figures</b> (Doc Ref. 6.2)</li> <li>• <b>ES Appendices</b> (Doc Ref. 6.3)</li> </ul>			
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?			Is this of a satisfactory standard?	
c)	An explanatory memorandum explaining the purpose and effect of provisions in the draft DCO	<b>Explanatory Memorandum</b> (Doc Ref. 3.2)	d)	Where applicable, a book of reference	<b>Book of Reference</b> (Doc Ref. 4.3)
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?			Is this of a satisfactory standard?	
e)	A copy of any flood risk assessment	<b>ES Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment</b> (Doc Ref. 6.3)	f)	A statement whether the proposal engages one or more of the matters set out in section 79(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (statutory nuisances) and if so how the	<b>Statutory Nuisance Statement</b> (Doc Ref. 7.6)

			Applicant proposes to mitigate or limit them	
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	
h)	A statement of reasons and a funding statement (where the application involves any compulsory acquisition)	<b>Statement of Reasons</b> (Doc Ref. 4.1) <b>Funding Statement</b> (Doc Ref. 4.2)	i) <p>A land plan identifying:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the land required for, or affected by, the proposed development;</li> <li>(ii) where applicable, any land over which it is proposed to exercise powers of compulsory acquisition or any rights to use land;</li> <li>(iii) any land in relation to which it is proposed to extinguish easements, servitudes and other private rights; and</li> <li>(iv) any special category land and replacement land</li> </ul>	<b>Land and Crown Land Plans</b> (Doc Ref. 2.4) <b>Special Category Land Plans</b> (Doc Ref. 2.5)

	Is this of a satisfactory standard?			Is this of a satisfactory standard?	
j)	<p>A works plan showing, in relation to existing features:-</p> <p>(i) the proposed location or (for a linear scheme) the proposed route and alignment of the development and works; and</p> <p>(ii) the limits within which the development and works may be carried out and any limits of deviation provided for in the draft DCO</p>	<b>Works Plans</b> (Doc Ref. 2.3)	k)	<p>Where applicable, a plan identifying any new or altered means of access, stopping up of streets or roads or any diversions, extinguishments or creation of rights of way or public rights of navigation</p>	<b>Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans</b> (Doc Ref. 2.6)
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?			Is this of a satisfactory standard?	
i)	<p>Where applicable, a plan with accompanying information identifying:-</p> <p>(i) any statutory or non-statutory sites or features of nature</p>	<b>Statutory or Non-Statutory Sites or Features of Nature Conservation</b> (Doc Ref. 2.9)	m)	<p>Where applicable, a plan with accompanying information identifying any statutory or non-statutory sites or features of the historic</p>	<b>Statutory or Non-Statutory Sites or Features of the Historic Environment Plan</b> (Doc Ref. 2.10)

n)	<p>conservation, for example 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><b>Waterbodies in a River Basin Management Plan</b> (Doc Ref. 2.11)</p> <p><b>Hedgerow Regulations and Tree Preservation Orders Plan</b> (Doc Ref. 2.12)</p>	o)	<p>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>	
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?			Is this of a satisfactory standard?	
	Where applicable, a plan with any accompanying information identifying any Crown land	<b>Land and Crown Land Plans</b> (Doc Ref. 2.4)		Any other plans, drawings and sections necessary to describe the development consent proposal showing details of	<b>Master Key Plan</b> (Doc Ref. 2.2) <b>Traffic Regulation Measures Plans</b> (Doc Ref. 2.7)

p)			q)	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	<b>Indicative and Illustrative Layout Plans and Sections</b> (Doc Ref. 2.8)
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?			Are they of a satisfactory standard?	
	Any of the documents prescribed by regulation 6 of the APFP regulations:	<b>Grid Connection Statement</b> (Doc Ref. 7.5)		Any other documents considered necessary to support the application	<b>Cover Letter</b> (Doc Ref. 1.1) <b>Guide to the Application</b> (Doc Ref. 1.3) <b>Navigation Document</b> (Doc Ref. 1.4) <b>Section 55 Checklist</b> (Doc Ref 1.5) <b>Electronic Application Index</b> (Doc Ref. 1.6) <b>Land Rights Tracker</b> (Doc Ref. 4.4) <b>Planning Statement</b> (Doc Ref. 7.1) <b>Inter-Relationships with Other Projects</b> (Doc Ref. 7.2) <b>Design Approach Document</b> (Doc Ref. 7.3)

				<p><b>Design Parameters</b> (Doc Ref. 7.4)</p> <p><b>Environmental Mitigation and Commitments Register</b> (Doc Ref. 7.7)</p> <p><b>EMF Compliance Assessment</b> (Doc Ref. 7.8)</p> <p><b>Biodiversity Net Gain Report</b> (Doc Ref. 7.9)</p> <p><b>Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan</b> (Doc Ref. 7.10)</p> <p><b>Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan</b> (Doc Ref. 7.11)</p> <p><b>Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan</b> (Doc Ref. 7.12)</p> <p><b>Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan</b> (Doc Ref. 7.13)</p> <p><b>Outline Soil Management Plan</b> (Doc Ref. 7.14)</p> <p><b>Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan</b> (Doc Ref. 7.15)</p>
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				<b>Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan</b> (Doc Ref. 7.16) <b>Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan</b> (Doc Ref. 7.17) <b>Outline Battery Safety Management Plan</b> (Doc Ref. 7.18) <b>Outline Site Waste Management Plan</b> (Doc Ref. 7.19)
	Are they of a satisfactory standard?			Are they of a satisfactory standard?
30	Are there any observations in respect of the documents provided at Box 29 (a) to (q) above?			
	<b>N/A</b>			
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. The application is accompanied by <b>ES Appendix 9-14: Habitats Regulations Assessment Report</b> (Doc Ref. 6.3)	

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?	<b>Not applicable.</b> The Planning Inspectorate has not requested any hard copies of the application.
33	Has the applicant had regard to statutory guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Application form guidance'?	Yes. The <b>Cover Letter</b> (Doc Ref. 1.1) confirms the Applicant has had regard to the statutory guidance on the preparation of the DCO Application.
34	<b>Summary - s55(3)(f) and s55(5A)</b>	
<b>The Infrastructure Planning (Fees) Regulations 2010 (as amended)</b>		
<b>Pre-application fee</b>		
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 notice. 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</p>	<b>Yes.</b> The Applicant made a payment by BACS transfer for pre-application services in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (Fees) Regulations 2010 and the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus.

	further steps in relation to the proposed application.	
<b>Fees to accompany an application</b>		
36	<p>Was the fee paid at the same time that the application was made?</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate must charge the applicant a fee in respect of the decision by the Planning Inspectorate under section 55 of the PA2008. If the applicant fails to pay the fee, the Planning Inspectorate need not consider the application until payment is received. The fee must be paid at the same time that the application is made</p>	<p><b>Yes.</b> The fee was paid via BACS transfer on 13 March 2026 ahead of the submission of the DCO Application. This payment was confirmed as received by the Planning Inspectorate on 17 March 2026.</p>

Role	Electronic signature	Date
Case Manager		
Acceptance Inspector		