



Planning Inspectorate
Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

Section 55

Acceptance of Applications Checklist

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

Meridian Solar Farm 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
		20 March 2026	17 April 2026	15 April 2026
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	<p>Yes</p> <p>The proposed development set out in schedule 1 of the Draft DCO (Doc 3.1) includes development falling within the categories in s14 of the PA2008. The</p>		

	<p>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 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>	<p>development is for the construction of a generating station and installation of an electric line above ground and satisfies section 15 and 16 of the PA2008.</p> <p>This is consistent with the summary provided in section 4 of the Application Form (Doc 1.2) which states that the application is for an NSIP.</p>
3	<p>Summary: Section 55(3)(a) and s55(3)(c)</p>	<p>The Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the Draft DCO (Doc 3.1) includes development for which development consent is required.</p>
<p>Section 55(3)(e): The applicant in relation to the application made has complied with chapter 2 of part 5 (pre-application procedure)</p>		
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</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The applicant originally notified the Planning Inspectorate on 23 April 2025 before the start of statutory consultation, however, owing to a clerical error, the Planning Inspectorate's email address for this project was incorrect on the Find a National Infrastructure Project website, causing the notice to go undelivered. The notification was resent and acknowledged by the Planning Inspectorate on 9 May 2025. The Planning Inspectorate acknowledged notification in accordance with regulation</p>

	<p>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>8(1)(b) of the EIA regulations of its intention to provide an environmental statement in respect of the proposed development.</p> <p>A copy of the notification letter is provided at appendix F of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1).</p>
5	<p>Have any Adequacy of Consultation Representations been received from 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' local authorities; and if so, do they confirm that the applicant has complied with the duties under s42, s47 and s48?</p> <p>Section 55(4) of the PA2008 provides that the Planning Inspectorate must have regard to the Consultation Report, and any Adequacy of Consultation Representations received.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>There are 16 host and neighbouring authorities, of which 8 responded to the Planning Inspectorate's invitation to make an AoCR dated 23 March 2026.</p> <p>All 8 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 has no comments/objections to make. These local authorities were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lincolnshire County Council (C authority) • South Holland District Council (B authority)* • Boston Borough Council (A authority)* • Leicestershire County Council (D authority) • North East Lincolnshire Council (D authority) • Norfolk County Council (D authority) • North Lincolnshire Council (D authority) • Cambridgeshire County Council (D authority) <p>*South Holland District Council confirmed that the applicant had consulted the council in accordance with the legislation and provided additional comments on the consultations and engagement.</p> <p>*Boston Borough Council provided an additional comment on the level of engagement that occurred with the council.</p>

		<p>All AoCRs received have been carefully considered and are available to view on the Find a National Infrastructure Project website: https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010169/documents</p> <p>Additionally, the Planning Inspectorate has received a submission relating to the applicant's consultation amongst other matters.</p> <p>This has been published here: https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010169/s51advice/100000260</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate has considered the representation in relation to concerns bearing directly on adequacy of consultation. The Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the applicant has complied with its statutory obligations.</p>
<p>Section 42: Duty to consult</p>		
<p>Did the Applicant consult the applicable persons set out in s42 of the PA2008 about the proposed application?</p>		
<p>6</p>	<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) on 24 April 2025 at appendix G of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1).</p> <p>A sample of the letter sent to s42(1)(a) consultees is provided at appendix E of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1).</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate has identified the following parties based on a precautionary interpretation of the APFP regulations that were not consulted by the applicant under s42:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Defence • NATS En-Route Safeguarding • ES Pipelines Ltd

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GTC Pipelines Limited • Advanced Electricity Networks Ltd • AGR Networks Ltd • Aurora Utilities Ltd • Fulcrum Electricity Assets Limited • Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru Ltd • National Energy System Operator (NESO) • Greater Lincolnshire Combined Council Authority <p>None of the bodies listed above have been identified by the applicant as having an interest in the order land and are not listed in the Book of Reference (Doc 4.3).</p> <p>Section 51 advice has been issued to the applicant in respect of the above matter and is available to view on the Find a National Infrastructure Project website: https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/EN010169-000373</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>	N/A
8	<p>Section 42(1)(b) each local authority within s43?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Table 7-1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) lists the relevant local authorities that were identified and consulted under s43 and s42(1)(b) on 24 April 2025.</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>The host 'B' authority was consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Holland District Council (B authority) <p>The host 'C' authority was consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lincolnshire County Council (C authority) <p>The boundary 'A' authorities were consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Kesteven District Council (A authority) • South Kesteven District Council (A authority) • Boston Borough Council (A authority) • Fenland District Council (A authority) • King's Lynn and West Norfolk District Council (A authority) <p>The boundary 'D' authorities were consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North East Lincolnshire Council (D authority) • North Lincolnshire Council (D authority) • Norfolk County Council (D authority) • Peterborough City Council (D authority) • Leicestershire County Council (D authority) • Cambridgeshire County Council (D authority) • Nottinghamshire County Council (D authority) • Leicestershire County Council (D authority) <p>A sample of the letter sent to s42(1)(b) relevant authorities is provided at appendix E of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1).</p>
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		Paragraph 7.2.6 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) states that owing to an administrative oversight Rutland County Council (D authority) and North Northamptonshire Council (D authority) were not notified of the stage two consultation under Section 42 of the Act at the time it commenced. This omission was identified and rectified on 2 December 2025. The applicant confirms that both authorities were given 28 days to respond, however no responses were received.
9	Section 42(1)(c) the Greater London Authority (if in Greater London area)?	N/A
10	Section 42(1)(d) each person in one or more of s44 categories? Category 1: owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of land Category 2: person interested in the land or has power to sell and convey the land or to release the land Category 3: persons who would or might be entitled to make a relevant claim	Yes Paragraph 7.2.15 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) states that all persons identified under s42(1)(d) were consulted on 24 April 2025. Appendix A of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) summarises how the applicant made diligent inquiry to seek to identify and consult persons with an interest in lands affected by the Draft DCO (Doc 3.1) . The persons consulted under s42(1)(d) are listed in the Book of Reference (Doc 4.3) . A sample of the letter is provided at appendix E of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) .
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	Yes A sample of the letter sent to s42 consultees is provided at appendix E of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) .

	<p>after receipt of the consultation documents?</p>	<p>The sample letter dated 24 April 2025 confirmed that consultation commenced on 24 April 2025 and closed on 08 June 2025, providing more than the required minimum time for receipt of responses.</p> <p>Targeted Consultation (24 September to 22 October 2025)</p> <p>Samples of the letter sent to consultees is provided at appendix J of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1).</p> <p>The sample letters dated 22 September 2025 confirmed that the consultation commenced on 24 September 2025 and closed on 22 October 2025 providing the required minimum time for receipt of responses.</p> <p>Additional Targeted Consultation (8 January to 5 February 2026)</p> <p>A sample of the letter sent to consultees is provided at appendix L of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1).</p> <p>The sample letter dated 8 January 2026 confirmed that the consultation commenced on 8 January 2026 and closed on 5 February 2026, providing the required minimum time for receipt of responses.</p>
<p>Section 46: Duty to notify The Planning Inspectorate of proposed application</p>		
<p>12</p>	<p>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>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The applicant originally gave notice under section 46 on 23 April 2025 before the beginning of the section 42 statutory consultation, however, owing to a clerical error, the Planning Inspectorate's email address for this project was incorrect on the Find a National Infrastructure Project website, causing the notice to go undelivered. The notification was resent on 8 May 2025 and acknowledged by the Planning Inspectorate on 9 May 2025. The Planning Inspectorate acknowledged notification 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.</p>

		A copy of the s46 notification letter is provided at appendix F of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) and a copy of s46 notification acknowledgement letter from the Planning Inspectorate is provided at appendix F of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) .
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?	Yes A copy of the applicant's final SoCC is provided at appendix C of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) .
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?	Yes The applicant sent the draft SoCC to South Holland District Council ('B' authority') and Lincolnshire County Council ('C' authority) on 31 October 2024 and set a deadline of 29 November 2024 for responses; providing the required minimum time for responses to be received.
15	Has the applicant had regard to any responses received when preparing the SoCC?	Yes Table 6-1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) provides a summary of the consultation responses from South Holland District Council and Lincolnshire County Council in respect of the draft SoCC and demonstrates how the applicant had regard to their content. Examples of changes from the draft SoCC to the final SoCC include:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the applicant confirmed it intended to hold three in-person consultation events and two online information presentations during the stage two consultation period. • Updated the SoCC to confirm that copies of consultation materials would be available at the following additional locations: Spalding Library, Holbeach Library, Tonic Health Centre Spalding and Tonic Health Centre Holbeach. • updated the language to reflect “seldom heard groups”. <p>The Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the applicant had regard to the responses received when preparing the SoCC.</p>
16	<p>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>	<p>Yes</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"> • Crowland Hub and Library, Hall Street, Crowland, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire PE6 0EW • Spalding Library, Victoria Street, Spalding PE11 1EA • Holbeach Library, Co-Op Store, 5 Fleet Street, Holbeach, Spalding PE12 7AX • Tonic Health Centre Spalding, 6 Broadgate House, Westlode Street, Spalding PE11 2AF • Tonic Health Centre Holbeach, Holbeach Hub, Boston Road South, Holbeach PE12 7LR <p>A notice stating when and where the final SoCC could be inspected was published in Spalding and South Holland Voice on 17 April and 24 April 2025.</p> <p>The published SoCC notice, provided at appendix D of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) 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 3.4 of the final SoCC at appendix C of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) 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>Paragraphs 7.4 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) set out how the community consultation was carried out in line with the final SoCC.</p> <p>Appendix C of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) 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 (as amended) APFP regulations?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Paragraph 7.4.22 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) states:</p> <p>“In accordance with Regulation 4(2) of the APFP Regulations, the Applicant published a notice as required by Section 48 of the PA2008 for the stage two consultation.”</p> <p>Table 7-7, 7-8 and appendix A of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) displays the newspapers and dates of s48 publicity as set out below.</p> <p>A copy of the s48 notice is provided at appendix D of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1).</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"> Spalding and South Holland Voice 	17 April 2025 24 April 2025
b)	once in a national newspaper;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Guardian 	24 April 2025
c)	once in the London Gazette and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette; and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> London Gazette 	24 April 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 (as amended) APFP regulations?	Yes The published s48 notice, supplied at appendix D of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) , contains the required information as set out below:	
Information		Paragraph	Information
			Paragraph

a)	the name and address of the applicant.	1	b)	a statement that the applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Secretary of State	1
c)	a statement as to whether the application is EIA development	10	d)	a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the proposed development	5
e)	<p>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:</p> <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 	13, 4, and 22	f)	the latest date on which those documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection	11
g)	whether a charge will be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge	16	h)	details of how to respond to the publicity	18 and 19

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	20	
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?	<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 paragraph 5.3.1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1).</p> <p>A sample of the s42 consultation letter provided at appendix E of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) confirms a copy of the s48 notice was enclosed.</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>Chapters 8 and 9, appendix H and I the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) sets out how the applicant had regard to the consultation responses received; including whether or not responses led to changes to the application.</p> <p>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.</p>	

		<p>Targeted Consultations (24 September - 22 October 2025 and 8 January to 5 February 2026)</p> <p>Appendix K and appendix L of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) 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.</p>
<p>S50(3) Regard to guidance about pre-application procedure</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>Appendix A of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) states that the applicant has had regard to all relevant statutory guidance.</p> <p>The applicant submitted an adequacy of consultation milestone statement in November 2025.</p> <p>Appendix M of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) sets out how the applicant has had regard to advice provided by the Planning Inspectorate under s51. The applicant did not submit an Issues Tracker during the pre-application stage, which forms part of the primary service features of the Planning Inspectorate's 2024 Pre-Application Prospectus. Additionally, the applicant failed to provide a main issues section in its Programme Document, amongst some other elements, setting out the applicant's view of the main issues for resolution arising from the proposed development and the activities it would undertake to address those.</p> <p>However, having reviewed the application, the Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the applicant has identified and had regard to the relevant statutory guidance.</p>
25	<p>Summary: Section 55(3)(e)</p>	<p>The applicant has complied with chapter 2 of part 5 (pre-application procedure) of the PA2008.</p>

		In respect of the minor consultation discrepancies identified, s51 advice has been provided to the applicant and is available to view on the Find a National Infrastructure Project website: https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/EN010169-000373
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 (Doc 1.2) explains why the development falls within the remit of the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>Section 5 of the Application Form (Doc 1.2) provides a brief non-technical description of the site and section 6 provides the location of the proposed development.</p> <p>A Location Plan (Doc 2.1) has been provided.</p>
27	Is it accompanied by a consultation report?	<p>Yes</p> <p>The application is accompanied by a Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) and Consultation Report Appendices (Doc 5.1).</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	Yes

	purpose and effect of provisions in the draft DCO			
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes (with minor discrepancies as noted in box 30)		Is this of a satisfactory standard? Yes (with minor discrepancies as noted in box 30)
e)	A copy of any flood risk assessment	ES Appendix 11-3: Flood Risk Assessment (Doc 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 applicant proposes to mitigate or limit them Statutory Nuisance Statement (Doc 7.6)
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes (with minor discrepancies as noted in box 30)		Is this of a satisfactory standard? Yes
h)	A statement of reasons and a funding statement (where the application involves any compulsory acquisition)	Statement of Reasons (Doc 4.1) Funding Statement (Doc 4.2)	i)	A land plan identifying: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the land required for, or affected by, the proposed development where applicable, any land over which Land and Crown Land Plans – Section A Solar Development Area (Doc 2.4) Land and Crown Land Plans – Section B Grid Connection (Doc 2.4) Special Category Land Plan (Doc 2.5)

				<p>it is proposed to exercise powers of compulsory acquisition or any rights to use land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> any land in relation to which it is proposed to extinguish easements, servitudes and other private rights; and any special category land and replacement land 	
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes (with minor discrepancies as noted in box 30)
j)	<p>A works plan showing, in relation to existing features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proposed location or (for a linear scheme) the proposed route and alignment of the 	<p>Works Plans - Section A Solar Development Area (Doc 2.3)</p> <p>Works Plans - Section B Grid Connection (Doc 2.3)</p>	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>	<p>Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans – Section A Solar Development Area (Doc 2.6)</p> <p>Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans – Section B Grid Connection (Doc 2.6)</p>

	<p>development and works; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the limits within which the development and works may be carried out and any limits of deviation provided for in the draft DCO 				
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes (with minor discrepancies as noted in box 30)		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes (with minor discrepancies as noted in box 30)
l)	<p>Where applicable, a plan with accompanying information identifying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> any statutory or non-statutory sites or features of nature conservation, for example sites of geological or 	<p>A and B. Statutory or Non-Statutory Sites or Features of Nature Conservation – Section A Solar Development Area (Doc 2.9)</p> <p>Statutory or Non-Statutory Sites or</p>	m)	<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</p>	<p>Statutory or Non-Statutory Sites or Features of the Historic Environment - Section A Solar Development Area (Doc 2.10)</p> <p>Statutory or Non-Statutory Sites or Features of the Historic Environment – Section B Grid Connection (Doc 2.10)</p> <p>Accompanying ES figures:</p> <p>Figure 8-1: Designated Heritage Assets - Solar Development Area</p>

<p>landscape importance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> habitats of protected species, important habitats or other diversity features; and water bodies in a river basin management plan; <p>together with an assessment of any effects on such sites, features, habitats or bodies likely to be caused by the proposed development</p>	<p>Features of Nature Conservation – Section B Grid Connection (Doc 2.9)</p> <p>Accompanying ES figures:</p> <p>Figure 9-1: Internationally Important Wildlife Sites within 20 km (Doc 6.2)</p> <p>Figure 9-2: Nationally Designated and Non-Statutory Sites within 2 km (Doc 6.2)</p> <p>Figure 9-3: UKHab - Part 1 Baseline (Doc 6.2)</p> <p>An Assessment of these is provided in ES chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity</p>		<p>effects on such sites, features or structures likely to be caused by the proposed development</p>	<p>and Inter-Array Connections (Doc 6.2)</p> <p>Figure 8-2: Non-Designated Heritage Assets - Solar Development Area and Inter-Array Connections (Doc 6.2)</p> <p>ES Figure 8-3: Designated Heritage Assets - Grid Connection Route (Doc 6.2)</p> <p>ES Figure 8-4: Non-Designated Heritage Assets - Grid Connection Route (Doc 6.2)</p> <p>An assessment of the above is provided in ES chapter 8: Cultural Heritage [Doc 6.1] and Planning Statement - Appendix E: Heritage Harm Statement (Doc 7.1)</p>
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		<p>(Doc 6.1) and ES Appendix 9-14: Habitats Regulations Assessment Report (Doc 6.3)</p> <p>C. Waterbodies in a River Basin Management Plan – Section A Solar Development Area (Doc 2.11)</p> <p>Waterbodies in a River Basin Management Plan – Section B Grid Connection (Doc 2.11)</p> <p>Accompanying ES figure 11-5: WFD River Water Body Catchments (Doc 6.2)</p> <p>An assessment of these is provided in ES Chapter 11:</p>			
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		Hydrology and Flood Risk (Doc 6.1) and ES Appendix 11-2: Water Framework Directive Report (Doc 6.3)			
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes
n)	Where applicable, a plan with any accompanying information identifying any Crown land	Land and Crown Land Plans – Section A Solar Development Area (Doc 2.4) Land and Crown Land Plans – Section B Grid Connection (Doc 2.4)	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	Overall Location Plan (Doc 2.1) Master Key Plan (Doc 2.2) Traffic Regulations Plans – Section A Solar Development Area (Doc 2.7) Traffic Regulations Plans -Section B Grid Connection (Doc 2.7) Indicative and Illustrative Layout Plans and Sections – Section A Solar Development Area (Doc 2.8) Indicative and Illustrative Layout Plans and Sections – Section B Grid Connection (Doc 2.8)

	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes (with minor discrepancies as noted in box 30)		Are they of a satisfactory standard?	Yes
p)	Any of the documents prescribed by regulation 6 of the APFP regulations	Grid Connection Statement (Doc 7.5)	q)	Any other documents considered necessary to support the application	Application Cover Letter (Doc 1.1) Application Form (Doc 1.2) Guide to the Application (Doc 1.3) Navigation Document (Doc 1.4) Schedule of Other Consents and Licences (Doc 3.3) Land Rights Tracker (Doc 4.4) Planning Statement (Doc 7.1) Planning Statement – Appendix A Planning History (Doc 7.1) Planning Statement – Appendix B National Policy Statement Accordance Tables (Doc 7.1) Planning Statement – Appendix C NPPF and Local Policy Accordance Tables (Doc 7.1) Planning Statement – Appendix D Site Selection Report (Doc 7.1) Planning Statement – Appendix E Heritage Harm Statement (Doc 7.1)

				<p>Planning Statement – Appendix F Mineral Safeguarding Assessment (Doc 7.1)</p> <p>Inter-Relationships with Other NSIPs Report (Doc 7.2)</p> <p>Design Approach Document (Doc 7.3)</p> <p>Design Parameters (Doc 7.4)</p> <p>Environmental Mitigation and Commitments Register (Doc 7.7)</p> <p>EMF Compliance Report (Doc 7.8)</p> <p>Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Doc 7.9)</p> <p>Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (Doc 7.10)</p> <p>Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (Doc 7.11)</p> <p>Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (Doc 7.12)</p> <p>Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan – Part 1 (Doc 7.13)</p> <p>Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan – Part 2 (Doc 7.13)</p> <p>Outline Soil Management Plan (Doc 7.14)</p>
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				Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Doc 7.15) Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Doc 7.16) Outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan (Doc 7.17) Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (Doc 7.18) Outline Site Waste Management Plan (Doc 7.19) Potential Main Issues for Examination (Doc 7.20)
	Are they of a satisfactory standard?	Yes		Are they of a satisfactory standard?
				Yes (with minor discrepancies as noted in box 30)
30	Are there any observations in respect of the documents provided at box 29 (a) to (q) above?			
	Book of Reference (Doc 4.3) Some plot descriptions appear to be inaccurate. For example, plot A8-9 is described as “Holbeach Drove Gate” which does not match the street name of the plot on sheet 10 of the Land and Crown Land Plans – Section A Solar Development Area (Doc 2.4). Land and Crown Land Plans – Section A Solar Development Area (Doc 2.4) Check street names are accurate. For example, the A16 Crowland Bypass is shown on sheets 3 and 4, which does not align with the description “A16 Cowbit Road,” referenced in several plots in the Book of Reference (Doc 4.3).			

There appears to be an unlabelled plot to the east of plot A12-5 on sheet 12 of 12.

The extent of plots A12-4, A12-7 and A12-8, inset of sheet 12 of 12, are difficult to make out.

Insets may be helpful where plots are unclear, for example A8-2 and A11-9.

Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans – Section B Grid Connection (Doc 2.6)

Street names such as Whirl Gate and Austendike Road are missing from sheet no 3B.

Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Doc 7.15) and Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans – Section A (Doc 2.6)

Crow/7/1 is missing from sheet 1A, Crow/12/1 is missing from sheet 6a and Flee/8/2, Flee/7/1 and Flee/8/1 are missing from sheet 12A.

Land Rights Tracker (Doc 4.4)

The applicant is asked to check the formatting of this document as pages 29 and 30 appear to be a continuation from page 26 for 'Other Interests'. Whereas pages 27 and 28 relate to statutory undertakers.

Development Consent Order (Doc 3.1) Schedule 2 – Requirements

Requirement 16 (Permissive Path): the applicant is advised to review the wording of this requirement as it refers to work no. 9(d) which corresponds to the installation of fibre optic earth wire conductors.

Environmental Statement (ES) (Doc 6.1)

All chapters: several documents submitted in support of the application are titled differently from the versions referenced within the ES. For example, Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (Doc 6.1) refers to "Planning Statement Appendix E: Heritage Statement of Harm" (Doc 7.1), whereas the submitted Doc 7.1 is titled "Planning Statement Appendix E: Heritage Harm Statement". These inconsistencies make it unclear whether the correct and final versions of the documents have been provided. Please ensure that document titles are aligned and used consistently throughout the application.

	Section 51 advice has been issued to the applicant and is available to view on the Find a National Infrastructure Project website: https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/EN010169-000373	
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)?	<p>Yes</p> <p>A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report is provided at appendix 9-14 of the Environmental Statement (Doc 6.3).</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 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.</p>
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>Yes</p> <p>Appendix A of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) 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	Summary - s55(3)(f) and s55(5A)	<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: https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/EN010169-000373</p>
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The Infrastructure Planning (Fees) Regulations 2010

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 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>	<p>The fees for providing the applicant with standard pre-application services were received on 23 December 2024, 29 May 2025 and 27 November 2025 before the application was made.</p>
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	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 received on 13 March 2026, before the application was made.

Role	Electronic signature	Date
Case Manager	<i>Naoual Margoum</i>	15 April 2026
Acceptance Inspector	<i>Samantha Murphy</i>	15 April 2026