



Planning Inspectorate
Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

Section 55

Acceptance of Applications Checklist

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

Green Hill 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
		23 May 2025	20 June 2025	19 June 2025
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	Yes The Proposed Development set out in Schedule 1 of the Draft Development Consent Order (Doc 3.1) includes development falling within the categories in s14 of the PA2008. The development is for the construction of a Generating Station and satisfies section 15 of the PA2008; including subsection 2.		

	<p>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>This is consistent with the summary provided in section 4 of the Application Form (Doc 1.1) 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 Development Consent Order (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 development to which the application relates, or (b) notify The Planning</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>On 30 October 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 Proposed Development. The notification was received before the start of statutory consultation on 7 November 2024.</p>

	<p>Inspectorate in writing that it proposed to provide an environmental statement in respect of that development?</p>	<p>A copy of the notification letter is provided at Appendix 7.5 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1).</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>Yes</p> <p>There are 4 host and 15 neighbouring authorities, of which 14 responded to the Planning Inspectorate's invitation to make an Adequacy of Consultation Representation (AoCR) dated 23 May 2025.</p> <p>All 14 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 the authority had no comments / objections to make. These local authorities were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Northamptonshire Council (B Authority) * • Milton Keynes City Council (B authority) • Bedford Borough Council (B Authority) • West Northamptonshire (B Authority) • Central Bedfordshire Council (A authority) • Leicestershire County Council (A authority) • Oxfordshire County Council (A authority) • Stratford-on-Avon District Council (A authority) • Cambridgeshire County Council (A authority) • Rutland County Council (A Authority) • Rugby Borough Council (A Authority)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huntingdonshire District Council (A Authority) • Peterborough City Council (A Authority) • Warwickshire County Council (A Authority) * <p>*North Northamptonshire Council have acknowledged that the Applicant has complied with its legal duties to consult. However, the Council commented that the information provided by the Applicant was limited and the consultation did not feel effective. The Council referred to Stop Green Hill Solar Action Group's response.</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate has had regard to North Northamptonshire Council's response where it concerns the adequacy of consultation. However, the Planning Inspectorate has not had regard to matters which relate to the merits of the application. Where an interested party believes they have identified an issue during consultation which has not been adequately addressed by the Applicant, they should consider making a relevant representation about the matter, where an application is accepted for examination. This will ensure the issue is considered during the examination.</p> <p>*Warwickshire County Council stated that they were unable to provide their comments on whether the Applicant had complied with their legal duties. The Council advise that they are unaware of the project but have no interests in the area. The Applicant's Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) would suggest that the Council was consulted as a s42(1)(b) consultee.</p> <p>Based on the responses received, the Planning Inspectorate considers that the Applicant has complied with the duties under s42, s47 and s48.</p> <p>All AoCRs received have been carefully considered and are available to view on the National Infrastructure Planning website:</p>
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		https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010170/documents?stage-2=Adequacy%20of%20Consultation%20Representation&itemsPerPage=25 .
Section 42: Duty to consult		
Did the applicant consult the applicable persons set out in s42 of the PA2008 about the proposed application?		
6	<p>Section 42(1)(a) persons prescribed?</p> <p>The persons prescribed are the statutory consultees set out in schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the APFP regulations).</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>The Applicant has provided a list of persons consulted under s42(1)(a) on 25 October 2024 at Appendix 5.7 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1).</p> <p>A sample of the letter sent to s42(1)(a) consultees is provided at Appendix 5.7 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1).</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate has identified the following party based on a precautionary interpretation of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations) that was not consulted by the Applicant under s42:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru Ltd <p>The Applicant's Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) does not appear to show if this body identified had been consulted. However, it is noted that the licence held by this body covers Great Britain or various smaller areas and the operational area is not clear from information in the public domain.</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate has identified that owing to an administrative oversight, several neighbouring local authorities were not identified as s42(1)(a) consultees. It has also been identified that there is inconsistency between Table 8.1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) and the list of s42 consultees provided in Appendix 5.7 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1).</p>

		<p>Please see box 30 and section 51 advice provided following acceptance. However, the Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the Applicant consulted all relevant authorities as s42(1)(b) authorities.</p> <p>None of the bodies listed above have been identified by the Applicant as having an interest in the Order Limits 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: https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010170/documents</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>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</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Table 8.1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) lists the relevant local authorities that were identified and consulted under s43 and s42(1)(b) on 30 October 2024.</p> <p>The host 'B' authorities consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Northamptonshire Council • West Northamptonshire Council • Milton Keynes City Council

	<p>tier) where such an authority shares a boundary with a 'C' authority.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bedford Borough Council * <p>The boundary 'A' authorities were consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Bedfordshire Council • Buckinghamshire Council • Cherwell District Council • Stratford-on-Avon District Council • Rugby Borough Council • Harborough District Council • Rutland County Council • Peterborough City Council • Huntingdonshire District Council • South Kesteven District Council • Oxfordshire County Council • Warwickshire County Council • Leicestershire County Council • Lincolnshire County Council • Cambridgeshire County Council <p>A sample of the letter sent to s42(1)(b) relevant authorities is provided at Appendix 5.7 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1).</p> <p>* The Planning Inspectorate's interpretation of the GIS Shapefile is that Bedford Borough Council should have been treated as a 'B' authority, also known as a 'host authority'. However, the Applicant is of the belief that the council hold an 'A' authority status. Additionally, Bedford Borough Council in its adequacy of</p>
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		consultation response have confirmed their position as being an 'A' authority and have expressed no concerns with the way the Applicant has carried out its consultation. The Planning Inspectorate therefore is satisfied that no council has been prejudiced during the pre-application stage and that the Applicant's consultation was completed adequately.
9	Section 42(1)(c) the Greater London Authority (if in Greater London area)?	N/A
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</p> <p>Paragraph 4.7.5 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) states that all persons identified under s42(1)(d) were consulted on 26 or 27 October 2024.</p> <p>Paragraphs 4.7.4 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 full methodology undertaken by the Applicant is provided in Section 7 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1).</p> <p>The persons consulted under s42(1)(d) are listed in the Book of Reference (Doc 4.3).</p> <p>A sample of the letter is provided at Appendix 5.7 of the Consultation Report (Doc 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	<p>Yes</p> <p>A sample of the letter sent to s42 consultees is provided at Appendix 7.1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1).</p>

	starting with the day after receipt of the consultation documents?	<p>The sample letter dated 25 October 2024 confirmed that consultation commenced on 7 November 2024 and closed on 19 December 2024, providing more than the required minimum time for receipt of responses.</p> <p>Targeted Consultation (March-April 2025)</p> <p>A sample of the letter sent to s42 consultees is provided at Appendix 5.11 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1).</p> <p>The sample letter dated 11 March 2025 confirmed that consultation closed on 10 April 2025, providing more than the required minimum time 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 gave notice under s46 on 30 October 2025, which was before the beginning of s42 consultation.</p> <p>A copy of the s46 notification letter is provided at Appendix 5.7 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) and a copy of s46 notification acknowledgement letter from the Planning Inspectorate is provided at Appendix 5.7 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1).</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>A copy of the final SoCC is provided at Appendix 5.5 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1).</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 sent the draft SoCC to North Northamptonshire Council, West Northamptonshire Council and Milton Keynes City Council ('B' authorities) on 12 August 2024 and set a deadline of 20 December 2024 for responses; providing more than the required minimum time for responses to be received.</p> <p>While the Planning Inspectorate considers that Bedford Borough Council should have been treated as a 'B' authority in its interpretation of the Applicant's GIS Shapefile, and therefore the Council should have been consulted on the SoCC, it is considered that Bedford Borough Council has not been prejudiced by this possible omission given the Council's view that it is an 'A' authority and its opinion on the adequacy of consultation.</p>
15	Has the applicant had regard to any responses received when preparing the SoCC?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Appendix 5.5 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) provides the consultation responses from Milton Keynes and North Northamptonshire Council in respect of the draft SoCC. The table on page 30 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) demonstrates how the Applicant had regard to their content.</p> <p>Examples of changes from the draft SoCC to the final SoCC include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation dates were amended from November 2024 and January 2025 to Thursday 7 November to Thursday 19 December 2024 • Walgrave to be considered as a host for one of the in-person consultation events • All references to 'hard-to-reach groups' were updated to 'seldom-heard' in the SoCC. <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 are reasonably convenient having regard to the location of the Proposed Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brixworth Library • Wellingborough Library • Duston Library • Earls Barton Library • Milton Keynes Library • Moulton Community Library <p>A notice stating when and where the final SoCC could be inspected was published in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daventry Express - Thursday 31 October 2024 • Northampton Chronicle & Echo - Thursday 31 October 2024 • Northamptonshire Telegraph - Thursday 31 October 2024 • Milton Keynes Citizen - Thursday 31 October 2024 • The Bucks Herald (Milton Keynes) - Wednesday 30 October 2024 • Times and Citizen (Bedfordshire) - Thursday 31 October 2024 <p>The published SoCC notice, provided at Appendix 5.9 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) states where and when the final SoCC was available to inspect.</p> <p>Paragraph 6.3.7 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) states Section 47 notices as published are provided in Appendix 5.9. However, no copies of the published advertisements are available within any part of the Consultation</p>
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		Report (Doc 5.1). However, the Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the Applicant has issued relevant newspaper notices based on the statements the Applicant has made in the Consultation Report (Doc 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?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Section 5 of the final SoCC at Appendix 5.5 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>Paragraph 6.5.1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) states that the community consultation was carried out in line with the final SoCC.</p> <p>Table 6.3 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) sets out how the Applicant has complied with the commitments set out in the final SoCC.</p> <p>Section 1.1 of Appendix 5.2 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) provides evidence that the commitments within the final SoCC have been carried out.</p> <p>Although the Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the Applicant has carried out the consultation in line with the final SoCC, the following observations have been noted with regards to certain commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Planning inspectorate notes that the section 47 notices were published in several newspapers, but no clippings of these notices have been provided. However, the Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the Applicant has issued relevant newspaper notices based on the statements the Applicant has made in the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1).

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 6.6.2 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) states:</p> <p>“Regulation 4 of the Act sets out what the publicity under s48 of the Act should entail. Specifically, Regulation 4 requires an applicant to publish the notice for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers and once in a national newspaper. The Applicant placed notices in the London Gazette and The Guardian in addition to local publications.”</p> <p>Table 6.4 & 6.5 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 5.9 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1).</p> <p>Clippings of the published notices set out below are provided at Appendix 5.9 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1):</p>												
<table><tr><th colspan="2">Newspaper(s)</th><th>Date</th></tr><tr><td>a)</td><td>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><ul style="list-style-type: none">Northamptonshire TelegraphMilton Keynes CitizenTimes and Citizen (Bedfordshire)</td><td>Thursday 31 October 2024 and Thursday 7 November 2024</td></tr><tr><td>b)</td><td>once in a national newspaper;</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">The Guardian</td><td>Thursday 31 October 2024</td></tr></table>				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">Northamptonshire TelegraphMilton Keynes CitizenTimes and Citizen (Bedfordshire)	Thursday 31 October 2024 and Thursday 7 November 2024	b)	once in a national newspaper;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Guardian	Thursday 31 October 2024
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">Northamptonshire TelegraphMilton Keynes CitizenTimes and Citizen (Bedfordshire)	Thursday 31 October 2024 and Thursday 7 November 2024											
b)	once in a national newspaper;	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Guardian	Thursday 31 October 2024											

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	Thursday 31 October 2024
d)	where the proposed application relates to offshore development – (i) once in Lloyds List; and (ii) once in an appropriate fishing trade journal?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">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 5.9 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) , contains the required information as set out below:	
Information		Paragraph	
a)	the name and address of the applicant.	1	
c)	a statement as to whether the application is EIA development	5	
e)	a statement that the documents, plans and maps were available on a website maintained by or on behalf of the applicant. The statement must include:	7 & 13	
Information		Paragraph	
b)	a statement that the applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Secretary of State	1	
d)	a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the proposed development	2, 3 & 4	
f)	the latest date on which those documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection	7	

	<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 				
g)	whether a charge will be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge	14	h)	details of how to respond to the publicity	15 & 16
i)	a deadline for receipt of those responses by the applicant, being not less than 28 days following the date when the notice is last published	17			
21	Are there any observations in respect of the s48 notice provided above?				
	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	Yes			

	accordance with regulation 13 of the EIA regulations?	<p>A copy of the s48 notice was sent to the EIA consultation bodies as part of the s42 consultation, as confirmed in paragraph 6.6.4 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1).</p> <p>A sample of the s42 consultation letter provided at Appendix 5.7 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>Appendix 5.8, Appendix 5.10, Appendix 5.12 and Appendix 5.13 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) set 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>
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</p>	<p>Paragraph 6.5.2 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 on 7 February 2025. The Applicant has demonstrated that it has had regard to the advice issued by the Planning Inspectorate in relation to the statement in Appendix 5.2 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1).</p>

	has had regard to guidance issued under s50.	Having reviewed the application, the Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the Applicant has identified and had regard to the relevant statutory guidance.
25	Summary: Section 55(3)(e)	<p>The Applicant has complied with Chapter 2 of Part 5 (pre-application procedure) of the PA2008.</p> <p>In respect of the consultation discrepancies identified, s51 advice has been provided to the Applicant in this regard, available here: https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010170/documents</p>
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 1.1) explains why the development falls within the remit of the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>Section 5 of the Application Form (Doc 1.1) 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 to 5.13).</p>

28	In accordance with regulation 5(4) of the APFP regulations, where a plan comprises three or more separate sheets, has a key plan been provided showing the relationship between the different sheets?	Yes												
29	Is it accompanied by the documents and information set out in APFP regulation 5(2)?	Yes The documents and information required by APFP Regulation 5(2) are set out in the documents and locations within the application as listed below:												
<table><tr><th colspan="2">Information</th><th>Document</th><th colspan="2">Information</th><th>Document</th></tr><tr><td>a)</td><td>Where applicable, an environmental statement required under the EIA regulations and any scoping or screening opinions or directions</td><td>Environmental Statement Contents Glossary and Abbreviations (Doc 6.1) Environmental Statement Chapters (Doc 6.2) Environmental Statement Appendices (Doc 6.3)</td><td>b)</td><td>a draft development consent order (DCO)</td><td>Draft Development Consent Order (Doc 3.1)</td></tr></table>			Information		Document	Information		Document	a)	Where applicable, an environmental statement required under the EIA regulations and any scoping or screening opinions or directions	Environmental Statement Contents Glossary and Abbreviations (Doc 6.1) Environmental Statement Chapters (Doc 6.2) Environmental Statement Appendices (Doc 6.3)	b)	a draft development consent order (DCO)	Draft Development Consent Order (Doc 3.1)
Information		Document	Information		Document									
a)	Where applicable, an environmental statement required under the EIA regulations and any scoping or screening opinions or directions	Environmental Statement Contents Glossary and Abbreviations (Doc 6.1) Environmental Statement Chapters (Doc 6.2) Environmental Statement Appendices (Doc 6.3)	b)	a draft development consent order (DCO)	Draft Development Consent Order (Doc 3.1)									

c)		Environmental Statement Figures (Doc 6.4) Environmental Statement Non-Technical Summary (Doc 6.5) Environmental Statement Appendix 2.1: EIA Scoping Report (Doc 6.3.2.1) Environmental Statement Appendix 2.2: EIA Scoping Opinion (Doc 6.3.2.2)	d)		
	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)
	An explanatory memorandum explaining the purpose and effect of provisions in the draft DCO	Explanatory Memorandum (Doc 3.2)		Where applicable, a book of reference	Book of Reference (Doc 4.3)

	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	Environmental Statement Appendices 10.1-10.11: Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy (Doc 6.3.10.1 - 6.3.10.11)	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 7.14)
	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 it is proposed to exercise powers of 	Land Plan (Doc 2.2)

j)			k)	<p>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 (with minor discrepancies as noted in Box 30).		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes (with minor discrepancies as noted in Box 30).
	<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 	Works Plan (Doc 2.4)		<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 Plan (Doc 2.5)</p> <p>Public Rights of Way Plan (Doc 2.6)</p> <p>Access to Works Plan (Doc 2.7)</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 landscape importance 	<p>Ecology and Nature Conservation Features Plan – Plan of Statutory / Non-statutory Sites or Features of Nature Conservation (Doc 2.9)</p> <p>Environmental Statement Appendix 9.1: Preliminary</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>Historic Environment Features Plan (Doc 2.10)</p> <p>Environmental Statement Chapter 12: Cultural Heritage (Doc 6.2.12)</p> <p>Environmental Statement Appendix 12.2: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Doc 6.3.12.2)</p> <p>Environmental Statement Appendix 12.3: Air Photo and LiDAR Mapping and Interpretation (Doc 6.3.12.3)</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>Ecological Appraisal (Doc 6.3.9.1)</p> <p>Hedgerow and Tree Protection Order Plan (Doc 2.11)</p> <p>Environmental Statement Appendix 9.1: Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Doc 6.3.9.1)</p> <p>Waterbodies River Basin Management Plan (Doc 2.8)</p> <p>Environmental Statement Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity (Doc 6.2.9)</p> <p>Habitats Regulations Assessment (Doc 7.21)</p>		<p>effects on such sites, features or structures likely to be caused by the proposed development</p>	<p>Environmental Statement Appendix 12.4: Archaeological Geophysical Survey Reports (Doc 6.3.12.4)</p> <p>Environmental Statement Appendix 12.5: Interim Evaluation Trial Trenching Reports (Doc 6.3.12.5)</p>
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n)		Environmental Statement Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage (Doc 6.2.10) Environmental Statement Appendix 10.1-10.10: Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy (Doc 6.3.10.1-6.3.10.10) Water Framework Directive Assessment (Doc 7.22)	o)		
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes
	Where applicable, a plan with any accompanying information identifying any Crown land	Crown Land Plan (Doc 2.3)		Any other plans, drawings and sections necessary to describe the development consent proposal showing details of design, external	Location Plan (Doc 2.1)

p)			q)	appearance, and the preferred layout of buildings, structures, drainage, surface water management, means of vehicular and pedestrian access, any car parking and landscaping	
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes		Are they of a satisfactory standard?	Yes
	Any of the documents prescribed by regulation 6 of the APFP regulations	Grid Connection Statement (Doc 7.13)		Any other documents considered necessary to support the application	Application Form (Doc 1.1) Application Covering Letter (Doc 1.2) Guide to the Application (Doc 1.3) Application Technical Index (Doc 1.4) Section 55 Checklist (Doc 1.5) Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (Doc 7.1) Outline Operation Environmental Management Plan (Doc 7.2) Outline Decommissioning Statement (Doc 7.3)

				Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (Doc 7.4) Outline Ecological Protection and Mitigation Strategy (Doc 7.5) Outline Soil Management Plan (Doc 7.6) Outline Battery Storage Safety Management Plan (Doc 7.7) Outline Skills Supply Chain and Employment Plan (Doc 7.8) Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (Doc 7.9) Outline Public Rights of Way and Permissive Paths Management Plan (Doc 7.10) Consents and Agreements Position Statement (Doc 7.11) Statement of Need (Doc 7.12) Planning Statement (Doc 7.15) Design Approach Document (Doc 7.16) Concept Design Parameters and Principles (Doc 7.17) Crossing Schedule (Doc 7.18) Water Resources Assessment (Doc 7.19)
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					Equality Impact Assessment (Doc 7.20) Habitats Regulations Assessment (Doc 7.21) Water Framework Directive Assessment (Doc 7.22) Policy Compliance Document (Doc 7.23) Potential Main Issues for the Examination (Doc 7.24) Outline Operational Traffic Management Plan (Doc 7.25) Artificial Intelligence Statement (Doc 7.26) Farming Report (Doc 7.27) Empirical Evidence on Glint and Glare from Solar PV Installations Near UK Aerodromes (Doc 7.28)
	Are they of a satisfactory standard?	Yes		Are they of a satisfactory standard?	Yes
30	Are there any observations in respect of the documents provided at box 29 (a) to (q) above?				
	Environmental Statement Chapter 3: The Development Site (Doc 6.2.3)				

It is noted that the sum of the area of the Sites (approximately 1,200.7ha) and the area of the Cable Route Corridor (approximately 168ha) equates to 1,368.7ha, which is approximately 72.7ha difference from the total 1,441.4ha of the Order Limits identified in section 3.3 of Environmental Statement Chapter 3. An email dated 11 June 2025 was sent to the Applicant requesting that they direct the Planning Inspectorate to information in the application of this 'missing' 72.7ha. The Applicant replied signposting us to information in the Environmental Statement confirming that the 'missing' area relates to land required for temporary access routes, construction compounds and permanent accesses. No further action is required on the matter.

It is observed that paragraph 3.3.1 of ES Chapter 3 states that the nine sites (the Sites) all lie within a 20km radius of the Point of Connection (PoC) to the National Grid at the Grendon Substation whereas paragraph 2.2.1 of the Planning Statement states this radius is 15km.

Environmental Statement Chapter 10: Hydrology, Flood Risk and Drainage (Doc 6.2.10)

Paragraph 16.6.21 and others mention how land drains are ditches. Generally, land drains are underground drainage pipes whereas ditches are watercourses. The document has often referred to ditches as watercourses. There should be consistency within the document as paragraph 10.6.55 mentions land drainage ditches whereas paragraph 10.6.53 suggests that land drainage ditches and watercourses are two different designations.

Environmental Statement Appendix 2.2: EIA Scoping Opinion (Doc 6.3.2.2)

The reference number on the cover page of this document is incorrect [EN010170/APP/GH6.3.2.1] and should be [EN010170/APP/GH6.3.2.2].

Environmental Statement Appendices 10.1-10.11: Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy (Doc 6.3.10.1 to 6.3.10.11)

The Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) does not differentiate between flood zone 3a (high probability of flooding) and flood zone 3b (functional floodplain) in relation to the proposed development.

Draft Development Consent Order (Doc 3.1)

No contents or index page has been included within the draft DCO.

At Page 74 it states 'Approximately 575m of Bridleway reference TN/007 between points marked 5a/i and 5a/ii on sheet 5 of the public rights of way plan'. This should refer to sheet 7.

On Page 77, the provisions regarding Footpath MK Lavendon 005 should refer to sheet 17 of the PROW plan as well as sheet 18.

On Page 85 “between reference points 4a and 5a and shaded purple on sheet 4 of the streets plan” should refer to sheets 4 and 5.

On Page 87 “between reference points 12n and 13e and shaded purple on sheet 12 of the streets plan” should refer to sheets 12 and 13.

Schedule 12 Part 1 and Part 3 transpose the terms “green” and “orange” in the “Extent of removal” column of the tables throughout. This means that the type of hedgerow proposed for removal is unclear as the green and orange line styles in the Hedge Plan relate to Important Hedgerow and Hedgerow respectively.

It is unclear whether Hedgerows H122a and CR5aB37 on Sheet 11 of the Hedge Plan are meant to be shown by a green or orange line as both appear to have been used.

Schedule 13 of the dDCO: The Archaeological Mitigation Strategy document reference is incorrect and should be GH6.3.12.6. Also the Outline Drainage Strategy is named FRA-Drainage Strategy in the folder so either the reference in the dDCO or the name of the document should be updated.

Explanatory Memorandum (Doc 3.2)

Paragraph 4.6.17 incorrectly refers to the Arbitration Rules section as Schedule 15, when these are at Schedule 14.

Paragraph 5.6.1 incorrectly refers to “public rights of way to be temporarily closed (Part 1)” when it should say “streets to be temporarily closed (Part 1)”.

Statement of Reasons (Doc 4.1)

Omits an explanation of the other rights and powers sought by Articles 28-39 of the dDCO. Justification for the missing articles is provided in the Explanatory Memorandum.

Book of Reference (Doc 4.3)

Not all parcels of land are listed in sections 8 and 9.

Land Plan (Doc 2.2)

The Local Authority and Parish Boundary marker and cut line are very similar in the plan key.

In the Book of Reference Plot 02-029 states to lie ‘east of Rectory Farm’ in the BoR. However it appears to be west of Rectory Farm.

Due to the proximity and size of some land parcels it could be seen that some land parcels could benefit from the provision of additional insets to aid the understanding for parties to an examination. Some examples where there may be a benefit are plots 04-038, 04-039-b, 04-39, 08-092, 08-096-a 12-146, 12-156, 12-195, 13-174 and 14-185. **Streets Plan (Doc 2.5)**

Some of the affected streets on the Streets Plan (2.5) are shown by a purple and green line, some by a purple line only. However in the dDCO all such routes are described as purple. It may assist interpretation if routes are described as purple and green where applicable.

Crown Land Plans (Doc 2.3)

There is no schedule of Crown Land Plans in the dDCO.

Works Plan (Doc 2.4)

There are accuracy issues within this document. There is some incorrect labelling of polygons in mapping for example Sheets 2 and 3 (annotation 3C appears twice on some polygons). Sheet 6 (green dotted polygon appears to be erroneously annotated 1(d) and 6. Sheets 8 and 9 (Area coloured 10B is labelled as 10A).

Furthermore, there are many instances where Work Numbers are shown in keys but do not appear on sheets, for example Work No 8A on sheet 1 and 10A on sheet 5, 3B on sheet 2, 5B is labelled as 5A on sheets 13 to 17. The Applicant should complete a thorough check of the plans as this list is not comprehensive.

Public Rights of Way Plan (Doc 2.6)

References 15c/i and 15g/i are both missing from the plan.

Consultation Report and Appendices (Doc 5.1)

On page 30, no table number has been allocated for the table which outlines the feedback received from the consultation on the SoCC and how the applicant had regard to these matters.

No newspaper clippings of the section 47 notices have been made available. Despite the Consultation report stating that these can be located within Appendix 5.9.

Table of contents is not hyperlinked and there are no page numbers.

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 7.21 of the Environmental Statement (Doc 6.2).</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>The Application Covering Letter (Doc 1.2) 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)	The Planning Inspectorate concludes that the application (including accompaniments) has been prepared to a standard that it considers satisfactory.

		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 National Infrastructure Planning website, here: https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010170/documents
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 further steps in relation to the proposed application.</p>	<p>The fees for providing the applicant with basic pre-application services were received on 31 October 2024 and 2 June 2025; before the application was made.</p>

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 20 May 2025 before the application was made.

Role	Electronic signature	Date
Case Manager	<i>Jessica Weatherby</i>	19 June 2025
Acceptance Inspector	<i>Catherine Beeby</i>	19 June 2025