



Planning Inspectorate
Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

Section 55

Acceptance of Applications Checklist

Appendix 2 of Advice on the preparation and submission of application documents

The Droles 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
		Wednesday 19 November 2025	Wednesday 17 December 2025	16 December 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 with s31 of the	Yes 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 development is for the construction of a generating station		

	<p>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>and satisfies sections 14 and 15 of the PA2008, including s14(1)(a),15(1) and 15(2).</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	Summary: Section 55(3)(a) and s55(3)(c)	The Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the Draft DCO (Doc 3.1) includes development for which development consent is required.
Section 55(3)(e): The applicant in relation to the application made has complied with chapter 2 of part 5 (pre-application procedure)		
4	<p>In accordance with regulation 8 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA regulations), did the applicant (prior to carrying out consultation in accordance with s42) either (a) request The Planning Inspectorate adopt a screening opinion in respect of the development to which the application relates, or (b) notify The Planning Inspectorate in writing that it proposed to provide an environmental statement in respect of that development?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>On 14 May 2025 the applicant notified The Planning Inspectorate in accordance with regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA regulations of its intention to provide an environmental statement in respect of the proposed development. The notification was received before the start of statutory consultation on 21 May 2025.</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 14 host and neighbouring authorities, of which 14 responded to the Planning Inspectorate's invitation to make an AoCR dated 20 November 2025.</p> <p>12 responding authorities confirmed in their AoCR that either the applicant had complied with its duties under s42, s47 and s48 of the PA2008 and/ or that their authority had no comments/ objections to make.</p> <p>These local authorities were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breckland District Council ('B' Authority) • Norfolk County Council ('C' Authority) • King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council ('A' Authority) • East Cambridgeshire District Council ('A' Authority) • Mid Suffolk District Council ('A' Authority) • Fenland District Council ('A' Authority) • North Norfolk Conty Council ('A' Authority) • The Broads National Park ('A' Authority) • West Suffolk Council ('A' Authority) • Lincolnshire County Council ('D' authority) • Cambridgeshire County Council ('D' Authority) • Suffolk County Council ('D' Authority)
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		<p>The following 'A' authorities replied to state that they would not be taking part as the proposed development was not within their boundary areas:</p> <p>South Holland District Council Broadland District Council and South Norfolk 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/<u>The Drovers Solar Farm - Project information</u></p>
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) at appendix G of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2).</p> <p>A sample of the letter sent to s42(1)(a) consultees is provided at appendix E of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2).</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"> • The Equality and Human Rights Commission • The Commission for Sustainable Development

		<p>The applicant's Consultation Report (Doc 5.2) does not explain why the bodies identified above have not been consulted. However, it is noted that the licences held by these bodies cover Great Britain or various smaller areas and the operational areas of each are not clear from information in the public domain.</p> <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/...</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>Not applicable.</p> <p>The Applicant did not consult the Marine Management Organisation under section 42(1)(aa) of the Act, as the scheme is not considered likely to affect any of the areas specified in subsection (2) of Section 42 (e.g. tidal or offshore areas) or schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations.</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</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Table 10 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) lists the relevant local authorities that were identified and consulted under Section 43 and Section 42(1)(b) of the PA 2008 on 21 May 2025.</p> <p>The host authorities, Breckland Council and Norfolk County Council are categorised as categories 'B' and 'C' respectively.</p> <p>The host 'B' authority was consulted:</p>

	<p>tier) where such an authority shares a boundary with a 'C' authority.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breckland District Council <p>The host 'C' authority was consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norfolk County Council <p>The boundary 'A' authorities were consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadland District Council • East Cambridgeshire District Council • Fenland District Council • King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council • Mid Suffolk District Council • North Norfolk District Council • South Holland District Council • South Norfolk Council • The Broads National Park • West Suffolk Council <p>The boundary 'D' authorities were consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambridgeshire County Council • Lincolnshire County Council • Suffolk County Council <p>A sample of the letter sent to s42(1)(b) relevant authorities is provided at appendix E of the Consultation Report (Statutory Consultation Under Section 42 of the Act – Supporting Material).</p>
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9	Section 42(1)(c) the Greater London Authority (if in Greater London area)?	<p>Not applicable.</p> <p>The applicant did not consult the Greater London Authority ('the GLA') under section 42(1)(c) of the Act, as the scheme is not located within Greater London, and therefore the GLA is not a relevant consultee.</p>
10	<p>Section 42(1)(d) each person in one or more of s44 categories?</p> <p>Category 1: owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of land</p> <p>Category 2: person interested in the land or has power to sell and convey the land or to release the land</p> <p>Category 3: persons who would or might be entitled to make a relevant claim</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Paragraph 5.2.24 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) states that all persons identified under s42(1)(d) were consulted on 14 May 2025.</p> <p>Paragraphs 5.2.12 to 5.2.23 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) summarise 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).</p> <p>The persons consulted under s42(1)(d) are listed at Appendix E: Statutory Consultation Under Section 42 of the Act –Supporting Material (Doc 5.2).</p> <p>An example of the letter sent to consultees is included in Consultation Report Appendix E: Statutory Consultation Under Section 42 of the Act – Supporting Material (Doc 5.2).</p>
Section 45: Timetable for s42 consultation		
11	Did the applicant notify s42 consultees of the deadline for receipt of consultation responses; and if so was the deadline notified by the applicant 28 days or more starting with the day after receipt of the consultation documents?	<p>Yes</p> <p>A sample of the letter sent to s42 consultees is provided at appendix E of the Consultation Report (Statutory Consultation Under Section 42 of the Act –Supporting Material (Doc 5.2)).</p>

		The sample letter dated 8 May 2025 confirmed that consultation commenced on 21 May 2025 and closed on 9 July 2025, providing more than the required minimum time for receipt of responses.
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 15 May 2025, which was before the beginning of s42 consultation which began on 22 May 2025.</p> <p>A copy of the s46 notification letter is provided at appendix E of the Consultation Report (Statutory Consultation Under Section 42 of the Act – Supporting Material (Doc 5.2)) and a copy of s46 notification acknowledgement letter from The Planning Inspectorate is provided at appendix E of the Consultation Report (Statutory Consultation Under Section 42 of the Act – Supporting Material (Doc 5.2)).</p>
Section 47: Duty to consult local community		
13	Did the applicant prepare a statement of community consultation (SoCC) on how it intended to consult people living in the vicinity of the land?	<p>Yes</p> <p>A copy of the applicant's final SoCC is provided at appendix C of the Consultation Report (Copy of the SoCC and Compliance with the SoCC (Doc 5.2)).</p>
14	Were 'B' and (where relevant) 'C' authorities consulted about the content of the SoCC; and if	Yes

	<p>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>	<p>In accordance with Section 47(2) of the PA 2008, the draft SoCC was sent to Norfolk County Council, Breckland District Council and the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk on 5 February 2025. This marked the beginning of the 28-day formal consultation period, in compliance with the Act.</p> <p>A deadline for responses was set for 6 March 2025. A reminder notification was sent on 20 February 2025. Providing more than the required minimum time for responses to be received.</p> <p>A copy of the letters and emails sent to the host authorities can be found in Consultation Report Appendix E: Statutory Consultation Under Section 42 of the Act – Supporting Material (Doc 5.2) and Consultation Report Appendix F: Statutory Consultation Under Section 47 of the Act -Supporting Material (Doc 5.2).</p> <p>Consultation Report Appendix G: Section 42 - Responses Received and Applicants Response (Doc 5.2) and Consultation Report Appendix H: Section 47 - Responses Received and Applicants Response (Doc 5.2) set out the comments received on the draft SoCC from the host authorities.</p>
15	<p>Has the applicant had regard to any responses received when preparing the SoCC?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Appendix G of the Consultation Report (Section 42 - Responses Received and Applicants Response (Doc 5.2)) and Consultation Report Appendix H: Section 47 - Responses Received and Applicants Response (Doc 5.2)) provides a summary of the consultation responses from Borough Council of King's Lynn, West Norfolk, Breckland Council, East Cambridge District Council, Fenland District Council, Mid Suffolk District Council and Norfolk County Council in respect of the draft SoCC and demonstrates how the applicant had regard to their content.</p>

		<p>Examples of changes from the draft SoCC to the final SoCC include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant notes these comments and confirms the Customer Substation, National Grid Substation and BESS have been located in Fields 24 and 27 south of Bartholomew's Hill Plantation. Solar PV panels have also been removed entirely from Field 35 and the northern half of Field 33. • The applicant notes these comments and concerns around the impact of the scheme on visual receptors. The applicant confirms that the National Grid and Customer Substations and BESS have been located in Fields 24 and 27 south of Bartholomew's Hill Plantation. • The applicant notes that the PEIR is a preliminary assessment, the findings of which have been refined for inclusion in ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology (Doc 6.2). <p>The Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the applicant had regard to the responses received when preparing the SoCC.</p>
16	Has the SoCC been made available for inspection on a website maintained by or on behalf of the applicant; and has a notice been published in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land which states where and when the SoCC can be inspected?	<p>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"> • Swaffham Library • Narborough Community Centre • Westacre Theatre <p>A notice stating when and where the final SoCC could be inspected was published in:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Guardian and 14 May 2025 • The London Gazette and 14 May 2025 • Eastern Daily Press and 14 May 2025 then 21 May 2025 <p>The published SoCC notice, provided at appendix C of the Consultation Report (Copy of the SoCC and Compliance with the SoCC (Doc 5.2)) states where and when the final SoCC was available to inspect.</p> <p>Clippings of the published advertisements are provided in Copies of Newspaper Notices (Doc 1.7).</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>Paragraph 5 of the final SoCC at appendix C of the Consultation Report (Copy of the SoCC and Compliance with the SoCC (Doc 5.2)) sets out that the development is EIA development and sets out how the applicant intended to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information.</p>
18	Has the applicant carried out the consultation in accordance with the SoCC?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Section 2 of appendix C of the Consultation Report (Copy of the SoCC and Compliance with the SoCC (Doc 5.2)) Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) set out how the community consultation was carried out in line with the final SoCC.</p> <p>Appendices B, C and D 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 5.5.4 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) states:</p> <p>“In accordance with the requirements of Section 48 of the Act and Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations, notices publicising the consultation were published once in a nationally circulating newspaper, once in the London Gazette and twice in a locally circulating newspaper, containing the required information under Regulation 4(4) of the APFP Regulations.”</p> <p>Table 20 and 21 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 (Published Section 47 and Section 48 Notices).</p> <p>Clippings of the published notices set out below are provided at appendix D of the Consultation Report (Published Section 47 and Section 48 Notices).</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>The Eastern Daily Press</td><td>14 and 21 May 2025</td></tr><tr><td>b)</td><td>once in a national newspaper;</td><td>The Guardian</td><td>14 May 2025</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;	The Eastern Daily Press	14 and 21 May 2025	b)	once in a national newspaper;	The Guardian	14 May 2025
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;	The Eastern Daily Press	14 and 21 May 2025											
b)	once in a national newspaper;	The Guardian	14 May 2025											

c)	once in the London Gazette and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette; and	London Gazette No land in Scotland is affected by the scheme, and there was therefore no requirement to publish in the Edinburgh Gazette	14 May 2025		
d)	where the proposed application relates to offshore development – (i) once in Lloyds List; and (ii) once in an appropriate fishing trade journal?	N/A – the scheme does not relate to offshore development.	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 applicant included the required information within the Section 48 notice. This can be found within Copies of Newspaper Notices (Doc 1.7)			
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	5	d)	a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the proposed development	3
e)	a statement that the documents, plans and maps were available on a website	7	f)	the latest date on which those documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection	7

	<p>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 			
g)	whether a charge will be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge	16 and 17	h)	<p>details of how to respond to the publicity</p> <p>18 - 20</p>
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	<p>Are there any observations in respect of the s48 notice provided above?</p> <p>No</p>			
22	Has a copy of the s48 notice been sent to the EIA consultation bodies and to any person	Yes		

	notified to the applicant in 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 3.2.4 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1).</p> <p>A sample of the s42 consultation letter provided at appendix E of the Consultation Report (Statutory Consultation Under Section 42 of the Act – Supporting Material (Doc 5.2)) confirms a copy of the s48 notice was enclosed.</p> <p>The applicant did not receive notification of additional consultees under Regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations.</p>
s49: Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity		
23	Has the applicant had regard to any relevant responses to the s42, s47 and s48 consultation?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Chapter 7 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.</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>Consultation Report Appendix G: Section 42 - Responses Received and Applicants Response (Doc 5.2) and Consultation Report Appendix H: Section 47 - Responses Received and Applicants Response (Doc 5.2) set out responses received under section 42 and section 47 of the PA 2008 in verbatim (by topic area) and the regard had by the Applicant. None of the consultation responses specified that they had submitted under section 48 of the PA 2008.</p>

S50(3) Regard to guidance about pre-application procedure		
24	<p>To what extent has the applicant had regard to statutory guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects'?</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate must have regard to the extent to which the applicant has had regard to guidance issued under s50.</p>	<p>Paragraph 9.1.8 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 15 September 2025.</p> <p>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> <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/projects/...</p>
<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)</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"> a brief statement which explains why it falls within the remit of The Planning Inspectorate; and 	<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>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a brief statement that clearly identifies the location of the application site, or the route if it is a linear scheme?	A Location Plan (Doc 2.1) has been provided.														
27	Is it accompanied by a consultation report?	Yes The DCO Application is accompanied by a Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) and Consultation Report Appendices (Doc 5.2) .														
28	In accordance with regulation 5(4) of the APFP regulations, where a plan comprises three or more separate sheets, has a key plan been provided showing the relationship between the different sheets?	Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none">Location Plan (Doc 2.1)Land Plan (Doc 2.2)Works Plan (Doc 2.3)Streets Plan (Doc 2.4)Access and Rights of Way Plan (Doc 2.5)Hedgerow Plan (Doc 2.11)														
29	Is it accompanied by the documents and information set out in APFP regulation 5(2)?	The documents and information required by APFP regulation 5(2) are set out in the documents and locations within the application as listed below:														
<table><tr><th colspan="2">Information</th><th colspan="2">Document</th><th colspan="2">Information</th><th colspan="2">Document</th></tr><tr><td>a)</td><td>Where applicable, an environmental statement required under the EIA regulations and any</td><td>Environmental Statement Volume 1 (Doc 6.1)</td><td>b)</td><td>a draft development consent order (DCO)</td><td>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	Environmental Statement Volume 1 (Doc 6.1)	b)	a draft development consent order (DCO)	Development Consent Order (Doc 3.1)
Information		Document		Information		Document										
a)	Where applicable, an environmental statement required under the EIA regulations and any	Environmental Statement Volume 1 (Doc 6.1)	b)	a draft development consent order (DCO)	Development Consent Order (Doc 3.1)											

c)	scoping or screening opinions or directions	Environmental Statement Volume 2 (Doc 6.2) Environmental Statement Volume 3 (Doc 6.3) Environmental Statement Non-Technical Summary (Doc 6.5)	d)		
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes (with minor discrepancies as noted in box 30)		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes
	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 Appendix 12.2: Flood Risk	f)	A statement whether the proposal engages one or more of the matters set out in section 79(1) of the	Statutory Nuisance Statement (Doc 5.3)

h)		Assessment (Doc 6.4)	i)	Environmental Protection Act 1990 (statutory nuisances) and if so, how the applicant proposes to mitigate or limit them	
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes (with minor discrepancies as noted in box 30)		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes
	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)		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 compulsory acquisition or any rights to use land any land in relation to which it is proposed to extinguish easements, servitudes and 	Yes. The DCO application includes a Land Plan (Doc 2.2) showing the land required and affected by the scheme. This plan is in accordance with Regulation 5(2)(i) of the APFP Regulations. Plots and descriptions listed within the Book of Reference (Doc 4.3) are consistent with the plots shown on the Land Plan (Doc 2.2) .

j)			k)	other private rights; and	
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes (with minor discrepancies as noted in box 30)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> any special category land and replacement land 	
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes
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 development and works; and the limits within which the development and works may be carried out and any limits of deviation provided for in the draft DCO 	<p>Yes</p> <p>The DCO Application includes Works Plan (Doc 2.3). The Works Plan accord with APFP Regulation 5(2)(j), and show the proposed location of the development and the limits within which the works are proposed to be carried out.</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>Yes.</p> <p>The DCO Application includes a Streets Plan (Doc 2.4) and an Access and Rights of Way Plan (Doc 2.5). These plans are in accordance with Regulations 5(2)(k) and 5(2)(o) of the APFP Regulations respectively.</p>

	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes
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 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</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The DCO Application is accompanied by the following plans and drawings which are provided under Regulation 5(2)(l) of the APFP Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterbodies River Basin Management Plan (Doc 2.6) • Statutory Ecology and Nature Conservation Features Plan (Doc 2.7); and • Non-Statutory Ecology and Nature Conservation Features Plan (Doc 2.8). 	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 effects on such sites, features or structures likely to be caused by the proposed development</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Plans identifying any statutory and non-statutory sites of historic interest can be found in Statutory Historic Environment Features Plan (Doc 2.9) and Non-Statutory Historic Environment Features Plan (Doc 2.10).</p>

n)	caused by the proposed development		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	N/A		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	Yes. The DCO Application is accompanied by the following plans and drawings which are provided under Regulation 5(2)(o) of the APFP Regulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location Plan (Doc 2.1); and • Hedgerow Plan (Doc 2.11).
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	N/A		Are they of a satisfactory standard?	Yes
p)	Any of the documents prescribed by regulation	Grid Connection Statement (Doc 7.1)	q)	Any other documents considered necessary	Equality Impact Assessment (Doc 7.2)

	6 of the APFP regulations		to support the application	Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment (Doc 7.3) Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment Report (Doc 7.4) Consents and Agreements Position Statement (Doc 7.5) Outline Construction Environmental Management (Doc 7.6) Outline Construction Management Plan (Doc 7.7) Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (Doc 7.8) Outline Operational Traffic Management Plan (Doc 7.9) Outline Decommissioning Strategy (Doc 7.10) Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (Doc 7.11) Outline Right of Way and Permissive Path Management Plan (Doc 7.12) Outline Soil Management Plan (Doc 7.13)
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					Outline Battery Safety Management Plan (Doc 7.14) Outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Strategy (Doc 7.15) Planning Statement (Doc 5.5) Design Approach Document (Doc 5.7)
	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?				
	Environmental Statement (ES) (i) ES Chapter 3: Order limits and Context (Doc 6.1), and ES Chapter 16: Other Environmental matters (Doc 6.2) While ES Chapter 3, paragraph 3.2.22 refers to Royal Air Force (RAF) Marham being located approximately 8km southwest of the Site, ES Chapter 16, paragraph 16.6.11 refers to this distance being approximately 5.1km. (ii) ES Chapter 5: The Scheme (Doc 6.1) While Table 5-1 (page 9) potential decommissioning of the existing 400kV overhead line and pylons refers to up to 7 pylons would be removed, paragraph 5.3.45 refers to decommissioning of up to five pylons. (iii) ES Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Doc 6.2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paragraph 6.2.4 in relation to ES Figure 6.6: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (DSM) refers to a digital terrain model, whereas paragraph 6.4.7 refers to DSM as Digital Surface Model. Paragraph 6.2.5 in relation to ES Figure 6.5: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (DTM) refers to digital surface datasets, whereas paragraph 6.4.8 refers to DTM as Digital Terrain Model. Paragraph 6.6.60, first sentence ends in “<i>and.</i>” 				

(iv) ES Chapter 11: Soils and Agriculture (Doc 6.2)

Paragraphs 11.5.10, 11.5.11, 11.6.7 and 11.11.8 contain the following words *"Error! Reference source not found."*

(v) ES Non-Technical Summary (Doc 6.5)

Figure 2.1 Concept Masterplan - While the legend describes the dark blue cross-hatching as for the Grid Connection Infrastructure, there is no legend provided to describe what the light blue cross-hatching on the plan represents.

Development Consent Order (Doc 3.1)

Please review to ensure all articles and schedules are cross referenced correctly in any future versions

Explanatory Memorandum (Doc 3.2)

The proposed generating output has been included in the application documents as follows:

- Explanatory Memorandum (Doc 3.2) and draft DCO (Work 1) (Doc 3.1) as 'exceeds 50MW'.
- Page 4 of Doc 1.1 - Application cover letter, "The scheme provides up to 500MW of clean energy"
- Doc 5.4- Statement of Need, page 10, 6th paragraph "...the Scheme has a connection agreement for up to 500MW of export capacity".

Paragraph 1.4.3 of the Explanatory Memorandum also states that providing an upper limit is neither desirable or necessary, however we ask that the applicant provides further clarification on the intended output figure.

Book of Reference (Doc 4.3)

DCO articles are neither listed in the BoR or indicated in coloured plots in the Land Plans.

Flood Risk Assessment: ES Appendix 12.2 (Doc 6.4)

Paragraph 12.2.59 states “*As such, the Sequential is passed...*” whereas paragraph 12.2.54 refers to the Sequential Test. The Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) does not differentiate between Flood Zones 3(a) and 3(b).

Statement of Reasons (Doc 4.1)

Page 1 – 5th paragraph, first sentence, typographical error “*ummarised*”.

Funding Statement (Doc 4.2)

Details of the timing of the availability of the funding have not been provided.

Statutory Ecology and Nature Conservation Plan (Doc 2.7)

The Statutory Ecology and Nature Conservation Plan [Doc 2.7] appears to show an area which is less than the 25km distance used in the Environmental Statement’s study area from the red line boundary of the order limits of the proposed development.

Any other documents considered necessary to support the application:**Planning Statement (Doc 5.5)**

Paragraph 8.3.30 contains the following words: “*Error! Reference source not found.*”

Design Approach Document (Doc 5.7) Parts 2 and Part 3

- Paragraph 4.9.5 the words at the end of the second sentence are illegible.
- Figure 1.24: PEIR Concept Masterplan for Statutory Consultation – the descriptions used in the key are illegible.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Figure 1.30: Green Infrastructure Parameter Plan – with the exception of the order limits, the descriptions used in the key are illegible. <p>Explanatory list of abbreviations and acronyms would be helpful if included in all documents.</p> <p>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/projects/The Droves Solar Farm - Project information</p>
31	<p>In accordance with regulation 5(2)(g) of the APFP regulations, is the application accompanied by a report identifying any European site(s) to which regulation 48 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &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> <p>Yes.</p> <p>A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report (titled ‘Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment’) has been provided (Doc 7.3).</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> <p>Observations on the Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment (Doc 7.3):</p> <p>A plan has not been submitted with the HRA report to show the European sites potentially affected in relation to the proposed development (as required by Regulation 5(2)(l)(i) of the APFP Regulations) within 25km of the order limits of the proposed development site, as described in Section 3 of the HRA report.</p>

		A copy of the citation/Natura 2000 data sheets for each European site considered in the HRA report has not been submitted within the HRA report e.g. as an appendix to the HRA report.
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'?	Yes The Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the applicant has demonstrated regard to the guidance principles set out in 'Planning Act 2008: Application form guidance'.
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 Find a National Infrastructure Project website, here: https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects The Drovers Solar Farm - Project information
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 28 November 2024 and 29 May 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>	<p>The fee was received on 12 November 2025; before the application was made.</p>

Role	Electronic signature	Date
Case Manager	Louise Harraway	16 December 2025
Acceptance Inspector	Anthony Johnson	16 December 2025