

## STEP Fusion

### Section 51 Advice Log Version: 29 April 2026

There is a statutory duty under ['section 51 \(s51\) of the Planning Act 2008'](#) for The Planning Inspectorate to record the advice that it gives in relation to an application or potential application, and to make this publicly available.

This document comprises a record of the advice that has been provided by The Planning Inspectorate to the applicant UK Fusion Energy and their consultants during the pre-application stage. It will be updated by The Planning Inspectorate after every interaction with the applicant during which s51 has been provided. The applicant will always be given the opportunity to comment on The Planning Inspectorate's draft record of advice before it is published.

The applicant will use this advice log as the basis for demonstrating regard to s51 advice within the application.

Project name s51 Advice Log - Index	
Date of meeting	Meeting overview
04 December 2026	<a href="#">Inception Meeting</a>
29 April 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress to date and overview of next steps and timescales</li> <li>• Update on key themes and learning from stage 1 consultation</li> <li>• Status of and approach to engagement with key consultees</li> <li>• Proposed approach to environmental permitting</li> <li>• Approach to EIA Scoping</li> </ul>

**Project name - s51 Advice Library**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Meeting date: 29 April 2026</b>
Name Change	The applicant advised that it had recently changed its name from UK Industrial Fusion Solutions Ltd to UK Fusion Energy Ltd. The Inspectorate advised the applicant that this would require some administrative changes from the Inspectorate's side and requested the applicant follow up the meeting confirming the changes that had been made to allow for the name change to be updated accordingly.
Local Elections	The applicant advised it was working with the host authorities (Bassetlaw DC, West Lindsey DC, Nottinghamshire DC and Lincolnshire DC) to formalise their Planning Performance Agreements. The Inspectorate enquired as to whether the host authorities were subject to the local elections that are taking place in May 2026 and how the outcome of these may affect their timing in relation to formalising these agreements.
Surveying	The applicant advised with regards to ongoing work and future surveys and agreements which are yet to be made in relation to existing landowners. The Inspectorate enquired as to whether Section 52 or Section 53 would be required or result from these negotiations and to inform the Inspectorate at the earliest opportunity should these be required.
Environmental Permitting	<p>The applicant advised it was anticipating to propose a three-step approach with the Environment Agency in relation to environmental permitting and enquired as to what role the Inspectorate could play in relation to such discussions so as to ensure that any novel approach would align with the development of the DCO application.</p> <p>The applicant proposes a three-step approach with the Environment Agency, which comprises:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="560 1733 1358 1845">1. An Initial meeting to scope out operational permits required and identify all regulator SME's that need to be involved</li><li data-bbox="560 1883 1358 1995">2. A strategic meeting to align technical and legal positions and define the way forward right up to DCO submission</li></ol>

	<p>3. A technical kick off meeting, which then breaks out into a series of mini workshops to work collaboratively</p> <p>The Inspectorate advised it did not usually get involved in the permitting process during the pre-application process but noted it would be useful to understand the development of these conversations with the Environment Agency. The Inspectorate advised the applicant that it would consider the best course of action in terms of how it wished to approach the discussions that are being held with the Environment Agency in relation to the environmental permits and provide a response to the applicant regarding this in due course.</p>
EIA Scoping	<p>The applicant stated that there had been significant interest in the project given the novel technology. It explained that it had been engaging in technical meetings with the relevant consultation bodies including the local authorities, Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency to inform scoping. The Inspectorate queried whether the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and National Highways were also involved in these discussions and the applicant confirmed that discussions included National Highways but there had been little response to date from the MMO.</p> <p>The applicant advised the Inspectorate that it anticipated submitting a scoping request in Q4 of 2026. It stated it was mindful of Environmental Outcome Reports (EOR's) and queried whether this should be taken into consideration when organising the timelines of pre-application and submission.</p> <p>The Inspectorate advised that it was still early stages of EOR's and currently, these are likely to be implemented by the end of 2027 to replace the current EIA regime under the planning act. The Inspectorate advised that there would likely be transitional arrangements to manage existing projects in the planning system. However, no further details are available at this stage.</p>
Next Steps	<p>The applicant advised that it currently planned to undertake its EIA Scoping in Q4 of 2026 and was mindful that it needed to either conduct this in November prior to Christmas or after stage 2 consultation has taken place which is scheduled to take place in Q1 of 2027. The Inspectorate requested the applicant advise at the earliest opportunity should there be any refinement or alteration of these dates.</p> <p>The Inspectorate noted that they may wish to change from their current standard tier to enhanced depending on their</p>

	<p>needs and requirements of the Inspectorate’s involvement in pre-application, particularly in relation to environmental permitting, and advised the applicant that if this was the case that 3 months’ notice would be required.</p> <p>The Inspectorate requested the next meeting includes more information on the proposed scoping, particularly given how novel the technology is. The applicant agreed and also offered to share information on how fusion technology works. The Inspectorate agreed that this would be very helpful before the submission of the scoping request to provide detailed context.</p>
<p><b>Post Meeting Note (Environmental Permitting)</b></p>	<p>Following further discussion, the Inspectorate would consider it beneficial to be involved in any relevant environmental permitting meetings going forward, as an observer, in line with the standard tier. Should the applicant wish the Inspectorate to play a more active role in facilitating such sessions, this would require the applicant to move to the enhanced tier.</p>