

STEP Fusion

Section 51 Advice Log Version: 15 July 2026

This document comprises a record of the s51 advice that has been given by the Planning Inspectorate to the applicant (UK Fusion Energy) during the pre-application stage. It will be updated by the Planning Inspectorate after every interaction with the applicant within which s51 advice has been given.

The applicant will always be given the opportunity to comment on the Planning Inspectorate's draft record of the s51 advice given before it is published on the relevant project page on the [Find a National Infrastructure Project website](#).

The role of the advice log at the acceptance stage

Section 55(4) of the PA2008 requires the Planning Inspectorate to consider, amongst other things, the extent to which the applicant has had regard to the s51 advice given by the Planning Inspectorate in connection with the application when deciding if the application can be accepted for examination. Section 51 advice includes:

- advice given about applying for an order granting development consent
- advice given about making representations about an application for an order granting development consent

The applicant will use this advice log as the tool for demonstrating:

- regard to the s51 advice given to the applicant by the Planning Inspectorate
- regard to any s51 advice given to others by the Planning Inspectorate

The applicant will submit a final version of this advice log which demonstrates regard to all s51 given by the Planning Inspectorate at the pre-application stage as part of the application.

STEP Fusion – Applicant meeting index

Date of meeting	Meeting overview
29 April 2026	• Progress to date and overview of next steps and timescales • Update on key themes and learning from stage 1 consultation • Status of and approach to engagement with key consultees • Proposed approach to environmental permitting • Approach to EIA Scoping
15 July 2026	Email advice regarding Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025

STEP Fusion – Log of s51 given to the applicant

Meeting date: 29 April 2026

Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given
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 Inspectorates 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 this 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	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 roll 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. The applicant proposes a three-step approach with the Environment Agency, which comprises: 1. An Initial meeting to scope out operational permits required and identify all regulator SME's that need to be involved 2. A strategic meeting to align technical and legal positions and define the	

	way forward right up to DCO submission 3. A technical kick off meeting, which then breaks out into a series of mini workshops to work collaboratively 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.	
EIA Scoping	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. 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. 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.	
Next Steps	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. The Inspectorate noted that they may wish to change from their current standard tier to enhanced depending on their 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. 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.	
Post Meeting Note (Environmental Permitting)	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.	
STEP Fusion – Log of s51 given to the applicant		
Meeting date: 15 July 2026 (Email)		
Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given
Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 updates	In light of the amended legal framework which will be introduced from 24 July 2026 by the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025, the Planning Inspectorate issued written advice to the applicant on 15 July 2026 requesting for: • evidence within the submitted application in relation to duties under s46 and s48 of the PA2008 to be provided as an appendix to any engagement summary document that the applicant may choose to submit or, where the applicant chooses not to submit such a document, as a discrete document titled 'Section 46 and section 48 information' • evidence within the submitted application in relation to new s55(4)(e) of the PA2008 to be provided in a submission version of this expanded advice log template	

[Project name] – Log of s51 advice given to others		
Person s51 advice given to	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given