Planning Inspectorate

STEP Fusion

Section 51 Advice Log
Version: 16 September 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
16 September 2026	• Introduction and opening remarks from PINS • Project Updates – overview of progress across the program and against the key DCO milestones • Permitting Update • Any other business, Review of actions and next steps

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 administerial 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 2027. The applicant confirmed elections will take place in 2027, and regard will be given in the scheduling of key milestones.	

Surveying	The applicant advised that surveys have commenced. 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. This was noted by the applicant.	
Environmental Permitting	The applicant advised it was anticipating proposing a three-step approach with the Environment Agency in relation to environmental permitting. It enquired as to what role the Inspectorate would 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 has 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 the winter (i.e. Q4 2026 or Q1 2027). It stated it was mindful of Environmental Outcome Reports (EORs) 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 EORs 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 plans to undertake its EIA Scoping in either Q4 2026 or Q1 2027, ensuring the period would not fall over the Christmas period. 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 the needs and requirements of the Inspectorate's involvement in pre-application, particularly in relation to environmental permitting. It advised the applicant that if this was the case, a 3 month 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	

STEP Fusion – Log of s51 given to the applicant		
Project Updates – overview of progress across the program and against the key DCO milestones	The Inspectorate advised that the project name will need to be changed on the project webpage from UK Industrial Fusion Solutions (UKFIS) to UK Fusion Energy Limited (UKFE). The Inspectorate advised there is currently no indication of delay to the Environmental Outcomes Report (EOR) program. The Inspectorate advised the shapefile will be required 10 days before submission of a scoping request, and that the metadata used would need to be correct. The Inspectorate also advised the applicant to notify relevant statutory bodies at least 2 weeks prior to submission of a scoping request in order for them to prepare resources to respond to the EIA scoping consultation process. The Inspectorate advised the GIS shapefile will be published on the project website as the location of the project. The Inspectorate also advised if areas are introduced or removed, the applicant should provide the Inspectorate with an	

	updated GIS file. The Inspectorate advised if there are differences in environmental surveys undertaken across the different scoping areas, a clear explanation and justification of these differences should be included in the scoping report. The Inspectorate also advised that consistent terminology should be used throughout the scoping report when referring to the different scoping areas. The Inspectorate advised that it would be beneficial to update the Programme Document in relation to the progress of preparing the Environmental Statement, the shadow HRA, and the Outline Biodiversity Gain Plan.	

Permitting Update	The Inspectorate advised it could be useful to include it in meetings with the Environment Agency. The Inspectorate advised the applicant to compile an issues tracker before the next meeting. It is important to be aware of any areas of risk. While compiling the Issues Tracker, the Inspectorate added that the applicant needs to consider the worst-case scenario throughout the process to ensure the Inspectorate is aware of how any issues would be mitigated or managed.	

Any other business, Review of actions and next steps	The Inspectorate advised the applicant that the draft document review service is available while they are on the “standard” service. The Inspectorate advised the applicant that it requires at least three months’ notice to change service tiers.	

STEP Fusion – Log of s51 advice given to others		
Person s51 advice given to	**s51 advice given**	**Applicant regard to s51 advice given**