



The Great Grid Upgrade

Sea Link

Sea Link

Volume 5: Consultation Report

Document 5.1.1 Annex 1 Consultation Compliance Checklist

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020026

Version: A
March 2025

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 Regulation 5(2)(q)

nationalgrid

Page intentionally blank

Contents

1.	Consultation Compliance Checklist	1
	Table 1.1 Consultation Compliance Checklist	1

1. Consultation Compliance Checklist

Table 1.1 Consultation Compliance Checklist

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
Planning Act 2008		
Section 42	Duty to consult	
	(1) The applicant must consult the following about the proposed application -	
	(a) such persons as may be prescribed,	National Grid held meetings and engaged with key statutory bodies throughout the pre-submission period of the Development Consent Order (DCO). The prescribed bodies identified under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, with reference to the APFP Regulations, were consulted at the commencement of the Statutory consultation period. See Section 7.2 and 9.2 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report which provides further details of this and section 1 and 2 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix E Statutory consultation contains the list of prescribed bodies that were consulted by National Grid and the consultation window each consultee was given.
	(aa) the Marine Management Organisation, in any case where the proposed development would affect, or	Consultation on the Proposed Project was undertaken with the Marine Management Organisation, see Section 7.2 and 9.2 Application Document 5.1 Consultation report and section 1

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	would likely to affect, any of the areas specified in subsection (2).	Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix E Statutory consultation.
	(b) each local authority that is within s43.	<p>National Grid held meetings and engaged with local authorities throughout the pre-submission period of the DCO. National Grid undertook statutory consultation under Section 42(1)(b) with local authorities within Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008. The local authorities identified and consulted on the Proposed Project under Section 42(1)(b) were as follows:</p> <p>‘B’ Authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dover District Council • East Suffolk Council • Thanet District Council <p>‘C’ Authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent County Council • Suffolk County Council <p>‘A’ Authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canterbury City Council • Folkestone & Hythe District Council • Babergh District Council • Ipswich Borough Council • Mid Suffolk District Council • South Norfolk Council • The Broads Authority

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great Yarmouth Borough Council <p>'D' Authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Norfolk County Council Essex County Council East Sussex County Council Surrey County Council Greater London Authority Medway Council Thurrock Council Cambridgeshire County Council London Borough of Bexley London Brough of Bromley
	(c) the Greater London Authority if the land is in Greater London.	The Greater London Authority was identified and consulted on the Proposed Project under Section 42(1)(b) as a 'D' Authority on a precautionary basis.
	(d) each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44.	<p>Using diligent enquiries National Grid identified persons with interests in land in accordance with Section 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act 2008 and undertook Statutory consultation.</p> <p>Using diligent enquiries National Grid also undertook Targeted consultation under Section 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act 2008 with new or additional interests that emerged after the Statutory consultation. Chapter 9 of the Consultation Report provides further details.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>Using diligent enquiries National Grid also undertook Pre-submission engagement under Section 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act 2008 with new or additional interests that emerged after the Statutory and targeted consultation. Chapter 10 of the Consultation Report provides further details.</p> <p>Section 1 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation, section 1 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation and section 1 Application Document 5.1.9 Appendix H Pre-Submission Engagement contain anonymised lists of all Section 42(1)(d) land interests that were consulted and provide details of the consultation window provided for each land interest for the Statutory consultation, targeted consultation and pre-submission engagement and cross checked against Application Document 4.3 Book of Reference.</p> <p>National Grid will continue to engage persons with land interest and identify any new and additional interests with diligent enquiries and within referencing limits throughout and after the conclusion of statutory consultation and before the DCO application is submitted.</p>
	(2) The areas are -	
	(a) waters in or adjacent to England up to the seaward limits of the territorial sea.	<p>JNCC</p> <p>Trinity House (General Lighthouse Authority)</p> <p>Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority</p> <p>Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority</p> <p>UK Chamber of Shipping</p> <p>Belgium</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		Ministère de l'écologie, du développement durable et de l'énergie (France) Germany Netherlands
Section 45	Timetable for consultation under section 42	
	(1) The applicant must, when consulting a person under section 42, notify the person of the deadline for the receipt by the applicant of the person's response to the consultation.	The Section 42 consultees were notified of the deadline for receipt of consultation responses in the letters sent with the consultation materials. Any letters returned to sender or not confirmed delivered by royal mail were re-issued, see section 7.2 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report (this report). Copies of the cover letters sent to Section 42 consultees are provided in Section 5 and 6 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix E Statutory consultation . All letters contain a clear notification of the deadline for receipt of responses.
	(2) A deadline notified under subsection (1) must not be earlier than the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the person receives the consultation documents.	National Grid's statutory consultation under Section 42 commenced on 24 October 2023 and concluded on 18 December 2023, allowing more than the statutory minimum of 28 days. National Grid's Targeted consultation under Section 42 commenced on 08 July 2024 and concluded on 11 August 2024, allowing more than the statutory minimum of 28 days. National Grid's pre-submission engagement under Section 42(1)(d) commenced on 22 November 2024 and concluded on 12 January 2025, allowing more than the statutory minimum of 28 days.
	(3) In subsection (2) "the consultation documents" means the documents	Copies of the consultation documents were issued with the cover letters in the instances outlined above for the purpose of

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	supplied to the person by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the person.	<p>consulting the person. The consultation documents provided are described in Section 7.4 for Statutory consultation, Section 9.3 for Targeted consultation, Section 10.3 for pre-submission engagement in Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report.</p> <p>Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix E Statutory consultation, Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation and Application Document 5.1.9 Appendix H Pre-Submission Engagement contain copies of the consultation documents.</p>
Section 46	Duty to notify Secretary of State proposed application	
	<p>(1) The applicant must supply the Secretary of State with such information in relation to the proposed application as the applicant would supply to the Secretary of State for the purpose of complying with section 42 if the applicant were required by that section to consult the Secretary of State about the proposed application.</p> <p>(2) The applicant must comply with subsection (1) on or before commencing consultation under section 42.</p>	<p>The Section 46 notification (dated 20 October 2023) was sent to the Planning Inspectorate notifying the SoS of the proposed application. A copy of the notification letter is provided in section 11 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation. The information provided in accordance with Section 46 comprised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The section 42 cover letters (see section 5 – 6 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation) ▪ Copy of the Proposed Project newsletter (see section 7 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation) ▪ Consultation feedback form, (including Freepost envelope for prescribed consultees (see section 8 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation)) ▪ a paper copy of a notice pursuant to Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 and Regulation 4 of the APFP

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>Regulations (see section 9 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation)</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate sent an acknowledgement of receipt of the Section 46 notification on 24 October 2023 (see section 12 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation).</p> <p>The notification under Section 46 was provided on 20 October 2023, the commencement of the Statutory consultation period was 24 October 2023. The SoS was therefore notified before statutory consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 commenced.</p> <p>The Section 46 notification (dated 05 July 2024) was sent to the Planning Inspectorate notifying the SoS of the Targeted Consultation. A copy of the notification letter is provided in section 5 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation. The information provided in accordance with Section 46 comprised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ community newsletter (see section 2 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation); ▪ project update document (see section 6 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation); ▪ additional preliminary environmental information (see section 7 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation); ▪ additional preliminary information executive summary (see section 8 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation); ▪ environmental constraint plans (see section 9 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation);

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> general arrangement plans (see section 10 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation); changes to order limits plans (see section 11 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation); further design drawings (see section 12 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation); Section 48 notice (see section 3 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation); and Section 47 notice (see section 13 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation) <p>The notification under Section 46 was provided on 05 July 2024, the commencement of the Targeted consultation period was 08 July 2024. The SoS was therefore notified before statutory consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 commenced.</p>
Section 47	Duty to consult local community	
	(1) The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.	National Grid prepared a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) on how it intended to carry out consultation in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (a copy of the SoCC is provided in section 6 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC). Chapter 6 of Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report describes the approach taken to prepare the SoCC. Section 5 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC sets out National Grid's compliance with the SoCC.
	(2) Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local	National Grid consulted with each local authority under Section 43(1) – Dover District Council, East Suffolk Council, Thanet District Council as the 'B' local authorities and Kent County Council and Suffolk County Council as the 'C' local authority – on the content of

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement.	<p>the SoCC. National Grid also engaged with the Marine Management Organisation on a non-statutory basis, allowing them an opportunity to provide comments.</p> <p>Section 6.3 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report outlines the consultations undertaken on the draft SoCC. Section 4 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC of this report provide a summary of the comments received by local authorities on the draft SoCC and how National Grid has had regard to those responses in the preparation of the published SoCC.</p>
	(3) The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority's response to consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents.	<p>On 22 June 2023, National Grid emailed the draft SoCC to Kent County Council, Suffolk County Council, Dover District Council, East Suffolk Council and Thanet District Council for formal statutory consultation in accordance with section 47(3) and the Marine Management Organisation on a non-prescribed basis. See section 2 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC for copies of the covering emails to the local authorities and section 1 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC for a copy of the draft SoCC.</p> <p>In accordance with section 47(3) of the PA 2008, local authorities had 28 calendar days in which to respond to this consultation. National Grid requested the local authorities responded by 20 July 2023 to ensure that their comments are incorporated in the published version of the SoCC, thereby providing the statutory 28 days to respond.</p> <p>Thanet District Council submitted an individual response on 04 July 2023, the Marine Management Organisation submitted an individual response on 06 July 2023, Kent County Council and Suffolk County Council submitted individual responses on 19 July 2023, Dover District Council and East Suffolk Council submitted</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		individual responses on 20 July 2023, (see section 3 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC for a summary of responses).
	(4) In subsection (3) “the consultation documents” means the documents supplied to the local authority by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection (2).	National Grid issued the draft SoCC to Kent County Council, Suffolk County Council, Dover District Council, East Suffolk Council, Thanet District Council and the Marine Management Organisation for consultation.
	(5) In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection (3).	<p>Section 4 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC sets out the responses received on the draft SoCC from Kent County Council, Suffolk County Council, Dover District Council, East Suffolk Council and Thanet District Council and explains how National Grid had regard to the responses when preparing the final SoCC for publication. National Grid discussed the community consultation strategy with the host authorities as part of their regular monthly meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council – 08 June 2023 • The Marine Management Organisation – 12 June 2023 • Kent County Council, Dover District Council and Thanet District Council – 13 June 2023
	(6) Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must –	Section 6.4 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report details how the SoCC has been made available for inspection and how a SoCC Notice was published in local newspapers circulating in the vicinity of the land.
	(za) make the statement available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land,	A SoCC Notice was published in the East Anglian Daily Times on 17 October 2023, the Kentish Gazette on 19 October 2023, see section 7 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC . The

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	(a) publish, in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land, a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, and	SoCC Notice provided details of where the final SoCC could be inspected. The SoCC was made available for inspection online via National Grid's dedicated Proposed Project webpage.
	(b) publish the statement in such manner as may be prescribed.	The final SoCC and SoCC Notice are provided in section 6 and 7 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC.
	(7) The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement.	National Grid has consulted under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 in accordance with the SoCC. Details of the consultation carried out in accordance with the SoCC for Statutory Consultation are set out in Chapter 7 and for Targeted consultation Chapter 9 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report as well as in the SoCC Compliance table (see section 5 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC). The Proposed Project is an 'EIA Development', (see paragraph 1.3 in section 6 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC) and how National Grid publicised and consulted on the Proposed Project can be found in the SoCC, Chapter 3 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC.
Section 48	Duty to publicise	
	(1) The applicant must publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner.	Yes: National Grid prepared and published a Section 48 Notice in the manner prescribed in Regulation 4 of APFP Regulations, see table below, section 58 DCLG (2015) PA 2008 Guidance on the pre-application process. . The notice was then also issued to the consultation bodies under Regulation 13 of the EIA Infrastructure Regulations 2017 (see Section 7.5 of the Consultation Report). The 2023 Section 48 Notice was published in the following local newspapers for circulation within the vicinity of the Proposed Project:

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Anglian Daily Times for two successive weeks (17 October 2023 and 24 October 2023) Kentish Gazette for two successive weeks (19 October 2023 and 26 October 2023) <p>The 2023 Section 48 Notice was published in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Guardian (national newspaper (24 October 2023)) Lloyd's List (as the Proposed Project relates to offshore development (24 October 2023)) Fishing News (as the Proposed project relates to offshore development (24 October 2023)) The London Gazette (26 October 2023) <p>Copies of the 2023 Section 48 Notices as they appeared in papers are provided in section 9 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation.</p>
	(2) Regulations made for the purposes of subsection (1) must, in particular, make provision for publicity under subsection (1) to include a deadline for receipt by the applicant of responses to the publicity.	<p>The 2023 Section 48 Notice included a deadline for receipt of responses to the publicity. The notice was published between 17 October 2023 and 26 October 2023. The deadline for receipt of responses to the publicity provided in the notice was 11.59 PM on 18 December 2023, therefore, allowing more than the statutory minimum of 28 days following the date when the notice was last published.</p> <p>The 2024 Targeted consultation Section 48 Notice included a deadline for receipt of responses to the publicity. The notice was published between 04 July 2024 and 08 July 2024. The deadline for receipt of responses to the publicity provided in the notice was 11.59 PM on 11 August 2024, therefore, allowing more than the</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		statutory minimum of 28 days following the date when the notice was last published.
Section 49	Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity	
	(1) Subsection (2) applies where the applicant -	
	(a) has complied with sections 42, 47 and 48, and	
	(b) proposes to go ahead with making an application for an order granting development consent (whether or not in the same terms as the proposed application).	Chapter 8 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provides a summary of the main issues raised in the 2023 consultation responses and how National Grid has had regard to the relevant responses received. The following sections in this report summarise the relevant responses received during consultation and the associated appendices provide extracts of the relevant responses and how National Grid has had regard to relevant responses:
	(2) The applicant must, when deciding whether the application that the applicant is actually to make should be in the same terms as the proposed application, have regard to any relevant responses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 42 consultation (see section 8.3 5.1 Consultation Report and section 24 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation) • Section 47 consultation (see section 8.4 5.1 Consultation Report and section 25 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation) • Section 48 consultation (see section 8.4 5.1 Consultation Report and section 25 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation)
	(3) In subsection (2) “relevant response” means -	
	(a) a response from a person consulted under section 42 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by section 45 in that person's case,	
	(b) a response to consultation under section 47(7) that is received by the	Chapter 5, section 1 Application Document 5.1.4 Appendix C Non-Statutory Consultation provide extracts of relevant

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	applicant before any applicable deadline imposed in accordance with the statement prepared under section 47, or	consultation comments received as part of the Non-statutory consultation and how National Grid has had regard to those responses.
	(c) a response to publicity under section 48 that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed in accordance with section 48(2) in relation to that publicity.	<p>Section 24 to 25 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation provide extracts of relevant consultation comments received as part of the Statutory consultation and how National Grid has had regard to those responses.</p> <p>Chapter 9 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report and section 17 to 18 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation provide a summary of the main issues raised in the Targeted consultation responses and how National Grid has had regard to the relevant responses received.</p> <p>Section 10.4 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provides a summary of the main issues raised in the Pre-submission engagement and how National Grid has had regard to the relevant responses received.</p>
Section 50	Guidance about pre-application procedure	
	(1) Guidance may be issued about how to comply with the requirements of this Chapter.	Section 3.5 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report sets out the relevant guidance which National Grid has had regard to in order to comply with the requirements of Chapter 2 of the Planning Act 2008.
	(2) Guidance under this section may be issued by the Commission or the Secretary of State.	Application Document 5.1.1 Annex 1 Consultation compliance checklist (this Annex) sets out how National Grid has had regard to the DCLG (2015) Guidance on the pre-application process and the Planning Act 2008: (2024) Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects for the targeted consultation and pre-submission engagement.
	(3) The applicant must have regard to any guidance under this section.	

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009		
Reg 3	Prescribed consultees	<p>The persons prescribed for the purposes of section 42(a) (duty to consult) are those listed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 1 to these Regulations, who must be consulted in the circumstances specified in relation to each such person in column 2 of that table.</p> <p>National Grid consulted all those persons prescribed in column 1 of the table in Schedule 1 who were relevant to this application by the descriptions set out in column 2 of that table. The process that National Grid adopted to identify all prescribed bodies is included in Section 7.2 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report and section 1 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation.</p> <p>National Grid undertook the 2024 targeted consultation post the Planning Act 2008: (April 2024) Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, Several amendments were made to The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 ('the 2009 Regulations'), under which the Section 42(1)(a) prescribed bodies were previously identified, see section 9.2 and table 9.1 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report.</p>
Reg 4	Publicising a proposed application	<p>(1) This regulation prescribes for the purpose of section 48(1) (duty to publicise), the manner in which an applicant must publicise a proposed application.</p> <p>National Grid prepared and published a Section 48 Notice in the manner prescribed by the APFP Regulations. See section 22 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation for copies of the published 2023 Section 48 Notice.</p> <p>(2) The applicant must publish a notice, which must include the matters prescribed by paragraph (3) of this regulation, of the proposed application -</p> <p>National Grid published a notice which included the matters set out in paragraph (3) of this regulation. See section 22 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation for a copy of the published 2023 Section 48 Notice.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	(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;	<p>The notice was published for two successive weeks in the following local newspapers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Anglian Daily Times on 17 October 2023 and 24 October 2023 (see section 22 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation) • Kentish Gazette on 19 October 2023 and 26 October 2023 (see section 22 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation)
	(b) once in a national newspaper;	The notice was published in the Guardian on 24 October 2023 (see section 22 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation).
	(c) once in the London Gazette and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette; and	The notice was published in the London Gazette on 26 October 2023 (see Section 22 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation). The Proposed Project does not affect land in Scotland and as such there was no requirement to publish a notice in the Edinburgh Gazette.
	<p>(d) where the proposed application relates to offshore development –</p> <p>(i) once in Lloyd’s List; and</p> <p>(ii) once in an appropriate fishing trade journal.</p>	<p>The notice was published:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lloyd’s List on 24 October 2023 (see Section 22 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation) • Fishing News on 24 October 2023 (see Section 22 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation)
	(3) The matters which the notice must include are -	

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	(a) the name and address of the applicant;	Paragraph 1 of the notice sets out the name and address of National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET) of National Grid House, Warwick Technology Park, Gallows Hill, Warwick, CV34 6DA.
	(b) a statement that the applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Commission;	Paragraph 1 of the notice states that National Grid intends to make an application to the SoS under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for a Development Consent Order.
	(c) a statement as to whether the application is EIA development;	Paragraph 6 of the notice confirms that the Proposed Project is 'EIA development' for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended).
	(d) a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the proposed development;	<p>Paragraph 2 of the notice summarises the main proposals, including the location, of the Proposed Project:</p> <p>The Sea Link Proposed Project ('Proposed Project') involves the reinforcement of the electricity transmission network between Suffolk and Kent, predominantly via offshore High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link. The Proposed Project is split into three distinctive elements, as follows.</p> <p>The Suffolk Onshore Proposed Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A connection from the existing transmission network via Friston Substation, including the substation itself. Friston Substation already has development consent as part of other third-party Proposed Projects. If Friston Substation has already been constructed under another consent, only a connection into the substation would be constructed by the Sea Link Proposed Project. A high voltage alternating current (HVAC) underground cable of approximately 1.7 km in length

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>between the proposed Friston Substation and a proposed converter station (below).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A 2 GW high voltage direct current (HVDC) converter station up to 26 m high plus external equipment (such as lightning protection & railings for walkways) near Saxmundham. ▪ A HVDC underground cable connection of approximately 10 km in length between the proposed converter station near Saxmundham, and a transition joint bay (TJB) approximately 900 m inshore from a landfall point (below) where the cable transitions from onshore to offshore technology. ▪ A landfall on the Suffolk coast (between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness). <p>The proposals in Suffolk have been developed for Sea Link as a standalone Proposed Project but also include opportunities to co-locate infrastructure for up to two further Proposed Projects at the converter station, cable corridors and the landfall location.</p> <p>The Offshore Proposed Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approximately 130 km of subsea HVDC cable, running between the Suffolk landfall location (between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness), and the Kent landfall location at Pegwell Bay. <p>The Kent Onshore Proposed Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A landfall point on the Kent coast at Pegwell Bay. ▪ A TJB approximately 800 m inshore to transition from offshore HVDC cable to onshore HVDC cable, before continuing underground for approximately 2 km to a proposed new converter station (below).

Ref	Requirement	Compliance						
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 2 GW HVDC converter station, up to 26 m high plus external equipment (such as lightning protection & railings for walkways), near Minster. A new substation would be located immediately adjacent. Removal of approximately 1 km of existing HVAC overhead line, and installation of approximately 2.25 km of new HVAC overhead line from the converter station and substation near Minster and the existing Richborough to Canterbury overhead line. 						
	(e) a statement that the documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the proposed development are available for inspection free of charge at the places (including at least one address in the vicinity of the proposed development) and times set out in the notice;	<p>Paragraph 8 of the notice states reference copies of certain documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the proposed development will also be available to view free of charge from 24 October 2023 at the following locations in the vicinity of the Proposed Project for the duration of the consultation (until 18 December 2023):</p> <table> <tr> <td>Saxmundham Library</td><td>Block B, Street Farm Rd, Saxmundham IP17 1AL</td><td> Mon: Closed Tues: 09:30 – 17:30 Weds: 09:30 – 17:30 Thurs: Closed Fri: 09:30 – 17:30, Sat: 10:00 – 13:00 Sun: 10:00 – 15:00 </td></tr> <tr> <td>Leiston Library</td><td>Main St, Leiston IP16 4ER</td><td>Mon: Closed</td></tr> </table>	Saxmundham Library	Block B, Street Farm Rd, Saxmundham IP17 1AL	Mon: Closed Tues: 09:30 – 17:30 Weds: 09:30 – 17:30 Thurs: Closed Fri: 09:30 – 17:30, Sat: 10:00 – 13:00 Sun: 10:00 – 15:00	Leiston Library	Main St, Leiston IP16 4ER	Mon: Closed
Saxmundham Library	Block B, Street Farm Rd, Saxmundham IP17 1AL	Mon: Closed Tues: 09:30 – 17:30 Weds: 09:30 – 17:30 Thurs: Closed Fri: 09:30 – 17:30, Sat: 10:00 – 13:00 Sun: 10:00 – 15:00						
Leiston Library	Main St, Leiston IP16 4ER	Mon: Closed						

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>Tues: 9:30am–5:30pm</p> <p>Weds: Closed</p> <p>Thurs: 9:30am–5:30pm</p> <p>Fri: 9:30am–1pm and 2pm–5pm</p> <p>Sat: 9:30am–1pm and 2pm–5pm</p> <p>Sun: 10am–3pm</p>
	Aldeburgh Library	<p>Victoria Rd, Aldeburgh IP15 5EG</p> <p>Mon: 9am–1pm</p> <p>Tues: 9am–1pm</p> <p>Wed: 9am–6pm</p> <p>Thurs: 9am–1pm</p> <p>Fri: 9am–1pm</p> <p>Sat: 10am–3pm</p> <p>Sun: 10am–1pm</p>
	Snape Hall	<p>Village 5 Garrett Cl, Snape, Saxmundham IP17 1RN</p> <p>Mon: 7am–7pm</p> <p>Tues: 7am–7pm</p> <p>Weds: 7am–7pm</p> <p>Thurs: 7am–7pm</p> <p>Fri: 7am–7pm</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>Sat: 7am–7pm</p> <p>Sun: Closed</p>
		<p>Friston Village Church Rd, Village hall open depending on events. Contact the hall Friston, Saxmundham IP17 1PU village hall in advance via email at fristonvillagehall@gmail.com or at 01728 687914.</p>
		<p>Ash Library 11 Queen's Rd, Ash, Canterbury CT3 2BG</p> <p>Mon: 11:30am–1pm and 2pm–3pm</p> <p>Tuesday: 9:30am–1pm</p> <p>Weds: 9:30am–2pm</p> <p>Thurs: Closed</p> <p>Fri: 11:30am–5pm</p> <p>Sat: 9am–2pm</p> <p>Sun: Closed</p>
		<p>Minster Library 4a Monkton Rd, Minster, Ramsgate CT12 4EA</p> <p>Mon: 1pm–5pm</p> <p>Tues: 9:30am–1:30pm</p> <p>Weds: Closed</p> <p>Thurs: 12pm–5pm</p> <p>Fri: 10am–4pm</p> <p>Sat: 9:30am–1:30pm</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance	
			Sun: Closed
		Sandwich Library 13 Market St, Sandwich CT13 9DA	Mon: Closed Tues: 9:30am–5pm Weds: Closed Thurs: 9:30am–5pm Fri: 9:30am–5pm Sat: 9:30am–3pm Sun: Closed
		Ramsgate Library	Guildford Lawn, Ramsgate CT11 9AY Mon: Closed Tues: 9:30am–5:30pm Weds: 9:30am–5:30pm Thurs: 9:30am–5:30pm Fri: 9:30am–5:30pm Sat: 9:30am–3:30pm
		Newington Library	Royal Harbour Academy, Stirling Way, Ramsgate CT12 6FA Mon: 9am–1pm and 2pm–5pm Tues: 9am–1pm Weds: Closed Thurs: 9am–1pm and 2pm–5pm Fri: Closed

Ref	Requirement	Compliance		
				Sat: 9am–1pm Sun: Closed
		Thanet District Council	Cecil Street, Margate, CT9 1AY	Mon: 8:45am–5pm Tues: 8:45am–5pm Weds: 8:45am–5pm Thurs: 8:45am–5pm Fri: 8:45am–5pm Sat: Closed Sun: Closed
		Margate Library	Cecil Street, Margate, CT9 1RE	Mon: 10am–5:30pm Tues: 10am–5pm Weds: 10am–5pm Thurs: 10am–5:30pm Fri: 10am–5:30pm Sat: 10am–3:30pm Sun: Closed
	(f) the latest date on which those Paragraph 7 of the notice states that consultation documents will documents, plans and maps will be remain on the Proposed Project webpage for the duration of the available for inspection (being a date not consultation period. The consultation documents can still be earlier than the deadline in sub-paragraph viewed on the Proposed Project webpage. (i));			

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	(g) whether a charge will be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge;	Paragraph 10 of the notice states that requests for paper copies of the consultation documents could be ordered and would be reviewed on a case by-case basis and that a charge of up to a maximum value of £300 would be charged for the whole suite of consultation documents.
	(h) details of how to respond to the publicity; and	Details of how to respond to the publicity was included under Paragraph 11 of the notice.
	(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.	Paragraph 12 of the notice included a deadline for receipt by National Grid of responses to the publicity. The 2023 Section 48 Notice was published between 17 October 2023 and 26 October 2023. The deadline provided was 18 December 2023, allowing more than the statutory minimum of 28 days following the date when the notice was last published.

The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

Reg 10

Application for a scoping opinion

(1) A person who proposes to make an application for an order granting development consent may ask the Secretary of State to state in writing their opinion as to the scope, and level of detail, of the information to be provided in the environmental statement.	National Grid requested a scoping opinion from and notified the Planning Inspectorate (acting on behalf of the SoS) on 24 October 2022 (see Section 1 Application Document 5.1.3 Appendix B EIA Scoping).
(3) A request under paragraph (1) must include— (a) a plan sufficient to identify the land;	

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>(b) a description of the proposed development, including its location and technical capacity;</p> <p>(c) an explanation of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment; and</p> <p>(d) such other information or representations as the person making the request may wish to provide or make.</p>	
Reg 12	Consultation statement requirements	
	<p>(1) The consultation statement prepared under section 47(1) (duty to consult local community) must set out -</p>	<p>National Grid included the following in the SoCC:</p>
	<p>(a) whether the development for which the applicant proposes to make an application for an order granting development consent is EIA development; and</p>	<p>Paragraph 1.1.3 <i>“The proposed Project is an ‘EIA Development’ (meaning that it is subject to an environmental impact assessment or “EIA”), this SoCC therefore also sets out how NGET intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information, in accordance with Regulation 12 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (“the EIA Regulations”).</i></p>
	<p>(b) if that development is EIA development, how the applicant intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information.</p>	<p>Paragraph 3.2.4 <i>“The full PEIR will be available on the Project’s website, with a link to this shared with the relevant consultees set out in the EIA Regulations. Access to digital copies of the PEIR will be available at deposit points, with printed paper copies of the PEIR only available on request and subject to a printing charge outlined in paragraph 3.5.8. Paper copies of the non-technical summary of the PEIR will be available at deposit points and on</i></p>
	<p>(2) In this regulation, “preliminary environmental information” means information referred to in regulation 14(2) which -</p>	

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>(a) has been compiled by the applicant; and</p> <p>(b) is reasonably required for the consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development (and of any associated development).</p>	<p><i>request. A fee will not be charged for paper copies of the non-technical summary of the PEIR.</i></p> <p>Paragraph 3.2.5 “As part of the application for development consent, an Environmental Statement (ES) will be prepared. This document will present an assessment of likely significant effects arising from the proposed Project and potential mitigation where appropriate, based on the details of the proposals submitted with the application for development consent.”</p> <p>A copy of the SoCC is enclosed in section 6 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC.</p> <p>National Grid complied with the SoCC statement and provided a full PEIR on the dedicated Proposed Project website along with details at deposit locations on how to access the full PEIR and provided paper copies of the non-technical summary of the PEIR, see 7.4 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report (this report) and section 16 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation.</p>
Reg 13	Pre-application publicity under Section 48 (duty to publicise)	
	<p>Where the proposed application for an order granting development consent is an application for EIA development, the applicant must, at the same time as publishing notice of the proposed application under section 48(1), send a copy of that notice to the consultation bodies and to any person notified to the applicant in accordance with regulation 11(1)(c).</p>	<p>National Grid sent paper copies of the 2023 Section 48 Notice (see section 9 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation) to all Section 42(1)(a), (b) and (d) consultees, therefore including the ‘consultation bodies’ for the purposes of Regulation 13 of the Infrastructure EIA Regulations 2017, at the time of notifying them of the start of the 2023 section 42 statutory consultation (24 October 2023). This exceeds the requirement in the Infrastructure EIA Regulations 2017 to provide a copy of the Section 48 Notice to the “consultation bodies”, defined in regulation 3 by reference to Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. The notice was published under Section 48 of the Planning</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>Act 2008 between 17 October 2023 and 26 October 2023 (see above in respect of Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008).</p> <p>National Grid sent paper copies of the 2024 Section 48 Notice (see section 3 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation) to all Section 42(1)(a), (b) and (d) consultees, therefore including the ‘consultation bodies’ for the purposes of Regulation 13 of the Infrastructure EIA Regulations 2017, at the time of notifying them of the start of the 2024 section 42 targeted consultation (05 July 2024). This exceeds the requirement in the Infrastructure EIA Regulations 2017 to provide a copy of the Section 48 Notice to the “consultation bodies”, defined in regulation 3 by reference to Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. The notice was published under Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 between 04.07.2024 July 2024 and 08 July 2024 (see above in respect of Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008).</p> <p>National Grid was not notified of any persons under regulation 11(1)(c) or non-statutory bodies in the Regulation 11 list.</p>
Reg 14	Environmental statements	
	(1) An application for an order granting development consent for EIA development must be accompanied by an environmental statement.	In accordance with Regulation 14(2) of the Infrastructure EIA Regulations 2017 an Environmental Statement has been prepared and submitted as part of the DCO application, see Application Document Volume 6. Environmental Statement).
	(2) An environmental statement is a statement which includes at least –	
	(a) a description of the proposed development comprising information	

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the development;	
	(b) a description of the likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment;	
	(c) a description of any features of the proposed development, or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment;	
	(d) a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the applicant, which are relevant to the proposed development and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the development on the environment;	
	(e) a non-technical summary of the information referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (d); and	
	(f) any additional information specified in Schedule 4 relevant to the specific characteristics of the particular development or type of development	

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	and to the environmental features likely to be significantly affected.	
	(3) The environmental statement referred to in paragraph (1) must –	
	(a) where a scoping opinion has been adopted, be based on the most recent scoping opinion adopted (so far as the proposed development remains materially the same as the proposed development which was subject to that opinion);	
	(b) include the information reasonably required for reaching a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the development on the environment, taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment; and	
	(c) be prepared, taking into account the results of any relevant UK environmental assessment, which is reasonably available to the applicant with a view to avoiding duplication of assessment.	
	(4) In order to ensure the completeness and quality of the environmental statement –	

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	(a) the applicant must ensure that the environmental statement is prepared by competent experts; and	
	(b) the environmental statement must be accompanied by a statement from the applicant outlining the relevant expertise or qualifications of such experts.	
DCLG (2015) PA 2008 Guidance on the pre-application process		
17	When circulating consultation documents, developers should be clear about their status, for example ensuring it is clear to the public if a document is purely for purposes of consultation.	The consultation materials produced for the statutory consultation consisted of consultation banners and feedback form, which clearly set out it was for the purpose of the consultation and the date responses need to be received by. A copy of the statutory consultation feedback form can be found in section 8 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation.
18	Early involvement of local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees can bring about significant benefits for all parties.	The local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees have all been engaged in the proposals since the first stages of consultation October 2021. Non statutory consultation was held between 24 October 2022 and 18 December 2022. Further details about engagement with communities during non-statutory consultation can be found in Chapter 3 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report.
19	The pre-application consultation process is crucial to the effectiveness of the major infrastructure consenting regime. A thorough process can give the Secretary of State confidence that issues that will arise during the six-month examination	Consultations were undertaken (non-statutory, statutory, targeted consultation and pre-submission engagement as described in Chapters 5, 7, 9 and 10 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report , during the pre-application stage to ensure that issues arising were considered and taken into account.

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>period have been identified, considered, and – as far as possible – that applicants have sought to reach agreement on those issues. Without adequate consultation, the subsequent application will not be accepted when it is submitted. If the Secretary of State determines that the consultation is inadequate, he or she can recommend that the applicant carries out further consultation activity before the application can be accepted.</p>	<p>The LPAs have been engaged throughout the pre application period and were consulted on the SoCC, see Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC.</p>
20	<p>Experience suggests that, to be of most value, consultation should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • based on accurate information that gives consultees a clear view of what is proposed including any options; • shared at an early enough stage so that the proposal can still be influenced, while being sufficiently developed to provide some detail on what is being proposed; and • engaging and accessible in style, encouraging consultees to react and offer their views. 	<p>The consultation banners, feedback form, dedicated Proposed Project website, videos, infographics and animations clearly set out the proposals at statutory consultation. The feedback form reflected the Project Overview Document and condensed version of the Project Overview Document to help consultees in providing feedback to National Grid. Copies of the consultation materials can be found in section 4, 8, 13 and 15 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation. The statutory consultation undertaken between 24 October 2023 and 18 December 2023 allowed consultees to engage face-to-face with National Grid, through public information exhibitions, attend webinars, ‘ask the experts’ sessions, video and telephone appointments. The dedicated Proposed Project website contained the consultation documentation and the ability to submit feedback via the online feedback form. Responses could also be sent via postal response form, letters, and emails to dedicated project addresses. All materials were produced to be accessible and easy to understand. The project website was compatible with assistive technology such as screen readers to ensure accessibility for all members of the public engaging with the consultation.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		At targeted consultation National Grid provided a Proposed Project update document, community newsletter, additional environmental information and plans on the dedicated Proposed Project website, which clearly set out the changes to the Proposed Project to help consultees in providing feedback to National Grid. Copies of the consultation materials can be found in section 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation . The targeted consultation undertaken between 08 July 2024 and 11 August 2024 allowed consultees to engage with National Grid through online webinars and stakeholder briefings. The dedicated Proposed Project website contained the consultation documentation and the ability to submit feedback via the dedicated email address, telephone number or Freepost SEA LINK. All materials were produced to be accessible and easy to understand. The project website was compatible with assistive technology such as screen readers to ensure accessibility for all members of the public engaging with the consultation.
21	Where an Applicant has not been able to follow this guidance they should set out why this is the case, in the consultation report.	National Grid complied with the guidance in the undertaking of the statutory consultation.
23	In brief, during the pre-application stage, applicants are required to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Notify the Secretary of State of the proposed application; 	<p>National Grid notified the SoS (via the Planning Inspectorate) of the proposed application under Section 46 of the Planning Act 2008 on 20 October 2023. A copy of the notification letter is provided in section 11 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation.</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate sent an acknowledgement of receipt of the Section 46 notification on 24 October 2023 (see section 12</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify whether the Proposed Project requires an environmental impact assessment; where it does, confirm that they will be submitting an environmental statement along with the application or that they will be seeking a screening opinion ahead of submitting the application; 	<p>The Proposed Project is considered to fall within Schedule 1 to the Infrastructure EIA Regulations 2017. As such, National Grid requested a Scoping Opinion from the Secretary of State on 24 October 2022, which also outlined that National Grid intended to submit an Environmental Statement in respect of the Proposed Project (see section 3 Application Document 5.1.3 Appendix B EIA Scoping).</p> <p>Paragraph 3.2.5 of the SoCC (see section 6 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC) stated “As part of the application for development consent, an Environmental Statement (ES) will be prepared. This document will present an assessment of likely significant effects arising from the proposed Project and potential mitigation where appropriate, based on the details of the proposals submitted with the application for development consent.” The Environmental statement is provided in Application Document Volume 6 Environmental Statement of the DCO application.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce a Statement of Community Consultation, in consultation with the relevant local authority or authorities; which describes how the applicant proposes to consult the local community about their Proposed Project and then carry out consultation in accordance with that Statement; 	<p>In accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, National Grid prepared a SoCC which explained how they intended to consult with the local community about the proposed application and then carried out pre-application consultation in accordance with the final published SoCC.</p> <p>In preparing the SoCC, National Grid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> discussed the community consultation strategy with the host authorities as part of their regular monthly meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council – 08 June 2023

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Marine Management Organisation – 12 June 2023 – Kent County Council, Dover District Council and Thanet District Council – 13 June 2023 • In June 2023, National Grid issued a draft SoCC to Kent County Council, Suffolk County Council, Dover District Council, East Suffolk Council, Thanet District Council and the Marine Management Organisation for statutory consultation (see Section 6.3 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report and section 1 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC for further details). <p>National Grid published the SoCC online on 24 October 2023 ahead of the Statutory consultation process (see Section 6.4 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report) and consider the statutory consultation was compliant with the SoCC. Paper copies of the published SoCC could be requested, throughout the Statutory consultation period and were made available on the Proposed Project website and deposit locations.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the Statement of Community Consultation available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land where the development is proposed, as required by section 47 of the Planning Act and Regulations; 	<p>The SoCC was published on the Proposed Project webpage on 24 October 2023. The SoCC was available to view throughout the Statutory consultation period.</p> <p>Paper copies of the published SoCC could be requested, throughout the Statutory consultation period and were made available on the Proposed Project website and deposit locations. Details were provided in the SoCC Notice (see section 6 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC).</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and consult statutory consultees as required by section 	<p>Under section 42(1) of the Planning Act 2008, National Grid undertook consultation with bodies prescribed under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 and by Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	42 of the Planning Act and Regulations;	<p>Details of how the statutory consultees were identified and consulted are provide in Section 7.2 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report.</p> <p>A full list of consultees identified in accordance with Section 42(1)(a), and (b) is included in section 1 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation and a list of those parties consulted under Section 42(1)(d) is enclosed in section 2 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publicise the proposed application in accordance with Regulations; 	<p>National Grid prepared and published a Section 48 Notice in the manner prescribed by the APFP Regulations (which was then also issued to the consultation bodies under Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations 2017). See section 9 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation for a copy of the published notice.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set a deadline for consultation responses of not less than 28 days from the day after receipt/last publication; 	<p>The Statutory consultation period commenced on 24 October 2023 and closed on 18 December 2023, allowing more than the statutory minimum of 28 days.</p> <p>The Section 42 consultees were notified of the deadline for receipt of consultation responses in the letters sent with the consultation materials. Copies of the cover letters sent to Section 42 consultees are provided in Section 5 and 6 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation. All letters contain a clear notification of the deadline for receipt of responses.</p> <p>The 2023 Section 48 Notice included a deadline for receipt of responses to the publicity. The notice was published between 17 October 2023 and 26 October 2023. The deadline for receipt of responses to the publicity provided in the notice was 11.59 PM on 18 December 2023, therefore, allowing more than the statutory</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>minimum of 28 days following the date when the notice was last published.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have regard to relevant responses to publicity and consultation; and 	<p>Chapter 8 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provides a summary of the main issues raised in the Statutory consultation responses and how National Grid has had regard to the relevant responses received. The following sections of the Consultation Report summarise the relevant responses received during consultation and the associated appendices provide extracts of the relevant responses and how National Grid has had regard to relevant responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 42 consultation (see Section 8.3 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report and section 24 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation) Section 47 consultation (see section 8.4 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report and section 25 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation) Section 48 consultation (see Section 8.4 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report and Section 25 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation) <p>Section 24 and 25 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation provide extracts of relevant consultation comments received as part of the Statutory consultation and how National Grid has had regard to those responses.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a consultation report and submit it to the Secretary of State. 	<p>National Grid has prepared a Consultation Report (Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report) (this report) to accompany the DCO application. In preparing the Consultation Report,</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		National Grid has had regard to the MHCLG Guidance, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report (August 2024).
24	The requirements of the Planning Act and associated Regulations form the framework for the pre-application consultation process. The Government recognises that major infrastructure Proposed Projects and the communities and environment in which they are located will vary considerably. A ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach is not, therefore, appropriate. Instead, applicants, who are best placed to understand the detail of their specific Proposed Project, and the relevant local authorities, who have a unique knowledge of their local communities, should as far as possible work together to develop plans for consultation. The aim should be to ensure that consultation is appropriate to the scale and nature of the Proposed Project and where its impacts will be experienced.	National Grid and Kent County Council, Suffolk County Council, Dover District Council, East Suffolk Council and Thanet District Council (being the relevant host authorities in accordance with Section 43(1) the Planning Act 2008) have worked together on the approach to consultation with the local community, and the host authorities were provided opportunity to comment on the draft SoCC, under Section 47(2) of the Planning Act 2008 along with the Marine Management Organisation on a non-statutory basis. The consultation was representative of the scale and nature of Proposed Project and where potential impacts will be experienced.
25	Consultation should be thorough, effective and proportionate. Some applicants may have their own distinct approaches to consultation, perhaps drawing on their own or relevant sector experience, for example if there are industry protocols that can be adapted. Larger, more complex applications are likely to need to go beyond the statutory	National Grid consulted thoroughly on the application by means of non-statutory engagement, non-statutory consultation, statutory consultation, targeted consultation and pre-submission engagement. This process proved to be an effective way to gather and incorporate stakeholder feedback from an early stage and throughout the pre-application stage. In light of the comments received, it is considered that the consultation has been demonstrated to be thorough, effective and proportionate to the nature and scale of the Proposed Project. All statutory consultation

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>minimum timescales laid down in the Planning Act to ensure enough time for consultees to understand Proposed Project proposals and formulate a response. Many proposals will require detailed technical input, especially regarding impacts, so sufficient time will need to be allowed for this. Consultation should also be sufficiently flexible to respond to the needs and requirements of consultees, for example where a consultee has indicated that they would prefer to be consulted via email only, this should be accommodated as far as possible.</p>	<p>periods under Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act 2008 allowed the consultees at least the statutory minimum of 28 days to respond. In addition, National Grid made best endeavours to give prior notice of statutory consultation periods.</p> <p>National Grid also accommodated stakeholder requests regarding communication methods, sending out information by post, email or both methods as appropriate.</p>
26	<p>The Planning Act requires certain bodies and groups of people to be consulted at the pre-application stage, but allows for flexibility in the precise form that consultation may take depending on local circumstances and the needs of the Proposed Project itself. Sections 42 – 44 of the Planning Act and Regulations set out details of who should be consulted, including local authorities, the Marine Management Organisation (where appropriate), other statutory bodies, and persons having an interest in the land to be developed. Section 47 in the Planning Act sets out the applicant's statutory duty to consult local communities. In addition, applicants may also wish to strengthen their case by seeking the views of other</p>	<p>National Grid consulted all prescribed bodies under Sections 42 – 44 of the Planning Act 2008 and relevant regulations including local authorities, other statutory bodies, and persons with an interest in the land to be developed. See Section 7.2 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report.</p> <p>National Grid also consulted the local community in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008. See Section 7.4 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	people who are not statutory consultees, but who may be significantly affected by the Proposed Project.	
27	<p>The Planning Act and Regulations set out the statutory consultees and prescribed people who must be consulted during the pre-application process. Many statutory consultees are responsible for consent regimes where, under Section 120 of the Planning Act, decisions on those consents can be included within the decision on a Development Consent Order. Where an applicant proposes to include non-planning consents within their Development Consent Order, the bodies that would normally be responsible for granting these consents should make every effort to facilitate this. They should only object to the inclusion of such non-planning consents with good reason, and after careful consideration of reasonable alternatives. It is therefore important that such bodies are consulted at an early stage. In addition, there will be a range of national and other interest groups who could make an important contribution during consultation. Applicants are therefore encouraged to consult widely on Proposed Project proposals.</p>	<p>National Grid has consulted a variety of statutory consultees and prescribed bodies during the pre-application process as prescribed in the APFP Regulations.. National Grid has engaged with and consulted bodies affected by the Proposed Development in this way and, where appropriate, have commenced communications regarding the inclusion of appropriate Protective Provisions. National Grid will continue to engage with statutory consultees and prescribed bodies post-submission and during the examination.</p>
28	<p>From time to time a body may cease to exist but, for legislative timetabling reasons, may still be listed as a statutory</p>	<p>National Grid was able to comply with statutory requirements and consulted with all relevant prescribed bodies identified under Section 42(1)(a) of the Planning Act 2008 and Schedule 1 of the</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>consultee. In such situations the Secretary of State will not expect strict compliance with the statutory requirements. Applicants should identify any successor body and consult with them in the same manner as they would have with the original body. Where there is no obvious successor, applicants should seek the advice of the Inspectorate, who may be able to identify an appropriate alternative consultee. Whether or not an alternative is identified, the consultation report should briefly note any cases where compliance with statutory requirements was impossible and the reasons why.</p>	<p>APFP Regulations. The bodies consulted with are set out in Section 1 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report.</p>
29	<p>Applicants will often need detailed technical input from expert bodies to assist with identifying and mitigating the social, environmental, design and economic impacts of Proposed Projects, and other important matters. Technical expert input will often be needed in advance of formal compliance with the pre-application requirements. Early engagement with these bodies can help avoid unnecessary delays and the costs of having to make changes at later stages of the process. It is equally important that statutory consultees respond to a request for technical input in a timely manner. Applicants are therefore advised to discuss and agree a timetable with</p>	<p>National Grid carried out non-statutory engagement on the technical elements of the Proposed Project with consultees including the relevant planning authorities, Kent County Council, Suffolk County Council, Dover District Council, East Suffolk Council and Thanet District Council, the Environment Agency, Natural England, Historic England and the Marine Management Organisation. See Chapter 3 and Tables 3.2 and 3.3 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report for further details on the non-statutory engagement with consultees.</p> <p>National Grid discussed the design, environmental matters and the consultation programme with many of the technical consultees and gave notice of the Statutory consultation period. National Grid also assisted select consultees with setting out the expectations for required technical inputs or feedback.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	consultees for the provision of such inputs.	
Consultation with Local Authorities on the Statement of Community Consultation		
35	The applicant has a duty under section 47 of the Planning Act to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation, and then to conduct its consultation in line with that statement. Before doing so, the applicant must consult on their Statement of Community Consultation with each local authority in whose area the proposed development is situated. This may require consultation with a number of different local authorities, particularly for long, linear Proposed Projects. In this situation, the local authorities in question should, as far as practicable, co-ordinate their responses to the applicant. This will ensure that the consultation proposals set out in the Statement are coherent, effective, and work across local authority boundaries.	Before preparing the SoCC, National Grid consulted with each local authority that is within Section 43(1) on the content of the statement, see the SoCC Compliance table, section 5 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC, section 6.3 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report and Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC for further details.
36	Even where it is intended that a development would take place within a single local authority area, it is possible that its impacts could be significantly wider than just that local authority's area - for example if the development was located close to a neighbouring authority. Where an applicant decides to consult	The SoCC explains that National Grid developed two consultation zones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Consultation Zone (PCZ) which extends 3 km from the proposed draft Order Limits for the Proposed Project onshore

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>people living in a wider area who could be affected by the Proposed Project (e.g. through visual or environmental impacts, or through increased traffic flow), that intention should be reflected in the Statement of Community Consultation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Secondary Consultation Zone (SCZ) which extends to at least 5 km from the draft Order Limits for the Proposed Project (including the PCZ) onshore. <p>National Grid focused its primary consultation activities, for example Consultation Pack (to include a newsletter, feedback form and freepost envelope), within the PCZ consultation target area and carried out less intensive consultation activities, for example media coverage, within the SCZ and wider area outside of the consultation zones.</p>
Local Authorities		
37	<p>In its role as a consultee on the Statement of Community Consultation, the local authority should focus on how the applicant should consult people in its area. The comments that a local authority provides on the Statement of Community Consultation are separate from any views that authority may have on the merits of the proposals. They are also distinct from ‘adequacy of consultation’ responses. The Planning Act requires local authorities to respond to the applicant’s consultation on their proposed Statement of Community Consultation within 28 days of receipt of the request. However, prior to submitting their draft Statement of Community Consultation applicants may wish to seek to resolve any disagreements or clarifications about the public consultation design. An applicant is therefore likely to need to engage in</p>	<p>National Grid has engaged with Kent County Council, Suffolk County Council, Dover District Council, East Suffolk Council and Thanet District Council on the content and format of the SoCC. In preparing the SoCC, National Grid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ discussed the community consultation strategy with the host authorities as part of their regular monthly meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council – 08 June 2023 — The Marine Management Organisation – 12 June 2023 — Kent County Council, Dover District Council and Thanet District Council – 13 June 2023 • On 22 June 2023, National Grid issued a draft SoCC to Kent County Council, Suffolk County Council, Dover District Council, East Suffolk Council, Thanet District Council for statutory consultation and Marine Management Organisation on a non-statutory basis, (see Section 6.3 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report and

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	discussions with local authorities over a longer period than the minimum requirements set out in the Act.	section 6 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC for further details).
38	<p>The role of the local authority in such discussions should be to provide expertise about the make-up of its area, including whether people in the area might have particular needs or requirements, whether the authority has identified any groups as difficult to reach and what techniques might be appropriate to overcome barriers to communication. The local authority should also provide advice on the appropriateness of the applicant's suggested consultation techniques and methods. The local authority's aim in such discussions should be to ensure that the people affected by the development can take part in a thorough, accessible and effective consultation exercise about the Proposed Project.</p>	<p>National Grid consulted with each local authority that is within Section 43(1) in the preparation of the SoCC, in order to provide feedback on the content of the SoCC and consultation strategy. Initial engagement with local authorities and the Marine Management Organisation took place within their respective regular monthly meetings in June 2023. Statutory consultation with local authorities within Section 43(1) on the content of the draft SoCC took place in June 2023.</p> <p>National Grid has had regard to the local authorities' comments on the appropriateness of the proposed consultation techniques and methods contained in the draft SoCC. Full details of the local authorities' comments and how National Grid has considered them within the final SoCC are set out in section 6 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC.</p>
39	<p>Topics for consideration at such pre-consultation discussions might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the size and coverage of the proposed consultation exercise (including, where appropriate, consultation which goes wider than one local authority area); 	<p>National Grid consulted with Section 43(1) local authorities in the preparation of the SoCC and the Marine Management Organisation on a non-statutory basis to comment on the content and format of the draft SoCC. Feedback received related to improved digital consultation and the number and location of local events. Full details of the local authorities' comments and how National Grid has considered them within the final SoCC are set out in section 6 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the appropriateness of various consultation techniques, including electronic-based ones; the design and format of consultation materials; issues which could be covered in consultation materials; suggestions for places/timings of public events as part of the consultation; local bodies and representative groups who should be consulted; and timescales for consultation. 	
40	<p>It is expected that in most cases applicants and local authorities will be able to work closely together and agree on the local consultation process. Where significant differences of opinion persist between the applicant and local authority (or authorities) on how the consultation should take place, the Inspectorate may be able to offer further advice or guidance to either party. However, such advice will be without prejudice to any later decision on whether to accept or reject an application for examination.</p>	<p>National Grid and local authorities worked together to agree on the local consultation process. See Chapter 6 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
41	Where a local authority raises an issue or concern on the Statement of Community Consultation which the applicant feels unable to address, the applicant is advised to explain in their consultation report their course of action to the Secretary of State when they submit their application.	Details of the local authorities' comments and how National Grid has considered them within the final SoCC are set out in section 4 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC .
42	Where a local authority decides that it does not wish to respond to a consultation request on the Statement of Community Consultation, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to ensure that all affected communities are consulted. If the applicant is unsure how to proceed, they are encouraged to seek advice from the Inspectorate. However, it is for the applicant to satisfy themselves that their consultation plan allows for as full public involvement as is appropriate for their Proposed Project and, once satisfied, to proceed with the consultation. Provided that applicants can satisfy themselves that they have made reasonable endeavours to consult with all those who might have a legitimate interest or might be affected by a proposed development, it would be unlikely that their application would be rejected on grounds of inadequate public consultation.	<p>Thanet District Council submitted an individual response on 04 July 2023, the Marine Management Organisation submitted an individual response on 06 July 2023, Kent County Council and Suffolk County Council submitted individual responses on 19 July 2023, Dover District Council and East Suffolk Council submitted individual responses on 20 July 2023, (see section 4 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC for a summary of responses). A copy of the individual responses received can be found in section 3 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC.</p> <p>National Grid has had regard to the responses submitted by Kent County Council, Suffolk County Council, Dover District Council, East Suffolk Council, Thanet District Council. This is demonstrated in section 4 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	Local Authorities as statutory consultees	
43	Local authorities are also themselves statutory consultees for any proposed major infrastructure Project which is in or adjacent to their area. Applicants should engage with them as early as possible to ensure that the impacts of the development on the local area are understood and considered prior to the application being submitted to the Secretary of State.	National Grid extensively engaged with section 43(1) local authorities from an early stage in the development process. Throughout the pre-application process of the Proposed Project National Grid has sought advice from technical officers within relevant section 43(1) local authorities (see further details in Chapter 3 of the Consultation Report and the Application Document Volume 1 Environmental Statement).
44	Local authorities will be able to provide an informed opinion on a wide number of matters, including how the Proposed Project relates to Local Plans. Local authorities may also make suggestions for requirements to be included in the draft Development Consent Order. These may include the later approval by the local authority (after the granting of a Development Consent Order) of detailed Proposed Project designs or Proposed Projects to mitigate adverse impacts. It will be important that any concerns local authorities have on the practicality of enforcing a proposed Development Consent Order are raised at the earliest opportunity.	Local authorities have been consulted from an early stage of the Proposed Project development on a range of technical planning and EIA matters. Statutory and non-statutory feedback from the local authorities and their technical officers have informed the preparation of the DCO application documents. National Grid is continuing to engage with section 43(1) local authorities on a range of matters, including the drafting of the draft DCO, with a view to agreeing Statements of Common Ground (SoCG's).
	Persons with an interest in land	

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
49	Applicants will also need to identify and consult people who own, occupy or have another interest in the land in question, or who could be affected by a Proposed Project in such a way that they may be able to make a claim for compensation. This will give such parties early notice of Proposed Projects, and an opportunity to express their views regarding them.	As required in accordance with the Planning Act 2008, National Grid undertook diligent inquiry through a land referencing process to identify parties as defined in Sections 42 and 44 of the Planning Act 2008. A description of the process undertaken to identify the land interests is set out in Application Document 4.2 Statement of Reasons . These include owners, lessees, tenants and occupiers of the land within the Order Limits (Category 1), parties that are interested in the land or have the power to sell, convey or release the land within the Order Limits (Category 2), and, if the order sought by the proposed application were to be made and fully implemented, parties who would or might be entitled to make a relevant claim (Category 3). Those parties identified were consulted in accordance with Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, and as part of ongoing non-statutory engagement throughout the pre-application process and the Book of Reference is up to date at the point of the DCO submission, see Application Document 4.3 Book of Reference . Further details are provided in Application Document 4.2 Statement of Reasons .
50	It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate at submission of the application that due diligence has been undertaken in identifying all land interests and applicants should make every reasonable effort to ensure that the Book of Reference (which records and categorises those land interests) is up to date at the time of submission.	Appropriate due diligence has been undertaken in identifying all land interests and in preparation of Application Document 4.3 Book of Reference . A description of the process undertaken to identify the land interests is set out in Application Document 4.2 Statement of Reasons .
51	However, it is understood that land interests change over time and that new or additional interests may emerge after an applicant has concluded statutory	National Grid reviewed and updated its list of Section 42(1)(d) parties as necessary when new interests were identified through ongoing diligent inquiry. Where new land interests were identified National Grid provided those interests with the consultation

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>consultation but just before an application is submitted. In such a situation, the applicant should provide a proportionate opportunity to any new person identified with a land interest to make their views known on the application. Where new interests in land are identified very shortly before the intended submission of an application, despite diligent efforts earlier in the process it may be difficult at that stage for applicants to consult and take account of any responses from those new interests before submitting their application as intended. If this situation arises applicants should be proactive and helpful in ensuring that the person understands how they can, if they so wish, engage with the process if the application is accepted for examination.</p>	<p>materials, and an opportunity to provide comments on the Proposed Project allowing a minimum of the statutory 28 days in accordance with Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008. See Chapter 7 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report for further details.</p>
52	<p>Applicants should explain in the consultation report how they have dealt with any new interests in land emerging after conclusion of their statutory consultation having regard to their duties to consult and take account of any responses</p>	<p>National Grid reviewed and updated its list of Section 42(1)(d) parties as necessary when new interests were identified through ongoing diligent inquiries.</p> <p>Where new land interests were identified through ongoing diligent inquiry National Grid provided those interests with the Statutory consultation materials and an opportunity to provide comments on the Proposed Project. All land interests were provided at least a minimum of the statutory 28 days in accordance with Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008.</p> <p>The process of dealing with any new land interests in the land which emerged after the initial statutory consultation is explained in Chapter 7 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report,</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>Application Document 5.1.8 Appendix G Land Referencing Methodology and Application Document 4.2 Statement of Reasons National Grid will continue to undertake due diligence to identify new persons with interests in land.</p>
Local communities		
53	<p>Local people have a vital role to play at the pre application stage. People should have as much influence as is realistic and possible over decisions which shape their lives and communities. It is therefore critical that they are engaged with Proposed Project proposals at an early stage. Because they live, work and socialise in the affected area, local people are particularly well placed to comment on what the impact of proposals on their local community might be; or what mitigating measures might be appropriate; or what other opportunities might exist for meeting the Proposed Project's objectives.</p>	<p>National Grid undertook non-statutory consultation with the local community in 2022, a public consultation in 2023 and targeted consultation in 2024 enabling them to develop an understanding of the Proposed Project and to provide feedback at an early stage. All consultations consolidated what the matters of interest or concern are among the local community, which influenced the latest Proposed Project design and information consulted on at the Statutory consultation stage.</p>
54	<p>In consulting on Proposed Project proposals, an inclusive approach is needed to ensure that different groups have the opportunity to participate and are not disadvantaged in the process. Applicants should use a range of methods and techniques to ensure that they access all sections of the community in question. Local authorities will be able to provide advice on what works best in terms of</p>	<p>National Grid employed a range of consultation methods including a dedicated Proposed Project website, which contained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Newsletter ▪ Consultation brochure ▪ Proposed Project overview document including a HTML/digitally accessible version ▪ Options selection and design evolution report

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	consulting their local communities given their experience of carrying out consultations in their area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Non-statutory consultation report ▪ Feedback form ▪ Consultation banners ▪ Plans and drawings ▪ Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) ▪ Non-technical summary of the (PEIR) ▪ Interactive Proposed Project map ▪ Frequently asked questions ▪ Webinar sign-up form ▪ ‘Ask the Experts’ sign-up form ▪ Contact details <p>Along with public information exhibitions, online webinars, ‘ask the experts’ appointments (in-person and virtual events held), social media posts, newspaper articles and site notices (see Section 7.4 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report).</p> <p>National Grid also sent a letter via email containing information about the Section 47 consultation and an invitation to attend the online webinars and ‘ask the experts’ appointment to a number of local community groups, including hard-to-reach groups (see Table 7.2 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report).</p>
55	Applicants must set out clearly what is being consulted on. They must be careful to make it clear to local communities what is settled and why, and what remains to be decided, so that expectations of local communities are properly managed.	During the 2023 Section 47 consultation, key consultation questions were included in the consultation documents, including the Proposed Project overview document and feedback form and the Proposed Project website, making it clear what National Grid was seeking views on.

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>Applicants could prepare a short document specifically for local communities, summarising the Proposed Project proposals and outlining the matters on which the view of the local community is sought. This can describe core elements of the Proposed Project and explain what the potential benefits and impacts may be. Such documents should be written in clear, accessible, and non-technical language. Applicants should consider making it available in formats appropriate to the needs of people with disabilities if requested. There may be cases where documents may need to be bilingual (for example, Welsh and English in some areas), but it is not the policy of the Government to encourage documents to be translated into non-native languages.</p>	<p>The consultation documents were clear and included non-technical language (see sections 3, 4, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix E Statutory consultation).</p>
56	<p>Applicants are required to set out in their Statement of Community Consultation how they propose to consult those living in the vicinity of the land. They are encouraged to consider consulting beyond this where they think doing so may provide more information on the impacts of their proposals (e.g. through visual impacts or increased traffic flow).</p>	<p>Paragraph 3.3.4 of the SoCC, see section 6 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC describes how National Grid consulted those living within the vicinity of the land of the PCZ and SCZ. Methods included; Proposed Project website (which included an interactive map), public information exhibitions, online webinars, ‘ask the experts’ appointments (in-person and virtual events held), social media posts, newspaper articles and site notices.</p> <p>Section 3.3 of the SoCC, see section 6 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC also explained how National Grid aimed to inform those living beyond the 2023 consultation target area.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>Methods included; newspaper advertisements, social media and website updates.</p> <p>Section 7.1 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provides details on the 2023 consultation target areas selected for the Section 47 consultation.</p>
57	<p>The Statement of Community Consultation should act as a framework for the community consultation generally, for example, setting out where details and dates of any events will be published. The Statement of Community Consultation should be made available online, at any exhibitions or other events held by applicants. It should be placed at appropriate local deposit points (e.g. libraries, council offices) and sent to local community groups as appropriate.</p>	<p>Table 3.3 of the SoCC, see section 6 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC stated where details and dates of consultation events were published. The dates, times and topics of the online webinars and details of the telephone surgery were included on the Proposed Project webpage, consultation publicity materials including the Section 48 notice (see section 9 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation), posters in local venues (see section 19 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation) and the newsletter distributed within the consultation target area (see section 7 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation), and promoted via social media on Facebook and Instagram (see section 20 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation).</p>
58	<p>Applicants are required to publicise their proposed application under section 48 of the Planning Act and the Regulations and set out the detail of what this publicity must entail. This publicity is an integral part of the public consultation process. Where possible, the first of the two required local newspaper advertisements should coincide approximately with the beginning of the consultation with communities. However, given the detailed information required for the publicity in the</p>	<p>National Grid prepared and published a Section 48 Notice in the manner prescribed Regulation 4 of APFP Regulations, in local and national press.</p> <p>The 2023 Section 48 Notice was published in the following newspapers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Anglian Daily Times for two successive weeks (17 October 2023 and 24 October 2023) • Kentish Gazette for two successive weeks (19 October 2023 and 26 October 2023)

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	Regulations, aligning publicity with consultation may not always be possible, especially where a multi-stage consultation is intended.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Guardian (24 October 2023) • Lloyd's List (24 October 2023) • Fishing News (24 October 2023) • The London Gazette (26 October 2023) <p>Copies of the 2023 Section 48 Notices as they appeared in papers are provided in section 22 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation.</p> <p>Copies of the 2024 targeted consultation Section 48 Notices as they appeared in papers are provided in section 16 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation.</p>
When should consultation take place and how much is enough?		
68	To realise the benefits of consultation on a Proposed Project, it must take place at a sufficiently early stage to allow consultees a real opportunity to influence the proposals. At the same time, consultees will need sufficient information on a Proposed Project to be able to recognise and understand the impacts.	<p>National Grid sought to inform and engage with a range of stakeholders about the Proposed Project from an early stage through non-statutory consultation and engagement, as well as during statutory consultation.</p> <p>National Grid considered it important to undertake non-statutory engagement with a range of consultees from early in the process, however they ensured that the proposals were far enough advanced before undertaking more formalised non-statutory consultation (October 2022 to December 2022), to provide consultees with sufficient detail to allow consultees to understand the nature of the Proposed Project. National Grid undertook a staged approach to consultation as recommended in Paragraph 70 of the Guidance. National Grid had regard to the feedback received during both non-statutory engagement and non-statutory consultation and provided further information during the statutory consultation.</p>
69	Applicants will often also require detailed technical advice from consultees and it is likely that their input will be of the greatest value if they are consulted when Proposed Project proposals are fluid, followed up by confirmation of the approach as proposals become firmer. In principle, therefore, applicants should undertake initial consultation as soon as	

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	there is sufficient detail to allow consultees to understand the nature of the Proposed Project properly.	Section 3.3 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report summarises National Grid's pre-application consultation stages.
70	To manage the tension between consulting early, but also having Proposed Project proposals that are firm enough to enable consultees to comment, applicants are encouraged to consider an iterative, phased consultation consisting of two (or more) stages, especially for large Proposed Projects with long development periods. For example, applicants might wish to consider undertaking non-statutory early consultation at a stage where options are still being considered. This will be helpful in informing proposals and assisting the applicant in establishing a preferred option on which to undertake statutory consultation.	
71	Where an iterative consultation is intended, it may be advisable for pre-applicants to carry out the final stage of consultation with persons who have an interest in the land once they have worked up their Proposed Project proposals in sufficient detail to identify affected land interests.	<p>National Grid recognises that the planning regime established by the Planning Act 2008 places substantial importance on pre-application consultation and has invested considerable time and resources to encourage meaningful involvement in the pre-application process by the local community, those with an interest in the land, local authorities, and other prescribed consultees. Thus, the Proposed Project has been developed in a consultative and iterative manner, during successive stages of development.</p> <p>National Grid had developed the Proposed Project proposals in sufficient detail to identify affected land interests and engage with</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
72	<p>The timing and duration of consultation will be likely to vary from Proposed Project to Proposed Project, depending on size and complexity, and the range and scale of the impacts. The Planning Act requires a consultation period of a minimum of 28 days from the day after receipt of the consultation documents. It is expected that this may be sufficient for Proposed Projects which are straightforward and uncontroversial in nature. But many Proposed Projects, particularly larger or more controversial ones, may require longer consultation periods than this.</p> <p>Applicants should therefore set consultation deadlines that are realistic and proportionate to the Proposed Project. It is also important that consultees do not withhold information that might affect a Proposed Project, and that they respond in good time to applicants. Where responses are not received by the deadline, the applicant is not obliged to take those responses into account.</p>	<p>affected land interests at the Statutory consultation, targeted consultation and pre-submission engagement.</p> <p>National Grid allowed more than the statutory 28 days for responses to its Statutory consultation periods.</p> <p>The Statutory consultation period ran from 24 October 2023 to 18 December 2023 (allowing 56 days). However, National Grid had regard to Paragraph 72 and considered that the statutory minimum requirement was considered sufficient given the size and complexity of the Proposed Project.</p> <p>The Targeted consultation period ran from 08 July 2024 to 11 August 2024 (allowing 31 days). National Grid did not consider that the changes to the Proposed Project had changed “<i>to such a large degree that the proposals could be considered a new application’ or that it ‘materially change[d] the application or materially changes [changed] its impacts’</i>”. As such National Grid considered that the statutory minimum requirement was sufficient given the size and complexity of the refinements to the Proposed Project.</p> <p>The Pre-submission engagement period ran from 22 November 2024 to 12 January 2025 (allowing 31 days). National Grid did not consider that the changes to the Proposed Project had changed “<i>to such a large degree that the proposals could be considered a new application’ or that it ‘materially change[d] the application or materially changes [changed] its impacts’</i>”. As such National Grid considered that the statutory minimum requirement was sufficient given the size and complexity of the minor refinements to the Proposed Project.</p>
73	<p>Applicants are not expected to repeat consultation rounds set out in their Statement of Community Consultation unless the Proposed Project proposals</p>	<p>The Proposed Project did not change substantially following the statutory consultation so, it was not necessary to repeat the community wide statutory consultation under s47 of the PA 2008 and as set out in the statutory consultation SoCC, see section 6</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>have changed very substantially. However, where proposals change to such a large degree that what is being taken forward is fundamentally different from what was consulted on, further consultation may well be needed. This may be necessary if, for example, new information arises which renders all previous options unworkable or invalid for some reason. When considering the need for additional consultation, applicants should use the degree of change, the effect on the local community and the level of public interest as guiding factors.</p>	<p>Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC. Chapter 9 of this report (Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report) describes targeted consultation that took place between 08 July 2024 and 11 August 2024. The s47 notice was republished for the targeted consultation, see section 13 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation.</p>
74	<p>Where a proposed application changes to such a large degree that the proposals could be considered a new application, the legitimacy of the consultation already carried out could be questioned. In such cases, applicants should undertake further re-consultation on the new proposals, and should supply consultees with sufficient information to enable them to understand the nature of the change and any likely significant impacts (but not necessarily the full suite of consultation documents), and allow at least 28 days for consultees to respond.</p>	<p>Paragraph 20 of the April 2024 ‘Guidance on the pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects’ states:</p> <p><i>‘For any material change to a part of the proposed application where the project as a whole is not fundamentally change....., a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately.’</i></p> <p>Given the nature of the refinements, and in the context of the guidance , National Grid did not consider that the ‘proposed application changes [had changed] to such a large degree that the proposals could be considered a material and substantial change, nor that its environmental impacts were materially worse.</p>
75	<p>If the application only changes to a small degree, or if the change only affects part of the development, then it is not necessary for an applicant to undertake a</p>	<p>Paragraph 20 of the April 2024 ‘Guidance on the pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects’ states:</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>full re-consultation. Where a proposed application is amended in light of consultation responses then, unless those amendments materially change the application or materially changes its impacts, the amendments themselves should not trigger a need for further consultation. Instead, the applicant should ensure that all affected statutory consultees and local communities are informed of the changes.</p>	<p><i>'For any material change to a part of the proposed application where the project as a whole is not fundamentally change....., a bespoke and targeted approach to further consultation can be adopted, which can address the specific consultation obligations arising proportionately.'</i></p> <p>Given the nature of the refinements, and in the context of the guidance , National Grid did not consider that the 'proposed application changes [had changed] to such a large degree that the proposals could be considered a material and substantial change, nor that its environmental impacts were materially worse.</p>
76	<p>In circumstances where a particular issue has arisen during the preapplication consultation, or where it is localised in nature, it may be appropriate to hold a non-statutory, targeted consultation. A developer's Statement of Community Consultation should be drafted so that it does not preclude this approach. A more bespoke approach can be adopted, which may allow developers to respond with more agility to the issue at hand. If adopting this approach, the emphasis should be on ensuring that relevant individuals and organisations are included.</p>	<p>Paragraph 4.3.1 in the SoCC (see section 6 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC) states: <i>'If, following the statutory consultation, we consider it is necessary to undertake further targeted statutory consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC'</i>. Targeted consultation and the pre-submission engagement were carried out in accordance with those principles as proportionate.</p>
77	<p>Consultation should also be fair and reasonable for applicants as well as communities. To ensure that consultation is fair to all parties, applicants should be able to demonstrate that the consultation process is proportionate to the impacts of</p>	<p>National Grid has carried out a comprehensive pre-application consultation process as described in this report and considers that this has been proportionate to the impacts of the Proposed Development, takes account of the views of the relevant local authorities and the anticipated level of local interest.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	the Proposed Project in the area that it affects, takes account of the anticipated level of local interest, and takes account of the views of the relevant local authorities.	
	The consultation report and responding to consultees	
78	Applicants are required under section 37 of the Planning Act to produce a consultation report alongside their application, which details how they have complied with the consultation requirements set out in the Act.	National Grid has produced a Consultation Report (Volume 5 of the DCO submission) (this report) which details how they have complied with the consultation requirements set out in the Planning Act 2008.
80	Therefore, the consultation report should:	
	provide a general description of the consultation process undertaken, which can helpfully include a timeline;	See Chapters 1 and 2 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report .
	set out specifically what the applicant has done in compliance with the requirements of the Planning Act, relevant secondary legislation, this guidance, and any relevant policies, guidance or advice published by Government or the Inspectorate;	See Section 3.3 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report and Application Document 5.1.1 Annex 1 Consultation compliance checklist (this Annex).
	set out how the applicant has taken account of any response to consultation with local authorities on what should be in	See Chapters 8, 9 and 10 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report . Full details of the local authorities' comments and how National Grid has considered them within the

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	the applicant's statement of community consultation;	final SoCC are provided in section 4 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC.
	set out a summary of relevant responses to consultation (but not a complete list of responses);	See Chapter 8, Chapter 9 and 10 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report , section 24 and 25 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation , section 17 and 18 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation.
	provide a description of how the application was informed and influenced by those responses, outlining any changes made as a result and showing how significant relevant responses will be addressed;	See Chapter 8, Chapter 9 and 10 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report , section 24 and 25 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation , Section 17 and 18 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation.
	provide an explanation as to why responses advising on major changes to a Proposed Project were not followed, including advice from statutory consultees on impacts;	See Chapter 8, Chapter 9 and 10 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report , section 24 and 25 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation , section 17 and 18 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation.
	where the applicant has not followed the advice of the local authority or not complied with this guidance or any relevant Advice Note published by the Inspectorate, provide an explanation for the action taken or not taken; and	National Grid has aimed to follow all advice of the local authority, DCLG guidance and relevant advice note Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report (August 2024) issued by the Planning Inspectorate as evidenced in this report.
	be expressed in terms sufficient to enable the Secretary of State to understand fully how the consultation process has been undertaken and significant effects	National Grid has sought to produce the Consultation Report in terms sufficient to allow the Secretary of State, consultees and the local community to fully understand the consultation process.

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	addressed. However, it need not include full technical explanations of these matters.	
81	It is good practice that those who have contributed to the consultation are informed of the results of the consultation exercise; how the information received by applicants has been used to shape and influence the Proposed Project; and how any outstanding issues will be addressed before an application is submitted to the Inspectorate.	Chapter 8 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provides a summary of the main issues raised in the Statutory consultation responses and the regard National Grid has had to the responses received is included at section 24 and 25 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation . This Appendix has been spilt into separate appendices as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 42 consultation (see section 24 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation) • Section 47 consultation (See section 25 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation) • Section 48 consultation (see section 25 Application Document 5.1.67 Appendix E Statutory consultation).
82	As with the consultation itself, it is likely that different audiences will require different levels of information. The local community may be particularly interested in what the collective view of the community is and how this has been taken into account. Consultees with highly technical interests may seek more detailed information on what impacts and risks have been identified, and how they are proposed to be mitigated or managed.	The more detailed responses received as part of the Section 42(1)(a) consultation, have therefore been presented separately to those received by the local community under Section 47 and Section 48, to reflect the differing interests of consultees, as proposed in the guidance.
83	The consultation report may not be the most appropriate format in which to respond to the points raised by various consultee groups and bodies. Applicants should therefore consider producing a summary note in plain English for the local community setting out headline findings	National Grid notes the guidance on providing a summary note in plain English for the local community setting out headline findings. National Grid The Consultation Report, (see Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report) submitted as part of the DCO application, provides a high-level summary of key themes from the feedback received, and provides an overview of how this feedback influenced the design of the Proposed Project. Detailed analysis of each piece of feedback received and the regard had to that feedback. This approach is in line with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and guidance issued by MHCLG, Nationally

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	and how they have been addressed, together with a link to the full consultation report for those interested. If helpful, this could be supplemented by events in the local area.	<p>Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report (August 2024) and the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>Chapter 9 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provides a summary of the main issues raised in the Targeted consultation responses and the regard National Grid has had to the responses received is included at Section 17 and 18 Application Document 5.1.8 Appendix F Targeted consultation.</p> <p>Chapter 10, Section 10.5 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provides a summary of the main issues raised in the Targeted consultation responses and the regard National Grid has had to the responses received.</p>
84	A response to points raised by consultees with technical information is likely to need to focus on the specific impacts for which the body has expertise. The applicant should make a judgement as to whether the consultation report provides sufficient detail on the relevant impacts, or whether a targeted response would be more appropriate. Applicants are also likely to have identified a number of key additional bodies for consultation and may need to continue engagement with these bodies on an individual basis.	National Grid continues to engage with several technical consultees and relevant local authorities. SoCGs have also been initiated with key stakeholders prior to the submission of the DCO application (see Section 3.4 of the Consultation Report and Application Document 7.4.1 to 7.4.15 Statements of Common Ground .
Environmental Impact Assessment		
90	At an early stage the applicant needs to either inform the Secretary of State of their intention to submit an environmental statement along with its application, or	A Regulation 8(1)(b) (of the EIA Regulations 2017) notification was submitted to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (SoS) alongside a request for a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 10 which included an EIA Scoping Report (SR) on 24

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	where the developer is unsure whether an environmental statement is needed, that they intend to seek a screening opinion.	<p>October 2022 and confirmed that National Grid intended to submit a DCO Application (see section 1 and 2 of Application Document 5.1.3 Appendix B EIA Scoping). The SoS adopted the Scoping Opinion on 01 December 2022, (see section 3 of Application Document 5.1.3 Appendix B EIA Scoping) having consulted with the relevant consultation bodies in accordance with Regulation 10(6) of the EIA Regulations 2017.</p> <p>Paragraph 3.2.5 of the SoCC (see section 6 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC) confirms an ES (see Application Document Volume 6 Environmental Statement) will be prepared and submitted as part of the submission of an application for development consent.</p> <p>Thus, PINs were aware at an early stage that National Grid intended to submit an ES along with the DCO application.</p>
91	<p>The applicable EIA regulations prescribe as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulation 10 requires that the applicant's Statement of Community Consultation must state whether the project falls within the scope of the Directive, and, if it does, how the applicant intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information (see paragraphs 93 and 94) for requirements in relation to preliminary 	<p>Paragraphs 1.1.2 and 1.1.3 of the SoCC (see section 6 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC) included the following statement: <i>'This project requires consent from the Secretary of State via a Development Consent Order (DCO). This document has been prepared pursuant to section 47(1) of the Planning Act 2008 ("the Act") and regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (EIA) Regulations 2017'.</i></p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	environmental information); and	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulation 11 requires that publicity of project proposals under section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 must also encompass the requirements of the EIA process and at the time of publishing the proposed application, applicants must notify all environmental consultation bodies. 	<p>The Section 48 notice (see section 9 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory Consultation) encompassed the Proposed Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development, as defined by The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and confirmed an Environmental Statement would be submitted as part of the proposed application.</p> <p>National Grid consulted environmental consultees as required by s42(1)(a). In line with Advice Note Seven (PINs), National Grid published a Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report alongside the consultation material. This presented the likely effects of the project to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the project and its effects so that they could provide detailed comments on the design and mitigation of the project.</p>
92	To ensure consultation is meaningful, the pre-application consultation process for major infrastructure Proposed Projects encourages applicants to give consultees as much information as possible on the characteristics of the Proposed Project. However, it may not be possible for applicants to share their environmental statements during the consultation process. It may also not be the most appropriate way to present the potential environmental impacts and mitigation steps.	<p>National Grid provided a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) for the purposes of the Statutory consultation. The 2023 PEIR was available on the Proposed Project webpage throughout the Statutory consultation period. The 2023 PEIR was produced in the same format as the Environmental Statement and provided as much baseline information and preliminary findings of assessments as were available at the time, in order to ensure a meaningful pre-application consultation and detailed responses could be formulated by consultees.</p> <p>Section 3.2 of the SoCC, (see section 6 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC) outlined how National Grid intended to consult upon the 2023 PEIR.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	Preliminary Environmental Information	Additional Preliminary Environmental Information was provided for the Targeted consultation, see section 7 and 8 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation.
93	<p>For the pre-application consultation process, applicants are advised to include sufficient preliminary environmental information to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the Proposed Project. The information required may be different for different types and sizes of Proposed Projects. It may also vary depending on the audience of a particular consultation. The preliminary environmental information is not expected to replicate or be a draft of the environmental statement. However, if the applicant considers this to be appropriate (and more cost-effective), it can be presented in this way. The key issue is that the information presented must provide clarity to all consultees. Applicants should be careful not to assume that non-specialist consultees would not be interested in any technical environmental information. It is therefore advisable to ensure access to such information is provided during all consultations. The applicant's Statement of Community Consultation must include a statement about how the applicant intends to consult on preliminary environmental information.</p>	

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
95	When considering whether a project has the potential to significantly affect the integrity of certain European protected wildlife sites, the applicant must provide a report which should include the site(s) that may be affected, together with sufficient information to enable the Secretary of State, as decision maker, to conclude whether an appropriate assessment is required, and, if so, to undertake such an assessment	National Grid has prepared a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report (see Application Document 6.6 Habitats Regulations Assessment Report) which is included within the application for development consent. This provides the information required for the SoS to undertake an appropriate assessment.
Drafting the Development Consent Order		
98	Applicants may find it helpful to undertake early discussion with a range of parties on the content of the draft Order. Where felt necessary, local authorities may suggest appropriate requirements to be included in the draft Order. These may be similar to conditions attached to a grant of planning permission. They could include the later approval (after the granting of an Order) by the local authority of detailed Proposed Project designs or Proposed Projects to mitigate adverse impacts.	Discussions have commenced with prescribed bodies and statutory undertakers about the integration of licenses and consents into the DCO and with Local Planning Authority's (see Table 9.6 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report (this report)) in relation to handover proposals. National Grid intends to issue the draft DCO (see Application Document 3.1 Draft Development Consent Order) following submission of the DCO application so that these discussions can be progressed during the pre-examination period.

Planning Act 2008: (April 2024) Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects

National Grid undertook the 2024 targeted consultation after the publication of the new guidance entitled 'Planning Act 2008: (April 2024) Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.' Certain elements of the new guidance relate to the earlier stages

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
of the Proposed Project, the following informs how National Grid applied the new guidance for Targeted consultation and pre-submission engagement.		
Statutory requirements		
006	During the pre-application stage an applicant must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> notify the Planning Inspectorate acting on behalf of the Secretary of State of the proposed application on or before commencing statutorily required consultation under section 46 of the Planning Act, principally with statutory bodies, local authorities and persons with interests in the land; 	National Grid notified the SoS (via the Planning Inspectorate) of the Targeted consultation under Section 46 of the Planning Act 2008 on 05 July 2024. A copy of the notification letter is provided in section 5 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation .
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> notify the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State that they intend to provide an Environmental Statement in respect of the proposed development, or that they will be asking the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State to adopt a screening opinion ahead of submitting the application (Regulation 8 of the EIA Regulations 2017); this should 	<p>The Proposed Project is considered to fall within Schedule 1 to the Infrastructure EIA Regulations 2017. As such, National Grid requested a Scoping Opinion from the Secretary of State on 24 October 2022, which also outlined that National Grid intended to submit an Environmental Statement in respect of the Proposed Project (see section 3 Application Document 5.1.3 Appendix B EIA Scoping).</p> <p>Paragraph 3.2.5 of the SoCC (see section 6 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC) stated “As part of the application for development consent, an Environmental Statement (ES) will be prepared. This document will present an assessment of likely significant effects arising from the proposed Project and potential mitigation where appropriate, based on the details of the</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>be informed by early engagement with interested parties before formal consultation under section 42 of the Planning Act;</p>	<p><i>proposals submitted with the application for development consent.”</i> The Environmental statement is provided in Application Document Volume 6 Environmental Statement of the DCO application.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> prepare a statement in consultation with the relevant local authority or authorities, commonly termed the Statement of Community Consultation (“SoCC”), which describes how the applicant proposes to consult the local community about their project and then carry out consultation in accordance with that statement, as required by section 47 of the Planning Act and Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations 2017; 	<p>In accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, National Grid prepared a SoCC (see section 6 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC) which explained how they intended to consult with the local community about the proposed application and then carried out pre-application consultation in accordance with the final published SoCC.</p> <p>In preparing the SoCC, National Grid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> discussed the community consultation strategy with the host authorities as part of their regular monthly meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council – 08 June 2023 The Marine Management Organisation – 12 June 2023 Kent County Council, Dover District Council and Thanet District Council – 13 June 2023 <p>In June 2023, National Grid issued a draft SoCC to Kent County Council, Suffolk County Council, Dover District Council, East Suffolk Council, Thanet District Council and the Marine Management Organisation for statutory consultation (see Section 6.3 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report and section 1 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC for further details).</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> make the SoCC available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land where the development is proposed, publishing the statement and a newspaper notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, as required by section 47 of the Planning Act; 	<p>National Grid published the SoCC online on 24 October 2023 ahead of the Statutory consultation process (see Section 6.4 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report) and consider the statutory consultation was compliant with the SoCC. Paper copies of the published SoCC could be requested, throughout the Statutory consultation and targeted consultation periods and were made available on the Proposed Project website and deposit locations.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify and consult statutory consultees, local authorities and all persons with land interests as required by section 42 of the Planning Act and Regulation 3 and Schedule 1 to the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (“the APFP Regulations 2009”); 	<p>Section 1 and 2 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix E Statutory consultation contains the list of Section 42 prescribed bodies that were consulted by National Grid for targeted Consultation and Chapter 10, section 10.3 Application Document 5.1 Consultation report for pre-submission engagement.</p> <p>A list of those parties consulted under Section 42(1)(d) for targeted consultation is enclosed in section 1 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation and for pre-submission engagement in section 1 Application Document 5.1.9 Appendix H Pre-Submission Engagement.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> set a deadline for consultation responses required by section 42 of the Planning Act of not less than 28 days from the day after receipt of the consultation documents as 	<p>The 2024 Targeted consultation Section 48 Notice (see section 3 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation) included a deadline for receipt of responses to the publicity. The notice was published between 04 July 2024 and 08 July 2024. The deadline for receipt of responses to the publicity as provided in the notice was 11.59 PM on 11 August 2024, therefore,</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	required by section 45 of the Planning Act;	allowing more than the statutory minimum of 28 days following the date when the notice was last published.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> publicise the proposed application in accordance with section 48 of the Planning Act, Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations 2017 and Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations 2009; 	<p>National Grid prepared and published a Section 48 Notice in the manner prescribed by the APFP Regulations (which was then also issued to the consultation bodies under Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations 2017). See section 3 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation for a copy of the published notice.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> have regard to relevant responses to publicity and consultation required by section 49 of the Planning Act; 	<p>Chapter 9 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report and Section 17 and 18 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation provide a summary of the main issues raised in the Targeted consultation responses and how National Grid has had regard to the relevant responses received.</p> <p>Chapter 10 Section 10.4 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provides a summary of the main issues raised in the Pre-submission engagement responses and how National Grid has had regard to the relevant responses received.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> prepare a consultation report showing how the applicant has met the consultation requirements of sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act and how the proposed application has been amended to take account of the relevant responses; meet the requirements of section 37 of the Planning Act 	<p>National Grid has prepared a Consultation Report (Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report) (this report) to accompany the DCO application. In preparing the Consultation Report, National Grid has had regard to the MHCLG Guidance, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report (August 2024).</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	by submitting this consultation report to the Planning Inspectorate acting on behalf of the Secretary of State with the application for development consent for consideration in the decision whether the application is accepted for examination; and	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> have regard to this guidance as required by section 50 of the Planning Act. 	The Proposed Project had already completed non-statutory and statutory consultation before the new advice was published, therefore could not have regard to the government's new guidance on the pre-application stage. National Grid met with the Planning Inspectorate on 10 September 2024 and they accepted National Grid's programme did not allow it to follow the guidance in full due to the maturity of the Proposed Project. National Grid consider the consultation carried out to date has been adequate, as set out in this report Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report .
	Timescale for pre-application	
007	Applicants will normally carry out preparatory work of project development, including informal early engagement with local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees prior to the formal start of the pre-application stage of the NSIP consenting process.	The local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees have all been engaged in the proposals since the first stages of consultation October 2021. Non statutory consultation was held between 24 October 2022 and 18 December 2022. Further details about engagement with communities during non-statutory consultation can be found in Chapter 3 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report .
	Inception Meeting with the Planning Inspectorate	

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
008	<p>The purpose of the Inception Meeting is for the applicant to discuss with the Planning Inspectorate their Programme Document, which sets out the intended programme for the pre-application stage and what work and studies are required for the preparation of an application. This Inception Meeting should include discussion of any anticipated requests for screening or scoping to help inform decisions on the right level of pre-application service to be provided by the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>In most cases applicants will need to engage statutory consultees and others early in the preparation of applications. Separate guidance on cost recovery explains where and how the Planning Inspectorate and some statutory consultees may recover costs for the services they provide in relation to NSIP applications / proposed applications.</p>	<p>The Proposed Project had already completed non-statutory and statutory consultation before the new advice was published, therefore an inception meeting was not held.</p> <p>See Chapter 3 and Table 3.1 (this report) Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report for all pre-application consultation activities with statutory consultees and others.</p>
Programme Document		
009	<p>The pre-application process is applicant-led. To deliver a good pre-application process, including effective engagement and a well-prepared application, applicants should put together a Programme Document at the outset of the pre-application stage for submission to the Planning Inspectorate and agreement</p>	<p>At the point at which the guidance and prospectus came forward (May 2024), the proposed project had already completed two phases of project-wide pre-application consultation.</p> <p>National Grid submitted the inaugural draft Programme Document to PINS in August 2024 and comments were received back from PINS in September 2024.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	at the Inception Meeting. The Programme Document is an essential element of the quality standard for applications seeking a fast-track route to consent.	The Programme Document (see section 19 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation) has been updated and published on National Grid's Proposed Project dedicated website February 2025.
Programme Document contents		
010	The Programme Document is not a statutory requirement and is not for consultation apart from agreement with the Planning Inspectorate. It should set out the timetable and activities necessary for an effective pre-application process (PINS), and consultation with various parties required under the Planning Act.	The Programme Document (see section 19 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation) sets out the timetable and describes the activities proposed to ensure an effective pre-application process, including the level of preapplication service requested from the Planning Inspectorate Planning Act 2008 as per the requirements for a Programme Document set out in Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) consideration		
011	Major infrastructure projects will normally be of a size, scale and nature that they will constitute Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development described within the terms of the EIA Regulations 2017. An applicant cannot begin to carry out statutory consultation under section 42 of the Planning Act until they have taken the necessary steps under Regulation 8 of the EIA Regulations 2017 to establish whether an EIA is required.	A Regulation 8(1)(b) (of the EIA Regulations 2017) notification was submitted to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (SoS) alongside a request for a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 10 which included an EIA Scoping Report (SR) on 24 October 2022 and confirmed that National Grid intended to submit a DCO Application (see section 1 and 2 of Application Document 5.1.3 Appendix B EIA Scoping). The SoS adopted the Scoping Opinion on 01 December 2022, (see section 3 of Application Document 5.1.3 Appendix B EIA Scoping) having consulted with the relevant consultation bodies in accordance with Regulation 10(6) of the EIA Regulations 2017.

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>Paragraph 3.2.5 of the SoCC (see section 6 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC) confirms an ES (see Application Document Volume 6 Environmental Statement) will be prepared and submitted as part of the submission of an application for development consent.</p> <p>Thus, PINs were aware at an early stage that National Grid intended to submit an ES along with the DCO application.</p>
	Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI)	
012	Where an NSIP is determined to be EIA development in line with Regulation 8 of the EIA Regulations 2017 the applicant is required by Regulation 12 of the EIA Regulations 2017 to publish sufficient Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the proposed development. The information required will be different for different types and sizes of projects and it may also vary depending on the audience of a particular consultation.	<p>National Grid consulted environmental consultees as required by s42(1)(a). In line with Advice Note Seven (PINs), National Grid published a Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report alongside the consultation material. This presented the likely important effects of the project to enable consultees to develop an informed view of the project and its effects so that they could provide detailed comments on the design and mitigation of the project.</p> <p>Additional Preliminary Environmental Information was provided for the Targeted consultation, see section 7 and 8 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation.</p>
	Habitats Regulations Assessment	
013	The Habitats Regulations* provide for the designation of sites for the protection of certain species and habitats. When considering whether a proposed NSIP has the potential to significantly affect the	National Grid has prepared a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report (see Application Document 6.6 Habitats Regulations Assessment Report) which is included within the

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>integrity of such sites**, the applicant must provide a report as required by Regulation 5(2)(g) of the APFP Regulations 2009. This must include the site(s) that may be affected, together with sufficient information to enable the relevant Secretary of State, as decision maker, to conclude whether an appropriate assessment is required under the Habitats Regulations, and, if so, to undertake such an assessment. Further relevant information can be found in the Planning Inspectorate's advice and the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs guidance on Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).</p>	<p>application for development consent. This provides the information required for the SoS to undertake an appropriate assessment.</p>
Good design		
014	<p>Good design is not simply about the look of a project; it is about the whole process of putting a project together so that it achieves the elements of good design including choice of location, vision, narrative, design principles and consultation programme.</p>	<p>National Grid have submitted as part of the DCO application, Application Document 7.12.1 Design Principles – Suffolk and 7.12.2 Design Principles – Kent which demonstrate good design.</p>
Alternatives considerations		
015	<p>There are particular occasions in the NSIP consenting process where alternatives to the proposed development must be examined as required by legislation. For</p>	<p>Application Document 6.2.1.3 Part 1 Introduction Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered submitted as part of the DCO application demonstrates alternatives considered by National Grid.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	example, to meet the requirements of the EIA Regulations 2017, and where compulsory acquisition of land is sought by the applicant it should be able to demonstrate that reasonable alternatives to compulsory acquisition of the precise parcels of land have been explored.	
	Land matters considerations	
016	Applicants will often need to compile detailed records of land interests as part of the preparation of an NSIP application. These will be principally for the assembly of the Book of Reference required by Regulations 5 and 7 of the APFP Regulations 2009 where applicable, including where compulsory acquisition of land is proposed, or where applicants require rights to use land (for example, to undertake surveys) or carry out protective works to buildings.	Appropriate due diligence has been undertaken in identifying all land interests and in preparation of Application Document 4.3 Book of Reference . A description of the process undertaken to identify the land interests is set out in Application Document 4.2 Statement of Reasons .
	Non-planning consents, permits and licences	
017	One of the main advantages of the Planning Act is the ability to embrace several non-planning consents within the Development Consent Order (DCO). This enables a decision to be implemented as quickly as possible avoiding the need for a substantial volume of post-DCO	Discussions have commenced with prescribed bodies and statutory undertakers about the integration of licenses and consents into the DCO and with Local Planning Authority's (see Table 9.X Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report (this report)) in relation to handover proposals. National Grid intends to issue the draft DCO (see Application Document 3.1 Draft Development Consent Order) following submission of the DCO

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	consents, permits and licences to be obtained.	application so that these discussions can be progressed during the pre-examination period.
	Obtaining a marine licence	
018	<p>Section 149A of the Planning Act provides that a DCO may include a marine licence deemed to have been issued under Part 4 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. Such marine licences are issued by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), and where an applicant intends to seek such a licence as part of the DCO it is essential that the MMO is consulted at the earliest opportunity to agree the content of the deemed marine licence (DML) and the range of conditions which will be applied. The MMO is responsible for enforcing these conditions, post-consent monitoring, and varying, suspending, or revoking any DML(s) included as part of a made DCO.</p>	<p>Schedule 16 of the draft Development Consent Order Application Document 3.1 draft Development Consent Order includes a draft deemed marine licence. A draft of the deemed marine licence has been shared with MMO and their comments have been taken into account in the drafting of the conditions included in the draft deemed marine licence.</p>
	Pre-application consultation	
019	<p>Applicants are responsible for consulting on proposed applications for DCOs. Applicants are specifically required to undertake statutory pre-application consultation activities as stipulated in the following legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> section 42 of the Planning Act, together with the provisions of 	<p>For targeted consultation National Grid's Section 42 and 43 list and Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations are clearly set out in section 1 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation. Section 9.2 and table 9.1 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report (this report) provide further s42 consultees identified after the introduction of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2024 ('the 2024 Regulations') 30 April 2024.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>sections 43 and 44 of the Planning Act, requires applicants to consult certain persons, including statutory consultees, local authorities, and others with a relevant interest in the land to which the proposed application relates, prior to the submission of an application. The prescribed list of statutory consultees for the purposes of section 42 of the Planning Act is set out in Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations 2009, as amended by the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024;</p>	<p>Section 1 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation and section 1 Application Document 5.1.9 Appendix H Pre-Submission Engagement provide a list of those with an interest in the land. An up-to-date Book of Reference has been submitted with the DCO application (Application Document 4.3 Book of Reference).</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> section 47 of the Planning Act requires applicants to consult relevant local authorities on what is to be in their SoCC setting out how applicants intend to consult the local community on the proposed DCO application, and then carry out consultation in accordance with the SoCC; section 48 of the Planning Act requires applicants to publicise the proposed application in the prescribed 	<p>Before preparing the SoCC, National Grid consulted with each local authority that is within Section 43(1) on the content of the statement, see the SoCC Compliance table, section 5 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC, section 6.3 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report and Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC for further details.</p> <p>Reference 006 of this table explains compliance with consulting the local community, section 48 publicity and EIA Regulations 2017 in regard to the SoCC.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>manner as set out in Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations 2009; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the EIA Regulations 2017 set out requirements for preparing Environmental Statements prior to the submission of a DCO application, including engaging with statutory consultees and local authorities prior to formal pre-application activities under section 42 of the Planning Act. 	
020	<p>The pre-application consultation undertaken should be proportionate to the scale and nature of the project and its effects. A 'one-size-fits-all' approach is not appropriate. For a straightforward and uncontroversial application, an applicant may choose to discharge the obligations of sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Planning Act concurrently in a single round of consultation, or in separate stages. For more complex proposals, an applicant may choose to conduct a non-statutory round of consultation (for example considering options) before undertaking a statutory round of consultation, or they may choose to run a multi-stage statutory consultation process.</p>	<p>National Grid's approach to engagement and consultation was to carry out four phases of pre-application consultation. Phase one, referred to as Non-statutory consultation, was held between 24 October 2022 and 18 December 2022. This was followed by phase two (Statutory consultation), which was held between 24 October 2023 and 18 December 2023. Targeted consultation constituted phase three and took place between 08 July 2024 and 11 August 2024. Lastly, phase four (Pre-submission engagement) which was held between 22 November 2024 and 12 January 2025. Further details are provided in Chapter 5, 7, 9 and 10 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
Who should be consulted		
021	<p>Sections 42 to 44 of the Planning Act, Regulation 3 and Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations 2009 set out details of who must be consulted, including statutory bodies, the Marine Management Organisation where appropriate, local authorities, and persons having an interest in the land to be developed. Section 47 of the Planning Act sets out the applicant's statutory duty to consult local communities. In addition, applicants will want to consider the issues that may need to be addressed ahead of submission and may also wish to seek the views of other people who are not statutory consultees, but who may be significantly affected by the project.</p>	<p>For targeted consultation National Grid's Section 42 and 43 list and Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations are clearly set out in section 1 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation. Section 9.2 and table 9.1 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report (this report) provide further s42 consultees identified after the introduction of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2024 ('the 2024 Regulations') 30 April 2024.</p> <p>Section 1 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation and section 1 Application Document 5.1.9 Appendix H Pre-Submission Engagement provide a list of those with an interest in the land. An up-to-date Book of Reference has been submitted with the DCO application (Application Document 4.3 Book of Reference).</p> <p>Section 9.8 and 10.3 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report (this report) demonstrate consultation approach with Section 47 local community for the targeted consultation and pre-submission engagement.</p>
Consulting communities effectively		
022	<p>It is good practice for applicants to work with local stakeholders in the formative stages of the project, through early engagement. This can help inform the Programme Document that they later take to the Inception Meeting with the Planning Inspectorate. Early engagement with local authorities, parish and town councils can help applicants to ensure they find the</p>	<p>At the point at which the guidance and prospectus came forward (May 2024), the proposed project had already completed two phases of project-wide pre-application consultation.</p> <p>National Grid submitted the inaugural draft Programme Document to PINS in August 2024 and comments were received back from PINS in September 2024.</p> <p>The Programme Document (see section 19 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation) has been</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	best approach to engage the relevant communities in the most effective and proportionate way.	<p>updated and published on National Grid's Proposed Project dedicated website February 2025.</p> <p>National Grid held early engagement with local authorities, parish and town councils, see Chapter 3 and section 3.4 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report (this report).</p>
	Under section 47 of the Planning Act, applicants are required to produce a SoCC, setting out how they intend to consult the local community on the proposed application. Applicants should consider how they can engage communities in a way that supports them to understand the necessary issues at an appropriate stage to support preparation of their application, and how they will show how they have responded to their issues of concern.	Chapter 6 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provides details of how the SoCC (see section 6 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC) was prepared, consulted on and published in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act. The targeted consultation was done in line with the SoCC published on 18 October 2023. The SoCC allowed for future targeted consultations to be held in accordance with the principles and methods set out in the SoCC.
	Engaging statutory consultees and other relevant groups	
023	<p>Applicants must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consult the prescribed bodies as appropriate under Regulation 3 and Schedule 1 to the APFP Regulations 2009, as well as the Marine Management Organisation in certain circumstances, under section 42 of the Planning Act, 	<p>A list of those parties consulted under Section 42 for targeted consultation is enclosed in section 1 and 2 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation, section 1 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation and for pre-submission engagement in section 1 Application Document 5.1.9 Appendix H Pre-Submission Engagement.</p> <p>National Grid's Targeted consultation under Section 42 commenced on 08 July 2024 and concluded on 11 August 2024, allowing more than the statutory minimum of 28 days.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	giving the consultees at least 28 days to respond;	National Grid's pre-submission engagement under Section 42(1)(d) commenced on 22 November 2024 and concluded on 12 January 2025, allowing more than the statutory minimum of 28 days.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> publicise their proposed application under section 48 of the Planning Act, and Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations 2009 sets out the detail of what this publicity must entail; and 	<p>The 2024 Section 48 Notice (see section 3 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation) included a deadline for receipt of responses to the publicity. The notice was published in a number of publications between 04 July 2024 and 08 July 2024. The deadline for receipt of responses to the publicity provided in the notice was 11.59 PM on 11 August 2024, therefore, allowing more than the statutory minimum of 28 days following the date when the notice was last published. The 2024 Section 48 Notice was published in the following newspapers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing News (04 July 2024) Kentish Gazette for two successive weeks (04 July 2024 and 11 August 2024) East Anglian Daily Times for two successive weeks (04 July 2024 and 08 August 2024) London Gazette (08 July 2024) Guardian (08 July 2024) Lloyd's List (03 July 2024)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> by section 49 of the Planning Act have regard to any relevant consultation responses from either statutory consultees under section 42 of the Planning Act, local communities under 	<p>Chapter 9, section 9.8 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report and Section 17 and 18 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation provide a summary of the main issues raised in the Targeted consultation responses and how National Grid has had regard to the relevant responses received.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	section 47 of the Planning Act, or wider publicity under section 48 of the Planning Act.	Section 10.4 and table 10.3 and 10.4 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provides a summary of the main issues raised in the Pre-submission engagement responses and how National Grid has had regard to the relevant responses received.
	Consulting people with an interest in land	
024	<p>Where an applicant proposes to compulsorily acquire an interest or take temporary possession of land it does not own in order to implement a proposed NSIP, under section 42 of the Planning Act they must identify and consult people, including those who own, occupy or have another interest in the land in question.</p> <p>It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate at submission of the application to the Planning Inspectorate that due diligence has been undertaken in identifying all land interests. Applicants must ensure that the Book of Reference (which records and categorises those land interests) is sufficiently up to date at the time of submission (acknowledging the timescales for preparing and updating it) and fully meets the requirements of Regulations 5 and 7 of the APFP Regulations 2009.</p>	<p>National Grid reviewed and updated its list of Section 42(1)(d) parties as necessary when new interests were identified through ongoing diligent inquiries.</p> <p>Where new land interests were identified through ongoing diligent inquiry National Grid provided those interests with the Statutory consultation materials and an opportunity to provide comments on the Proposed Project. All land interests were provided at least a minimum of the statutory 28 days in accordance with Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008.</p> <p>The process of dealing with any new land interests in the land which emerged after the initial statutory consultation is explained in Section 7.2, 9.2 and 10.3 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report, Application Document 5.1.8 Appendix G Land Referencing Methodology and Application Document 4.2 Statement of Reasons. National Grid will continue to undertake due diligence to identify new persons with interests in land.</p> <p>Appropriate due diligence has been undertaken in identifying all land interests and in preparation of Application Document 4.3 Book of Reference Appropriate due diligence has been undertaken in identifying all land interests and in preparation of Application Document 4.3 Book of Reference.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>A full list of land interests consulted at statutory consultation, targeted consultation and pre-submission engagement can be found:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 1 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation Section 1 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation Section 1 Application Document 5.1.9 Appendix H Pre-Submission Engagement
	Early adequacy of consultation milestone (AoCM)	
025	<p>The Programme Document will enable the Planning Inspectorate to determine at the Inception Meeting that the proposed consultation arrangements are adequate for the level of complexity of the proposed project. The Programme Document should also identify an appropriate milestone during the pre-application stage to enable the Planning Inspectorate to test the progress of the consultation.</p> <p>This adequacy of consultation milestone should be early enough to enable applicants to consider how to undertake any additional engagement that may be needed, but sufficiently towards the end of the pre-application stage to assess the adequacy of the consultation that has been done. It is likely therefore to be no</p>	<p>AoCM documentation is not being prepared as the Consultation Report (this report) contains all detail around the consultation process. National Grid notes that the pre-application guidance refers to the AoCM as being an informal stage, comprising a statement comparing what has occurred to the Programme Document and SoCC.</p> <p>After discussion with PINS in the September 2024 meeting, the PINS post meeting note stated:</p> <p><i>“Where the Applicant’s programme does not allow for the submission of the AoCM then this should be fully explained in the submission including why the Applicant considers that consultation carried out to date has been adequate”.</i></p> <p>The Proposed Project had already completed non-statutory and statutory consultation before the new advice was published. National Grid met with the Planning Inspectorate on 10 September 2024 and they accepted National Grid’s programme does not allow it to follow the guidance in full due to the maturity of the Proposed</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	later than around 3 months before the intended date of submission of the application.	Project. National Grid consider the consultation carried out to date has been adequate, as set out in this report Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report .
	Consultation report and responding to consultees	
026	<p>Applicants are required under section 37 of the Planning Act to produce a consultation report alongside their application, which details how they have complied with the consultation requirements set out in the Planning Act and how the proposed application has been shaped as a result.</p> <p>This report should not include an excessively detailed description of every element of the consultation programme. The main objective should be to provide clarity not just on what consultation has been done but, crucially, how the applicant has taken it into account. It should therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide a general description of the consultation process undertaken including the timeline; 	<p>National Grid has prepared a Consultation Report (Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report) (this report) to accompany the DCO application. In preparing the Consultation Report, National Grid has had regard to the DCLG Guidance, Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report (August 2024). Chapter 3 in the Consultation Report provides clarity on the consultations held by National Grid and Plate 1.1 provides a timeline.</p> <p>Chapter 9, section 9.10 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report and Section 17 and 18 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation provide a summary of the main issues raised in the Targeted consultation responses and how National Grid has had regard to the relevant responses received.</p> <p>Section 10.4 and table 10.3 and 10.4 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provides a summary of the main issues raised in the Pre-submission engagement responses and how National Grid has had regard to the relevant responses received.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> set out specifically what the applicant has done to comply 	<p>The Proposed Project had already completed non-statutory and statutory consultation. National Grid met with the Planning</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	with the statutory requirements of the Planning Act, including advice issued under section 51 of the Planning Act, relevant secondary legislation and this guidance;	<p>Inspectorate on 10 September 2024 and they accepted National Grid's programme does not allow to follow the guidance in full due to maturity of the Proposed Project.</p> <p>National Grid submitted a formal response to the Planning Inspectorate on 12 February 2025 giving regard to the five primary services and explaining not all the five primary services will be submitted or fully undertaken, see section 8.9 and table 8.7 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> set out how the applicant has complied with the requirements to consult local communities described in the SoCC; 	<p>National Grid has consulted under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 in accordance with the SoCC. For details of the consultation carried out in accordance with the SoCC for Targeted consultation, see Chapter 9 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report as well as in the SoCC Compliance table (see section 5 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC).</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> set out any relevant responses to consultation (but not a complete list of responses); provide a description of how the proposed application for submission has been informed and influenced by taking account of those responses, showing any significant changes made as a result; 	<p>Chapter 9 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report and Section 17 and 18 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation provide a summary of the main issues raised in the Targeted consultation responses and how National Grid has had regard to the relevant responses received.</p> <p>Chapter 10 Section 10.4 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provides a summary of the main issues raised in the Pre-submission engagement responses and how National Grid has had regard to the relevant responses received.</p> <p>Chapter 9, section 9.11 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report (this report) provides a summary of the evolution of the Proposed Project in response to targeted consultation feedback and Chapter 10, section 10.7 provides a summary of the evolution of the Proposed Project in response to pre-submission engagement.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide an explanation as to why any responses advising on changes to a proposed project, including advice from statutory consultees and local authorities on effects, were not followed; and 	<p>The Proposed Project had already completed non-statutory and statutory consultation. National Grid met with the Planning Inspectorate on 10 September 2024 and they accepted National Grid's programme does not allow to follow the guidance in full due to maturity of the Proposed Project.</p> <p>On 12 July 2024 National Grid upon request from the Planning Inspectorate submitted the following requested draft Development Consent Order submission documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Development Consent Order Project Description Works Plans Land Plans Explanatory Memorandum Habitats Regulations Assessment Consultation Report <p>National Grid also issued the draft DCO submission documents to the following statutory consultees for pre-application advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dover District Council; East Suffolk Council; Kent County Council; MMO; Natural England; Suffolk County Council; and Thanet District Council.

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		Section 8.8 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report (this report) demonstrates the regard had to comments received from statutory consultees and local authorities and a detailed response to those comments, see section 20 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation .
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> be expressed in terms sufficient to enable the Planning Inspectorate to understand fully how consultation has been undertaken, and how the issues raised through consultation have been addressed or responded to. 	<p>The Proposed Project had already completed non-statutory and statutory consultation before the new advice was published. National Grid met with the Planning Inspectorate on 10 September 2024 and they accepted National Grid's programme does not allow it to follow the guidance in full due to the maturity of the Proposed Project. National Grid consider the consultation carried out to date has been adequate, as set out in this report Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report.</p>
	<p>It is good practice that those who have contributed to the consultation are informed of the results. The consultation report may not be the most appropriate format in which to respond to the points raised by various consultee groups and bodies. Applicants should therefore consider producing a summary note in plain English for the local community setting out headline findings and how they have been addressed, together with a link to the full consultation report for those interested.</p> <p>A response to points raised by consultees with technical information is likely to need to focus on the specific impacts for which</p>	<p>National Grid notes the guidance on providing a summary note in plain English for the local community setting out headline findings. National Grid The Consultation Report, (see Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report) submitted as part of the DCO application, provides a high-level summary of key themes from the feedback received, and provides an overview of how this feedback influenced the design of the Proposed Project. Detailed analysis of each piece of feedback received and the regard had to that feedback. This approach is in line with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and guidance issued by MHCLG Guidance, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report (August 2024) and the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>Chapter 9 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provides a summary of the main issues raised in the Targeted consultation responses and the regard National Grid has had to the</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	the body has expertise. The applicant should make a judgement as to whether the consultation report provides sufficient detail on the relevant effects, or whether a targeted response would be more appropriate.	responses received is included at Section 17 and 18 Application Document 5.1.8 Appendix F Targeted consultation. Chapter 10, Section 10.5 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provides a summary of the main issues raised in the Targeted consultation responses and the regard National Grid has had to the responses received.
Section 51 advice and support		
028	The Planning Inspectorate can give advice to potential applicants. Section 51 of the Planning Act, and the APFP Regulations 2009, provide for the giving of advice to potential applicants and others about applying for an Order granting development consent and about making representations. The APFP Regulations 2009 set out that a record of this advice must be maintained on an accessible website. The Planning Inspectorate will therefore maintain an Advice Log on the appropriate project pages of the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website.	The Proposed Project had already completed non-statutory and statutory consultation before the new advice was published. National Grid met with the Planning Inspectorate on 10 September 2024 and they accepted National Grid's programme does not allow it to follow the guidance in full due to the maturity of the Proposed Project. The Section 51 Advice Log for advice provided by PINS after November 2024 is available on the PINS project website. Prior to this date, notes of the regular meetings held with PINS and Section 51 advice provided is available in the form of meeting notes; also available on the PINS project website. Together these documents record all advice provided by PINS since the first meeting held between PINS and National Grid on the project in November 2021.
Unresolved pre-application process issues		
030	The programme-led approach, driven by the applicant through their Programme Document, is intended to support preparation of the application and address the issues it gives rise to in such a way as	National Grid continues to engage with several technical consultees and relevant local authorities. SoCGs have also been initiated with key stakeholders prior to the submission of the DCO application (see Section 3.4 of the Consultation Report and

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>those which remain outstanding at examination are minimised. Applicants, working with those engaged in the pre-application process, have an important role to play to ensure that an examination focuses on the main differences between the parties.</p> <p>Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) can support this by providing a written statement (prepared by the applicant and another party or parties), setting out matters on which they agree or disagree. Applicants are encouraged to submit SoCGs as part of the application documents, even if they are of a provisional or draft nature to be developed during the examination. It is therefore important that these are prepared during the pre-application period wherever possible, particularly with statutory consultees and affected local authorities.</p>	Application Document 7.4.1 to 7.4.15 Statements of Common Ground).
	What should be included in applications	
031	<p>An application for an Order granting development consent must be made in the form and include such matters prescribed by section 37 of the Planning Act and Regulations 5, 6 and 7 of the APFP Regulations 2009. These cover a wide range of plans and documents which must be submitted and compliance with</p>	<p>National Grid have complied and submitted as part of the DCO submission the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Application Document 3.1 draft Development Consent Order ▪ Application Document 3.2 Explanatory Memorandum

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>the requirements of these regulations is one of the main tests the Planning Inspectorate applies in reaching a decision about whether or not to accept the application for examination.</p> <p>The content of a proposed application set out in the regulations consists of 3 types of matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> those elements which must be included in any application such as the draft DCO, Explanatory Memorandum and works plans; those elements which must be included but only where applicable, such as an Environmental Statement, Book of Reference and certain land plans (where altered means of access, and particular documents required by specific types of projects; and any other documents or plans considered necessary to support the application. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application Document 2.5.1 Works Plans – Suffolk Application Document 2.5.2 Works Plans – Kent Application Document 2.5.3 Works Plans – Offshore Application Document Volume 6 Environmental Statement Application Document 4.3 Book of Reference Application Document 2.3.1 Land Plans - Suffolk Application Document 2.3.2 Land Plans - Kent Application Document 2.4.1 Special Category and Crown Land Plans – Suffolk Application Document 2.4.2 Special Category and Crown Land Plans – Kent Application Document 2.4.3 Crown Land Plans - Offshore
	<p>The expectation now in this guidance is National Grid have complied and submitted as part of the DCO that there are standard documents which submission the following documents: the Examining Authority will normally</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application Document 7.1 Planning Statement

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>require as part of an application to support an informed decision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a Planning Statement which provides a description of the proposed development and a summary of the main impacts, the policy context for the proposed development and how the project relates to the requirements of a designated NPS; where the application involves a request for compulsory acquisition powers a Land and Rights Negotiation Tracker which identifies each plot of land and enables the progress of negotiations relating to each one during the examination to be easily monitored 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix B Application Document 4.2 Statement of Reasons
Working with local authorities		
032	<p>The Planning Act recognises the role that local authorities play as bodies with expert knowledge of the local community, business and other interests as well as their responsibility for development of the local area. They can support applicants in developing proposals, ensuring local</p>	<p>National Grid prepared a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) on how it intended to carry out consultation in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (a copy of the SoCC is provided in section 6 Application Document 5.1.6 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC). Chapter 6 of Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report describes the approach taken to prepare the SoCC. Section 5 Application Document</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>issues are understood and taken into account.</p> <p>The particular functions that local authorities have in the pre-application process include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consultation about the SoCC under section 47 of the Planning Act which sets out how an applicant will consult with the people living in the vicinity of the land for their proposed development; 	<p>5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC sets out National Grid's compliance with the SoCC.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> their role as a statutory consultee under section 42 of the Planning Act for any proposed application in or adjacent to their area (as defined by section 43 of the Planning Act) which they must be consulted on by the applicant; their role as a relevant consultation body in relation to EIA scoping opinions; although not a statutory requirement, a SoCG between the applicant and local authorities is now a well-established practical part of the process; 	<p>National Grid consulted with each local authority under Section 43(1) – Dover District Council, East Suffolk Council, Thanet District Council as the 'B' local authorities and Kent County Council and Suffolk County Council as the 'C' local authority, see Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report.</p> <p>As part of the DCO submission the following draft SoCGs have been submitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application Document 7.4.6 Draft Statement of Common Ground Dover District Council Application Document 7.4.8 Draft Statement of Common Ground East Suffolk Council/Suffolk County Council Application Document 7.4.5 Draft Statement of Common Ground Thanet District Council Application Document 7.4.7 Draft Statement of Common Ground Kent County Council

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	Applicants are required to consult the local authority in whose area a proposed NSIP project lies (the 'host' local authority). They are also required to identify and consult the neighbouring local authorities under the requirements of section 43(2) and (2A) of the Planning Act. This explains how lower tier or unitary authorities adjacent to the host authority, and upper tier authorities adjacent to the upper tier authority within which the proposal is located, should be consulted.	Section 1 and 2 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix E Statutory consultation and table 9.3 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report (this report) contains the list of local authorities that were consulted by National Grid for targeted Consultation and Chapter 10, section 10.3 Application Document 5.1 Consultation report for pre-submission engagement.
	Depending on the nature and scale of the NSIP, and the extent to which a particular authority is affected, Planning Performance Agreements or mechanisms that provide cost recovery may be appropriate. This should be set out in the applicant's Programme Document for discussion and agreement with the Planning Inspectorate at the Inception Meeting.	National Grid have signed Planning Performance Agreements with the following local authorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dover District Council ▪ East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council (jointly) ▪ Kent County Council ▪ Thanet District Council
	Multiple local authority areas	
034	In preparing a SoCC under section 47 of the Planning Act, applicants may need to consult with a number of different local authorities. This may particularly be the case for long, linear projects. In this situation, the local authorities in question should, as far as practicable, co-ordinate	National Grid consulted with each local authority under Section 43(1) – Dover District Council, East Suffolk Council, Thanet District Council as the 'B' local authorities and Kent County Council and Suffolk County Council as the 'C' local authority – on the content of the SoCC. National Grid also engaged with the Marine Management Organisation on a non-statutory basis, allowing them an opportunity to provide comments.

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>their responses to the applicant. This will ensure that the consultation proposals set out in the SoCC are coherent, effective, and work across local authority boundaries.</p>	<p>Section 6.3 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report outlines the consultations undertaken on the draft SoCC. Section 4 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation of this report provide a summary of the comments received by local authorities on the draft SoCC and how National Grid has had regard to those responses in the preparation of the published SoCC.</p>
	<p>Working with local authorities on offshore projects</p>	
038	<p>Different impacts and issues will need to be considered by applicants for offshore projects in comparison to those which are land-based. In the context of this guidance, “offshore” refers to an area that is outside the seaward boundary of a local authority’s area.</p> <p>There may be proposed NSIPs which do not feature any terrestrial development, though experience suggests these are very uncommon. In such cases, there are no statutory requirements upon applicants to consult specific local authorities. Local authorities are therefore not required to respond to any consultation requests, regardless of whether they relate to the proposed SoCC or to the project itself. Nonetheless, if they are consulted, local authorities are expected to respond where they consider offshore projects may impact on their communities.</p>	<p>National Grid have consulted both local authorities and offshore authorities due to the Proposed Project being onshore and offshore, see Section 1 and 2 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix E Statutory consultation and table 9.3 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report (this report) contains the list of local authorities that were consulted by National Grid for targeted Consultation and Chapter 10, section 10.3 Application Document 5.1 Consultation report for pre-submission engagement.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	Where the location of a proposed offshore project is such that the potential impacts on communities are likely to be very small or negligible, applicants are still expected to inform relevant coastal authorities and communities of the proposed project, and give them a chance to take part in any consultation.	

MHCLG (2020) Guidance on procedural requirements for major infrastructure Proposed Projects

Making documentation available for inspection

<p>The Infrastructure Planning (Publication and Notification of Applications etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 remove the obligations on applicants (or the Secretary of State, as the case may be) to include in relevant notices the addresses (including at least one address in the vicinity of the relevant Proposed Project) where certain documentation is available for inspection. Instead, notices published by applicants must specify that the documents are available free of charge on a website, the address of the website and details of how the documents may be obtained from that website. Applicants are also required to provide a telephone number for general enquiries on where to find relevant information and on the documentation itself.</p>	<p>Paragraph 6 and 7 of the SoCC Notice (section 6 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC) states that “<i>The consultation will take place between 24 October 2023 and 18 December 2023. Between these dates the SoCC is available to view free of charge on the Proposed Project website at: www.nationalgrid.com/sealink.”</i></p> <p>Paragraph 11 of the SoCC Notice (section 6 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC) provides a freephone telephone number which can be used to contact National Grid for enquiries in relation to the SoCC, Proposed Project or consultation. Paragraph 11 also includes online, postal and email details for National Grid.</p>
---	--

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	Applicants should ensure the relevant website is well signposted when publishing their notices and that the documents are readily accessible, i.e. documents should be clearly named and logically structured. Where needing to refer to a website maintained by or on behalf of the Secretary of State, we expect applicants to refer to the relevant Proposed Project webpage on the Planning Inspectorate's National Infrastructure Planning website.	The 2023 consultation documents were provided under the 'document library' on the Proposed Project website and were clearly named and logically structured.
	As is currently the case, and subject to any charge that may be made, hard copies of any of the relevant documents must be provided by the applicant or the Secretary of State (as the case may be) on request.	Electronic and/or paper copies of the consultation documents could be ordered. Paragraph 10 of the 2023 Section 48 Notice states that) requests for electronic and/or paper copies of the consultation documents could be ordered and reviewed on a case by-case basis and that a charge of up to £300 (including postage) would be charged. These details were also provided in the 2023 consultation documents.
	Applicants should engage proactively with local authorities and local communities to find alternative means to provide access to the documentation where required, to ensure on-going fair participation in the planning process, for example by providing copies of documents on a USB flash drive where parties have access to a computer but have limited or no internet access or, where reasonably practicable, by making copies of documents available for inspection free of charge where a	Paper copies of the consultation documents could be ordered. Paragraph 11 of the 2023 Section 48 Notice states that requests for paper copies of the documents, plans and maps will be reviewed on a case by-case basis. To cover printing costs a reasonable copying charge may apply, to be paid by the recipient and up-to a maximum value of £300 (including postage) for the whole suite of consultation documents. These details were also provided in the 2023 consultation documents. National Grid also offered additional support to help the public understand the Proposed Project and supplement any face-to-face conversations that they would have had with the Proposed Project team by providing the opportunity to book an appointment with a

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	person is unable to access the Proposed Project documentation electronically or finds it over the telephone. difficult to do so.	Proposed Project representative to discuss the Proposed Project
Statement of Community Consultation		
	Section 47(6) of the Planning Act 2008 requires that at the pre-application stage the Statement of Community Consultation must be made available for inspection. This requirement can be met by making documents available for inspection online. Applicants should take reasonable steps to ensure that anyone wishing to view the documentation can find these documents on their website. Hard copies should be made available by the applicant on request.	The SoCC was made available for inspection online via National Grid's dedicated Proposed Project website to support the digital first approach. Paper copies of the SoCC were made available by National Grid on request.
Newspaper notices		
	Requirements exist under the Planning Act 2008 to place notices in local newspapers. In circumstances where local newspapers are currently not available in a print format, this requirement can be met by placing adverts in appropriate online local newspaper publications.	SoCC notices were placed in local circulating newspapers to advertise where the SoCC could be found for inspection. The notice included details of National Grid's dedicated Proposed Project webpage where documents can be found. Section 48 notices were placed in local circulating newspapers, a national newspaper (the Guardian), the London Gazette, Lloyds List Daily Briefing and Fishing News to advertise the consultation. The notices included details of the website where documents can be found.

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
Requirement	Compliance	
Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations consultation		
Consultation undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process under The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 is separate to that required under the Planning Act. For example, statutory consultation on a scoping report following a scoping request to the Secretary of State is consultation under the EIA regulations. The applicant may wish to draw attention to consultation responses received under the EIA process, but any reference to the EIA consultation should be addressed separately from the non-statutory and statutory consultation carried out under the Planning Act.	Chapter 4 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report describes the consultation undertaken pursuant to the Infrastructure EIA Regulations 2017.	
Format and content of the consultation report		
There is no standard format for a consultation report. This advice provides some good practice guidelines about the structure of a consultation report.	National Grid has prepared a Consultation Report (Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report) (this report) to accompany the DCO application. In preparing the Consultation Report, National Grid has had regard to the DCLG Guidance, Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report (August 2024).	
The main aim of the consultation report is to provide clarity on what consultation has been done and how the applicant has taken feedback into account. The Planning Inspectorate should be able to understand how the consultation was undertaken and how the issues raised have been addressed or responded to. The report does not need to include an excessively detailed description of every element of the consultation programme.		
Introductory text should provide an overview including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a summary of the consultation activities undertaken	Chapter 3, (see Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report (of this report)) provides an overview of the overall approach to the pre-application consultation along with table 3.1 providing a	

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a table or timeline summarising both statutory and non-statutory consultation in chronological order 	summary of pre-applications consultation stages and plate 1.1 provides a timeline.
	<p>It is helpful if each stage of non-statutory and statutory consultation is presented and explained chronologically in separate chapters or sections of the report. This can also include separate summary schedules of consultation responses for each round of consultation, which could be included as an appendix to the report.</p>	<p>Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report (this report) is structured chronologically with dedicated chapters for each stage of non-statutory, statutory, targeted consultation and pre-submission engagement. A full list of appendices accompanying the Consultation Report is included in the contents page. The list describes the content of each appendix, which have been subdivided into the different strands of consultation undertaken.</p>
Duty to notify the Secretary of State (section 46)		
	<p>The report should include details of when the applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate of their intention to submit a NSIP application and carry out statutory consultation. As required by section 46 of the Planning Act the applicant must notify the Planning Inspectorate before commencing consultation under section 42. The report should confirm when the full suite of consultation documents was provided to the Planning Inspectorate and include a list of those documents.</p>	<p>National Grid notified the SoS (via the Planning Inspectorate) of the proposed application under Section 46 of the Planning Act 2008 on 20 October 2023, see Chapter 3, section 7.3 (Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report (of this report)) which provides a full description along with the consultation documents provided and its associated appendix, Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory Consultation .</p> <p>National Grid notified the SoS (via the Planning Inspectorate) of the targeted consultation under Section 46 of the Planning Act 2008 on 05 July 2024, See Chapter 9, paragraph 9.2.19 (Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report (of this report)) which provides a full description along with the consultation documents provided and its associated appendix Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted Consultation.</p>
Duty to consult (section 42)		

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>The report should include a list of all persons and consultation bodies that were consulted. The applicant should provide a sample of the letter sent to each type of consultee which includes the date it was sent, and the deadline given for responses. These can be included as an appendix. The applicant should list the consultees in the order suggested below. For each type of consultee, the applicant should include the dates they were consulted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prescribed consultees (section 42(1)(a), (aa) and (c)) <p>The list of the prescribed consultees should follow the order they are presented in Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations 2009). Any variations between the applicant's list of prescribed consultees and the list set out in Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations 2009 should be justified. Where relevant, the list of prescribed consultees should also include the Marine Management Organisation (section 42(1)(aa)) and the Greater London Authority (section 42(1)(c)).</p>	<p>Section 7.2 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report and Application Document 5.1.1 Annex 1 Consultation compliance checklist (this document) set out how National Grid has complied with the requirements to consult with prescribed consultees (Section 42). Section 1 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation provides a list of the prescribed consultees in the order presented in Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations 2009) including the Marine Management Organisation (section 42(1)(aa)) and the Greater London Authority (section 42(1)(c)) and any variations between National Grid's Section 42(1)(a) list and Schedule 1 of the APFP Regulations are clearly set out.</p> <p>Chapter 9, section 9.7 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provides details of the Targeted consultation. Section 1 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation provides a list of the prescribed consultees and Chapter 9, Table 9.1 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report (of this report) provides additional prescribed consultees identified due to the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2024 ('the 2024 Regulations') coming into force on 30 April 2024.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant local authorities (section 42(1)(b)) <p>The report should include a short description of how section 43 of the Planning Act has been applied in identifying the relevant local authorities. This can be illustrated by a map showing the site and identifying the boundaries of the relevant local authorities.</p>	<p>Chapter 7, paragraph 7.2.12 and Table 7.1 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report (of this report) describes how section 43 has been applied and lists the relevant local authorities (section 42(1)(b)). Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory Consultation show a plan of the administrative boundaries of the local authorities who were consulted under Section 42(1)(b) of the Planning Act 2008.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persons with an interest in land (section 42(1)(d)) 	<p>Section 7.2 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report and Application Document 5.1.1 Annex 1 Consultation compliance</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>The report should include the number of persons with an interest in the Order land who were consulted. This can be divided to show the numbers under each category set out in section 44 of the Planning Act. It is not necessary to list the names of all individuals identified in the Book of Reference.</p> <p>The applicant must demonstrate that diligent enquiry was undertaken to identify persons under section 44 and to ensure that an up-to-date Book of Reference is submitted with the application. It should also set out the methodology for identifying persons in Category 3 (those who may make a relevant claim).</p> <p>If changes to the red line boundary of the project were made during the pre-application stage, and as a result additional persons with an interest in land were identified and consulted, the applicant should to describe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ how many additional persons with an interest in land were consulted ▪ how and when they were consulted ▪ what information they were provided with <p>The applicant should explain how they have dealt with any new interests in land that have emerged after the statutory consultation has concluded.</p>	<p>checklist (this document), Chapter 9 and 10 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provide details of the Targeted consultation and pre-submission engagement undertaken in line with Section 42(1)(d) of the Planning Act 2008 and demonstrates the due diligent enquiries undertaken and any new interests in land that have emerged after the statutory consultation has concluded how consulted and what documentation provided.</p> <p>A full list of land interests consulted at statutory consultation, targeted consultation and pre-submission engagement can be found:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Statutory consultation – section 2 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation ▪ Targeted consultation – section 1 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation ▪ Pre-submission engagement – section 1 Application Document 5.1.9 Appendix H Pre-Submission Engagement <p>The Book of Reference was submitted and up to date at the point of the DCO submission, see Application Document 4.3 Book of Reference.</p>
Duty to consult the local community (section 47)		
	<p>The Planning Inspectorate will need to be satisfied that the applicant has complied with the Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC) preparation process. The report should include evidence which shows:</p>	<p>Chapter 6 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provides details of how the SoCC was prepared, consulted on and published in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act. Specifically:</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> which local authorities were consulted about the content of the draft SOCC what the local authorities' comments were confirmation that the local authorities were given 28 days to provide their comments a description of how the applicant had regard to the local authorities' comments. For example, where a local authority identified digitally disadvantaged groups the applicant should explain what mitigation was put in place to allow those people to engage, such as providing a telephone helpline where appropriate, an explanation of why the applicant did not act on a response from a local authority 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 6.3 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report sets out which local authorities were consulted about the draft SoCC; Section 4 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC lists the local authorities' comments on the draft SoCC and a description of how National Grid had regard to the comments; and Paragraph 6.3.5 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report confirms that the local authorities were given 28 days to provide their comments.
	<p>The applicant should provide evidence that the SOCC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> was available for inspection online, Evidence could include a screenshot of the relevant webpage showing the published SOCC and including the full website address, relevant telephone number for enquiries, and confirmation that the public could access the webpage free of charge was published in the local press, Evidence should include a scanned copy of the published notice as it appeared, and details of the local newspapers it was published in and when <p>Where it is not possible to provide a clear scanned copy of a notice the applicant should provide the best available scanned copy and a document containing the text of the notice. If it was not possible to place the SOCC in a printed local newspaper the applicant should</p>	<p>As outlined in Section 6.4 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report, the SoCC was available for inspection online via National Grid's dedicated Proposed Project webpage. The SoCC Notice provided their telephone number for enquiries and confirmed that the public could access the SoCC.</p> <p>Table 6.1 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provides details of the local newspapers (Eastern Daily Press, East Anglican Daily Times, Ipswich Star, Kentish Gazette, Kent and Sussex Courier, KM Thanet Extra and East Kent Mercury) the SoCC Notice was published in and the dates of publication. Section 7 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC provides copies of the SoCC Notice as it was published in the local newspapers.</p> <p>National Grid confirm the final SoCC (see section 6 Application Document 5.1.5 Appendix D SoCC) was not updated and no inconsistencies between the SoCC and the consultation applied.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>provide a screenshot of the notice as it was published in an online local newspaper. The screenshot should include the full website address, relevant telephone number for enquiries and the date of publication.</p> <p>Where a SOCC was subject to one or more updates, the updated versions of each SOCC should be included. The report should explain why the SOCC was reviewed and updated from the previous version.</p> <p>Where there are inconsistencies between the SOCC and the consultation carried out by the applicant, this should be clearly explained and justified. For example, where additional consultation took place that was not included in the SOCC.</p>	
	Duty to publicise (section 48)	
	<p>The report should include a scanned copy of the section 48 notice as it appeared in the local and national newspapers and journals. Where it is not possible to provide a clear scanned copy of the notice then the applicant should provide the best available scanned copy and a document containing the text of the notice. The scanned copy of the notice should clearly show the publication's name and the date of publication.</p> <p>Where it was not possible to place the notice in printed newspapers and journals, a screenshot of the notice as it was published in online publications should be provided. The screenshot should include the full website address, relevant telephone number for enquiries and the date of publication.</p> <p>The report should confirm where and when the notice was published, and the time period given for responses.</p>	<p>Section 7.5 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report and Application Document 5.1.1 Annex 1 Consultation compliance checklist (this document) set out how National Grid has complied with the requirements to publicise the proposed application (Section 48).</p> <p>Table 7.10 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provides details of the publication and date for the 2023 Section 48 notice. Section 9 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation provides a copy of the 2023 Section 48 Notice.</p> <p>Section 7.5 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report confirms that National Grid sent the Section 48 Notice to all consultees identified under Section 42, therefore going beyond the statutory minimum by also sending it to Section 42(1)(d) consultees. Evidence of this is provided in section 22 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	The report should confirm that the section 48 notice was sent to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) consultation bodies at the same time as it was published.	<p>Section 9.2 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report and Application Document 5.1.1 Annex 1 Consultation compliance checklist (this document) set out how National Grid has complied with the requirements to publicise the proposed application (Section 48) for the 2024 targeted consultation.</p> <p>Table 9.3 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provides details of the publication and date for the 2023 Section 48 notice. Section 3 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation provides a copy of the 2023 Section 48 Notice.</p>
Duty to take account of responses to consultation (Section 49)		
	The report should provide evidence that the applicant has had regard to the responses to consultations when preparing their application.	<p>Section 24 and 25 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation provide extracts of responses received along with comments on how National Grid has had regard to those relevant responses for statutory consultation.</p> <p>Section 17 and 18 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation provide extracts of responses received along with comments on how National Grid has had regard to those relevant responses for targeted consultation.</p> <p>Section 10.5 and table 10.4 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report (of this report) provide extracts of responses received along with comments on how National Grid has had regard to those relevant responses for pre-submission engagement.</p>
	The applicant should provide a summary of the individual responses received. The responses should be categorised in an appropriate way. It may be appropriate for the applicant to group responses under headline issues. The applicant must not present responses in	Section 8.2 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report (of this report) provides details of how the analysis of consultation responses has been undertaken by National Grid. As noted within Section 8.2 of this report, National Grid has had regard to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Consultation Report and followed an 'issues led approach' by grouping responses

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>a misleading way or out of context from the original views in the response.</p> <p>The applicant should provide an explanation of the method used (coding) to group and organise responses, including any safeguarding and cross-checking processes.</p> <p>The summary of responses should identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ comments that are relevant (directly or indirectly) to changes made to the project during the pre-application stage. For example, changes to siting, route, design, or scale of the scheme itself, or to mitigation or compensatory measures proposed ▪ comments that led to no change, including an explanation of why the applicant considered that no change to the project was required ▪ comments that were received after deadlines set by the applicant and the process used to deal with these 	<p>under the key themes arising from the consultation where levels of responses are significant.</p> <p>National Grid has therefore structured section 24 and 25 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation to follow an issues led approach in order to capture and summarise each relevant issue from online or written feedback forms, letters and emails. These appendices clearly identify under which strand of consultation the responses were received and whether or not National Grid changed the Proposed Project as a result of the comments.</p> <p>Section 8.3 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report analyses the feedback received during the 2023 Section 42 Statutory consultation. Section 24 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation outlines the responses received and how National Grid has had regard to the responses received.</p> <p>Section 8.4 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report analyses the feedback received during the 2023 Section 47 statutory consultation and Section 48 publicity. Section 25 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation sets out relevant responses received during Section 47 and Section 48 consultation and how National Grid has had regard to the responses. Note that National Grid did not receive any consultation responses that identified themselves as responding to Section 47 consultation or Section 48 publicity, therefore Section 8.4 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report and Section 25 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation discuss the relevant responses from non-Section 42 consultees which includes both Section 47 and Section 48 respondents collectively.</p> <p>Section 8.7 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provides a summary of how National Grid has had regard to</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
		<p>consultation responses in accordance with Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008 and describes the evolution of the Proposed Project in response to consultation feedback.</p> <p>Section 9.7 and 9.8 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provides an analysis of the feedback received during the Targeted consultation, following the Statutory consultation. Section 17 and 18 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation outlines the responses received and how National Grid has had regard to the responses received.</p> <p>Section 9.8 and Table 9.12 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provide a summary of issues raised by consultees during targeted consultation that did not result in a design change.</p> <p>Section 10.4 and Table 10.4 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provide extracts of responses received along with comments on how National Grid has had regard to those relevant responses for the pre-submission engagement.</p> <p>Section 10.6 and Table 10.5 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provide a summary of issues raised by consultees during Pre-submission engagement that did not result in a design change.</p> <p>Section 10.7 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provides a summary of how National Grid has had regard to pre-submission engagement in accordance with Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008 and describes the evolution of the Proposed Project in response to consultation feedback.</p>
	Duty to have regard to the government's pre-application guidance (Section 50)	

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>The report should provide evidence that demonstrates how the applicant has had regard to the government's guidance on the Pre-application stage. The report should illustrate how the relevant guidance has been followed. If the applicant has diverged from the guidance this should be explained and justified.</p>	<p>The Proposed Project had already completed non-statutory and statutory consultation before the new advice was published, therefore could not have regard to the government's guidance on the pre-application stage. National Grid met with the Planning Inspectorate on 10 September 2024 and they accepted National Grid's programme does not allow it to follow the guidance in full due to the maturity of the Proposed Project. National Grid consider the consultation carried out to date has been adequate, as set out in this report Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report.</p> <p>Section 8.8 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report and Application Document 5.1.1 Annex 1 Consultation compliance checklist (this document) demonstrates evidence and regard to Section 50.</p>
Demonstrating regard to pre-application advice		
	<p>The applicant's consultation report should include evidence which demonstrates how they have had regard to the section 51 pre-application advice from the Planning Inspectorate and advice from the other statutory consultees which provide advice on behalf of the government.</p> <p>Provision of this evidence will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ support the applicant's case to demonstrate that they have complied with the requirements of Part 5, Chapter 2 of the Planning Act ▪ give confidence to stakeholders that the applicant has considered the statutory advice received and made all reasonable efforts to submit a well prepared application 	<p>The Proposed Project had already completed non-statutory and statutory consultation before the new advice was published, therefore could not have full regard to pre-application advice.</p> <p>Section 8.9 and table 8.8 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report (this report) and Application Document 5.1.1 Annex 1 Consultation compliance checklist (this document) demonstrates the regard had to comments received from statutory consultees and local authorities and a detailed response to those comments, see section 20 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
Reporting on the adequacy of consultation milestone		
	<p>The adequacy of consultation milestone is a requirement established in the government's guidance on the Pre-application stage.</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate's Pre-application Prospectus gives further details about the adequacy of consultation milestone procedure.</p> <p>The applicant should summarise how they have discharged the adequacy of consultation milestone procedure in the consultation report. This should include how the applicant has had regard to any comments received from local authorities, statutory consultees and the Planning Inspectorate in relation to the adequacy of consultation milestone.</p>	<p>The Proposed Project had already completed non-statutory and statutory consultation before the new advice was published. National Grid met with the Planning Inspectorate on 10 September 2024 and they accepted National Grid's programme does not allow it to follow the guidance in full due to the maturity of the Proposed Project. National Grid consider the consultation carried out to date has been adequate, as set out in this report Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report.</p>
Non-statutory consultation and engagement		
	<p>The applicant may have undertaken early non-statutory consultation. For example, with statutory consultation bodies when identifying options, or in advance of statutory consultation. The applicant may also have been engaged in non-statutory consultation after the statutory consultation. For example, when changes have been made to the project.</p> <p>The applicant should describe the non-statutory consultation that took place to the same level of detail as the statutory consultation. While it is not necessary for the applicant to demonstrate how they have had regard to the non-statutory consultation comments, they should explain how comments received influenced the project.</p> <p>The applicant should explain the nature and purpose of any targeted non-statutory consultation. For example, if it was geographically focused what consultees were included and what was the rationale for the geographic extent of the consultation. If a reduced number of</p>	<p>Section 3.4 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report describes the Non-statutory engagement undertaken prior, during and after the 2023 consultation.</p> <p>Chapter 5 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provides details of the non-statutory consultation undertaken by National Grid between 24 October 2022 to 18 December 2022.</p> <p>Section 5.3 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provides a summary of the responses received during the 2022 Non-statutory consultation. Section 1 Application Document 5.1.4 Appendix C Non-Statutory Consultation contains the non-statutory consultation report.</p> <p>Chapter 10 Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report provides details of the pre-submission engagement undertaken by National Grid between 22 November 2024 and 12 January 2025. Section 10.3 and table 10.1 explains who National Grid consulted</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>prescribed consultees were consulted, the applicant should explain the rationale for the selection.</p> <p>Where the applicant has made changes to the project, whether material or non-material. They should explain which consultees were informed about the change, the approach taken to selecting consultees and an explanation of how and when they were consulted.</p>	<p>and the rationale and table 9.12 explains the minor amendments to the Proposed Project.</p>
Consultation report appendices		
	<p>Appendices should be used to provide evidence that demonstrates compliance with the requirements of the Planning Act, government guidance and the advice of the Planning Inspectorate and other statutory consultees. The appendices should be clearly referenced in the report. The applicant should use a referencing system that corresponds to the chapters or sections of the report. A chronological approach which demonstrates the journey through the consultation should be used.</p> <p>A separate appendix should be provided for each element of the section 42 statutory consultation and the section 48 publicity. For multi-stage statutory consultations, the appendices should be ordered chronologically with a separate appendix for each stage that is subdivided into the different elements of the consultation.</p> <p>Evidence of non-statutory consultation should be assembled chronologically in a separate appendix.</p> <p>The summary of responses table for each stage of consultation can also be included as an appendix.</p>	<p>A full list of appendices accompanying the Consultation Report is included in the contents page Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report. The list describes the content of each appendix, which have been subdivided into the different strands of consultation undertaken in chronological order.</p>
Request for the applicant to provide consultation responses		

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<p>During the acceptance stage the Planning Inspectorate may ask the applicant to provide a copy of any, or all, of the statutory consultation responses they received. This may be requested when there is uncertainty about whether the duty to have regard to consultation responses has been met. The applicant should prepare for this possibility during the pre-application stage so that they can provide the required information to the Planning Inspectorate at short notice during the 28 day acceptance stage.</p> <p>The applicant is responsible for ensuring that copies of consultation responses can be provided in a timely manner. They should consider any obligations they have under data protection legislation when preparing the responses. The acceptance stage cannot be suspended or extended pending the submission of the consultation responses. The consultation responses will not be published on the</p>	Noted.
Data Protection and redaction guidelines		
	<p>The applicant must ensure that the consultation report complies with data protection legislation and that the personal data of individuals is treated appropriately. This may include redaction of data and obtaining informed consent from the individuals concerned as appropriate.</p> <p>The consultation report should not include the following items (if necessary, relevant information should be redacted by the applicant):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ private home addresses of individuals or information that could lead to the identification of the location of a private individual ▪ private email addresses and telephone numbers of individuals 	<p>All details of private individuals have been redacted in the Consultation Report and the associated appendices. For section 42(1)(d) consultees a code has been used in the Consultation Report Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report and section 24 Application Document 5.1.6 Appendix E Statutory consultation and section 17 Application Document 5.1.7 Appendix F Targeted consultation in place of the consultee's name in the interest of confidentiality.</p>

Ref	Requirement	Compliance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ sensitive or special category data within the meaning of the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK General Data Protection Regulation ▪ written signatures ▪ photographs of the faces of individuals who have not given consent to have their image published, including images taken at consultation events ▪ information that could lead to the identification of a specific location of a protected species 	

National Grid plc
National Grid House,
Warwick Technology Park,
Gallows Hill, Warwick.
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales
No. 4031152
nationalgrid.com