



Planning Inspectorate  
Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

# Section 55

## Acceptance of Applications Checklist

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

## Norwich to Tilbury Section 55 Acceptance of Applications Checklist

Relevant sections of the Planning Act 2008 can be viewed at legislation.gov.uk, here: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/>

All other secondary legislation referred to in this checklist is searchable, here: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/>

**DISCLAIMER:** This checklist is a non-statutory checklist for the Planning Inspectorate to complete. Completion or self-assessment by the applicant does not hold weight at the acceptance stage. Unless specified, all references to the Planning Inspectorate are made in relation to functions being carried out on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Section 55(2) Acceptance of applications				
1	Within 28 days (starting day after receipt) the Planning Inspectorate must decide whether or not to accept the application for examination.	Date received	28-day due date	Date of decision
		<b>29 August 2025</b>	<b>26 September 2025</b>	<b>26 September 2025</b>
Section 55(3) – the Planning Inspectorate may only accept an application if it concludes that:		Planning Inspectorate comments		
Section 55(3)(a) and s55(3)(c): It is an application for an order granting development consent				
2	In accordance with sections(s) 14 to 30 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008), is the development a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) (or does it form part of an NSIP); and does the application state on the face of it that, in accordance with s31 of the PA2008, it is an application for a development	<b>Yes</b> The proposed development set out in <b>schedule 1</b> of the <b>Draft DCO (Doc 3.1)</b> includes development falling within the categories in s14 of the PA2008. The development is for the construction of a new electricity transmission connection and satisfies section 14 and s16(1)(a) of the PA2008.		

	<p>consent order (DCO) under the PA2008, or equivalent words? Does the application specify the development to which it relates, meaning which category or categories in s14 to 30 does the proposed development fall?</p> <p>If the development does not fall within the categories in s14 to 30, has a direction been given by the Secretary of State under s35 of the PA2008 for the development to be treated as development for which development consent is required?</p>	<p>This is consistent with the summary provided in <b>section 4</b> of the <b>Application Form (Doc 1.1)</b> which states that the application is for an NSIP.</p>
3	<p><b>Summary: Section 55(3)(a) and s55(3)(c)</b></p>	<p>The Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the <b>Draft DCO (Doc 3.1)</b> includes development for which development consent is required.</p>
<p><b>Section 55(3)(e): The applicant in relation to the application made has complied with chapter 2 of part 5 (pre-application procedure)</b></p>		
4	<p>In accordance with regulation 8 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA regulations), did the applicant (prior to carrying out consultation in accordance with s42) either (a) request The Planning Inspectorate adopt a screening opinion in respect of the development to which the application relates, or (b) notify The Planning Inspectorate in writing that it proposed to provide an environmental statement in respect of that development?</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>On 17 October 2022 the applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate in accordance with regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA regulations of its intention to provide an environmental statement in respect of the proposed development. The notification was received before the start of statutory consultation on 10 April 2024.</p> <p>A copy of the notification letter is provided at <b>appendix D3</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b>.</p>

5	<p>Have any adequacy of consultation representations (AoCR) been received from 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' local authorities; and if so, do they confirm that the applicant has complied with the duties under s42, s47 and s48?</p> <p>Section 55(4) of the PA2008 provides that the Planning Inspectorate must have regard to the consultation report, and any AoCRs received.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>There are 38 host and neighbouring authorities, of which 22 responded to the Planning Inspectorate's invitation to make an AoCR dated 1 September 2025.</p> <p>All 22 responding authorities confirmed in their AoCR that either the applicant had complied with its duties under s42, s47 and s48 of the PA2008 and/or that their authority had no comments/ objections to make.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norwich City Council (A authority)</li> <li>• East Suffolk District Council (A authority) *</li> <li>• West Suffolk District Council (A authority)</li> <li>• Maldon District Council (A authority)</li> <li>• Dartford Borough Council (A authority)</li> <li>• Essex County Council (A authority &amp; C authority) *</li> <li>• London Borough of Havering (A authority &amp; D authority)</li> <li>• Medway Council (A authority &amp; D authority)</li> <li>• Brentwood Borough Council (B authority) *</li> <li>• Babergh District Council (B authority) ^</li> <li>• Mid Suffolk District Council (B authority) ^</li> <li>• Tendring District Council (B authority) *</li> <li>• Colchester Borough Council (B authority) *</li> <li>• Chelmsford City Council (B authority) *</li> <li>• South Norfolk District Council (B authority) *</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thurrock Council (B authority &amp; D authority)</li> <li>• Braintree District Council (B authority) *</li> <li>• Suffolk County Council (C authority)</li> <li>• Norfolk County Council (C authority) *</li> <li>• Waltham Forest Council (D authority)</li> <li>• London Borough of Redbridge (D authority)</li> <li>• Lincolnshire County Council (D authority)</li> </ul> <p>*These authorities made additional comments within their AoCR that do not affect their overall position on the applicant's compliance with its duties under the PA2008.</p> <p>▲These authorities submitted a joint AoCR.</p> <p>All AoCRs received have been carefully considered and are available to view on the Find a National Infrastructure Project website: <a href="https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027/documents">https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027/documents</a></p> <p>Additionally, the Planning Inspectorate has received submissions from Pylons East Anglia Ltd and other parties relating to the applicant's consultation during the Acceptance stage, amongst other matters. They have been published here: <a href="https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027/documents">https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027/documents</a></p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate has considered all submitted representations, in relation to concerns bearing directly on adequacy of consultation. The Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the applicant has complied with its statutory obligations. To the extent that other matters have been raised in responses, the Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that these matters do not bear on an Acceptance decision and therefore do not affect the</p>
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		conclusion that the applicant has complied with its statutory obligations. Where appropriate, other issues will be addressed during the Examination.
<b>Section 42: Duty to consult</b>		
Did the applicant consult the applicable persons set out in s42 of the PA2008 about the proposed application?		
6	<p>Section 42(1)(a) persons prescribed?</p> <p>The persons prescribed are the statutory consultees set out in schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the APFP regulations).</p>	<p><u>2024 statutory consultation</u></p> <p>The applicant has provided a list of persons consulted under s42(1)(a) on 10 April 2024 at <b>appendix F1</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b>.</p> <p>A sample of the letter sent to s42(1)(a) consultees is provided at <b>appendix F3</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b>.</p> <p><u>Thurrock 3 targeted statutory consultation</u></p> <p>The applicant has provided a list of persons consulted under s42(1)(a) on 17 March 2025 at <b>appendix F1</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b>.</p> <p>A sample of the letter sent to s42(1)(a) consultees is provided at <b>appendix K27.1</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b>.</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate has identified the following parties that the applicant has not listed as having been consulted under s42(1)(a):</p> <p><u>Prescribed consultees</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board</li> <li>• NHS Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board</li> <li>• NHS Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Little Bentley Parish Council</li> <li>• Coggeshall Parish Council</li> <li>• Rickinghall Superior Parish Council</li> <li>• East Bergholt Parish Council</li> <li>• National Highways</li> <li>• Transport for London</li> <li>• North Kent Marshes Internal Drainage Board</li> <li>• East Harling Internal Drainage Board</li> <li>• Broads Internal Drainage Board</li> <li>• The Office for Nuclear Regulation</li> <li>• Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd</li> <li>• High Speed 1 Limited</li> <li>• National Highways Historical Railways Estate</li> <li>• NATS En-Route Safeguarding</li> <li>• Royal Mail Group</li> </ul> <p><u>Statutory undertakers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CNG Services Limited</li> <li>• Mua Gas Limited</li> <li>• National Gas</li> <li>• Sheringham and Dudgeon Extension Projects</li> <li>• Thurrock Power Limited</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certyon Energy Company Limited</li> <li>• Longfield Solar Limited</li> <li>• Bramford to Twinstead</li> <li>• South Eastern Power Networks Plc</li> <li>• Advanced Electricity Networks Ltd</li> <li>• Aidien Ltd</li> <li>• Aurora Utilities Ltd</li> <li>• Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru Ltd</li> <li>• Independent Distribution Connection Specialists Ltd</li> <li>• Diamond Transmission Partners Galloper Limited</li> <li>• Greater Gabbard OFTO Plc</li> </ul> <p>The applicant's <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> does not explain why the bodies identified above have not been consulted.</p> <p>It is noted that the licences held by the statutory undertakers cover Great Britain or various smaller areas and the operational areas of each are not clear from information in the public domain.</p> <p>None of the bodies listed above, other than Network Rail Infrastructure Limited, National Highways, National Gas, Coryton Energy Company Limited and South Eastern Power Networks Plc, have been identified by the applicant as having an interest in the order land and are not listed in the <b>Book of Reference (Doc 4.3)</b>.</p> <p>Section 51 advice has been issued to the applicant in respect of the above matter and is available to view on the Find a National Infrastructure Project website: <a href="https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027/documents">https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027/documents</a></p>
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7	<p>Section 42(1)(aa) the Marine Management Organisation (MMO)?</p> <p>The MMO must be consulted in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in s42(2) of the PA2008.</p>	<p>While the proposed development does not affect the marine environment the applicant states at <b>paragraph 8.4.7</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> that the MMO was consulted on a precautionary basis.</p>
8	<p>Section 42(1)(b) each local authority within s43?</p> <p>Definition of 'local authority' in s43(3) of the PA2008: The 'B' authority where the application land is in the authority's area; the 'A' authority where any part of the boundary of A's area is also a part of the boundary of B's area; the 'C' authority (upper tier) where the application land is in that authority's area; the 'D' authority (upper tier) where such an authority shares a boundary with a 'C' authority.</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><b>Table 8.1</b> and <b>appendix F2</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> lists the relevant local authorities that were identified and consulted under s43 and s42(1)(b) on 10 April 2024 and 17 March 2025.</p> <p>The host 'B' authorities were consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Norfolk District Council</li> <li>• Mid Suffolk District Council</li> <li>• Babergh District Council</li> <li>• Colchester City Council</li> <li>• Chelmsford City Council</li> <li>• Brentwood Borough Council</li> <li>• Basildon Borough Council</li> <li>• Braintree District Council</li> <li>• Tendring District Council</li> </ul> <p>The host 'B' and boundary 'D' authority was consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thurrock Council</li> </ul> <p>The host 'C' authorities were consulted:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suffolk County Council</li> <li>• Norfolk County Council</li> </ul> <p>The host 'C' and boundary 'A' authority was consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essex County Council</li> </ul> <p>The boundary 'A' authorities were consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Epping Forest District Council</li> <li>• Gravesham Borough Council</li> <li>• Dartford Borough Council</li> <li>• Ipswich Borough Council</li> <li>• South Cambridgeshire District Council</li> <li>• Rochford District Council</li> <li>• Uttlesford District Council</li> <li>• Great Yarmouth Borough Council</li> <li>• Breckland District Council</li> <li>• Norwich City Council</li> <li>• East Suffolk District Council</li> <li>• West Suffolk District Council</li> <li>• Maldon District Council</li> <li>• Castle Point Borough Council</li> <li>• Broadland District Council</li> <li>• London Borough of Bexley</li> </ul>
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9	Section 42(1)(c) the Greater London Authority (if in Greater London area)?	While the proposed development is not in the Greater London area the applicant states at <b>paragraph 8.6.2</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> that the Greater London Authority was consulted on a precautionary basis.
10	<p>Section 42(1)(d) each person in one or more of s44 categories?</p> <p>Category 1: owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of land</p> <p>Category 2: person interested in the land or has power to sell and convey the land or to release the land</p> <p>Category 3: persons who would or might be entitled to make a relevant claim</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><u>2024 statutory consultation</u></p> <p><b>Paragraphs 8.7.10 to 8.7.16</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> state that all persons identified under s42(1)(d) were consulted between week commencing 8 April 2024 to week commencing 24 June 2024.</p> <p><b>Paragraphs 8.7.2 to 8.7.9</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> summarise how the applicant made diligent inquiry to seek to identify and consult persons with an interest in lands affected by the <b>Draft DCO (Doc 3.1)</b>. The full methodology undertaken by the applicant is provided in <b>appendix J</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b>.</p> <p>The persons consulted under s42(1)(d) are listed in <b>appendix G1</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b>.</p> <p>A sample of the letter is provided at <b>appendix G2.1</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b>.</p> <p><u>Thurrock 3 targeted statutory consultation</u></p> <p><b>Paragraph 10.7.21</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> states that the applicant consulted category 1 and category 2 persons.</p> <p>The category 1 and category 2 persons consulted under s42(1)(d) are listed in <b>appendix K28</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b>.</p> <p>A sample of the letter is provided at <b>appendix K27.5</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b>.</p>

		<p><u>Further landowner consultation</u></p> <p><b>Paragraph 11.1.3</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> states that the applicant undertook further consultation with s42(1)(d) persons between June and August 2025.</p> <p>The persons consulted under s42(1)(d) are listed in <b>appendix L1</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b>.</p> <p>A sample of the letter to category 1 and category 2 persons is provided at <b>appendix L2.3</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b>.</p> <p>A sample of the letter to category 3 persons is provided at <b>appendix L2.4</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b>.</p>
<b>Section 45: Timetable for s42 consultation</b>		
11	<p>Did the applicant notify s42 consultees of the deadline for receipt of consultation responses; and if so was the deadline notified by the applicant 28 days or more starting with the day after receipt of the consultation documents?</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><u>2024 statutory consultation</u></p> <p>A sample of the letters sent to s42(1)(a) and s42(1)(b) consultees is provided at <b>appendix F</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b>.</p> <p>The sample letter dated 10 April 2024 confirmed that consultation commenced on 10 April 2024 and closed on 18 June 2024, providing more than the required minimum time for receipt of responses.</p> <p>A sample of the letter sent to s42(1)(d) consultees is provided at <b>appendix G</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b>. The sample letter is undated however <b>Table 8.2</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> shows when letters were sent to s42(1)(d) consultees.</p> <p><b>Paragraph 3.4.1</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> states that the statutory consultation period was extended following the announcement of the General Election. A sample of the letter sent to s42 consultees is</p>

		<p>provided at <b>appendix F3.2</b> and <b>appendix G2.2</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b>. The sample letter dated 5 June 2024 extended the consultation period to 26 July 2024.</p> <p><u>Thurrock 3 targeted statutory consultation</u></p> <p>A sample of the letters sent to s42 consultees is provided at <b>appendix K</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b>.</p> <p>The sample letters dated 17 and 18 March 2025 confirmed that consultation commenced on 18 March 2025 and closed on 17 April 2025, providing more than the required minimum time for receipt of responses.</p>
<b>Section 46: Duty to notify the Planning Inspectorate of proposed application</b>		
12	Did the applicant supply information to notify the Planning Inspectorate of the proposed application; and if so, was the information supplied to the Planning Inspectorate on or before the date it was sent to the s42 consultees? Was this done on or before commencing consultation under s42?	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>The applicant gave notice under s46 on 8 April 2024, which was before the beginning of s42 consultation.</p> <p>A copy of the s46 notification letter is provided at <b>appendix D1</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> and a copy of s46 notification acknowledgement letter from the Planning Inspectorate is provided at <b>appendix D2</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b>.</p>
<b>Section 47: Duty to consult local community</b>		
13	Did the applicant prepare a statement of community consultation (SoCC) on how it intended to consult people living in the vicinity of the land?	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>A copy of the applicant's final SoCC is provided at <b>appendix E9</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b>.</p>

14	<p>Were 'B' and (where relevant) 'C' authorities consulted about the content of the SoCC; and if so, was the deadline for receipt of responses 28 days beginning with the day after the day that 'B' and, where applicable, 'C' authorities received the consultation documents?</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>The applicant sent the draft SoCC to the following 'B' Authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Babergh District Council</li> <li>• Basildon Council</li> <li>• Braintree District Council</li> <li>• Brentwood Borough Council</li> <li>• Chelmsford City Council</li> <li>• Colchester City Council</li> <li>• Mid Suffolk District Council</li> <li>• South Norfolk and Broadland District Council</li> <li>• Tendring District Council</li> <li>• Thurrock Council</li> </ul> <p>And the following 'C' Authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norfolk County Council</li> <li>• Suffolk County Council</li> <li>• Essex County Council</li> </ul> <p>on 1 March 2024 and set a deadline of 2 April 2024 for responses: providing more than the required minimum time for responses to be received.</p>
15	<p>Has the applicant had regard to any responses received when preparing the SoCC?</p>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><b>Appendix E8</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> provides a summary of the consultation responses received from 11 host authorities (with Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils submitting a joint response) in respect of the draft SoCC and demonstrates how the applicant had regard to their content. The 11 host authorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Babergh District Council</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basildon Council</li> <li>• Braintree District Council</li> <li>• Brentwood Borough Council</li> <li>• Chelmsford City Council</li> <li>• Colchester City Council</li> <li>• Essex County Council</li> <li>• Mid Suffolk District Council</li> <li>• Norfolk County Council</li> <li>• Tendring District Council</li> <li>• Thurrock Council</li> </ul> <p>Examples of changes from the draft SoCC to the final SoCC include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amended the SoCC to include reference to the relevant National Policy Statements.</li> <li>• Thurrock Advertiser was added to the applicant's media list to ensure coverage in Thurrock.</li> <li>• The applicant has highlighted the role of the ESO higher up the document in the section 'About National Grid Group Plc'.</li> </ul> <p>The Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the applicant had regard to the responses received when preparing the SoCC.</p>
16	Has the SoCC been made available for inspection on a website maintained by or on behalf of the applicant; and has a notice been published in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land which states where and when the SoCC can be inspected?	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><u>2024 Statutory Consultation</u></p> <p>The section 47 notice provided at <b>Appendix H1</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> confirms that the SoCC was available on the applicant's website.</p>



		<p>The final SoCC was made available at the following locations, provided in <b>Table 7.1</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b>, which is reasonably convenient having regard to the location of the proposed development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long Stratton Library</li> <li>• Norwich Library</li> <li>• Tuckswood Library</li> <li>• Diss Library</li> <li>• Stowmarket Library</li> <li>• Capel St Mary Library</li> <li>• Coggeshall Library</li> <li>• Chelmsford Library</li> <li>• Colchester Library</li> <li>• Tilbury Library</li> <li>• Greenstead Library</li> <li>• Stanway Library</li> <li>• Prettygate Library</li> <li>• Wivenhoe Library</li> <li>• Manningtree Library</li> <li>• Witham Library</li> <li>• Chadwell Library</li> <li>• Ipswich Library</li> <li>• Basildon Library</li> <li>• Brentwood Library</li> <li>• Ingatestone Library</li> <li>• East Tilbury Hub and Library</li> <li>• Hatfield Peverel Library</li> <li>• Brentwood Town Council</li> <li>• Writtle Library</li> </ul>
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		<p>A notice stating when and where the final SoCC could be inspected was published in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Anglian Daily Times on 10 April 2024</li> <li>• Eastern Daily Press on 10 April 2024</li> <li>• London Gazette on 10 April 2024</li> <li>• The Guardian on 17 April 2024 (an incorrect version having been published on 10 April 2024)</li> <li>• Essex Chronicle on 11 April 2024.</li> </ul> <p><u>Thurrock 3 targeted statutory consultation</u></p> <p>The Section 47 notice was re-published in the following local newspapers as part of the Thurrock 3 targeted statutory consultation in 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Anglian Daily Times on 18 March 2025 and 25 March 2025</li> <li>• Eastern Daily Press on 18 March 2025 and 25 March 2025</li> <li>• Essex Chronicle on 20 March 2025 and 27 March 2025</li> </ul> <p>The published SoCC notice, provided at <b>appendix H1</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> states where and when the final SoCC was available to inspect.</p> <p>Clippings of the published advertisements are provided in <b>appendix H2</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> and <b>Copies of Newspaper Notices (Doc 1.4)</b>.</p>
17	In accordance with regulation 12 of the EIA regulations, does the SoCC set out whether the development is EIA development; and does it	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><b>Paragraph 1.3.1</b> of the final SoCC at <b>appendix E9</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> sets out that the development is EIA development and</p>

	set out how the applicant intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information?	<b>paragraph 5.2.4</b> sets out how the applicant intended to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information.
18	Has the applicant carried out the consultation in accordance with the SoCC?	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><b>Section 8.10, Table 8.4</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.10)</b> sets out how the community consultation was carried out in line with the final SoCC and how the applicant has complied with the commitments set out in the final SoCC. The Inspectorate is satisfied with the conclusions set out in this table.</p> <p><b>Appendices G, H and I</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> provide evidence that the commitments within the final SoCC have been carried out.</p>
<b>Section 48: Duty to publicise the proposed application</b>		
19	Did the applicant publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner set out in regulation 4(2) of the (as amended) APFP regulations?	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><b>Paragraph 8.11.5</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> states:</p> <p>“National Grid’s Section 48 notice was written in order to meet all the requirements under Regulation 4 (3) of the APFP Regulations and to meet the requirements of The Infrastructure Planning (Publication and Notification of Applications etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 which amended the APFP regulations.”</p> <p>A copy of the s48 notice is provided at <b>appendix H3.2</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b>.</p> <p><b>Table 8.5</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> displays the newspapers and dates of s48 publicity as set out below.</p>

		<p><b>Paragraph 8.11.3</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> states “The consultation was extended by a period of five weeks as detailed in Section 3.4.1 of this report and the Section 48 notice was republished detailing the consultation extension between 12 June 2024 to 20 June 2024.”</p> <p>A copy of the s48 notice for the consultation extension is provided at <b>appendix H3.1</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b>.</p> <p><b>Table 8.6</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> displays the newspapers and dates of s48 publicity for the consultation extension.</p> <p>Clippings of the published notices set out below are provided at <b>appendix H4.1</b> and <b>H4.2</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b>:</p>	
Newspaper(s)			Date
a)	for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the proposed development would be situated;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• East Anglia Daily Times</li><li>• Eastern Daily Press</li><li>• Essex Chronicle</li></ul>	<p>10 and 17 April 2024; 12 and 19 June 2024</p> <p>10 and 17 April 2024; 12 and 19 June 2024</p> <p>11 and 18 April 2024; 13 and 20 June 2024</p>

b)	once in a national newspaper;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Guardian</li></ul>	10 and 17 April 2024; 12 June 2024		
c)	once in the London Gazette and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette; and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>London Gazette</li></ul>	10 April 2024; 12 June 2024		
d)	where the proposed application relates to offshore development – (i) once in Lloyds List; and (ii) once in an appropriate fishing trade journal?	n/a	n/a		
20	Did the s48 notice include the required information set out in regulation 4(3) of the (as amended) APFP regulations?	<b>Yes</b> The published s48 notice, supplied at <b>appendix H3.1</b> and <b>appendix H3.2</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> , contains the required information as set out below:			
Information		Paragraph	Information	Paragraph	
a)	the name and address of the applicant.	1 (April 2024) 2 (June 2024)	b)	a statement that the applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Secretary of State	1 (April 2024) 2 (June 2024)
c)	a statement as to whether the application is EIA development	11 (April 2024)	d)	a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the proposed development	2, 3, and 4 (April 2024)

		11 (June 2024)			3 and 4 (June 2024)
e)	a statement that the documents, plans and maps were available on a website maintained by or on behalf of the applicant. The statement must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the nature and location of the proposed development</li> <li>the address of the website</li> <li>the place on the website</li> <li>a telephone number which can be used to contact the applicant for enquiries in relation to the documents, plans and maps</li> </ul>	12 and bottom of the notice for the telephone number (April 2024) 12 and bottom of the notice for the telephone number (June 2024)	f)	the latest date on which those documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection	12 (April 2024) 12 (June 2024)
g)	whether a charge will be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge	15 (April 2024) 15 (June 2024)	h)	details of how to respond to the publicity	17 (April 2024) 16 (June 2024)
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	19 (April 2024) 18 (June 2024)			
21	Are there any observations in respect of the s48 notice provided above?				

	No	
22	Has a copy of the s48 notice been sent to the EIA consultation bodies and to any person notified to the applicant in accordance with regulation 13 of the EIA regulations?	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><u>2024 Statutory Consultation</u></p> <p>A copy of the s48 notice was sent to the EIA consultation bodies as part of the s42 consultation, as confirmed in <b>paragraph 8.11.12</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b>.</p> <p>A sample of the s42 consultation letter provided at <b>appendix F3.1</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> confirms a copy of the s48 notice was enclosed.</p> <p>A copy of the updated s48 notice was sent to the EIA consultation bodies when the consultation was extended, as confirmed in <b>paragraphs 12.3.1 and 12.3.2</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b>.</p> <p>A sample of the s42 consultation extension letter provided at <b>appendix F3.2</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> confirms a copy of the s48 notice was enclosed.</p> <p><u>Thurrock 3 targeted statutory consultation</u></p> <p>The sample letter provided at <b>appendix K27.1</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> states that a copy of the s48 notice published as part of the 2024 statutory consultation was available to view on the project website.</p>
s49: Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity		

23	Has the applicant had regard to any relevant responses to the s42, s47 and s48 consultation?	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><u>2024 Statutory Consultation</u></p> <p><b>Table 9-2</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> sets out how the applicant had regard to the consultation responses received; including whether or not responses led to changes to the application.</p> <p><u>Thurrock 3 targeted statutory consultation</u></p> <p><b>Table 10-21</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> sets out how the applicant had regard to the consultation responses received; including whether or not responses led to changes to the application.</p> <p><u>Further landowner consultation</u></p> <p><b>Tables 11-2, 11-3, 11-4, 11-5, 11-6, 11-7, 11-8, 11-9</b> and <b>11-10</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> set out how the applicant had regard to the consultation responses received; including whether or not responses led to changes to the application.</p> <p>The actions informed by the consultation responses appear to be reflected in the final form of the application as submitted. Where a particular response has not led to a change in the application, it is sufficiently clear that regard was had to it.</p>
<b>S50(3) Regard to guidance about pre-application procedure</b>		
24	To what extent has the applicant had regard to statutory guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects'?	<p><b>Tables 4.1</b> and <b>4.2</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> show that the applicant has had regard to all relevant statutory guidance.</p> <p>The applicant submitted an adequacy of consultation milestone statement on 11 June 2025. The applicant has demonstrated that it has had regard to the advice issued by The Planning Inspectorate in relation to the statement in <b>appendix A3</b> of the <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b>.</p>



	The Planning Inspectorate must have regard to the extent to which the applicant has had regard to guidance issued under s50.	Having reviewed the application, the Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the applicant has identified and had regard to the relevant statutory guidance.
25	<b>Summary: Section 55(3)(e)</b>	<p>The applicant has complied with chapter 2 of part 5 (pre-application procedure) of the PA2008.</p> <p>In respect of the minor consultation discrepancies identified in Box 6 above, s51 advice has been provided to the applicant and is available to view on the Find a National Infrastructure Project website: <a href="https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027/documents">https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027/documents</a></p>
<b>s55(3)(f) and s55(5A): The application (including accompaniments) achieves a satisfactory standard having regard to the extent to which it complies with section 37(3) (form and contents of application) and with any standards set under section 37(5) and follows any applicable guidance under section 37(4)</b>		
26	<p>Is it made in the prescribed form as set out in schedule 2 of the APFP regulations, and does it include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a brief statement which explains why it falls within the remit of the Planning Inspectorate; and</li> <li>a brief statement that clearly identifies the location of the application site, or the route if it is a linear scheme?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><b>Section 4</b> of the <b>Application Form (Doc 1.1)</b> explains why the development falls within the remit of the Planning Inspectorate.</p> <p><b>Section 5</b> of the <b>Application Form (Doc 1.1)</b> provides a brief non-technical description of the site and <b>section 6</b> provides the location of the proposed development.</p> <p>A <b>Location and Master Key Plan (Doc 2.1)</b> has been provided.</p>
27	Is it accompanied by a consultation report?	<b>Yes</b>

		The application is accompanied by a <b>Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)</b> and <b>Consultation Report Appendices (Doc 5.1)</b> .														
28	In accordance with regulation 5(4) of the APFP regulations, where a plan comprises three or more separate sheets, has a key plan been provided showing the relationship between the different sheets?	<b>Yes</b>														
29	Is it accompanied by the documents and information set out in APFP regulation 5(2)?	The documents and information required by APFP regulation 5(2) are set out in the documents and locations within the application as listed below:														
<table><tr><td colspan="2"><b>Information</b></td><td colspan="2"><b>Document</b></td><td colspan="2"><b>Information</b></td><td colspan="2"><b>Document</b></td></tr><tr><td>a)</td><td>Where applicable, an environmental statement required under the EIA regulations and any scoping or screening opinions or directions</td><td><b>Environmental Statement</b> <b>Chapters 1 to 18 (Docs 6.1 to 6.18)</b> <b>Appendices 1.1 to 17.3 (Docs 6.1.A1 to 6.17.A3)</b> <b>Figures 1.1 to 17.2 (Docs 6.1.F1 to 6.17.F2)</b> <b>Non-Technical Summary (Doc 6.21)</b></td><td>b)</td><td>a draft development consent order (DCO)</td><td><b>Draft development consent order (Doc 3.1)</b></td></tr></table>			<b>Information</b>		<b>Document</b>		<b>Information</b>		<b>Document</b>		a)	Where applicable, an environmental statement required under the EIA regulations and any scoping or screening opinions or directions	<b>Environmental Statement</b> <b>Chapters 1 to 18 (Docs 6.1 to 6.18)</b> <b>Appendices 1.1 to 17.3 (Docs 6.1.A1 to 6.17.A3)</b> <b>Figures 1.1 to 17.2 (Docs 6.1.F1 to 6.17.F2)</b> <b>Non-Technical Summary (Doc 6.21)</b>	b)	a draft development consent order (DCO)	<b>Draft development consent order (Doc 3.1)</b>
<b>Information</b>		<b>Document</b>		<b>Information</b>		<b>Document</b>										
a)	Where applicable, an environmental statement required under the EIA regulations and any scoping or screening opinions or directions	<b>Environmental Statement</b> <b>Chapters 1 to 18 (Docs 6.1 to 6.18)</b> <b>Appendices 1.1 to 17.3 (Docs 6.1.A1 to 6.17.A3)</b> <b>Figures 1.1 to 17.2 (Docs 6.1.F1 to 6.17.F2)</b> <b>Non-Technical Summary (Doc 6.21)</b>	b)	a draft development consent order (DCO)	<b>Draft development consent order (Doc 3.1)</b>											

c)		<b>Scopint Report (Doc 6.19)</b> <b>Scoping Opinion (Doc 6.20)</b>	d)		
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b> (with minor discrepancies as noted in box 30)		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b>
	An explanatory memorandum explaining the purpose and effect of provisions in the draft DCO	<b>Explanatory Memorandum (Doc 3.2)</b>		Where applicable, a book of reference	<b>Book of Reference (Doc 4.3)</b>
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b>		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b> (with minor discrepancies as noted in box 30)

e)	A copy of any flood risk assessment	<b>Flood Risk Assessment (Doc 7.9)</b>	f)	A statement whether the proposal engages one or more of the matters set out in section 79(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (statutory nuisances) and if so, how the applicant proposes to mitigate or limit them	<b>Statement of Statutory Nuisance (Doc 5.4)</b>
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b>		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b>
h)	A statement of reasons and a funding statement (where the application involves any compulsory acquisition)	<b>Statement of Reasons (Doc 4.1 and Appendices A to C)</b> <b>Funding Statement (Doc 4.2)</b>	i)	A land plan identifying: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the land required for, or affected by, the proposed development</li> <li>where applicable, any land over which it is proposed to exercise powers of compulsory acquisition or any rights to use land</li> </ul>	<b>Land Plans - Sections A to H (Doc 2.2)</b> <b>Special category and Crown land plans (Doc 2.14)</b> <b>Open access land plans (Doc 2.15)</b>

j)			k)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>any land in relation to which it is proposed to extinguish easements, servitudes and other private rights; and</li> <li>any special category land and replacement land</li> </ul>	
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b>		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b> (with minor discrepancies as noted in box 30)
	<p>A works plan showing, in relation to existing features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the proposed location or (for a linear scheme) the proposed route and alignment of the development and works; and</li> <li>the limits within which the development and works may be carried out and any</li> </ul>	<b>Works Plans - Sections A to H (Doc 2.3)</b>		<p>Where applicable, a plan identifying any new or altered means of access, stopping up of streets or roads or any diversions, extinguishments or creation of rights of way or public rights of navigation</p>	<p><b>Traffic Regulation Order Plans - Sections A to H (Doc 2.4)</b></p> <p><b>Access Rights of Way and Public Rights of Navigation Plans (Doc 2.5)</b></p>

	limits of deviation provided for in the draft DCO				
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b>		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b>
<b>l)</b>	<p>Where applicable, a plan with accompanying information identifying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>any statutory or non-statutory sites or features of nature conservation, for example sites of geological or landscape importance</li> <li>habitats of protected species, important habitats or other diversity features; and</li> <li>water bodies in a river basin management plan;</li> </ul> <p>together with an assessment of any</p>	<p><b>ES Appendix 8.16 - Designated Sites (Doc 6.8.A16)</b></p> <p><b>ES Appendix 8.1 - Habitat Report (Doc 6.8.A1)</b></p> <p><b>ES Figure 9.4 - Geologically Designated Sites (Doc 6.9.F4)</b></p> <p><b>ES Figure 12.1: Study Area and Water Environment Features (Doc 6.12.F1)</b></p> <p><b>ES Figure 12.3 - Water Framework Surface Waterbody Status (Doc 6.12.F3)</b></p> <p><b>ES Figure 13.1 - LVIA Study Area and Landscape</b></p>	<b>m)</b>	<p>Where applicable, a plan with accompanying information identifying any statutory or non-statutory sites or features of the historic environment, (for example scheduled monuments, world heritage sites, listed buildings, archaeological sites and registered battlefields) together with an assessment of any effects on such sites, features or structures likely to be caused by the proposed development</p>	<p><b>ES figure 11.2 Designated heritage assets assessed (Doc 6.11.F2)</b></p> <p><b>ES figure 11.3 Non-designated heritage assets assessed (Doc 6.11.F3)</b></p> <p><b>ES figure 11.4 Geophysical Survey and Archaeological Trial Trenching Priority Areas (Doc 6.11.F4)</b></p> <p><b>ES appendix 11.1 Historic environment baseline report (Doc 6.11.A1)</b></p> <p><b>ES appendix 11.2 Historic environment assessment tables (Doc 6.11.A2)</b></p> <p><b>ES appendix 11.3 EACN substation geophysical survey report (Doc 6.11.A3)</b></p> <p><b>ES appendix 11.4 Geophysical survey report (Doc 6.11.A4)</b></p>

n)	effects on such sites, features, habitats or bodies likely to be caused by the proposed development	<b>Designations (Doc 6.13.F1)</b> Supporting assessments are presented in <b>ES Chapter 8 – Ecology and Biodiversity (Doc 6.8)</b> ; and <b>Chapter 12 – Hydrology, Land Drainage, and Flood Risk (Doc 6.12)</b>	o)		<b>ES appendix 11.5 Trial trenching results report (Doc 6.11.A5)</b>  <b>ES appendix 11.6 Geoarchaeological Monitoring of Ground Investigation Works Report (Doc 6.11.A6)</b>  <b>ES appendix 11.7 Assessment of harm to designated heritage assets (Doc 6.11.A7)</b>  Assessments of the effects have been presented within <b>ES Chapter 11 – Historic Environment (Doc 6.11)</b>
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b>		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b>
	Where applicable, a plan with any accompanying information identifying any Crown land	<b>Special Category and Crown Land Plans (Doc 2.14)</b>		Any other plans, drawings and sections necessary to describe the development consent proposal showing details of design, external appearance, and the preferred layout of buildings, structures, drainage, surface water management, means of vehicular	<b>Design and layout plans – Subs and cables (Doc 2.6.1)</b>  <b>Design and layout plans – Overhead lines (Doc 2.6.2)</b>  <b>Design and layout plans – Traffic and transport (Doc 2.6.3)</b>  <b>Elevation drawings – Overhead line profiles (Parts 1 and 2) (Doc 2.7)</b>

p)			q)	and pedestrian access, any car parking and landscaping	
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b> (with minor discrepancies as noted in box 30)		Are they of a satisfactory standard?	<b>Yes</b>
	Any of the documents prescribed by regulation 6 of the APFP regulations	N/A		Any other documents considered necessary to support the application	<b>Application Cover Letter (Doc 1.2)</b> <b>Guide to Application (Doc 1.3)</b> <b>Copies of Newspaper Notices (Doc 1.4)</b> <b>Pre-Application Programme Document (Doc 1.5)</b> <b>Pre-Application Land and Rights Negotiations Tracker (Doc 4.4)</b> <b>Route Drive: Site Visit Guidance Document (Doc 5.2)</b> <b>Consents and Licences Required Under Other Legislation (Doc 5.5)</b> <b>Planning Statement (Doc 5.6)</b> <b>Policy Compliance Document (Doc 5.7)</b> <b>Potential Main Issues for Examination (Doc 5.8)</b>



				<p><b>Statement of Common Ground Overview (Doc 5.9)</b></p> <p><b>Statements of Common Ground (Docs 5.9.1- 5.9.32)</b></p> <p><b>Details of Associated Development, with references to documents (Doc 5.14)</b></p> <p><b>Design Development Report (Doc 5.15)</b></p> <p><b>Biodiversity Net Gain Report (Doc 7.1)</b></p> <p><b>Outline Code of Construction Practice (Doc 7.2)</b></p> <p><b>Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (Doc 7.3)</b></p> <p><b>Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (Doc 7.4)</b></p> <p><b>Outline Archaeological Mitigation Strategy and Outline Written Scheme of Investigation (Doc 7.5)</b></p> <p><b>Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (Doc 7.6)</b></p> <p><b>Electric and Magnetic Field Compliance Report (Doc 7.8)</b></p>
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				<p><b>Water Framework Directive Assessment (Doc 7.10)</b></p> <p><b>Transport Assessment (Doc 7.11)</b></p> <p><b>Visualisations (Doc 7.12 Parts 1-9)</b></p> <p><b>Equality Impact Assessment (Doc 7.14)</b></p> <p><b>Design and Access Statement (Doc 7.15)</b></p> <p><b>Design Approach for Site Specific Infrastructure (Doc 7.16)</b></p> <p><b>Strategic Options Backcheck and Review (Doc 7.17)</b></p> <p><b>2022 Corridor and Preliminary Routing and Siting Study (Doc 7.18)</b></p> <p><b>2023 Strategic Options Backcheck and Review (Doc 7.19)</b></p> <p><b>2023 Design Development Report for the Project (Doc 7.20)</b></p> <p><b>Design Development Report for the Project (Doc 7.21)</b></p> <p><b>2025 Design Development Report Addendum for Proposed Changes to Connection at Tilbury (Doc 7.22)</b></p>
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	Are they of a satisfactory standard?	N/A		Are they of a satisfactory standard?	Yes
30	<p>Are there any observations in respect of the documents provided at box 29 (a) to (q) above?</p> <p><b>Special category and Crown land plans (Doc 2.14), Book of Reference (Doc 4.3)</b></p> <p>Section B: Open space plot B-20/266 not shown on plans.</p> <p>Common land: Plot B16/32 not identified in part 5 of the Book of Reference. Plots B5/26a, B-5/24a, B-5/10, B-3/4, B-3/3, B-3/2 and B-2/123 not shown on plans.</p> <p>Section C: Crown land Plots c-6/38, c-6/39, c-6/41, c-6/42 and c-6/52 do not appear to be shown on Crown land plans.</p> <p>Section F: Common Land plots F-10/57 and F-10/54 not shown on plan.</p> <p>Open Space: Plots F-7/11, F-7/29, F-7/32, F7/33 and F7/36 not shown coloured on plans and plot F-7/3 Shown coloured and marked on plan but not in part 5 of Book of Reference for section F.</p> <p>Section H: Open Space plots H-4/79, H-4/70, H-4/38 and H4/19 do not appear to be shown.</p> <p>General: The sheet numbering appears to not be consecutive in sections B and C which may be where some of the discrepancies occur. For example, there appears to be two sheets titled sheet 10 and there is no sheet 9 or sheet 8. It appears that one of sheets titled 10 (that in section B) should be titled sheet 8 and that sheet 9 in section C is missing.</p> <p>The applicant is to check all relevant sheets are included and that they are appropriately titled.</p> <p><b>Primary access route (PAR) plans ES figure 16.1 (Doc 6.16.F1)</b></p> <p>The line of PAR3 is partly obscured in the top left corner of ES figure 16.1 page 2 of 30, near the A11. The applicant should ensure that this and all PARs are fully visible, and check each of the text boxes titled "Doc Ref: 6.16.F1" so that they do not obscure other detail on the maps.</p> <p>Section 51 advice has been issued to the applicant and is available to view on the Find a National Infrastructure Project website: <a href="https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027/documents">https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027/documents</a></p>				

31	In accordance with regulation 5(2)(g) of the APFP regulations, is the application accompanied by a report identifying any European site(s) to which regulation 48 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 applies; or any Ramsar site(s), which may be affected by the proposed development, together with sufficient information that will enable the Secretary of State to make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site if required by regulation 48(1)?	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p><b>A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report</b> has been provided (<b>Doc 5.3</b>).</p> <p>The HRA Report identifies relevant European sites and the likely effects on those sites. It is considered that the information provided in the report is adequate for acceptance.</p> <p>Note: The Examining Authority will be able to ask questions during the examination. This may result in additional information being required to inform the HRA Report and the competent authority. Depending upon the type and availability of information required it may not be possible to obtain this during the statutory timetable of the examination.</p>
32	In accordance with regulation 5(2)(r) of the APFP regulations, if requested by the Planning Inspectorate, have two paper copies of the application form and other supporting documents and plans been provided?	<b>No hard copies requested.</b>
33	Has the applicant had regard to statutory guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Application form guidance'?	<p><b>Yes</b></p> <p>The applicant appears to have had regard to statutory guidance on the application form.</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the applicant has demonstrated regard to the guidance principles.</p>
34	<b>Summary - s55(3)(f) and s55(5A)</b>	The Planning Inspectorate concludes that the application (including accompaniments) has been prepared to a standard that it considers satisfactory.

		In respect of the discrepancies identified in box 30 of this checklist, to help facilitate an efficient and effective examination of the application s51 advice has been provided to the applicant in conjunction with the decision to accept the application. That advice is published on the Find a National Infrastructure Project website, here: <a href="https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027/documents">https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN020027/documents</a>
<b>The Infrastructure Planning (Fees) Regulations 2010</b>		
<b>Pre-application fee</b>		
35	<p>Were all pre-application fees paid before the application was made?</p> <p>Pre-application services for which a fee can be charged is defined in regulation 2A(8) and includes services listed within schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Fees) Regulations 2010. Fees for pre-application services apply to all proposed applications, from the inception meeting. These fees must be paid within 28 days of the notice. If the applicant fails to pay the fee within 28 days, the Planning Inspectorate will not provide the applicant with any further pre-application services or take any further steps in relation to the proposed application.</p>	The fees for providing the applicant with standard pre-application services were received on 16 June 2025; before the application was made.
<b>Fees to accompany an application</b>		

36	<p>Was the fee paid at the same time that the application was made?</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate must charge the applicant a fee in respect of the decision by the Planning Inspectorate under section 55 of the PA2008. If the applicant fails to pay the fee, the Planning Inspectorate need not consider the application until payment is received. The fee must be paid at the same time that the application is made</p>	The fee was received on 30 July 2025; before the application was made.
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Role	Electronic signature	Date
Case Manager	<i>Siân Evans</i>	26 September 2025
Acceptance Inspector	<i>Susan Hunt</i>	26 September 2025