

Grimsby to Walpole

Section 51 Advice Log

Version: 19 November 2025

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

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

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

Project name s51 Advice Log - Index	
Date of meeting	Meeting overview
7 May 2025	Topics discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General update on the progress of the project • Feedback from the Non-Statutory Consultation • Programme Document • Statutory Consultation
06 November 2025	Pre-application Prospectus Update
19 November 2025	Topics discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General update on the progress of the project • Feedback from the Statutory Consultation • Consenting Strategy for Weston Marsh A and Weston Marsh B • Statutory Targeted Consultation for Route Section 5 • Programme Document

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Topic	Advice date: 7 May 2025
Programme Document	The Inspectorate advised the applicant to include more specific dates in its Programme Document for the expected timeline as opposed to the current format of quarters, with at the very least the submission date being given a specific month for more accurate resource planning. The Inspectorate explained further that the Programme Document should be updated and reviewed when any new issues are identified or when changes to expected dates arise for example.
Project visualisation material	The Inspectorate reminded the applicant to be aware of any project visualisation material that are being used throughout the consultation period and its usability throughout the entire application process.
Connection agreements	The Inspectorate queried if information on the connection agreements to the proposed substations could be provided, in the form of simplified plans and maps if such a thing were publicly available.
Weston Marsh	<p>The Inspectorate advised the applicant to consider whether further consultation on Section 5 at Weston Marsh will be required if consent is not granted under the Town and Country Planning Act.</p> <p>The Inspectorate advised the applicant to review the Statement of Community Consultation ahead of the targeted consultation.</p>

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Topic	Advice date: 6 November 2025
Pre-application Prospectus Update	<p>The Inspectorate has advised that, following a 6-month review of our services, our Pre-application Prospectus has been updated: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus. The update log at the bottom of the page summarises the changes and clarifications that have been applied.</p> <p>Applicants with a live project at the pre-application stage of the process, please familiarise yourself with the update and consider how it might affect your pre-</p>

	<p>application programme and interaction with our services. Please note in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the establishment of land and rights negotiations tracking as a primary service feature – this means it is now expected for all applicants to develop and share a land and right negotiations tracker in 1 of 2 available templates, irrespective of the service tier they have subscribed to • clarified expectations of applicants when preparing to interact with the Inspectorate at meetings – including clarified rights for the Inspectorate to delay or refuse service where pre-meeting expectations are not upheld e.g. an updated programme document or 9 issues tracker is not provided, on time, to inform a meeting agenda.
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Topic	Advice date: 19 November 2025
Project Update	<p>The Inspectorate requested that the applicant provide an update on any changes to the red line boundary and any feedback from other NSIP developers that interact with the route at future meetings.</p> <p>The Inspectorate advised that it would be useful to be informed about any particular sections/issues that might be most raised by respondents as more controversial or common concerns. Also through pre application and into examination, it would be useful to not only know the key issues but how they relate to certain sections of the scheme. It advised that an issues tracker be produced and shared with the Inspectorate.</p>
Programme Document	<p>The Inspectorate requested the applicant provide an estimated submission month rather than quarter to give more accurate information on the project page of the National Infrastructure planning website.</p> <p>(Post meeting advice) The Inspectorate advises that the main issues table in the Programme Document should be regularly updated to provide an accurate overview of the main issues and the applicant's activities in resolving them. The main issues should provide high level summaries indicating whether each issue has been resolved or is capable of resolution,</p>

	<p>either through proposed mitigation measures or project redesign, and any agreements reached with statutory parties on the applicant's proposed methodologies and scope of assessments (where feasible). This will assist both the Inspectorate and other parties understand the stage of the project at pre-application, its state of preparedness before application submission and the extent of potential issues at examination. This information in the Programme Document is made more necessary in the absence of an Issues Tracker.</p>
<p>Consenting strategy for Weston Marsh A and Weston Marsh B</p>	<p>The Inspectorate advised the applicant to clearly explain within the application how the DCO will interact with the applications under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and s37 of the Electricity Act 1989 and ensure there is clarity within the Requirements/ Conditions. The applicant will need to provide clear justification for compulsory acquisition of land and/ or rights.</p> <p>The Inspectorate advised the applicant to provide explanation and justification in the application for the 1km separation of the Weston Marsh A and Weston Marsh B substations, particularly in terms of impacts to landscape. If there will be matters of national security within the application the Inspectorate requested that sufficient notice is given to ensure security clearance of those handling the application is obtained in advance.</p>
<p>Draft documents</p>	<p>The Inspectorate advised that the standard draft documents review time is six weeks. The Inspectorate requested advance notice of when and which documents will be submitted for review.</p> <p>The Inspectorate advised that with submission of the draft DCO it would be helpful to have background information on how the different consents fit together. The more background that can be provided will assist overall understanding.</p>
<p>Adequacy of Consultation Milestone</p>	<p>The Adequacy of Consultation Milestone statement (AoCM) statement should be submitted three months before the DCO submission. It is important to see the evidence and opinions of the Local Planning Authorities within this to gain an understanding of the local view on how the consultation has been carried out and whether any further consultation is needed before the application submission.</p>

