

Grimsby to Walpole

Section 51 Advice Log

Version: 04 March 2026

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
04 March 2026	Topics discussed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Consent Order(DCO) • Consultation and Engagement • Land and Rights Tracker • Draft documents

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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>

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Topic	Advice date: 04 March 2026
<p>Development Consent Order(DCO)</p>	<p>The Planning Inspectorate advised that the applicant should ensure that the refinement of the Order Limits is completed, as far as possible, by the Draft Documents Review stage. Where this is not achievable, all outstanding caveats and areas requiring further work should be clearly identified. This will assist in avoiding ambiguity and will support an efficient and accurate review of the submitted documentation.</p>
<p>Consultation and Engagement</p>	<p>The Planning Inspectorate advised the applicant to continue regular engagement with local authorities, including confirmation of whether any authorities are experiencing resource or staffing constraints that could affect their ability to participate in the DCO process. Where relevant, such matters should be recorded in the Issues Tracker.</p> <p>The Issues Tracker should reflect current positions, including RAG ratings, rather than anticipated future positions. The applicant indicated that the tracker remains in draft form; the Inspectorate advised that a working version should be shared at the next meeting.</p> <p>The applicant was advised to confirm the extent of engagement undertaken with statutory bodies to date, ensuring that any emerging issues or dependencies are captured appropriately.</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate noted that National Grid’s approach to preparing interrelationship documents during examinations has previously been effective. Clear documentation setting out relationships with other relevant projects and how these are being managed would be of benefit.</p>
<p>Land and Rights Tracker</p>	<p>The Planning Inspectorate advised that any red-flag issues should be recorded within the Land and Rights Tracker. It would be beneficial for the applicant to obtain and incorporate any missing information prior to the Draft Documents Review, with the aim of resolving outstanding matters ahead of submission.</p> <p>The level of detail provided within the draft Land Plans and associated documents will inform the nature of the Section 51 advice that the Inspectorate is able to</p>

	<p>provide. The applicant is directed to the Norwich to Tilbury project advice for examples of the type of comments previously issued on land plans.</p>
<p>Draft documents</p>	<p>The applicant was advised that it is beneficial to provide sample plans from the project, rather than from a different project, at draft document review stage. The applicant was advised to look at the general comments on plans and drawings given for the Norwich to Tilbury project.</p> <p>The Inspectorate requested the applicant to clearly acknowledge and identify any gaps in the draft documents to confirm where additional work will be undertaken before application submission.</p>