

Grimsby to Walpole

Section 51 Advice Log Version: 01 October 2026

This document comprises a record of the s51 advice that has been given by the Planning Inspectorate to the applicant (National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) Plc) during the pre-application stage. It will be updated by the Planning Inspectorate after every interaction with the applicant within which s51 advice has been given.

The applicant will always be given the opportunity to comment on the Planning Inspectorate's draft record of the s51 advice given before it is published on the relevant project page on the [Find a National Infrastructure Project website](#).

The role of the advice log at the acceptance stage

Section 55(4) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) requires the Planning Inspectorate to consider, amongst other things, the extent to which the applicant has had regard to the s51 advice given by the Planning Inspectorate in connection with the application when deciding if the application can be accepted for examination. Section 51 advice includes:

- advice given about applying for an order granting development consent
- advice given about making representations about an application for an order granting development consent

The applicant will use this advice log as the tool for demonstrating:

- regard to the s51 advice given in connection with the application to the applicant
- regard to any s51 advice given in connection with the application to others

The applicant will submit a final version of this advice log which demonstrates regard to all s51 advice given by the Planning Inspectorate at the pre-application stage as part of the application.

Grimsby to Walpole – Applicant meeting and advice index

Date of advice	Meeting / advice overview
<u>18 October 2023</u>	<u>Inception Meeting</u> • Publication of Meeting Notes • EIA Scoping
<u>25 January 2024</u>	Project Update Meeting • General update on the progress of the project • Pre-application service
<u>28 March 2024</u>	Project Update Meeting • General update on the progress of the project • Feedback on the first stage of public consultation • Emerging preferred corridor • EIA Scoping • Project programme
<u>24 June 2024</u>	Project Update Meeting • General update on the progress of the project • EIA scoping • Project programme • Pre-application service
<u>25 October 2024</u>	Review of Programme Document
<u>7 May 2025</u>	Project Update Meeting • General update on the progress of the project • Feedback from the Non-Statutory Consultation • Programme Document • Statutory Consultation
<u>6 November 2025</u>	Pre-application Prospectus Update
<u>19 November 2025</u>	Project Update Meeting • Project Update • Programme Document • Consenting strategy for Weston Marsh A and Weston Marsh B • Draft documents • Adequacy of Consultation Milestone
<u>4 March 2026</u>	Project Update Meeting • Development Consent Order (DCO) • Consultation and Engagement

	• Land and Rights Tracker • Draft documents
<u>13 May 2026</u>	Project Update Meeting • Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) • Management plans • Discharging requirements • Issues tracker – ecology, biodiversity, HRA and BNG • Issues tracker - aviation • Programme Document
<u>16 July 2026</u>	Email advice regarding Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025
<u>08 September 2026</u>	Project Update Meeting • Regard to s51 advice • Consultation report summary • Draft documents • Issues tracker • Environmental surveys • SoCGs and position statements

Grimsby to Walpole – Log of s51 advice given to the applicant

Meeting date: 18 October 2023

Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given
Publication of meeting note	The Inspectorate advised that a note of the meeting would be published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008. The Inspectorate explained that any advice provided under section 51 does not constitute legal advice upon which applicants or others may rely. The Inspectorate explained that publication of the meeting note could be delayed for up to six months, or until a formal scoping request had been submitted, where this was requested by the applicant for commercial reasons.	National Grid acknowledge the advice given.
EIA scoping	The Inspectorate advised that any overlap between the applicant's non-statutory consultation and the Inspectorate's consultation on a scoping request should be avoided where possible. The Inspectorate explained that overlapping consultations could cause confusion for stakeholders and create a risk that responses intended for the scoping consultation are submitted to the applicant rather than the Inspectorate.	National Grid acknowledge the advice given. The Stage 1 consultation was progressed January – March 2024 and the EIA Scoping Report was submitted to the Inspectorate in August 2024.

Meeting date: 25 January 2024		
Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given
EIA Scoping	The applicant was advised to look at scoping opinions published on the Inspectorate's website to aid their approach to their Scoping Report.	National Grid reviewed available scoping opinions published on the Inspectorate's website to guide the approach on the Grimsby to Walpole Project.
Meeting date: 28 March 2024		
Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given
Design options	The applicant was advised to clearly communicate and evidence their design options.	The Stage 1 consultation material includes; the emerging preferred corridor constraints plans, the corridor preliminary routeing and siting study (CPRSS), the strategic options report, the addendum to the strategic options report and the new Walpole substation location options report, all of these documents are available on the National Grid, Grimsby to Walpole Project website: https://www.nationalgrid.com/the-great-grid-upgrade/grimsby-to-walpole June 2025 update: At stage 2 consultation, the Design Development

		Report, a link to the Project interactive map and photomontages were added to the online material. Winter 2025 update: Weston Marsh targeted consultation material included supplementary design development report, a Weston Marsh siting study report, and further photomontages were added to the online material.
Agricultural land	The applicant was advised to build relationships with landowners and to access local information about the landscape.	National Grid is committed to engaging with all landowners affected by the Project.
Communication	The applicant was advised to consider community newsletters to summarise issues, next steps and how regard is had to feedback. This should be upfront, visible and easy to locate on the project website. The applicant was also advised to engage with any action groups.	Consultation material and community update leaflets, posters and presentations from each stage of consultation are available on the National Grid Grimsby to Walpole Project website: https://www.nationalgrid.com/the-great-grid-upgrade/grimsby-to-walpole
Meeting date: 24 June 2024		
Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given

PEIR and ES	The applicant advised that they are considering a sectional approach for the presentation of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report and Environmental Statement. The Inspectorate advised the applicant to take care when dividing up the route to ensure that areas such as the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape are not split across different sections.	National Grid acknowledge the advice given. The majority of the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape is adjacent to route section 2.
Email date: 25 October 2024		
Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given
Programme Document	• One of the mandatory components of the pre-application service is demonstrating regard to advice, therefore this should be clearly reflected in the application documents. • It would be helpful to include dates in the table setting out the submission timeframe. • It would be helpful if the timeframes in the key milestones could be narrowed. • The applicant should consider whether further consultation may be required and, if so, add possible timescales. • It would be helpful to include approximate timescales for future project update meetings with the Inspectorate.	The Project Programme Document is updated and supplied to PINS ahead of each project update meeting. National Grid acknowledge the advice given and have ensured that the Programme Document includes: • A background to the Project; • An overview of the PINS pre-application service; • An expected submission timeframe with monthly dates given; • Timeframe of the pre-application process with monthly dates given, including approximate dates for

		further project update meetings with PINS; • Overview of the main issues for resolution; • Engagement with statutory consultees and LPA's; • Pre-application risks and how these are tackled; and • Approach to the preliminary environmental information.
Email date: 11 December 2024		
Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given
EIA scoping	The Inspectorate acknowledged a typographical error in ID 3.1.1 of the Scoping Opinion. The Scoping Opinion states that "[t]he Inspectorate agrees that significant direct effects are likely and that this matter can be scoped out of the ES...". The Inspectorate clarifies that this should state "[t]he Inspectorate agrees that significant direct effects are unlikely and that this matter can be scoped out of the ES..." (emphasis added).	National Grid acknowledge confirmation that the Scoping Opinion contains an error at paragraph 3.1.1.
Meeting date: 7 May 2025		
Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given

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.	The Programme Document will be updated with monthly timeframes ahead of each PINS project update meeting.
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.	National Grid acknowledge the advice given. All material published at each stage of consultation is available and will remain available throughout the pre-application process, including a link to the Project interactive map and a series of photomontages on the Document Library section of the Grimsby to Walpole Project website here: https://www.nationalgrid.com/the-great-grid-upgrade/grimsby-to-walpole
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.	National Grid will engage internally. However, the TEC register is publicly available here:

		https://www.neso.energy/data-portal/transmission-entry-capacity-tec-register
Weston Marsh	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. The Inspectorate advised the applicant to review the Statement of Community Consultation ahead of the targeted consultation.	National Grid acknowledge the advice given. The Project SoCC made provision for further targeted consultation and so a targeted consultation to cover the interactions between the Weston Marsh TCPA application, the DCO and the S.37 application was held. Ahead of launching the targeted Section 5 consultation, the LPAs associated with the area were notified of the consultation in line with the approach outlined in the SoCC.
Date: 6 November 2025		
Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given
Pre-application Prospectus Update	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. 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-	National Grid acknowledge the advice given.

	application programme and interaction with our services. Please note in particular: - 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.	
Meeting date: 19 November 2025		
Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given
Project Update	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. 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	National Grid acknowledge the advice given. The Grimsby to Walpole project team have prepared an issues tracker, this is a live document that will be updated throughout the pre-application phase. An offline version will be presented to the Inspectorate for review and can be

	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.	discussed during a subsequent Project Update Meeting. May 2026 Update: ahead of the May Project Update Meeting the Applicant shared an offline version of the Project's Issue Tracker for discussion.
Programme Document	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. (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, 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.	National Grid anticipate June 2027 for the target DCO submission month.

Consenting strategy for Weston Marsh A and Weston Marsh B	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. 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.	National Grid acknowledge the advice given and have addressed these within the TCPA application for Weston Marsh Substation A. The TCPA application is anticipated to be considered at SHDC's planning committee in October.
Draft documents	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. 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.	National Grid acknowledge the advice given. The draft Planning Statement for early PINS review will contain an overview of how the different (DCO, TCPA and S37) consents associated with the Weston Marsh area interact.

Adequacy of Consultation Milestone	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.	National Grid acknowledge the advice given. In reflection of the new guidance, National Grid will not be preparing an Adequacy of Consultation Milestone document, to inform the application for the Grimsby to Walpole Project.
Meeting date: 4 March 2026		
Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given
Development Consent Order (DCO)	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.	National Grid acknowledge the advice given.
Consultation and Engagement	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.	National Grid acknowledge the advice given. Regular LPA engagement meetings are ongoing. The Grimsby to Walpole project team have prepared an issues tracker, this is a live document that will be updated throughout the pre-application phase. An offline version will be presented to the

	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. 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. 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.	Inspectorate for review and can be discussed during a subsequent Project Update Meeting. May 2026 Update: ahead of the May Project Update Meeting the Applicant shared an offline version of the Project's Issue Tracker for discussion. The Applicant prepared a detailed list of the Technical Working Groups (TWGs) being held with both statutory and non-statutory bodies, to present at the next Inspectorate Project Update Meeting.
Land and Rights Tracker	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. 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 provide. The applicant is directed to the Norwich to Tilbury project advice for examples of the type of comments previously issued on land plans.	National Grid acknowledge the advice given. National Grid intend to provide a template land and rights tracker for the early PINS review.

Draft documents	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. 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.	National Grid acknowledge the advice given and will reach out to Norwich to Tilbury for general comments received. The draft documents prepared for the early PINS review may contain gaps, these will be clearly marked within the draft documents.
Meeting date: 13 May 2026		
Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given
Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM)	The applicant was advised that it is important that local authorities have an opportunity to comment on the consultation and the main purpose of the AoCM is to check whether the project is seriously adrift. Sufficient time should be built into the applicant's programme to enable the Inspectorate to review and provide s51 advice and the applicant was advised that this could be done in 4 weeks. If the applicant chooses to submit the AoCM close to the date of submission, it is at their own risk.	In reflection of the new guidance, National Grid will not be preparing an Adequacy of Consultation Milestone document, to inform the application for the Grimsby to Walpole Project.
Management plans	Post meeting advice: the applicant is advised that the following management plans are expected on this type of linear project: • code of construction practice	National Grid reviewed the list of management plans provided by PINS for

	• site waste management plan • soil resource management plan • dust management plan • noise and vibration management plan • construction traffic management plan • Abnormal Indivisible Load access management plans • Public Rights of Way management plan • construction worker travel plan • highway mitigation plans • landscape and ecological management plan Ancient woodlands and veteran tree strategy	consistency against those being prepared by the project team. The Grimsby to Walpole Project will be informed by all of those management plans listed by the Inspectorate besides the abnormal indivisible load (AIL) access management plan. AIL routes will be referenced within the transport assessment.
Discharging requirements	Post meeting advice: the applicant enquired about requirements being discharged by a centralised unit in the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). The applicant is advised that this has been raised in both the Sea Link and Norwich to Tilbury examinations. In hearing action points following the Norwich to Tilbury issue specific hearing 2, the applicant and local authorities were asked to enquire with DESNZ whether they had been consulted or provided comments regarding the draft wording of the relevant schedule in the Sea Link draft DCO. These responses are due by deadline 5, on 10 June 2026.	National Grid will continue to monitor the latest developments regarding a centralised unit within DESNZ.

Issues tracker – ecology, biodiversity, HRA and BNG	Post meeting advice: the applicant is advised that this topic may benefit from being split as there may be topics with different RAG ratings.	National Grid acknowledge the advice given.
Issues tracker - aviation	Post meeting advice: the applicant is advised that on a project of this type the Examining Authority would expect to see the following evidence: • Agreed study area for the Environmental Statement with the Civil Aviation Authority; (CAA)/ Ministry of Defence (MoD); • Agreed list of aerodromes specified for investigation; • Early discussions with relevant aerodromes and identification of any key issues - progress on Statements of Common Ground; • Mitigation identified where needed and planned for; • Ongoing open discussions with aerodromes, CAA, MoD to resolve matters where possible; Discussion of compliance with EN-1 and any relevant issues regarding Critical National Priority considered	National Grid acknowledge the advice given.
Programme Document	Post meeting advice: the applicant is advised that the main issues section would have benefitted from more detail on the type of heritage assets and aviation sites affected by the project. This will assist all	National Grid acknowledge the advice given. The Programme Document has since been updated to include this detail.

	parties to gain a quick understanding of the main constraints and any particular assessments needed.	
Email date: 16 July 2026		
Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given
Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 updates	In light of the amended legal framework which will be introduced from 24 July 2026 by the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025, the Planning Inspectorate issued written advice to the applicant on 16 July 2026 requesting for: • evidence within the submitted application in relation to duties under s46 and s48 of the PA2008 to be provided as an appendix to any engagement summary document that the applicant may choose to submit or, where the applicant chooses not to submit such a document, as a discrete document titled 'Section 46 and section 48 information' • evidence within the submitted application in relation to new s55(4)(e) of the PA2008 27 to be provided in a submission version of this expanded advice log template.	National Grid acknowledge the advice given.
Meeting date: 8 September 2026		
Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given
S51 advice – applicant's regard to advice	The Inspectorate advised the applicant to raise any queries or uncertainties regarding s51 advice during the	National Grid acknowledge the advice given.

	pre-application process rather than leaving until submission. An issues tracker can be used to record and develop matters where further clarification or evidence is required. Regard to s51 advice will be assessed at the time of acceptance but it can be recorded by the applicant during pre-application.	
Consultation report summary	The Inspectorate advised the applicant to ensure that the document addresses the relevant matters identified in the new acceptance checklist, including the s46 notification requirement.	National Grid acknowledge the advice given and this information will be contained within the Engagement Summary Report produced for the DCO application.
Draft documents	The Inspectorate advised that the draft documents should be substantially complete to enable meaningful feedback.	National Grid acknowledge the advice given.
Issues tracker	The Inspectorate advised the applicant to provide sufficient detail within the issues tracker to clearly identify the specific matters under discussion with stakeholders. This will assist the Inspectorate when undertaking its review of draft application documents and during the examination.	A draft issues tracker will be provided as part of the draft documents for PINS to review ahead of the submission.
Environmental surveys	The Inspectorate advised the applicant to engage with Natural England (NE) and other relevant stakeholders at the earliest opportunity regarding any gaps in survey data. The Environmental Statement (ES) should explain any survey limitations and detail how these have been taken into account in the assessment. It should set out how the applicant has engaged with NE and other relevant stakeholders on these matters.	National Grid acknowledge the advice given. The Applicant has set out, to Natural England and other relevant stakeholders, their approach to survey data collection for various protected species. Any survey gaps identified will be discussed with such stakeholders in advance of submission and at the

		earliest possible opportunity. Any gaps in survey data, and the potential implications of these, will be clearly detailed in the Assumptions and Limitations sections of the Environmental Statement (ES) chapters submitted with the DCO.
Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) and Position Statements	The Inspectorate advised the applicant to seek to resolve matters and establish clear agreed or disagreed positions with stakeholders prior to submission. This should help minimise the extent of outstanding matters and associated document updates required during examination.	National Grid is actively progressing multiple SoCGs and position statements with stakeholders. Engagement is ongoing to work on the list of outstanding matters between parties ahead of DCO submission.

Grimsby to Walpole – Log of s51 advice given to others		
Person s51 advice given to	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given
David Spilman	It is for an applicant to decide how they pursue access to land for surveys, including what legislation they rely on. Link to advice given	National Grid acknowledge the advice given and confirm that surveys are currently ongoing.
Richard Tice MP	Prescribed consultees for the purposes of consultation on an environmental impact assessment scoping opinion are defined in regulation 3(1) of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and the Inspectorate only consults the bodies listed in our advice page on EIA notification and consultation; this does not include parish meetings. Link to advice given	PINS position in relation to this advice is noted. The project team engages with Parish Councils, including: sharing regular updates, offering briefings at every relevant stage of consultation, providing materials to promote community awareness, and proactively seeking to correspondence as soon as possible.