

Eastern Green Link 3 and Eastern Green Link 4 EN0210003

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Section 51 Advice Log

Version: 01 May 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 Inspectorate to the applicant (National Grid Electricity Transmission) and their consultants during the pre-application stage. It will be updated by the 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 Inspectorate's draft record of advice before it is published.

The applicant will use this Advice Log as the basis for demonstrating regard to section 51 advice within the application.

Project name s51 Advice Log - Index	
Date of meeting	Advice overview
30 October 2024 - Email	Feedback on Programme Document
01 April 2025	Update on proposed Statutory Consultation Preparation

Project name -s51 Advice Library	
Topic	Meeting date: 30 October 2024
Email containing feedback on Programme Document	<p>The applicant supplied the Inspectorate with its initial Programme Document in line with the Expression of Interest process after the publication of the 2024 Pre-application Prospectus. Having reviewed the document, the Inspectorate considers that it satisfactorily covers the expected content as set out in the government's pre-application guidance at paragraph 10, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “the date the applicant intends to submit their application • a comprehensive timetable of the applicant's pre-application process, the main events with dates and milestones demonstrating how the pre-application process will be completed (using the maximum target of 2 years as a benchmark) • the applicant's view on the main issues for resolution and activities they will undertake to address those • the applicant's proposals for engaging with statutory consultees and local authorities during the pre-application period and any intended financial support agreements, such as Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs) • the applicant's identification of risks to achievement of the pre-application stage and the process by which these risks are tracked and managed • cross references to the SoCC required by section 47 of the Planning Act”. <p>The Programme Document provides enough detail about the proposed development, timetable and activities for the pre-application process, as well as the applicant's approach to engagement with statutory consultees and other parties. It would be helpful, despite the application being at an early stage, if the applicant provided a clearer estimate for which quarter in 2026 the application is currently intended to be submitted in. It would also be helpful if the applicant included a better indication of activities that will be undertaken to track and manage risks in the next iteration of its document.</p>

Topic	Meeting date: 01 April 2025
Programme Document	<p>The Inspectorate queried the applicant on the publishing of its next iteration of the Programme Document and the applicant confirmed that it will be publishing in approximately two weeks. The Inspectorate advised the applicant to include regard to the responses on the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) from the local authorities in the Programme Document.</p> <p>The Inspectorate also advised to include pictures and maps within the Programme Document to help understand the context, the proposed route, optionality and order limits. It was also suggested that a map be included to show where the project crosses between the England and Scotland border.</p> <p>The Inspectorate also advised to include the consultation materials being used for the statutory consultation in the programme document with the hyperlinks for easy access.</p>
Transboundary Screening	<p>The Inspectorate updated the applicant that it will be undertaking the transboundary screening and will update the applicant before it intends to start its Statutory Consultation in May 2025 so that applicant can go to European countries, if identified, at the same time as statutory consultation.</p>
New Flood Risk and coastal erosion data from EA	<p>The Inspectorate advised the applicant that it should get advice from their flood risk advisors regarding the new national flood and coastal erosion risk information from the Environment Agency (EA) to consider any implications before the applicant commences statutory consultation.</p>
Assessments	<p>The Inspectorate advised to consider the Environmental Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) Regulations 2023 regarding the assessment of PM_{2.5}.</p> <p>The Inspectorate also highlighted the requirement of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURA) to further Protected National Landscapes and advised the applicant to demonstrate how the applicant has considered this when submitting the proposed application.</p>
NSIP Commitments register / S42 documents	<p>The applicant questioned if the Commitment Register should be submitted at the s42 stage and whether the Inspectorate would like to receive it all in the bundle or separately to which the Inspectorate confirmed that the information sent to the Inspectorate should be the same as sent to the statutory consultees. The Inspectorate to confirm whether it needs the information in the spreadsheet format.</p>

River Transport Option Assessment	The Inspectorate advised the applicant to ensure there is enough information in the PEIR and it is progressed enough to have consultation on it, considering whether further consultation is required and recommended seeking advice from the statutory consultees on this.
Cumulative and combined assessments	The Inspectorate advised the applicant that that there has been, in relation to some cases, a conflict between the Natural England and Inspectorate's tiering of cumulative and combined assessments, which if not explored and addresses can take up a lot of examination time and it would be beneficial if the applicant can agree the baseline positions before it submits the application.
Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AOCM)	The applicant questioned whether it would be appropriate to submit the AOCM document in Q1 of 2026 with anticipated submission in summer 2026. The Inspectorate confirmed that the guidance is to submit the AOCM three months before the anticipated submission date and it would be happy to have it early, but it should include statement from the local authorities confirming the consultation was adequate. The Inspectorate also advised to inform the local authorities that it will be submitting this information to the Inspectorate.
Electronic Application Index	The applicant queried if the Inspectorate still need the electronic application index at the submission of the application to which the Inspectorate confirmed that it is still required to be submitted.
AI use guidance	The applicant asked whether there was any guidance on the use of AI and the Inspectorate signposted to some published guidance and suggested having this as a standing agenda item in future meetings.
GIS Shapefile	The applicant queried whether it should submit the GIS Shapefile again to the Inspectorate as it has changed since last submitted at the scoping stage, to which the Inspectorate confirmed that the applicant should only submit this once the project is finalised with changes prior to the submission of the application.
Draft Documents	The applicant confirmed that draft documents will be submitted next year, and the Inspectorate advised that the draft documents should only be submitted once they are to a satisfactory standard. The applicant also queried whether draft documents should be shared with the statutory consultees. The Inspectorate advised that the applicant should consider sharing the draft documents with the stakeholders. The guidance is set out in the pre-application prospectus.

