



Planning Inspectorate

Eastern Green Link 3+4 - EN0210003

National Grid Electricity Transmission

Section 51 advice regarding draft application documents

Issued on 09 June 2026 (6 Weeks from 30 April 2026)

On 30 April 2026 National Grid Electricity Transmission submitted the draft documents listed in the tables below for review by the Planning Inspectorate as part of its ['Pre-application Service'](#).

The advice recorded in the tables below relates solely to matters raised from the Planning Inspectorate's review of the draft application documents. The advice is limited by the maturity of the documentation provided by the applicant and the time available for consideration and is raised without prejudice to the acceptance decision, the decision about admission to the fast track procedure (where relevant) or the final decision about whether development consent should be granted. The applicant has been given the opportunity to comment on The Planning Inspectorate's draft record of advice before it was published.

Draft development consent order (DCO) (Schedule 1 only)

Ref No.	Article/ Schedule/ Requirement	Comment or question
1.	N/A	Assume various project related definitions will be added to schedule prior to Works Nos.
2.	Entire Schedule / DCO	Use of the phrasing 'may include' is discouraged throughout, to avoid ambiguity.
3.	N/A	Check spacing between words and punctuation.
4.	Work No.1 (cc)	Delete ';' and'
5.	N/A	Check spelling throughout for consistency, for example 'earthworks' and 'earth works'
6.	General	In respect of advice issued below under Works Plan Ref. No 7, the applicant is advised that when referencing " <i>Work as shown on sheets [] of the Works Plan...</i> " within Schedule 1 of the dDCO, that this is referenced accurately and/or not create ambiguity to the works to be carried out and relevant Section of the dDCO the works is associated with. Care should also be taken when referring to works associated to HVDC Cable and corresponding Section [x], inclusive of HVAC Cable and corresponding Section [x].

Draft Simplified Land and Rights Negotiations Tracker

Ref No.		Comment or question
1.	Protected provisions	No details of protective provisions provided, assume these will be included in final submission, as necessary.

Draft sample works plans and land plans

Ref No.	Plan Name and Ref	Comment or question
1.	Land Plans	Full plan check has not been possible as only two sheets of plans have been provided. No key plan has been provided. Book of reference (excerpt) only contain plots shown on Sheet 1.
2.	Land Plan (Sheet 1 of 71)	The boundary lines could have been a bit darker for clear separation. No labelling of the roads/ lanes has been provided which will be helpful when doing the cross checks with the Book of Reference.
3.	Land Plan (Sheet 1 of 71)	Some of the plots are described as temporary possession of land but also says 'absolute freehold' in the end of description which can be confusing, clarification is needed e.g. 01-02, 01-03, 01-97.
4.	Land Plan (Sheet 1 of 71)	Most of the plots up until Plots 01-37 has been described as to the east of Huttoft Bank, which need to be reviewed and amended where necessary as some appear to be to the north or south of Huttoft Bank.
5.	Land Plan (Sheet 9 of 71)	Plots have not been checked with BoR as it isn't complete.

Draft sample works plans and land plans

Ref No.	Plan Name and Ref	Comment or question
6.	Works Plans	Works plans appear to be incomplete as not all work numbers as in Schedule 1 of dDCO have been covered in the plans provided. The draft version of Schedule 1 of DCO doesn't include sheet numbers for a full check. The legend provided on the Works plans sheets aligns with the works on the sheets.
7.	Works Plan Sheet 1 and 2	The applicant is advised to review areas of its Works Plan where cut-line exist and/or "for continuation see sheet x". When reviewing Sheet 1 of 71 of the Works Plan, within the inset "for continuation see sheet 2" this refers to Work No. 44, however when reviewing Sheet 2 of 71, this refers to Work No. 42. The Inspectorate assumes this should be Work No. 42 as per the Legend; however the applicant is minded to review all its plan to ensure consistency. Note: Without Access to Land Plan Sheet 1 and 2 (Applicant has provided Sheet 1 and 9), the applicant is advised to ensure proper plot numbers are continued across all sheets where appropriate.
8.	Works Plan	The Applicant is advised to review all sheets associated to the Works Plan when cross-referencing to the draft DCO e.g. Works Plan refers to Work No 8/23 – EGL 3 and EGL 4 HVDC Cable in Section [1]. The draft DCO refers to Work No. 8 (Substation Construction Compound) and Work No. 23 (EGL 3 HVAC Cable [Section 15]). It is unclear what is being referred to and/or what Works precisely is intended to be undertaken, when reviewing the dDCO. Furthermore Work No. 38/39 – EGL 3 and EGL 4 Trenches Only Cable. The draft DCO refers to Works No. 38 (EGL 4 HVAC Cable [Section 15]) and Works No. 39 (EGL 3 Trenches Only). The Inspectorate assumes this should refer to Works 39/40? The applicant is minded reviewing all 71 sheets of the Works Plan and ensure it correspondence with Schedule 1 of the dDCO accordingly and/or vice versa.
9.	Works Plan	Taking note of advice above (Ref.No 7) the applicant is minded to ensure that when updating Schedule 1.

Draft sample works plans and land plans

Ref No.	Plan Name and Ref	Comment or question
10.	Works Plan Sheet 8 of 71	Reference is made to “Work No.” and “Work No. permanent access” to the west of Bank Farmhouse. What works is this in reference to? If marked in error please remove and/or update accordingly.

Draft consultation report, including section 42 consultee list

Ref No.	Paragraph/ Section	Comment or question
1.	2.3	Structure of the report is helpful when navigating a document of this size.
2.	General	PINS’ expectation is that the appendices, sections and tables listed throughout the document will be correctly labelled and signposted when submitted at acceptance.
3.	3.4	Expectation that table 3-4 in section 3.4 will be updated prior to submission.
4.	3.5	Please ensure that Appendix E.2 contains both notices that are circulated in newspapers (Section 48).
5.	3.6, 3.7	Please ensure that table 3-6 is updated if there is any further s51 advice/guidance given by PINS.
6.	5.1.1	Appears to have an incorrect Section labelled ‘ 6.116.11 ’. Please ensure this is correct prior to submission of final document.
7.	6.11.1 – table 6-2	Please ensure that the appendices are updated for 3.2.5 (“Underrepresented groups as identified in Appendix #. Local interest groups and Marine users as identified in Appendix #”)

Draft consultation report, including section 42 consultee list

Ref No.	Paragraph/ Section	Comment or question
		Same for 3.9.2
8.	Table 7-3, 7-4	Please ensure when submitted, that column 3 and 4 are completed. PINS' expectation is that if Column 3 is 'Y' or 'N', that column 4 shows NGs response including the regard had to the consultation response.
9.	Page 153,154,157, 158, 177,178,	Please ensure that the Planning Inspectorate receive 'clean', unredacted versions of all documents if the application is submitted.
10.	Table 7-5	Please ensure that all columns are completed if necessary and that the formatting is easily readable in PDF.
11.	9.1.2, 9.2.3	Please ensure that application document numbers are added correctly prior to submission.
12.	9.4.4	'Error!' message in paragraph 9.4.4 – please amend appropriately.
13.	10.1.1	Please ensure that 'Section 10. adequacy of consultation' is completed to a satisfactory standard.
14.	Table 11-1	Please ensure the table is complete prior to submission.
15.	General	Please ensure that all appendices are attached when submitting application documents.

Draft Environmental Mitigation and Commitments Register

Ref No.	Paragraph/ Section	Comment or question
1.	N/A	Appreciating that the column per aspect topic is common presentation, query whether it achieves its purpose when most documents appear to relate to one or maybe two documents and the headings of the columns are not repeated at the top of each page.
2.	AQ01	Query whether the production of the Air Quality Management Plan is a separate commitment to those list before which appear to sit under more obviously under the row heading.
3.	Order of columns	Reading the document, something to consider is moving the column listing the document that it is secured in, next to column 3 which details the measure/mitigation then list the stage and location. The chapter it relates to is often very obvious.
4.	Delivery column	Ensure that this is complete with full details, for example 'Construction by the Principal Contractor'.
5.	Width of columns	Ensure that these are as narrow as possible, or as per comment 1 above, consider whether an alternative form of presentation would be easier to view.

Draft environmental statement (ES) project description chapter(s)

Ref No.	Paragraph/ Section	Comment or question
1.	Footer	'EnvironmentalStatement' needs correcting to 'Environmental Statement' throughout.

Draft environmental statement (ES) project description chapter(s)

Ref No.	Paragraph/ Section	Comment or question
2.	4.2.14	No maximum parameters for vertical below ground construction are provided, with the reasoning noted. However, the Planning Inspectorate encourages the applicant to consider other DCO applications to consider whether an assumption for the EIA can be provided and justified.
		The applicant is requested to consider a table setting out parameters including limits of deviation which correspond to the EIA within the DCO.
3.	N/A	Please confirm if the project description could confirm whether the converter station and other heights taken from made ground level.
4.	Table 4-1	No vertical below ground LoD have been provided for aspects of the proposal. It is to be expected to set maximum parameters, either in the dDCO or in a parameters document secured in the dDCO. Without defined parameters, it could be difficult to ascertain a worst case scenario in terms of hydrology, for example.
	Table 4-2	There are a lot of measures set out in terms of design measures, the applicant is reminded of the need to be clear in the Habitats Regulation Assessment, that design measures that may in themselves reduce or remove a likely significant effect, that they be considered at the correct stage of the HRA in line with the Sweetman case.
	Table 4-2	The applicant is advised to, where possible agree location, volume and composition of offshore cable protection with relevant statutory bodies before submission of the application. This will enable focussed examination of the potential impacts of the application, presence and if required, removal of cable protection for both EIA and if relevant HRA.
	Plate 4-3	This image is not clear in relation to what is it trying to show. The angle of the image makes is hard to see the built up ground level or the location of the cover of the link box pit. Furthermore, this is a build up of 1m, not 3m as assessed for this application and therefore the applicability of the image is not evident.
	Plate 4-7	Quality of image not clear enough.

Draft environmental statement (ES) project description chapter(s)

Ref No.	Paragraph/ Section	Comment or question
	Repetition	There is significant repetition in relation to, for example, the vegetation reinstatement for the HVAC and HVDC cables, query whether this is needed or whether one section to deal with both would set out the information more concisely.
	Para 4.7.22	Minor point – formatting error in second bullet point.
	General comments	Very detailed, where construction methods are similar, this is a little repetitive but perhaps unavoidable.

Draft book of reference (BoR) (excerpt)

Ref No.	Page/ Plot Ref	Comment or question
1.	General	Full BoR has not been provided, excerpt of book of reference has been reviewed with the Sheet 1 of 71 of Land Plans. Please see above for further comments.
2.	Plot 01-01	Sheet 1 of 71 of the Land Plan describes this land as “Land to be used temporarily and rights to be acquired permanently”. The BoR only makes reference to “Acquisition of rights” over what appears the full extent of land. Should the Land plan be updated to reflect land to be temporary possessed (only) and land to acquire rights (only)?
3.	General	Crown land has been identified in the BoR, no separate Crown Land plans have been provided.

Draft statement of reasons (SoR)		
Ref No.	Paragraph/ Section	Comment or question
1.	2.2.8 onwards	The works numbers in the document do not accord with Schedule 1 of the DCO as provided, with disparity starting at Works No 7 at paragraph 2.2.8. It is noted that offshore works are yet to be added to the document.
2.	4.24 and Table 4.18	It is unclear from the text at paragraph 4.24, when compared with Table 4.1.8 as to the applicant's reasoning for the temporary possession of land labelled as blue (which principally appears to pertain to the acquisition of rights). Please provide further clarity in this regard.
3.	7.3.10	Cross reference to ES Chapter 3 (Main Alternatives Considered) is noted, however a brief summary and explanation of how they were explored should be provided.

Draft funding statement		
Ref No.	Paragraph/ Section	Comment or question
1.	Contents Page	Please ensure that the formatting of the contents table is clear and easy to navigate (page 6 below 2. For example)
2.	3.2.18	Whilst reference to the Applicant's commitment to deliver funding and the proposed process for doing so within the relevant time is noted, further details regarding the timing of the availability of the funding (if available) should also be provided.