



Planning Inspectorate

Tarchon Interconnector Project EN0210009

Section 51 Advice Log Version: 13 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 (Tarchon Energy Limited) 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.

**Tarchon Interconnector Project
s51 Advice Log - Index**

Date of meeting	Meeting overview
<u>28 October 2025</u>	Email advice about updates to pre-applications services
<u>23 January 2026</u>	Project update meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumulative impacts • Offshore routes • Multi-party meetings • Draft documents review • Programme document • Possible Examining Authority composition • Planning and Infrastructure Act • Tier service level • Effective cross-border engagement between UK authorities and their Dutch and German Counterparts
<u>10 March 2026</u>	Email advice about submission timescales and requirements for the scoping opinion request
<u>12 March 2026</u>	Email advice about timescales for the scoping opinion request

Tarchon Interconnector Project - s51 Advice Library

Topic	Email advice 28 October 2025
Pre-application prospectus updates	<p>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>As an applicant 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-application programme and interaction with our services.</p> <p>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 issues tracker is not provided, on time, to inform a meeting agenda
Topic	Project update meeting 23 January 2026
Cumulative impacts	<p>The Inspectorate noted that given the differing consent regimes and completion timescales in the UK, Germany and the Netherlands, the applicant would need to ensure that sufficient information was available on each part of the project to enable a thorough cumulative assessment to be carried out in time for the Development Consent Order (DCO) application submission. The Inspectorate welcomed the applicant's confirmation that the equivalent Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes were running in parallel, and the outputs would inform each other.</p>

Offshore routes	The Inspectorate noted that the southern option for the offshore route crosses a section of a Special Area for Conservation, and noted the applicant's explanation of the complex constraints in that area including deep water shipping channels and other infrastructure. The Inspectorate advised that the applicant continue to engage closely with Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) on this issue.
Multi-party meetings	The Inspectorate advised that the pre-application service at standard tier includes the opportunity of Inspectorate involvement at multi-party meetings, and that it would be helpful if the applicant could give as much notice as possible if it wishes to take up this option.
Draft documents review	The Inspectorate advised that a draft document review is available at standard tier and felt that this could be particularly helpful in terms of the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) given the number and complexity of ecological constraints in the area. If the applicant does wish to proceed with a draft document review, this needs to be included in the programme and sufficient time for the Inspectorate to provide comments and for these to be incorporated into the DCO application should be planned.
Programme Document	The Inspectorate drew the applicant's attention to the new template for programme documents which has been published on the website. While it is not expecting applicants to transfer to this template where they have already produced a programme document, it does provide a useful indication of what should be included. For example, an indication of the approximate dates for future update meetings would be helpful. More guidance on the content and format of the programme document is available in the Inspectorate's Pre-application Prospectus .
Possible Examining Authority composition	The Inspectorate advised that this decision is not taken until a much later stage of the process, once an application is submitted. However, based on the issues identified and experience from other interconnector schemes, it is likely to be a panel rather than a single Inspector. The applicant should provide an issues tracker in due course, and this will be very helpful in informing those decisions. The Inspectorate also noted that more detailed information about the considerations taken into account when appointing an Examining Authority is contained in its advice page on the Pre-examination stage .

<p>Planning and Infrastructure Act</p>	<p>The Inspectorate advised that it has limited information at present on the implementation of the Act's measures, as the policies supporting this are still being developed within central government and will need to be formally adopted and brought into force by government through secondary legislation and accompanying guidance, including details of transitional arrangements for projects already in the pipeline. The Inspectorate recommended that the applicant monitor its advice pages as these will be updated with more details as soon as these are available.</p>
<p>Tier service level</p>	<p>The Inspectorate advised that if the applicant would like to change their tier service level, the Inspectorate requires three months' notice. The Inspectorate suggested that the applicant looks at Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus - GOV.UK to see what level of service is provided at each tier.</p>
<p>Post-meeting note Effective cross-border engagement between UK authorities and their Dutch and German Counterparts</p>	<p>The Inspectorate noted the applicants query regarding which UK bodies or department(s) would be best placed to engage with to facilitate cross-border coordination during the project update meeting.</p> <p>The inspectorate recommends that the applicant liaises with the International Energy Cooperation team within the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero on this matter.</p>
<p>Topic</p>	<p>Email advice 10 March 2026</p>
<p>Scoping opinion timing and requirements</p>	<p>In relation to EIA scoping timescales, the Inspectorate strongly advises that you avoid submitting the scoping request before 31 March 2026 to avoid the 42-day scoping period falling at least partly over the Easter period. From previous experience of scoping consultation requests at this time of year, many of the consultation bodies are unlikely to respond within the 28-day consultation period which may make the scoping opinion less helpful to your project. It can also have a negative impact on the relationship between applicants and the consultation bodies going forward. As such, requesting a scoping opinion after the Easter period would avoid these problems and we would advise you to consider this.</p> <p>With regard to the format of the GIS shapefile, you can refer to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: process.</p>

	<p>preliminary environmental information and environmental statements - GOV.UK for information on this. Please also note the requirement to submit the GIS shapefile 10 working days prior to submitting your scoping request.</p>
Topic	Email advice 12 March 2026
Scoping opinion timing	<p>Our Scoping Opinion and related consultation are undertaken within statutory timescales in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning EIA Regulations 2017, we have no ability to extend the consultation period or the delivery of a Scoping Opinion within 42 days of your Scoping Report submission.</p>