

Tarchon Interconnector Project EN0210009

Section 51 Advice Log Version: 17 July 2026

This document comprises a record of the s51 advice that has been given by the Planning Inspectorate to the applicant Tarchon Energy Limited 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 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 to the applicant by the Planning Inspectorate
- regard to any s51 advice given to others by the Planning Inspectorate

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

Tarchon Interconnector Project– Applicant meeting index

Date of meeting	Meeting overview
28 October 2025	Email advice about updates to pre-applications services
23 January 2026	Project update meeting: • 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
10 March 2026	Email advice about submission timescales and requirements for the scoping opinion request
12 March 2026	Email advice about timescales for the scoping opinion request
17 September 2026	Email advice about effective cross-border engagement between UK authorities and their Dutch and German Counterparts

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Tarchon Interconnector Project – Log of s51 given to the applicant

Meeting date: 28 October 2025

Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given
Pre-application prospectus updates	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. 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. 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 issues tracker is not provided, on time, to inform a meeting agenda	
Meeting date: 23 January 2026		
Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given
Cumulative impacts	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.	
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.	

Planning and Infrastructure Act	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.	
Tier service level	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.	
Post-meeting note Effective cross-border engagement between UK authorities and their Dutch and German Counterparts	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.	

	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.	
Meeting date: 10 March 2026 (Email Advice)		
Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given
Scoping opinion timing and requirements	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. With regard to the format of the GIS shapefile, you can refer to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - Advice	

	Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: process, 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.	
Meeting date: 12 March 2026 (Email Advice)		
Topic	Topic	Topic
Scoping opinion timing	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.	
Meeting date: 17 September 2026 (Email Advice)		
Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given
Post-meeting note Effective cross-border engagement between UK	The Inspectorate noted the applicants query regarding which UK bodies or department(s) would be best placed to engage with to	

authorities and their Dutch and German Counterparts	facilitate cross-border coordination during the project update meeting. 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, specifically: • Sue Harrison, for EU and European engagement on energy; and • Eleanor Beal, Emma Mortimer and Seb Mitchell for interconnector projects.	
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Tarchon Interconnector Project – Log of s51 advice given to others		
Person s51 advice given to	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given