

Tarchon Interconnector Project EN0210009

Section 51 Advice Log Version: 7 October 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	<p>Project update meeting:</p> <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 <p>Effective cross-border engagement between UK authorities and their Dutch and German Counterparts</p>
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
7 October 2026	<p>Project Update Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Documents • Cumulative Impact • Engagement • Protective Provisions • Other NSIPs

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	<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	
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	

	<p>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.</p>	
Multi-party meetings	<p>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.</p>	
Draft documents review	<p>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.</p>	

Programme Document	<p>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.</p>	
Possible Examining Authority composition	<p>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	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	<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</p>	

	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	<p>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, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sue Harrison, for EU and European engagement on energy; and • Eleanor Beal, Emma Mortimer and Seb Mitchell for interconnector projects. 	
Meeting date: 7 October 2026		
Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given
Stakeholder engagement	<p>The applicant explained that it is aware of other projects and activities that may give rise to cumulative effects within the local area. The Inspectorate advised the applicant to continue proactive engagement with relevant stakeholders throughout the early stages of the project, to identify, understand, and where possible, minimise potential cumulative impacts on local communities. Ongoing collaboration will help ensure that cumulative effects are appropriately addressed and mitigated as the project</p>	

	<p>develops. This includes ongoing discussions with National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) who are seeking its own Development Consent Order (DCO) in the area, the Norwich to Tilbury project, which is currently in recommendation. The applicant confirmed there are bimonthly meetings to discuss matters, such as access roads.</p> <p>In light of the recent changes introduced through the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 (PIA2025) and the removal of statutory consultation requirements, the Inspectorate strongly encouraged the applicant to maintain proactive and meaningful engagement with local communities, local authorities and other parties throughout the pre-application process. The Inspectorate also requested that a report detailing consultation be prepared and submitted as part of the application documentation to demonstrate the consultation activities undertaken and how feedback has informed the development of the project.</p> <p>The applicant stated it continues to engage with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) however, no substantive comments have been received to date. The Inspectorate advised the applicant to</p>	
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	<p>maintain its engagement efforts, as the MMO is a key statutory consultee for the project and its input is likely to be important in informing the development of the application and any subsequent consenting progress.</p>	
<p>Draft Documents and Documentation</p>	<p>The Inspectorate reminded the applicant that a draft document review service is available as part of the standard tier offer and the Inspectorate recommended that the applicant makes full use of this service and submits among other documents, the draft project description and draft Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for review. The applicant is also advised to ensure that the HRA includes an assessment of the potential cumulative impacts within the surrounding area. It should be noted that, should the applicant choose not to utilise this element of the service, the associated fee cannot be reduced or deducted.</p> <p>In accordance with the Pre-application Prospectus 2024 the Inspectorate requests that a Land Rights and Negotiations Tracker be submitted at least 10 working days prior to the next project update meeting. This will enable the Inspectorate to maintain oversight of ongoing land-related matters, ensure transparency regarding emerging</p>	

	<p>issues, and provide timely advice and support where required.</p> <p>The Inspectorate advised the applicant to exercise caution when using terminology throughout its documentation. In light of recent legislative changes, terminology such as 'statutory' and 'non-statutory' are no longer used when describing consultation activities. The applicant should ensure all documentation reflects the current legislative framework and associated guidance.</p> <p>It is requested that the applicant supply a refreshed Programme Document for the expectations over the next year to the Inspectorate and that this is added to the applicant's website.</p>	
Access Routes	<p>The applicant shared its proposed cable landfall routes. The Inspectorate recommended that the applicant engages with local authorities and other relevant stakeholders to identify any existing or proposed developments within the area. This will help minimise the potential for conflicts, constraints, or cumulative impacts</p>	

	and inform route refinement where necessary.	
Protective Provisions	The applicant informed the Inspectorate that it has not yet drafted any protective provisions. Given the potential for cumulative impacts in the area, it is recommended that the applicant review the approaches adopted by other projects and use any relevant lessons learned to inform and optimise the development of its own protective provisions.	
Other Projects	Given the number of proposed NSIPs in the area, the Inspectorate recommended that the applicant observes how other applications progress under the revised guidance and legislation. Doing so may help streamline its own application. As the new legislative framework is still in its early stages, acceptance practices continue to evolve as further applications are submitted and considered.	
Pre-application 'standard service' tier	The Inspectorate reminded the applicant that it is entitled to a maximum of six programme update meetings per year . The applicant was encouraged to make fuller use of these sessions throughout the pre-application stage, particularly to discuss emerging best practice and lessons learned	

	<p>from other projects as the planning and legislative landscape continues to evolve. The Inspectorate also advised that multi-party meetings can be arranged where appropriate and may be beneficial in resolving complex issues, facilitating stakeholder engagement, or progressing matters that would benefit from discussion with multiple parties present.</p> <p>The Inspectorate encourages the applicant to read through the Pre-application Prospectus available on the NI website for further information on the 'standard' tier service.</p>	
Applicant's Queries	<p>The applicant sought clarification on the changes to the Development Consent Order (DCO) process introduced by the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 (PIA 2025). The Inspectorate explained that, from 2 November 2026, Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) will be required to deliver 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). The BNG Statement submitted as part of the application will be subject to review during the acceptance stage.</p> <p>The Inspectorate advised the applicant to have regard to all relevant guidance and advice, including that published by</p>	

	<p>Department for Environmental, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and to remain alert to any further guidance issued prior to submission. The applicant was also encouraged to monitor applications submitted under the revised legislative framework to understand emerging practices and expectations. In preparing the application, particular care should be taken to clearly distinguish between BNG enhancement measures and proposed mitigation measures, ensuring that the purpose of each is clearly set out within the supporting documentation.</p> <p>The applicant sought clarification on the Inspectorate's expectations for the assessment of cumulative effects. The Inspectorate advised that the applicant should have regard to the relevant guidance and advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment, available on the Inspectorate's website, alongside any project-specific advice provided under section 51 of the Planning Act 2008.</p> <p>The Inspectorate expects the applicant's cumulative and in-combination assessment to be clear, transparent, and proportionate, and to include all relevant projects. The applicant was advised to use the Inspectorate's Find a National Infrastructure Project webpage, including</p>	
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	<p>the associated project mapping tools, to identify relevant Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). At a minimum, the assessment would be expected to consider projects such as Norwich to Tilbury, North Falls, Five Estuaries, and Sea Link, where relevant.</p> <p>The Inspectorate also advised that the wider project components located within Dutch and German jurisdictions should be appropriately considered within the cumulative assessment. Details of the Dutch and German projects should be based on the latest available information at the time of submission and should clearly explain any decisions taken, including route selection and design choices, where these have been influenced by consideration of the environmental effects of the project as a whole.</p> <p>To improve transparency and aid understanding, the applicant may wish to prepare a standalone document or appendix to the ES summarising the Dutch, German and English project components and the outcomes of the relevant environmental assessments at the time of submission. The Inspectorate noted that a similar approach has previously been advised for other interconnector projects and may assist stakeholders and decisionmakers in</p>	
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	understanding the overall environmental impacts of the scheme.	
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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