

Eastern Green Link 5

Section 51 Advice Log Version: 28 January 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 National Grid Electricity Transmission plc 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.

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Date of meeting	Meeting overview
23 October 2025	Updated Pre-Application Prospectus
09 November 2025	Project Programme Update EIA Update Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) and Principal Areas of Disagreement (PADS) Planning Policies Environmental Outcome Report Compulsory Acquisition Scoping Opinion

Eastern Green Link 5 - s51 Advice Library

Topic	Advice (Email) 23 October 2025
Pre-application prospectus	<p>The Inspectorate has advised that, 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 summaries the changes and clarifications that have been applied.</p> <p>Applicants 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 rights negotiations tracker in 1 of 2 available templates, irrespective of the service tier they have subscribed to <p>Clarified expectations of the 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 update programme document or issues tracker is not provided, on time, to inform meeting agenda.</p>
Topic	Meeting date: 09 December 2025
EIA Update	<p>The applicant stated that they will be using relevant survey data from the Grimsby to Walpole and Eastern Green Link 3 and 4 projects where applicable, to inform the Eastern Green Link 5 application, in addition to site specific surveys. The Inspectorate advised that the dates of when each survey was undertaken should be clearly stated within the Environmental Statement. The applicant agreed to this.</p>
Environmental Outcomes Report (EOR)	<p>The applicant asked The Inspectorate if it had any updates in relation to the EOR. The Inspectorate confirmed that they had not received any further updates on the matter. The applicant appreciated that Eastern Green Link 3 and 4 are ahead of the Eastern Green Link 5 programme, however they are conscious that they may need to integrate the EOR framework into the application. The Inspectorate appreciated the forward thinking, however, could not advise at the time.</p>

Scoping Opinion	<p>The applicant queried why only some of Natural England's (NE) consultation response comments were taken forward into the main body of the adopted Scoping Opinion. The Inspectorate clarified that some of NE's comments did not apply to the EIA process and that generally only selected consultee comments are directly referred to in the main Scoping Opinion section.</p>
Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) and Principal Areas of Disagreement (PADS)	<p>The applicant confirmed they will be using an issues tracker for each key stakeholder that is involved in the project. The Inspectorate asked about how the issues tracker will evolve as the project develops. The applicant confirmed that the issues tracker is to be shared with each related stakeholder as it develops in order to make discussions with the parties more effective. The objective being to resolve issues raised and secure agreement in the DCO with an appropriate mechanism.</p> <p>The Inspectorate advised that the applicant ensure that overlapping issues be monitored and if necessary, sign-post relevant issues or matters, so readers can easily follow which issues relate to the relevant stakeholders. The applicant highlighted the trackers allow sifting by issue, topic and project phase allowing easy access to this information for comparison. e. The applicant also explained it would be preparing a statement of commonality which will allow an overview of common issues raised.</p>
Planning Policies	<p>The applicant showed The Inspectorate the national and regional plans that may affect the project going forward. They confirmed they were aware that the local authorities may change or update the plans, and regular meetings were being held with the authorities to regularly discuss the plans.</p> <p>The Inspectorate noted that Local Authorities would be required to issue Local Impact Reports, which would outline planning policies and if the applicant was holding regular meetings with these authorities, it would be advisable to understand the relevant policies to take into consideration. It would be expected that these policies be addressed within the Planning Statement.</p>
Any Other Business (AOB)	<p>The applicant confirmed to the Inspectorate that it had service level agreements in place for both onshore and offshore stakeholders.</p> <p>The Inspectorate asked the applicant if the draft Development Consent order (dDCO) had any interactions between the dDCOs of Eastern Green Link 3 and 4, and Grimsby to Walpole. The applicant confirmed that there likely would be, so the dDCO would be drafted so that the project could proceed independently should either or both of the other projects not be consented. The applicant is discussing drafting options with the teams for the other projects.</p> <p>The Inspectorate noted that the applicant should continue to be</p>

	mindful of these projects and to consider any cumulative effects or overlapping matters that might impact either of the schemes.
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