

Cross Border Connection (England)

Section 51 Advice Log Version: 21 July 2026

This document comprises a record of the s51 advice that has been given by the Planning Inspectorate to the applicant National Grid 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.

[Project name] – Applicant meeting index

Date of meeting	Meeting overview
20 November 2025	Inception Meeting: • The proposed development • Consenting programme • Early engagement with statutory bodies, local authorities, and other stakeholders • Environmental constraints and issues • Environmental impact assessment scoping • Land rights A meeting note is available for this meeting on the National Infrastructure Planning Website and this can be viewed at: View meeting note (PDF, xxx KB)
21 July 2026	Meeting agenda: • Stage 1 Non-Statutory Consultation update • Collaboration with SPEN • Approach to EIA Scoping • Pre-Application consultation

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Cross Border Connection (England) – Log of s51 given to the applicant

Meeting date: 21 July 2026

Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given
Consultation Update	The Inspectorate acknowledged the applicant's intention to provide a form of preliminary environmental information for future consultation stages and continue to adopt best practice in respect of its consultation strategy and taking account of feedback received. The applicant was pointed to the government's new guidance in respect of the changes to consultation under the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025, which now provides more flexibility for applicants on how to undertake their consultation and engagement activities appropriate to the scale and nature of their proposals. Save for transitional arrangements for s46 and s48 the government has produced a set of principles for applicants to consider when carrying out their engagement and consultation with different groups (statutory consultees, communities, and other stakeholders), in supporting the identification of issues, impacts and risks at	Demonstration of regard The applicant notes the advice provided. NGET is currently reviewing and interpreting the recently published pre-application guidance and will consolidate it's approach in due course.

	an early stage and in preparation of applications.	
Collaboration with SP Energy Networks (SPEN)	As part of its continued engagement with SP Energy Networks (SPEN), the applicant was advised to maintain a record of any principal issues or impacts arising in relation to co-ordinating the timescales for the consenting process for the applications in Scotland and England, including any particular transboundary issues / risks that may need to be mitigate. These matters should be tracked and managed in the Issues Tracker, where appropriate.	The applicant notes the advice provided. NGET will continue to collaborate with SPEN and will seek agreement on an approach to record key issues or impacts.
Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping	The applicant was advised to provide a preamble to explain the two linked but separate schemes in Scotland and England in its Scoping Report, and any significant cross-border issues, to help statutory parties understand the extent of the boundary and elements of the proposal that are being consulted upon at Scoping. Additionally, the applicant should describe any likely significant effects per topic and how mitigation will be secured, providing supporting material and records of previous	The applicant notes the advice provided and will endeavour to ensure these matters are included in the EIA Scoping Opinion request.

	engagement or agreements, to support the scoping out of matters. The applicant was also advised to set out any engagement or agreements reached with ICOMOS on its approach (or requirements) to assessing and mitigating any effects on Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site. The applicant confirmed that these matters were already being addressed through its consultation activities and in the drafting of its scoping request.	
Meeting date: DD Month YYYY		
Topic	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given

Cross Border Connection (England) – Log of s51 advice given to others		
Person s51 advice given to	s51 advice given	Applicant regard to s51 advice given