

Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project

Section 55 Acceptance of Application Checklist

VOLUME NUMBER: 1

PLANNING INSPECTORATE SCHEME NUMBER: WA010002

APPLICATION DOCUMENT REFERENCE: 1.4

APFP REGULATION: 5(2)(g)

May 2026

Version 0



from
**Southern
Water** 

The Southern Water logo consists of three stylized, wavy blue lines of varying lengths, positioned to the right of the word 'Water'.

Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project
Section 55 Acceptance of Application Checklist



Section 55

Acceptance of Applications Checklist

Appendix 2 of [Advice on the preparation and submission of application documents](#)

Version: May 2025

Section 55 Acceptance of Applications Checklist

Relevant sections of the Planning Act 2008 can be viewed at legislation.gov.uk, here: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/>

All other secondary legislation referred to in this checklist is searchable, here: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/>

DISCLAIMER: This checklist is a non-statutory checklist for the Planning Inspectorate to complete. Completion or self-assessment by the applicant does not hold weight at the acceptance stage. Unless specified, all references to the Planning Inspectorate are made in relation to functions being carried out on behalf of the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Section 55(2) Acceptance of Applications				
1	Within 28 days (starting day after receipt) the Planning Inspectorate must decide whether or not to accept the application for Examination.	Date received	28-day due date	Date of decision
Section 55(3) – the Planning Inspectorate may only accept an application if it concludes that:		Planning Inspectorate comments		
Section 55(3)(a) and s55(3)(c): It is an application for an order granting development consent				
2	In accordance with sections(s) 14 to 30 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008), is the development a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) (or does it form part of an NSIP); and does the application state on the face of it that, in accordance with s31 of the PA2008, it is an application for a development consent order (DCO) under the PA2008, or equivalent words? Does the	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The Hampshire Water Transfer and Water Recycling Project ('the Project') does not fall within the categories in section(s) 14 to 30 of the Planning Act 2008 ('PA 2008') and therefore is not a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ('NSIP') in the prescribed terms of the PA 2008 at the date of application.</p> <p>However, the Project is for water infrastructure and is the subject of a section 35(1) direction (received 31 May 2022 and varied on 19 November 2024) that the Principal</p>		

	<p>application specify the development to which it relates, meaning which category or categories in s14 to 30 does the proposed development fall)?</p> <p>If the development does not fall within the categories in s14 to 30, has a direction been given by the Secretary of State under s35 of the PA2008 for the development to be treated as development for which development consent is required?</p>	<p>Development of the Project be treated as development for which development consent under the PA 2008 is required.</p>
3	<p>Summary: Section 55(3)(a) and s55(3)(c)</p>	<p>The Application includes development for which development consent is required by a section 35 direction as set out in response to box 2.</p>
<p>Section 55(3)(e): The Applicant in relation to the application made has complied with Chapter 2 of Part 5 (pre-application procedure)</p>		
4	<p>In accordance with regulation 8 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA regulations), did the applicant (prior to carrying out consultation in accordance with s42) either (a) request the Planning Inspectorate adopt a screening opinion in respect of the development to which the application relates, or (b) notify the Planning Inspectorate in writing that it proposed to provide an environmental statement in respect of that development?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>In accordance with Regulation 8(1)(b) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ('the EIA Regulations'), the Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate in writing on 21 July 2023, as part of its request for a Scoping Opinion and prior to consultation under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008, that it proposes to provide an Environmental Statement (ES) in respect of the Project.</p> <p>As part of the notification under section 46 provided in writing on 24 May 2024, prior to consultation under section 42, the Applicant notified again of its intention to provide an ES in respect of the Project, which was acknowledged by the Planning Inspectorate on 24 May 2024.</p>

5	<p>Have any adequacy of consultation representations (AoCR) been received from 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' local authorities; and if so, do they confirm that the Applicant has complied with the duties under s42, s47 and s48?</p> <p>Section 55(4) of the PA2008 provides that the Planning Inspectorate must have regard to the consultation report, and any AoCRs received.</p>	<p>It is anticipated that the Planning Inspectorate will request upon submission of the Application that the relevant local authorities provide an adequacy of consultation representation in accordance with the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice for Local Authorities (last updated December 2024).</p> <p>However, the Applicant has provided the Planning Inspectorate with an Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) document on the 29 October 2025. A copy of the AoCM can be found on the Planning Inspectorate Project webpage dated 30 October 2025.</p> <p>The AoCM evidences that all seven section 43(1) PA 2008 local authorities (listed below) assessed the Applicant as having complied with the duties to consult and publicise (sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008).</p> <p>List of section 43(1) local authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Hampshire District Council ('B') • Eastleigh Borough Council ('B') • Fareham Borough Council ('B') • Hampshire County Council ('C') • Havant Borough Council ('B') • Portsmouth City Council ('B') • Winchester City Council ('B')
---	--	--

Section 42: Duty to consult

Did the Applicant consult the applicable persons set out in s42 of the PA2008 about the proposed application?

6	<p>Section 42(1)(a) persons prescribed?</p> <p>The persons prescribed are the statutory consultees set out in Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications:</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The Applicant undertook four consultation stages in accordance with section 42 of the PA 2008. These were namely, the Summer 2024 Consultation, the Spring 2025 Consultation, the Autumn 2025 Consultation and Spring 2026 Consultations.</p>
---	--	--

	Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations).	The prescribed bodies consulted under section 42(1)(a) at each consultation (including those consultees prescribed in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulations 2009 ('APFP Regulations 2009') as amended by the Infrastructure Planning (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2024 are listed in Table F17-1 of Appendix F.17 (Lists of consultees) of the Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5).
7	Section 42(1)(aa) the Marine Management Organisation(MMO)? The MMO must be consulted in any case where the proposed development would affect, or would be likely to affect, any of the areas specified in s42(2) of the PA2008.	Yes. In accordance with 42(1)(aa), the Applicant consulted the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) at the Summer 2024 Consultation and Spring 2025 Consultation, see Table F17-1 of Appendix F.17 (Lists of consultees of the Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5). The Applicant and MMO have produced a Draft Statement of Common Ground - Marine Management Organisation (Document reference 5.8, DCO Volume 5).
8	Section 42(1)(b) each local authority within s43? Definition of 'local authority' in s43(3) of the PA2008: The 'B' authority where the application land is in the authority's area; the 'A' authority where any part of the boundary of A's area is also a part of the boundary of B's area; the 'C' authority (upper tier) where the application land is in that authority's area; the 'D' authority (upper tier) where such an authority shares a boundary with a 'C' authority.	Yes. The local authorities within section 43 were consulted on the Project under section 42(1)(b) as part of the four consultation stages are listed in Table F17-2 of Appendix F.17 (Lists of consultees) of the Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5). These are additionally set out below for ease of reference: <u>Category B:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastleigh Borough Council • East Hampshire District Council • Fareham Borough Council • Havant Borough Council • Portsmouth City Council • Winchester City Council <u>Category C:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hampshire County Council

		<p><u>Category A:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council • Chichester District Council • Gosport Borough Council • New Forest District Council • New Forest National Park Authority • South Downs National Park Authority • Southampton City Council • Test Valley Borough Council <p><u>Category D:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Council • Surrey County Council • West Sussex County Council • Wiltshire Council
9	Section 42(1)(c) the Greater London Authority (if in Greater London area)?	<p>No.</p> <p>As the Project Order Limits and neighbouring authority areas do not include any of the Greater London geographic and administrative area, the Applicant did not consult the Greater London Authority (GLA) under section 42(1)(c) of the PA 2008.</p>
10	<p>Section 42(1)(d) each person in one or more of s44 categories?</p> <p>Category 1: owner, lessee, tenant or occupier of land</p> <p>Category 2: person interested in the land or has power to sell and convey the land or to release the land</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Chapter 9, Chapter 10, Chapter 11 and Chapter 12 of the Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5) confirm that the Applicant undertook diligent inquiry to identify and consult with the relevant persons under section 44.</p>

	Category 3: persons who would or might be entitled to make a relevant claim.	
Section 45: Timetable for s42 consultation		
11	Did the applicant notify s42 consultees of the deadline for receipt of consultation responses; and if so was the deadline notified by the applicant 28 days or more starting with the day after receipt of the consultation documents?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The Applicant notified section 42 consultees of the deadline for receipt of consultation responses, and all deadlines were at least 28 days, starting from the day after receipt of the consultation documents.</p> <p>Summer 2024 Consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation commenced on 29 May 2024. • Deadline for responses was 11:59pm on 23 July 2024. <p>Spring 2025 Consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation commenced on 5 March 2025. • Deadline for responses was 11:59pm on 4 April 2025. <p>Autumn 2025 Consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation commenced on 10 September 2025. • Deadline for responses was 11:59pm on 8 October 2025. <p>Spring 2026 Consultations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on the minor design refinement at Otterbourne Water Supply Works <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consultation commenced on 17 March 2026. ○ Deadline for responses was 11:59pm on 16 April 2026. • Consultation on the minor design refinement at the junction of Kiln Lane and Main Road in Otterbourne <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consultation commenced on 18 March 2026.

- Deadline for responses was 11:59pm on 17 April 2026.

Section 46: Duty to notify the Planning Inspectorate of proposed application

12 Did the Applicant supply information to notify the Planning Inspectorate of the proposed application; and if so, was the information supplied to the Planning Inspectorate on or before the date it was sent to the s42 consultees? Was this done on or before commencing consultation under s42?

Yes.

For the Summer 2024 Consultation, the Applicant sent the section 46 notification to the Planning Inspectorate (acting on behalf of the Secretary of State) on 24 May 2024 by letter and email. This notification included:

- Templates of letters to be sent to section 42(1)(a), (aa), (b), and (d) consultees.
- A copy of the section 48 notice.

The notification was sent prior to the commencement of the section 42 consultation, which began on 29 May 2024.

For the Spring 2025 Consultation, the Applicant sent the section 46 notification to the Planning Inspectorate on 5 March 2025 by letter and email. This notification included:

- Templates of letters to be sent to section 42(1)(a), (aa), (b), and (d) consultees.
- A copy of the section 48 notice.

The notification was sent prior to the commencement of the section 42 consultation, which began on 5 March 2025.

For the Autumn 2025 Consultation, the Applicant sent the section 46 notification to the Planning Inspectorate on 10 September 2025 by letter and email. This notification included:

- Templates of letters to be sent to section 42(1)(a), (b), and (d) consultees.

The notification was sent prior to the commencement of the Section 42 consultation, which began on 10 September 2025.

		<p>For the Spring 2026 Consultations, the Applicant sent the section 46 notification to the Planning Inspectorate on 16 March 2025 by letter and email. This notification included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Templates of letters to be sent to section 42(1)(a), and (d) consultees. <p>The notification was sent prior to the commencement of the Section 42 consultation for both targeted consultations, the first of which began on 17 March 2026.</p>
Section 47: Duty to consult local community		
13	Did the applicant prepare a statement of community consultation (SoCC) on how it intended to consult people living in the vicinity of the land?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The Applicant prepared a Statement of Community Consultation (2024 SoCC). This is included within the Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5) and outlines how the Applicant proposed to consult people living in the vicinity of the land affected by the Project.</p>
14	Were 'B' and (where relevant) 'C' authorities consulted about the content of the SoCC; and if so, was the deadline for receipt of responses 28 days beginning with the day after the day that 'B' and, where applicable, 'C' authorities received the consultation documents?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The draft 2024 SoCC, see Appendix E.6 (Draft 2024 SoCC) of the Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5) was shared with local authorities (including 'B' and 'C' authorities) on 21 March 2024, less East Hampshire District Council. The deadline for responses was set as 19 April 2024, giving 28 days starting from the day after receipt of the 2024 SoCC.</p> <p>East Hampshire District Council was provided with the draft 2024 SoCC on 16 April 2024, with a deadline of 15 May 2024.</p>
15	Has the applicant had regard to any responses received when preparing the SoCC?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The Applicant had regard to feedback received on the draft 2024 SoCC. See Chapter 8 and Table E8-1 in Appendix E.8 (Regard to statutory consultation on the draft 2024 SoCC) of the Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5) for further details.</p>

16	Has the SoCC been made available for inspection on a website maintained by or on behalf of the applicant; and has a notice been published in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land which states where and when the SoCC can be inspected?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The Applicant made the final 2024 SoCC available for public inspection on its dedicated consultation website from 29 May 2024. A notice stating where and when the final SoCC would be available was published in three local newspapers – The News (Portsmouth) on 27 May 2024, Southern Daily Echo on 27 May 2024, and Hampshire Chronicle on 30 May 2024. The notices can be found at Appendix E.11 (Section 47 published notices) of the Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5).</p>
17	In accordance with Regulation 12 of the EIA regulations, does the SoCC set out whether the development is EIA development; and does it set out how the applicant intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental Information?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>A copy of the 2024 SoCC is provided at Appendix E.9 (2024 SoCC) of the Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5). The 2024 SoCC states that the Project is Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') development and sets out that the Summer 2024 Consultation information would include the publication of a Preliminary Environmental Information Report.</p>
18	Has the applicant carried out the consultation in accordance with the SoCC?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The Applicant followed the commitments in the SoCC, including the use of consultation zones, deposit locations, public events, and online access to materials. Notices were published in local newspapers, and consultation documents were made available for inspection. Table 9-6 of the Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5) confirms that the Applicant undertook the Summer 2024 Consultation in accordance with the 2024 SoCC.</p>

Section 48: Duty to publicise the proposed application

19	Did the applicant publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner set out in Regulation 4(2) of the (as amended) APFP Regulations 2009?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Section 9.6 and section 10.6 of the Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5) confirm that the Applicant publicised the Project in the prescribed manner in accordance with the APFP Regulations 2009 (as amended).</p>
<p>Newspaper(s) Date</p>		
a)	<p>for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the Proposed Development would be situated;</p>	<p>At the Summer 2024 Consultation, as set within Appendix F.21 (Section 48 published notices) of the Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The News (Portsmouth) • Southern Daily Echo • Hampshire Chronicle • Hampshire Independent <p>At the Spring 2025 Consultation, as set out within Appendix G.24 (Section 48 published notices) of the Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The News (Portsmouth) • Hampshire Chronicle • Hampshire Independent

b)	once in a national newspaper;	The Times, as set within Appendix F.21 (Section 48 published notices) and Appendix G.24 (Section 48 published notices) of the Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5).	5 June 2024 (Summer 2024 Consultation) 4 March 2025 (Spring 2025 Consultation)
c)	once in the London Gazette and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette; and	London Gazette, as set within Appendix F.21 (Section 48 published notices) and Appendix G.24 (Section 48 published notices) of the Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5).	29 May 2024 (Summer 2024 Consultation) 4 March 2025 (Spring 2025 Consultation)
d)	where the proposed application relates to offshore development – (i) once in Lloyds List; and (ii) once in an appropriate fishing trade journal?	Not applicable - the Application does not relate to offshore development. Whilst there are minor intertidal works to a tidal stream included in the Project, as defined in the draft Deemed Marine Licence, these works are inshore and furthermore do not occur in a fisheries or navigation corridor area. As such, there was no requirement to publish a notice in Lloyd's List or within an appropriate fishing trade journal in respect of these works. These works were, nevertheless, included in the Spring 2025 Consultation, and the Marine Management Organisation, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, The Canal and River Trust, Trinity House and RNLI were consulted. See further detail in relation to	Not applicable.

	<p>consultees and section 48 publicity in Chapter 10 of the Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5).</p> <p>It is also noted that the Project includes the proposed use of an existing outfall in the Solent (the Eastney Long Sea Outfall (LSO)). The LSO is similarly not offshore development and in any event there would be no physical change to the existing pipeline and so no construction works/activities at the LSO are required as part of the Project. As such, there was no requirement to publish a notice in Lloyd's List or within an appropriate fishing trade journal in respect of the LSO element either. The use of the LSO was included in the Summer 2024 Consultation and Spring 2025 Consultation, and the Applicant has been engaging with the Marine Management Organisation on an ongoing basis. See further detail in Chapters 9 and 10 of the Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5).</p> <p>The inclusion of a deemed marine licence within a draft DCO does not in itself trigger the requirement to publish these notices in circumstances where the works are carried out in an inshore environment. It is noted that this principle was accepted in relation to the</p>	
--	---	--

		Cottam Solar Project (EN010133), the West Burton Solar Project (EN010132) and the Gate Burton Solar Project (EN010131), each of which included a draft Deemed Marine Licence within their respective applications, in relation to cable crossings of the tidal river Trent within inland Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire, and confirmed that the requirement for these notices was not applicable.	
20	Did the s48 notice include the required information set out in Regulation 4(3) of the (as amended) APFP Regulations 2009?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Sections 9.6 and 10.6 of the Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5) set out the contents of the section 48 notices for the Summer 2024 Consultation and the Spring 2025 Consultation, which is in accordance with Regulation 4(3) of the APFP Regulations 2009 (as amended).</p> <p>In the table below, the Applicant has identified the paragraphs in the Section 48 notices published for the Summer 2024 Consultation, Appendix F.21 (Section 48 published notices), and Spring 2025 Consultation, Appendix G.24 (Section 48 published notices) of the Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5).</p>	
Information		Paragraph	
a)	the name and address of the applicant.	1-Summer 2024 Consultation	b)
			a statement that the applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Secretary of State
			1-Summer 2024 Consultation

		1-Spring 2025 Consultation			1-Spring 2025 Consultation
c)	a statement as to whether the application is EIA development	4 (Summer 2024 Consultation) 4-Spring 2025 Consultation	d)	a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the proposed development	2-Summer 2024 Consultation 2-Spring 2025 Consultation
e)	a statement that the documents, plans and maps were available on a website maintained by or on behalf of the Applicant. The statement must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the nature and location of the Proposed Development the address of the website the place on the website a telephone number which can be used to contact the applicant for enquiries in relation to the documents, plans and maps. 	2, 11, and 12-Summer 2024 Consultation 2, 7 and 8-Spring 2025 Consultation	f)	the latest date on which those documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection	12-Summer 2024 Consultation 11-Spring 2025 Consultation
g)	whether a charge will be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge	14-Summer 2024 Consultation	h)	details of how to respond to the publicity	16 and 17-Summer 2024 Consultation

i)		10-Spring 2025 Consultation		12 and 13- Spring 2025 Consultation
	a deadline for receipt of those responses by the applicant, being not less than 28 days following the date when the notice is last published	15-Summer 2024 Consultation 11-Spring 2025 Consultation		
21	Are there any observations in respect of the s48 notice provided above?			
	N/A			
22	Has a copy of the s48 notice been sent to the EIA consultation bodies and to any person notified to the applicant in accordance with regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Sections 9.6 and 10.6 of the Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5) set out how the Applicant complied with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations for the Summer 2024 Consultation and the Spring 2025 Consultation, respectively. The Applicant sent a copy of the section 48 notices to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All EIA consultation bodies; and • Any person notified to the Applicant under Regulation 11. <p>At the Summer 2024 Consultation, this was done at the same time as publishing the Section 48 notice, with copies sent on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 May 2024 (by post); and • 29 May 2024 (by email). 		

		<p>At the Spring 2025 Consultation, this was done at the same time as publishing the Section 48 notice, with copies sent on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 February 2025 (by post); and • 4 March 2025 (by email).
<p>s49: Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity</p>		
23	<p>Has the applicant had regard to any relevant responses to the s42, s47 and s48 consultation?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5) confirms that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from statutory consultees, local authorities, landowners, and the public was analysed and grouped into issue statements. • The Applicant responded to these issues and used the feedback to inform the development of the Project and the refinement of the Project design, including changes to pipeline routes, the design of the Above Ground Plant, and mitigation measures. • This process demonstrates compliance with the duty under section 49, which requires applicants to have regard to consultation responses when preparing the application for development consent. <p>Further information is contained within the following appendices to the Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1 DCO Volume 5):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer 2024 Consultation – Appendix F.29 (The Applicant's response to feedback) • Spring 2025 Consultation – Appendix G.25 (The Applicant's response to feedback) • Autumn 2025 Consultation – Appendix H.9 (The Applicant's response to feedback) • Spring 2026 Consultations – Appendix I.13 (The Applicant's response to feedback)

S50(3) Regard to guidance about pre-application procedure		
24	<p>To what extent has the applicant had regard to statutory guidance ‘Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects’?</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate must have regard to the extent to which the applicant has had regard to guidance issued under s50.</p>	<p>Appendix A.1 (Regard to Section 51 advice) and Annex 1 (Consultation compliance checklist) of the Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5) set out how the Applicant has had regard to advice produced under section 51 of the PA 2008 and complied with the duty under of the PA 2008 to have regard to statutory guidance, including ‘Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects’ guidance (updated April 2024).</p> <p>This includes by engaging early and meaningfully with stakeholders, maintaining an advice log (as described in Appendix A.1 (Regard to Section 51 advice) of the Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5), which is the Planning Inspectorate advice log and the Applicant's response), submitting an Adequacy of Consultation Milestone (AoCM) (dated October 2025), and demonstrating how it met the five service features outlined in the guidance. A copy of the AoCM can be found at Appendix A.3 (AoCM) of the Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5) and on the Project website dated 30 October 2025.</p> <p>A statement setting out the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in submission documents is provided in the Application Cover Letter (Document reference 1.2, DCO Volume 1).</p>
25	Summary: Section 55(3)(e)	<p>The Applicant has complied with Chapter 2 of Part 5 (pre-application procedure) of the Planning Act 2008 and application guidance and undertaken both statutory and non-statutory consultation.</p>
s55(3)(f) and s55(5A): The application (including accompaniments) achieves a satisfactory standard having regard to the extent to which it complies with section 37(3) (form and contents of application) and with any standards set under section 37(5) and follows any applicable guidance under section 37(4)		

26	<p>Is it made in the prescribed form as set out in Schedule 2 of the APFP Regulations, and does it include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a brief statement which explains why it falls within the remit of the Planning Inspectorate; and • a brief statement that clearly identifies the location of the application site, or the route if it is a linear scheme? 	<p>Yes.</p> <p>A brief statement explaining why the Project falls within the remit of the Planning Inspectorate is provided at Section 4 of the Application Form (Document reference 1.1, DCO Volume 1).</p> <p>The Project does not fall within the categories in sections(s) 14 to 30 of the Planning Act 2008 ('PA 2008') and therefore is not a NSIP in the prescribed terms of the PA 2008 at the date of application. However, the Project is for water infrastructure and is the subject of a section 35(1) direction (received on 31 May 2022 and varied on 19 November 2024) that the Principal Development of the Project be treated as development for which development consent under the PA 2008 is required.</p> <p>Section 6 of the Application Form (Document reference 1.1, DCO Volume 1), states that the Project is a linear scheme, provides start, middle and end grid references and makes reference to the Location Plan (Document reference 2.1, DCO Volume 2).</p>
27	Is it accompanied by a consultation report?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The application is accompanied by a Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5), as required under Section 37(c) of the PA 2008.</p>
28	In accordance with regulation 5(4) of the APFP Regulations, where a plan comprises three or more separate sheets, has a key plan been provided showing the relationship between the different sheets?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Plans in Volume 2 of the DCO application and submitted under Regulation 5(2) include key plans in accordance with Regulation 5(4) of the APFP Regulations.</p>
29	Is it accompanied by the documents and information set out in APFP Regulation 5(2)?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The application is accompanied by the documents and information set out in APFP Regulation 5(2). The Electronic Application Index (Document reference 1.5, DCO</p>

		Volume 1) provides a full list of the submission documents and the relevant APFP Regulation(s).	
Information		Document	
a)	Where applicable, the environmental statement required under the EIA regulations and any scoping or screening opinions or directions	ES – Environmental Statement, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6), including the Non-Technical Summary. ES Appendices, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6) ES Appendix 5.1 EIA Scoping Report, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6) ES Appendix 5.2 EIA Scoping Opinion, Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6) ES Appendix 5.3 Response to EIA Scoping Opinion, Volume II (Document	b) The draft development consent order (DCO) Draft Development Consent Order (Document reference 3.1, DCO Volume 3).

		reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6) ES Figures, Volume III (Document reference 6.3, DCO Volume 6).			
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?			Is this of a satisfactory standard?	
c)	An explanatory memorandum explaining the purpose and effect of provisions in the draft DCO	Explanatory Memorandum to Draft Order (Document reference 3.2, DCO Volume 3)	d)	Where applicable, a book of reference	Book of Reference (Document reference 4.3, DCO Volume 4).
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?			Is this of a satisfactory standard?	
e)	A copy of any flood risk assessment	ES Appendix 19.1 Flood Risk Assessment, ES Volume II (Document reference 6.2, DCO Volume 6)	f)	A statement whether the proposal engages one or more of the matters set out in section 79(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (statutory nuisances) and if so how the Applicant proposes to mitigate or limit them	Statutory Nuisance Statement (Document reference 5.3, DCO Volume 5).

	Is this of a satisfactory standard?			Is this of a satisfactory standard?	
h)	A statement of reasons and a funding statement (where the application involves any compulsory acquisition)	Statement of Reasons (Document reference 4.1, DCO Volume 4) Funding Statement (Document reference 4.2, DCO Volume 4)	i)	A land plan identifying:- (i) the land required for, or affected by, the proposed development; (ii) where applicable, any land over which it is proposed to exercise powers of compulsory acquisition or any rights to use land; (iii) any land in relation to which it is proposed to extinguish easements, servitudes and other private rights; and (iv) any special category land and replacement land.	Land Plans (Document reference 2.2, DCO Volume 2). Special Category Land Plans (Document reference 2.6, DCO Volume 2).
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?			Is this of a satisfactory standard?	

j)	A works plan showing, in relation to existing features:- (i) the proposed location or (for a linear scheme) the proposed route and alignment of the development and works; and (ii) the limits within which the development and works may be carried out and any limits of deviation provided for in the draft DCO	Works Plans (Document reference 2.3, DCO Volume 2)	k)	Where applicable, a plan identifying any new or altered means of access, stopping up of streets or roads or any diversions, extinguishments or creation of rights of way or public rights of navigation	Access and Public Rights of Way Plans (Document reference 2.4, DCO Volume 2).
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?			Is this of a satisfactory standard?	
l)	Where applicable, a plan with accompanying information identifying:- (i) any statutory or non-statutory sites	Plans of statutory and non-statutory sites or features (Document reference 2.7, DCO Volume 2) An assessment of the any effects on such	m)	Where applicable, a plan with accompanying information identifying any statutory or non-statutory sites or features of the historic environment, (for	The application is accompanied by plans showing statutory or non-statutory historic or scheduled monument sites (Document reference 2.8, DCO Volume 2). An assessment of any effects on such sites, features or structures likely to be

<p>or features of nature conservation, for example sites of geological or landscape importance;</p> <p>(ii) habitats of protected species, important habitats or other diversity features; and</p> <p>(iii) water bodies in a river basin management plan,</p> <p>together with an assessment of any effects on such sites, features, habitats or bodies likely to be caused by the proposed development</p>	<p>sites, features, habitats or bodies likely to be caused by the proposed development is set out in the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitats Regulations Assessment – Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment and Marine Conservation Zone – Stage 1 Assessment (Document reference 5.2, DCO Volume 5) • Planning Policy Statement (Document reference 5.5, DCO Volume 5) • ES Chapter 8 Terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity, Volume I (Document 		<p>example scheduled monuments, world heritage sites, listed buildings, archaeological sites and registered battlefields) together with an assessment of any effects on such sites, features or structures likely to be caused by the proposed development</p>	<p>caused by the proposed development is set out in the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Policy Statement (Document reference 5.5, DCO Volume 5) • ES Chapter 7 Archaeology and cultural heritage, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6) • ES Chapter 13 Landscape and visual, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6) • ES Chapter 20 Cumulative and in-combination effects, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6) • ES Chapter 21 Summary of likely significant residual effect, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6)
--	---	--	--	---

	<p>reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ES Chapter 9 Marine biodiversity, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6) • ES Chapter 19 Water environment, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6) • ES Chapter 20 Cumulative and in-combination effects, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6) • ES Chapter 21 Summary of likely significant residual effects, Volume I (Document reference 6.1, DCO Volume 6) 			
--	--	--	--	--

n)	Is this of a satisfactory standard?		o)	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	
	Where applicable, a plan with any accompanying information identifying any Crown land	Crown Land Plans (Document reference 2.5, DCO Volume 2)		Any other plans, drawings and sections necessary to describe the development consent proposal showing details of design, external appearance, and the preferred layout of buildings, structures, drainage, surface water management, means of vehicular and pedestrian access, any car parking and landscaping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree Preservation Orders Plan (Document reference 2.9, DCO Volume 2)
p)	Is this of a satisfactory standard?		q)	Are they of a satisfactory standard?	
	Any of the documents prescribed by regulation 6 of the APFP regulations:	Not applicable.		Any other documents considered necessary to support the application	<p>The Electronic Application Index (Document reference 1.5, DCO Volume 1) lists all documents submitted as part of this DCO application, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application Cover Letter (Document reference 1.2, DCO Volume 1) Guide to the Application (Document reference 1.3, DCO Volume 1)

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 55 Acceptance of Application List (Document reference 1.4, DCO Volume 1) (this document) • Electronic Application Index (Document reference 1.5, DCO Volume 1) • Pre-application Programme Document (Document reference 1.6, DCO Volume 1) • Application Glossary (Document reference 1.7, DCO Volume 1) • Pre-application Land and Rights Negotiations Tracker (Document reference 4.4, DCO Volume 4) • Consultation report (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5) • Consultation Report Annex 1 and Appendix A to I (Document reference 5.1, DCO Volume 5) • Other Consents and Licences Position Statement Document reference 5.4, DCO Volume 5) • Planning Policy Statement (Document reference 5.5, DCO Volume 5) • Case for the Project (Document reference 5.6, DCO Volume 5) • Potential Main Issues for Examination (Document reference 5.7, DCO Volume 5)
--	--	--	--	---

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Statement of Common Ground - Eastleigh Borough Council (Document reference 5.8, DCO Volume 5) • Draft Statement of Common Ground - East Hampshire District Council (Document reference 5.8, DCO Volume 5) • Draft Statement of Common Ground - Fareham Borough Council (Document reference 5.8, DCO Volume 5) • Draft Statement of Common Ground - Hampshire County Council (Document reference 5.8, DCO Volume 5) • Draft Statement of Common Ground - Havant Borough Council (Document reference 5.8, DCO Volume 5) • Draft Statement of Common Ground - Portsmouth City Council (Document reference 5.8, DCO Volume 5) • Draft Statement of Common Ground - South Downs National Park Authority (Document reference 5.8, DCO Volume 5) • Draft Statement of Common Ground - Winchester City Council
--	--	--	--	--	---

				<p>(Document reference 5.8, DCO Volume 5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Statement of Common Ground - Environment Agency (Document reference 5.8, DCO Volume 5) • Draft Statement of Common Ground - Marine Management Organisation (Document reference 5.8, DCO Volume 5) • Draft Statement of Common Ground - Natural England (Document reference 5.8, DCO Volume 5) • Draft Statement of Common Ground - Historic England (Document reference 5.8, DCO Volume 5) • Draft Statement of Common Ground - Ministry of Defence (Document reference 5.8, DCO Volume 5) • Statement of Engagement (Document reference 5.9, DCO Volume 5) • Scheme Development Report (Document reference 5.10, DCO Volume 5) • Design Principles Document (Document reference 5.11, DCO Volume 5) • Design Approach Document (Document reference 5.12, DCO Volume 5) including Appendix C Indicative Environmental Masterplan
--	--	--	--	--

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (Document reference 7.1, DCO Volume 7) • Framework Construction Traffic Management Plan (Document reference 7.2, DCO Volume 7) • Traffic Management Strategy (Document reference 7.3, DCO Volume 7) • Outline Foundation Works Risk Assessment (Document reference 7.4, DCO Volume 7) • Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (Document reference 7.5, DCO Volume 7) • Outline Written Scheme of Investigation (Document reference 7.6, DCO Volume 7) • Operational Management Plan (Document reference 7.7, DCO Volume 7) • Outline Carbon Management Plan (Document reference 7.8, DCO Volume 7) • Outline Skills and Employment Plan (Document reference 7.9, DCO Volume 7) • Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) Biosecurity Plan (Document reference 7.10, DCO volume 7)
--	--	--	--	--	--

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity Gain Plan (Document reference 7.11, DCO volume 7) • Environmental Net Gain Statement (Document reference 7.12, DCO Volume 7) • Equality Impact Assessment (Document reference 7.13, DCO Volume 7) • Protected Species Licensing (Document reference 7.14, DCO Volume 7)
	Are they of a satisfactory standard?			Are they of a satisfactory standard?
30	Are there any observations in respect of the documents provided at Box 29 (a) to (q) above?			
31	<p>In accordance with Regulation 5(2)(g) of the APFP regulations, is the application accompanied by a report identifying any European site(s) to which regulation 48 of The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 applies; or any Ramsar site(s), which may be affected by the proposed development, together with sufficient information that will enable the Secretary of State to make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site if required by regulation 48(1)?</p>		<p>Habitats Regulations Assessment - Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment and Marine Conservation Zone – Stage 1 Assessment (Document reference 5.2, DCO Volume 5).</p>	

32	In accordance with regulation 5(2)(r) of the APFP regulations, if requested by the Planning Inspectorate, have two paper copies of the application form and other supporting documents and plans been provided?	Not requested.
33	Has the applicant had regard to statutory guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Application form guidance'?	Yes. As set out in the Application Cover Letter (Document reference 1.2, DCO Volume 1), the application documents comply with the requirements set out in the 'Planning Act 2008: Application form guidance' (June 2013).
34	Summary - s55(3)(f) and s55(5A)	The Application contains all relevant documents as required under the Planning Act 2008, the APFP Regulations 2009 (as amended), the EIA Regulations 2017 and section 50 guidance. The Planning Inspectorate can conclude that the Application (including accompaniments) has been prepared to a standard that it considers satisfactory.

The Infrastructure Planning (Fees) Regulations 2010 (as amended)

Pre-application fee

35	<p>Were all pre-application fees paid before the application was made?</p> <p>Pre-application services for which a fee can be charged is defined in regulation 2A(8) and includes services listed within schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Fees) Regulations 2010. Fees for pre-application services apply to all proposed applications, from the inception meeting. These fees must be paid within 28 days of the notice. If the applicant fails to pay the fee within 28 days,</p>	<p>Pre-Application fees were paid to the Planning Inspectorate on the following dates via BACS transfer associated with Purchase Order 4500353047.</p> <p>Invoice no: 1800000055</p> <p>Paid: 24 June 2025</p> <p>Invoice no: 1800000374</p> <p>Paid: 16 December 2025</p>
----	---	--

	<p>the Planning Inspectorate will not provide the applicant with any further pre-application services or take any further steps in relation to the proposed application.</p>	<p>Invoice number 1800001099</p> <p>Payment transferred 19 May 2026 – payment should be received by 22 May (3 working days).</p>
--	--	--

Fees to accompany an application

36	<p>Was the fee paid at the same time that the application was made?</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate must charge the applicant a fee in respect of the decision by the Planning Inspectorate under section 55 of the PA2008. If the applicant fails to pay the fee, the Planning Inspectorate need not consider the application until payment is received. The fee must be paid at the same time that the application is made.</p>	<p>The acceptance Fee of £9,286.00 was made before submission of the Application on 29 April 2026.</p>
----	--	--

Role	Electronic signature	Date
Case Manager		
Acceptance Inspector		

