

XLINKS MOROCCO-UK POWER PROJECT

Section 55 Checklist

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APFP Regulations: Reg 5(2)(q)

November 2024

For Issue



The Planning Inspectorate
Yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

Section 55

Acceptance of Applications Checklist

Appendix 3 of [Advice on the preparation and submission of application documents](#)

Version: October 2024

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 application specify the development to	In August 2023, the Applicant sought direction from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the ‘Secretary of State’) under section 35 of the Planning Act 2008 to confirm that elements of the Proposed Development should be treated as development for which development consent under the Planning Act 2008 is required. A direction was duly made on 26 September 2023 confirming the Secretary of State’s conclusion that the Proposed Development is nationally significant and therefore is development requiring development consent under the Planning Act 2008.		

	<p>which it relates (i.e. 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>Therefore, the Application is considered Nationally Significant and the Applicant is seeking a DCO for the construction of two converter stations to the immediate west of the existing Alverdiscott 400 kV substation, with associated underground electricity cables to the Cornborough Range (Landfall), North Devon, and offshore cable infrastructure within the UK Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), alongside additional works to facilitate the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The proposed Development is set out in Schedule 1 of the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) (Document Ref. 3.1).</p> <p>Confirmation as to why the PINS should receive the Application is set out in Section 4 of the Application Form (Document Ref. 1.3) and explained further at paragraphs 1.1.2 and 1.1.4 of the Explanatory Memorandum (Document Ref. 3.2) to the draft Development Consent Order (DCO). The Application Cover Letter (Document Ref. 1.1) clearly states that this application (the Application) is for a development consent order under the PA 2008.</p> <p>A non-technical description of the Proposed Development is included in the Non-Technical Summary of the ES (Document Ref. 6.5). A more detailed technical description of the Proposed Development is included in Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description of the Environmental Statement (ES) (Document Ref. 6.1).</p>
3	<p>Summary: Section 55(3)(a) and s55(3)(c)</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, a request for a Scoping Opinion was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) in accordance with Regulation 10(1) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) on 30 January 2024. The Scoping Report is provided at Appendix B-1 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2).</p> <p>On 29 January 2024, the Applicant notified PINS, in accordance with Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations, that they proposed to provide an ES in respect of the Proposed Development. The notification was given to PINS under section 46 of the PA 2008 before statutory consultation commenced on 16 May 2024 pursuant to Section 42 of the PA 2008.</p> <p>A copy of the notification letter is provided at Appendix G-1.1 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2).</p>
5	<p>Have any Adequacy of Consultation Representations 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 Adequacy of Consultation Representations received.</p>	<p>The Applicant reviewed updated guidance on the pre-application process published by the Planning Inspectorate in April 2024, following completion of phase one and phase two consultations. The updated guidance included the requirement for an early adequacy of consultation milestone ("AoCM").</p> <p>While it is understood that the AoCM is expected to apply to projects that have not yet commenced formal consultation, the Applicant acknowledged the value in engagement with host authorities on some elements of the AoCM prior to submitting the Application.</p> <p>Pre-submission engagement for the AoCM focused on agreeing engagement undertaken with host authorities and confirming that the Applicant had complied with its commitments set out in the SoCC - including how feedback from host authorities helped to shape the SoCC.</p>

		<p>The Applicant spoke to the host authorities during the weekly meeting between the Applicant and host authorities, setting out the Applicant’s proposed approach to engagement on the AoCM.</p> <p>The Applicant received confirmation from the host authorities confirming that, based on the documents provided and engagement undertaken to date, consultation undertaken on the Proposed Development was adequate and met the commitments set out in the SoCC.</p> <p>The letter to the host authorities, and copies of the letters received from the host authorities confirming engagement is included at Appendix B-3 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2).</p>
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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: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations).</p>	<p>Yes. The Applicant has provided a list of persons consulted under section 42(1)(a) at Appendix E-1 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2).</p> <p>The list of persons consulted was produced using Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Application: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (“APFP 2009”), as well as individuals who were identified specifically by the Secretary of State within the Scoping Opinion. Details of how the Applicant identified and consulted with prescribed consultees where their statutory function was relevant to the proposed Development during phase two consultation is included in Chapter 6 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.1).</p>
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		<p>The Applicant can confirm that regard was had to the PINS’s Advice Note ‘Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on EIA Notification and Consultation’ which was in force at the time of consultation.</p> <p>The following information was provided to the consultees under section 42(1)(a):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 42 Cover Letter (see Appendix F-1 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2)); • Copy of section 48 notice (see Appendix I-1 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2)); and • A link to the Xlinks Morocco – UK Power Project website, which contained all consultation materials, including the PEIR, the updated layout of the Proposed Development, Consultation booklet, exhibition banners, consultation newsletter and an online version of the consultation questionnaire (see Appendices G-1 and G-2 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2)). <p>Initially, the consultation was publicised as lasting from 16 May 2024 until 27 June 2024. This provided consultees with 42 days to comment, which was greater than the 28 calendar days required to be provided for comments as prescribed by s45(2) of the PA 2008 and Regulation 4(3)(i) of the APFP Regulations.</p> <p>However, the Applicant become aware on 24 May 2024 that Volume 4, Chapter 3: Socio-economics and Tourism was missing from the copy of the PEIR on its website and that Volume 4, Appendix 2.2: Landscape Character Baseline Technical Report and Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report were missing from copies of the PEIR on its website and at deposit locations. The Applicant made the missing sections of the PEIR online and at deposit points from 29 May 2024. In addition, on 22 May 2024, the Prime Minister called the 2024 General Election for 4 July 2024. While there is no requirement to pause consultation that has already begun during an election</p>
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		<p>period, the Applicant recognised the need to ensure that all consultees had adequate to respond to the consultation and that the General Election could impact some consultees.</p> <p>Taking into account the need to provide the missing sections of the PEIR and the calling of the General Election, the Applicant therefore extended the statutory consultation period for all consultees to 11 July 2024. The Applicant wrote to consultees under s42(1)(a) regarding the extension to the consultation on 31 May 2024.</p> <p>This provided consultees 41 days to comment. This was greater than the 28 calendar days required to be provided for comments as prescribed by s45(2) of the PA 2008 and Regulation 4(3)(i) of the APFP Regulations. Copies of the letters sent to consultees are available in Appendix G-3 of the Consultation Report (Document Reference 5.2).</p>
7	<p>Section 42(1)(aa) the Marine Management Organisation(MMO)?</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The Applicant has included the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in their list of parties consulted under Section42 in the Consultation Report. Feedback on the Statutory Consultation from the MMO can be found Appendix J-1 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2). The Applicant consulted with the Marine Management Organisation using the same arrangements as for consultees under s42(1)(a) as set out in row 6 of this checklist.</p>
8	<p>Section 42(1)(b) each local authority within s43?</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Yes. Table 6-1 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.1) lists the relevant local authorities that were consulted under section 43 and section 42(1)(b) of the PA 2008.</p> <p>The 'A' authorities consulted were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cornwall Council;

<p>(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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid Devon District Council; • Somerset Council; and • West Devon District Council. <p>The 'B' Authorities consulted were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Devon Council; and • Torridge District Council. <p>A small part of the Order limits, included where there may be oversail from abnormal indivisible loads using the B3233, is located in the local authority area of North Devon Council. As these are highways works, Devon County Council would normally be the relevant planning authority rather than North Devon Council. Nonetheless the Applicant treated North Devon Council as a B authority for the purposes of consultation, including consultation on the draft Statement of Community Consultation. Further information is set out at 5.2.1 to 5.2.3 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.1).</p> <p>The 'C' Authorities consulted were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devon County Council <p>The 'D' Authorities consulted were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cornwall Council; • Dartmoor National Park Authority; • Dorset Council;
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exmoor National Park Authority; • Plymouth City Council; • Somerset Council' and • Torbay Council. <p>Initially, the consultation was publicised as lasting from 16 May 2024 until 27 June 2024. This provided consultees with 42 days to comment, which was greater than the 28 calendar days required to be provided for comments as prescribed by s45(2) of the PA 2008 and Regulation 4(3)(i) of the APFP Regulations.</p> <p>However, the Applicant become aware on 24 May 2024 that Volume 4, Chapter 3: Socio-economics and Tourism was missing from the copy of the PEIR on its website and that Volume 4, Appendix 2.2: Landscape Character Baseline Technical Report and Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report were missing from copies of the PEIR on its website and at deposit locations. The Applicant made the missing sections of the PEIR online and at deposit points from 29 May 2024. In addition, on 22 May 2024, the Prime Minister called the 2024 General Election for 4 July 2024. While there is no requirement to pause consultation that has already begun during an election period, the Applicant recognised the need to ensure that all consultees had adequate to respond to the consultation and that the General Election could impact some consultees.</p> <p>Taking into account the need to provide the missing sections of the PEIR and the calling of the General Election, the Applicant therefore extended the statutory consultation period for all consultees to 11 July 2024. The Applicant</p>
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		<p>wrote to consultees under s42(1)(a) regarding the extension to the consultation on 31 May 2024.</p> <p>This provided consultees 41 days to comment. This was greater than the 28 calendar days required to be provided for comments as prescribed by s45(2) of the PA 2008 and Regulation 4(3)(i) of the APFP Regulations. Copies of the letters sent to consultees are available in Appendix G-3 of the Consultation Report (Document Reference 5.2).</p> <p>In addition, following the Prime Minister’s announcement that there would be a General Election on 4 July 2024, Torridge District Council and Devon County Council both identified that it would be helpful to be allowed more time to provide responses to the consultation. The Applicant agreed to accept responses from Torridge District Council and Devon County Council by 22 July 2024 at their request. Further information is included at 6.2.18 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.1).</p> <p>The following information was provided to the above consultees under Section 42(1)(b):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 42 Cover Letter (see Appendix F-1 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2)); • Copy of section 48 notice (see Appendix I-1 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2)); and • A link to the Xlinks Morocco – UK Power Project website, which contained all consultation materials, including the PEIR, the updated layout of the Proposed Development, Consultation booklet, exhibition banners, consultation newsletter and an online version of the consultation questionnaire (see Appendices G-1 and G-2 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2)). • A letter setting out the extension to the consultation period to 11 July 2024 (see Appendix G-3 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2)).
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9	Section 42(1)(c) the Greater London Authority (if in Greater London area)?	Not applicable. The Proposed Development is not located within or in an adjacent authority to the Greater London Authority, therefore, Greater London Authority is not a relevant consultee in respect of the Proposed Development.
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; Category 2: person interested in the land or has power to sell and convey the land or to release the land; Category 3: persons who would or might be entitled to make a relevant claim.</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>As explained in Section 6 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.1), in line with section 42(1)(d) of the PA 2008, the Applicant consulted with landowners, lessees, tenants or occupiers (Category 1 persons, s44(1)); those with an interest in the land or certain powers with respect to the land (Category 2 persons, s44(2)); and those who the Applicant considered would or might be entitled to make a relevant claim (Category 3 persons, s44(4)). The Applicant diligently carried out enquiries to identify these consultees. Details of the process followed by the Applicant are included at 6.2.5 to 6.2.8 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.1).</p> <p>A full list of persons falling within section 44 of the PA 2008 is included in the Book of Reference submitted with the Application (document 4.3). A list of persons consulted under s42(1)(d) is included in Appendix E-2 of the Consultation Report (document ref 5.2).</p> <p>All relevant interests with the potential to make a claim under Section 152(3) of the PA 2008 because they are in benefit of a restrictive right or covenant over land within the Order limits, have been included within the Book of Reference (Document Ref. 4.3) as the Category 2 and Category 3 persons.</p> <p>The Applicant wrote by recorded delivery to consultees under s42(1)(d) of the PA 2008 with a category 1 and 2 interest in land on 9 May 2024 setting out the background to the Proposed Development, the Applicant's intention to submit a DCO application, the fact that the Applicant had identified them as a consultee under s42(1)(d) of the PA 2008, the documents being provided as part of the</p>

	<p>consultation, and how to respond to the consultation. A copy of this letter is available in Appendix F-1 of the Consultation Report (document reference 5.2).</p> <p>The Applicant included in the letter a link to the Document Library on its website including a copy of a consultation booklet, which provided more information about the Proposed Development, plans showing the proposed Order limits, the PEIR and a copy of a consultation questionnaire. Copies of these materials are available in Appendix G-2 of the Consultation Report (document reference 5.2).</p> <p>Once the Applicant identified that some information was missing from the published version of the PEIR as set out in 6.1.5-6.1.6 of the Consultation Report (document reference 5.1), it wrote to all identified consultees under s42 of PA 2008 to notify them of the error, how it had made the missing information available and the extension of the consultation period until 11 July 2024 on 31 May 2024.</p> <p>For consultees with a category 1 or 2 interest in land under s42(1)(d) of PA 2008, the Applicant included with the letter an updated copy of the notice of the proposed application which was publicised in accordance with s48 of the PA 2008 and the requirements set out in Regulation 4 of the APFP Regulations was also provided to consultation bodies as required by Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations 2017. A copy of this letter is included in Appendix G-3 of the Consultation Report (document ref 5.2). The Applicant wrote to these consultees on 31 May 2024, providing until 11 July 2024 to respond to the consultation. This meant that these consultees were provided with 41 days to respond to the consultation.</p> <p>Through ongoing diligent enquiry, a number of persons with a category 3 interest in land were also identified after the start of the consultation period on 16 May 2024. The Applicant wrote to these consultees on 31 May 2024, providing until 11 July 2024 to respond to the consultation. This meant that these consultees were provided with 41 days to respond to the consultation. This was greater than the 28 calendar days required to be provided for comments as prescribed by s45(2) of the PA 2008 and Regulation 4(3)(i) of the</p>
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		<p>APFP Regulations. A copy of this letter is included in Appendix F-1 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.1)</p> <p>The Applicant included in the letter a link to the Document Library on its website including a copy of a consultation booklet, which provided more information about the Proposed Development, plans showing the proposed Order limits, the PEIR and a copy of a consultation questionnaire. Copies of these materials are included in Appendix G-2 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2).</p> <p>Following the statutory consultation which took place from 16 May 2024 to 11 July 2024, the Applicant made a number of minor changes to the Order limits having regard to feedback from the consultation, and in light of further work on the Proposed Development's design and environmental impacts. These changes are set out at 8.3.2 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.1).</p> <p>Through diligent enquiry, the Applicant identified a number of persons affected by the changes who held a category 1 interest in land under s44(1) or a category 2 interest in land under s44(2). These are listed in Appendix K-1 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2). 8.3.8 No category 3 persons were identified. The Applicant wrote by recorded delivery to identified consultees to notify them of the changes and invite comment for a 28 day period between 6 September 2024 and 7 October 2024. The Applicant enclosed an updated Order limits plan with the letter. Copies of the letters and plan are available in Appendix K-2 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2).</p>
<p>Section 45: Timetable for s42 consultation</p>		
11	<p>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>	<p>Yes. The Applicant wrote formally to all consultees identified under section 42 of the PA 2008 to notify them of the consultation. Each of the letters issued to the section 42 consultees clearly stated a deadline for the receipt of consultation responses. Copies of the letters sent to s42 consultees are included in appendices E-1, E-2 and G-3 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2).</p>

	<p>Initially, the consultation was publicised as lasting from 16 May 2024 until 27 June 2024. This provided consultees with 42 days to comment, which was greater than the 28 calendar days required to be provided for comments as prescribed by s45(2) of the PA 2008 and Regulation 4(3)(i) of the APFP Regulations.</p> <p>However, the Applicant became aware on 24 May 2024 that Volume 4, Chapter 3: Socio-economics and Tourism was missing from the copy of the PEIR on its website and that Volume 4, Appendix 2.2: Landscape Character Baseline Technical Report and Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report were missing from copies of the PEIR on its website and at deposit locations. The Applicant made the missing sections of the PEIR online and at deposit points from 29 May 2024. In addition, on 22 May 2024, the Prime Minister called the 2024 General Election for 4 July 2024. While there is no requirement to pause consultation that has already begun during an election period, the Applicant recognised the need to ensure that all consultees had adequate time to respond to the consultation and that the General Election could impact some consultees.</p> <p>Taking into account the need to provide the missing sections of the PEIR and the calling of the General Election, the Applicant therefore extended the statutory consultation period for all consultees to 11 July 2024. The Applicant wrote to consultees under s42(1)(a) regarding the extension to the consultation on 31 May 2024.</p> <p>This provided consultees 41 days to comment. This was greater than the 28 calendar days required to be provided for comments as prescribed by s45(2) of the PA 2008 and Regulation 4(3)(i) of the APFP Regulations. Copies of the letters sent to consultees are available in Appendix G-3 of the Consultation Report (Document Reference 5.2).</p> <p>Through diligent enquiry, the Applicant identified a number of persons affected by the changes who held a category 1 interest in land under s44(1) or a category 2 interest in land under s44(2). These are listed in Appendix K-1 of the</p>
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		<p>Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2). 8.3.8 No category 3 persons were identified. The Applicant wrote by recorded delivery to identified consultees to notify them of the changes and invite comment for a 28 day period between 6 September 2024 and 7 October 2024. The Applicant enclosed an updated Order limits plan with the letter. Copies of the letters and plan are available in Appendix K-2 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2).</p>
<p>Section 46: Duty to notify the Planning Inspectorate of proposed application</p>		
12	<p>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?</p>	<p>Yes. Prior to commencing section 42 consultation, the Applicant notified the Secretary of State of its intention to submit an application for development consent under section 46.</p> <p>The letter was sent to the PINS electronically on 15 May 2024, prior to section 42 consultation beginning on 16 May 2024. A copy of the letter can be found in Appendix F-2 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2)</p> <p>A response, acknowledging receipt of this notification, was received from PINS on 15 May and can be found in Appendix F-2 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2).</p>
<p>Section 47: Duty to consult local community</p>		
13	<p>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>	<p>Yes. As prescribed by section 47(1) of the PA 2008, the Applicant prepared a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) setting out how it proposed to consult people living in the vicinity of the Site boundary.</p> <p>A copy of the final published SoCC can be found in Appendix D-1 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2).</p>
14	<p>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'</p>	<p>Yes. At the time of preparing the SoCC, the Applicant identified Torridge District Council and Devon County Council as local authorities within s43(1) of the PA 2008 for the purposes of consultation on the SoCC under section s47(2) of the</p>

	<p>and, where applicable, 'C' authorities received the consultation documents?</p>	<p>PA 2008 (the 'host authorities') based on its understanding of the likely Order limits at that point.</p> <p>Given the proximity of parts of the Proposed Development to the administrative area of North Devon Council, the Applicant also consulted on the draft SoCC with North Devon Council as though it was a local authority within s43(1) of PA 2008.</p> <p>The Applicant subsequently identified that a small part of the Order limits where there may be oversail by construction vehicles AILs and other highways works is within the administrative area of North Devon Council. The Applicant considers that it fulfilled its duty to consult with North Devon Council on the draft SoCC by consulting as though it was a local authority within s43(1) of PA 2008.</p> <p>In accordance with section 47(2) of the PA 2008, the draft SoCC was sent to the relevant local authorities (Devon County Council, Torrridge District Council and North Devon Council) on 25 March 2024. The deadline for receipt of responses was 22 April 2024.</p> <p>A copy of the letters sent to the relevant authorities can be found in Appendix C-2 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2).</p> <p>Appendix C-4 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2) set out the comments received on the draft SoCC from the respective local authorities.</p>
15	<p>Has the Applicant had regard to any responses received when preparing the SoCC?</p>	<p>Yes. The Applicant had regard to all responses received from local authorities consulted when preparing the SoCC, as set out in Appendix C-4 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2).</p>
16	<p>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</p>	<p>Yes. As stated in 5.8.1 to 5.8.3 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.1) the SoCC was made publicly available for inspection in a way that was reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land. Following the SoCC being published on 14 May 2024, the Applicant made it available for the public to view, print and download via the Proposed Development website (see</p>

	vicinity of the land which states where and when the SoCC can be inspected?	Appendix L-1 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2). Printed copies of the SoCC were available to inspect at two deposit points close to the proposed Site boundary (see 5.8.2 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.1)). These were Northam Library Fore St, Northam, Bideford EX39 1AW and Pollyfield Community Centre Avon Rd, Bideford EX39 4BL.
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?	Yes. Page 11 of the SoCC stated that the development is EIA development and sets out how the Applicant intended to publicise and consult on preliminary environmental information report. A copy of the SoCC is provided in Appendix D-1 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2).
18	Has the Applicant carried out the consultation in accordance with the SoCC?	<p>Yes. The Applicant has listed the requirements of the SoCC, and how it carried out the consultation in accordance with each requirement in Appendix D-2 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2). Details of activity carried out as part of the consultation can be found in Chapter 6 of the Consultation Report (document 5.1).</p> <p>With regards to the period of targeted consultation between 6 September 2024 and 7 October 2024, the SoCC set out on page 18 that, 'If, following the statutory consultation, we consider it to be necessary to undertake further targeted statutory consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC.'</p> <p>Given that the changes to the Order limits that were the subject of the targeted consultation were purely to facilitate the temporary diversion of utilities and ensure that the Applicant acquires the appropriate powers for access during construction and did not affect the outcomes of the EIA we set out in the PEIR during the statutory consultation, the Applicant considered that targeted consultation with affected land interests was proportionate and did not conduct wider consultation.</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?	Yes. A Section 48 Notice for the Proposed Development was published in the North Devon Gazette, the Guardian, the London Gazette, the Fishing News and Lloyds list in accordance with Regulation 4(2) of the APFP Regulations 2009. A copy of the section 48 notice as published in the newspapers is provided at Appendix I-1 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2). An updated copy of the notice was inserted into the same newspapers following the extension of the consultation period to 11 July 2024. Copies as published are provided at Appendix I-1 of the Consultation Report (document ref 5.2).	
		Newspaper(s)	Date
a)	for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the Proposed Development would be situated;	North Devon Gazette	15 May 2024 & 22 May 2024 Re-notice on 5 June 2024 & 12 June 2024
b)	once in a national newspaper;	The Guardian	16 May 2024 & re-notice on 5 June 2024
c)	once in the London Gazette and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette; and	London Gazette No land in Scotland is affected by the Proposed Development, and there was therefore no requirement to publish in the Edinburgh Gazette.	16 May 2024 & re-notice on 5 June 2024

d)	<p>where the proposed application relates to offshore development –</p> <p>(i) once in Lloyds List; and</p> <p>(ii) once in an appropriate fishing trade journal?</p>	<p>The section 48 Notice was issued into both the Lloyds List and Fishing News.</p>	<p>(i) 16 May 2024 & re-notice on 6 June 2024</p> <p>(ii) 23 May 2024 & re-notice on 13 June 2024</p>												
20	<p>Did the s48 notice include the required information set out in Regulation 4(3) of the (as amended) APFP Regulations 2009?</p>	<p>Yes. The Applicant included the required information within the Section 48 Notice. This can be found within Appendix I-1 of the Consultation Report (Document 5.2).</p>													
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="129 571 680 643">Information</th> <th data-bbox="680 571 1055 643">Paragraph</th> <th data-bbox="1055 571 1585 643">Information</th> <th data-bbox="1585 571 2123 643">Paragraph</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="129 643 680 1050">a)</td> <td data-bbox="680 643 1055 1050"> <p>the name and address of the Applicant.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1055 643 1585 1050">b)</td> <td data-bbox="1585 643 2123 1050"> <p>a statement that the Applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Secretary of State</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="129 1050 680 1345">c)</td> <td data-bbox="680 1050 1055 1345"> <p>a statement as to whether the application is EIA development</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1055 1050 1585 1345">d)</td> <td data-bbox="1585 1050 2123 1345"> <p>a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the Proposed Development</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Information	Paragraph	Information	Paragraph	a)	<p>the name and address of the Applicant.</p>	b)	<p>a statement that the Applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Secretary of State</p>	c)	<p>a statement as to whether the application is EIA development</p>	d)	<p>a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the Proposed Development</p>
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	<p>Paragraph 1: <i>“Notice is hereby given that Xlinks 1 Ltd of Kingfisher House, Woodbrook Crescent, Billericay, Essex, United Kingdom, CM12 0EQ”</i></p>		<p>Paragraph 1: <i>“Notice is hereby given that Xlinks 1 Ltd of Kingfisher House, Woodbrook Crescent, Billericay, Essex, United Kingdom, CM12 0EQ (“the Applicant”) intends to make an application to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (the “Secretary of State”) under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the “Act”) for a Development Consent Order (“DCO”) (the “Application”).”</i></p>												
	<p>Paragraph 6: <i>“The Proposed Development is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development, as defined by The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment)</i></p>		<p>Paragraph 3: <i>“The Proposed Development is split into three distinctive elements, as follows:</i></p> <p><i>Onshore elements</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Two independent 1.8GW converter stations plus external equipment,</i> 												

	<p><i>Regulations 2017. An Environmental Statement will therefore be submitted as part of the proposed Application, which will contain information about the environmental effects of the Proposed Development.</i></p> <p><i>Information currently available about the likely significant environmental impacts of the Proposed Development will be set out in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (“PEIR”) that will form part of the consultation documents.”</i></p>		<p><i>landscaping and other ancillary buildings (the “Converter Site”) to convert electricity from Direct Current (“DC”) into Alternating Current (“AC”) before transmission to the National Grid, located west of the existing National Grid Alverdiscott 400 kilovolt (“kV”) substation.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• 12 High Voltage Alternating Current (“HVAC”) cables connecting the Converter Site into the National Grid Alverdiscott 400kV substation, each approximately 1.2 kilometres (“km”) in length.</i> <i>• A new 400kV substation to replace the existing National Grid Alverdiscott 400kV substation, to the immediate east of the existing substation.</i> <i>• 4 High Voltage Direct Current (“HVDC”) cables to link the onshore converter stations to a landfall site at Cornborough Range, buried in bundled pairs with 6 fibreoptic cables in a corridor approximately 14.5km long and approximately 65 metres (“m”) wide.</i> <p><i>Landfall site</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• A landfall point at Cornborough Range on the Devon coast, about 2.5km south of Westward Ho! and 4km west of Bideford, hosting two Transition</i>
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					<p><i>Joint Bays to transition from offshore HVDC cables to onshore HVDC cables.</i></p> <p><i>Offshore elements</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• HVDC cables which would bring electricity from its generation to the landfall point, which are located within the UK EEZ in a corridor approximately 370km in length and between 500m and 1.5km wide. These would be in bundled pairs with 6 fibreoptic cables.</i> <p><i>The Proposed Development will include other required works, such as temporary access roads, highway works, temporary works compounds, work sites, ancillary works, temporary and permanent utility connections, permanent utility diversions, biodiversity net gain offsetting, and any other works identified as necessary to enable the Proposed Development.”</i></p>
e)	<p>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:</p>	<p><i>Original:</i> <i>Paragraph 1: “The Application is to authorise the construction and operation (which includes maintenance) of those elements of the Morocco-UK Power Project (the</i></p>	f)	<p>the latest date on which those documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection</p>	<p><i>Original:</i> <i>Paragraph 9: “All documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Proposed Development, including the PEIR, will be available to download free of charge from Thursday 16 May 2024</i></p>

<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. 	<p><i>“Project”) which are located in the UK (the “Proposed Development”).</i></p> <p><i>The Proposed Development could deliver 3.6 Gigawatts (“GW”) of low carbon electricity to the UK’s electricity grid and could improve the security and diversity of the UK’s electricity supply. The Secretary of State recognised last year that elements of the Proposed Development are nationally significant and therefore directed under Section 35 of the Act that the Proposed Development should be treated as development for which development consent is required.</i></p> <p><i>All onshore elements of the Proposed Development are located within the administrative area of Torridge District Council in the County of Devon. The offshore elements of the Proposed</i></p>		<p><i>until 11:59pm on Thursday 27 June 2024</i></p> <p><i>on</i></p> <p><i>www.xlinks.co/devon</i></p> <p><i>The Applicant intends to make copies of the consultation materials showing the nature and location of the Proposed Development available for inspection free of charge from Thursday 16 May 2024 at locations in the vicinity of the Proposed Development, listed below, for the duration of the consultation period (until 11:59pm on Thursday 27 June 2024).”</i></p> <p><i>Re-notice:</i></p> <p><i>Paragraph 8: “On Thursday 16 May 2024, the Applicant provided notification of the Application, as well as a statutory public consultation on the Proposed Development which started on Thursday 16 May 2024 and was due to continue</i></p> <p><i>until 11:59pm on Thursday 27 June 2024. Materials showing the nature and location of the Proposed Development, including a consultation booklet, the PEIR, maps and plans, have been, and will continue to be, available from</i></p>
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	<p><i>Development extend from Cornborough</i></p> <p><i>Range, also in Torridge, to the seaward limit of the UK's Exclusive Economic Zone ("EEZ")."</i></p> <p><i>Paragraph 9: "All documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Proposed Development, including the PEIR, will be available to download free of charge from Thursday 16 May 2024 until 11:59pm on Thursday 27 June 2024</i></p> <p><i>on</i></p> <p><i>www.xlinks.co/devon"</i></p> <p><i>Paragraph 11: "Copies of the consultation materials may be requested during the consultation period from the Applicant using the e-mail address, postal address or Freephone number provided below:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• By post: Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project consultation FREEPOST</i> 		<p><i>Thursday 16 May 2024 in the Document Library on the Applicant's website at www.xlinks.co/devon and at the places in the vicinity of the Proposed Development set out below:</i></p> <p><i>Venue Opening hours*</i></p> <p><i>Northam Library, Fore St, Northam, Bideford EX39 1AW</i> <i>Monday/Saturday: 10am - 1pm</i> <i>Wednesday/Friday: 10am - 5pm</i> <i>Tuesday/Thursday/Sunday: CLOSED</i></p> <p><i>Pollyfield Community Centre, Avon Rd, Bideford EX39 4BL 9:30am – 11pm Monday to Sunday</i></p> <p><i>*Please check opening hours with the venue before attending</i></p> <p><i>The Applicant has become aware that Volume 4, Chapter 3: Socio-economics and Tourism was missing from the copy of the PEIR in the Document Library at www.xlinks.co/devon and that Volume 4, Appendix 2.2:</i></p> <p><i>Landscape Character Baseline Technical Report and Volume 4, Appendix 2.3: Visual Baseline Technical Report were missing from copies of the PEIR in the Document Library at www.xlinks.co/devon and at the physical</i></p>
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	<p>SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online: <i>www.xlinks.co/devon</i> • By email: <i>hello@xlinks.co</i> • By phone: 0800 038 3486 <p><i>Any enquiries relating to the consultation materials, documents, plans and maps can be made to the Applicant using the telephone number listed above.”</i></p> <p><i>Re-notice:</i></p> <p><i>Paragraph 1: “The Application is to authorise the construction and operation (which includes maintenance) of those elements of the Morocco-UK Power Project (the “Project”) which are located in the UK (the “Proposed Development”).</i></p> <p><i>The Proposed Development could deliver 3.6 Gigawatts (“GW”) of low carbon electricity to the UK’s</i></p>		<p><i>locations set out above.</i></p> <p><i>From Friday 24 May 2024, the Applicant made these documents available from the Document Library at <i>www.xlinks.co/devon</i> and at the physical locations set out above. All other consultation documents published at the</i></p> <p><i>start of the consultation remain valid and there have been no further updates. The Applicant is also extending the date until which consultation documents will be available and also the deadline for responses until 11:59pm</i></p> <p><i>on Thursday 11 July 2024.</i></p> <p><i>Copies of consultation documents on USBs, as well as hard copies of a consultation booklet and consultation questionnaire, will continue to be made available free of charge on request. Given the size of the document, requests for hard copies of the PEIR will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. To cover printing costs a reasonable charge may apply, to be paid by the recipient, up-to a maximum of £750 for the whole suite. To request</i></p> <p><i>these materials in hard copy or an alternative format, please get in touch with us using the contact information</i></p>
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	<p><i>electricity grid and could improve the security and diversity of the UK's electricity supply. The Secretary of State recognised last year that elements of the Proposed Development are nationally significant and therefore directed under Section 35 of the Act that the Proposed Development should be treated as development for which development consent is required.</i></p> <p><i>All onshore elements of the Proposed Development are located within the administrative area of Torridge District Council in the County of Devon. The offshore elements of the Proposed Development extend from Cornborough Range, also in Torridge, to the seaward limit of the UK's Exclusive Economic Zone ("EEZ")."</i></p> <p><i>Paragraph 8: On Thursday 16 May 2024, the Applicant provided</i></p>		<p><i>in this notice. All consultation materials will remain available at the locations set out in this notice until Thursday 11 July 2024."</i></p>
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g)	<p>whether a charge will be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge</p>	<p>Paragraph 12 in original and paragraph 11 in re-notice: <i>Copies of consultation documents on USBs, as well as hard copies of a consultation booklet and consultation questionnaire, will continue to be made available free of charge on request. Given the size of the document,</i></p>	h)	<p>details of how to respond to the publicity</p>	<p>Original: Paragraph 13: <i>Any person may comment on the proposals or otherwise respond to this publicity. Responses must be received between Thursday 16 May 2024 and 11:59pm on Thursday 27 June 2024. A consultation questionnaire is available as part of the consultation, and the consultation website will also allow the submission of electronic consultation responses. When providing your response, please</i></p>

	<p>requests for hard copies of the PEIR will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. To cover printing costs a reasonable charge may apply, to be paid by the recipient, up-to a maximum of £750 for the whole suite.</p>		<p>include your name and address or, if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous, your postcode only. Please also confirm the nature of your interest in the Proposed Development. Please supply any response to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By post: Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project consultation FREEPOST SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL • Online: www.xlinks.co/devon • By email: hello@xlinks.co <p>Responses must be received no later than 11.59pm on Thursday 27 June 2024.</p> <p>Re-notice:</p> <p>Paragraph 14: Any person may comment on the proposals or otherwise respond to this publicity. Responses must be received between Thursday 16 May 2024 and 11:59pm on Thursday 11 July 2024. A consultation questionnaire is available as part of the consultation, and the consultation website will also allow the submission of electronic consultation responses. Please also confirm the nature of your interest in the Proposed Development. Please supply any response to:</p>
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i)	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	<p><i>Original:</i></p> <p><i>Paragraph 13: Any person may comment on the proposals or otherwise respond to this publicity. Responses must be received between Thursday 16 May 2024 and 11:59pm on Thursday 27 June 2024. A consultation questionnaire is available as part of the consultation, and the consultation website will also allow the submission of electronic consultation responses. When providing your response, please include your name and address or, if you would prefer</i></p>		

your comments to be anonymous, your postcode only. Please also confirm the nature of your interest in the Proposed Development. Please supply any response to:

- *By post: Xlinks
Morocco-UK Power
Project consultation
FREEPOST SEC
NEWGATE UK LOCAL*

- *Online:
www.xlinks.co/devon*

- *By email:
hello@xlinks.co*

Responses must be received no later than 11.59pm on Thursday 27 June 2024.

Re-notice:

Paragraph 14: Any person may comment on the proposals or otherwise respond to this publicity. Responses must be received between Thursday 16 May 2024 and 11:59pm on Thursday 11 July

	<p>2024. A consultation questionnaire is available as part of the consultation, and the consultation website will also allow the submission of electronic consultation responses. Please also confirm the nature of your interest in the Proposed Development. Please supply any response to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By post: Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project consultation FREEPOST SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL • Online: www.xlinks.co/devon • By email: hello@xlinks.co <p>Responses must be received no later than 11.59pm on Thursday 11 July 2024.</p>	
21	Are there any observations in respect of the s48 notice provided above?	

22	<p>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>	<p>Yes. A copy of the section 48 notice was sent to the EIA consultation bodies, as defined in Regulation 3 of the EIA Regulations, as part of the section 42 consultation. A sample version of the section 42 consultation letter is provided at Appendix F-1 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2) and confirms a copy of the Section 48 notice was enclosed as part of the letter to section 42 consultees.</p> <p>The applicant did not receive notification of additional consultees under Regulation 11(1)(c) of the EIA Regulations.</p>
<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. All relevant responses received to the consultation under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the PA 2008 have been considered by the Applicant, with responses being discussed in Chapter 7 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.1).</p> <p>Appendices J-1 to J-5 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2) set out a summary of responses received under section 42 and section 47 of the PA 2008 (by EIA topic area) and regard had by the Applicant. None of the consultation responses specified that they had submitted under section 48 of the PA 2008. Responses to the targeted consultation and the regard had to them by the Applicant are included in Appendix K-3 (Document Ref. 5.2).</p>
<p>S50(3) Regard to guidance about pre-application procedure</p>		
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 M-1 and M-2 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2) evidences how the Applicant has complied with the Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process. While consultation was conducted and completed under that guidance which was in force at the time, updated guidance has also been complied with as shown in Appendix M-1 and M-2 of the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2).</p>

25	Summary: Section 55(3)(e)	
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. The application is made in the prescribed form as set out in Schedule 2 of the APFP Regulations.</p> <p>The Application Cover Letter (Document Ref. 1.1) provides a brief statement as to why the Proposed Development falls within the remit of PINS, as well as Section 4 of the Application Form (Document Ref. 1.3) and the Explanatory Memorandum (Document Ref. 3.2).</p> <p>Section 5 of the Application Form (Document Ref. 1.3) provides a brief non-technical description of the Site and Section 6 provides the location of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>A Location, Order Limits and Grid Coordinates Plan (Document Ref. 2.1) has been provided to show the location of the Proposed Development.</p>
27	Is it accompanied by a Consultation Report?	Yes. The Application is accompanied by a Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.1) and the Appendices, from Appendix A1 to Appendix M, to the Consultation Report (Document Ref. 5.2)
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. Several plans comprise of three or more separate sheets. These are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location, Order Limits and Grid Coordinates Plan (Document Ref. 2.1). • Land Plans (Document Ref. 2.2). • Onshore Works Plans (Document Ref. 2.3.1). • Offshore Works Plans (Document Ref. 2.3.2). • Indicative Converter Site plan, section and engineering drawings (Document Ref. 2.6).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rights of Way, Streets and Access Plans (Document Ref. 2.7) • Onshore Crown Land Plans (Document Ref. 2.8.1). • Offshore Crown Land Plans (Document Ref. 2.8.2) 										
29	Is it accompanied by the documents and information set out in APFP Regulation 5(2)?	Yes. The documents and information required by the APFP Regulation 5(2) are set out as listed below. The Guide to the Application (document ref. 1.2) and the Electronic Application Index (document ref. 1.5) list the documents submitted and accompanying APFP Regulation references.										
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;"></th> <th style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">Information</th> <th style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">Document</th> <th style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">Information</th> <th style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">Document</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">a)</td> <td>Where applicable, the Environmental Statement required under the EIA Regulations and any scoping or screening opinions or directions</td> <td> Yes. The Application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement comprising the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Statement – Volume 1 – Introduction chapters/appendices/ figures (document ref. 6.1) • Environmental Statement – Volume 2 – Onshore chapters/appendices/ figures (document ref. 6.2) • Environmental Statement – Volume 3 – Offshore chapters/appendices/ </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">b)</td> <td> The draft Development Consent Order (DCO) Yes. The Application includes a draft Development Consent Order (document ref. 3.1). </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Information	Document	Information	Document	a)	Where applicable, the Environmental Statement required under the EIA Regulations and any scoping or screening opinions or directions	Yes. The Application is accompanied by an Environmental Statement comprising the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Statement – Volume 1 – Introduction chapters/appendices/ figures (document ref. 6.1) • Environmental Statement – Volume 2 – Onshore chapters/appendices/ figures (document ref. 6.2) • Environmental Statement – Volume 3 – Offshore chapters/appendices/ 	b)	The draft Development Consent Order (DCO) Yes. The Application includes a draft Development Consent Order (document ref. 3.1).
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c)		<p>figures (document ref. 6.3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Statement – Volume 4 – Combined Assessments chapters/appendices/figures (document ref. 6.4) • Environmental Statement – Volume 5 – Non-Technical Summary (document ref. 6.5) 	d)		
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?			Is this of a satisfactory standard?	
	An Explanatory Memorandum explaining the purpose and effect of provisions in the draft DCO	Yes. The Application includes an Explanatory Memorandum (document ref. 3.2). This explains the purpose and effect of the provisions of the draft Development Consent Order (document ref. 3.1).		Where applicable, a Book of Reference	Yes. The Application includes a Book of Reference (document ref. 4.3). This meets DCLG’s Planning Act 2008: guidance related to procedures for the compulsory acquisition of land.
Is this of a satisfactory standard?		Is this of a satisfactory standard?			

e)	A copy of any Flood Risk Assessment	Yes. The Application includes a Flood Risk Assessment at Volume 2, Appendix 3.1 of the ES (document ref. 6.2).	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	Yes. A Statutory Nuisance Statement (document ref. 7.5) is provided as part of the Application.
	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)	Yes. The Application includes a Statement of Reasons (document ref. 4.1). In addition, a Funding Statement is also provided (document ref. 4.2).	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	Yes. The Application includes the Land Plans (document ref. 2.2) showing the land required/affected by the Proposed Development. These are in accordance with Regulation 5(2)(i) of the APFP Regulations. Plots and descriptions listed within the Book of Reference (document ref. 4.3) are consistent with the plots shown on the Land Plans. Special Category Land plans are submitted in part 2 documents (document ref. 2.9).

			<p>extinguish easements, servitudes and other private rights; and</p> <p>(iv) any special category land and replacement land</p>	
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	
j)	<p>A Works Plan showing, in relation to existing features:-</p> <p>(i) the proposed location or (for a linear scheme) the proposed route and alignment of the development and works; and</p> <p>(ii) the limits within which the development and works may be carried out</p>	<p>The Application includes Onshore and Offshore Works Plans (document ref. 2.3.1 and 2.3.2). The Works Plans accord with APFP Regulation 5(2)(j), and show the proposed location of the development and the limits within which the works are proposed to be carried out.</p>	k)	<p>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</p> <p>Yes. The Application includes Rights of Way, Streets and Access Plan (document ref. 2.7). These plans are in accordance with Regulation 5(2)(o) of the APFP Regulations.</p>

	and any limits of deviation provided for in the draft DCO				
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?			Is this of a satisfactory standard?	
l)	<p>Where applicable, a plan with accompanying information identifying:-</p> <p>(i) any statutory or non-statutory sites or features of nature conservation eg sites of geological or landscape importance;</p> <p>(ii) habitats of protected species, important habitats or other diversity features; and</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>(i) sites of nature conservation and geological importance are shown at Volume 2, Chapter 1, Figures 1.1a-b Onshore Ecology and Nature Conservation of the ES (document ref. 6.2.1.1)</p> <p>(ii) landscape designations are shown on Volume 4, Chapter 2, Figure 2.2 LSVIA of the ES (document ref. 6.4.2.2)</p> <p>(iii) WFD catchments and hydrological designations are shown on Volume 2, Chapter 3, Figures 3.3 and 3.6 Hydrology and Flood risk of the ES (document ref.</p>	m)	<p>Where applicable, a plan with accompanying information identifying any statutory or non-statutory sites or features of the historic environment, (eg 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>Yes.</p> <p>Plans identifying any statutory and non-statutory sites of historic interest can be found in Volume 2, Figure 2.2: Designated Heritage Assets within the 1km Settings Study Area, and Volume 2, Figure 2.3: Designated Heritage Assets within the 5km Settings Study Area of the ES (document ref. 6.2.2.3).</p> <p>In terms of offshore, Plans identifying the designated and non-designated heritage assets can be found in Volume 3, Figure 7.1 and Figure 7.2.</p> <p>Further assessments of the effects have been presented within Volume 2, Chapter 2: Historic Environment of the Environmental Statement (document ref. 6.2.2). Also, within Volume 3, Chapter 7: Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage of the Environmental Statement (document ref. 6.3.7)</p>

n)	(iii) water bodies in a river basin management plan, together with an assessment of any effects on such sites, features, habitats or bodies likely to be caused by the Proposed Development	6.2). The assessment of potential effects to the surface water environment is contained within ES Chapter 3, Figures 3.3 and 3.6 Hydrology and Flood risk of the ES (document ref. 6.2.3.3 and 6.2.3.6).	o)		
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?			Is this of a satisfactory standard?	
	Where applicable, a plan with any accompanying information identifying any Crown land	Yes. The Application includes Onshore Crown Plans (document ref. 2.8.1), and Offshore Crown Plans (document ref. 2.8.2).		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	Yes. The DCO is accompanied by the following plans and drawings which are provided under Regulation 5(2)(o) of the APFP Regulations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location, Order Limits and Grid Coordinate Plan (document ref. 2.1) • Vegetation Removal Plan (document ref. 2.5). • Illustrative / Indicative Layout Plan (document ref. 2.6) • Rights of Way, Streets and Access Plan (document ref. 2.7)

p)			q)	access, any car parking and landscaping	
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?			Are they of a satisfactory standard?	
	Any of the documents prescribed by Regulation 6 of the APFP Regulations:	Yes. The Application includes a Grid Connection and Cable Statement (document ref. 7.5).		Any other documents considered necessary to support the application	<p>The following documents have been included in support of the Application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design Principles (Document Ref. 7.4) • Outline Onshore Construction Environmental Management Plan (document ref. 7.7). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outline Pollution Prevention Plan ○ Outline Site Resource and Waste Management Plan ○ Outline Dust Management Plan ○ Outline Soil Management Plan ○ Outline Arboricultural Method Statement • Outline Onshore Written Scheme of Investigation (document ref. 7.8). • Outline Offshore Construction Environmental Management Plan (document ref. 7.9). • Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (document ref. 7.10).

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (document ref. 7.11) • Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (document ref. 7.12) • Outline Accommodation Strategy (document ref. 7.13) • Offshore Water Framework Directive (WFD) Assessment (document ref. 7.14) • Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Assessment (document ref. 7.15) • Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) (document ref. 7.16) • Outline Decommissioning Strategy (document ref. 7.17) • Outline Offshore Biosecurity Plan (document ref. 7.19) • Outline Bentonite Breakout Plan (document ref. 7.20) • Other Consents and Agreements (document ref. 7.21) • Outline Operational Drainage Strategy (document ref. 7.22) • Outline Skills and Employment Strategy (document ref. 7.23)
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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	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)?		Yes. A Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) is provided at as a stand-alone document in Part 7 of the Application (document ref. 7.16) for the offshore elements only.	
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?		The PINS confirmed that no hard copies of the Application are required at the point of the submission. The applicant has not been advised that any documents are required in hard copy.	
33	Has the Applicant had regard to statutory guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Application form guidance'?		The Applicant has had regard to the DCLG guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Application form guidance' when preparing the Application. The Applicant considered that the Application has been prepared to the standards that the Secretary of State considers satisfactory.	

34	Summary - s55(3)(f) and s55(5A)	
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 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 invoice. If the applicant fails to pay the fee within 28 days, 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>No. The Applicant has not paid the pre-application service fees before the application was made. The Applicant will pay this following acceptance of the Application.</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</p>	<p>The fee payment of £8796.00 was made on 13th November 2024 by a BACS transfer, in advance of the Application submission. This was confirmed as received by PINS.</p>

must be paid at the same time that the application is made	
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Role	Electronic signature	Date
Case Manager		
Acceptance Inspector		

