



Planning Inspectorate
Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

Section 55

Acceptance of Applications Checklist

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

Version: October 2024

Xlinks Morocco-UK Power Project 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
		21 November 2024	19 December 2024	19 December 2024
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	<p>Yes</p> <p>Section 4 of the Application Form (Doc 1.3) states:</p> <p><i>“The Proposed Development would connect the generation assets in Morocco and associated cable infrastructure (routed through Morocco, Spain, Portugal and France) to the national grid high voltage transmission network, via cable infrastructure and converter stations within UK jurisdiction. This would enable the delivery of an output of up to 3.6 Gigawatts (GW).</i></p>		

	<p>the development to 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><i>Development consent is required for the Proposed Development, under the definitions of an NSIP set out in sections 14 to 16 of the Planning Act 2008, the Proposed Development does not meet the criteria; however, under Section 35(1) of the Planning Act 2008, ‘the Secretary of State may give a direction for development to be treated as development for which development consent is required’ if certain criteria (including the type and location of the development) are met.”</i></p> <p>A copy of the s35 Direction is provided with the application at Annex 4 of the Planning Statement (Doc 7.2). It confirms the Secretary of State’s decision that the Proposed Development, and any associated matters, should be treated as development for which development consent is required under the PA2008.</p>
3	<p>Summary: Section 55(3)(a) and s55(3)(c)</p>	<p>The Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the Draft DCO (Doc 3.1) includes development for which development consent is required.</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>On 29 January 2024, the Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate in accordance with Regulation 8(1)(b) of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 of its intention to provide an Environmental Statement (ES) in respect of the Proposed Development. The notification was received before the start of statutory consultation on 16 May 2024.</p> <p>A copy of the notification letter is provided at Appendix G-1.1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 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>Yes</p> <p>There are 12 host and neighbouring authorities, of which 4 responded to the Planning Inspectorate’s invitation to make an Adequacy of Consultation Representation (AoCR) dated 22 November 2024.</p> <p>All 4 responding authorities confirmed in their AoCR that either the Applicant had complied with its duties under s42, s47 and s48 of the PA2008 and/ or that their authority had no comments/ objections to make. These local authorities were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Devon Council (B authority) • Torridge District Council (B authority) • Devon County Council (C authority) • Dorset Council (D authority) <p>All AoCRs received have been carefully considered and are available to view on the National Infrastructure Planning website: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010164</p>
<p>Section 42: Duty to consult</p>		
<p>Did the Applicant consult the applicable persons set out in s42 of the PA2008 about the proposed application?</p>		
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</p> <p>The Applicant has provided a list of persons consulted under s42(1)(a) on 16 May 2024, and again on 31 May 2024 following the identification of missing information from the PEIR, at Appendix E-1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2).</p>

		<p>Samples of the letters sent to s42(1)(a) consultees are provided at Appendix F-1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2).</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate has identified the following parties based on a precautionary interpretation of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations) that were not consulted by the Applicant under s42:</p> <p>National Highways (Devon C.C. consulted as H/W authority) NH were consulted under s42(1)(d) and are in the BoR.</p> <p>The Maritime and Coastguard Agency - Southwest England (Plymouth Marine Office) – main office (Portsmouth) contacted.</p> <p>Independent Distribution Connection Specialists Ltd</p> <p>The Applicant's Consultation Report (Doc 5.2) does not explain why the bodies identified above have not been consulted. However, it is noted that the licences held by these bodies cover Great Britain or various smaller areas and the operational areas of each are not clear from information in the public domain.</p> <p>None of the bodies listed above have been identified by the Applicant as having an interest in the Order lands and are not listed in the Book of Reference (Doc 4.3).</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 MMO is included in the list of persons the Applicant consulted under s42(1)(a) on 16 May 2024, and again on 31 May 2024 following the identification of missing information from the PEIR, at Appendix E-1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2).</p>
8	<p>Section 42(1)(b) each local authority within s43?</p>	<p>Yes</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 (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>	<p>Table 6-1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) lists the relevant local authorities that were identified and consulted under s43 and s42(1)(b) on 16 May 2024 following the identification of mission information from the PEIR.</p> <p>The host 'B' authority was consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Devon Council • Torridge District Council <p>The host 'C' authority was consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devon County Council <p>The boundary 'A' authorities were consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cornwall Council • Mid Devon District Council • Somerset Council • West Devon District Council <p>The boundary 'D' authorities were consulted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cornwall Council • Dartmoor National Park Authority • Dorset Council • Plymouth City Council • Somerset Council • Torbay Council
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		A sample of the letter sent to s42(1)(b) relevant authorities is provided at Appendix F-1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2) .
9	Section 42(1)(c) the Greater London Authority (if in Greater London area)?	N/A
10	Section 42(1)(d) each person in one or more of s44 categories? 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>Yes</p> <p>Paragraph 6.2.6 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) states that all persons identified under s42(1)(d) were consulted on 16 May 2024, and again on 31 May 2024 following the identification of missing information from the PEIR.</p> <p>Paragraphs 6.2.7 to 6.2.8 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) summarise how the Applicant made diligent inquiry to seek to identify and consult persons with an interest in lands affected by the Draft DCO (Doc 3.1).</p> <p>Paragraphs 6.2.16 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) explains that persons with a Category 3 interest in land were identified after the start of the consultation period. The Applicant wrote to those consultees on 31 May 2024 providing until 11 July 2024 to respond to the consultation.</p> <p>The persons consulted under s42(1)(d) are listed at Appendix E-3 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2).</p> <p>Samples of the letters sent to s42(1)(d) consultees are provided at Appendix F-1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2).</p>
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	<p>Yes</p> <p>Samples of the letters sent to s42(1)(a) and (b) consultees are provided at Appendix F-1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2).</p>

	<p>Applicant 28 days or more starting with the day after receipt of the consultation documents?</p>	<p>The sample letter dated 9 May 2024 confirmed that consultation commenced on 16 May 2024 and closed on 27 June 2024, providing more than the required minimum time for receipt of responses.</p> <p>The sample letter dated 31 May 2024 confirmed that consultation deadline was extended to 11 July 2024, again providing more than the required minimum time for receipt of responses.</p> <p>Samples of the letters sent to s42(1)(d) consultees are provided at Appendix F-1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2).</p> <p>The sample letter dated 15 May 2024 confirmed that consultation commenced on 16 May 2024 and closed on 27 June 2024, providing more than the required minimum time for receipt of responses.</p> <p>The sample letter dated 31 May 2024 confirmed that consultation deadline was extended to 11 July 2024, again providing more than the required minimum time for receipt of responses.</p> <p>A sample of the letter sent to Category 3 persons identified after the start of consultation is provided at Appendix F-1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2).</p> <p>The sample letter dated 31 May 2024 confirmed that consultation commenced on 31 May 2024 and closed on 11 July 2024, providing more than the required minimum time for receipt of responses.</p>
<p>Section 46: Duty to notify the Planning Inspectorate of proposed application</p>		
<p>12</p>	<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</p> <p>The Applicant gave notice under s46 on 15 May 2024, which was before the beginning of s42 consultation.</p> <p>A copy of the s46 notification letter, and the acknowledgement letter from the Planning Inspectorate, is provided at Appendix F-2 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2).</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>A copy of the final SoCC is provided at Appendix D-1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2).</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 Applicant sent the draft SoCC to Torridge District Council and North Devon Council ('B authorities') and Devon County Council ('C' authority) on 25 March 2024 and set a deadline of 22 April 2024 for responses; providing the required minimum time for responses to be received.</p> <p>A copy of the email sent is provided at Appendix C-2 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2).</p>
15	Has the Applicant had regard to any responses received when preparing the SoCC?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Appendix C-3 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2) provides a copy of the consultation responses from Devon County Council and North Devon Council in respect of the draft SoCC. Appendix C-4 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2) explains how the Applicant had regard to their content.</p> <p>Paragraph 5.7.2 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) lists the changes to the draft SoCC.</p> <p>Examples of changes from the draft SoCC to the final SoCC include:</p> <p>The Applicant included scheduled times for consultation events.</p> <p>The Applicant clarified that consultation would be publicised through social media advertising.</p>

		The Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the Applicant had regard to the responses received when preparing the SoCC.
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 final SoCC was made available at the following locations, which is reasonably convenient having regard to the location of the Proposed Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant’s proposed development website • Northam Library • Pollyfield Community Centre <p>A notice stating when and where the final SoCC could be inspected was published in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Devon Gazette <p>The published SoCC notice, provided at Appendix D-1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2) states where and when the final SoCC was available to inspect.</p> <p>Clippings of the published advertisements are provided at Appendix D-1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2).</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>Page 11 of the final SoCC at Appendix D-1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2) sets out that the development is EIA development and sets out how the Applicant intended to publicise and consult on the Preliminary Environmental Information.</p>

18	Has the Applicant carried out the consultation in accordance with the SoCC?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Paragraph 6.4 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) states that the community consultation was carried out in line with the final SoCC.</p> <p>Appendix D-2 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2) sets out how the Applicant has complied with the commitments set out in the final SoCC.</p> <p>Appendix D-2 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2) provides evidence that the commitments within the final SoCC have been carried out.</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>Paragraph 6.5 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) provides details of how the Applicant publicised the proposed application.</p> <p>Table 6.7 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) lists the newspapers and dates of the s48 publicity as set out below.</p> <p>A copy of both the original s48 notice, and the s48 notice published following the extension to the consultation, are provided at Appendix I-1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2).</p> <p>Clippings of the published notices set out below are provided at Appendix I-1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2):</p>						
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 5%;"></th> <th style="width: 40%; text-align: center;">Newspaper(s)</th> <th style="width: 55%; text-align: center;">Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">a)</td> <td>for at least two successive weeks in one or more local newspapers circulating in the vicinity in which the Proposed Development would be situated;</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Devon Gazette </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				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;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Devon Gazette
	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;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Devon Gazette 						
		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 40%;"></td> <td style="width: 55%;"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						

b)	once in a national newspaper;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Guardian 	16 May 2024 and again on 5 June 2024
c)	once in the London Gazette and, if land in Scotland is affected, the Edinburgh Gazette; and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The London Gazette 	16 May 2024 and again on 7 June 2024
d)	where the proposed application relates to offshore development – (i) once in Lloyds List; and (ii) once in an appropriate fishing trade journal?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lloyds List Fishing News 	16 May 2024 and again on 7 June 2024 23 May 2024 and again on 13 June 2024
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>Both the original s48 notice, and the s48 notice published following the extension to the consultation, supplied at Appendix I-1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2), contain the required information as set out below:</p>	

Information		Paragraph	Information		Paragraph
a)	the name and address of the Applicant.	1	b)	a statement that the Applicant intends to make an application for development consent to the Secretary of State	1
c)	a statement as to whether the application is EIA development	6 & 7	d)	a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the Proposed Development	3 & 4

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. 	9 & 10	f)	the latest date on which those documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection	9 & 10
g)	whether a charge will be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge	11 & 12	h)	details of how to respond to the publicity	13
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	13			
21	Are there any observations in respect of the s48 notice provided above?				
	No				
22	Has a copy of the s48 notice been sent to the EIA consultation bodies and to any person	Yes			

	notified to the Applicant in accordance with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations?	<p>A copy of the s48 notice was sent to the EIA consultation bodies as part of the s42 consultation, as confirmed in Appendix F-1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2).</p> <p>A sample of the s42 consultation letter provided at Appendix F-1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2) confirms a copy of the s48 notice was enclosed.</p>
s49: Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity		
23	Has the Applicant had regard to any relevant responses to the s42, s47 and s48 consultation?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Chapter 7 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) sets out how the Applicant had regard to the consultation responses received; including whether responses led to changes to the application.</p> <p>The actions informed by the consultation responses appear to be reflected in the final form of the application as submitted. Where a particular response has not led to a change in the application, it is sufficiently clear that regard was had to it.</p>
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>Paragraph 1.1.1 of Appendix M-1 and Paragraph 2.1.1 of Appendix M-2 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) states that the Applicant has had regard to all relevant statutory guidance.</p> <p>Having reviewed the application, the Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the Applicants have identified and had regard to the relevant statutory guidance.</p>
25	Summary: Section 55(3)(e)	The Applicant has complied with Chapter 2 of Part 5 (pre-application procedure) of the PA2008.

		In respect of the minor consultation discrepancies identified, s51 advice has been provided to the Applicant in this regard, available here: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/EN010164-000385
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	Is it made in the prescribed form as set out in Schedule 2 of the APFP Regulations, and does it include: <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? 	Yes Section 4 of the Application Form (Doc 1.3) explains why the development falls within the remit of the Planning Inspectorate. Section 5 of the Application Form (Doc 1.3) provides a brief non-technical description of the site and section 6 provides the location of the Proposed Development. A Location Plan (Doc 2.1) has been provided.
27	Is it accompanied by a Consultation Report?	Yes The application is accompanied by a Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) and Consultation Report Appendices (Doc 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?	Yes
29	Is it accompanied by the documents and information set out in APFP Regulation 5(2)?	The documents and information required by APFP Regulation 5(2) are set out in the documents and locations within the application as listed below:

Information		Document		Information		Document	
a)	Where applicable, the Environmental Statement required under the EIA Regulations and any scoping or screening opinions or directions	<p>Doc 6.5: Non-technical Summary (Doc ref: 6.5)</p> <p>Environmental Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doc ref 6.1: Volume 1 Chapters 1-4, Appendices 1.1 – 5.3 • Figures 1.1 – 3.9 (Overarching) • Doc ref 6.2: Volume 2 Chapters 1-8 • Appendices 1.1 – 8.1 • Figures 1.1 – 8.9 (Onshore) • Doc ref 6.3: Volume 3 Chapters 1-9 • Appendices 1.1 – 8.4 	b)	The draft Development Consent Order (DCO)	Draft Development Consent Order (Doc 3.1)		

		<p>Figures 1.1 – 7.2 (Offshore)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doc ref 6.4: Volume 4 Chapters 1-5 Appendices 1.1 – 2.6 <p>Figures 1.1 – 4.2 (whole project)</p> <p>Volume 1: Appendix 5.1: Scoping Responses (Doc ref: 6.1)</p>			
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<i>Yes (with minor discrepancies as noted in Box 30)</i>		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes
c)	An Explanatory Memorandum explaining the purpose and effect of provisions in the draft DCO	Explanatory Memorandum (Doc 3.2)	d)	Where applicable, a Book of Reference	Book of Reference (Doc 4.3)

	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes
e)	A copy of any Flood Risk Assessment	ES Appendix 3.1 – Flood Risk Assessment (Doc 6.2.3.1)	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 (Doc 7.6)
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<i>Yes (with minor discrepancies as noted in Box 30)</i>		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes
h)	A Statement of Reasons and a Funding Statement (where the application involves any Compulsory Acquisition)	Statement of Reasons (Doc 4.1) Funding Statement (Doc 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	Land Plans (Doc 2.2) Special Category Land Plans (Doc 2.9)

				<p>Compulsory Acquisition or any rights to use land;</p> <p>(iii) any land in relation to which it is proposed to 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?	Yes		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<i>Yes (with minor discrepancies as noted in Box 30)</i>
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>Onshore Works Plans (Doc 2.3.1)</p> <p>Offshore Works Plans (Doc 2.3.2)</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>Rights of Way and Streets and Access Plans (Doc 2.7)</p>

	(ii) the limits within which the development and works may be carried out and any limits of deviation provided for in the draft DCO			
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes		Is this of a satisfactory standard? Yes
l)	Where applicable, a plan with accompanying information identifying:- (i) any statutory or non-statutory sites or features of nature conservation eg sites of geological or landscape importance; (ii) habitats of protected species, important habitats or other diversity features; and	i) Statutory and Non-Statutory Nature Conservation Sites ES Volume 2 Doc ref 6.2: • Figure 1.2a: Statutory Designated Sites within the Onshore Ecology Study Area • Figure 1.2b: Non-statutory designated sites within the onshore	m)	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 ES Volume 2 Chapter 2 Figure 2.2: Designated Heritage Assets within 1km ES Volume 2 Chapter 2 Figure 2.3: Designated Heritage Assets within 5km An assessment of the effects on such sites, features and structures is provided in: ES Volume 2 Chapter 2 (Doc 6.2.2): Historic Environment

<p>(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</p>	<p>Ecology Study area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Figure 3.6: Designated Sites <p>Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) (Doc 7.16)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Figure 2: SACs in the UK with potential for connectivity to the Proposed Development • Figure 3: SACs in French waters with potential connectivity to the Proposed Development • Figure 4: SPAs and Ramsar Sites in the UK with potential connectivity to the Proposed Development 		<p>caused by the Proposed Development</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Figure 5: SPAs in French waters with potential connectivity to the Proposed Development <p>ii)</p> <p>ES Volume 3 Doc 6.3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Figure 1.4: Designated Sites with Benthic Features • Figure 2.9 Designated Sites within the Study Area • Figure 8.2 Environmental Designations • Figure 8.3 Environmental Designations <p>Assessment for the effects on such sites, features, habitats or bodies provided in:</p>			
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		<p>ES Volume 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 1 (Doc 6.2.1): Onshore Ecology and Nature Conservation • Chapter 4 (Doc 6.2.4): Geology Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions <p>ES Volume 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 1 (Doc 6.3.1) Benthic Ecology • Chapter 2 (Doc 6.3.2) Fish and Shellfish Ecology • Chapter 3 (Doc 6.3.3) Commercial Fisheries • Chapter 4 (Doc 6.3.4) Marine 			
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	<p>Mammals and Turtles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7 (Doc 6.3.7) <p>Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 8 (Doc 6.3.8) <p>Physical Processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 9 (Doc 6.3.9) <p>Offshore Ornithology</p> <p>Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment (RIAA) (Doc 7.16)</p> <p>ES Volume 4 Chapter 5 Inter-related Effects (Doc 6.4.5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table 5.6 - Onshore Ecology and Nature Conservation; 			
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table 5.9 - Geology, Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions; • Table 5.14 - Benthic Ecology; • Table 5.15 - Fish and Shellfish Ecology; • Table 5.16 - Commercial Fisheries; • Table 5.17 - Marine Mammals and Turtles; • Table 5.20 - Marine Archaeology and Cultural Heritage; • Table 5.21 - Physical Processes; • Table 5.22 - Offshore Ornithology; 			
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		<p>iii) ES Volume 2 Figure 3.3 Water Framework Directive Catchments</p> <p>ES Volume 2 Figure 3.3 WFD Catchments</p> <p>An assessment of effects on waterbodies in a river basin management plan is provided in:</p> <p>ES Volume 2, Appendix 3.2: Onshore Water Framework Directive Assessment</p>			
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	<i>Yes (with minor discrepancies as noted in Box 30)</i>		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes
n)	Where applicable, a plan with any accompanying information identifying any Crown land	<p>Onshore Crown Land Plans (Doc 2.8.1)</p> <p>Offshore Crown Land Plans (Doc 2.8.2)</p>	o)	Any other plans, drawings and sections necessary to describe the development consent proposal showing details of design, external	<p>Location Order Limits and Grid Coordinates Plan (Doc 2.1)</p> <p>Tree and Hedgerow Schedule (Doc 2.5)</p>

p)			q)	appearance, and the preferred layout of buildings, structures, drainage, surface water management, means of vehicular and pedestrian access, any car parking and landscaping	Indicative Converter Site Plan with Sections and Engineering Drawings (Doc 2.6)
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes		Are they of a satisfactory standard?	Yes
	Any of the documents prescribed by Regulation 6 of the APFP Regulations:	Grid and Cable Connection Statement (Doc 7.5)		Any other documents considered necessary to support the application	N/A
	Are they of a satisfactory standard?	Yes		Are they of a satisfactory standard?	<i>n/a</i>
30	Are there any observations in respect of the documents provided at Box 29 (a) to (q) above?				
	<p>Land Plans (Doc 2.2)</p> <p>Blue line (also show in red) depicted on sheet 1 of 14 appears to show 'Mean High Water Line', however this is not listed in the key / legend.</p> <p>Sheet 7 Insets: Plots 7-04 & 7-08 are labelled correctly in main plan but misnumbered in insets 7a, 7c & 7d.</p> <p>ES Volume 1 Appendix 5.3 (Doc 6.1.5.3): Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) Screening Matrix</p>				

This includes a plan for tier 1 developments and tier 3 developments but not a plan for tier 2 developments.

ES Volume 2 Figure 3.1 - Hydrology and Flood Risk Study Area

The background map is illegible in this figure.

ES Volume 2 Chapter 1: Onshore Ecology and Nature Conservation (Doc 6.2.1)

Paragraph 1.16.7 is absent from this chapter.

Section 51 advice has been issued to the Applicant in respect of the above matters:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/EN010164-000385>

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)?	<p>Yes</p> <p>A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report has been provided (Doc 7.16: Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment).</p> <p>The HRA Report identifies relevant European sites and the likely effects on those sites. It is considered that the information provided in the report is adequate for acceptance.</p> <p>Note: The Examining Authority will be able to ask questions during the Examination. This may result in additional information being required to inform the HRA Report and the competent authority. Depending upon the type and availability of information required it may not be possible to obtain this during the statutory timetable of the Examination.</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?	<p>No hard copies requested.</p>

33	Has the Applicant had regard to statutory guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Application form guidance'?	<p>Yes</p> <p>The 'Application Formalities' Section of the Application Cover Letter (Doc 1.1) explains how the Applicant has had regard to statutory guidance on the application form.</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the Applicant has demonstrated regard to the guidance principles.</p>
34	Summary - s55(3)(f) and s55(5A)	<p>The Planning Inspectorate concludes that the application (including accompaniments) has been prepared to a standard that it considers satisfactory.</p> <p>In respect of the discrepancies identified in Box 30 of this checklist, to help facilitate an efficient and effective examination of the application s51 advice has been provided to the Applicant in conjunction with the decision to accept the application. That advice is published on the National Infrastructure Planning website, here: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/EN010164-000385</p>
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</p>	<p>Not applicable. The Applicant is not required to pay any pre-application fees under Regulation 2A of the Infrastructure Planning (Fees) Regulations 2010 (as amended).</p>

	<p>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>	
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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 fee was received on 13 November 2024; before the application was made.</p>
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Role	Electronic signature	Date
Case Manager	<i>Spencer Barrowman</i>	19 December 2024
Acceptance Inspector	<i>Liam Page</i>	19 December 2024

