

Norwich to Tilbury – EN020027

National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)

Section 51 Advice Log

Version: 14 January 2025

There is a statutory duty under [section 51 \(s51\) of the Planning Act 2008](#) for the Planning Inspectorate to record the advice that it gives in relation to an application or potential application, and to make this publicly available.

This document comprises a record of the advice that has been provided by the Inspectorate to the applicant (National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET)) and their consultants during the pre-application stage. It will be updated by the Inspectorate after every interaction with the applicant during which s51 has been provided. The applicant will always be given the opportunity to comment on the Inspectorate's draft record of advice before it is published.

The applicant will use this Advice Log as the basis for demonstrating regard to section 51 advice within the application.

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Date of meeting	Meeting overview
23 October 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome and introductions 2. Overview of the project (refresh) 3. Previous PINS Meeting 4. Statutory Consultation (wrap up) 5. PINS pre-application Standard Tier Service <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Program Document – content and update b) Draft documents to be shared for PINS review 6. PINS Advice notes / new documents 7. Stakeholder engagement (update) 8. Environmental (update) 9. Lands (update) 10. Examination readiness 11. Future project update meetings 12. Next Steps 13. AOB
14 January 2025	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome and introductions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Section 51 advice b) Security and protection of information policy 2. Background 3. Targeted consultation 4. PINS pre-application prospectus Standard Tier documents update 5. Programme Document update

	6. DCO plans and documents review – new PINS advice page 7. AOB
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Topic	Meeting date: 23 October 2024
LPA engagement	The Inspectorate emphasised the importance of Local Authorities to the Applicant, with the size of the project the engagement of Local Authorities is vital.
Resourcing	The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to consider the resource capacity of Natural England and other statutory environmental bodies. The Applicant advised they haven't found any gaps in Natural England's resourcing with regards the input they have been seeking. The Applicant explained that with Planning Performance Agreement (PPA) and SLA in place as well as giving as much notice as possible there have been no resourcing issues identified as yet even with the scale of the project.
British Pipeline Agency	The Inspectorate advised the Applicant they had received an email from the British Pipeline Agency (BPA), regarding their concerns around a high-pressure pipeline and the Applicant's approach to assessment of major accidents and disasters in the Environmental Statement (ES). The Inspectorate explained that it had advised the BPA to continue to contact the Applicant with any comments on the Proposed Development.
Draft Document Review	The Applicant highlighted the draft documents they planned to share with the Inspectorate in January. The Inspectorate advised that in order to provide an effective review of the documents they should be well advanced in their drafting. The Inspectorate advised that documents listed by the Applicant are part of the draft document review service, but for the Environmental Statement only the Project Description chapter will be reviewed. The Inspectorate advised it would take 6 weeks for all draft documents to be reviewed.
Programme Document	<p>The Applicant advised their programme document hasn't been updated as they are waiting until the Inspectorate makes comments on all National Grids programme documents during October 2025. The Inspectorate advised there will be commentary on the already submitted programme document attached to this advice log.</p> <p>The Inspectorate advised that the programme document needs to be clear and precise with dates to help the Inspectorate deploy resources effectively. The Inspectorate told the Applicant to outline when any proposed update meetings with the Inspectorate or statutory bodies will be. The Inspectorate also highlighted that abbreviations need</p>

	<p>clarified as well as any cross referencing to the Statement of Community Consultation.</p> <p>The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to ensure regard to advice given throughout pre-application stage is clearly demonstrated within the submission.</p>
Policy Compliance	<p>The Applicant asked if the policy compliance document needs to be submitted individually. The Inspectorate advised it will need to be submitted as a separate document.</p>
Issues Tracker	<p>The Applicant asked the Inspectorate for any advice regarding the issues tracker. The Inspectorate advised the tracker should begin at the start of pre-app and monitored right the way through to feed to the main issues of examination. This is critical as it carries on throughout pre-application and feeds through to the main issues of examination and is beneficial for statutory parties The Inspectorate advised the issues tracker is also used by statutory bodies who will provide a RAG rating against issues and demonstrate the risk associated with each topic. The Inspectorate then referred the Applicant to the flow chart in the pre-app prospectus.</p>
HRA Document	<p>The Applicant asked the Inspectorate if the HRA Stage 1: Screening report and Stage 2: Information to Inform Appropriate Assessment report could be presented in the same document. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that the Stage 1 and 2 information can be presented in the same document, although noted that these reports are often provided as separate documents due to their size/ length and to assist with navigation.</p>
Advice Note	<p>The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Good Design has been published today and by mid-November an advice note on linear projects will be published.</p>
Future Meetings	<p>With regards to future meetings the Inspectorate advised the Applicant to provide potential future dates ahead of time for the Inspectorate to check against its own availability.</p>
Hearing Venues	<p>The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to begin finding potential hearing venues now. The Inspectorate advised there is a list of requirements that can be sent to the Applicant, along with a list of AV companies. The Applicant queried if other large projects have held hearings across multiple locations. The Inspectorate told the Applicant this has been done in the past.</p>

Submission format	The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that a glossary should be provided for each application document.
Document Submission	The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that the documents 'consents and other licences required under other legislation' and 'details of other consents and licences' are separate documents which should be submitted with the application as each would cover distinct circumstances.
Template Amendments	The Applicant asked if the template for the Commitments Register can be amended to fit all the necessary information. Advice from the Inspectorate is that the template can be amended by the Applicant, as required, to ensure the information is presented clearly.
Application Advice	The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that their submission will need to include details of all structures and accesses included within the project scope.
Topic	Meeting date: 14 January 2025
Feedback Review	The Applicant showed the Inspectorate a diagram of its feedback review and design change process. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to include the diagram within the Consultation Report, and within materials being made available for consultation, to explain the approach to targeted consultation and why changes have/have not been made, following previous consultation.
Finalising Route	The Inspectorate advised the Applicant of the importance of finalising the route during pre-application, ahead of the application submission. The Inspectorate advised that change requests during examination, that engage the Compulsory Acquisition Regulations, add significant complications to the examination.
Consultation	The Applicant confirmed that Local Authorities have not raised concerns with the Applicant's approach to targeted consultation. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to include the Local Authorities' feedback in the Adequacy of Consultation Milestone, Consultation Report and the materials being made available for the consultation periods.
Consultation	The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to ensure that as changes have been made to the red line boundary, any new relevant prescribed consultation bodies (eg relevant parish councils) are identified and included in future consultation.
Consultation	The Applicant advised it will be holding a variety of targeted consultations for changes to the application. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to ensure it documents the different consultations in the Consultation Report and when undertaking the consultations clearly set out what they are consulting on and when to avoid confusion for consultees.

Submission of Draft Documents	<p>The Inspectorate requested the Applicant give clear dates for draft document submission to allow the Inspectorate to allocate resources appropriately. This should be clearly reflected in the Programme Document (PD) and an updated PD provided to the Inspectorate, as well as published on the Applicant's website.</p> <p>The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to consider whether the draft document review would be more helpful if it took place after the further consultation has closed to ensure that final versions of documents are reviewed.</p>
Good Design	<p>The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to view the recent webinar on Achieving good design in Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. This follows on from the good advice page that was signposted in the previous meeting. It is important that the Applicant demonstrates regard to these in the design documents, demonstrating how the design has evolved during the pre-application stage following advice and feedback.</p>
Mitigation	<p>The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to clearly demonstrate how it has applied the mitigation hierarchy and the agreement it has from the Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies about how it has been applied.</p>
Protection Provisions	<p>The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to engage early with Statutory Undertakers on protective provisions ahead of submission to help ensure a more efficient Examination.</p>