

**Lower Thames Crossing
6.3 Environmental Statement
Appendices
Appendix 4.5 - EIA Methodology
Policy**

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

Infrastructure Planning (Applications:
Prescribed Forms and Procedure)
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Lower Thames Crossing

Appendix 4.5 EIA Methodology Policy

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1 EIA methodology policy framework

1.1 Policy

- 1.1.1 The assessments presented in this ES have been undertaken in accordance with relevant national, regional, and local plans and policies.
- 1.1.2 National policies relevant to EIA methodology are presented in Table 1.1 and Table 1.2, with the Project response to these requirements. Where there is duplication of requirements presented in the various relevant National Policy Statements, these have been combined and a single Project response to the policy issue is provided in the table.

Table 1.1 National policy requirements

Reference	Requirement	Project response
National Policy Statement for National Networks (NPSNN) (Department for Transport, 2014)		
4.15 (Environmental Impact Assessment)	<i>'All proposals for projects that are subject to the European Union's Environmental Impact Assessment Directive and are likely to have significant effects on the environment, must be accompanied by an environmental statement (ES), describing the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the project. The Directive specifically requires an environmental impact assessment to identify, describe and assess effects on human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate, the landscape, material assets and cultural heritage, and the interaction between them. Schedule 4 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 sets out the information that should be included in the environmental statement including a description of the likely significant effects of the proposed project on the environment, covering the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the project, and also the measures envisaged for avoiding or mitigating significant adverse effects [...] In this NPS, the terms 'effects', 'impacts' or 'benefits' should accordingly be understood to mean likely significant effects, impacts or benefits.'</i>	The NPSNN pre-dates the 2017 updates to the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (EIA Regulations), and the NPSNN references the 2009 EIA Regulations. The ES has been prepared in accordance with the 2017 EIA Regulations.
Paragraph 4.16 (extract)	<i>'When considering significant cumulative effects, any environmental statement should provide information on how the effects of the applicant's proposal would</i>	Cumulative effects are assessed in Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects

Reference	Requirement	Project response
	<i>combine and interact with the effects of other development (including projects for which consent has been granted, as well as those already in existence).'</i>	Assessment (Application Document 6.1).
Paragraph 4.17	<i>'The Examining Authority should consider how significant cumulative effects and the interrelationship between effects might as a whole affect the environment, even though they may be acceptable when considered on an individual basis with mitigation measures in place.'</i>	Cumulative effects are assessed in the relevant topic chapters and in Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects Assessment (Application Document 6.1).
Paragraph 4.18	<i>'In some instances, it may not be possible at the time of the application for development consent for all aspects of the proposal to have been settled in precise detail. Where this is the case, the applicant should explain in its application which elements of the proposal have yet to be finalised, and the reasons why this is the case.'</i>	The assessments in the ES have been undertaken in accordance with the principles set out in the Planning Inspectorate's (2018) Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope. The design parameters are discussed further in Chapter 2: Project Description (Application Document 6.1) and the environmental topic chapters.
Paragraph 4.19	<i>'Where some details are still to be finalised, applicants are advised to set out in the environmental statement, to the best of their knowledge, what the maximum extent of the proposed development may be (for example in terms of site area) and assess the potential adverse effects which the project could have to ensure that the impacts of the project as it may be constructed have been properly assessed.'</i>	The assessments in the ES have been undertaken in accordance with the principles set out in the Planning Inspectorate's (2018) Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope. The design parameters are discussed further in Chapter 2: Project Description (Application Document 6.1) and the environmental topic chapters.
Paragraph 4.26 (Alternatives) (extract)	<i>'Applicants should comply with all legal requirements and any policy requirements set out in this NPS on the assessment of alternatives. In particular:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The EIA Directive requires projects with significant environmental effects to include an outline of the main alternatives studied by the applicant and an</i> 	Alternatives and the selection of the preferred option are discussed within Chapter 3: Assessment of Reasonable Alternatives (Application Document 6.1).

Reference	Requirement	Project response
	<i>indication of the main reasons for the applicant’s choice, taking into account the environmental effects.’</i>	
Paragraph 4.27	<i>‘All projects should be subject to an options appraisal. The appraisal should consider viable modal alternatives and may also consider other options. [...] Where projects have been subject to full options appraisal in achieving their status within Road or Rail Investment Strategies or other appropriate policies or investment plans, option testing need not be considered by the examining authority or the decision maker. For national road and rail schemes, proportionate option consideration of alternatives will have been undertaken as part of the investment decision making process. It is not necessary for the Examining Authority and the decision maker to reconsider this process, but they should be satisfied that this assessment has been undertaken.’</i>	Alternatives and the options appraisal process are discussed within Chapter 3: Assessment of Reasonable Alternatives (Application Document 6.1).
There are no requirements for the Major Accidents and Disasters Assessment presented within the NPSNN.		
Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1) (Department of Energy and Climate Change, 2011a)		
Paragraph 4.2.1 (Part 4 Assessment Principles, Section 4.2 Environmental Statement)	<i>‘All proposals for projects that are subject to the European Environmental Impact Assessment Directive must be accompanied by an Environmental Statement (ES) describing the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the project. The Directive specifically refers to effects on human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate, the landscape, material assets and cultural heritage, and the interaction between them. The Directive requires an assessment of the likely significant effects of the proposed project on the environment, covering the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects at all stages of the project, and also of the measures envisaged for avoiding or mitigating significant adverse effects.’</i>	The ES describes the likely significant effects associated with the Project proposals and the proposed measures to avoid and mitigate these effects. The relevant environmental topic chapters of the ES present this in detail (Chapters 5 to 15 (Application Document 6.1)).
Paragraph 4.2.2	<i>‘To consider the potential effects, including benefits, of a proposal for a project, the IPC will find it helpful if the applicant sets out information on the likely significant social and economic effects of the development, and shows how any likely significant negative effects would be avoided or mitigated. This information could include matters such as employment, equality, community cohesion and well-being.’</i>	Assessment of social and economic effects is presented in ES Chapter 13: Population and Human Health (Application Document 6.1). This includes measures to avoid or mitigate effects.

Reference	Requirement	Project response
		<p>Further assessment on social and economic effects is included within the following Application Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Equalities Impact Assessment (HEqIA) (Application Document 7.10) • Combined Modelling and Appraisal Report (Application Document 7.7)
Paragraph 4.2.3	<p><i>‘For the purposes of this NPS and the technology-specific NPSs the ES should cover the environmental, social and economic effects arising from pre-construction, construction, operation and decommissioning of the project. In some circumstances (for example, gas pipelines) it may be appropriate to assess effects arising from commissioning infrastructure once it is completed but before it comes into operation. Details of this and any other additional assessments are set out where necessary in sections on individual impacts in this NPS and in the technology-specific NPSs. In the absence of any additional information on additional assessments, the principles set out in this Section will apply to all assessments.’</i></p>	<p>The ES presents the assessment of effects arising from the construction and operation of the Project, including the preliminary works taking place prior to the commencement of construction. The relevant environmental topic chapters of the ES present this assessment in detail (Chapters 5 to 15 (Application Document 6.1)).</p> <p>Decommissioning has been scoped out of the assessments, as agreed in the Scoping Opinion (Planning Inspectorate, 2017) and discussed further in Chapter 4: EIA Methodology (Application Document 6.1).</p>
Paragraph 4.2.5	<p><i>‘When considering cumulative effects, the ES should provide information on how the effects of the applicant’s proposal would combine and interact with the effects of other development (including projects for which consent has been sought or granted, as well as those already in existence). The IPC may also have other evidence before it, for example from appraisals of sustainability of relevant NPSs or development plans, on such effects and potential interactions. Any such</i></p>	<p>Cumulative effects are assessed in Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects Assessment (Application Document 6.1).</p>

Reference	Requirement	Project response
	<i>information may assist the IPC in reaching decisions on proposals and on mitigation measures that may be required.'</i>	
Paragraph 4.2.6	<i>'The IPC should consider how the accumulation of, and interrelationship between, effects might affect the environment, economy or community as a whole, even though they may be acceptable when considered on an individual basis with mitigation measures in place.'</i>	Cumulative effects are assessed in Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects Assessment (Application Document 6.1).
Paragraph 4.2.7	<i>'In some instances, it may not be possible at the time of the application for development consent for all aspects of the proposal to have been settled in precise detail. Where this is the case, the applicant should explain in its application which elements of the proposal have yet to be finalised, and the reasons why this is the case.'</i>	The assessments in the ES have been undertaken in accordance with the principles set out in the Planning Inspectorate's (2018) Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope. The design parameters are discussed further in Chapter 2: Project Description (Application Document 6.1) and the environmental topic chapters.
Paragraph 4.2.8	<i>'Where some details are still to be finalised the ES should set out, to the best of the applicant's knowledge, what the maximum extent of the proposed development may be in terms of site and plant specifications, and assess, on that basis, the effects which the project could have to ensure that the impacts of the project as it may be constructed have been properly assessed.'</i>	The assessments in the ES have been undertaken in accordance with the principles set out in the Planning Inspectorate's (2018) Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope. The design parameters are discussed further in Chapter 2: Project Description (Application Document 6.1) and the environmental topic chapters.
There are no requirements for the Major Accidents and Disasters Assessment presented within NPS EN-1.		
National Policy Statement for Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines (NPS EN-4) (Department of Energy and Climate Change, 2011b)		
There are no requirements for the ES generally, the Major Accidents and Disasters Assessment, or for EIA methodology presented within NPS EN-4.		

Reference	Requirement	Project response
National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (NPS EN-5) Department of Energy and Climate Change, 2011c)		
Section 2.10	Section 2.10 relates to Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs), and paragraph 2.10.2 states that EMFs can have both direct and indirect effects on human health. Paragraph 2.10.3 references relevant guidelines developed by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) to protect health.	An assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of EMFs associated with the modification of existing National Grid electricity infrastructure is not considered directly within this ES; further information is provided in Appendix D: National Grid Electric and Magnetic Field Report of the HEqIA (Application Document 7.10).
There are no requirements for the Major Accidents and Disasters Assessment presented within NPS EN-5		
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2021)		
There are no requirements for the ES generally, the Major Accidents and Disasters Assessment, or for EIA methodology presented within the NPPF.		

Table 1.2 Other national policies relevant to EIA methodology

Reference	Requirement	Project response
No other relevant national policies for the ES generally, the Major Accidents and Disasters Assessment, or for EIA methodology have been identified.		

Table 1.3 Regional and local policies relevant to EIA methodology

Reference	Requirement
No regional or local policies for the ES generally, the Major Accidents and Disasters Assessment, or for EIA methodology have been identified.	

References

Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011a). Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1).

Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011b). National Policy Statement for Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines (EN-4).

Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011c). National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5).

Department for Transport (2014). National Policy Statement for National Networks.

Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (SI 2017/572).

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2021). National Planning Policy Framework.

Planning Inspectorate (2017). Scoping Opinion: Proposed Lower Thames Crossing (Case Reference TR010032). Accessed July 2022.

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/TR010032/TR010032-000033-LTC%20-%20Scoping%20Opinion.pdf>

Planning Inspectorate (2018). Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope.

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