



The Planning Inspectorate
Yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

Section 55

Acceptance of Applications Checklist

Appendix 3 of [Advice Note Six: Preparation and submission of application documents](#)

Date: March 2021

A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Road Improvement Scheme TR010044 Section 55 Acceptance of Applications Checklist

Section 55 of the Planning Act 2008 can be viewed at legislation.gov.uk, here:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/section/55>

DISCLAIMER: This Checklist is for information only and is not a formal application document. It 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 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
		26 February 2021	26 March 2021	23 March 2021
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	Is the development a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ¹ (NSIP) (or does it form part of an NSIP); and does the application state on the face of it that it is an application for a Development Consent Order ² (DCO) under the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008), or equivalent words? Does the application	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The Proposed Development set out in Schedule 1 of the Draft DCO (Doc 3.1) includes development falling within the categories in s14 of the PA2008. The development is for the construction of a highway and satisfies section 22 of the PA2008; including</p>		

¹ NSIP is defined generally in s14 with the detailed thresholds for each of the specified categories being set out in ss15 to 30

² Development consent is required for development to the extent that the development is or forms part of an NSIP (s31 of the PA2008)

	<p>specify the development to which it relates (i.e. which category or categories in ss14 to 30 does the Proposed Development fall)?</p> <p>If the development does not fall within the categories in ss14 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>subsection 22(1)(a).</p> <p>The application also includes the diversion of a high-pressure gas pipeline identified as falling under section 14(1)(f) of the PA2008.</p> <p>This is consistent with the summary provided in section 4 of the Application Form (Doc 1.3) which states that the application is for an NSIP.</p>
3	Summary: Section 55(3)(a) and s55(3)(c)	The Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the Draft DCO (Doc 3.1) includes development for which development consent is required.
Section 55(3)(e): The Applicant in relation to the application made has complied with Chapter 2 of Part 5 (pre-application procedure)		
4	In accordance with the EIA Regulations ³ , 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>Yes.</p> <p>On 29 March 2019 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 3 June 2019.</p> <p>A copy of the notification letter is provided at Appendix D of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2).</p>
5	Have any Adequacy of Consultation Representations ⁴ 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	<p>Yes.</p> <p>There are 26 host and neighbouring authorities, of which 19 responded to the Planning Inspectorate's invitation to make an Adequacy of Consultation Representation (AoCR) dated 26 February 2021.</p>

³ Regulation 8 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (2017 EIA Regulations), or where Regulation 37 of the 2017 EIA Regulations applies, Regulation 6 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (2009 EIA Regulations)

⁴ 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

and s48?

All 19 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:

- St Albans City and District Council ('A' authority)
- East Cambridgeshire District Council ('A' authority)
- Uttlesford District Council ('A' authority)
- Borough Council of Wellingborough ('A' authority)
- North Hertfordshire District Council ('A' authority)
- Dacorum Borough Council ('A' authority)
- Peterborough City Council ('A' authority)
- East Northamptonshire ('A' authority)
- Fenland District Council ('A' authority)
- Milton Keynes Council ('A' authority)
- Lincolnshire County Council ('D' authority)
- Norfolk County Council ('D' authority)
- Suffolk County Council ('D' authority)
- Essex County Council ('D' authority)

The following authorities confirmed that the Applicant complied with its duties but identified the following main points:

- Bedford Borough Council ('B' authority)
 - Central Bedfordshire Council ('B' authority)
 - Huntingdonshire District Council ('B' authority)
 - South Cambridgeshire District Council ('B' authority)
 - Cambridgeshire County Council ('A' and 'C' authority)
1. Lack of provision of technical information;
 2. Applicant's regard to responses sent during the pre-application stage; and
 3. The draft DCO was not the subject of discussion with the authority before the application was submitted.

All AoCRs received have been carefully considered and are available to view on the National Infrastructure Planning website:

Section 42: Duty to consult

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

6	Section 42(1)(a) persons prescribed ⁵ ?	<p>Yes</p> <p>The Applicant has provided a list of persons consulted under s42(1)(a) on 31 May 2019 at Appendix J of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2)</p> <p>A sample of the letter sent to s42(1)(a) consultees is provided at Section K1 in Appendix K of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2).</p> <p>The Applicant explains in paragraph 3.5.37 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) that a number of s42(1)(a) prescribed consultees had been omitted from the original exercise and were subsequently issued with letters providing a minimum of 28 days within which to respond to the consultation.</p> <p>Appendix K of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2) identifies the omitted parties and provides a sample of the letter sent.</p> <p>The Planning Inspectorate has also identified the following party based on a precautionary interpretation of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (the APFP Regulations) that was not consulted by the Applicant under s42:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last Mile Gas Ltd <p>The Applicant's Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) does not explain why the body identified above has not been consulted. However, it is noted that the licences held by the body cover Great Britain or various smaller areas, and the operational areas are not clear from information in the public domain.</p> <p>The body listed above has not been identified by the Applicant as having an interest in the Order lands and is not listed in the Book of Reference (Doc 4.3).</p>
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⁵ Statutory consultees set out in Schedule 1 of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (APFP Regulations)

7	Section 42(1)(aa) the Marine Management Organisation ⁶ ?	<p>No</p> <p>Paragraph 3.5.1 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) states that it was established that the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) did not need to be consulted on the Scheme.</p>
8	Section 42(1)(b) each local authority within s43 ⁷ ?	<p>Yes</p> <p>Appendix J of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2) lists the relevant local authorities that were identified and consulted under s43 and s42(1)(b) on 31 May 2019.</p> <p>The host 'B' authorities that were consulted are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Cambridgeshire District Council • Huntingdonshire District Council • Bedford Borough Council • Central Bedfordshire Council <p>The host 'C' authority that was consulted is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambridgeshire County Council (A and C) <p>The boundary 'A' authorities that were consulted are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uttlesford District Council • Fenland District Council • East Cambridgeshire District Council • Cambridge City Council • Braintree District Council • Dacorum Borough Council • St Albans City and District Council • North Hertfordshire District Council • East Northamptonshire Council • Borough Council of Wellingborough • West Suffolk Council • Peterborough City Council

⁶ 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

⁷ 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

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luton Borough Council • Milton Keynes Council • Buckinghamshire County Council • Hertfordshire County Council (A and D) • Northamptonshire County Council (A and D) • Cambridgeshire County Council (A and C) <p>The boundary 'D' authorities that were consulted are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hertfordshire County Council (A and D) • Northamptonshire County Council (A and D) • Lincolnshire County Council • Suffolk County Council • Norfolk County Council • Essex County Council <p>A sample of the letter sent to s42(1)(b) relevant authorities is provided at Section K2 in Appendix K of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2).</p>
9	Section 42(1)(c) the Greater London Authority (if in Greater London area)?	N/A. The development is not within the Greater London Area.
10	Section 42(1)(d) each person in one or more of s44 categories ⁸ ?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Paragraph 3.5.37 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) states that all persons identified under s42(1)(d) were consulted on 31 May 2019.</p> <p>Paragraphs 3.5.32 to 3.5.36 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). The full methodology undertaken by the Applicant is provided in Section P1 in Appendix P of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2).</p> <p>A sample of the letter is provided at Section K3 in Appendix K of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2).</p>

⁸ 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. There is no requirement on the Planning Inspectorate to check the accuracy of the list(s) provided or whether the Applicant has made diligent inquiry

The Inspectorate notes, as referred to in section 6 of the checklist, that several parties were omitted from the statutory consultation exercise. It also notes that the Applicant identified at least one s42(1)(d) party which it was unable to contact in **Appendix K** of the **Consultation Report (Doc 5.2)**.

The Applicant states in **Paragraph 3.5.17** of the **Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)** that several new parties were identified shortly before submission and were therefore not consulted in accordance with s42 of the PA2008. These parties are stated to have been informed of the opportunity to participate in the Examination process once the application for development consent had been submitted, in accordance with DCLG Guidance.

Section 45: Timetable for s42 consultation

11 Did the Applicant notify s42 consultees of the deadline for receipt of consultation responses; and if so was the deadline notified by the Applicant 28 days or more starting with the day after receipt of the consultation documents?

Yes.

Samples of the letter(s) sent to s42 consultees are provided at **Appendix K** of the **Consultation Report (Doc 5.2)**. The sample letters, dated 31 May 2019, confirmed that consultation commenced on 3 June 2019 and closed on 28 July 2019, providing more than the required minimum time for receipt of responses.

Paragraph 3.5.37 of the **Consultation Report (Doc 5,1)** states that omitted consultees were afforded at least 28 days to respond to the consultation. It is noted, however, that the following parties were sent letters on 6 February 2020 with the deadline for responses of 5 March 2020. This provides 28 day from the day of sending.

- Harlaxton Gas Networks Limited
- Bedford Hospital NHS Trust
- Scotland Gas Networks plc
- Little Barford Power Station
- Last Mile Electricity Limited
- Energy Assets Fibre Networks Limited
- Energetics Electricity Limited

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

12	Did the Applicant supply information to notify the Planning Inspectorate of the proposed application; and if so, was the information supplied to the Planning Inspectorate on or before the date it was sent to the s42 consultees? Was this done on or before commencing consultation under s42?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The Applicant gave notice under s46 on 30 May 2019, which was before the beginning of s42 consultation.</p> <p>A copy of the s46 notification letter is provided at Appendix L of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2) and a copy of s46 notification acknowledgement letter from the Planning Inspectorate is provided at Appendix L 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 I 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 Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council ('B authorities') and Cambridgeshire County Council ('C authority') on 12 March 2019 and set a deadline of 10 April 2019 for responses; providing the required minimum time for responses to be received.</p> <p>The Applicant also sent the draft SoCC to Milton Keynes Council and Cambridge City Council ('A' authorities)</p> <p>Appendix G of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2) provides copies of the emails sent to the B authorities, C authority and additional A authorities.</p>
15	Has the Applicant had regard to any responses received when preparing the SoCC?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Section H6 of Appendix H of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2) provides a summary of the consultation responses from Bedford Borough Council, Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, Milton Keynes Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council in respect of the draft SoCC and demonstrates how the Applicant had regard to their</p>

		<p>content.</p> <p>Paragraph 3.4.16 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) states that Bedford Borough Council did not respond to the statutory consultation on the SoCC.</p> <p>Examples of changes from the draft SoCC to the final SoCC include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huntingdonshire District Council suggested that “a timeline diagram at the beginning could help with understanding the stages of the proposal and the deadlines to respond”. In response, the Applicant incorporated a “simple visual [into] section 2 of the SoCC”. • Milton Keynes Council suggested that the Milton Keynes Central Library ought to be added as a deposit point. The Applicant decided to do this, and reflected the change in its SoCC. <p>The Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the Applicant had regard to the responses received when preparing the SoCC.</p>
16	<p>Has the SoCC been made available for inspection in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land; 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>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Table 3-3 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) shows that the final SoCC was made available at the following locations, which are reasonably convenient having regard to the location of the Proposed Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bedford Borough Council, Cauldwell Street, Bedford MK42 9AP • Cambourne Library, Sackville House, Sackville Way, Cambridge CB23 6HD • Huntingdonshire District Council, St Marys Street, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 3TN • Huntingdonshire District Council, St Neots Customer Service Centre, The Priory Centre, St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 2BH • Milton Keynes Central Library, 555 Silbury Boulevard, Milton Keynes MK9 3HL

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Papworth Library, Pendrill Court, Ermine Street North, Papworth Everard, Cambridgeshire CB23 3UY • Sandy Library, Market Square, Sandy SG19 1EH • South Cambridgeshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, Cambridgeshire CB23 6EA • St Neots Library, 1 Priory Lane, St Neots, Cambridgeshire PE19 2BH <p>Table 3-4 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) shows that a notice stating when and where the final SoCC could be inspected was published in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambridge News (3 June 2019) • The Hunts Post (5 June 2019) • Bedford Times & Citizen (6 June 2019) <p>The published SoCC notice, provided at Section M20 in Appendix M 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 Sections M21 to M23 in Appendix M of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2).</p>
17	Does the SoCC set out whether the development is EIA development ⁹ ; and does it set out how the Applicant intends to publicise and consult on the Preliminary Environmental Information?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Paragraph 3.7 of the final SoCC at Appendix I of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2) sets out that the development is EIA development.</p> <p>Paragraphs 3.8, 3.9 and 7.1 of the final SoCC at Appendix I of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2) set 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>

⁹ Regulation 12 of the 2017 EIA Regulations, or where Regulation 37 of the 2017 EIA Regulations applies, Regulation 10 of the 2009 EIA Regulations

		<p>Paragraphs 3.9.1 to 3.9.8 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) set out how the community consultation was carried out in line with the final SoCC.</p> <p>Table 3-8 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) sets out how the Applicant has complied with the commitments set out in the final SoCC.</p> <p>Appendices M and N of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2) provide evidence that the commitments within the final SoCC have been carried out.</p> <p>Although the Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the Applicant has carried out the consultation in line with the final SoCC, the following observations have been noted with regards to certain commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The date and time of the pop-up style events were not included on posters or in the local media adverts, as noted by the Applicant. • Parish councils were not asked to display a link to the scheme website on their website, as noted by the Applicant. • No letters were sent to local authorities and parish councils encouraging them to display a link to the scheme website, only emails. • Parish councils were not asked to circulate the consultation poster via newsletters. • The contact telephone number and email address for the scheme were not provided on the Mobile visitor centre external posters.
<p>Section 48: Duty to publicise the proposed application</p>		
19	<p>Did the Applicant publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner set out in Regulation 4(2) of the APFP Regulations?</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Paragraph 3.8 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) states:</p> <p>“In accordance with s48(1) of the PA 2008 a notice publicising the Scheme was published in the prescribed manner, namely in accordance with Regulation 4(2) and with reference to Regulation 4(3) of the APFP Regulations.</p>

Table 3-7 under **Paragraph 3.8** of the **Consultation Report (Doc 5.1)** displays the newspapers and dates of s48 publicity as set out below.

A copy of the s48 notice is provided at **Appendix M - Part 2** of the **Consultation Report (Doc 5.2)**.

Clippings of the published notices set out below are provided at **Appendix N** of the **Consultation Report (Doc 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;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambridge News • The Hunts Post • Bedford Times & Citizen 	03 June 2019 & 10 June 2019 05 June 2019 & 12 June 2019 06 June 2019 & 13 June 2019
b)	once in a national newspaper;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Guardian • The Times 	05 June 2019 05 June 2019
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 	03 June 2019
d)	where the proposed application relates to offshore development – (i) once in Lloyds List; and (ii) once in an appropriate fishing trade journal?	n/a	n/a

20	Did the s48 notice include the required information set out in Regulation 4(3) of APFP Regulations?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The published s48 notice, supplied at Section M19 in Appendix M of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2), contains the required information as set out below:</p>
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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	10	d)	a summary of the main proposals, specifying the location or route of the Proposed Development	2-9
e)	a statement that the documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the Proposed Development are available for inspection free of charge at the places (including at least one address in the vicinity of the Proposed Development) and times set out in the notice	11	f)	the latest date on which those documents, plans and maps will be available for inspection	11
g)	whether a charge will be made for copies of any of the documents, plans or maps and the amount of any charge	14	h)	details of how to respond to the publicity	17 and 18
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	17			
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 notified to the Applicant in accordance with the EIA Regulations ¹⁰ ?	Yes. A copy of the s48 notice was sent to the EIA consultation bodies as part of the s42 consultation, as confirmed in paragraph 3.2.18 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) .			

¹⁰ Regulation 13 of the 2017 EIA Regulations, or where Regulation 37 of the 2017 EIA Regulations applies, Regulation 11 of the 2009 EIA Regulations

		Samples of the s42 consultation letters provided at Appendix K of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2) confirm a copy of the s48 notice was enclosed.
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>Table 8-1 to 8-14 within Section 8.3 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) sets out how the Applicant had regard to the consultation responses received; including whether or not 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>
Guidance about pre-application procedure		
24	To what extent has the Applicant had regard to statutory guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process' ¹¹ ?	<p>Paragraph 3.3.2 of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.1) and Appendix A of the Consultation Report (Doc 5.2) states that the Applicant has taken into consideration all relevant statutory and other guidance.</p> <p>Having reviewed the application, the Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the Applicant has 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.
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; 	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Section 4 of the Application Form (Doc 1.3) explains why the development falls within the remit of the Planning Inspectorate.</p>

¹¹ The Planning Inspectorate must have regard to the extent to which the Applicant has had regard to guidance issued under s50

	and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a brief statement that clearly identifies the location of the application site, or the route if it is a linear scheme? 	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	Where a plan comprises three or more separate sheets, has a key plan been provided showing the relationship between the different sheets? ¹²	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 ¹³ and any scoping or screening opinions or directions	Environmental Statement (Doc 6.1) Environmental Statement Figures (Doc 6.2) Environmental Statement Appendices (6.3) These are accompanied by; Non-Technical Summary (Doc 6.4) Scoping Opinion (Doc 6.5).	b)	The draft Development Consent Order (DCO)	draft Development Consent Order (Doc 3.1)
	Is this of a satisfactory	Yes		Is this of a satisfactory	Yes

¹² Regulation 5(4) of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

¹³ The 2017 EIA Regulations, or where Regulation 37 of the 2017 EIA Regulations applies, the 2009 EIA Regulations

	standard?			standard?	
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 (where the application involves any Compulsory Acquisition)	Book of Reference (Doc 4.3)
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes (with minor discrepancies as noted in Box 30)
e)	A copy of any Flood Risk Assessment	Environmental Statement Appendix 13.4 Flood Risk Assessment (Doc 6.3)	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 Nuisances Statement (Doc 6.6)
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes		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 Compulsory Acquisition or any rights to use land;	Land Plans (Doc 2.2)

				(iii) any land in relation to which it is proposed to extinguish easements, servitudes and other private rights; and (iv) any special category land and replacement land	
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes
j)	A Works Plan showing, in relation to existing features:- (i) the proposed location or (for a linear scheme) the proposed route and alignment of the development and works; and (ii) the limits within which the development and works may be carried out and any limits of deviation provided for in the draft DCO	Works Plans (Doc 2.3)	k)	Where applicable, a plan identifying any new or altered means of access, stopping up of streets or roads or any diversions, extinguishments or creation of rights of way or public rights of navigation	Rights of Way and Access Plans (Doc 2.6)
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes (with minor discrepancies as noted in Box 30)		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes
l)	Where applicable, a plan with accompanying information identifying:-	(i) Environmental Statement Appendix 8.2, Designated Sites (Doc 6.3)	m)	Where applicable, a plan with accompanying information identifying any	Environmental Statement Figures Figure 6.2 Designated Heritage Assets of the (Doc 6.2)

n)	<p>(i) any statutory/ non-statutory sites or features of nature conservation eg sites of geological/ landscape importance;</p> <p>(ii) habitats of protected species, important habitats or other diversity features; and</p> <p>(iii) water bodies in a river basin management plan,</p> <p>together with an assessment of any effects on such sites, features, habitats or bodies likely to be caused by the Proposed Development</p>	<p>Environmental Statement Figure 9.2, Solid Geology (Doc 6.2)</p> <p>Environmental Statement Figure 7.4, Landscape Context and Designations (Doc 6.2)</p> <p>(ii) Environmental Statement Appendices 8.3 to 8.20 (Doc 6.3)</p> <p>(iii) Environmental Statement Appendix 13.1, Water Framework Directive Assessment (Doc 6.3)</p> <p>Environmental Statement Chapter 8, Biodiversity (Doc 6.1)</p> <p>Environmental Statement Chapter 13, Road drainage and the water environment (Doc 6.1)</p>	o)	<p>statutory/ 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>Environmental Statement Chapter 6, Cultural heritage (Doc 6.1)</p>
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes		Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes
	Where applicable, a plan with any accompanying information identifying any Crown land	Crown Land Plans (Doc 2.11)		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	<p>General Arrangement Plans (Doc 2.4)</p> <p>Location Plan (Doc 2.1)</p> <p>Traffic Regulation Measures Plan (Doc 2.7)</p> <p>De-trunking Plans (Doc 2.5)</p> <p>Demolition Plans (Doc 2.12)</p> <p>Classification of Road Plans (Doc 2.9)</p>

			vehicular and pedestrian access, any car parking and landscaping	Borrow Pits Optioneering Report (Doc 7.6) Black Cat Junction Design Options (Doc 7.7)
	Is this of a satisfactory standard?	Yes (with minor discrepancies as noted in Box 30)	Are they of a satisfactory standard?	Yes
p)	Any of the documents prescribed by Regulation 6 of the APFP Regulations:	Engineering Section Drawings (Doc 2.10) Pipeline Statement (Doc 7.8)	q) Any other documents considered necessary to support the application	Case for the Scheme (Doc 7.1) Transport Assessment Report (Doc 7.2) Speed Limit Plans (Doc 2.8) Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (Doc 7.4) Equality Impact Assessment (Doc 7.5) Sensitivity Test Using 2020 Uncertainty Log Data (Doc 7.9) Combined Modelling and Appraisal Report (Doc 7.10) Strategy for Dealing with the Uncertain Outcomes Arising from COVID-19 (Doc 7.11)
	Are they of a satisfactory standard?	Yes	Are they of a satisfactory standard?	Yes
30	Are there any observations in respect of the documents provided at Box 29 (a) to (q) above? Yes			
	Works Plans (Doc 2.3)			

	<p>Work No.16 and Work No.17 point to the same construction area. As the description of works are different, these works should be presented separately in the plan.</p> <p>Work No.60 is described in the dDCO as being on Sheets 5 and 6A. This work is also on Sheet 6.</p> <p>Crown Land Plans (Doc 2.11)</p> <p>Plot 2/8f is not listed in the text insert of Crown land plot references.</p> <p>Book of Reference (Doc 4.3)</p> <p>Plot 1/43d is depicted on the Crown Land Plans but is not listed in 'PART 4 - Crown Land Interests' of the Book of Reference.</p> <p>Plot 2/1e is presented as 'Land to be used temporarily' on the Land Plans yet is described in the Book of Reference as 'Land to be used temporarily. Land to be used temporarily and rights to be acquired permanently', which appears to be an administrative error.</p>	
31	<p>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)?¹⁴</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report has been provided (Doc 6.17).</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	<p>If requested by the Planning Inspectorate, two paper copies of the application form and other supporting documents and plans¹⁵</p>	<p>No hard copies requested.</p>
33	<p>Has the Applicant had regard to statutory guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Application form guidance', and has this regard led to the application being prepared to a standard that the Planning Inspectorate</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Page 2 of the Cover Letter and Schedule of Compliance with Section 55 (Doc 1.1) states that the Applicant has had regard to statutory guidance 'Planning Act 2008:</p>

¹⁴ Regulation 5(2)(g) of the APFP Regulations

¹⁵ Regulation 5(2)(r) of the APFP Regulations

	considers satisfactory?	Application form guidance'. The Planning Inspectorate is satisfied that the Applicant has demonstrated regard to the guidance principles.
34	Summary - s55(3)(f) and s55(5A)	The Planning Inspectorate concludes that the application (including accompaniments) has been prepared to a standard that it considers satisfactory.
The Infrastructure Planning (Fees) Regulations 2010 (as amended)		
Fees to accompany an application		
35	Was the fee paid at the same time that the application was made ¹⁶ ?	The fee was received on 24 February 2021; before the application was made.

Role	Electronic signature	Date
Case Manager	<i>Candice Patten</i>	23 March 2021
Acceptance Inspector	<i>Menaka Sahai</i>	23 March 2021

¹⁶ 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

