

EGL5-NGET-CONS-XX-RP-YL-001

Eastern Green Link 5

PINS Pre-Application Planning Services - Programme Document

August 2025

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nationalgrid

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Eastern Green Link 5

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Version History

Document	Version	Status	Description / Changes
EGL5-NGET-CONS-XX-RP-YL-001	V1	First working draft	
	V2	Updated Working Draft	Added programme dates for PINS meetings

1. Introduction

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Programme Document has been prepared by National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (“NGET”) as a requirement under Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (“MHCLG”) guidance ‘Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects’ as well as the ‘Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus’ (“the Prospectus”) in respect of the Eastern Green Link 5 (“EGL 5”) Project.

1.2 Purpose and Structure

- 1.2.1 This Programme Document sets out the timetables and describes the activities necessary for an effective, applicant led, pre-application process, including the level of pre-application service requested from the Planning Inspectorate (“PINS”), and consultation with various parties required under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended). It is written in accordance with the requirements for a Programme Document set out in the MHCLG guidance (Paragraph 009 Reference ID 02-009-20240430) and the Prospectus. This document will be updated at key milestones throughout the pre-application process as EGL 5 is further developed, and will be hosted on the EGL 5 website, NGET will provide PINS with updates as they are incorporated.
- 1.2.2 This Programme Document is structured as follows:
- Section 1: Introduction and purpose and structure of the document
 - Section 2: Background to EGL 5 (“the Project”)
 - Section 3: PINS Pre-application Service
 - Section 4: Expected Submission Timeframe
 - Section 5: Timeframe of the pre-application process
 - Section 6: Main issues for resolution
 - Section 7: Engaging with statutory consultees and Local Planning Authorities
 - Section 8: Pre-application risks and how these are tracked and managed
 - Section 9: Approach to preparing Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI)

2. Background to the Project

2.1 Overview of the Project

- 2.1.1 The proposed development forms part of NGET's proposed Eastern Green Link 5 project ("EGL 5" or "the Project"), a transmission and reinforcement project comprising a converter station in Lincolnshire, England, connecting end to end with Scottish landfall via a high voltage direct current ("HVDC") submarine and underground electricity cable link.
- 2.1.2 The Project is being jointly developed by NGET and Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission ("SSEN-T") and is needed to significantly increase the capability of the existing National Electricity Transmission System ("NETS") to enable the north-south flow of power between Scotland and England from new and future offshore windfarm generation projects. The Project is a key part of delivering the Government's legally binding accelerated Net Zero and Energy Security ambitions. Only the English aspects of the Project (i.e., the onshore works within England and the sections of the subsea cable within English waters) are the subject of this Programme Document and will be subject to an application for a Development Consent Order ("DCO") with an associated Deemed Marine Licence ("DML") included in the DCO.

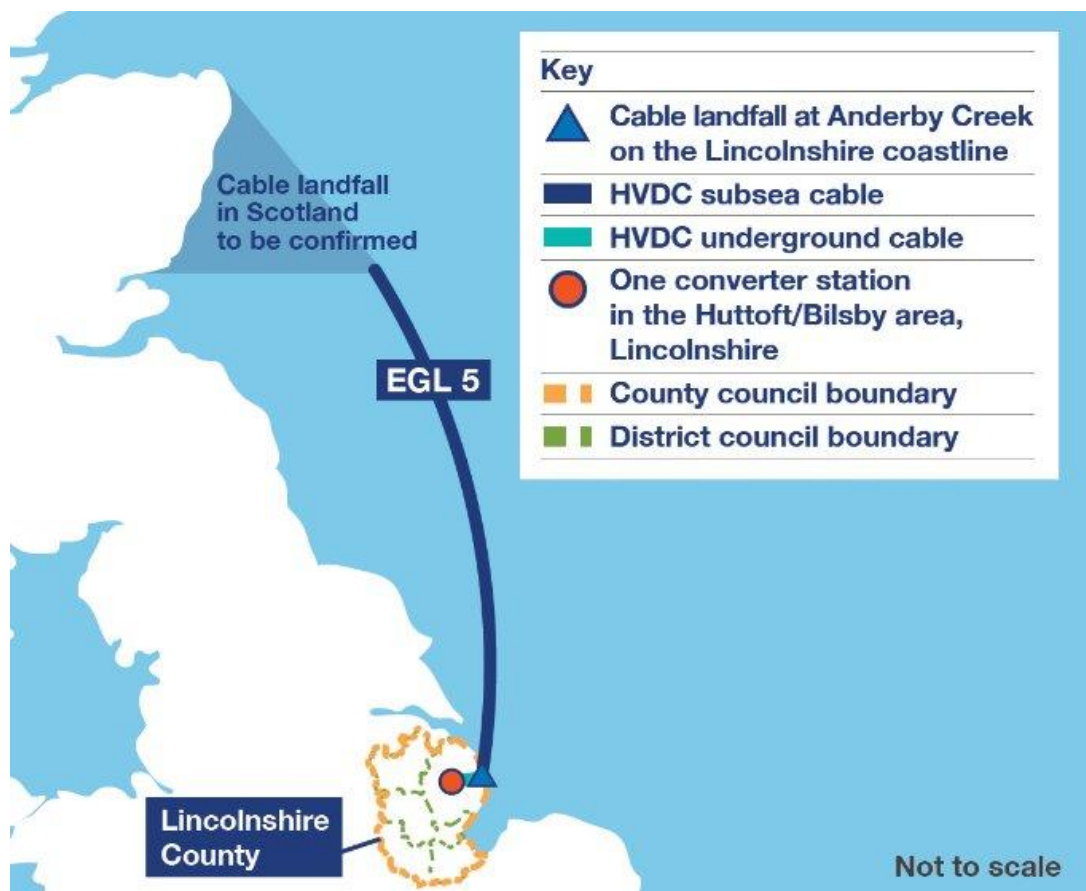


Figure 1. An overview of the Eastern Green Link 5 Scheme

2.1.3 The key onshore and offshore elements of the Project include:

- Offshore HVDC cables. In English waters the cable would be up to 415 km long (in English and Scottish waters the total cable length would be up to 555 km);
- A transition joint bay (“TJB”) which will enable the connection of the offshore and onshore;
- HVDC underground cable, located onshore and underground near to the proposed cable landfall at Anderby Creek on the Lincolnshire coastline;
- Underground HVDC cable running up to 9 km from the proposed landfall at Anderby Creek on the Lincolnshire coast to a converter station in East Lindsey;
- One converter station located either to the north-east of Bilsby or north-west of Hutton in East Lindsey, Lincolnshire; and,
- Underground high voltage alternating current (“HVAC”) cable running up to 3 km to connect the proposed converter station to the proposed Lincolnshire Connection Substation (“LCS”) B (LCS-B is being proposed and consent for it sought as part of NGET’s separate Grimsby to Walpole project).

2.2 Planning Act 2008

- 2.2.1 None of the elements of the Project fall into the definition of “nationally significant infrastructure project” (“NSIP”) under the Planning Act 2008. However, on 17th April 2025, NGET submitted a formal request to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero (“Secretary of State”) for a direction under Section 35 of the Planning Act 2008 that the converter station in Lincolnshire be treated as development for which a development consent order is required. A Section 35 Direction was duly granted by the Secretary of State on 14th May 2025.
- 2.2.2 As an NSIP, in order to be constructed and operated, the Project requires the grant of development consent by the making of a DCO under the Planning Act 2008.
- 2.2.3 NGET intends to include the marine elements of the Project within English waters in a DML as part of the DCO.
- 2.2.4 For the purposes of Section 115 of the Planning Act 2008, development consent may also be granted for associated development. At this stage of the Project, the full extent of associated development has not yet been defined but will include the onshore and offshore cables and all other works necessary to construct and operate the Project.
- 2.2.5 The English onshore elements of EGL 5 would be routed and sited through two local authorities, East Lindsey District Council and Lincolnshire County Council. NGET engaged with both authorities on the proposed consenting approach and a letter of support to NGET in seeking its s.35 direction under the Planning Act 2008 was received from both authorities.

3. PINS Pre-application Service

3.1 Pre-application Service

- 3.1.1 The Prospectus introduces three pre-application tier options reflecting different levels of service that applicants may receive from PINS ahead of submitting an application for an NSIP: basic; standard; and enhanced. NGET has agreed with PINS, that the Project would fit most appropriately in the 'Standard' level of pre-application service. The standard level of service, as described in the Prospectus, will provide NGET with an appropriate and proportionate level of pre-application engagement with PINS, reflective of the scale and nature of the Project and NGET's level of experience as an applicant.
- 3.1.2 The Project is similar to others within the Great Grid Upgrade that are further developed in their programmes, and as such, lessons learnt and expertise in producing documentation are available to enable the application to be of a standard acceptable for examination.
- 3.1.3 The standard level of service will provide NGET with project update meetings, draft document review and risk review.

4. Expected Submission Timeframe

- 4.1.1 Due to the early stage of the Project the exact timeframes for submission are not yet known. However, the anticipated DCO application submission is Q3 2027. The submission date timeframe will be refined as the period of submission draws closer. NGET will provide PINS with regular updates regarding the submission date as the Project progresses.

5. Timeframe of the pre-application process

- 5.1.1 Non-statutory consultation on the Project has now been completed and was held between 13th May 2025 and 23rd June 2025.
- 5.1.2 An anticipated timeline of the pre-application process is set out in Table 1 below. The pre-application timeframe will be refined, and further detail added as required following non-statutory and statutory consultation and as the period of submission draws closer. Whilst NGET have presented future programme milestones by reference to programmed quarter, PINS may illustrate this publicly on their website, likely by the middle month of the quarter presented within this document.

Table 1 - Anticipated application submission timeframe

Activity	Timeframe	Status
Non-statutory consultation	13th May 2025 – 23rd June 2025	Completed
PINS Inception Meeting	30 th July 2025	Completed
EIA Scoping Request	September 2025	Planned
EIA Scoping Opinion	October 2025	Planned
Consultation with host Local Authorities	Commenced Q4 2024	Ongoing
Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) submission	Q1 2026	Planned
Statutory Consultation	Q2 / Q3 2026	Planned
Further targeted consultation (if required)	Q3 2026	If required
Adequacy of Consultation Milestone	Q3 / Q4 2026	Planned
PINS review of Draft DCO Documentation	Q1 / Q2 2027	Planned
DCO application submission	Q3 2027	Planned

- 5.1.3 The current anticipated timeline of meetings with PINS is outlined Table 2 below. This will be refined as the project develops. Meetings with PINS are designed around key project milestones, with a maximum of six meetings per annum allowed by PINS. Additional meetings (i.e., over the maximum occurrences per annum allowed) will be discussed with PINS and agreed on an as needed.

Table 2 – Anticipated timeline of planned meetings with PINS

Meeting	Timeframe	Status
Inception Meeting	30 th July 2025	Complete
Post-Scoping, pre-section 42 consultation meeting	Q4 2025 / Q1 2026	Planned
Post-section 42 consultation / post-Preliminary Environmental Information Report meeting	Q3 / Q4 2026	Planned
Draft documents feedback meeting	Q1 / Q2 2027	Planned
Pre-submission meeting	Q1 / Q2 2027	Planned
Multiparty meetings (with NGET, the affected statutory bodies and / or local authorities)	If required, likely post-statutory consultation	Not Planned

6. Main issues for resolution

- 6.1.1 The Project is still at an early stage of development, with NGET having only recently completed its non-statutory consultation with the key themes currently being reviewed. Therefore, NGET is still gaining an understanding of the main issues for the Project. Visibility and understanding of these issues will improve when the review of all feedback from non-statutory consultation has been completed. This document will be updated following that exercise and kept under review thereafter.
- 6.1.2 In developing the Project, NGET's approach is mindful of the issues identified generally in the Overarching National Policy Statement (NPS) for Energy (EN-1), and the NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5), which are likely to be relevant to projects of this type, including:
- Air Quality
 - Aviation and defence
 - Alternatives
 - Biodiversity and geological conservation
 - Biodiversity Net Gain (and potential marine net gain)
 - Climate Adaptation and Resilience
 - Commercial fisheries
 - Cumulative and in-combination effects
 - Designated Sites
 - Electric and Magnetic Fields
 - Fish and Shellfish
 - Flood risk
 - Greenhouse Gas emissions
 - Good design
 - Hazardous Substances
 - Health
 - Historic environment
 - Intertidal and Offshore Ornithology
 - Intertidal and Subtidal Benthic Ecology
 - Land rights and land interests
 - Landscape and visual effects
 - Marine Archaeology
 - Marine Mammals and Marine Reptiles

- Marine Physical Processes
- Noise and vibration
- Other Marine Users
- Land use including open space, green infrastructure, green belt
- Resource and Waste Management
- Safety
- Security
- Socio economic impacts
- Shipping and navigation
- Strategic planning and co-ordination
- Traffic and Transport
- Water Quality and Resources

7. Engaging with statutory consultees and Local Authorities

- 7.1.1 Early engagement has commenced with the two host Local Authorities (“LAs”), Lincolnshire County Council and East Lindsey District Council (represented by East Lincolnshire Partnership). This engagement between NGET and the LAs will continue throughout the pre-application stage. The host LAs have been engaged by NGET throughout the pre-application phase of the Project’s DCO application (in particular during the non-statutory consultation period) to date, and this will continue throughout the DCO application process. NGET is in the process of entering into Planning Performance Agreements (“PPAs”) with the host LAs to assist with required resourcing and to allow for adequate engagement with the Project. Draft Engagement Plans will be shared and implemented at the earliest opportunity. This document will be updated once these are settled.
- 7.1.2 The Engagement Plans will:
- Provide host authorities with a look ahead to when key planning and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) activities are programmed to take place;
 - Set out an overarching protocol for engaging with the host authorities on planning and EIA matters;
 - Assist host authorities with their resource planning for the project;
 - Assist all parties in agreeing PPAs; and
 - Provide guidelines to assist all parties in the development of Statements of Common Ground (“SoCGs”) and Principal Areas of Disagreement (“PADs”) (if required).
- 7.1.3 Feedback has been sought from stakeholders as part of the non-statutory consultation exercise. A programme of engagement is currently in development to be discussed with stakeholders, including methods for cost recovery.
- 7.1.4 In addition to relevant LAs, NGET is engaging with other relevant prescribed onshore and offshore consultees and other stakeholders relevant to the Project through technical meetings. These include but are not limited to:
- Natural England
 - Environment Agency
 - Historic England
 - Marine Management Organisation
 - Joint Nature Conservation Committee
 - Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust
 - The relevant Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities
 - The National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations

- 7.1.5 Further meetings are being held with the relevant stakeholders to enact a plan of engagement and discuss any comments that have been raised. This is anticipated to be ongoing throughout the pre-application process. The SoCC will be developed and provided to stakeholders for comment ahead of statutory consultation.
- 7.1.6 Further engagement with PINS will continue at relevant milestones and confirmed as the Project develops.

8. Pre-application risks and how these are tracked and managed

- 8.1.1 A summary of the pre-application risks identified at this stage and how these are tracked and managed is provided within Table 3 below.

Table 3 – Risks to achievement of the pre-application stage

Risk	Description of Risk	Tracking and managing risk
Limited local authority resources which could limit their ability to engage with the proposals.	LAs may have limited resources to have effective communication throughout the pre-application process for the DCO.	PPAs have been entered into with the relevant LAs to ensure that resource allocation is managed to have effective dialogue. Meetings have commenced with the LAs to discuss their feedback.
Limited statutory consultee resources which could limit their ability to engage with the proposals.	Statutory consultees may have limited resources to have effective communication throughout the pre-application process for the DCO.	At present, both a service level agreement (SLA) is in place between Natural England and a relevant Statutory Advice Service has been entered into where resource is not covered under an SLA. A cost-recovery agreement is in place with the Environment Agency and an Extended Advisory Service agreement is in the process of being drafted for Historic England. Other cost recovery agreements will be put in place where appropriate for relevant stakeholders to help enable effective dialogue. The introduction of cost recovery will be engaged with positively, and engagement strategies are being mapped out with stakeholders. NGET will also look to set up Technical Working

Risk	Description of Risk	Tracking and managing risk
<p>Number of DCO and third-party planning applications proposed within the same geographical area and impact on resource/capacity within stakeholder organisations to engage effectively. This includes resource/ability to respond to scoping consultation within the required timescales.</p>	<p>Local authorities and statutory consultees are seeing a significant increase in proposed applications for DCOs and other types of consents in this region. Some of the consultees have already advised that they are resource-constrained which may result in delays to the receipt of formal inputs to the pre-application stage. Resourcing and capacity issues may see difficulty for stakeholders and LAs to respond within specified timeframes.</p>	<p>Groups where relevant to bring relevant stakeholders together to discuss topic areas in an efficient and collaborative manner.</p> <p>Effective communication is currently being held with the LAs with introductory meetings and updates following non-statutory consultation. Stakeholders were advised of the anticipated timescales for submission of the scoping report to allow for their review. Continued dialogue will ensure that adequate notice is given for stakeholders to respond to any new information.</p>
<p>Challenges for accessing land for surveying in a timely manner.</p>	<p>With some ecological surveys having seasonality constraints, there are time constraints in conducting these.</p>	<p>Effective communication between the relevant disciplines and land agents, in order to plan a survey schedule and timeframe to ensure land access is achieved.</p>
<p>Delayed receipt of onshore and offshore survey results may influence programme.</p>	<p>Any delays in both the onshore and offshore surveys will hinder the timely receipt of survey reports and data. This could mean the Project's programme is impacted.</p>	<p>Effective communication between the relevant disciplines and the survey contractors to ensure survey outputs are prioritised in terms of their criticality.</p>
<p>Non-statutory consultation responses leading to changes in the Project's scope being required.</p>	<p>Any major design changes that come through from the non-statutory consultation process may lead to significant design changes with the</p>	<p>A full and detailed review of non-statutory consultation feedback responses is underway. These responses are being analysed and will be used to inform the final</p>

Risk	Description of Risk	Tracking and managing risk
	potential to impact the Project's programme.	design that will be put forward in application for development consent. The time taken to do so has been considered in programme planning to ensure all feedback is properly considered.
Unavailability of district level licensing ("DLL") meaning extensive Great Crested Newt surveys are required.	Unavailability of DLL could mean extensive species surveys are required which could result in an extension to programme.	NGET will endeavour to work closely with Natural England, in-line with Eastern Green Link 3 and 4's approach, to develop an approach to licensing that draws on the benefits of DLL (notably to address potential concerns to programme that can arise from conventional licensing). This can be discussed further once more detail on mitigation and compensation approaches is available.

9. Approach to Preliminary Environmental Information

- 9.1.1 A request will be submitted by NGET, under Regulation 10 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, for a written Scoping Opinion from the Secretary of State, administered by PINS on behalf of the Secretary of State, to inform the EIA for the Project.
- 9.1.2 The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (“PEIR”) will be prepared in accordance with the Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion. Further information on the approach to PEIR and EIA will be contained in the Scoping Report.
- 9.1.3 The Scoping Request, the PEIR and EIA will include for the terrestrial and marine elements of the Project within England and English waters.
- 9.1.4 At this early stage of the Project, ahead of the Scoping Opinion being issued, the content of the PEIR is still being considered, however, it is expected to contain detail based on current survey progress for both terrestrial and marine surveys, and the availability of data from other National Grid projects in the immediate vicinity of the Project. In accordance with the timeframes set out in this document, the EIA Scoping Report is scheduled to be submitted to PINS in September 2025.

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