



Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Addendum Note

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Version 0.0

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1 Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) Addendum Note

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This Addendum Note to Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) has been produced following changes to legislation, policy and guidance that have occurred after the production of the PEIR.

1.1.2 The PEIR sets out in **Paragraph 4.1.4 of Chapter 4 Legislation and Policy Overview** that:

“any changes to legislation or policy between now and the submission of the application for development consent will be recorded and considered in the Environmental Statement (ES) to be submitted with the application for development consent”.

1.1.3 This Addendum Note to the PEIR has been prepared to support the Statutory Consultation, and specifically relates to:

- a. **Chapter 4 Legislation and Policy Overview**, specifically:
 - i. Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025;
 - ii. National Policy Statements; and
 - iii. National Planning Policy Framework
- b. **Chapter 12 Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Drainage**, specifically:
 - i. Flood risk and coastal change guidance; and
 - ii. Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) guidance

Chapter 4 Legislation and Policy Overview

Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025

1.1.4 The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 received Royal Ascent on 18 December 2025. The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 aims to create a more agile planning system for infrastructure and housing while integrating nature recovery into development processes.

1.1.5 Further information about the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 can be found in the Guide to the Planning and Infrastructure Bill (Ref 1).

1.1.6 Implementation of the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 is to be supported by secondary legislation which will be published in phases. The Applicant will continue to follow changes closely to ensure compliance by the Proposed Scheme to latest legislation.

National Policy Statements

- 1.1.7 National Policy Statements (NPSs) were designed under the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 2) to provide a framework for decision making on Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). The Proposed Scheme is a nationally significant development, further to obtaining a direction pursuant to Section 35 of the Planning Act 2008 which confirmed that the Proposed Scheme is a development for which development consent is required.
- 1.1.8 In July 2024, the Government began a review of the energy NPSs (NPS EN-1 to NPS EN-5) and published revised drafts for NPS EN-1, NPS EN-3 and NPS EN-5 in April 2025 (Ref 3).
- 1.1.9 Following revisions being made to the NPSs and being laid before Parliament for a 21-day consultation period on 13 November 2025, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, as the relevant Secretary of State department, has published the revised energy NPSs (Ref 4). The 2025 versions of NPS EN-1, EN-3 and EN-5 came into force on 6 January 2026.
- 1.1.10 The key changes identified in the revised NPSs are as follows:
- a. Clean Power 2030: NPS EN-1 embedded the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan, prioritising 95% clean electricity by 2030 and aligning Critical National Priority (CNP) policy with a presumption in favour of consent for qualifying projects, excluding Energy from Waste.
 - b. Electricity Networks: NPS EN-5 incorporated the Electricity Transmission Design Principles and links decision-making to the Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP), removing the need to examine project need or technology type where CSNP alignment exists.
 - c. Offshore Hybrid Assets (OHAs): NPS EN-5 incorporates OHA into the definition of “*offshore transmission infrastructure*” including traditional interconnectors and subsea bootstraps. As a transmission type combining offshore wind export with interconnection functionality, OHAs are now recognised as key components of a coordinated offshore-onshore grid under the Government’s strategic network planning framework. EN-5 clarifies that applicants for offshore transmission project must consider, wherever feasible, a coordinated network solution to minimise environmental, land use and community impacts by reducing the number of landfalls and other infrastructure.
- 1.1.11 Following a review of the revised NPSs it is considered that the outcomes detailed within the PEIR chapters remain valid and are not materially changed by the revisions to policy.

National Planning Policy Framework

- 1.1.12 A consultation draft of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 16 December 2025 (Ref 5). The consultation seeks views on a revised version of the NPPF (Ref 6). The consultation will close on 10 March 2026.

- 1.1.13 The key changes identified in the revised NPPF relevant to the Proposed Scheme include:
- a. Meeting the challenges of climate change: emphasising design for adaptation, and on lifecycle strategy.
 - b. Securing clean energy and water: support for clean energy infrastructure projects.
 - c. Achieving well-designed places: emphasis on design led development that is context responsive.
 - d. Managing flood risk and coastal change: clearer sequential and exception test requirements, and a standardised national approach to early adoption of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).
 - e. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment: support for improving connectivity, and ecosystem thinking. Further recognition also of protected landscapes and character of the coast.
 - f. Conserving the historic environment: strengthening of protection and simplification of terminology.
- 1.1.14 Following a review of the revised NPPF, it is considered that the outcomes detailed within the PEIR chapters remain valid and are not materially changed by the proposed revisions to policy.

Chapter 12 Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Drainage

Flood risk and coastal change guidance

- 1.1.15 The national planning policy flood risk and coastal change guidance (Ref 7) was updated in September 2025.
- 1.1.16 The updates to three paragraphs, and the addition of a new paragraph in the guidance all relate to the sequential approach to site selection. The sequential approach to site selection has been applied throughout design development of the Proposed Scheme, taking into account sources of flood risk.
- 1.1.17 Following a review of the revised guidance it is considered that the outcomes detailed within the PEIR Chapter 12 Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Drainage remain valid and are not materially changed by the revisions to the guidance.

Sustainable drainage systems guidance

- 1.1.18 The temporary and permanent drainage design is currently being developed for the Proposed Scheme, with further details to be provided within the ES and supporting appendices.
- 1.1.19 The SuDS design process considers best practice guidance including the National Standards for SuDS (Ref 8), CIRIA SuDS Manual (C753) (Ref 9) and Suffolk County Council Flood Risk Management Strategy Appendix A Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS): A Local Design Guide (Ref 10).

1.2 Conclusion

- 1.2.1 Full consideration of revisions to legislation, policy and guidance will be undertaken within the subsequent ES and the Planning Statement that will accompany the application for Development Consent.

References

- Ref 1 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (September 2025) Guide to the Planning and Infrastructure Bill. Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-planning-and-infrastructure-bill/guide-to-the-planning-and-infrastructure-bill> [accessed 06 January 2026]
- Ref 2 UK Public General Acts (2008) The Planning Act 2008 [online] Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents> [last accessed 27 November 2025]
- Ref 3 Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025) Planning for New Energy Infrastructure: 2025 Revisions to National Policy Statements [online] available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-new-energy-infrastructure-2025-revisions-to-national-policy-statements> [last accessed 27 November 2025].
- Ref 4 Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025). National Policy Statements for energy infrastructure 2025 [online] available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-policy-statements-for-energy-infrastructure#full-publication-update-history> [last accessed 12 December 2025]
- Ref 5 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (December 2025) Open consultation National Planning Policy Framework: proposed reforms and other changes to the planning system. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-planning-policy-framework-proposed-reforms-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system> [accessed 06 January 2026]
- Ref 6 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (December 2025) National Planning Policy Framework: draft text for consultation. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6941965758a21370f58f304e/Draft_NPPF_December_2025.pdf [accessed 06 January 2026]
- Ref 7 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2018 to 2021) and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (September 2025) Guidance Flood risk and coastal change Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-and-coastal-change> [accessed 06 January 2026]
- Ref 8 Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (July 2025) National Standards for SuDS Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-standards-for-sustainable-drainage-systems/national-standards-for-sustainable-drainage-systems-suds> [accessed 06 January 2026]

- Ref 9 CIRIA (December 2015) The SuDS Manual (C753) Available at:
https://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/CIRIA/Item_Detail.aspx?iProductCode=C753
[accessed 06 January 2026]
- Ref 10 Suffolk County Council Flood Risk Management Strategy Appendix A Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS): A Local Design Guide Available at:
<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/2023-sf3967-scc-suffolk-flood-risk-appendix-a2.pdf> [accessed 06 January 2026]

National Grid Lion Link Limited

Company number 14722364

1-3 Strand

London

WG2N-5EH

United Kingdom

nationalgrid.com

