



The Great Grid Upgrade

Eastern Green Link 5 (EGL 5)

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 1

Part 1

Chapter 2 Regulatory and Policy Overview

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nationalgrid

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2. Regulatory and Policy Overview

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This chapter provides an overview of the key legislation and policy against which the Development Consent Order (DCO) application will be prepared and assessed. A full explanation of the relevant legislation and policy will be provided in the Planning Statement included within the suite of documents which will accompany the DCO application.

2.1.2 This chapter should be read in conjunction with:

- **Volume 2, Part 1: Appendix 2.A Regulatory and Planning Context;**
- **Volume 2, Part 1: Appendix 2.B Marine Plan Policy Assessment;** and
- **Volume 2, Part 1: Appendix 2.C Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) Stage 1 Screening Report.**

2.2 Key Legislation

Planning Act 2008

2.2.1 The Planning Act 2008 (SI 2008 c. 29) (as amended) (PA 2008) (Ref 2.1) introduced a new consenting procedure for NSIPs relating to energy. The PA 2008 is the primary legislation that establishes the legal framework for submitting, examining and determining applications for development consent. It sets out that developments meeting certain defined criteria, are classified as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). It requires that developers wishing to construct, operate and maintain NSIPs must obtain a DCO from the relevant Secretary of State (SoS) to authorise their project.

2.2.2 Section 14 of the PA 2008 defines types of developments which are classified as NSIPs, subject to the criteria and thresholds set out in Sections 15 to 30A for different types of infrastructure. Section 16 of the PA 2008 sets this out for developments comprising 'Electricity lines'.

2.2.3 The Project does not fall under the definition of a NSIP under Part 3 of the PA 2008. Only electricity lines that are above ground, 132 kilovolt (kV) or greater and 2 kilometres (km) or more in length are defined as NSIPs in their own right under Section 16 of the PA 2008. The Project is therefore not an NSIP under the definitions set out in the PA 2008. However, under Section 35(1) of the PA 2008, "*the Secretary of State may give a direction for development to be treated as development for which development consent is required*" if certain criteria (including the type and location of the development) are met.

2.2.4 On 17 April 2025 National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET) issued a letter to the SoS for Energy Security and Net Zero, requesting a direction under section 35 of the PA 2008 related to development forming part of the Project. In the letter, NGET requested that the proposed converter station in the East Lindsey area of Lincolnshire required for the Eastern Green Link (EGL) 5 Project should be treated as development for which development consent is required. In the letter, the converter station in the East Lindsey

area was described as comprising the “*Proposed Development*” which would constitute the “*authorised development*” in a DCO.

- 2.2.5 On 14 May 2025, the SoS gave the requested direction under sections 35(1) and 35ZA of the PA 2008, noting in both that the Project could be consented by way of a DCO application. Therefore, the PA 2008 provides the primary legislative framework for the consenting of the Project.
- 2.2.6 The PA 2008 has been amended through the adoption of the Localism Act 2011 (*SI 2011 c. 20*). Under the Localism Act 2011, the Planning Inspectorate is responsible for the NSIP planning process and will examine the DCO application for the Scheme and make a recommendation to the SoS to grant or refuse consent.

The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

- 2.2.7 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) (Ref 2.2) govern the EIA process relevant to NSIPs. An EIA is required because NGET consider the Project to meet the criteria for EIA development in Schedule 3 of the EIA Regulations.
- 2.2.8 The EIA Regulations set out a procedure for assessing, consulting and informing decision-making for projects which are likely to have significant environmental effects. The EIA Regulations require the provision of an Environmental Statement (ES), which will be submitted alongside the DCO application for the Project.
- 2.2.9 Paragraph 5 of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations specifically outlines that the EIA must identify, describe and assess, the direct and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short-term, medium-term and long-term, positive and negative significant effects of the Project upon specific environmental factors. The requirement of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations will be met through the assessment of effects for each environmental aspect assessed as part of the EIA. Further details on the approach to the EIA are outlined in **Part 1, Chapter 5: PEIR Approach and Methodology** and in the scope of environmental aspects outlined in the environmental aspect chapters (**Part 2, Part 3 and Part 4**).
- 2.2.10 The EIA will be undertaken in line with legislation and policy and specifically in accordance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations. In addition, the EIA will take into consideration key guidance documents from the Planning Inspectorate which include:
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on EIA Notification and Consultation (25 March 2025) (Ref 2.3).
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Preparation and Submission of Application Documents (4 December 2025) (Ref 2.4).
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: process, preliminary environmental information and environmental statements (25 March 2025) (Ref 2.5).
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope (25 March 2025) (Ref 2.6).
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Habitats Regulations Assessments (25 March 2025) (Ref 2.7).

- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process (24 March 2025) (Ref 2.8).
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Transboundary Impacts and Process (25 March 2025) (Ref 2.9).
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment (25 March 2025) (Ref 2.10).
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: The Water Framework Directive (25 March 2025) (Ref 2.11).
 - Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Preparing Applications for Linear Projects (15 April 2025) (Ref 2.12).
- 2.2.11 The Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP; formerly IEMA) also provides guidance on EIA, and the EIA for the Project will take into consideration the following guidance documents from ISEP:
- Environmental Impact Assessment Guide to: Delivering Quality Development (Ref 2.13).
 - Delivering Proportionate EIA. A Collaborative Strategy for Enhancing UK Environmental Impact Assessment Practice (Ref 2.14).
- 2.2.12 These lists of guidance documents are not exhaustive and provide a general overview of the important guidance that will help to inform the EIA process for the Project. The lists will be continually reviewed and updated throughout the EIA process up to submission of the DCO application.

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023

- 2.2.13 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURA 2023) was introduced to meet the governments levelling up agenda through reforming the UK planning system and speeding up the delivery of development infrastructure.
- 2.2.14 A core component of the LURA 2023 is the conceptual shift towards Environmental Outcomes Reporting (EOR) replacing the current EIA regimes. Under EOR, developers will be required to demonstrate how proposed NSIPs deliver against defined environmental outcomes. The aim of this shift is to reduce the administrative burden and cost whilst ensuring environmental protections are not weakened.
- 2.2.15 At present, the EOR system is not yet in force, the detailed regulatory framework for EORs is to follow in secondary legislation. As such, NSIPs must continue to follow the existing legal requirements under the EIA Regulations until the relevant secondary legislation has been consulted on and adopted.
- 2.2.16 The Applicant will continue to monitor development of the LURA 2023 and respond accordingly.

The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025

- 2.2.17 The Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 (PIA 2025) received Royal Assent on 18 December 2025 providing a major overhaul to the DCO consenting process, with an emphasis on accelerating the delivery of NSIPs.

- 2.2.18 One of the most significant changes is the abolition of statutory pre-application consultation for NSIPs. This removes the legal duties to consult affected parties, local authorities and prescribed consultees as well as the requirement to produce PEIRs and formal Consultation Reports.
- 2.2.19 To ensure there is effective oversight, these duties will be replaced with forthcoming government guidance on ‘meaningful engagement’ which is expected to be revealed in spring 2026. As a transitional safeguard, applicants are still required to notify certain public bodies of their intention to submit a DCO.
- 2.2.20 Additionally, the PIA 2025 provides additional modifications to the examination stages of the DCO with Examining Authorities now required to place greater weight on their initial assessment of principal issues, ensuring examinations focus on the most material matters from the outset.
- 2.2.21 It should be noted that the Statutory Consultation requirements continue to apply to projects that have already commenced pre-application consultation before the commencement of PIA 2025.
- 2.2.22 As with the LURA 2023, the Applicant will monitor this and any further guidance that may be revealed during the DCO application.

Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

- 2.2.23 A spatial planning system for the management of the marine environment was introduced by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA 2009) (Ref 2.15). This introduced a requirement to obtain Marine Licences for works at sea.
- 2.2.24 The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is responsible, under Part 4 of the MCAA 2009, for administering marine licensing of activities related to construction or removal of any substance or object in English inshore and offshore waters¹ and also for regulating activities where they are undertaken outside of the UK territorial limits e.g., within the UK Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). They do so by issuing a Marine Licence.
- 2.2.25 The PA 2008 enables an applicant for a DCO to apply for a “Deemed Marine Licence” (DML) as part of the DCO process by virtue of Section 149A of the PA 2008 (Ref 2.1) which was inserted by the MCAA 2009. It is intended that the DCO will contain a DML for the offshore works for the Project.
- 2.2.26 In addition, Section 126 of the MCAA 2009 (Ref 2.15) sets out that where a public authority has the function of determining an application that is capable of affecting (other than insignificantly) the protected features of a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), or the processes on which those features depend, then they have a duty to consider MCZs during their decision making.
- 2.2.27 The Applicant intends to apply for a DML for the English Offshore elements of the Project. Much of the cabling will lie beyond UK territorial seas (12 nautical miles (NM)) within the EEZ. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) provides the freedom to lay, maintain and repair cables on and off the continental shelf and further

¹ ‘English waters’ is a term used to describe the inshore and offshore area. The inshore area is the area of sea within 12 nautical miles of the English coastline. This is also called the territorial limit. The offshore area is the area of sea beyond the territorial limit but which is in the designated the English Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and within the UK sector of the continental shelf.

states that the coastal state (MMO and SoS in this case) may not impede the laying of such cables. The MCAA 2009 therefore includes a number of provisions to ensure the rights conferred by UNCLOS are maintained with the marine licensing regime.

- 2.2.28 Section 81(1) of the MCAA 2009 sets out that nothing in Part 4 of the MCAA 2009 applies to any activity done in the course of laying or maintaining an offshore stretch (defined in Section 81(4) as being beyond the seaward limits of the territorial sea) of an 'exempt cable'. Section 81(5) sets out a handful of exceptions to the applicability of the exemption; the Offshore elements of the Project do not fall within any of these categories. Furthermore, Section 81(1) of the MCAA 2009 has effect in relation to part (but not the whole) of an 'exempt cable', the MMO must grant any marine licence application to lay any inshore stretch (within the seaward limits of the territorial sea (12 NM) of the cable).
- 2.2.29 There are some activities that are associated with cable laying (including placement of external cable protection and dredging activities associated with sandwave clearance) where an exemption does not apply. The draft DCO (and DML) to be submitted with the final ES will therefore be structured to reflect this.
- 2.2.30 Preliminary assessment of effects in Volume 1, Part 3 for the English Offshore Scheme does consider cable laying beyond 12 NM, however, this is to provide a holistic view of the English Offshore Scheme only, and the Applicant will not be seeking consent for the 'exempt cable'.

Electricity Act 1989

- 2.2.31 Section 9(2) of the Electricity Act 1989 (Ref 2.16) places general duties on NGET as a licence holder:
- 2.2.32 *"to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission..."*.
- 2.2.33 In addition, s38 and Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 requires an electricity license holder such as NGET, when formulating proposals for new lines and other *works*, to:
- 2.2.34 *"...have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest; and shall do what [it] reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects"*.
- 2.2.35 NGET's Stakeholder, Community and Amenity Policy (Ref 2.17) published December 2016 and most recently updated in November 2025, sets out how the company will meet the Schedule 9 duty placed upon it by the legislation.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

- 2.2.36 A National Landscape is, since November 2023, the rebranded name of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). They are designated under the provisions of Part IV of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 (CRoW 2000) (Ref 2.18) for the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of an area and securing its permanent protection against development that would damage its special qualities. NGET as a statutory undertaker, has a duty under s85 of the Act (as amended in s245 of the LURA 2023) which states:

“In exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an AONB in England, a relevant authority must seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB”.

2.3 Other Assessments

- 2.3.1 In addition to the EIA, the DCO application for the Project requires other standalone assessments to be carried out to meet the requirements of other relevant policy and legislation. Whilst the outcomes of these assessments may be drawn upon when carrying out the EIA (and vice versa), the scope of these other assessments will be discussed and agreed with appropriate regulatory authorities in line with the requirements of the relevant policy and legislation.
- 2.3.2 Where appropriate, however, the individual technical aspect chapters in this PEIR outline where the findings of one of the additional assessments are to be drawn upon when undertaking the EIA, and any proposed scope of the relevant additional assessment is set out to facilitate consultation with relevant consultees in relation to this PEIR. The other assessments that are required to meet the requirements of other legislation and policy are outlined below. Four such assessments are the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA), Marine Conservation Zone Assessment, Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and the Water Framework Directive Assessment.

Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 2.3.3 In accordance with Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the ‘Habitats Directive’) (Ref 2.19) and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (the ‘Birds Directive’) (Ref 2.20), a network of protected areas has been designated by European Union (EU) member states for the protection of Europe’s most valuable and threatened habitats and species. These areas are known as European sites. The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (SI 2017 No. 1012) (Ref 2.21) and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (SI 2017 No.1013) (the ‘Habitats Regulations’) (Ref 2.22) transpose the EU Directives into UK law. Following Brexit, a number of changes were made to the Habitats Regulations through the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (Ref 2.23).
- 2.3.4 When considering the merits of the application, the SoS must consider potential effects on European sites. In instances where a proposal has the potential to affect a European site, a HRA will need to be conducted. HRA is a process that determines if a plan or project proposal could significantly harm the designated features of a European site.
- 2.3.5 It should be noted that, post Brexit, European sites in the UK are no longer part of the European Union’s Natura 2000 network. The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 have created a National Site Network (NSN) on land and at sea, including both the inshore and offshore marine areas in the UK. The UK NSN includes existing Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), existing Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and new SACs and SPAs designated under these Regulations.
- 2.3.6 UK policy extends the requirements pertaining to NSN sites to include Ramsar sites, proposed / candidate SACs, potential SPAs and areas secured as sites compensating for damage to a NSN site. Any proposals which have the potential to affect these sites would also require a HRA because they are protected by government policy.

- 2.3.7 HRA Screening and a Report to Inform Appropriate Assessment will be undertaken for the Project and will be submitted as part of the application for development consent. The HRA Stage 1 Screening Report is included in **Volume 2, Part 1, Appendix 2.C**.

Marine Conservation Zone Assessment

- 2.3.8 A Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) Assessment, under the MCAA 2009 (Ref 2.15), will be undertaken for the English Offshore Scheme and will be submitted as part of the application for development consent.
- 2.3.9 When considering the merits of the application, the SoS must satisfy themselves under Section 126(6) of the MCAA 2009, that there is no significant risk of the proposed activity hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives stated for an MCZ.
- 2.3.10 There are three stages to the assessment process including:
- Screening (the process of identifying whether section 126 should apply to the English Offshore Scheme and whether the activity is capable of affecting (other than insignificantly) either the protected features of the MCZ or the ecological or geomorphological processes on which the protected features are dependent);
 - Stage 1 assessment (which considers whether there is a significant risk of the activity hindering the achievement of the conservation objectives stated for the MCZ); and
 - Stage 2 assessment (which considers whether there are benefits to the public of proceeding with the project that clearly outweigh the damage to the environment and what measures NGET will look to provide in principle Measures of Equivalent Environmental Benefit (MEEB) to compensate for the damage which the project will have on the MCZ).

Flood Risk Assessment

- 2.3.11 A Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) will be submitted and form part of the application. The FRA will assess the flood risk both to and from the Project and demonstrate how that flood risk will be managed over the Project lifetime. The FRA will give due regard to climate change and will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Flood and Water Management Act (2010), which establishes the statutory framework for managing flood risk and surface water at a local level.

Water Framework Directive Assessment

- 2.3.12 A Water Framework Directive (WFD) Assessment under the Water Environment Regulations 2017 (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) (Ref 2.24) will be undertaken for the English Onshore Scheme and English Offshore Scheme.
- 2.3.13 When deciding NSIP applications, the 2017 WFD Regulations requires the SoS to consider the potential effects of any proposed development on:
- The environmental objectives and measures within River Basin Management Plan and any supplementary plans.
 - The ability of the UK to comply with the WFD (if applicable) the derogation provisions of Article 4.7.
- 2.3.14 The Examining Authority for an NSIP application must also report on these effects and ensure the SoS has enough information to decide whether the development has

implications for the UK's obligations under the WFD. This includes information in support of any derogation that may be sought.

- 2.3.15 There is no prescribed format or process to WFD assessments, however, the Environment Agency have produced WFD assessment: estuarine and coastal waters guidance (Ref 2.25). While this advice focuses on estuarine and coastal waters in England, the guidance sets out general principals and a staged approach to assessment that can be used for other water bodies such as rivers, lakes and groundwater. The approach outlined within the guidance generally follows three stages:
- Stage 1 WFD Screening: to determine if parts of the proposed development do not require further consideration, for example activities which have been ongoing since before the current River Basin Management Plan cycle so form part of the baseline;
 - Stage 2 WFD Scoping: to identify risks of the proposed development's activities to receptors based on the relevant water bodies and their water quality elements, including information on status, objectives, and the parameters for each water body; and
 - Stage 3 WFD Impact Assessment: a detailed assessment of water bodies and their quality elements that are likely to be affected by the proposed development.
- 2.3.16 A WFD assessment will be submitted and form part of the application for development consent. It will be split into an onshore WFD assessment covering surface waters, lakes and rivers and groundwater from MLWS and above and an offshore WFD assessment covering transitional and coastal waterbodies from MHWS out to 1 nautical mile (NM).

Environment Act 2021

- 2.3.17 The Environment Act (2021) (Ref 2.26) provides a framework for improving environmental management across a wide spectrum of environmental issues including waste and resources, water quality, biodiversity, and air quality. It aims to deliver long term targets to improve environmental conditions and reduce pollution, which would need to be considered by the Project. The Environment Act (2021) in Section 99 and Schedule 15 includes a requirement for NSIPs to deliver biodiversity gain as part of the application and for the areas of biodiversity net gain to be maintained for a specified period. DCOs must meet a biodiversity gain objective defined in a biodiversity gain statement. This requirement for NSIPs begins in May 2026. NGET is currently working with other organisations to identify how this can best be implemented and the securing mechanisms for maintaining habitats for the specified period.

2.4 National Planning and Marine Policy

National Policy Statements (NPSs)

- 2.4.1 In deciding an application for development consent, Section 104 of the Planning Act 2008 requires the Secretary of State to decide the application in accordance with any relevant NPS.
- 2.4.2 The applicable NPS for the Project are EN-1, the Overarching NPS for Energy, and EN-5, the NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure. NPS EN-1 and EN-5 were first published in were published by DESNZ on 17 January 2024 and were updated on 6 January 2026.

- 2.4.3 In accordance with Paragraph 1.3.10 of NPS EN1 (Ref 2.27) *“EN-1, in conjunction with any relevant technology specific NPS, will be the primary policy for Secretary of State decision making on projects in the field of energy for which a direction has been given under section 35.”*
- 2.4.4 Where relevant to the EIA, further details pertaining to NPSs are provided in the appendices to the environmental aspect chapters of this PEIR and will be included in the Planning Statement, included within the suite of documents which will accompany the DCO application.
- 2.4.5 NPS EN-1 sets out the Government’s overarching policy with regard to the development of NSIPs in the energy sector. It emphasises the need for new energy projects to contribute to a secure, diverse and affordable energy supply. This is to support the Government’s policies on sustainable development, in particular by mitigating and adapting to climate change. EN-1 sets out generic impacts in respect of matters such as air quality and emissions, biodiversity, dust and odour, flood risk, historic environment, landscape, land use, noise and vibration, socio-economic, traffic and transport and waste management. These generic impacts have been taken into account in the preparation of the PEIR.
- 2.4.6 NPS EN-5 (Ref 2.28) specifically relates to electricity networks and Part 2 includes specific policies including consideration of good design, biodiversity and geological conservation, landscape and visual and noise and vibration. These policies have also been taken into account in the relevant topic chapter.
- 2.4.7 NPS EN-3 (Ref 2.28) together with NPS EN-1 provide the primary basis for decisions on applications for development consent orders for nationally significant renewable energy infrastructure projects comprising energy from biomass and / or waste (>50 megawatts (MW)), offshore wind (>100 MW) and onshore wind (>50 MW). This NPS may be relevant for electricity transmission projects which connect with renewable energy sources.
- 2.4.8 A summary of the relevant ‘Energy’ NPSs (EN-1, EN-3) and EN-5) is included in **Table 2-1** below.

Table 2-1 Relevant NPS

Plan	Summary
Overarching NPS for Energy (EN-1) (Ref 2.27)	
Paragraph 1.3.10	This paragraph states, that EN-1 in conjunction with any relevant technology specific NPS - will be the primary policy for Secretary of State decision making on projects in the field of energy for which a direction has been given under section 35 of the PA 2008.
Paragraph 3.3.62	Sets out that the government has concluded that there is a critical national priority (CNP) for the provision of low carbon infrastructure.
Paragraph 4.2.17	Outlines for electricity grid infrastructure, all power lines covered by EN-5, including upgrades and substations, are included, regardless of the generation technology they support, because they enhance overall grid efficiency for low carbon connections.
Paragraph 4.2.18	Defines low carbon infrastructure, for policy purposes, as energy projects classified as NSIPs under s35 of the PA 2008. It includes

Plan	Summary
	assets that fit the standard ‘low carbon’ definition such as interconnectors, Offshore Hybrid Assets, or offshore bootstraps supporting the onshore network. The scope also covers lifetime extensions and repowering of nationally significant low carbon projects.
NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (Ref 2.28)	
Paragraph 1.6.4	This section confirms in that it also applies to developments that require development consent pursuant to section 35 of the PA 2008.
Paragraph 2.2.10	Reiterates the duties under Section 9 of the Electricity Act 1989, both in relation to developing and maintaining an economical and efficient network and in formulating proposals for new electricity networks infrastructure, to <i>‘have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest...’</i> .
Paragraph 2.9.19	A summary of the Horlock Rules to provide guidelines for the design and siting of substations (in addition to cable sealing end compounds and line entries). These rules, the basis of which was established in 2003, when considering new electricity infrastructure, National Grid has regard to the degree to which options comply or deviate from these rules.
NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (Ref 2.29)	
	This NPS may also have relevance to the Project, in the view of the need for the Project to reinforce boundary flows and facilitate future connections from offshore wind.

Marine Policy Statement (MPS)

- 2.4.9 The framework for preparing Marine Plans and decisions affecting the marine environment is contained within the MPS, which was adopted in 2011 and most recently updated on 22 September 2020 (Ref 2.302). The MPS has been considered in the development of this PEIR, particularly, within the chapters relating to the English Offshore Scheme.
- 2.4.10 Guidance to the UK MPS from 1 January 2021 provides statutory guidance which explains how references to EU law in the UK MPS should be interpreted following the UK’s withdrawal from the EU (Ref 2.31).

Marine Plans

- 2.4.11 The East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plan September 2022 (Ref 2.32) and the North East Offshore Marine Plan June 2021 (Ref 2.33) has been considered in the development of this PEIR.
- 2.4.12 The Guidance to the UK MPS from 1 January 2021 (Ref 2.30) provides statutory guidance which explains how references to EU law in the UK MPS should be interpreted following

the UK's withdrawal for the EU. This guidance has been considered in the development of this PEIR.

British Energy Security Strategy

- 2.4.13 The British Energy Security Strategy (Ref 2.34) was published by the UK Government in April 2022. It sets out the Government's ambition to improve energy efficiency, transition away from oil and gas, and build a self-sufficient and secure energy system.
- 2.4.14 The Strategy sets out the UK's ambition to deliver up to 50 Gigawatt (GW) of offshore wind by 2030 and outlines a number of ways in which the time taken for development and deployment of offshore wind farms will be reduced. This includes through streamlining the consenting process and strengthening the Renewable NPSs.
- 2.4.15 The Strategy also prioritises the need for flexibility in matching supply and demand, so that minimal energy is wasted, thus creating a more efficient and locally responsive energy system.
- 2.4.16 The Powering Up Britain paper (Ref 2.35) was published in March 2023 by the UK Government. This document provides an update of the strategy for secure, clean and affordable British energy for the long-term future.
- 2.4.17 When considering new electricity infrastructure, NGET have had regard to the British Energy Security Strategy and Powering Up Britain paper.
- 2.4.18 The British Energy Security Strategy was published under the 2019 to 2022 Johnson Conservative government; therefore, it is recognised that this does not fully reflect the current Starmer Labour government policy. References to this have been included for information purposes only, ensuring the Project is aligned with the current Starmer Labour government policy where it has departed from the policy published under the previous Conservative government.

Transmission Acceleration Action Plan

- 2.4.19 In response to the Electricity Networks Commissioner's report in August 2023 (Ref 2.36) on accelerating electricity transmission network build the UK Government published its Transmission Acceleration Action Plan in November 2023.
- 2.4.20 The Transmission Acceleration Action Plan (Ref 2.37) outlines a series of recommendation and actions aimed at modernising and expanding the electricity grid to meet the increasing demand for electricity and to support the transition to Net Zero by 2050.
- 2.4.21 The Transmission Acceleration Action Plan recommends that:
 - “the development of a Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP), including a Marine Environmental Assessment and an offshore delivery route map, to enable planning of the network in a strategic way” and the “development of Centralised Strategic Network Plans (CSNPs) based on the SSEP, and that these should be used to enable resource planning.”*
- 2.4.22 Regarding design standards, the Transmission Acceleration Action Plan suggests the following recommendations:
 - *“Electricity Transmission Design Principles (ETDP) should be created to provide greater clarity on the type of asset to be used in different environments.”*

- *“Engagement with communities hosting transmission infrastructure should be focused on the choices that they can influence within the ETDP design principles and guidelines.”*
- *“A forum should be created between the Future System Operator (FSO), Transmission Owners (TOs), equipment manufacturers and Ofgem to review and update equipment standards used within Great Britain.”*
- *“An automated Corridor routing process should be adopted as standard practice”*
- *“A route design process that uses the Electricity Transmission Design Principles (ETDP) should be adopted.”*

2.4.23 The Transmission Acceleration Action Plan states that:

- *“Moving to a strategically planned approach for the transmission network allows a different approach, where strategic plans determine the need for projects, and a separate need case assessment is not required for regulatory approval.”; and*
- *“the government agrees with the Commissioner’s recommendation that regulatory approvals should be removed from the critical path of key transmission projects.”*

2.4.24 The overall goal of the Transmission Acceleration Plan is to halve the timeline for building new transmission infrastructure from the current 14 years to 7 years in order to support the UK’s energy security and its target for Net Zero.

2.4.25 The Transmission Acceleration Action Plan was published under the 2022 to 2024 Sunak Conservative government; therefore, it is recognised that this does not fully reflect the current Starmer Labour government policy. References to this have been included for information purposes only, ensuring the Project is aligned with the current Starmer Labour government policy where it has departed from the policy published under the previous Conservative government.

Clean Power 2030 Action Plan

2.4.26 The Clean Power 2030 Action Plan (Ref 2.38) outlines the need for a secure and affordable energy supply, the creation of essential new energy industries, and to limit our contribution to the damaging effects of climate change. With help from the National Energy System Operator (NESO), the following next steps have been identified:

- Fundamentally reforming the connections process, by *“working with NESO, Ofgem (Office of Gas and Electricity Markets), TOs (Transmission Owners) and DNOs (Distribution Network Operators) to prioritise viable projects that align with the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan. Without these critical reforms, the queue will not align with our strategic needs and the projects we need will be delayed”;*
- Regulatory reform *“to ensure that the Clean Power 2030 target is better integrated into planning and investment decision making, enabling investment in networks ahead of need. This includes working with Ofgem to explore the appropriateness of tightening the incentives and penalties to drive the acceleration of network buildout delivery”;*
- Improving networks planning and consenting *“to provide the levers to accelerate the expansion and upgrades required across our transmission and distribution network to ensure energy infrastructure can support the delivery of the 2030 target”;* and
- *“Engaging with communities to enable them to benefit from living near new transmission network infrastructure.”*

2.4.27 The Clean Power 2030 Action Plan was published under the current Starmer Labour government.

National Planning Policy Framework

2.4.28 The revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Ref 2.39) was most recently updated in February 2025. It should be noted that a draft consultation for a revised NPPF opened on 16 December 2025 running until 10 March which looks to propose a major structural overhaul which replaces traditional paragraph numbering with chapter based coded policies, creating a clear separation between plan making policies and national decision making policies.

2.4.29 Based on the changes proposed within the draft NPPF, there is a clear emphasis by the government to facilitate energy infrastructure, with draft policies W1 and W3.1.a providing the clearest direction for development plans to ‘*plan positively*’ for renewable and low carbon energy infrastructure and to give ‘*substantial weight*’ to the benefits these schemes will deliver for energy security and the transition to net zero. It should be noted that there may be further amendments as a result of the consultation exercise.

2.4.30 Paragraph 5 of the NPPF sets out that it does not contain specific policies for NSIPs and states that:

“These are determined in accordance with the decision-making framework in the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and relevant national policy statements for major infrastructure, as well as any other matters that are relevant (which may include the National Planning Policy Framework)”.

2.4.31 Notwithstanding the above, paragraph 161 of the NPPF confirms the Framework’s support for the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate. It states that:

“the planning system should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience...and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.”

2.4.32 While EN-1 and EN-5 remain the prime decision-making policy, where they do not provide guidance, each topic chapter will consider whether there is important and relevant policy in the NPPF that may require consideration by the decision-making authority.

2.4.33 At this stage, it is not possible to confirm if such secondary guidance will be considered important or relevant by the SoS, and it is therefore included for completeness to allow the SoS to make such a determination.

2.4.34 Paragraph 164 of the NPPF states that:

- *“New Development should be planned for in ways that:*
 - *avoid increased vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change. When new development is brought forward in areas which are vulnerable, care should be taken to ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures, including through the planning of green infrastructure; and*
 - *can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as through its location, orientation, and design. Any local requirements for the sustainability of buildings should reflect the Government’s policy for national technical standards.”*

2.4.35 The NPPF is also supported by the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG).

2.4.36 The proposed new Chapter 10 of the Draft NPPF acknowledges the significance of enhancing energy and water infrastructure. It consolidates existing policies focused on renewable and low-carbon energy, while introducing two additional policies regarding the planning and decision-making processes for both energy and water infrastructure. NGET will continue to monitor how the draft NPPF evolves during the consultation process.

Local Planning Policy

2.4.37 The NPPF states that the planning system should be genuinely plan-led. As such, local plans are prepared by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), usually the Council or the national park authority for the area. Succinct and up-to-date local plans should provide a positive vision for the future of each area and a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities.

2.4.38 Local plans must be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy in accordance with section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the NPPF. Once adopted, local plans provide the framework for development across England, including in the borough that EGL 5 would be developed in.

2.4.39 A summary of the relevant, adopted local planning policies relevant to the Project are included in **Table 2-2** below.

Table 2-2 Relevant Local Planning Policy

Plan	Summary
East Lindsey District Council	
East Lindsey Local Plan Core Strategy (Adopted July 2018) (Ref 2.40)	The East Lindsey Local Plan Core Strategy was adopted in July 2018 and sets out the vision and strategic policies for the growth and development of the District up to 2031.
East Lindsey Local Plan Review: Issues & Options (Ref 2.41)	East Lindsey District Council is undertaking a partial review of the East Lindsey Local Plan 2018. The Issues and Options Paper sets out certain issues within the adopted local plan which are being considered in the partial review and suggests potential options in relation to these – in particular relating to whether or not the Plan continues with its current strategy of separate policies for the coastal area or brings the policies together with one strategy for the District. The Council also undertook a call for land. Those with an interest in developing land within East Lindsey were asked to submit sites to the Council for consideration. Sites were being sought for both housing and employment land. Both the Issues and Options Paper consultation and the Call for Land consultations ran for an 8 week period between 15 February 2021 and 12 April 2021.
Lincolnshire County Council	
Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Core Strategy and Development Management Policies was	The Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Core Strategy and Development Management Policies was

Plan	Summary
Development Management Policies (Adopted June 2016) (Ref 2.42)	adopted in June 2016. The Core Strategy and Development Management Policies document sets out the key principles to guide the future winning and working of minerals and the form of waste management development in the County up to 2031.
Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Site Locations (Adopted December 2017) (Ref 2.43)	The Site Locations document was adopted in December 2017 and includes specific proposals and policies for the provision of land for mineral and waste development.
Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Ref 2.44)	Lincolnshire County Council is reviewing the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan. The Development Scheme timetable indicated that the draft Local Plan would be submitted to the Secretary of State in Summer 2024 but is not yet live.

2.4.40 Further aspect specific details on local planning policy, including specific policies of relevance to the Project will be included in the Planning Statement that will accompany the DCO application.

2.5 National Grid Policy and Guidance

2.5.1 National Grid has its own policies and processes that are followed when developing projects. The key policies that are applicable to the Project include:

- Holford Rules (Ref 2.45): A series of guidelines / rules for the routeing and design of new overhead lines or overhead line extensions. The guidelines were initially developed in 1959 and have been reviewed on a number of occasions by National Grid and by the other UK transmission licence holders. The guidelines provide a set of design criteria that have stood the test of time and became accepted industry best practice in overhead line routeing. The guidelines now form an important part of national planning policy relating to the development of electricity networks, as set out in NPS EN-5. The general principles underlying the Holford Rules – the avoidance of adverse impacts by careful routeing – are to a degree also relevant to the routeing of underground cables, although the balance of impacts and constraints will often be different.
- Horlock Rules (Ref 2.46): A series of guidelines / rules for the siting and design of new converter stations, substations, or substation extensions, including consideration of line entries and sealing end compounds. The guidelines were initially developed in 2003 and have been reviewed on a number of occasions by National Grid, with a revised version issued in 2009. The Horlock Rules provide a set of principles which avoid, or reduce the environmental impacts associated with the development of new substation infrastructure.
- National Grid’s Stakeholder, Community and Amenity Policy (Ref 2.16): This document describes the ten commitments that National Grid has made to the way that electricity transmission and interconnections works are carried out in the UK. This includes setting out how National Grid will meet its amenity responsibilities and how stakeholders and communities are involved on projects; and

- National Grid's Approach to Consenting (Ref 2.47): This document outlines the project development process for major infrastructure projects, from initial inception to consent and construction. National Grid's Approach to Consenting is divided into six stages, as detailed within **Part 1, Chapter 3: Reasonable Alternatives Considered**.
- National Grid also has an extensive range of process and guidance documents that govern how projects are designed and implemented. Specific documents are referenced later in the PEIR chapters where relevant.

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