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Eastern Green Link 5

PINS Pre-Application Planning Services - Programme Document

August 2026

Planning Inspectorate Case Reference: EN0210010

nationalgrid

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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’; the ‘Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: 2024 Pre-application Prospectus’ (“the Prospectus”) in respect of the Eastern Green Link (“EGL”) 5 Project; and the ‘Planning Act 2008: Guidance on preparing an application: Part 1 - Pre-application steps’ (“the Guidance”).

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); the Prospectus and paragraph 7 of the Guidance. 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: The pre-application programme
 - Section 5: Main issues for resolution
 - Section 6: Engaging with statutory consultees and Local Authorities
 - Section 7: Pre-application risks and how these are tracked and managed
 - Section 8: Approach to Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI)

2. Background to the Project

2.1 Overview of the Project

- 2.1.1 EGL 5 is a primarily offshore 2 Gigawatt (GW) High Voltage Direct Current (“HVDC”) electricity link, with associated onshore infrastructure, between Scotland and East Lindsey in England. The proposed development consists of the English Onshore Scheme and the English Offshore Scheme (together referred to as “the Project”), EGL 5 is a transmission and reinforcement project comprising a converter station in East Lindsey, Lincolnshire, England, connecting end-to-end with Scottish landfall via a HVDC subsea and underground electricity cable link (Figure 1; Figure 2).
- 2.1.2 EGL 5 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. EGL 5 is a key part of delivering the Government’s legally binding accelerated Net Zero and Energy Security ambitions. Only the English aspects of EGL 5 (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. The applicant for this DCO is NGET.
- 2.1.3 The key onshore and offshore elements of the Project subject to this DCO application include:

English Onshore Scheme

- A landfall siting north of Anderby Creek on the Lincolnshire coastline;
- A transition joint bay (“TJB”) which will enable the connection of the offshore and onshore HVDC cables;
- Underground HVDC cable running up to 8 km from the proposed landfall at Anderby Creek on the Lincolnshire coast to a converter station in East Lindsey;
- One converter station (the principal development) located to the north-east of Bilsby in East Lindsey, Lincolnshire; and
- Underground high voltage alternating current (“HVAC”) cable running up to 1 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).

English Offshore Scheme

- Offshore HVDC cables. In English waters the cable would be up to 423 km long (in English and Scottish waters the total cable length would be up to 565 km).

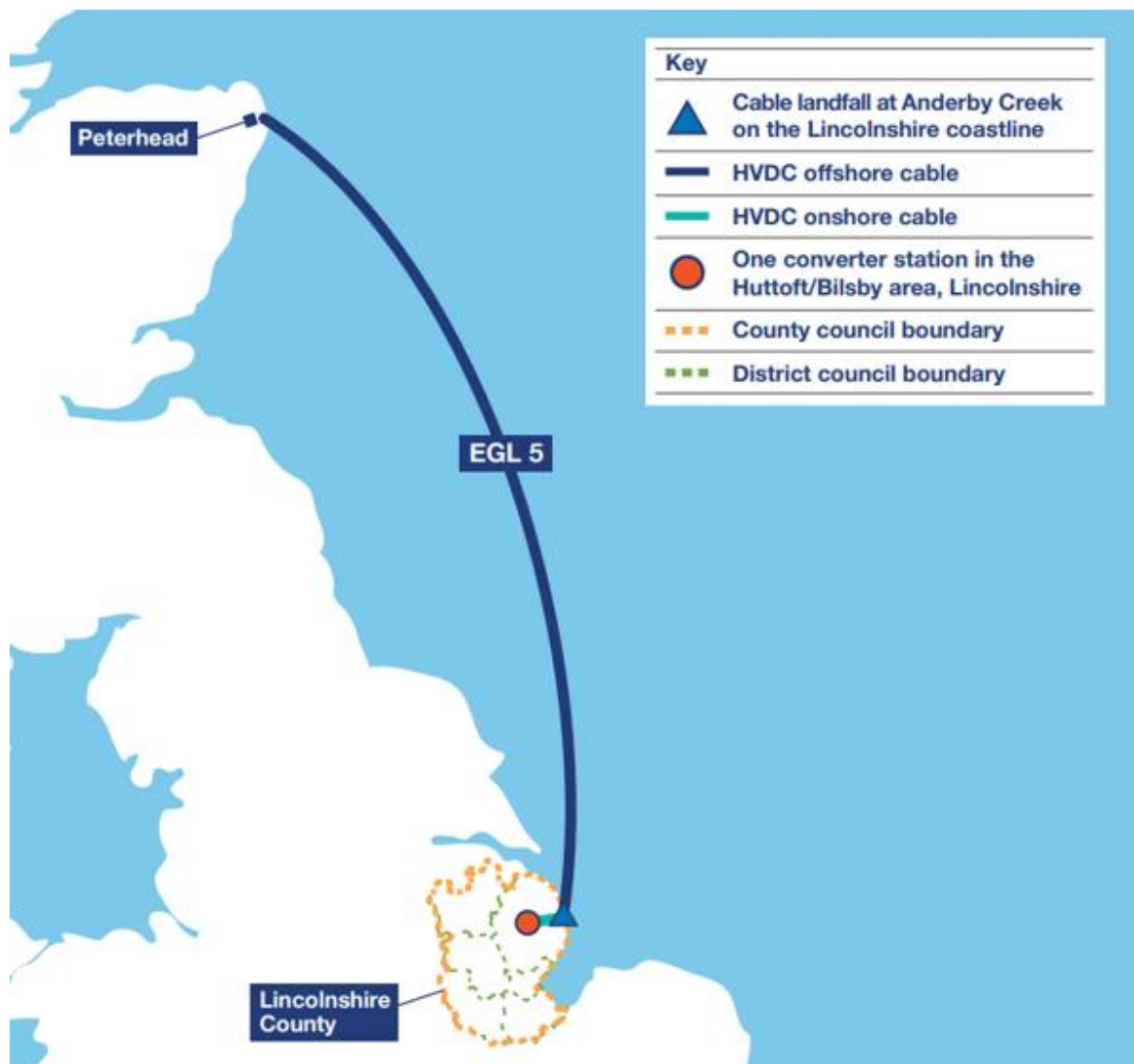


Figure 1. An overview of the Eastern Green Link 5 Scheme

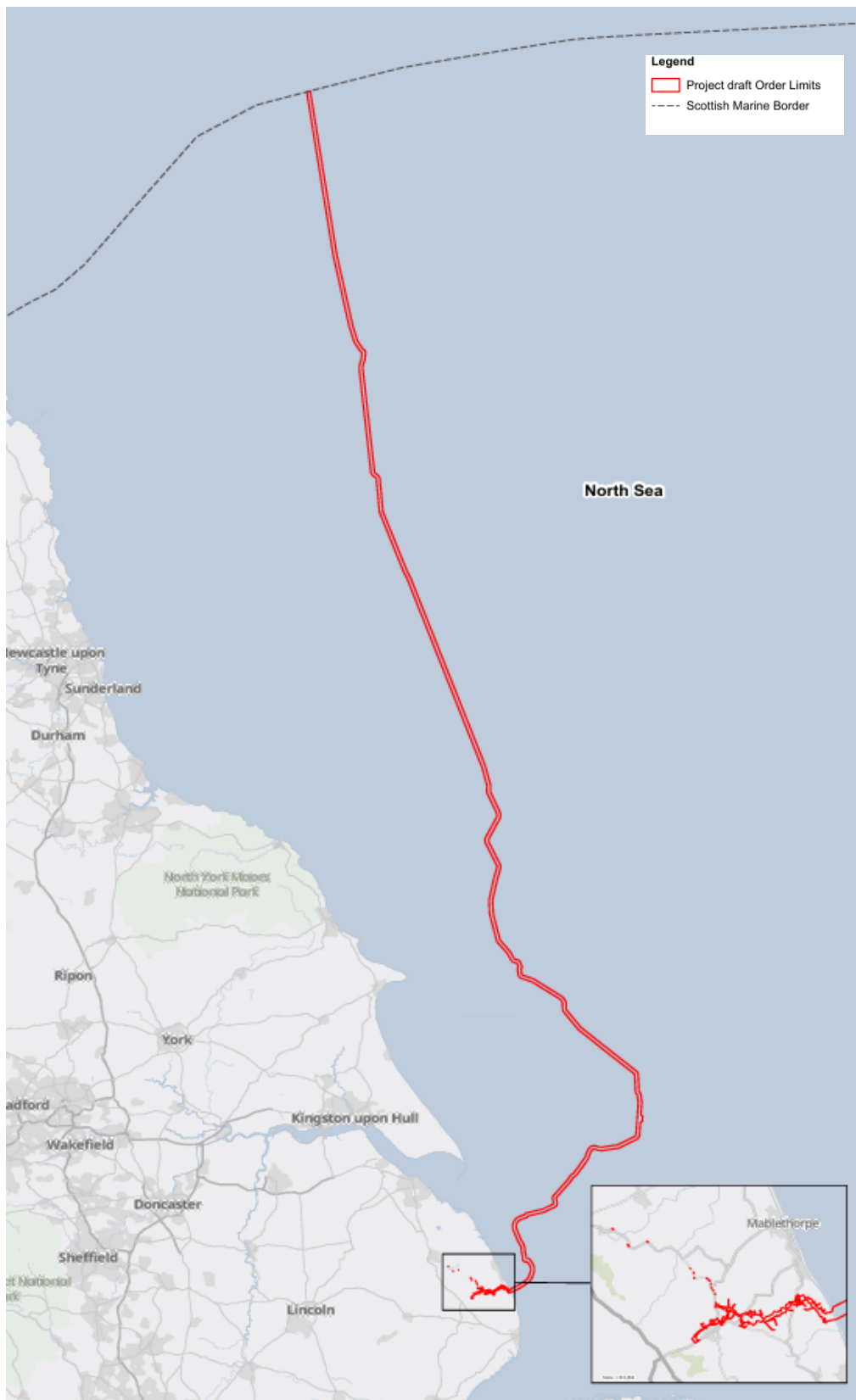


Figure 2. The Project draft Order Limits, presented within the PEIR and at statutory consultation.

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, which is part of the Project, 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 Further, the Planning Act 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 Planning Act 2008 which was inserted by the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. 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 (“LAs”), 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. NGET recognises that these are the current authorities and that they will be one unitary authority from 1st April 2028.

2.3 Policy context for the application

- 2.3.1 The key policy context for the application is set out below.
- 2.3.2 The applicable National Policy Statements (“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 last updated by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero on 6 January 2026.
- 2.3.3 The NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) 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.
- 2.3.4 The framework for preparing Marine Plans and decisions affecting the marine environment is contained within the Marine Policy Statement (“MPS”), which was adopted in 2011 and most recently updated on 22 September 2020.
- 2.3.5 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. The East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plan September 2022 and the North East Offshore Marine Plan June 2021 are relevant to this Project.

- 2.3.6 The British Energy Security Strategy 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. 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 NPS's.
- 2.3.7 In response to the Electricity Networks Commissioner's report in August 2023 on accelerating electricity transmission network build, the UK Government published its Transmission Acceleration Action Plan in November 2023. The Transmission Acceleration Action Plan outlines a series of recommendations 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.
- 2.3.8 The Clean Power 2030 Action Plan outlines the need for a secure and affordable energy supply, the creation of essential new energy industries, and to limit contributions to the damaging effects of climate change.
- 2.3.9 The revised National Planning Policy Framework ("NPPF") was most recently updated in February 2025. It should be noted that a draft consultation for a revised NPPF ran from 16 December 2025 until 10 March 2026, but further revisions have not yet been made. The NPPF sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.
- 2.3.10 The adopted local planning documents relevant to the project are listed below:
- East Lindsey Local Plan Core Strategy (adopted July 2018);
 - Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (adopted June 2016); and
 - Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Site Locations (adopted December 2017).

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 Great Grid Upgrade is the largest overhaul of the grid in generations and the Project is similar to others within the Great Grid Upgrade that are further developed in their programmes. 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. The pre-application programme

- 4.1.1 The DCO application is currently programmed to be made in 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 pre-application phase progresses.
- 4.1.2 Stage 1 non-statutory consultation on the Project was held between 13th May 2025 to the 23rd June 2025. The Project's Scoping Report was submitted in September 2025, and the Scoping Opinion was received in October 2025.
- 4.1.3 Stage 2 Statutory Consultation on the Project has now been completed and was held between the 29th May 2026 to the 24th July 2026. As part of this, the following documents were published:
- [2026 Stage 2 Consultation Preliminary Environmental Information Report \(PEIR\) including a non-technical summary](#)
 - [Design Development Report](#)
 - [Stage 2 Consultation Document](#)
 - [Feedback form](#)
 - [Consultation newsletter](#)
 - [Consultation banners](#)
 - [Statement of Community Consultation \(SoCC\)](#)
 - [Guide to Consultation Documents and Drawings](#)
 - [Strategic Options Report Update](#)
 - [Converter station - background to potential design approaches](#)
 - [Draft Design Principles Statement](#)
 - [Soils and Drainage Leaflet](#)
 - [2025 Stage 1 Consultation Feedback Report](#) (with Appendices A-E)
 - [Section 47 Notice](#)
 - [Section 48 Notice](#)
 - [Onshore Standard Detail Drawings and Plans](#)
 - [English Offshore Scheme Construction and Design Drawings](#)
 - [English Offshore Scheme General Arrangement Plans](#)
 - [Offshore overview maps](#)
 - [Onshore overview maps](#)
 - [Draft Order Limits - shapefile \(download only\)](#)
- 4.1.4 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 and as

the programmed application date draws closer. Whilst NGET have presented future programme milestones by reference to a 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	Complete
EIA Scoping Request	September 2025	Complete
EIA Scoping Opinion	October 2025	Complete
Consultation with host Local Authorities	Commenced Q4 2024, with monthly update meetings in place	Engagement Ongoing
Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) submission	Q1 2026	Complete
Stage 2 Statutory Consultation	29 th May – 24 th July 2026	Complete
Further targeted consultation (if required)	Q4 2026	If required
PINS review of Draft DCO Documentation	Q2 2027	Planned
DCO application submission	Q3 2027	Planned

- 4.1.5 The current anticipated timeline of meetings with PINS is outlined in 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 as needed.

Table 2 – Anticipated timeline of planned meetings with PINS

Meeting	Timeframe	Status
Inception Meeting	30 th July 2025	Complete
Post-Scoping Meeting	9 th December 2025	Complete
Section 42 consultation meeting	3 rd September 2026	Planned

Draft Documents Feedback (after 6-week review period) and Pre-Submission Meeting	Q2 2027	Planned
Additional ad-hoc Meeting(s)	TBC	If required
Multiparty meetings (with NGET, the affected statutory bodies and / or local authorities)	If required, likely post-statutory consultation	Not currently planned

5. Main issues for resolution

- 5.1.1 The Project has completed its Stage 1 consultation in June 2025, Scoping in October 2025, and Stage 2 consultation in July 2026. The key themes are still currently being reviewed, and consultation response analysis and associated design development are currently ongoing. NGET is still gaining an understanding of the main issues for the Project and working towards finalising a streamlined consultation report with feedback from all parties. Visibility and understanding of these issues will improve when the review of all feedback from Stage 2 consultation has been completed. This document will be updated following that exercise and kept under review thereafter.
- 5.1.2 In developing the Project, NGET's approach is mindful of the issues which are likely to be relevant to projects of this type identified generically in the Overarching National Policy Statement (NPS) for Energy (EN-1), and the NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5), such as air quality, landscape and visual effects, and socio-economic impacts etc.
- 5.1.3 Table 3 sets out the general issues identified at this stage by the applicant (in line with the generic issues identified in NPS EN-1 and EN-5) and explains how NGET is currently seeking to address each matter. Further consideration will be given to these matters, and any others which arise, pending review of the views of communities and stakeholders from Stage 2 consultation.
- 5.1.4 As Stage 2 consultation has now been completed, references to the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR, May 2026)¹ have been included as an aide to a better understanding of the issues and their context (however, it is noted that the PEIR is one but not the only document relevant to the Statutory Consultation and the issues being addressed).
- 5.1.5 The PEIR presents a preliminary assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Project, to inform Stage 2 consultation. The purpose of the PEIR is to enable members of the public, consultation bodies, and other stakeholders, to develop an informed view of the preliminary likely significant effects of the Project and allow them to comment on aspects of interest.
- 5.1.6 The application for a DCO will be supported by documents explaining the consideration of issues arising from consultation and the application of the NPS's. An Environmental Statement ("ES") will set out consideration of the Projects environmental effects and how these will be mitigated.
- 5.1.7 A 'potential main issues for examination' document will be produced for submission with the DCO application.

¹ <https://www.nationalgrid.com/the-great-grid-upgrade/eastern-green-link-5/document-library>

Table 3 – Main Issues for Resolution

Risk	Description of Risk
Agricultural Land	Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 11 of the PEIR considers potential effects of the Project on Agriculture and Soils including agricultural land quality (as defined by the Agricultural Land Classification (“ALC”) system), soils and their function and agricultural landholdings. Available Provisional ALC mapping indicates that the draft Order Limits are likely to comprise predominantly best and most versatile (BMV) land; this is land which falls into Grade 1, Grade 2 and Grade 3a categories. The preliminary assessment of agriculture and soils suggests that there is the potential for likely significant effects during construction on BMV land and on soils. The assessment will be updated in the ES once survey work is completed and there is data available to confirm the actual extent of BMV land and sensitive soil types affected both temporarily and permanently. Feedback from the Statutory Consultation is also being considered. The routing and siting will avoid where possible the loss of higher-grade agricultural land. Mitigation measures will also be explored for any higher-grade agricultural land affected.
Determining final options for the cable route, haul route(s) and Converter Station locations	Volume 1, Part 1, Chapter 4 of the PEIR sets out the description of the Project. The draft Order Limits for the “PEIR” reflect the area to be taken forward for the Project, both onshore and offshore. Further assessment and discussion on any optionality is ongoing, taking into account feedback from the Statutory Consultation, as NGET seeks to decide on final option details for DCO submission.
Determining options for the movement of construction material and Abnormal Indivisible Loads (“AILs”) to and from the Order Limits	In line with Section 5.14 of NPS EN-1 and Department for Transport Water Preferred Policy Guidance, design work is being undertaken to assess various combinations of transport to move construction material and AILs directly to site to reduce the volume of construction traffic on the strategic and local road network and deliver the seven transformers that are required for the converter station, respectively. The Project is undertaking an Options Appraisal of three options: • UK Delivery

Risk	Description of Risk
	• Port Landing • Beach Landing The conclusions of this design appraisal will determine which option(s) will be taken forward to transport construction material and AILs to site and will be included in the Alternatives Chapter of the Environmental Statement submitted with the DCO application.
Designated Sites and Biodiversity	The Project currently intersects with the Greater Wash Special Protection Area, the Southern North Sea Special Area of Conservation and the Holderness Offshore Marine Conservation Zone. These have been considered within the PEIR and will be assessed further in the ES. Intertidal and Offshore Ornithology and Intertidal and Subtidal Benthic Ecology will also be considered as part of this. The PEIR also considers the potential effects on onshore species, ecosystems, and Ancient Woodland.
Coastal and Marine Physical Processes	Volume 1, Part 3, Chapter 17 of the PEIR considers potential effects of the Project on Coastal and Marine Physical Processes, especially in shallow inshore waters close to the landfall. With the implementation of design and control and management measures, there is unlikely to be any significant effects upon coastal and marine physical processes receptors. This will be assessed further in the ES.
Interaction with other Committed Developments / Cumulative and in-combination effects	Volume 1, Part 4, Chapter 27 of the PEIR sets out the approach to assessing cumulative effects which may arise as a result of the construction and operation of the Project. Several other development proposals are committed at landfall and within the East Lindsey area, including Ossian Offshore Wind Farm (DCO currently withdrawn), NGETs Grimsby to Walpole Project and the EGL 3 and EGL 4 Projects. The cumulative and in-combination effects are being carefully considered by NGET, alongside feedback received at Statutory Consultation.

Risk	Description of Risk
Marine Conservation Zone Assessment	Volume 1, Part 3, Chapter 18 of the PEIR sets out the preliminary findings of the environmental assessments relevant to the English Offshore Scheme relating to Intertidal and Subtidal Benthic Ecology, including the Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) assessment process. The MCZ assessment process is ongoing, including consideration of in principle measures of equivalent environmental benefit (MEEB) and alongside regular meetings with key stakeholders.
Traffic and Transport	Volume 1, Part 2 Chapter 12 of the PEIR considers potential effects of the Project on Traffic and Transport. The PEIR identifies that there would be potentially significant effects during the construction phase of the Project on Traffic and Transport. These effects are unlikely to occur for the full duration of the construction programme. The types of effects that could occur include delays to drivers as well as a number of effects on pedestrians, for example, delay due to an increase in the flow of traffic and fear and intimidation effects. Further work will be undertaken to support the transport assessment that will be presented within the ES. This will include further engagement with relevant stakeholders and further baseline data gathering, including additional traffic surveys. The results from these surveys will be used to update the understanding of current traffic movements. Careful consideration is being given regarding the routeing and impacts of construction traffic and feedback from Statutory Consultation is being considered.
Noise and Vibration	The potential interaction between the Project and the potential impact on noise and vibration to human and ecological receptors is assessed in Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 13 of the PEIR and will be assessed in the ES to understand if there could be likely adverse operational and construction noise effects associated with the proposed Converter Station. The PEIR concludes that there could be likely adverse construction noise effects during core construction hours, associated with the haulage road installation works along the English Onshore Scheme. The English Onshore Scheme will be reviewed following stakeholder consultation feedback and further design refinement will be implemented, considered and assessed

Risk	Description of Risk
	in the ES. Further environmental measures will be identified and implemented as necessary to ensure noise is controlled and mitigated to a minimum.
Landscape and Visual Amenity	Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 8 of the PEIR considers potential effects of the Project on Landscape and Visual amenity, including on the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape. Whilst the cables will be sited underground, the Project could have likely significant effects on the landscape character during construction as a result of changes in the landscape from the removal of vegetation and the presence of construction activities and machinery. This will be considered and mitigated where possible to reduce the visual impact on this National Landscape during the construction period.
Historic Environment	Volume 1, Part 2, Chapter 7 of the PEIR considers potential effects of the Project on Cultural Heritage. The construction phase will physically impact a number of non-designated heritage assets, including impacts to agricultural remains and former farmsteads, medieval settlement remains, a post-medieval tramway, and a sea bank. Impacts due to changes within the setting of designated and non-designated heritage assets during construction are not anticipated to be significant due to the temporary nature of the activity. There will be operation phase impacts on heritage assets around the converter station, caused by the presence of infrastructure in the landscape, and lighting of the converter station. Mitigation of these impacts will be applied in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy to minimise them as far as practical, however, some residual effects will remain. These will be detailed within the ES.
Flood Risk and Drainage	Potential flood risk and drainage impacts have been considered in the PEIR and will be assessed in the ES. This will include an assessment of the Project in relation to the flood management works (beach nourishment) at landfall.

6. Engaging with statutory consultees and Local Authorities

- 6.1.1 Early engagement is ongoing with the two host 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 DCO process. The host LAs have been engaged by NGET throughout the pre-application phase of the Project's DCO application to date, and monthly meetings have been set up with them. NGET has entered into Planning Performance Agreements ("PPAs") with the host LAs to assist with the required resourcing and to allow for adequate engagement with the Project team. Engagement Plans have been shared and agreed with the LAs and during each monthly call, an updated programme timeline of what is due and when is shared with them for resource planning.
- 6.1.2 The Engagement Plans:
- 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).
- 6.1.3 Feedback has been sought from stakeholders as part of the Stage 1 and Stage 2 consultations. A programme of engagement has been developed and discussed with stakeholders, including the setup of Technical Working Groups, which are now progressing.
- 6.1.4 This Programme Document is publicly available and has been shared with both LAs and other key stakeholders such as Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and the Environment Agency.
- 6.1.5 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
- National Highways
- Maritime and Coastguard Agency
- Trinity House
- Chamber of Shipping
- Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape Board

- 6.1.6 Further meetings are being held with the relevant stakeholders and discuss any comments that have been raised. This is anticipated to be ongoing throughout the pre-application process. The SoCC was developed and has been published, this was provided for comment and was approved by the LAs ahead of the Stage 2 consultation.
- 6.1.7 Further engagement with PINS will continue at relevant milestones and confirmed as the Project develops.

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

7.1.1 A summary of the pre-application risks identified at this stage and how these are tracked and managed is provided within Table 4 below.

Table 4 – 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 finalised 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 has commenced a programme of

Risk	Description of Risk	Tracking and managing risk
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 the Stage 2 consultation within the required timescales.	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.	Technical Working Groups which bring relevant stakeholders together to discuss topic areas in an efficient and collaborative manner. The Project is now part of the Defra Lead Environmental Regulator pilot with an aim to make engagement more efficient and resolve issues early. Effective communication is currently being held with the LAs with monthly meetings and updates following non-statutory consultation. Stakeholders attended a series of Pre-Statutory Consultation Briefings in April 2026 where the contents of the PEIR were explained. Continued dialogue will ensure that adequate notice is given for stakeholders to respond to any new information.
Challenges for accessing land for surveying in a timely manner.	With some ecological surveys having seasonality constraints, there are time constraints in conducting these. The archaeology surveys are also constrained by crops in fields and harvest timings.	Effective communication between the relevant disciplines and land agents, in order to plan a survey schedule and timeframe to ensure land access is achieved.

Risk	Description of Risk	Tracking and managing risk
Delayed receipt of onshore and offshore survey results may influence programme.	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.	Effective communication between the relevant disciplines and the survey contractors to ensure survey outputs are prioritised in terms of their criticality.
Statutory consultation responses leading to changes in the Project's scope being required.	Any major design changes that come through from the Statutory consultation process may lead to significant design changes with the potential to impact the Project's programme.	A full and detailed review of Statutory consultation feedback responses is underway. These responses are being analysed and will be used to inform the final design that will be put forward in the application for development consent. The time taken to do so has been considered in programme planning to ensure all feedback is properly considered.
Avian flu outbreak on farms leading to delays in access to some of the route for surveys.	The outbreak of avian flu on some farms means that access to the land is delayed and required surveys cannot be undertaken.	NGET is working actively with the landowners to identify and manage this risk – Risk Assessment Method Statements have been updated accordingly, and biosecurity measures are being employed as required during site work.

8. Approach to Preliminary Environmental Information

8.1 Approach to Preliminary Environmental Information

- 8.1.1 A PEIR has been prepared and is published on the Project website as part of the Statutory Consultation materials, which include the following documents, as illustrated in the Guide to Consultation Documents and Drawings published with the consultation materials²:

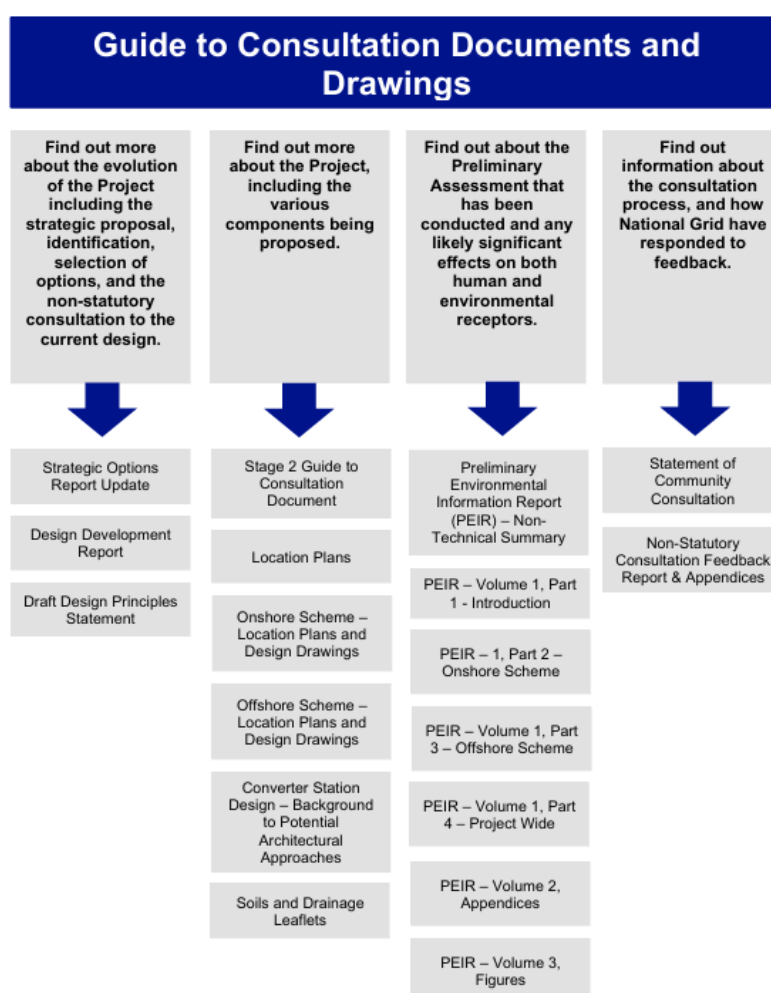


Figure 3. Guide to Consultation Documents and Drawings

² <https://www.nationalgrid.com/document/578721/download>

- 8.1.2 The approach to the PEIR has been informed by the EIA Scoping Report³ issued to the Planning Inspectorate in September 2025, and the Scoping Opinion which was received in October 2025.
- 8.1.3 The PEIR contains 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.

³ <https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN0210010/documents?searchTerm=scoping&itemsPerPage=25>

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