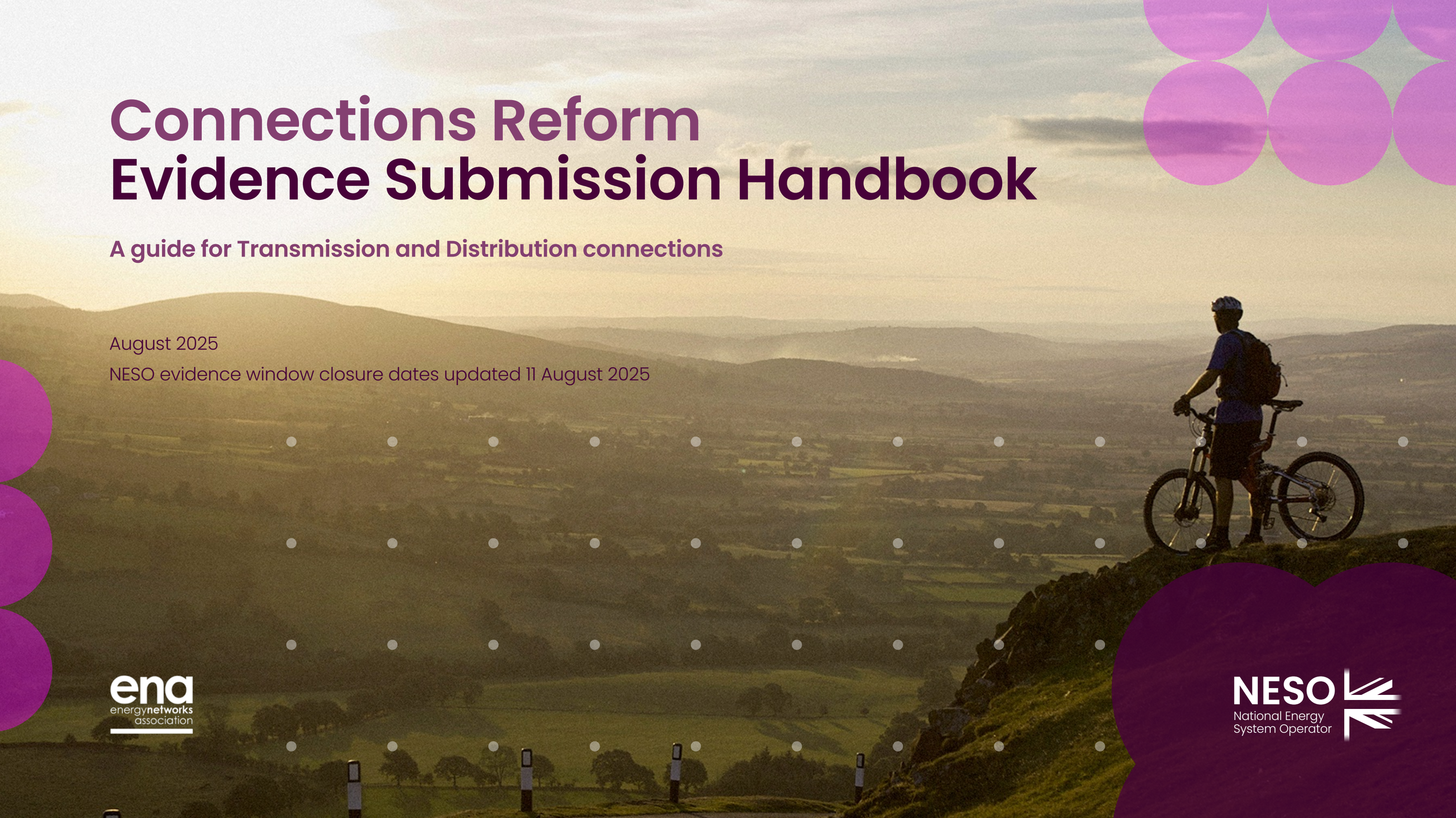
Connections Reform
Evidence Submission Handbook

A guide for Transmission and Distribution connections

August 2025

NESO evidence window closure dates updated 11 August 2025



ena energynetworks association

NESO National Energy System Operator

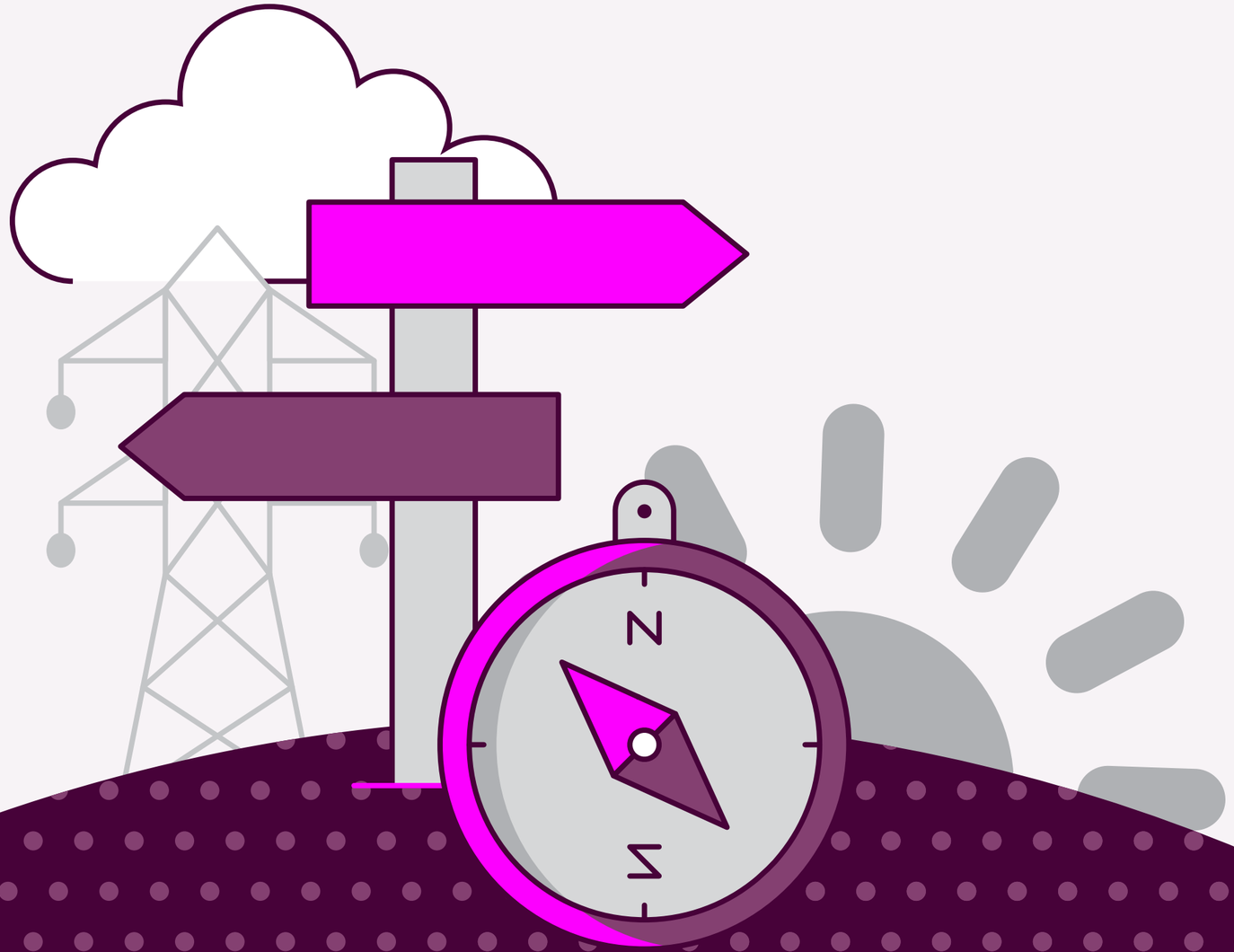
Submission window extension

The NESO Connections Reform Evidence Submission Window has been extended beyond the original deadline of 29 July 2025.

It will close at 23:59 Tuesday 26 August 2025.

This extension is a direct response to the challenges customers have faced with the NESO Connections Portal and the time taken to resolve related queries.

Submission routes for Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) are unaffected. DNO evidence gathering will continue to follow the same timelines as the NESO evidence window.



Navigation

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TOP TIPS

Table numbers do not match row numbers in the Readiness Declaration.

Read the addendum for further guidance and clarification.

Connections Reform and the Gate 2 to Whole Queue Process

TOP TIP

Go to page 22 for evidence submission support.

The UK's energy system is undergoing a fundamental transformation. To achieve the government's Clean Power 2030 ambition and support the transition to net zero, we must reform the way projects connect to the electricity network. The current connections queue stands at over 770 GW, far exceeding the 200–225 GW of clean generation capacity required by 2030.

The National Energy System Operator (NESO), working closely with the government, Ofgem, Transmission Owners (TOs), Distribution Network Operators (DNOs), and Transmission connected Independent Distribution Network Operators (iDNOs), has introduced Connections Reform to address these challenges. Approved by Ofgem in April 2025, the reform introduces significant changes to the codes and methodologies that govern how projects enter and progress through the connections process. These reforms aim to de-prioritise unviable projects from the queue and prioritise those critical to delivering clean power and wider industrial decarbonisation.

Connections Reform places customers and stakeholders at the heart of the process. It creates a simpler, more transparent, and more timely way for projects to connect to the grid.

A key part of this reform is the introduction of the new Gate 2 to Whole Queue (G2TWQ) process, which ensures that only projects meeting specific readiness and Strategic alignment Criteria progress through the reformed queue.

What are Gate 1 and Gate 2?

As part of the reformed connections process, projects are assessed and assigned a status based on their readiness and Strategic alignment with the UK's energy goals:

- **Gate 1** applies to projects that do not meet the Gate 2 criteria. These projects will receive a Gate 1 offer or have the option to agree to terminate their connection request. Gate 1 projects will not be assigned a confirmed connection date but may progress through future windows if readiness is demonstrated (references to Gate 1 offers include both Transmission connected and Distribution Gate 1 offers unless explicitly stated otherwise).
- **Gate 2** applies to projects that meet the new requirements for readiness and Strategic alignment. These projects can secure a confirmed connection date, connection point, and queue position.

What is the Gate 2 to Whole Queue process?

The G2TWQ process is an evidence-based approach that ensures projects are assessed fairly and consistently against the latest Gate 2 criteria and strategic energy plans, including the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan. This process enables NESO, DNOs, and Transmission connected Independent DNOs (iDNOs) to determine which projects are ready to connect and align with the UK's long-term energy needs.

To progress through the queue, developers must demonstrate both readiness and alignment with one or more strategic criteria. Projects that do not meet these criteria will be offered alternative options, such as a Gate 1 or the option to terminate their existing agreements.

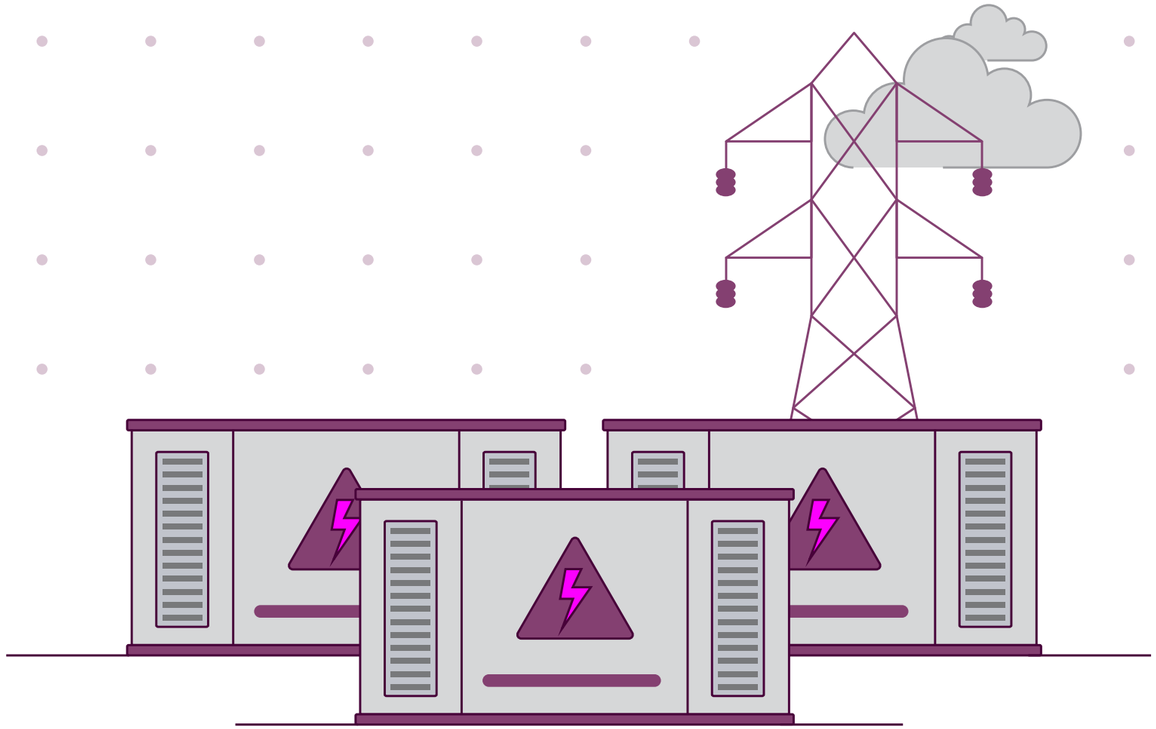
Purpose of this handbook

This handbook is designed to support project developers and investors in navigating the G2TWQ process. It sets out the evidence required to support a Readiness Declaration and explains how to complete each section of the submission. It also provides guidance on the new methodologies and criteria approved as part of the Connections Reform programme.

By following this handbook, you will understand:

- whether your project is in scope for a Gate 2 offer
- how to provide the necessary evidence of project readiness
- how Strategic alignment is assessed and what criteria apply
- what happens if your project does not meet the Gate 2 criteria

This handbook will support you through each stage of the process, helping ensure your project can connect to the network efficiently and contribute to delivering the UK's clean energy future.



Background to Connections Reform and requirement for Readiness Declaration and associated evidence

To provide helpful context to this handbook, we have outlined the key publications that have driven Connections Reform.

Table 1: Key publications that have driven Connections Reform

Clean Power by 2030	Connections Reform Code Modifications	Connections Reform Methodologies
On July 9 2024, NESO was asked to provide advice to the Government on decarbonising the power system as part of the newly announced Mission Control for clean power by 2030. In November 2024, NESO published *Clean Power 2030*, providing independent advice on the pathway towards the 2030 clean power ambition, including its view that the connections process and reformed connections queue should align with the technology, capacity and regional requirements for clean power as set out within Government's clean power plan (at both a transmission and distribution level), and then with subsequent strategic plans like the Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP). In December 2024, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) published the *Clean Power 2030 Action Plan*. The plan accepts NESO's independent recommendations on the energy infrastructure needed to deliver Clean Power 2030. It also includes a dedicated *connections reform annex* (updated in April 2025) which sets out the permitted capacities for in-scope technologies up to 2030 and 2035, helping align the connections queue with the Clean Power 2030 pathway.	In December 2024, NESO published three code modification proposals. These are essential to deliver the new connections process and definitions set out in the Clean Power 2030 plan. The proposed changes aim to accelerate connections for projects that are ready to go. The relevant code modifications include: **CMP434 Implementing Connections Reform** CMP434 introduces new processes and definitions to update the existing connections system. It enables more advanced and technically ready projects to move forward more quickly. CMP435 Application of Gate 2 Criteria to existing contracted background: all in-scope projects must show they meet the Gate 2 Criteria. Projects that meet these criteria will be assessed for a Gate 2 offer. This handbook directly supports the implementation of CMP435. **CM095 Implementing Connections Reform:** CM095 works alongside CMP434 to update the System Operator Transmission Code (STC). It brings in the same new processes and definitions to help progress ready-to-connect projects in a more timely manner. In April 2025, Ofgem approved NESO's proposed connections reform code modification proposals, as set out in the Decision on Connections Reform Package (TM04+).	In November 2024, NESO published a package of connections reform methodologies as proposals for consultation, including: **Gate 2 Criteria Methodology:** this sets out the *Criteria Methodology* that determine which projects will enter the connections queue (in the context of G2TWQ, the reformed queue). It applies to both existing customers and new applicants. To receive a Gate 2 offer, projects must meet both parts of the Gate 2 Criteria: • The Gate 2 Readiness Criteria – these criteria assess whether a project is sufficiently progressed ('ready') using supporting evidence • The Gate 2 Strategic alignment Criteria – projects must also meet one of the following alignment criteria: a) **Criteria A:** projects with existing agreements that qualify for Protections b) **Criteria B:** projects that align with permitted capacities in the Clean Power 2030 plan (see the Connections Network Design Methodology) a) **Criteria C:** projects formally designated by NESO under the Project Designation Methodology a) **Criteria D:** projects outside the scope of the Clean Power 2030 plan, but of a technology type listed in Section 6.3 of the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology

Project Designation Methodology: this explains how projects will be designated by NESO within the reformed electricity transmission connection process. Designated Projects are those expected to deliver significant benefits for net zero, the electricity system, or consumers. The Project Designation Methodology provides a basis for connecting projects that can deliver significant net zero, system or consumer benefits.

Connections Network Design Methodology: this provides the process that NESO, Transmission Owners (TOs) and DNOs will follow to assess connection applications and determine offers for generation, interconnection, storage and Transmission connected demand.

In April 2025, Ofgem approved NESO's package of connection reform methodologies, as set out in the Decision on Connections Reform Package (TM04+). The final methodologies were published in April 2025.

Visit the Connections Reform section of the NESO website to find out more about Connections Reform and its objectives.

Introducing the Readiness Declaration and Associated Evidence

1.1 How to use this handbook

This handbook is designed to help customers complete and submit their Readiness Declaration and associated evidence. This handbook is specifically relevant to the reform of the existing connections queue, described as the Gate 2 to Whole Queue (G2TWQ) exercise in CMP435. This is a one-off activity that will transition existing in-scope agreements into either:

- Gate 1 offers or customer-agreed terminations (see Appendix 1)
- Gate 2 offers

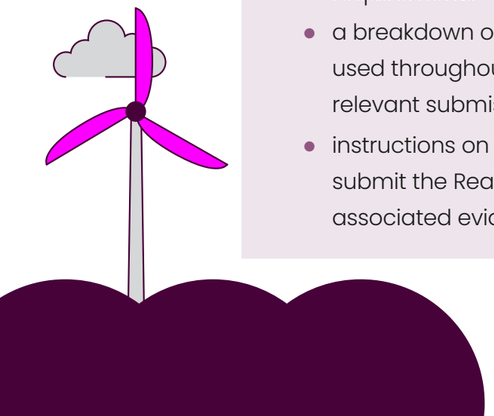
This handbook contains two sections:

Section 1 provides:

- an overview of the Readiness Declaration and its purpose
- guidance on which projects are in scope to submit a Readiness declaration and associated evidence
- background context on connections reform and how the queue is being reformed
- a summary of key submission requirements
- a breakdown of customer archetypes used throughout the handbook to guide relevant submissions
- instructions on how and where to submit the Readiness Declaration and associated evidence

Section 2 provides:

- additional context to support completion of the Readiness Declaration and associated evidence
- a detailed breakdown of the requirements for submission
- a step-by-step guide following the customer journey through the Readiness Declaration and associated evidence submission process



The appendices contain four sections:

- **Gate 1 and customer agreed terminations** – for customers who do not wish to submit a Readiness Declaration or associated evidence, or who have been notified they are not eligible for a Gate 2 offer (more information on Gate 2 is provided).
- **Treatment of hybrid projects** – for customers who are submitting Readiness Declarations and associated evidence for hybrid projects, that is, projects with a combination of more than one technology.
- **Original Red Line Boundary examples** – examples of what is expected when submitting the Original Red Line Boundary as part of the Readiness Declaration and associated evidence. Note: The term Original Red Line Boundary is a Gate 2 concept and is the Original Red Line Boundary for the project site provided as part of a Gate 2 application.
- **Glossary** – definitions and descriptions of key terminology and acronyms.

If the contents of this handbook conflict with the connections reform code modifications, methodologies, or online Readiness Declaration, then the code, methodologies and Readiness Declaration will take precedence.

1.2 Purpose of submitting a Readiness Declaration and associated evidence

This handbook supports customers in submitting their Readiness Declaration and associated evidence as part of the reformed connections process approved by Ofgem.

Under the reformed connections process a customer must meet both the Gate 2 Readiness Criteria and one of the Gate 2 Strategic alignment Criteria to receive a Gate 2 offer. A Gate 2 offer allocates confirmed connection dates, connection points and queue positions to projects that are viable, progressing and aligned with strategic energy plans.

The purpose of submitting a Readiness Declaration and associated evidence is to enable the National Energy System Operator (NESO), the Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) and Transmission connected Independent Distribution Network Operators (iDNOs) to verify that a customer's project meets both:

- Gate 2 Readiness Criteria and
- One of the Gate 2 Strategic alignment Criteria It is expected that customers will complete the readiness declaration and provide the associated evidence in a professional and truthful manner in line with the spirit and intent of the purpose of the reformed connections process.

Projects in scope to submit a Readiness Declaration and associated evidence

If your project is in scope of one of the categories as described below and you have an existing connection agreement, and you wish to apply for a Gate 2 offer, you must submit a Readiness Declaration and associated evidence.

If your project is out of scope, you do not need to make a submission.

TOP TIPS

'Connection date' means the Transmission firm or enduring non-firm date, not the Distribution connection date (except in protection clauses 1, 2A and Option agreement exceptions, where it refers to the earlier non-firm or technical limits non-firm date, if one exists).

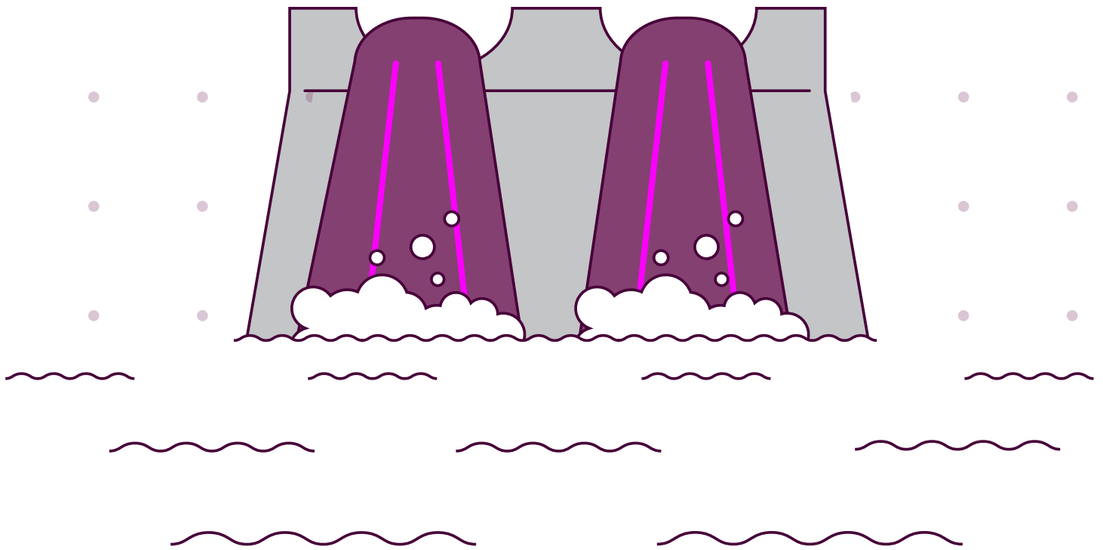


Table 2: Projects in scope to submit a Readiness Declaration and associated evidence in the G2TWQ process

In Scope	Out of Scope

• **Transmission connections:**
  ◦ Directly connected generation projects (including storage) and directly connected demand.
  ◦ Interconnectors, offshore hybrid assets and non-Great Britain Projects.
  ◦ Non-Great Britain projects include generation located outside of Great Britain and the UK's Exclusive Economic Zone, but which is directly connected to the Great Britain transmission system and is not connected to another market.
  ◦ Projects with a transitional agreement, that is, for new directly connected applications made from 2 September 2024.
  ◦ To be in-scope for G2TWQ, all relevant projects must be in a signed position (signed by the customer and counter-signed by NESO). To allow NESO to countersign by the required date, customers therefore will need to have signed their offer by 6 June 2025 by 23:59.
• **Distribution Network Operator (DNO) connections/Transmission connected Independent Distribution Network Operator (Transmission connected iDNO) connections:**
  ◦ Relevant Embedded (without a BEGA) and Embedded (with a BEGA), Small, Medium or Large generation projects (including storage).
  ◦ Large Embedded generation projects that also have a Bilateral Embedded License Exemptible Agreement (BELLA).
  ◦ Interconnectors, offshore hybrid assets and non-Great Britain projects.
  ◦ Non-Great Britain projects include generation located outside of Great Britain and the UK's Exclusive Economic Zone, but which is directly connected to the Great Britain distribution system and is not connected to another market.
  ◦ To be in-scope for G2TWQ, all relevant projects must be in a signed position (signed by the customer and counter-signed by NESO). To allow NESO to countersign by the required date, customers therefore will need to have signed their offer by 6 June 2025 by 23:59. For relevant Small and Medium Embedded generation this means your DNO would need to have commenced your TIA project progression ahead of the NESO Pause which commenced 29 January 2025. Your DNO would have communicated the period ahead of this by which you would have needed to complete your DNO acceptance process and provided all information and where required, relevant payments, to allow the TIA to commence.
	• Demand projects seeking to connect to the distribution or Transmission connected iDNO networks.
	• Existing contracted parties that energise before the NESO Application Window or DNO/Transmission connected iDNO Evidence Window closes.
	• Ofgem's decision on CMP446 will amend the Transmission Impact Assessment (TIA) threshold for England and Wales up to 5 MW. For projects below this threshold, they will be out of scope. However, if there are fault level issues at a site, the threshold will remain at 1 MW. In the table below we have included the list of Grid Supply Points (GSPs) that do not have sufficient Fault Level headroom for the TIA. However, for customers who have not yet applied for a connection and are below the 5 MW threshold at one of the impacted GSPs, continue to apply to your relevant network operator who will treat each project on a case-by-case basis.
	• Further information relating to the implementation of CMP446 concerning connections reform will be released by the Distribution Network Operators/ Transmission connected iDNOs. Contact your relevant network operator for further details.

Any reference to Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) within this document refers to both DNOs and Transmission connected Independent Distribution Network Operators (iDNOs), unless explicitly differentiated.

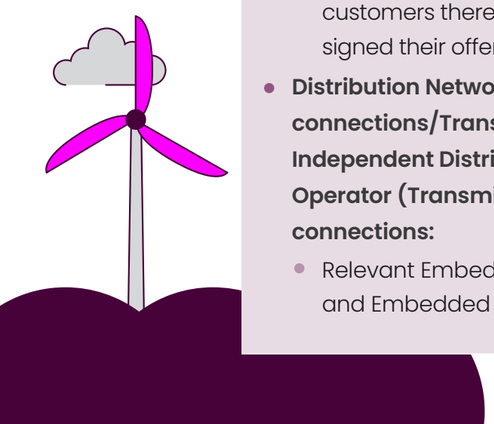
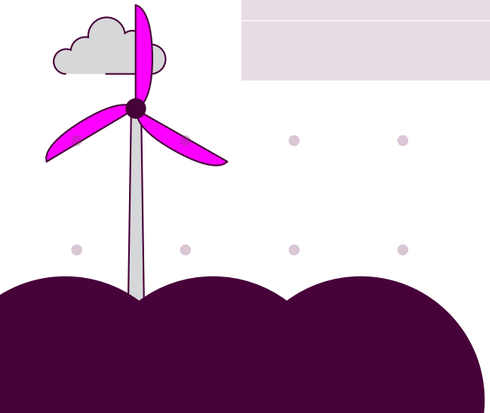


Table 3: Supply Points that will remain at the existing 1 MW TIA threshold

ENWL	NGED	NPG	SEPD	SP Manweb	UKPN
Harker	Aberthaw	Blyth	East Claydon	Capenhurst	Biggleswade
Heysham	Melksham	Drax	Melksham	Kirkby	Sundon
Hutton	Abham	Poppleton	Minety		Bolney
Kearsley	Pembroke	Thorpe Marsh			Walpole
South Manchester	Alverdiscott				Braintree
Stalybridge	Rugeley				West Weybridge
	Cellarhead				Canterbury North
	Shrewsbury East Claydon (WM)				Eaton Socon
	East Claydon (EM)				Norwich
	Walpole				Rayleigh
	West Burton				
	Ironbridge				
	Willington				



1.3 How the existing connections queue will be reformed

This handbook is relevant to the reform of the existing connections queue, described as the Gate 2 to Whole Queue (G2TWQ) exercise in CMP435. This is a one-off activity that will transition existing in-scope agreements into either:

- Gate 1 offers or customer-agreed terminations (see Appendix 1)
- Gate 2 offers

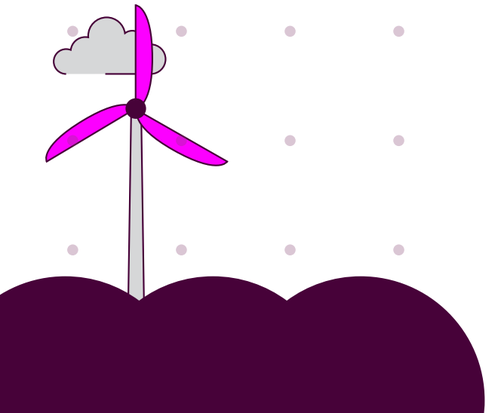
The G2TWQ exercise includes the following activities:

1.	2.	3.	4.
Existing Agreement Request window or DNO Evidence Gathering	Initial checks and Strategic alignment assessment	Connection queue reformation	Detailed and duplication checks, studies and offers

Table 4: Gate 2 to Whole Queue (G2TWQ) exercise activities

Activity Stage	Description
1. Existing Agreement request window or DNO evidence gathering	**For Small or Medium Distribution connected projects:** the DNO and Transmission connected iDNO Evidence Gathering for the G2TWQ exercise (that is, CMP435) will open for projects to submit their Readiness Declaration and associated evidence to their relevant DNO or Transmission connected iDNO. The DNOs and Transmission connected iDNOs will make an Existing Agreement request to NESO on behalf of Small and Medium Embedded projects. **For Transmission connected and Large Embedded projects:** the Existing Agreement request window for the G2TWQ exercise (that is , CMP435) will open for projects to submit their Existing Agreement request to NESO. An Existing Agreement request includes the submission of the Readiness Declaration and associated evidence. The Existing Agreement requests will be assessed by the relevant parties against Gate 2 Readiness Criteria and Gate 2 Strategic alignment Criteria. Specific to CMP435, within the Existing Agreement request window or DNO Evidence Gathering the only changes that can be requested are below: • Reduction in Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) or Developer Capacity. Projects that reduce TEC or Developer Capacity will be liable for a cancellation charge in accordance with CUSC Section 15. • Only in the case of hybrid or staged projects, removal of a technology type from an Existing Agreement. Note that if the User/ Applicant requests a reduction in Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) or Developer Capacity in the Readiness Declaration, they will be liable for a cancellation charge in accordance with CUSC Section 15. For more information on hybrid projects, see Appendix 2. • Advancement of connection date • Change in Connection Point (not applicable to any Small, Medium or Large Embedded Generators who are connecting to the Distribution Network) See Appendix 1 for further information on projects that do not wish to apply for a Gate 2 offer.
2. Initial checks and Strategic alignment assessment	DNOs, Transmission connected iDNOs, and NESO will carry out initial checks to confirm whether Existing Agreement requests submitted during the DNO Evidence Gathering or Existing Agreement request window meet the Gate 2 Readiness Criteria. Projects that pass these initial checks will be assessed by NESO, or the relevant DNO or Transmission connected iDNO against the Gate 2 Strategic

	alignment Criteria, as set out in the *Gate 2 Criteria Methodology* Section 8.7. Customers who do not pass initial checks and/or assessment against Gate 2 Strategic alignment Criteria will be notified of the outcome as a Gate 1. See Appendix 1 for further information on projects that do not receive a Gate 2 offer.
3. Connection queue reformation	NESO will take the projects that pass initial checks and Gate 2 Strategic alignment Criteria assessment into the reformed connections queue. As an activity primarily undertaken by NESO, queue formation is not the focus of this document, but more information can be found in NESO's *Connections Network Design Methodology*.
4. Detailed checks, duplication checks, studies and offers	For projects that remain in the queue, NESO, the DNOs and Transmission connected iDNOs will undertake detailed checks on the Gate 2 Readiness evidence submitted. NESO will also undertake the relevant duplication checks to ensure there are no overlapping Original Red Line Boundaries for customer projects. In parallel, TOs and DNOs will undertake detailed network studies. Customers will receive offers confirming the outcome of the checks as either a Gate 1 or a Gate 2 offer. See Appendix 1 for further information on projects that do not receive a Gate 2 offer.



1.4 Introducing Gate 2 Criteria

The purpose of setting Gate 2 criteria is to allocate confirmed connection dates, connection points and queue positions to projects that are viable, progressing and aligned with strategic energy plans. To receive a Gate 2 offer, a customer's project must meet both the Gate 2 Readiness Criteria and one of the Gate 2 Strategic alignment Criteria. The *Gate 2 Criteria Methodology* sets out the requirements in detail. In this section we provide an overview to help customers apply for a Gate 2 offer through their Readiness Declaration and associated evidence submission, and below we provide a high-level visual overview.

Gate 2 Readiness Criteria overview

As depicted in Figure 1 below, projects must meet Gate 2 Readiness Criteria through the land route or the planning route. Further detail on the evidence requirements for the two readiness routes is included in Figure 2.

TOP TIP

Most projects will use the 'Land' route. The 'Planning' route is only for DCO (Development Consent Order) projects unless you have received pre-agreement from NESO or Transmission connected iDNO/DNO to follow the Alternative planning route. See the addendum for further guidance.

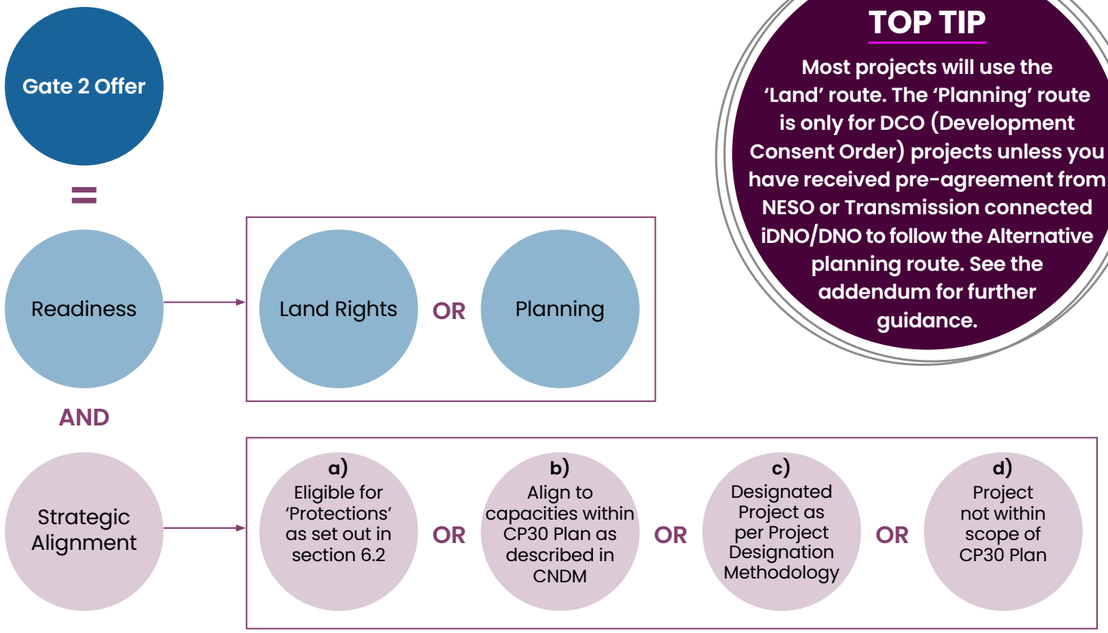


Figure 1: Gate 2 Readiness Criteria land and planning routes

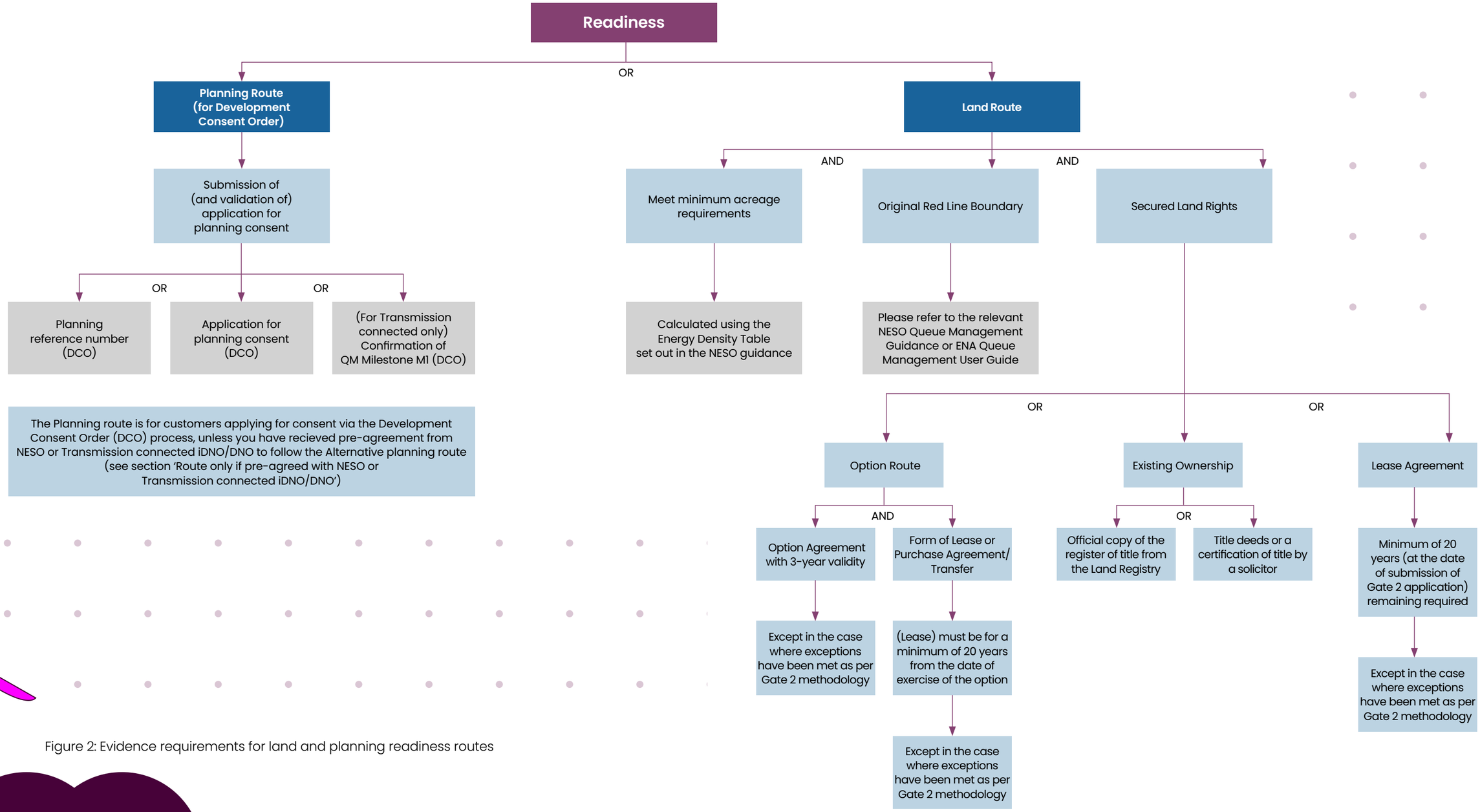


Figure 2: Evidence requirements for land and planning readiness routes

Gate 2 Strategic alignment Criteria

Alongside meeting the Gate 2 Readiness Criteria, projects in scope of G2TWQ must meet the Gate 2 'Strategic alignment Criteria' to receive a Gate 2 offer.

There are four Strategic alignment Criteria and customers must meet one of the below:

A.

Eligible for relevant 'Protections' as set out in Section 6.2 of the *Gate 2 Criteria Methodology*.

B.

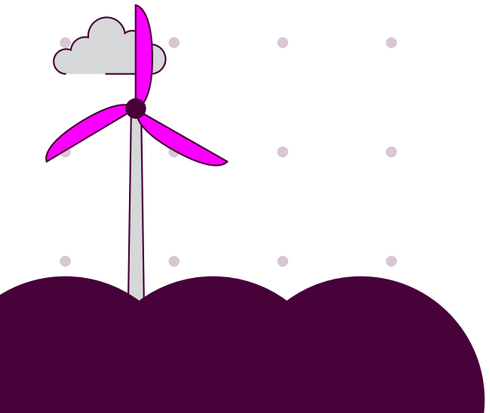
Aligned to the capacities within the CP30 Action Plan as described in the *Connections Network Design Methodology* (see Table 5).

C.

Designated as described in the *Project Designation Methodology*.

D.

Out of scope of the Clean Power 2030 plan and of a technology type listed in Section 6.3 of the *Gate 2 Criteria Methodology* that is not in scope of the CP30 Action Plan (see Table 6).



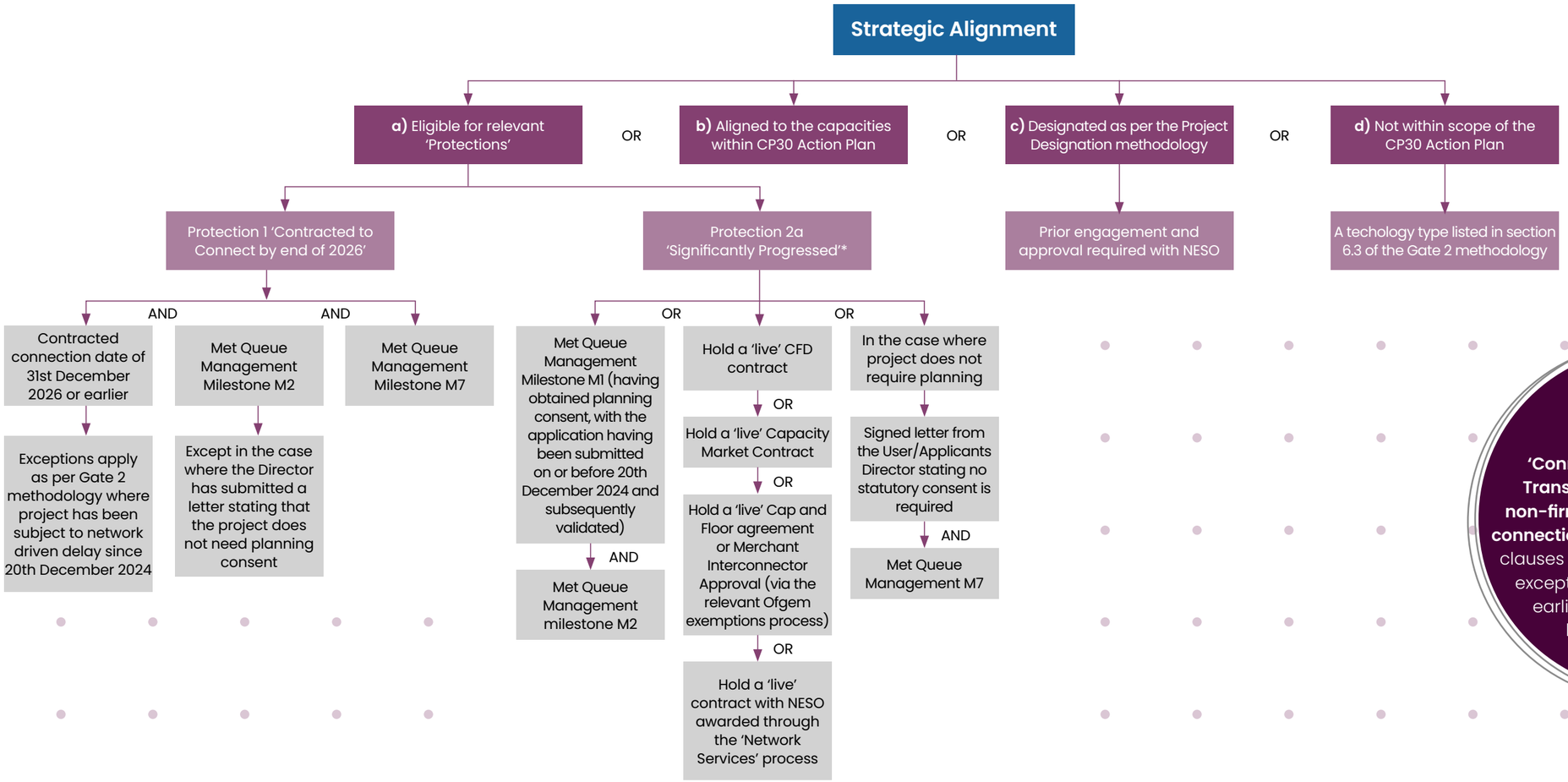


Figure 3: Gate 2 Strategic alignment Criteria pathways

TOP TIPS

'Connection date' means the Transmission firm or enduring non-firm date, not the Distribution connection date (except in protection clauses 1, 2A and Option agreement exceptions, where it refers to the earlier non-firm or technical limits non-firm date, if one exists).

* Any project that meets the criteria to be protected under Protection Clause 2a and has a contracted connection date of 31 December 2027 or earlier will also have their connection date and Point of Connection protected.

There may be cases where a project met this requirement as of 20 December 2024 but does not meet this requirement at the time of application in the CMP435 Gated Application Window, due to their contracted connection date being delayed via a network company driven change to the contract. In these cases, the contracted connection date as of 20 December 2024 will be used to determine eligibility for this protection.

Note: If you are eligible for Protection 2a, and you have both planning and a support contract, please submit evidence of your support contract. This is to support the network companies to use best endeavours to provide a connection date that meets support contracts dependent on the project connecting by a certain date or within a certain date range. For further information, please refer to the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology Section 6.2 (page 40).

Note:

- We expect most customers will meet Strategic alignment Criteria B: alignment to the capacities within the *Clean Power 2030 Action Plan*.
- For Strategic alignment Criteria B: Technologies in scope of the CP30 Action Plan will be assessed against the 2030 and 2035 permitted capacity ranges as outlined in the *Connection Network Design Methodology* to determine whether they can meet the Gate 2 Strategic alignment Criteria.
- Customers with project technologies that are out of scope of the CP30 Action Plan and listed in Table 6 will automatically meet Gate 2 Strategic alignment Criteria under Strategic alignment Criteria D. These technologies will not be bound by a 'permitted capacity' as is the case for projects in scope of the Clean Power 2030 plan. For the avoidance of doubt, these customers must submit a Readiness Declaration and associated evidence and we would expect them to indicate in this that they wish to be assessed against Strategic alignment Criteria D to be considered for Gate 2.
- Customers with project technologies that are not listed in Table 5 (Strategic alignment Criteria B) or Table 6 (Strategic alignment Criteria D) can meet the Strategic alignment Criteria where the project is protected (Strategic alignment Criteria A) or Designated (Strategic alignment Criteria C). Information on protected and Designated Projects can be found in Section 2 of this handbook.

Table 5: Technologies in scope of the CP30 Action Plan

Technology	In Scope of CP30 Action Plan
Offshore Wind	Yes
Onshore Wind	Yes
Solar	Yes
Nuclear	Yes
Low Carbon Dispatchable Power	Yes
Unabated Gas	Yes
Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES)	Yes
Batteries	Yes
Interconnectors	Yes

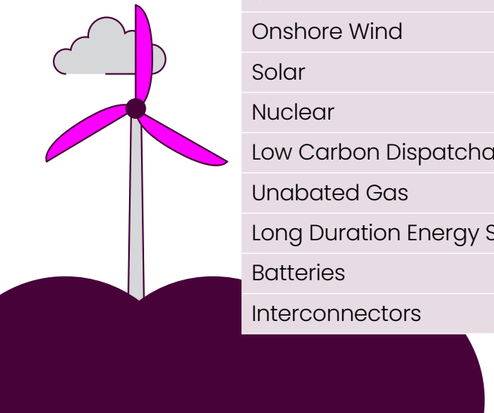


Table 6: Technologies out of scope of the CP30 Action Plan

Technology	In Scope of CP30 Action Plan
Transmission connected Demand	No
Wave	No
Tidal	No
Run-of-River Hydro	No
Geothermal Power	No
Non-Great Britain Generation	No

1.5 Where and how to submit your Readiness Declaration and associated evidence

Contact your network operator for information on how to provide your Readiness Declaration and associated evidence, as each network operator will be taking a bespoke approach.

Customer archetypes

To support in-scope customers, this handbook uses the following customer archetypes to show which submission requirements apply to each group:

- **Transmission connected projects**
  In this handbook, we will also refer to as 'Transmission projects'
- **Large Embedded projects with a BEGA or BELLA, connected to DNO or Transmission connected iDNO**
  In this handbook, we will also refer to as 'Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA'
- **Small and Medium Embedded projects including those with a BEGA, connected to a DNO or a Transmission connected iDNO**
  In this handbook, we will also refer to as 'Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA'

Table 7: Customer archetypes

Customer Archetype	Relevant Network Company for Submission (NESO, DNO, iDNO)	Submission of Readiness Declaration and Associated Evidence for Existing Agreements:	Submission of Advancement of Connection Request	Website for Further Information
Transmission project	NESO	When NESO's Existing Agreement request window opens, customers will be able to submit evidence via a secure portal	Projects seeking advancement must submit a modification application; however, they will only be invoiced for the application if and after they pass the Strategic alignment assessment. A modification application is also required for Transmission connected transitional projects; however, they will only be invoiced for the application if and after they pass the Strategic alignment assessment.	Connections Reform | National Energy System Operator
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	NESO will confirm receipt of the submission with the relevant Distribution Network Operator.	Customers can submit evidence via a secure portal when NESO's Existing Agreement request window opens.	Projects seeking advancement will be expected to submit a modification application but will only be invoiced if and after they pass the Strategic alignment assessment.	Connections Reform | National Energy System Operator
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	Submit your evidence via your local DNO or Transmission connected iDNO. They will send it to NESO on your behalf. NESO does not need to confirm receipt with the DNO or iDNO.	Refer to individual DNO or Transmission connected iDNO for details on how to submit the Readiness Declaration and associated evidence.	Projects seeking advancement, or who have transitional agreements, will require their DNO or Transmission connected iDNO to submit a modification application to NESO on the project's behalf, but these projects will only be invoiced if and after they pass the Strategic alignment assessment.	Energy Network Association

Note: You can view the Advanced fees webpage for the latest NESO proposed fee structure for customers requesting advancement or with a 'transitional' connection agreement within the Gate 2 to Whole Queue process. Discussions are ongoing with Ofgem, and the final fees are subject to Ofgem approval.

To provide further clarification for Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA, please see Table 8 for the application approach specific to each DNO

Table 8: Application approach for Small/Medium Distribution generation projects by DNO

DNO or Transmission connected iDNO	How customers should submit to their DNO Evidence Gathering
Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks	Customers should download and fill out the NESO Readiness Declaration and upload it with the remaining evidence to the Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks portal.
SP Energy Networks	Customers should download and complete the NESO Readiness Declaration, and send it with all supporting evidence to ConnectionsReform-Distribution@spenergynetworks.co.uk if your project is in SPM's licence area or SPDSOW@scottishpower.com if your project is located in SPD's licence area. If your combined file size exceeds 20mb you must contact the relevant email address above, dependent on project location, and request access to OneDrive to share your evidence.
Northern PowerGrid	Customers will submit their evidence through the Northern PowerGrid online portal. Everything is completed through the portal.
Electricity North West	Customers should download and complete the NESO Readiness Declaration, and send it with all supporting evidence to the Electricity North West dedicated email address G2TWQapplications@enwl.co.uk.
UK Power Networks	Customers should visit the Gate 2 Evidence Portal and download the UK Power Networks Gate 2 Evidence submission guidance. Customers should download the NESO Readiness Declaration template and submit the completed template through the portal along with all necessary additional evidence.
National Grid Electricity Distribution	Customers (in scope for Gate 2 to Whole Queue) will have received an email from National Grid Electricity Distribution. Customers should use the link in the email to complete an online form, to provide their Readiness Declaration evidence submission per project.
Transmission connected iDNO	Please refer to your Transmission connected iDNO (such as Eclipse Power and Green Gen Cymru) for the relevant evidence gathering process.

TOP TIPS

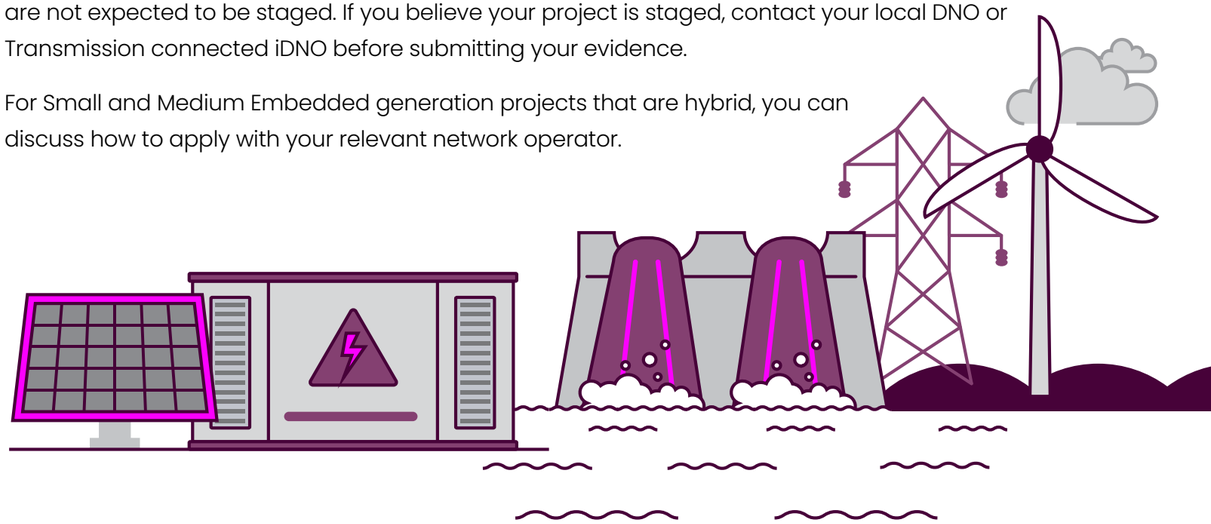
If you are unable to use your network operator's portal or application route for accessibility reasons, contact your network operator as soon as possible.

Readiness Declaration and associated evidence submission for projects with multiple stages and hybrid projects

Directly connected Transmission and Large Embedded projects must complete a single Readiness Declaration and associated evidence submission per project, even where projects have multiple stages or are hybrid projects with multiple technologies seeking a Gate 2 offer. The NESO connections portal allows you to complete separate sections for each stage and technology within the same submission.

Small and Medium Embedded generation projects must submit a separate Readiness Declaration for each project stage for which they are seeking a Gate 2 offer. If a stage includes more than one technology, include the relevant details for each technology within the same Readiness Declaration and associated evidence submission. We believe that most Small and Medium Embedded projects are not expected to be staged. If you believe your project is staged, contact your local DNO or Transmission connected iDNO before submitting your evidence.

For Small and Medium Embedded generation projects that are hybrid, you can discuss how to apply with your relevant network operator.



Submission of Readiness Declaration and Associated Evidence

TOP TIP

The submission deadline is

26 August 2025 23:59

2.1 Readiness Declaration introduction

Section 9 of the *Gate 2 Criteria Methodology* explains that projects applying for Gate 2 must submit a Readiness Declaration and associated evidence. The Readiness Declaration must be signed by the director of the User/Applicant.[2]

The *Readiness Declaration template* provides notes to assist with the completion of each section. It also states which fields are mandatory. This handbook provides further details and explanatory information.

2.2 Part 1 – General details of User/Applicant

For the questions included in Part 1 of this handbook, if you are applying through the NESO portal, most of this information will already be on the portal and displayed to you.

Context: The name of the registered business associated with the project being submitted. The User name and the project name must align with that used on the Existing Agreement. If you have any concerns, contact your relevant network operator as soon as possible.

Table 9: User name requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	The name of the registered business associated with the project. This is referred to as the 'User' for Transmission connected and Large Embedded generation in the Readiness Declaration.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	The name of the registered business associated with the project. The User will be the 'Applicant' for Small and Medium Embedded generation. All references to User in the Readiness Declaration can be read as 'Applicant' for Small and Medium Embedded generation.

2 If not a statutory director, the person must provide evidence that they are authorised to make this declaration on behalf of the User/Applicant.

Registered number

Table 10: Registered number of applying organisation

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	The registered company number as per Companies House. Where the associated business is not listed on Companies House, a covering letter signed by a director to provide explanation is required. If there is an imminent change of ownership that could happen while the Gate 2 Application is progressing, a covering letter signed by the company director providing explanation is required.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	

Contact details

Table 11: Contact requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	The contact is the person authorised to deal with the Existing Agreement request for and on behalf of the User/Applicant. Name, email address and telephone number of the person authorised to deal with the Existing Agreement request for and on behalf of the User/Applicant, or the director of the business associated with the project.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	

2.3 Part 1 – General project site details

Context

The project site refers to the main generation or demand site. It does not include cable routes, land required for network substations, or land used for non-energy purposes (for example, agricultural land such as grazing areas at a wind farm or solar installation, or leisure use such as mountain bike tracks at a wind farm).

Confirm site name

Table 12: Site naming requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	Name of the development site (for example, Murton Generation Facility) The site name provided in the Readiness Declaration should match the site in the Connection Agreement with NESO/DNO/Transmission connected iDNO.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	

Agreement reference number (with NESO)

Table 13: NESO agreement reference requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	Agreement reference with NESO for directly connected and Large Embedded generation. NESO reference typically has the format A/TO/Company/Year/Site-Type (0), where (0) is the version of the contract, and would be followed by (1), (2) and so on.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	
	To provide further clarification, include the most relevant Appendix EX reference number. Use the original EX number unless the project has submitted a Modification Application, in which case provide the EX number relating to the Modification Application.
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	Agreement reference with NESO for Small and Medium Embedded generation that hold a BEGA with NESO. NESO reference typically follows the format A/TO/Company/Year/site-Type(0), where (0) is the original version of the contract, and future agreements would be followed by (1), (2), and so on, reflecting variations to the original agreement. To provide further clarification, include the most relevant Appendix EX reference number. Use the original EX number unless the project has submitted a Modification Application, in which case provide the EX number relating to the Modification Application. Do not include the Agreement Reference from the DNO/Transmission connected iDNO.

Agreement reference number (with DNO/Transmission connected iDNO)

Table 14: DNO/Transmission connected iDNO agreement reference requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	Not applicable
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	Agreement reference with DNO/Transmission connected iDNO for all Embedded generation (including Large Embedded generation). This is the agreement reference number in the contract between the project and Distribution Network Operator/Transmission connected iDNO. Example: DNO agreement reference number: Distribution (DNO/ Transmission connected iDNO) agreement reference: ENQ12345.
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	

Is your Existing Agreement staged?

Table 15: Staged Existing Agreement reference requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	The NESO Connections portal will display each stage as defined in your existing agreement with NESO. You will be able to provide Readiness information and associated evidence for each stage, and Strategic alignment for each technology within each stage. Note that you cannot request changes to the staging of your Existing Agreement through this process.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	We expect most Small and Medium Embedded projects will not be staged. If you believe your project is staged, contact your local DNO or Transmission connected iDNO before submitting your evidence.

Confirm which technology or technologies are seeking to meet the Gate 2 Readiness Criteria

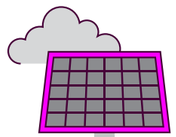
You can only include technologies that are listed in your Existing Agreement.

The relevant network operator will check:

- that the technology matches your Existing Agreement (initial checks)
- that the technology matches your land or planning evidence (detailed checks)

Note: The NESO portal may ask for additional information depending on the technology type provided by the customer, to allow customers to provide further clarifying information.

In addition, if your project is hybrid or staged, the NESO portal will allow customers to submit information for each technology and/or stage.



If your Existing Agreement includes a technology that is not listed in the system-based (for example, through an online portal) Readiness Declaration, contact:

- box.connectionsreform@nationalenergyso.com for Transmission connected or Large Embedded customers - use subject line: Technology not listed on Readiness Declaration
- your DNO or Transmission connected iDNO for Small and Medium Embedded customers - use subject line: Technology not listed on Readiness Declaration

Changes to technology type or increases in Installed Capacity or Transmission Entry Capacity or Developer Capacity are not allowed through the G2TWQ process and must be completed separately and in accordance with the Gated Modification Guidance.

Table 16: Statement of technology/technologies requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	If the Readiness Declaration is not systemised (that is, through an online portal), a statement of technology/technologies from your Existing Agreement is required. If the Readiness Declaration is systemised (that is, through an online portal), and provided the customer has an Existing Agreement for that technology, the User/Applicant will be able to select their project technology or technologies from a drop-down list. The NESO portal may ask for additional information pending the technology type provided by the customer, to allow customers to provide further clarifying information. In addition, if your project is hybrid or staged, the NESO portal will allow customers to submit information for each technology and/or stage.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	

Address of project site

Table 17: Project site address requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	To provide project site address including: • first line • second line • town/city • county • postcode If the project site is located offshore, then provide the address details of the nearest onshore substation.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	

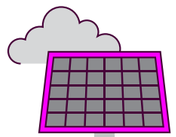
Grid coordinates

Table 18: Grid coordinate requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	Provide the longitude and latitude in WGS84 format to three decimal places for the Northerly, Easterly, Southerly and Westerly extreme coordinates of project site. To provide further clarification if needed (note that projects that have already submitted their evidence do not need to amend their submission), please provide the closest available grid coordinates to three decimal places. Submission should be in decimal and not degrees/minutes/seconds. Discrepancies with this data provision will not meet submission requirements. The project site refers to the Original Red Line Boundary, that is, the outermost grid coordinates of the site. These grid coordinates must include any land covered by granted CPO powers or land that is in probate or subject to an application for confirmation, if relevant. See Appendix 3 for examples of grid coordinate submissions that we expect to see in evidence submission.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	

TOP TIPS

See Appendix 3 and the addendum for grid coordinate examples. Staged projects must submit a set of grid coordinates for each stage.



Jurisdiction

Table 19: Jurisdiction requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	User/Applicant to tick England, Wales or Scotland, as appropriate. Planning options vary by jurisdiction and are used here for reference only, not in a contractual sense.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	

Intended planning regime

This question asks which planning regime applies to your project - either the one you intend to follow, or the one already used if you've submitted or received planning consent for the project site.

Table 20: Planning regime requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	Users/Applicants can select as appropriate: • Section 36 – England and Scotland • Town and Country Planning – England, Scotland and Wales • Development of National Significance – Wales • Development Consent Order – England and Wales This question relates to the project site and not to cable routes, for example. Which planning regime is selected determines the timing of the Queue Management Milestone M1 - as per the look-up table in *CUSC Section 16 – Queue Management Process* For Transmission connected and Large Embedded generation projects, refer to NESO's updated *Queue Management Guidance*. For Small and Medium Embedded generation projects, also see the Energy Network Association's *Queue Management User Guide*.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	

TOP TIP

Select the jurisdiction where you have submitted or intend to submit your planning application.

2.4 Part 2 – Advancement of connection date

Context

Under CMP435 (Gate 2 to Whole Queue), Users/Applicants with Existing Agreements can request an earlier connection date through the Readiness Declaration. This is known as advancement. Transmission Operators (TOs), DNOs and Transmission connected iDNOs will assess whether an earlier date is possible.

Delays to existing connection dates cannot be requested through this process.

More details are available in NESO's *Connections Network Design Methodology (CNDM)*.

Customers considering advancement should note:

- If a User/Applicant requested Advancement and is offered an earlier connection date but rejects it, the project will be given Gate 1 status, except in the following cases:
  - An exception applies for projects requesting advancement within the same phase as their current contracted connection date, where Phase 1 is 2026–2030 and Phase 2 is 2031–2035.
  - In these cases, the project can return to its original date, but any other changes to the agreement, such as point of connection or enabling works, must be accepted.
- A modification application is required when requesting advancement; however, customers will only be invoiced if the project passes the Strategic alignment assessment.
- Large Embedded generators should inform their DNO or Transmission connected iDNO of any planned request to advance their connection date before submitting it to NESO. This early notice helps the DNO or iDNO prepare, and the request will be assessed during the Gate 2 to Whole Queue process.
- Any advancement will depend on network viability and the delivery schedules of the TO, DNO or iDNO. (The modification fee will not be refunded if the outcome of the detailed studies is that the project connection date does not advance.)
- The date considered for advancement is the firm (or enduring non-firm) connection date. If this cannot be brought forward, temporary advancement with restricted availability may be considered, but only if requested.
- Projects will not be given a connection date earlier than the one requested in the advancement submission.

If you wish to advance your current contracted connection date, confirm the earliest date you are willing to accept.

Table 21: Advancement request date requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	For Users seeking advancement the chosen date must be at least one year earlier than the existing firm (or enduring non-firm) connection date. Provide the connection date in DD, MM, YYYY format. You will not be offered a connection date earlier than the advancement date you request. It is not permissible through CMP435 to seek a delay to your current connection date.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	As above, however, advancement requests from Embedded generators will be triaged by DNOs and Transmission connected iDNOs.
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	

TOP TIPS

To receive a Gate 2 offer, projects with connection dates after 2035 must request advancement to a deliverable date at least 12 months ahead of their current firm or enduring non-firm Transmission connection date (unless protected, designated as long lead time or out of scope of CP30). Please note, this includes customers who have a DNO technical limits offer with a date before 2035.

If you wish to advance your current contracted connection date, confirm that you have included a modification application.

Table 22: Advancement request modification application requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	This will include the upload of a modification application and Technical Data documents. Further information on what Technical Data is required for modification applications can be found in the *NGESO Connections Offer Process* document. Note: On the NESO portal, this modification application and Technical Data documentation will be requested after the Readiness Declaration and associated evidence has been submitted.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	Not applicable, as the Distribution Network Operator will submit a modification application (as requested by the Applicant) on behalf of Small and Medium projects.

If your earliest requested advancement date cannot be met by bringing forward your firm (or enduring non-firm) connection date, confirm whether you would accept a temporary non-firm connection up to that date.

This would allow further advancement under temporary availability restrictions (that is a temporary non-firm connection).

Table 23: Temporary non-firm connection request requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	This is a Yes or No question. Only required if seeking advancement of current contracted date. For those with accelerated storage contracts (that is, temporary non-firm connections), contact your relevant Customer Contract Manager (CCM).
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	This is a Yes or No question. Only required if seeking advancement of current contracted date.
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	Further details on temporary non-firm connections for Small or Medium Embedded projects can be found by visiting the Energy Networks Association Grid Supply Point Technical Limits for accelerated non-firm connections Grid Supply Point Technical Limits for accelerated non-firm connections webpage.

Confirm whether you would still wish to advance your contracted connection date if this would result in a change to your current Point of Connection (PoC).

This question is not applicable to any Small, Medium or Large Embedded generators who are connecting to the distribution network.

Context

A commonly anticipated scenario under CMP435 is that a project originally applied to connect at Site A but was allocated Site B because Site A was full. Through reform, Site A may now have capacity, and the project can request Site A again.

Under CMP435 (Gate 2 to Whole Queue), Transmission connected Users with Existing Agreements may therefore request a change to their contracted PoC via the Readiness Declaration. If you provide a preferred alternative PoC alongside your submission, NESO and the Transmission Operators (TOs) will endeavour to consider it as part of the reassessment of the connection.

Customers should consider the following when deciding whether to request an amendment to their PoC:

- Requests to move to a PoC outside the same CP30 zone, or not in an adjacent CP30 zone, are unlikely to be accepted due to the distance involved.
- Requesting a change to a different CP30 zone does not affect the zone a project is allocated to for the purposes of queue formation and Strategic alignment. Projects will be allocated to the CP30 zone in which they are currently contracted to connect. Queue formation happens before PoC changes are assessed.
- Where the TO is responsible for building out the connection, they have greater discretion to amend PoCs – where the User is building the connection themselves, the TO will consider how that affects the feasibility of changing the PoC.
- NESO and TOs will aim to honour your preferred PoC where possible, but in some cases, it may not be available or optimal and a different PoC may need to be assessed.
- If you ask for and receive a Gate 2 offer with a new PoC, you cannot request a reoffer in G2TWQ for your original PoC during the G2TWQ offer acceptance period.

More detail on PoC amendments is available in NESO's *Connections Network Design Methodology*.

Table 24: Amendments to Points of Connection requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	This is a Yes or No question. Unrequested moves will be avoided where possible. However, if a change is the only way to support advancement and you have selected this option, it will be considered.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	Any change to the connection point is not classed as an 'allowable change' under the *ENA Allowable Changes* guidance. This means it does not apply to Small, Medium or Large Embedded generators connecting to the distribution network.
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	

TOP TIP

The submission deadline is

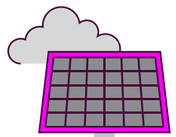
26 August 2025 23:59

Confirm if you wish to amend your transmission connection point location, and if so where your preferred connection point location is (note that it may not be possible to provide you with your preferred connection point location).

This question is not applicable to any Small, Medium or Large Embedded generators who are connecting to the distribution network.

Table 25: Amendments to transmission connection point location requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	This is a Yes or No question. If yes, provide your preferred connection point if it is different from your current contracted point. For Transmission connected projects: • In Scotland, you can submit either latitude/longitude coordinates or a specific connection point. • In England and Wales, you must submit a specific connection point. Moving to your preferred connection point may not always be possible.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	Any change to the connection point is not classed as an 'allowable change' under the *ENA Allowable Changes* guidance. This means it does not apply to Small, Medium or Large Embedded generators connecting to the distribution network.
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	



2.5 Part 2 – Capacity Reduction

Context

Under CMP435 (Gate 2 to Whole Queue), User/Applicants can request a reduction in:

- Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) for directly connected projects (or those with BEGAs)
- Developer Capacity for embedded projects

If requesting a capacity reduction, note the following:

- The User/Applicant may be liable for cancellation charges if the change leads to abortive works.
- For Transmission connected projects, reducing capacity could affect current Point of Connection, as it may then be reviewed (depending on the scale of the reduction).
- If the project is a single-stage, single-technology site, in order to meet the Gate 2 Readiness criteria, the reduced TEC or Developer Capacity must not exceed the Installed Capacity linked to secured land rights within the Original Red Line Boundary.

You cannot retain your full contracted capacity and nominate just a portion to meet Gate 2 Readiness Criteria. Splitting a single-stage project in this way is not permitted through the Gate 2 to Whole Queue process and must be handled separately.

For further information on hybrid projects, refer to Appendix 2.

Confirm if you wish to reduce your current Transmission Entry Capacity or Developer Capacity and to what number. Note that you may be liable for cancellation charges if the change leads to abortive works.

Table 26: Reducing current Transmission Entry Capacity or Developer Capacity requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	Confirm if you want to reduce your current Transmission Entry Capacity. If the answer is 'yes', state the new capacity in MW. There is no need to provide Transmission Entry Capacity if not reducing.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	Confirm if you want to reduce your current Developer Capacity. If you are an Embedded generator with a BEGA, confirm if you want to reduce your Transmission Entry Capacity. If 'yes', state the new capacity in MW.
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	There is no need to provide Transmission Entry Capacity/Developer Capacity if you are not reducing.

2.6 Part 3 – Gate 2 Readiness

If you want to meet Gate 2 Readiness through the land route, you will need to complete Part 3A of the Readiness Declaration as referenced in this handbook.

If you want to meet Gate 2 Readiness through the planning route, then you will need to complete Part 3B of the Readiness Declaration as referenced in this handbook.

Single stage projects will need to complete either 3A or 3B. For staged projects, customers should complete as relevant for each stage.

Confirm the route you are using to meet the Gate 2 Readiness Criteria.

Table 27: Land and planning route requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	Users/Applicants should select Land or Planning as appropriate and complete either Part 3A (Gate 2 Readiness – Land) or Part 3B (Gate 2 Readiness – Planning). As set out in the introduction to this handbook, most projects applying for Gate 2 Readiness are expected to follow the Land route. The Planning Route applies to projects who seek to secure Planning Consent before securing Land Rights (that is, the DCO regime). All projects selecting this route will still be required to provide relevant planning information later in the Readiness Declaration for queue formation purposes, and if seeking protections via Strategic alignment Criteria A. See the *Gate 2 Criteria Methodology* for further information.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	

2.7 Part 3A – Gate 2 Readiness – Land

Context

This section is for Users/Applicants seeking to meet Gate 2 Readiness via the land route.

Section 4 of the Gate 2 Readiness Criteria provides information on the checks NESO will undertake to ensure Users/Applicants have secured appropriate land rights (minimum acreage requirements, secured land rights, duplication checks).

Note: In the NESO portal, for Offshore projects (excluding Interconnectors, OHAs, or non-Great Britain projects), references to 'land' should be read as references to 'seabed' and references to 'acreage' should be read as references to 'KM^2'.

Installed Capacity

State the proposed Installed Capacity for each of the technologies you are seeking to meet Gate 2 Readiness for, including within each stage of a staged project, if relevant. This must include any land associated with the granted Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) powers and/or land under probate/ letters of administration or subject to an application for confirmation, where applicable.

Context

The CUSC definition of 'Installed Capacity' is as follows:

> "The figure, in the context of the Original Red Line Boundary only, being the intended maximum amount of Active Power that the, as appropriate, User's Equipment or Developer's Equipment sited within the Original Red Line Boundary would be capable of exporting and/or importing (independent of the Connection Entry Capacity and/or Transmission Energy Capacity[3] and/ or Developer Capacity, and any limitations to the maximum amount of Active Power related to such capacities) expressed in whole MW, or in MW to one decimal place as declared (for each technology type, if more than one) by the User on the Original Red Line Boundary."

3 The reference to 'Transmission Energy Capacity' should be understood as 'Transmission Entry Capacity'.

Table 28: Installed Capacity requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	User/Applicant must state their proposed Installed Capacity for each technology in MW to one decimal place. Installed capacity must be >= Transmission Entry Capacity or Developer Capacity.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	

Minimum acreage

State the total acreage of the project site, including for each stage in a staged project if relevant. This must include project site land associated with granted CPO powers and/or land under probate or subject to an application for confirmation, where applicable.

Context

The minimum acreage check verifies that the available land acreage (or seabed KM^2) shown on the Original Red Line Boundary is sufficient for a given technology. Further information as well as indicative figures per technology is given in NESO's *LoA Guidance*.

TOP TIP

For hybrid projects, see NESO's *LoA Guidance* for support with minimum acreage submissions.

For staged projects, minimum acreage must be provided for each stage.

Table 29: Minimum acreage requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	Users/Applicants must submit: • the total acreage of the project site to 4 decimal places If applicable, the User or Applicant must provide the acreage within the total that relates to land granted CPO powers, or land that is in probate (England and Wales), or an Application for Confirmation (Scotland). The project site is in the context of the Original Red Line Boundary. The acreage figure must cover the total minimum acreage required across
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	

TOP TIP

Note: The Original Red Line Boundary refers to the site boundary provided as part of your Gate 2 application.

each technology in accordance with the minimum acres per MW as set out in the look-up table under the NESO LoA Guidance.

NESO has provided updated figures in its LoA Guidance for the appropriate acreage (or KM^2 if offshore) per MW for each technology type.

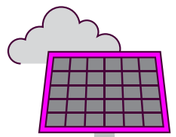
Where emerging technology types are not represented in the Energy Density Tables, Users/Applicants should refer to NESO LoA Guidance for next steps.

Original Red Line Boundary (ORLB)

Does the Original Red Line Boundary of the project site, including the project site for each stage, if relevant, meet or exceed the minimum acreage land density requirements? Note: The term Original Red Line Boundary is a Gate 2 concept and is the Original Red Line Boundary for the project site provided as part of a Gate 2 application.

Table 30: ORLB minimum acreage land density requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	Users/Applicants must select Yes or No, as appropriate.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	Where the acreage submitted in the Readiness Declaration or shown on the Original Red Line Boundary is less than the value set out in the Energy Density Table provided in NESO's *LoA Guidance*, the User/Applicant must provide justification for why a reduced acreage is appropriate for the project site. NESO or the relevant DNO or Transmission connected iDNO will review the evidence and may request further clarification. User/Applicant should not contact NESO or the DNO/Transmission connected iDNO directly but must include all relevant supporting evidence. If NESO or the DNO/Transmission connected iDNO determines that the submitted acreage does not meet the minimum threshold, the minimum acreage requirement will be considered not met.
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	



Provide Original Red Line Boundary for project site

Context

Relevant to Distribution connected embedded sites only: These sites will need to ensure their Original Red Line Boundary meets Distribution policies on allowable changes concerning the red line boundary. If the Original Red Line Boundary you are submitting with this Readiness Declaration is materially different to the Red Line Boundary submitted to the DNO (or subsequently agreed with the DNO), you must contact the relevant DNO to understand if the change is allowable. Further details can be found in the *ENA Queue Management User Guide* and in the ENA guidance on *Treatment of Requests to Change Connection Applications*.

Relevant for Transmission connected customers only from ongoing Queue Management compliance: Installed Capacity in MW (expressed in whole MW or to one decimal place) that is within the ORLB, only 50% of that number can then be located outside of the ORLB. Further details can be found in *NESO's Queue Management Guidance*.

TOP TIP

See Appendix 3 for examples of acceptable Original Line Boundary submissions, including staged projects and those with multiple land parcels.

Table 31: Original Red Line Boundary document requirements

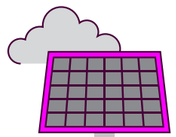
Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	The Original Red Line Boundary must: • be clearly marked • indicate the scale and orientation used • explain any symbols, colours and abbreviations used • state the site address, including postcode, if available • state grid coordinates (longitude and latitude in WGS84 format to 3 decimal places of northerly, easterly, southerly and westerly extreme coordinates of project site) • show Installed Capacity (expressed in whole MW or to one decimal place) for each technology • show total acreage secured within the Original Red Line Boundary secured for the project site • Factor in the land associated with the granted CPO Powers and/or the land under probate/subject to an application for confirmation (if applicable). This includes where some of the land required is in probate/subject to an application for confirmation or some or all of the land is subject to CPO
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	

	The Original Red Line Boundary may also include the following, where available (not mandatory but recommended): • A GeoJSON file showing the Original Red Line Boundary. • An indication of where the boundary covers multiple land parcels, where applicable. For the avoidance of doubt, for hybrid projects, there is no requirement for a separate Original Red Line Boundary per technology. In addition, for the purpose of readiness, for projects with multiple stages, customers will be asked to upload a separate Original Red Line Boundary per stage. However, this could be the same Original Red Line Boundary for each stage, with the relevant information provided (for example, a supporting note, or key on the submission of the Original Red Line Boundary) to clarify each relevant stage. Refer to Appendix 3 of this handbook for examples of acceptable ORLB submissions.

Is there more than one Original Red Line Boundary document?

Table 32: Additional Original Red Line Boundary document requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	**Option 1: No ORLB** We expect the majority of Customers to select 'No' and they would only select Option 2 or 3 if any part of their ORLB for the project site is subject to land granted under CPO Powers and/or Probate/Application for Confirmation. **Option 2: Yes – one ORLB** Customers can select Yes, where the User/Applicant will provide one ORLB for the project site but also includes land granted under CPO Powers and/or Probate or an Application for Confirmation. **Option 3: Yes – more than one ORLB** Customers can select Yes, where the User/Applicant will provide more than one ORLB for the project site, which separates one or both of the land rights granted under CPO Powers and/or probate or an Application for Confirmation. **Note:** We expect this will be a rare occurrence but these documents when put together will constitute the ORLB for the project site. Refer to Appendix 3 of this handbook for examples of submissions involving more than one ORLB document that would meet expectations.



Does the Original Red Line Boundary match the Secured Land Rights Boundary?

Table 33: Secured Land Rights Boundary requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	Users/Applicants must select option ('Yes' or 'No'). If 'No' is selected, there will be the option to provide an explanation. The Original Red Line Boundary does not need to match the secured land boundary or any planning consent boundary (although it may do so). The Secured Land Rights Boundary should be detailed in the project's Option or lease agreement. The Original Red Line Boundary must fall within the secured land, and cover the minimum acreage required for the Installed Capacity being submitted to meet the Gate 2 Readiness Criteria.

General

State, to the best of your knowledge, whether you, or another developer (including the landowner), is applying for any additional connection using the same land. This includes a connection at transmission or distribution.

Table 34: Additional land connection requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	Examples where transmission and distribution projects may occupy the same land include: • Direct Transmission connected projects that also use a distribution connection on the same land for auxiliary demand and/or construction supply. • Transmission connected projects on the same land as a distribution connection but progressing on separate timescales. Users/Applicants may provide a written response to this question. Note: In the NESO portal, this is a Yes or No question. If customers select 'No', they will be able to provide a written response.

Are the land rights in the name of the User/Applicant?

TOP TIP
If in doubt, select **'No'** and upload relevant evidence.

Table 35: Land rights in the name of the User/Applicant

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	Users/Applicants should select 'Yes' or 'No'.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	If 'No' is selected, and the User/Applicant is not the party that holds the secured land rights, a letter must be uploaded from the land rights holder confirming that the User/Applicant has permission to use the land.
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	This question will be asked for each land document that is provided. Where the User/Applicant is not the party who has entered into the secured land rights, a document is required from the entity who holds the land rights stating that the User/Applicant has the rights to use the land.

Evidence of secured land rights

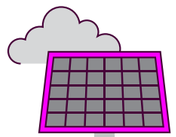
Context

This section relates to the secured land rights associated with the Original Red Line Boundary (ORLB) for the project site.

For an overview of the pathways for projects that can demonstrate Gate 2 Readiness Criteria through the land route, refer to Section 1 Gate 2 Readiness Criteria of this handbook.

The following questions ask the Users/Applicants to confirm which types of land rights documents are being submitted for assessment, and to specify the land parcels to which they relate.

Further information on the requirements can be found in NESO's *Gate 2 Criteria Methodology*.



Note:

- Multiple documents may be submitted if the secured land rights relate to multiple land parcels.
- Where the User/Applicant is not the named party on the secured land rights documentation, a formal letter must be provided by the land rights holder confirming how the User/Applicant has permission to use the land.
- Land status information may be caveated where commercial sensitivities require certain details to be withheld.
- Land documentation must be signed by both the User/Applicant and the landowner (or their authorised agent). If the documentation is not signed by both parties, we require the counterpart signed by the landowner and a written explanation must be provided to confirm the agreement has been executed by both parties.
- Letters of Authority, exclusivity agreements, and (except where a consequence of the land being the subject of probate/letters of administration/letter of confirmation) Heads of Terms are not considered valid evidence of secured land rights.
- Users/Applicants must provide evidence of secured land rights for at least their project site (as defined by the Original Red Line Boundary).

NESO, or the relevant DNO/Transmission connected iDNO, will check:

- that the location of the secured land rights matches the location of the ORLB
- that any technology referenced in the land rights documentation matches the technology for which Gate 2 Readiness is being sought
- refer to Appendix 3 for examples of what is expected in an ORLB submission, including an example of ORLB with some of the land under probate

REMEMBER
Remove all password protection from files before submitting.

The User/Applicant must confirm the land interests they have evidenced for the project site.

Table 36: Confirmation of land interests

Project Type	Requirements

Transmission project
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA
	Users/Applicants must confirm:
	• the number of land parcels over which they have secured
	• land rights
	Note: In the NESO portal, the portal will count the number of land parcels the User has submitted.
	For each land parcel the customer has secured land rights for, the customer must select as appropriate from the following:
	• A: Option agreement
	  • B: Option agreement: exception
	  • C: Option agreement: lease or purchase agreement
	• D: Existing land lease
	• E: Existing ownership
	Note: Where Option A is selected in respect of a/each land parcel, Option C is then also required, as the associated lease(s) or purchase agreement(s) as provided for in the option will need to be evidenced alongside the option agreement(s). If a customer has an exception under Option B, the customer will also need to select Option B, as well as Option A and Option C.
	Each document (apart from 'existing ownership') must be signed by both parties, or, where signed in counterpart, each party signing their copy, and then the part signed by the landowner.
	Land status information may need to be caveated where commercial sensitivity applies. In such cases, redacted land agreements are permitted.
	Conditional agreements for lease, sale contracts and missives would be treated in similar fashion to option agreements and would be accepted provided the conditions are acceptable. For example, NESO/the DNOs must be able to verify that the longstop date for satisfaction of conditions has not passed.

REMEMBER

If submitting via an option agreement, include both the Option Agreement and the form of lease or purchase agreement.

If the User/Applicant is providing an option agreement, lease or purchase agreement, or existing land lease, they must confirm that the landlord has no unilateral termination provision.

Table 37: Does the landlord have any unilateral termination provision within the land agreements provided

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	This question asks the User/Applicant to confirm whether or not the landowner or landlord has the right to terminate the options or leases provided on grounds other than insolvency and material breach. Such unilateral termination rights include, for example, break clauses in favour of the landowner or landlord. Termination events including insolvency of the User (no funder step-in), insolvency of the User (funder step-in), material breach, and User break rights are standard and would be acceptable.

TOP TIP

The submission deadline is

26 August 2025 23:59

Option agreement

This handbook details all of the possible options relating to evidence of secured land rights. However, your project will only be required to submit the relevant sections of Section 1A, 1B, 1C, 1D, and 1E below.

1A – Option agreement

Table 38: Option agreement requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	Evidence should include a signed option agreement showing that the User/Applicant has entered into an agreement with the landowner for the right to purchase or lease the land. The option agreement must have a minimum term of three years from the date it was signed - not from the date the Gate 2 application is submitted - unless it qualifies under one of the exceptions outlined in Section 1B below. Where the option has been extended, the minimum 3-year period must apply from the most recent signing date unless it qualifies under one of the exceptions outlined in Section 1B. Users/Applicants must confirm whether their option agreement meets the minimum three-year requirement, the date the option agreement was signed, and the date the option expires. The option agreement must also be accompanied by a form of lease or purchase agreement, also referred to as a transfer (see Section 1C below for more information on this submission). Note: • For Innovation and Targeted Oil and Gas (INTOG) projects, the equivalent of an option agreement is securing relevant conditional seabed rights for the site on which the project is planned to be located, through an agreement awarded by Crown Estate Scotland (CES) as a result of the INTOG Leasing Round. • For Non-Great Britain projects, Offshore Hybrid Assets (OHAs) or Interconnectors, the equivalent is securing rights to lease or own the land (or confirmation that the User/Applicant already leases or owns the land) for the onshore convertor substation. Where an onshore convertor substation is not required, NESO will review the case on an individual basis. • As stated above, conditional agreements for lease, sale contracts and missives would have the same effect as option agreements and would be accepted provided the conditions are acceptable. For example, NESO/the DNOs must be able to verify that the longstop date for satisfaction of conditions has not passed.

1B – Option agreement exceptions

Context

There may be circumstances where, for reasons beyond a project's control, an option agreement does not meet the three-year minimum requirement. Details of exceptions to evidence requirements are given in Section 4.1c of the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology. They are also set out below and must be evidenced by the User/Applicant.

Table 39: Option agreement exceptions

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	User/Applicant must provide evidence and select one of the following options, unless marked 'Not Applicable': • The connection date is less than three years from the date of submission of the Readiness Declaration and the option period extends to the connection date. • If the requirement for a minimum three-year option period would be detrimental to project development because of one of the following:

- The User/Applicant will enter into the lease or purchase agreement within three years, and the Option Period extends to that date.
- The project is a test and demonstration project that will operate for less than three years.
- Other (a supporting explanation must be provided).

- The User/Applicant can provide evidence that Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) powers have been granted for all, or part of the project site.
- The User/Applicant can provide evidence of probate or letters of administration (England or Wales) or an application for confirmation (Scotland) for part of the project site. This evidence must include signed Heads of Terms from landowners, executors, or beneficiaries confirming their intent to enter into the option agreement upon grant of probate/administration/confirmation. This applies where land options have been secured over multiple parcels, but one or more parcels remain subject to probate.

The explanation of the evidence submitted to meet Gate 2 Readiness Criteria should include upload of relevant documents, and free text to provide further context, including references to relevant clauses in the documents and any additional supporting information.

For G2TWQ purposes only (that is, projects in scope of CMP435), the minimum option agreement term is not required, provided that either of the following applies:

- The option agreement was signed before Ofgem's decision date on CMP435 (15 April 2025).
- The User/Applicant has either already received confirmation of meeting Queue Management Milestone M1 (and Distribution Queue Management Milestone M1, where applicable) and/or progressed beyond Queue Management Milestone M1, with the exception of M3.

	Relevant to transmission connections only The User/Applicant must confirm which Queue Management Milestones have been met, based on evidence already submitted to and approved by NESO. The User/Applicant must indicate which milestones have been met by selecting from the following: M1, M2, M5, M6, M7, M8. Where the User/Applicant is directly connected and has received confirmation from NESO that the relevant Queue Management Milestones have been met, they must confirm this. Evidence does not need to be resubmitted. However, as per Section 16 of CUSC, Queue Management Milestones M1 to M3 must continue to be met on an ongoing basis.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	The same approach applies for Small, Medium or Large Embedded generation projects. The User/Applicant must confirm which Queue Management Milestones have been met by selecting from the following: M1, M2, M4, M5, M6, M7, M8 and provide the evidence previously submitted, and approved by, the relevant DNO/Transmission connected iDNO. Evidence must still be submitted, even if the User/Applicant has already received confirmation from the DNO/Transmission connected iDNO that the milestones have been met. This is due to Queue Management having been in place within the distribution network for a longer period than at transmission.
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	

1C – Option agreement: form of lease or purchase agreement (also known as a transfer)

Table 40: Lease or purchase agreement requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	The option agreement (Section 1A above) must be accompanied by a lease or purchase agreement. The User/Applicant must select and provide evidence for one of the following two options (unless you have a purchase agreement), along with an explanation of how the evidence satisfies the Gate 2 Readiness Criteria. This should include clause references and any other relevant supporting information. Form of lease: 1. A lease term of 20 years or more remaining at the date of exercise of the option. 2. A lease term of less than 20 years, where the operational life of the project is under 20 years (for example, test and demonstration projects). A signed statement from a director will be required, confirming why a 20-year lease is not necessary due to the project's operational life. Neither of the above lease options are applicable if the User/Applicant has a purchase agreement (also referred to as a transfer).

Existing land lease

1D – Existing land lease with a remaining term of minimum of 20 years from the submission of the Gate 2 evidence

Table 41: Existing land lease reporting requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	Users/Applicants must provide evidence and select one of the following two options: 1. An existing land lease agreement with a remaining minimum term of 20 years from the date of submission of Gate 2 application. 2. A lease term of less than 20 years, where the operational life of the project is under 20 years (for example, test and demonstration projects). Where the lease term is under 20 years, the User/Applicant must provide a document signed by a director explaining why a 20-year term is not required based on the operational life of the project. The explanation must include how the evidence meets the Gate 2 Readiness Criteria, including relevant clause references, page numbers, and any other supporting information. Uploaded documents must also clearly show the lease start and end dates.

1E: Evidence of existing ownership

Table 42: Evidence of existing ownership requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	Where the User/Applicant already owns the land on which the project is to be located, the User/Applicant must provide one of the following: 1. Official copy of The Register of Title, where the land is registered at the Land Registry. 2. Title deeds or a solicitor's certification of title, where the land is not registered with the Land Registry (preferred). The User/Applicant should also provide a supporting explanation detailing how the submitted evidence meets Gate 2 Criteria Readiness. This should include relevant clause references, page numbers, and any other supporting information.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	

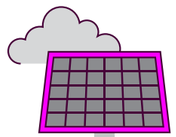
2.8 Part 3B – Gate 2 Readiness planning

Context

This section is for Users/Applicants seeking to meet Gate 2 Readiness via the 'Planning' route.

As noted in Section 1 of this handbook, we expect the majority of projects to seek to meet Gate 2 Readiness Criteria via the 'Land' route. As set out in Section 5 of the *Gate 2 Criteria Methodology*, a project can submit evidence of a Development Consent Order (DCO) in place of land rights if it is progressing through the DCO planning process.

For the avoidance of doubt, other forms of planning other than DCO are not acceptable for readiness (but are for queue formation purposes in Section 6).



Proposed Installed Capacity for each of the technologies you are seeking to meet Gate 2 Readiness via the planning route.

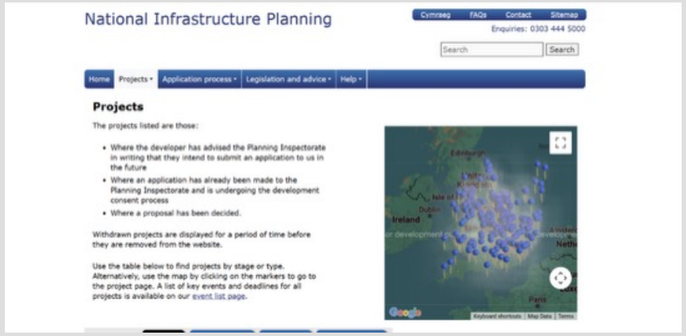
Table 43: Installed capacity requirements by project type under the planning route

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	User/Applicant must submit in MW to 1 decimal place for each technology. The User/Applicant's Installed Capacity must be >= TEC or Developer Capacity.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	

Primary Route for accepted application for Development Consent Order (DCO)

Table 44: Accepted application evidence requirements for DCO by project type

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	The project should provide the accepted DCO application. This can be evidenced in one of three ways: 1) Planning Inspectorate reference number and DCO acceptance date (in DD/MM/YYYY format) 2) See screenshot below showing what is deemed as a project on the National Infrastructure Planning website.

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	 2) Where the User/Applicant has not received a planning reference number in relation to the DCO process (which is issued once the application for planning consent has been submitted and validated by the relevant Statutory Planning Authority) at the time of their Gate 2 Application, they may instead submit: • the DCO Application for Planning Consent • the submission date of the DCO application in DD/MM/YYYY format • confirmation of agreement to provide the Planning Inspectorate reference number and application acceptance date either on or before the issue of the Gate 2 offer For Transmission connected customers only, the User/Applicant may state that they have received confirmation from NESO that Queue Management Milestone M1 has been met. In this case, they will not need to resubmit Milestone M1 evidence. However, in line with Section 16 of CUSC, Queue Management Milestones M1 to M3 must also continue to be met on an ongoing basis. Where User/Applicant has not already received confirmation from NESO that the relevant Queue Management Milestones have been met, they must provide appropriate evidence to demonstrate that the milestones have been achieved. Guidance for submitting Queue Management milestone evidence can be found on NESO's Queue management webpage.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	The same as for a Transmission project, except the third option is not applicable. Where the User/Applicant is connected to the distribution network (that is, Small, Medium or Large Embedded generation), they must submit evidence of meeting Queue Management Milestone M1 even if they have already received confirmation that it has been met from the DNO or Transmission connected iDNO. This is because Queue Management has been in place on the distribution network for longer than at transmission.
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	

Route only if pre-agreed with NESO or Transmission connected iDNO/DNO

Context

In exceptional circumstances, where a User/Applicant provides evidence to NESO, the DNO or Transmission connected iDNO prior to submission of the Readiness Declaration that they must follow an alternative planning process (other than the DCO route) to obtain Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) powers to secure land rights, NESO or the relevant DNO/ Transmission connected iDNO may apply discretion on a case-by-case basis. This discretion applies only in relation to this specific aspect of the Gate 2 Readiness Criteria, in line with the above evidence requirements. See Section 4.1c of the *Gate 2 Criteria Methodology* for further details.

For more information on how planning is considered for the purposes of queue formation, refer to Part 6 below.

Users/Applicants should contact NESO or their relevant DNO/Transmission connected iDNO in advance of the NESO application window or the DNO/Transmission connected iDNO Evidence Gathering window if they believe this exception applies. This route must be pre-agreed with NESO or the relevant DNO/Transmission connected iDNO prior to submission of the Readiness Declaration and accompanying evidence.

- Further information for Transmission connected projects and how to pre-agree this approach with NESO can be found on its Readiness Pre process webpage.
- For further information on Distribution connected projects and how to pre-agree this approach, reach out to your relevant DNO or Transmission connected iDNO.

Table 45: Alternative planning route evidence requirements where pre-agreed with NESO or DNO/iDNO

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	The User/Applicant must provide: • evidence that NESO or the relevant DNO/Transmission connected iDNO has agreed that this route can be taken And one of the following three options: 1) A validated application reference number (for Section 36, Development of National Significance, or Town and Country Planning, as appropriate) issued by the relevant Planning Authority. 2) Where the User/Applicant has not received a planning reference number (which is issued once the planning application has been submitted and validated by the relevant statutory Planning Authority) at the time of their Gate 2 Application, they may instead submit: • the application for planning consent • the submission date of the application (in DD, MM, YYYY format) • confirmation of agreement to provide the application reference number and acceptance date either before or on issue of the Gate 2 offer 3) For Transmission connected customers only, the User/Applicant may confirm that NESO has verified they have met Queue Management Milestone M1. In this case, Milestone M1 evidence does not need to be resubmitted. • As per Section 16 of CUSC, Queue Management Milestones M1 to M3 must also continue to be met on an ongoing basis. • Where confirmation of M1 has not yet been received, the User/Applicant must submit relevant evidence demonstrating that the milestone has been met.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	The same as for a transmission project, except the third option is not applicable. Where the User/Applicant is connected to the distribution network (that is, Small, Medium or Large Embedded generation), they must submit evidence of meeting Queue Management Milestone M1 even if they have already received confirmation from the DNO or Transmission connected iDNO. This is because Queue Management has been in place on the distribution network for longer than at transmission.

NOTE

See the addendum for guidance on submitting the Director/Authorised person declaration.

2.9 Part 4 – Director/Authorised person declaration

Table 46: Director/Authorised person declaration requirements

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	A director of the User/Applicant – or, where there is no statutory director, a person authorised to make this declaration on behalf of the User/Applicant – must confirm and certify that: a) they are either a statutory director of the User/Applicant, or a person duly authorised to make this declaration b) the statements made in the Gate 2 Readiness Declaration and the evidence submitted by the User/Applicant in support of the Gate 2 Readiness Criteria are true, accurate and not misleading. This confirmation is made with the understanding that a Gate 2 offer will not be issued if this is not the case

They must also consent to the information and data about the User/Applicant and the Project, as submitted in this Readiness Declaration or created through the Gate 2 to Whole Queue process, being shared with a Competent Authority (as defined in CUSC) for the purpose of facilitating and monitoring the effectiveness of connections reform and its objectives.

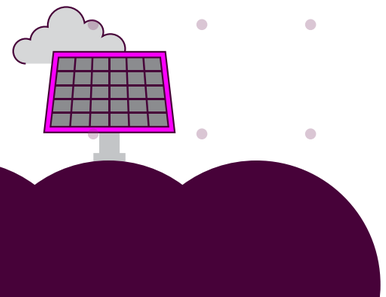
The following information must also be provided:

- company name
- Companies House registration number (if registered on Companies House)

If the signatory is not a statutory director, they must provide evidence explaining why they are authorised to sign the declaration. Appropriate examples of this scenario include:

- the signatory is not listed as a director at Companies House in Great Britain
- the company is not registered with Companies House in Great Britain (for example, a non-Great Britain company, Trust, or a Local Authority or Council
- a change in company ownership occurs during the Gate 2 application process

Where the Readiness Declaration covers more than one stage, this declaration applies to all stages.



2.10 Part 5 – Gate 2 Strategic alignment Criteria

This section of the Readiness Declaration is not mandatory; however, if a project is seeking to meet Gate 2 Strategic alignment Criteria A, evidence must be provided for the Protection to apply.

Where more than one technology type is ready, the Readiness Declaration must be completed for each technology type for which you are seeking Gate 2 Strategic alignment and you must confirm which technology this applies to.

The NESO *Gate 2 Criteria Methodology* (Section 6.1) states that projects seeking to meet Gate 2 Readiness must either be:

- eligible for relevant Protections as set out in Section 6.2
- aligned to the capacities within the *Clean Power 2030 Action Plan* as described in the Connections Network Design Methodology
- designated as described in the Project Designation Methodology
- a project not within scope of the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan and of a technology type listed in Section 6.3

Confirm which of the Gate 2 Strategic alignment Criteria A, B and D you wish to be considered for.

TOP TIP

For non-Great Britain projects, select Strategic Criteria D – or A (Protections), if applicable.

Table 47: Confirmation of Gate 2 Strategic alignment Criteria by project type

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	Confirm which Gate 2 Strategic alignment Criteria you wish your project to be considered for: • (a) eligible for relevant Protections as set out in Section 6.2 • (b) aligned to the capacities within the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan as described in the Connections Network Design Methodology • (d) a project not within scope of the *Clean Power 2030 Action Plan* and of a technology type listed in the *Gate 2 Criteria Methodology*, Section 6.3 Note: Strategic Criteria (c), for Designated Projects, must be applied for separately. See the *Project Designation Methodology* for more information.

If seeking to meet Protections under Gate 2 Strategic alignment Criteria A only, confirm which of the Protections the project is eligible for.

Context

This question is not mandatory, but Users/Applicants must complete it if they are seeking to evidence why they meet Strategic alignment Criteria (a). Only Protection Clause 1 and Protection Clause 2a are applicable under CMP435. NESO's *Gate 2 Criteria Methodology* (Section 6.2) provides further information on the different Protections clauses.

Table 48: Confirmation of Protections under Gate 2 Strategic alignment Criteria (a)

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	Confirm which Protection the project is eligible for: • Protection Clause 1 (projects connecting by end 2026) (CMP435) • Protection Clause 2a (projects which are significantly progressed) (CMP435)
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	

TOP TIP

For milestone information (such as M1, M2 and M7), see the NESO *Queue Management Guidance* (Transmission) or ENA *Queue Management User Guide* (Embedded Generators).

For projects seeking Protections, evidence must be provided of meeting Protection Clause 1 or Protection Clause 2a.

Overview of Queue Management evidence requirements relating to Protections:

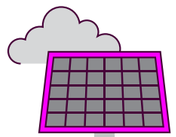
- For Transmission connected projects:
  - If Users/Applicants have already received NESO approval of meeting Queue Management Milestones, they do not need to resubmit their evidence.
  - The Readiness Declaration allows Users/Applicants to submit relevant evidence of meeting Queue Management Milestones, which will be assessed by NESO under business-as-usual processes.
- For Large Embedded generation projects:
  - Users/Applicants must submit evidence of meeting Queue Management Milestones, which NESO will process.
  - More details can be found in NESO's updated *Queue Management Guidance*.
- For Small, Medium and Large Embedded generation projects:
  - For Users/Applicants connected to the distribution network (Small, Medium or Large Embedded generation), evidence of meeting the relevant Queue Management Milestones must be submitted even if confirmation has already been received from the DNO or Transmission connected iDNO, due to the longer-standing application of Queue Management at Distribution.
  - More details can be found in the ENA's updated *Queue Management User Guide*.
  - The Readiness Declaration allows Applicants to submit relevant evidence to the DNO, as set out in the ENA's updated Queue Management User Guide.

Table 49: Protection Clause 1 eligibility and evidence requirements

Clause	Requirements
1	The project must have a contracted completion date of 31 December 2026 or earlier. There may be cases where a project met this requirement as of 20 December 2024 but does not meet this requirement at the time of application in the CMP435 Existing Agreement Request Window or DNO Evidence Gathering, due to their contracted connection date being delayed via a network company driven change to the contract. In these cases, the contracted connection date as of 20 December 2024 will be used to determine eligibility for this protection. And the project must either: • have already received confirmation from NESO of meeting Queue Management Milestone M2 and M7 (Transmission connected only) or • provide evidence of meeting Queue Management Milestones M2 and M7 **Additional notes:** • See above for direction relating to Queue Management evidence submission. • Where a project does not require planning consent, a director can submit a signed letter confirming that no statutory consent is required. Submitting this letter will be deemed as meeting Queue Management Milestone M2. • Note: If you are eligible for Protection 2a, and you have both planning and a support contract, please submit evidence of your support contract. This is to support the network companies to use best endeavours to provide a connection date that meets support contracts dependent on the project connecting by a certain date or within a certain date range. For further information, please refer to the *Gate 2 Criteria Methodology* Section 6.2.

Table 50: Protection Clause 2a eligibility and evidence requirements

Clause	Requirements
2a	The project must provide their contracted completion date (this must be on or before 31 December 2027 for connection date and point of connection to be protected) and either: • provide evidence of meeting Queue Management Milestone M1 (that is, have obtained planning consent, with the relevant planning application submitted on or before 20 December 2024 and subsequently validated) and • provide evidence of meeting Queue Management Milestone M2, or confirmation from NESO that Milestone M2 has been met (Transmission connected only) Or select one of the following: • hold a 'live' Contract for Difference (CfD) • hold a 'live' Capacity Market contract • hold a 'live' Cap and Floor arrangement or Merchant Interconnector approval (via the relevant Ofgem exemptions process) • hold a 'live' contract with NESO awarded through the 'Network Services' process (previously called NOA Pathfinders) NESO will check publicly available data to verify if the User/Applicant holds a 'live' CfD, 'live' Capacity Market contract, or a 'live' contract with NESO awarded through their 'Network Services' processes. Examples of a 'live' contract include Voltage Network Services, Stability Network Services or Constraint Management Intertrip Services. NESO will check projects have a 'live' Cap and Floor arrangement or Merchant Interconnector approvals via the relevant exemptions process with the Authority.



Or (only where the User/Applicant does not require planning consent):

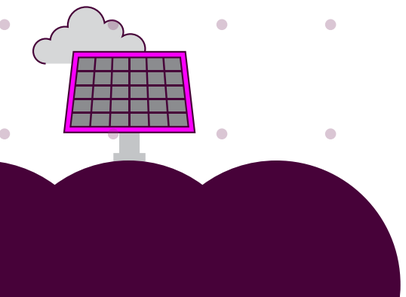
- a director can submit a signed letter confirming that no statutory consent is required. Submitting this letter will be deemed as meeting Queue Management Milestone M1

and

- provide evidence of meeting Queue Management Milestone M7, or state they have received confirmation from NESO that Queue Management Milestone M7 has been met (Transmission connected only)

Additional notes

- If the User/Applicant is protected under Protection Clause 2a and has a connection date no later than 31 December 2027, the connection date and Point of Connection (PoC) are protected. Projects can still meet Protection Clause 2a if they do not meet this connection date requirement, but this will only guarantee a place in the queue, not the connection date or PoC.
- Where the User/Applicant has not yet received confirmation from NESO, they must provide evidence of meeting Queue Management Milestone M2, or confirmation from NESO that Milestone M2 has been met (Transmission connected only).



Only for projects seeking to meet Strategic alignment Criteria A, to confirm Transmission Entry Capacity or Developer Capacity for which protections are being requested.

Table 51: Confirmation of Transmission Entry Capacity or Developer Capacity for projects seeking Strategic alignment Criteria A

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	Provision of Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) in MW per technology type, including per technology within each stage for a staged project if relevant. A User may not seek protection for MW capacity that exceeds: • the TEC contracted with NESO • the TEC that meets the Gate 2 Readiness Criteria (that is, must comply with the land energy density figures or be otherwise agreed with NESO) • where applicable, the maximum capacity that can be consented under the relevant planning regime (for example, 49.9 MW under the Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA)) • any maximum capacity stated in the planning application **Additional requirements:** • A User may not request protection for a technology that is not specified in their Existing Agreement. • Where the requested capacity for protection complies with all of the above, the capacity that is protected will not be otherwise limited by NESO.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	Provision of Developer Capacity in MW per technology type (or, for Embedded generation with a BEGA, TEC in MW per technology type), including per technology within each stage for a staged project, if relevant. An Applicant may not seek protection for MW capacity that exceeds: • the Developer Capacity contracted with the DNO
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	

	• the Developer Capacity that meets the Gate 2 Readiness Criteria (that is, must comply with the land energy density figures or be otherwise agreed with the relevant DNO) • where applicable, the maximum capacity that can be consented under the relevant planning regime (for example, 49.9 MW under the TCPA) • any maximum capacity stated in the planning application **Additional requirements:** • An applicant may **not** request protection for a technology that is not specified in their Existing Agreement. • Where the requested capacity for protection complies with all of the above, the capacity that is protected will not be otherwise limited by the DNO.

2.11 Part 6 – Additional data requested for queue formation

Context

As discussed in the Introductory section on 'Land' or 'Planning' in Gate 2, a project may be seeking Gate 2 Readiness via the Land route, but its planning status will determine treatment during queue formation. Users/Applicants who have submitted a planning application will be prioritised in queue formation over Users/Applicants who have obtained land rights. (See Section 5.7 of NESO's *Connections Network Design Methodology*).

This section of the Readiness Declaration asks Users/Applicants to provide further information on their project's development status to support queue formation.

Project status for the purpose of queue formation

Projects seeking Strategic alignment under criteria B, C, and D should complete this section to assist with queue formation. Projects seeking Protections under Strategic alignment Criteria A do not need to fill it in.

TOP TIP

Transmission connected projects applying through Strategic Criteria A, you can provide development status info in the NESO portal – but it's only used if protections checks are not met.

This is because protected projects will be prioritised in queue formation. Information about protected projects will also be used to support queue formation.

This question is not mandatory; however, if it is not answered, and if the project does not meet Strategic alignment Criteria A it will be assumed that the User/Applicant has obtained land rights for queue formation purposes.

Table 52: Project development status information to support queue formation

Project Type	Requirements

Transmission project	Users/Applicants are asked to tick as appropriate whether they have submitted a planning application or have obtained land rights.
	• Where the User/Applicant is seeking readiness through the Land route (Part 3A of the Readiness Declaration), and selects 'land rights obtained', no further evidence is required.
	• Where the User/Applicant is seeking readiness through the 'planning route (Part 3B of the Readiness Declaration), and selects 'planning application submitted', no further evidence is required.
	• Where the User/Applicant is seeking readiness through the Land route (3A of the Readiness Declaration), and selects 'planning Application submitted', further evidence is required. This includes:
	  • evidence of meeting Queue Management Milestone M1 (including if milestones are not yet included in the project's Existing Agreement)
	or
	  • confirmation from NESO that Queue Management Milestone M1 has been met (Transmission connected only). Where confirmation from NESO has not been received, the User/Applicant must provide relevant evidence
	or
	  • where planning consent is not required, a signed letter from a director confirming that no statutory consent is required. Submitting this letter will be deemed as meeting Queue Management Milestone M1

	Additional note • As per Section 16 of CUSC, Queue Management Milestones M1 to M3 must also continue to be met on an ongoing basis.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	Same as above, however: • Where the Applicant is connected to the distribution network (that is, Small, Medium or Large Embedded generation), they must submit evidence of meeting the relevant Queue Management Milestones, even if confirmation has already been received from the DNO/Transmission connected iDNO. This is because Queue Management has been in place at Distribution for a longer period than at Transmission. • Large Embedded generation projects must submit evidence of meeting Queue Management Milestones directly to NESO, even if this evidence was previously submitted to the DNO or Transmission connected iDNO.

What is the import capacity of the site? (Only asked where the technology type is BESS or LDES installed at the project site)

Context

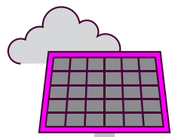
This question seeks to understand how projects including either BESS or LDES should be treated in queue formation.

For further information on hybrid projects, refer to Appendix 2.

This question is not mandatory; however, if it is not answered, it will be assumed for CP30 purposes that the BESS or LDES component of the project will be importing, that is, it will contribute to the permitted capacity for the purpose of Strategic alignment.

Table 53: Import capacity and charging method information for projects with BESS or LDES installed at the project site

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	The User/Applicant should provide the import capacity in MW to one decimal place. The User/Applicant should answer Yes or No to the following questions: • Does the project intend to import power for the purposes of charging any storage on the site? (Note: If the intention is to import power for storage, the storage technology will contribute to the BESS or LDES permitted capacity for the purposes of Strategic alignment.) • If 'No', does the project intend to charge the storage using co-located generation? (Note: In this case, the storage technology will not contribute to the permitted capacity for BESS or LDES.) This is a Yes/No question.



Provide evidence that you align with the definition of LDES provided by the government in its LDES Technical Decision Document. (Only asked where the technology type is LDES.)

Context

Only Users/Applicants whose technology type is LDES should answer this question. Refer to the Gate 2 Introductory section for more information on how LDES and BESS will be treated in G2TWQ.

Table 54: Evidence requirements for projects with LDES technology

Project Type	Requirements

Transmission project
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA
	Provide evidence that the project aligns with the definition of long duration electricity storage (LDES) set out by the government in its LDES technical decision document.
	
	For your evidence submission, refer to the *Long Duration Electricity Storage (LDES) technical document.*
	
	• As outlined in DESNZ and Ofgem's LDES technical decision document, an LDES asset will qualify for one of two streams, depending on its Technology Readiness Level (TRL): Stream 1 = 100 MW 8 hours continuous output at full power, and Stream 2 = 50 MW 8 hours continuous output at full power.
	• Demonstrating this capability will require the submission of:
	  ◦ Power Capacity (MW) through the TEC or Developer Capacity that is being requested
	  ◦ Energy Capacity in MWh
	• Note: Power Capacity must be >=100 MW (Stream 1) or 50 MW (Stream 2) and Energy Capacity divided by Power Capacity must be >= 8 (hours).
	
	For the purposes of the Clean Power 2030 Action Plan pathway which will be used for connections, lithium-ion electricity storage projects will be treated as batteries and cannot be classed as LDES.
	
	LDES technologies for the purposes of connections include but are not limited to: Pumped Storage Hydropower (PSH), Compressed Air Energy Storage (CAES), Liquid Air Electricity Storage (LAES), Battery Energy Storage Systems, gravitational, high-density pumped hydro, and flow batteries.
	
	For the avoidance of doubt, existing projects cannot change what they are building. However, projects can clarify that their projects are LDES as per their contract (that is, from storage to LDES). This is permitted because in the existing TEC register/ Developer Capacity there is no reference to LDES.
	
	Finally, if a customer does not meet the LDES definition and is NOT Designated or protected, they will not receive a Gate 2 offer. The exception to this is if a project does not meet the LDES definition but is a battery, then the project could meet Gate 2 Strategic alignment Criteria as a battery.

If your Existing Agreement has multiple stages of connection and includes more than one technology type, further to the earlier questions in Parts 1, 2, 3 and 5, you should also provide information setting out:

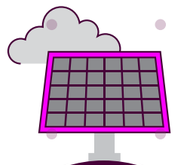
- the technology (or technologies) connecting at each stage
- the Installed Capacity per technology at each stage
- the resulting change to TEC or Developer Capacity (delete as appropriate) for the project at each stage

Table 55: Technology type and Installed Capacity information for projects with multiple connection stages

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	Upload your evidence submission. Example format for submission: • Stage 1: 100 MW Solar (connecting October 2025) • Stage 2: 80 MW Onshore Wind (connecting July 2027)
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	This question is not applicable to Small and Medium Embedded generators connecting to the distribution network, as they will be asked to complete a separate declaration for each stage. We believe that most Small and Medium Embedded projects are not expected to be staged. If you believe your project is staged, contact your local DNO or Transmission connected iDNO before submitting your evidence.

TOP TIP

The NESO portal shows your current TEC or Developer Capacity. You may reduce – but not increase – this value.



2.12 Part 7 – Information to be published on the Existing Agreement register

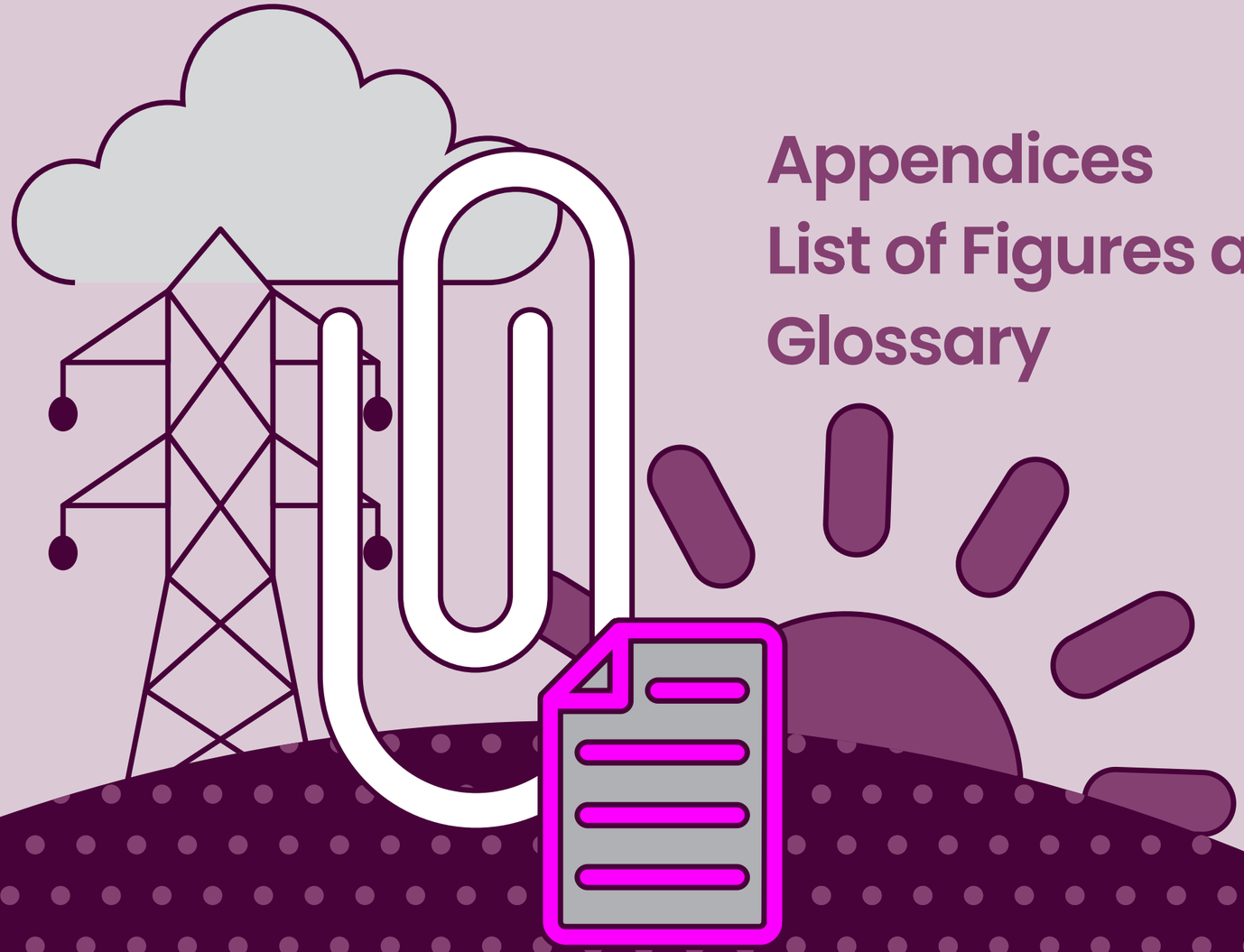
Table 56: Information to be published on the Existing Agreement Register and User/Applicant opt-out provisions

Project Type	Requirements
Transmission project	The Existing Agreement Register will be published by NESO on its website as a one-off publication shortly after the conclusion of the queue formation process. Users/Applicants should choose to opt out if they do not consent to NESO publishing the following information in the Existing Agreement Register as a result of this Readiness Declaration: • the technology type(s) declared to be 'ready' • the associated Installed Capacity • the project name • the existing connection point(s) • the existing connection date(s)
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	

TOP TIP

The submission deadline is

26 August 2025 23:59



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Appendices

Appendix 1: Gate 1 Offers and Customer-Agreed Terminations

Transmission and Large Embedded – Gate 1 and customer termination

Directly connected and Large Embedded customers with Existing Agreements that are deemed not to meet the Gate 2 Readiness or Strategic alignment Criteria will be issued a Gate 1 offer via an Agreement to Vary (AtV).

A Gate 1 offer will include an indicative connection date and indicative connection location. Projects can apply for Gate 2 in future windows and receive a confirmed date, connection point, and queue position if the project meets the Gate 2 Readiness and Strategic alignment Criteria at that time.

Once a customer has entered into a Gate 1 contract, the Existing Agreement for that project project will be varied so that there is no liability for payment of a cancellation charge or final sums, and securities obligations will cease and be returned to the customer.

Note

Self-termination: Transmission connected and Large Embedded projects may also choose to exit the queue by terminating. If a customer decides to terminate their Existing Agreement before receiving a Gate 1 offer (and then signing that offer), the current provisions regarding cancellation charges or final sums will apply.

AtV process timings: While projects can be given Gate 1 status through the process from the opening of the Existing Agreement window, the backstop for NESO issuing the Gate 1 AtVs is by the end of the gated design period. Customer securities must be returned within six weeks of entering into the Gate 1 AtV.

AtV issuance for projects with Gate 1 and Gate 2 components:
If part of a project (either a stage or a technology) becomes Gate 1 but another part is Gate 2, the Gate 1 contract changes will be included in and made as part of the Gate 2 offer. In this scenario, the customer may have to wait until the Gate 2 offer is signed for the securities associated with the Gate 1 component to be returned.

Distribution Small and Medium – Gate 1 Offers and customer-agreed terminations

NESO will issue a Gate 1 offer to the DNO, which will include an indicative connection date and indicative connection location. The DNO will then issue a Distribution Gate 1 offer to the customer that reflects the NESO Gate 1 offer.

Projects can apply for a Gate 2 offer in future windows and will receive a confirmed connection date, connection point and queue position if the project meets the Gate 2 Readiness and Strategic alignment Criteria at that time.

Distribution connection projects that do not meet the Gate 2 requirements can also agree for their projects to be terminated instead of receiving a Distribution Gate 1 offer (and the DNO receiving a NESO Gate 1 offer).

Once a customer has entered into a Gate 1 contract or agreed for their project to be terminated, the project will not be liable for payment of a cancellation charge or final sums under the Existing Agreement for that project, and securities obligations will also cease and be returned to the customer.

Small and Medium Distribution connected projects may also exit the queue (prior to receiving either a Gate 1 offer or the option to agree to terminate) by selecting self-termination. If a customer decides to self-terminate their Existing Agreement, the current provisions regarding cancellation charges or final sums will apply.

Table 57 outlines the potential pathways to receiving a Gate 1 offer or agreeing to terminate, based on customer archetype.

Table 57: Pathways to Gate 1 status or agreement to terminate by customer type

Customer Type	Pathways to Gate 1 or agreement to terminate
Transmission projects	Several routes result in a project or part of a project receiving Gate 1 status: 1) Submit a Gate 1 Notification during the Existing Agreement (EA) Request Window (CUSC 18.7). NESO will publish a pro forma for this purpose. Note: this applies to the entire project, not individual stages. 2) Do not submit an EA Request during the EA Request Window (that is, a Readiness Declaration and associated evidence). 3) Fail initial checks. 4) Fail Strategic alignment checks. 5) Fail detailed or duplication checks. 6) Do not pay the ModApp fee in the required timeframe where requesting advancement. 7) Do not pay the Transitional fee in the required timeframe where relevant. 8) Reject a Gate 2 offer where an advanced connection request was made (with an exception for advancements within the same phase; see CNDM Section 5.28). Allow a Gate 2 offer to lapse.
Large Distribution generation projects with a BEGA or BELLA	Same as for Small/Medium Distribution connected projects, with the additional option to submit a Gate 1 notification during the EA Request window.
Small/Medium Distribution generation projects, including those with a BEGA	Gate 1 status or agreement to terminate applies in the following scenarios: • Same as above, the only difference being if no request submitted through the DNO Evidence Gathering.

Appendix 2: Treatment of Hybrid

Methodologies

Hybrid projects (projects that include a combination of more than one technology) will be managed based on how they interact with the system.

Key principles from the Connections Network Design Methodology

For projects not in scope of the CP30 Action Plan in the revised queue.

5.11.1 Hybrid projects will be managed according to how they interact with the system, as detailed within CNDM.

If a hybrid project comprising of storage and an additional generating technology intends only to export to the transmission system (that is, import capacity is behind the meter), it will only be considered as contributing towards the permitted capacity total for the additional generating technology.

If a hybrid project comprising of storage and an additional technology (or technologies) intends to both import and export to the transmission system, it will be considered as contributing to the permitted capacity totals for both storage and the additional technology (or technologies).

5.11.2. For each generating technology in a hybrid project, the contributing capacity will be taken as the lower of the Transmission Entry Capacity (or Developer Capacity where applicable) of the project and the Installed Capacity of the technology type.

5.11.3 Where one or more technologies exceeds the 2035 permitted capacity, that technology element of the hybrid project will not receive a Gate 2 offer. This represents the same treatment as any other project that exceeds the 2035 permitted capacity.

Note:

- Hybrid projects seeking Gate 2 Readiness must do so for each technology type that is part of the facility. If one technology type does not make it into the Gate 2 process, it will not disadvantage the other technology type, provided it meets the Gate 2 criteria. This also applies to staged projects, including hybrid sites where the technology types have different connection dates.
- Projects that reduce TEC or Developer Capacity will be liable for a cancellation charge in accordance with CUSC Section 15
- Removal of a technology type from an existing contract is permitted under CMP435, only in the case of hybrid (or staged) projects; however, note that where the User/Applicant requests a reduction in Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) or Developer Capacity in the Readiness Declaration, they will be liable for a cancellation charge in accordance with CUSC Section 15.
- If Users/Applicants did not provide any information in the Readiness Declaration regarding a technology/technologies of a hybrid project, those technology/technologies would become a Gate 1 project within the agreement and would not be liable for cancellation charges. As set out in the Connections Network Design Methodology and the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology (Section 6.1), if, for a staged or hybrid project, one element meets the Gate 2 Strategic alignment Criteria and another is not, the User/Applicant will be issued with a staged offer to separate the Gate 2 element of the project from the element that only meets Gate 1. The minimum acreage calculation must be carried out for each technology type where an EA request is submitted. The site must meet the minimum acreage for each technology type without double counting.

Case study 1 – Hybrid solar PV and BESS installation (export and import)

In this example, the hybrid facility comprises a solar PV array and a battery energy storage system (BESS). The BESS's primary function is to operate in the energy trading market and will both import from and export onto the connected network. The solar PV array will also export onto the connected network.

Therefore, when applying for Gate 2 both the solar PV and the BESS will need to meet Readiness and meet Strategic alignment in line with the Gate 2 Criteria as separate technologies.

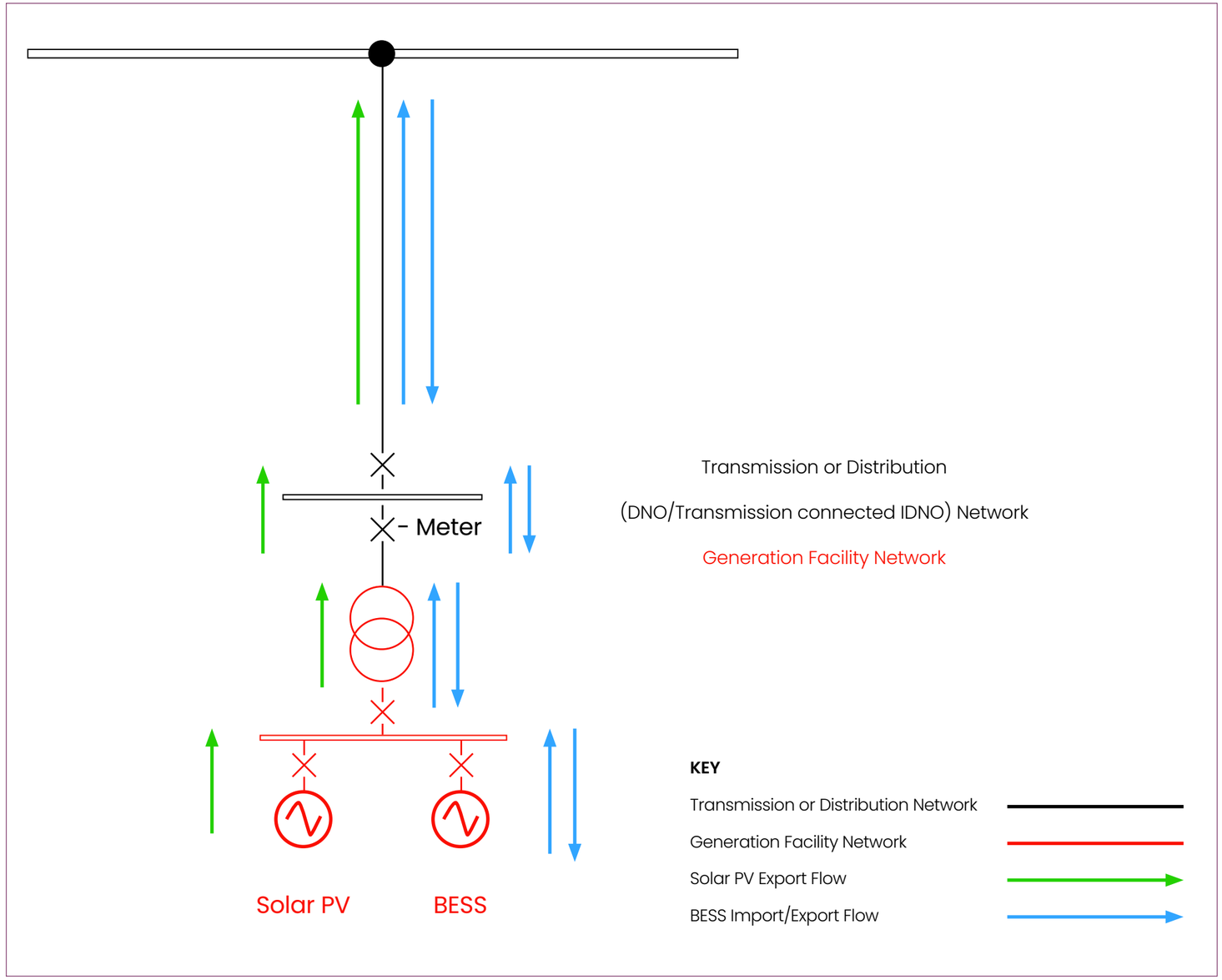

Figure 4: Example of a hybrid solar PV and BESS installation with import and export capability

Case study 2 – Hybrid solar PV and BESS installation (export only)

In this example, the hybrid facility comprises a solar PV array and a battery energy storage system (BESS). In this case, the BESS's primary function is to charge from the power generated by the solar PV array, and there is no required import capacity from the connected network. The BESS also has the capability to export to the connected network.

Both the solar PV and the BESS would need to apply for Gate 2 in line with the Gate 2 Criteria.

However, because the BESS will not be importing from the connected network, it will not count toward the CP30 permitted capacities, as detailed within CNDM.

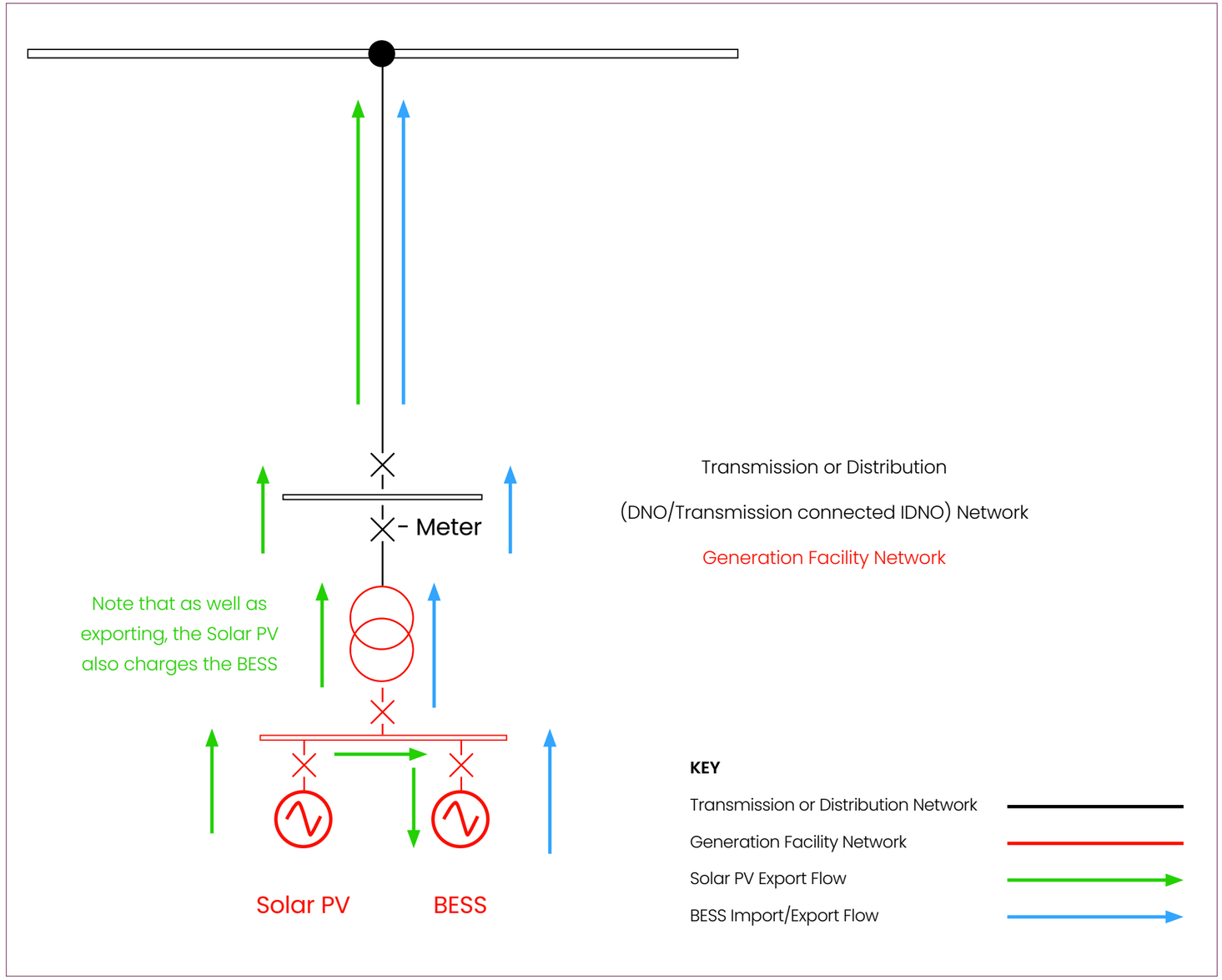

Figure 5: Example of a hybrid solar PV and BESS installation with export only capability

Appendix 3: Original Red Line Boundary (ORLB) Examples

Note: The provided examples are for illustrative purposes and may not be drawn to scale.

We provide examples below of the expected format when submitting the ORLB. This format should be used for both single and multiple parcels of land.

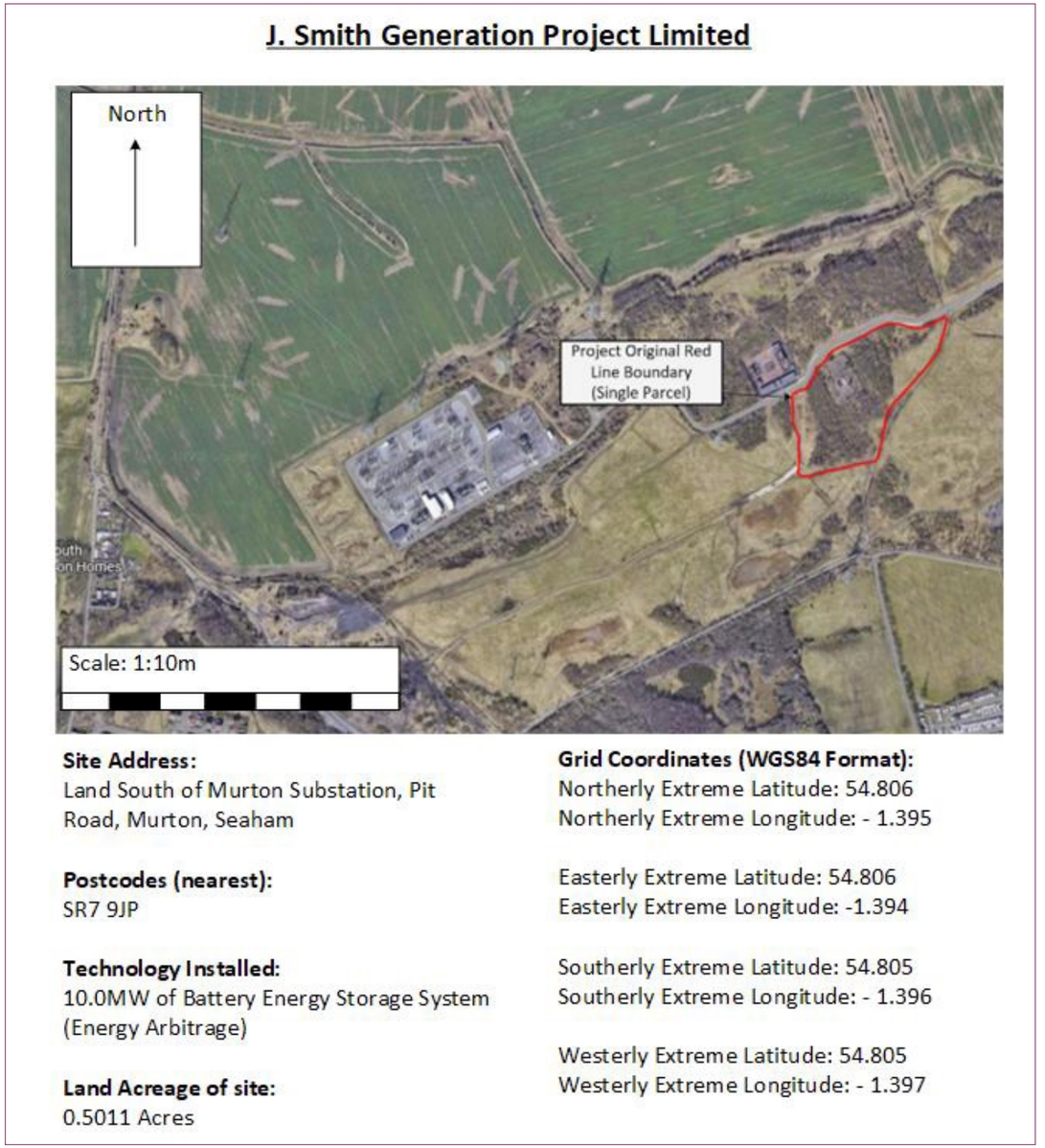

Figure 6: Satellite image with single parcel of land

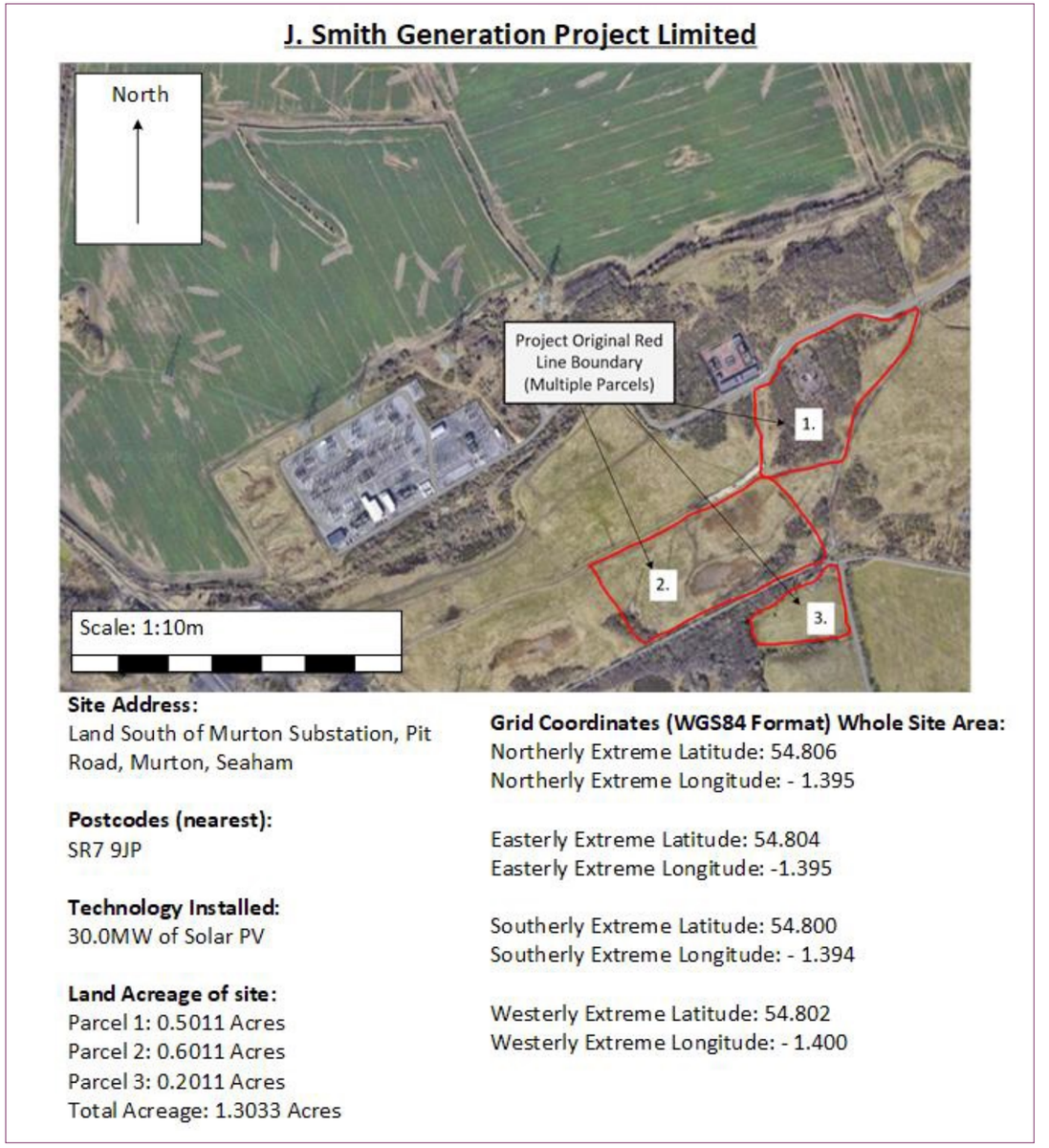

Figure 7: Satellite image with multiple parcels of land

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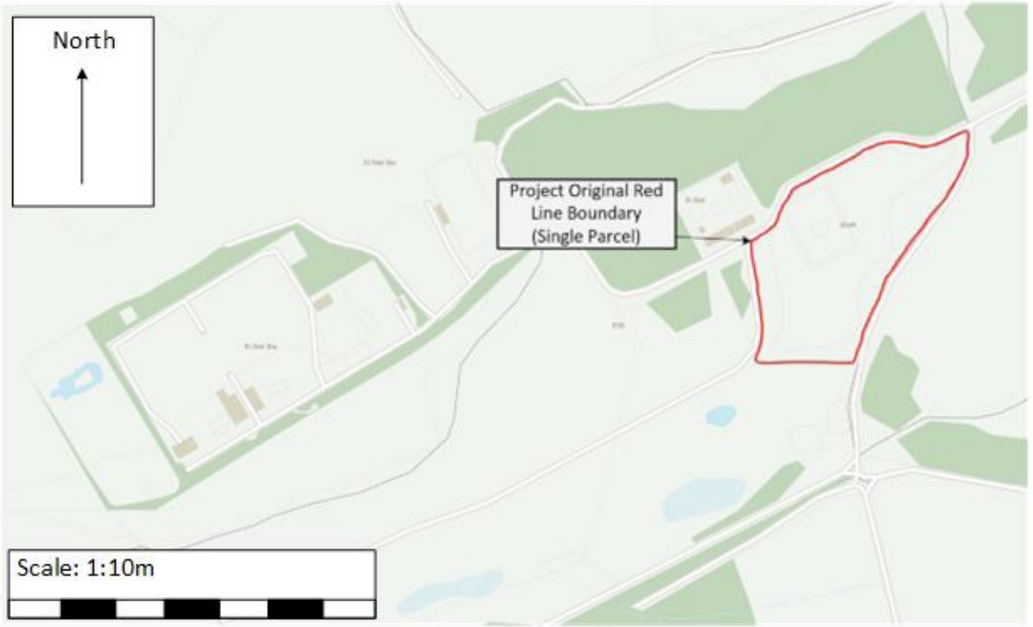

Site Address:
Land South of Murton Substation, Pit Road, Murton, Seaham

Postcodes (nearest):
SR7 9JP

Technology Installed:
10.0MW of Battery Energy Storage System (Energy Arbitrage)

Land Acreage of site:
0.5011 Acres

Grid Coordinates (WGS84 Format):
Northerly Extreme Latitude: 54.806
Northerly Extreme Longitude: - 1.395

Easterly Extreme Latitude: 54.806
Easterly Extreme Longitude: -1.394

Southerly Extreme Latitude: 54.805
Southerly Extreme Longitude: - 1.396

Westerly Extreme Latitude: 54.805
Westerly Extreme Longitude: - 1.397

Figure 8: OS map with single parcel of land

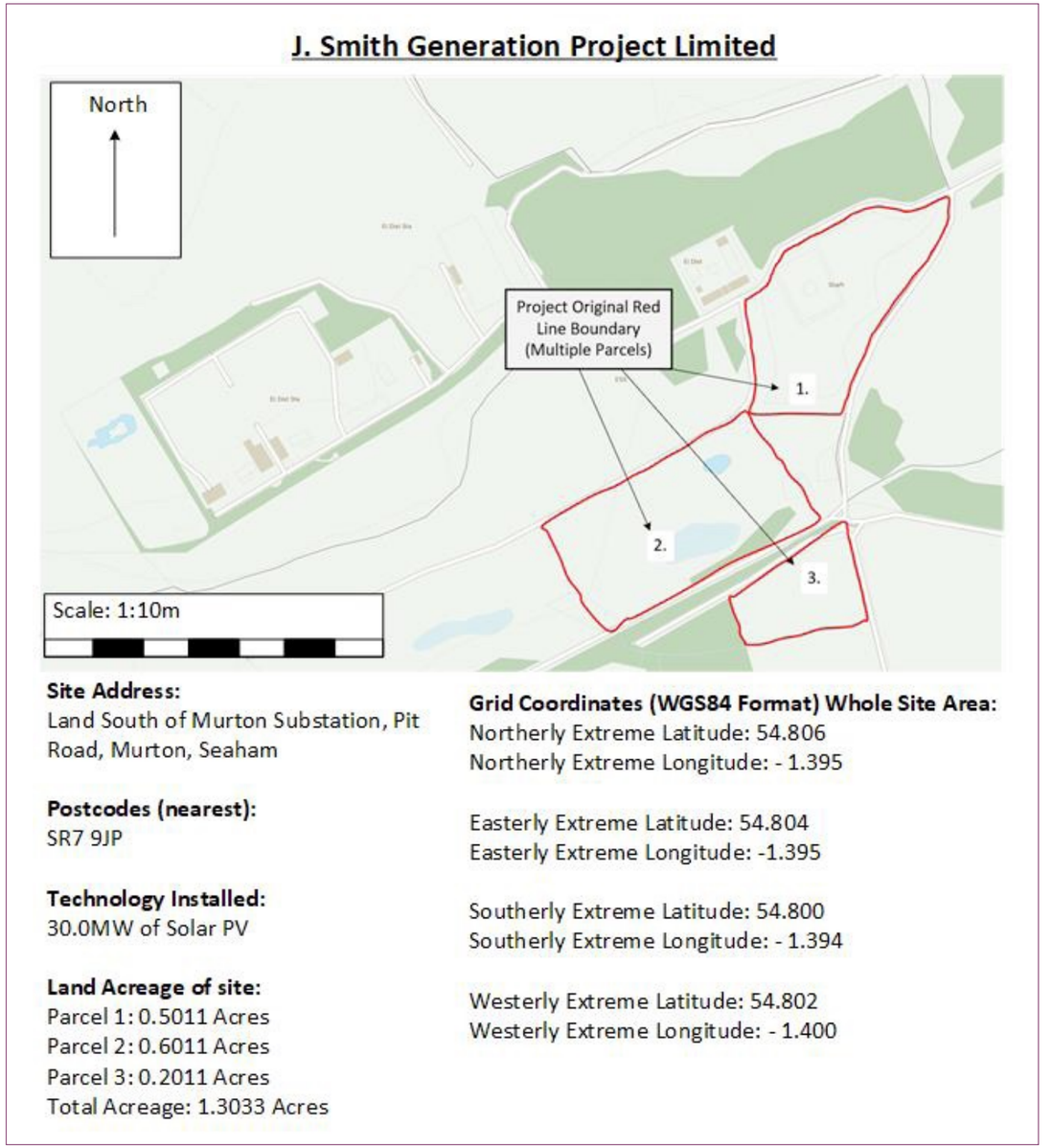

Figure 9: OS map with multiple parcels of land

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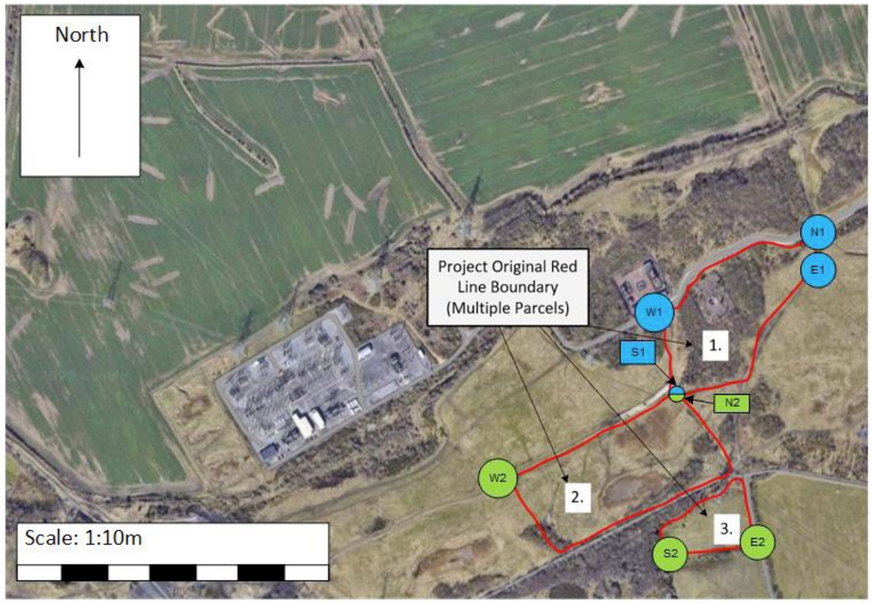

Site Address:
Land South of Murton Substation, Pit Road, Murton, Seaham

Postcodes (nearest):
SR7 9JP

Technology Installed:
Stage 1: 10.0MW of Solar PV
Stage 2: 20.0MW of Solar PV

Land Acreage of site:
Parcel 1: 0.5011 Acres
Parcel 2: 0.6011 Acres
Parcel 3: 0.2011 Acres

Total Acreage Stage 1: 0.5011 Acres
Total Acreage Stage 2: 0.8022 Acres

Grid Coordinates (WGS84 Format) Whole Site Area Staged Project – Stage 1:

Northerly Extreme Latitude: 54.806
Northerly Extreme Longitude: - 1.395 (N1)

Easterly Extreme Latitude: 54.804
Easterly Extreme Longitude: -1.395 (E1)

Southerly Extreme Latitude: 54.800
Southerly Extreme Longitude: - 1.394 (S1)

Westerly Extreme Latitude: 54.802
Westerly Extreme Longitude: - 1.400 (W1)

Grid Coordinates (WGS84 Format) Whole Site Area Staged Project – Stage 2:

Northerly Extreme Latitude: 54.805
Northerly Extreme Longitude: -1.396 (N2)

Easterly Extreme Latitude: 54.803
Easterly Extreme Longitude: -1.394 (E2)

Southerly Extreme Latitude: 54.802
Southerly Extreme Longitude: -1.397 (S2)

Westerly Extreme Latitude: 54.803
Westerly Extreme Longitude: -1.399 (W2)

Figure 10: Staged project, key to note the submission of grid coordinates per stage

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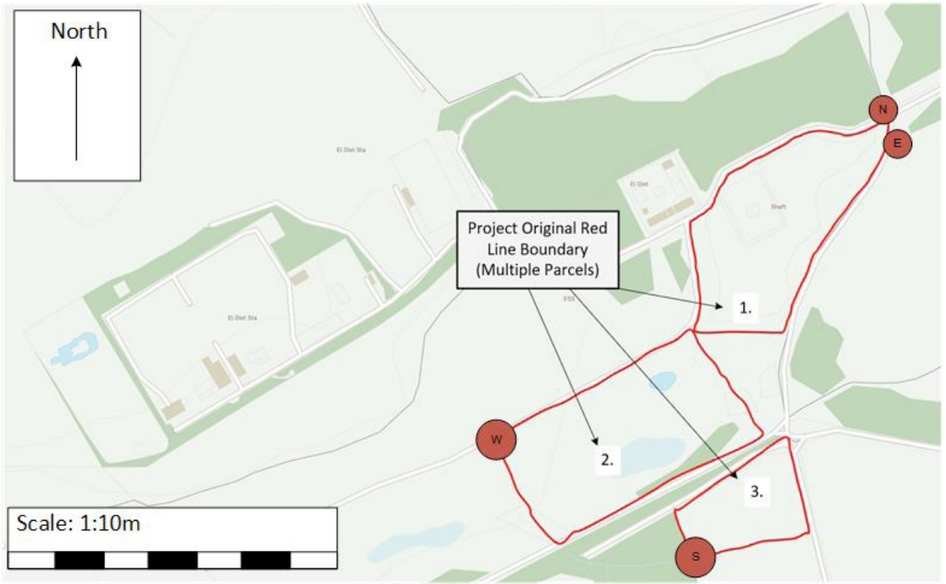

Site Address:
Land South of Murton Substation, Pit Road, Murton, Seaham

Postcodes (nearest):
SR7 9JP

Technology Installed:
Stage 1: 10.0MW of Solar PV
Stage 2: 20.0MW of Solar PV

Land Acreage of site:
Parcel 1: 0.5011 Acres
Parcel 2: 0.6011 Acres
Parcel 3: 0.2011 Acres

Total Acreage Stage 1: 0.5011 Acres
Total Acreage Stage 2: 0.8022 Acres

Grid Coordinates (WGS84 Format) Whole Site Area staged project, submitting the same extreme coordinates per stage:

Northerly Extreme Latitude: 54.806 (N)
Northerly Extreme Longitude: - 1.395

Easterly Extreme Latitude: 54.804 (E)
Easterly Extreme Longitude: -1.395

Southerly Extreme Latitude: 54.800 (S)
Southerly Extreme Longitude: - 1.394

Westerly Extreme Latitude: 54.802 (W)
Westerly Extreme Longitude: - 1.400

Figure 11: Staged project, key to note the submission of single set of the extreme grid coordinates

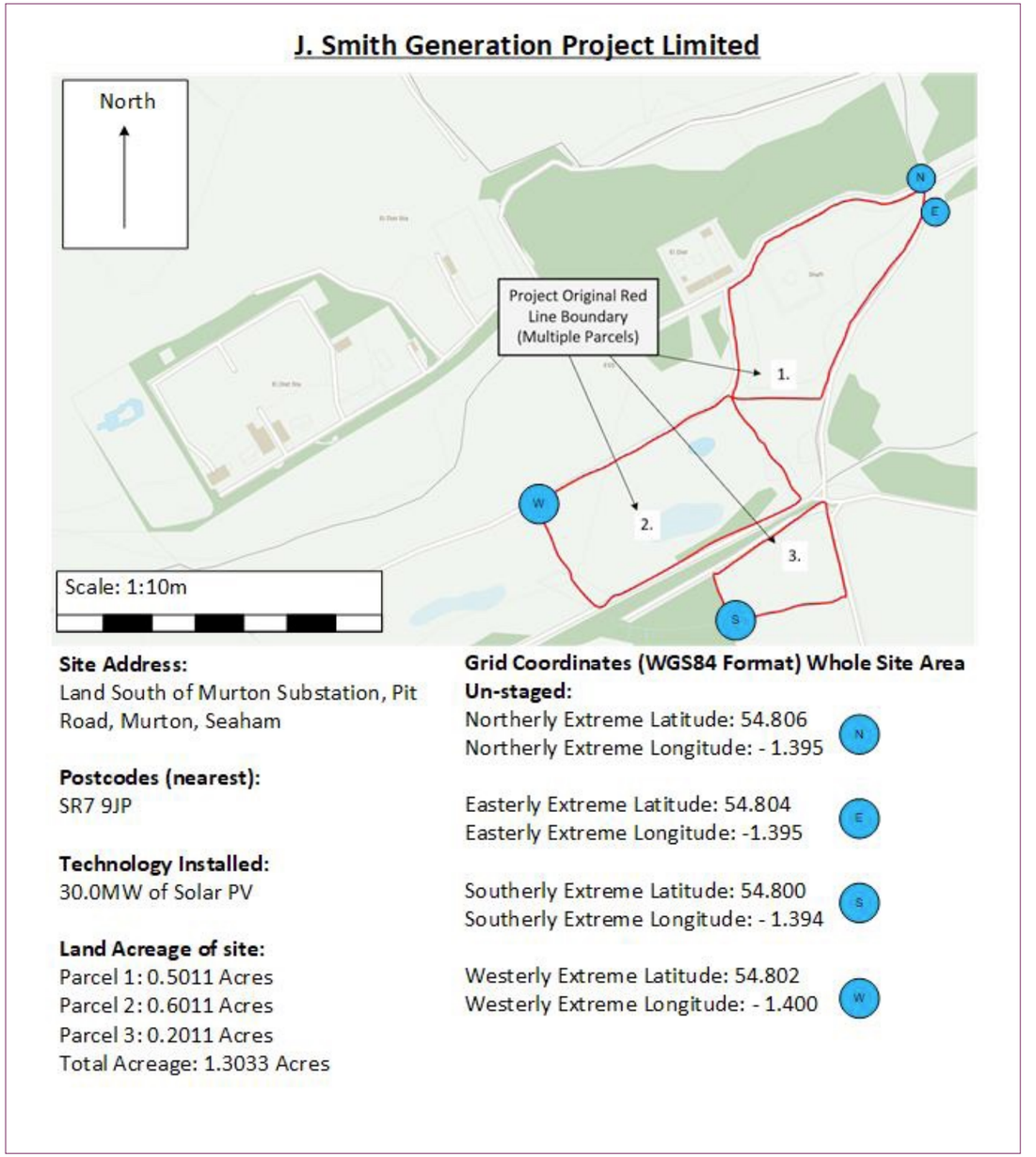

Figure 12: Project (not staged) with multiple land parcels, key to note submission of grid coordinates

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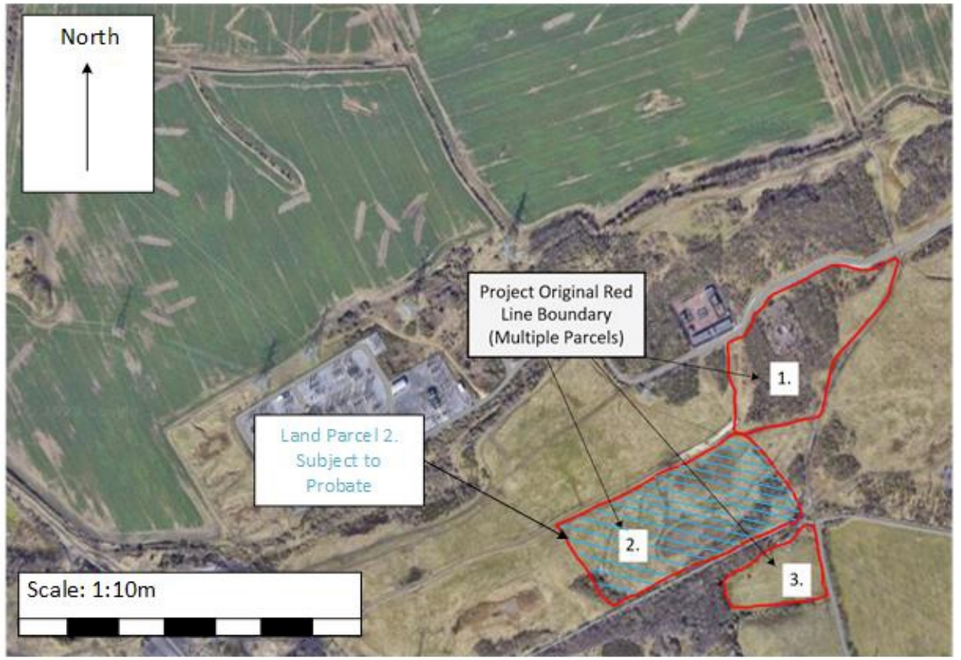

Site Address:
Land South of Murton Substation, Pit Road, Murton, Seaham

Postcodes (nearest):
SR7 9JP

Technology Installed:
30MW of Solar PV

Land Acreage of site:
Parcel 1: 0.5011 Acres
Parcel 2: 0.6011 Acres
Parcel 3: 0.2011 Acres
Total Acreage: 1.3033 Acres

Grid Coordinates (WGS84 Format) Whole Site Area:
Northerly Extreme Latitude: 54.806
Northerly Extreme Longitude: - 1.395

Easterly Extreme Latitude: 54.804
Easterly Extreme Longitude: -1.395

Southerly Extreme Latitude: 54.800
Southerly Extreme Longitude: - 1.394

Westerly Extreme Latitude: 54.802
Westerly Extreme Longitude: - 1.400

Figure 13: Satellite image with multiple parcels of land; Parcel 2 subject to probate

Figure 14: Example of what is not expected when submitting the ORLB

List of Figures and Tables

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Glossary: Key Definitions and Descriptions

Term	Definition	Source
Advancement	A User can request advancement of their contracted connection date in the CMP435 Gated Application Window.	Gate 2 Criteria Methodology
BEGA (Bilateral Embedded Generation Agreement)	A BEGA sets out requirements under the Grid Code, Connection and Use of System (CUSC) and Balancing and Settlement Code (BSC). A BEGA will also provide you with Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) and the right to operate in the electricity balancing market and export onto the NETS.	Glossary of terms | National Energy System Operator
BELLA (Bilateral Embedded License Exemptible Large Power Station Agreement)	This is a generator agreement in relation to an embedded connection to one of the Distribution networks in Scotland. The connection must be over a certain size in order to be eligible (10 MW Northern Scotland or 30 MW Southern Scotland). The agreement sets out requirements under relevant codes.	Glossary of terms | National Energy System Operator
Cap and Floor arrangement	The cap and floor arrangement is a regulated framework for electricity interconnectors that sets a maximum (cap) and minimum (floor) revenue level over a 25-year period. If revenues exceed the cap, the excess is returned to consumers, and if revenues fall below the floor, consumers top up the shortfall, ensuring financial stability for developers while protecting consumer interests.	Ofgem | Interconnectors
Capacity Market	The Capacity Market (CM) is a critical mechanism within the Electricity Market Reform programme that ensures the UK has sufficient capacity to meet future electricity demand.	NESO CM webpage
Clean Power 2030	In the *Clean Power 2030 Action Plan*: A New Era of Clean Electricity, published by the UK Government, Clean Power 2030 is defined as: • A national commitment to deliver a fully decarbonised electricity system by 2030, ensuring that the UK's power supply is clean, secure, and affordable. It is a central pillar of the UK's broader net zero strategy and aims to accelerate the deployment of low-carbon generation, reform grid connections, and unlock investment in critical infrastructure. The plan outlines how government, NESO, Ofgem and industry will work together to transform the electricity system, including through reforms to planning, permitting and network access.	Clean Power 2030 Action Plan: A new era of clean electricity
Connection point	The point on the transmission system at which you connect (a substation or GSP).	Glossary of terms | National Energy System Operator

Connections Reform	Connections Reform is a coordinated set of actions aimed at reducing connection timescales, improving queue management, and ensuring that viable, strategically aligned, and ready-to-connect projects are prioritised. It includes raising entry requirements, removing stalled projects, better utilising and allocating network capacity, and aligning long-term processes with strategic planning and market reform. The reform is built around six action areas and is overseen by the Connections Delivery Board (CDB) and the Connections Process Advisory Group (CPAG).	Connections Action Plan
Contract for Difference	The Contracts for Difference (CfD) scheme is a key mechanism within the UK's energy strategy, aimed at incentivising investment in low-carbon electricity generation for consumers.	NESO CfD Webpage
Customer archetypes	Representation of different users and how they will need to submit their Readiness Declaration and associated evidence	This handbook
Developer Capacity	The MW figure as specified as such by a User in a BELLA or in a Construction Agreement entered into between The Company and a User in the category of a Distribution System directly connected to the National Electricity Transmission System as a consequence of a Request for a Statement of Works.	CUSC
Distribution Network Operators (DNOs)	The person or legal entity named in a Distribution Licence and any permitted legal assigns or successors in title of the named party.	Glossary of terms | National Energy System Operator
Embedded	A direct connection to a Distribution System or the System of any other User to which Customers and/or Power Stations are connected. In the context of the Charging Methodologies it shall mean a direct connection to a Distribution System or the System of any other User to which Customers and/or Power Stations are connected, such connection being either a direct connection or a connection via a busbar of another User or of a Relevant Transmission Licensee (but with no other connection to the National Electricity Transmission System).	CUSC Section 11 - Interpretation and Definitions v2.3
Enduring non-firm	Non-Firm contracts contain restrictions that limit a user being able to export their full capacity under certain conditions. The non-firm period can either be temporary (staged contract) or permanent.	NESO glossary
Existing Agreements	Projects with an existing electrical connection contract.	
Firm	Unrestricted ability to export the maximum amount of contract MW under any conditions	Glossary of terms | National Energy System Operator
Generator	A person who generates electricity under licence or exemption under the Electricity Act 1989 (as amended by the Utilities Act 2000 and the Energy Act 2004), and whose power generating facility is directly or indirectly connected to a Distribution or Transmission Network. Often referred to as a distributed or embedded generator. Also, for the avoidance of doubt, any Customer with generation connected to that Customer's Installation is a Generator.	Grid Code

GeoJSON File	A GeoJSON file is an open standard format for encoding geographic data structures, designed to represent simple geographical features along with their non-spatial attributes.	Internet Engineering Task Force | The GeoJSON Format
Heads of Terms	A document which sets out the terms of a commercial transaction agreed in principle between parties in the course of negotiations.	Heads of terms | Glossary | Practical Law
Hybrid	Projects that have a combination of more than one technology)	Great Britain's Connections Reform: Overview Document
Initial checks	These will be carried out prior to the start of the Gated Design Process. These checks will be carried out by NESO apart from in respect of Small and Medium Embedded Generation, which are undertaken by their DNO/Transmission connected iDNO.	Gate 2 Criteria Methodology
Large Power Station	A Power Station which is (a) directly connected to: (i) NGET's Transmission System where such Power Station has a Registered Capacity of 100 MW or more; or (ii) SPT's Transmission System where such Power Station has a Registered Capacity of 30 MW or more; or (iii) SHETL's Transmission System where such Power Station has a Registered Capacity of 10 MW or more; or (iv) an Offshore Transmission System where such Power Station has a Registered Capacity of 10 MW or more; or, (b) Embedded within a User System (or part thereof) where such User System (or part thereof) is connected under normal operating conditions to: (i) NGET's Transmission System and such Power Station has a Registered Capacity of 100 MW or more; or (ii) SPT's Transmission System and such Power Station has a Registered Capacity of 30 MW or more; or (iii) SHETL's Transmission System and such Power Station has a Registered Capacity of 10 MW or more; or, (c) Embedded within a User System (or part thereof) where the User System (or part thereof) is not connected to the National Electricity Transmission System, although such Power Station is in: (i) NGET's Transmission Area where such Power Station has a Registered Capacity of 100 MW or more; or (ii) SPT's Transmission Area where such Power Station has a Registered Capacity of 30 MW or more; or (iii) SHETL's Transmission Area where such Power Station has a Registered Capacity of 10 MW or more; For the avoidance of doubt, a Large Power Station could comprise of Type A, Type B, Type C or Type D Power Generating Modules.	Grid Code

Medium Power Station	A Power Station which is (a) directly connected to NGET's Transmission System where such Power Station has a Registered Capacity of 50 MW or more but less than 100 MW; or, (b) Embedded within a User System (or part thereof) where such User System (or part thereof) is connected under normal operating conditions to NGET's Transmission System and such Power Station has a Registered Capacity of 50 MW or more but less than 100 MW; or, (c) Embedded within a User System (or part thereof) where the User System (or part thereof) is not connected to the National Electricity Transmission System, although such Power Station is in NGET's Transmission Area and such Power Station has a Registered Capacity of 50 MW or more but less than 100 MW. (Grid Code)	Grid Code
Modification Application	A formal CUSC request to make changes to your existing agreement. This will incur a fee and will follow the same offer process as your original application.	Glossary of terms | National Energy System Operator
Non-firm contracts (Temporary Restrictions)	Non-Firm contracts contain restrictions that limit a user being able to export their full capacity under certain conditions. The non-firm period can either be temporary (staged contract) or permanent.	Glossary of terms | National Energy System Operator
Option agreement	A land option agreement is a contract between a landowner (the seller) and a potential buyer (often a developer or investor). It gives the buyer the exclusive right to purchase the land at a pre-agreed price within a specific timeframe, but without any obligation to do so.	Landowner's option agreement (incorporating the Standard Commercial Property Conditions (Third Edition - 2018 Revision)) | Practical Law
Point of Connection (PoC)	The point (or points) of physical connection to the existing transmission or distribution system.	Grid Code
Probate	Probate is the legal process of transferring a person's property to beneficiaries or heirs after death.	GOV.uk
Readiness Declaration	The User will need to provide a Readiness Declaration to support how they meet the Gate 2 Criteria. The Readiness Declaration must be signed by a Director of the User applying.	Gate 2 Criteria Methodology
Relevant Embedded Medium Power Station	An Embedded Medium Power Station which is an Exempt Power Station and does not intend to be the subject of a Bilateral Agreement.	CUSC Section 11 - Interpretation and Definitions v2.3
Relevant Embedded Power Station	Shall mean a Relevant Embedded Small Power Station or a Relevant Embedded Medium Power Station or an Embedded Large Power Station.	GCUSC Section 11 - Interpretation and Definitions v2.3
Relevant Embedded Small Power Station	An Embedded Small Power Station that the User who owns or operates the Distribution System to which the Embedded Small Power Station intends to connect reasonably believes may have a significant system effect on the National Electricity Transmission System.	CUSC Section 11 - Interpretation and Definitions v2.3

Small Power Station	A Power Station which is a) directly connected to: (i) NGET's Transmission System where such Power Station has a Registered Capacity of less than 50 MW; or (ii) SPT's Transmission System where such Power Station has a Registered Capacity of less than 30 MW; or (iii) SHETL's Transmission System where such a Power Station has a Registered Capacity of less than 10 MW; or (iv) an Offshore Transmission System where such Power Station has a Registered Capacity of less than 10 MW; or, b) embedded within a User System (or part thereof) where such User System (or part thereof) is connected under normal operating conditions to: (i) NGET's Transmission System and such Power Station has a Registered Capacity of less than 50 MW; or (ii) SPT's Transmission System and such Power Station has a Registered Capacity of less than 30 MW; or (iii) SHETL's Transmission System and such Power Station has a Registered Capacity of less than 10 MW; or, c) embedded within a User System (or part thereof) where the User System (or part thereof) is not connected to the National Electricity Transmission System, although such Power Station is in: (i) NGET's Transmission Area and such Power Station has a Registered Capacity of less than 50 MW; or (ii) SPT's Transmission Area and such Power Station has a Registered Capacity of less than 30 MW; or (iii) SHETL's Transmission Area and such Power Station has a Registered Capacity of less than 10 MW. (Grid Code).	Grid Code
Technical Limits	A Technical Limit is a limit for a specific Grid Supply Point (GSP) agreed between the ESO and the DNOs.	ENA Technical Limits
Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC)	The figure specified as such as set out in Appendix C of the relevant Bilateral Connection Agreement or Bilateral Embedded Generation Agreement.	CUSC
Transmission system	Has the same meaning as the term "licensee's transmission system" in the Transmission Licence of a Transmission Licensee. Where references are made in this document to NGET's, SPT's, or SHETL's Transmission System, such reference shall be deemed to include: • a Competitively Appointed Transmission Licensee's Transmission System where that Competitively Appointed Transmission Licensee's Transmission System has onshore interface point(s) with only one of NGET's, SPT's, or SHETL's Transmission Systems; or • elements of a Competitively Appointed Transmission Licensee's Transmission System located within NGET's, SPT's, or SHETL's Transmission Area where the Competitively Appointed Transmission Licensee's Transmission System has onshore interface point(s) with more than one of NGET's, SPT's and/or SHETL's Transmission Systems.	Grid Code

User Progression Milestones	The Conditional Progression Milestones and Construction Progression Milestones used for the purposes of the Queue Management Process to demonstrate that a User is progressing with that User's project to the required timescales for that User's project, the User Progression Milestones for a User (derived in accordance with CUSC Section 16) being set out in Appendix Q of the Construction Agreement relating to a specific User's project.	CUSC Section 11 - Interpretation and Definitions v2.3

Legal Notice

National Energy System Operator (NESO) legal notice

This handbook has been prepared and published by NESO for itself and the DNOs in good faith to help parties understand the process and submission requirements in respect of the Gate 2 Criteria. NESO and the DNOs do not accept any responsibility for any use which is made of the information or guidance provided in this handbook or for any damages or losses incurred in doing so.

In the event the contents of this handbook conflict with the connections reform code modifications, methodologies, or online Readiness Declaration, then the code, methodologies and Readiness Declaration will prevail.

This handbook will be updated on a periodic basis to address unforeseen circumstances as they arise.

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