

Connections Reform Evidence Submission Handbook Walkthrough

23rd May 2025



Housekeeping

Questions have been sent in prior to this webinar and we will look to go through as many as possible.



This webinar is being recorded



The full slide deck will be published online after the webinar.



NESO will use all questions to form an update to FAQ documents






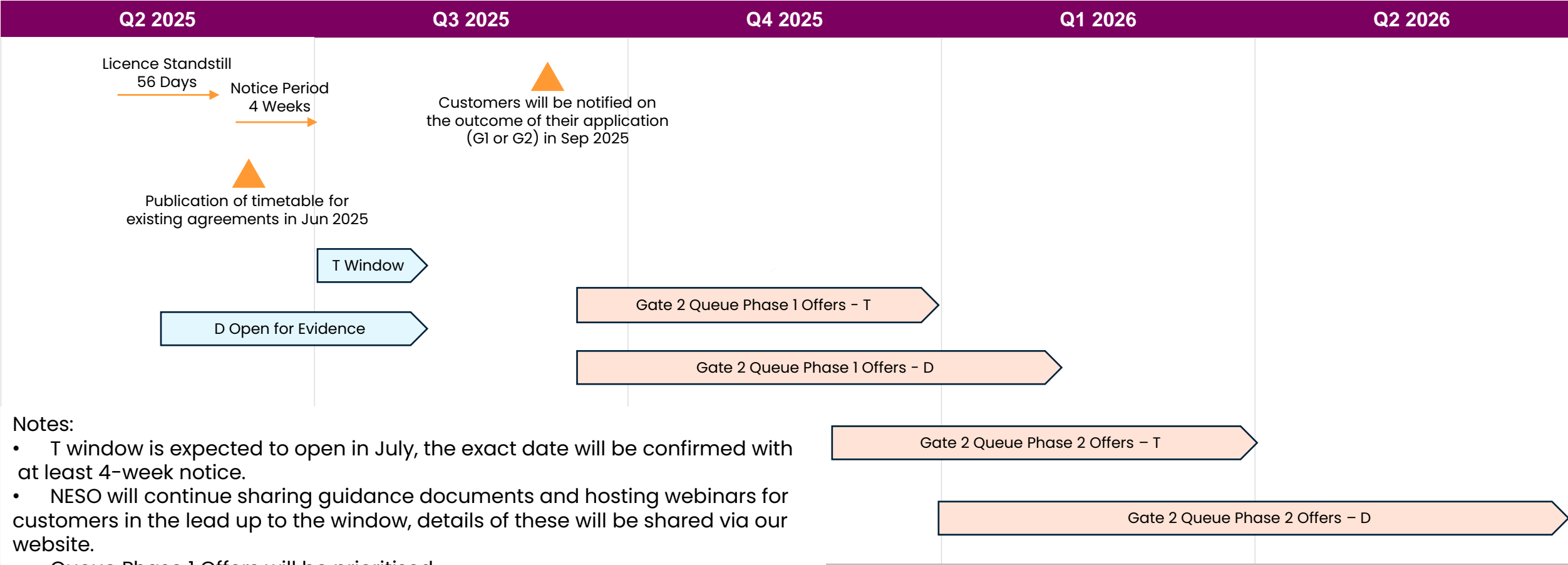
Agenda

Item	Agenda Item	Time
1	Connections reform - refresh	13:00-13:10
2	The readiness declaration	13:10-13:15
3	What is the evidence handbook and who is it for?	13:15-13:20
4	What does the Handbook cover?	13:20-13:50
5	Q&A	13:50-14:00

Connections Reform - refresh

Connections Reform timelines

 Key Milestone
  Submission Window
  Issuing Offer

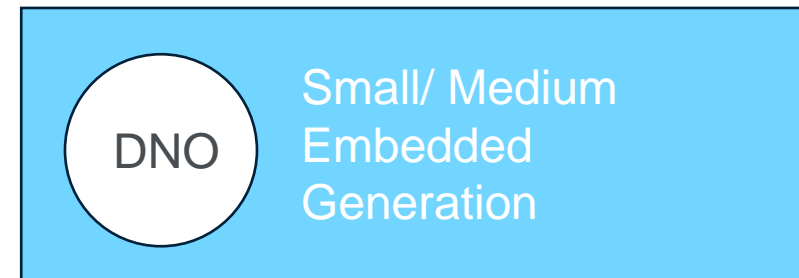


How does it link with readiness declaration?

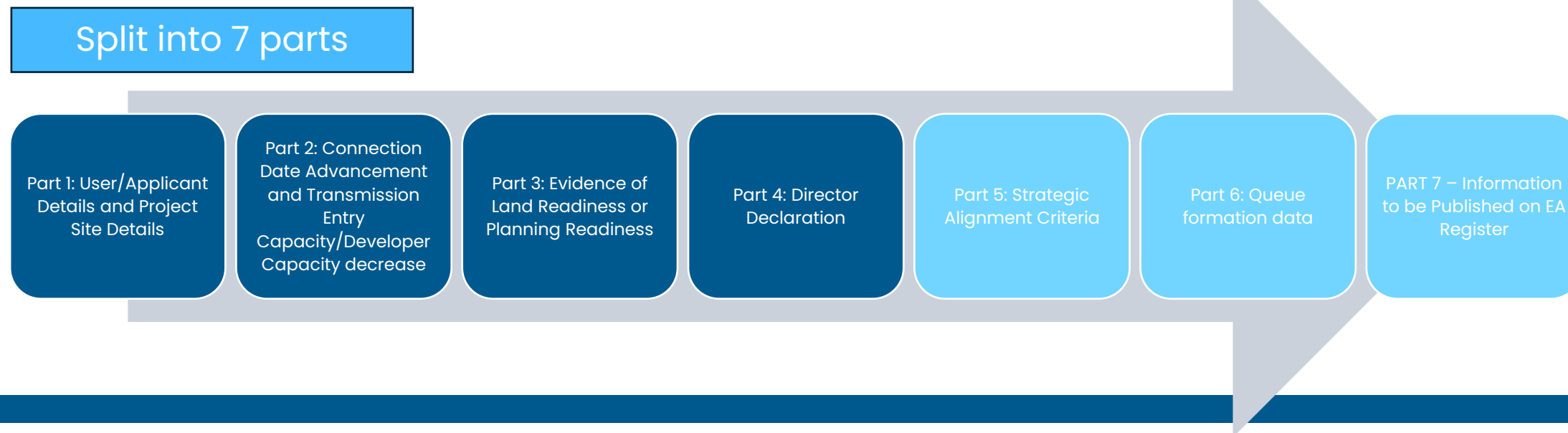
What is the readiness declaration and why is it important?

- Declaration is **where customers provide information NESO & DNOs need** to verify Gate 2 Readiness
- **Code requirement** to fill in the Readiness Declaration to apply for a Gate 2 Contract
- **Signed by a Director** of the User/Applicant, or person authorised to make this declaration on their behalf

Entity Checking

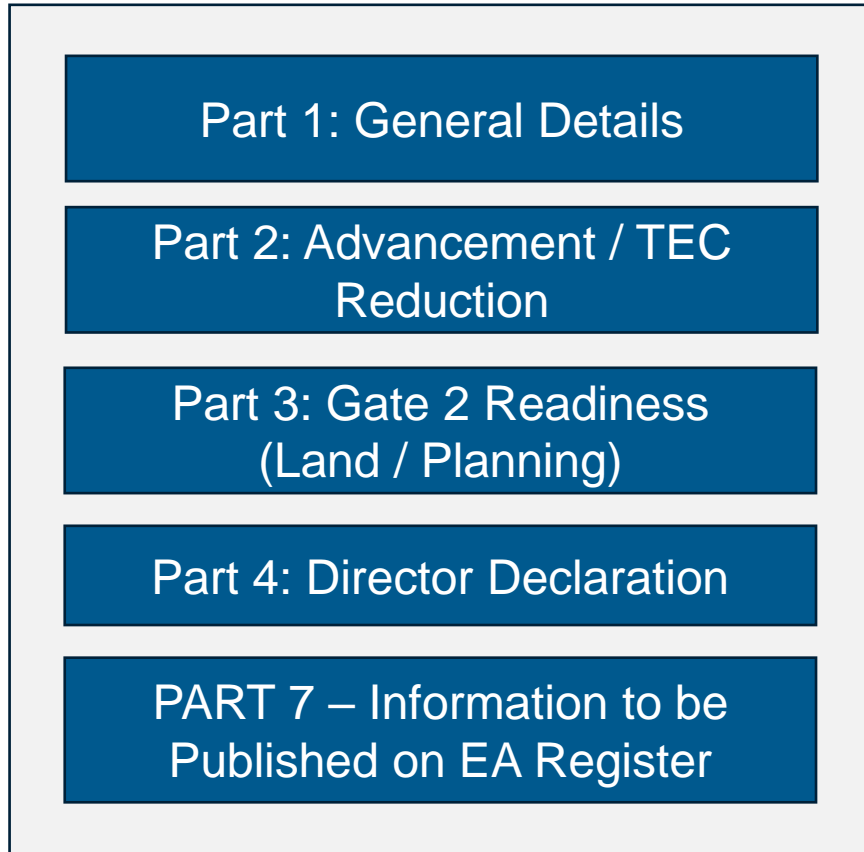


Readiness declaration – underlying structure

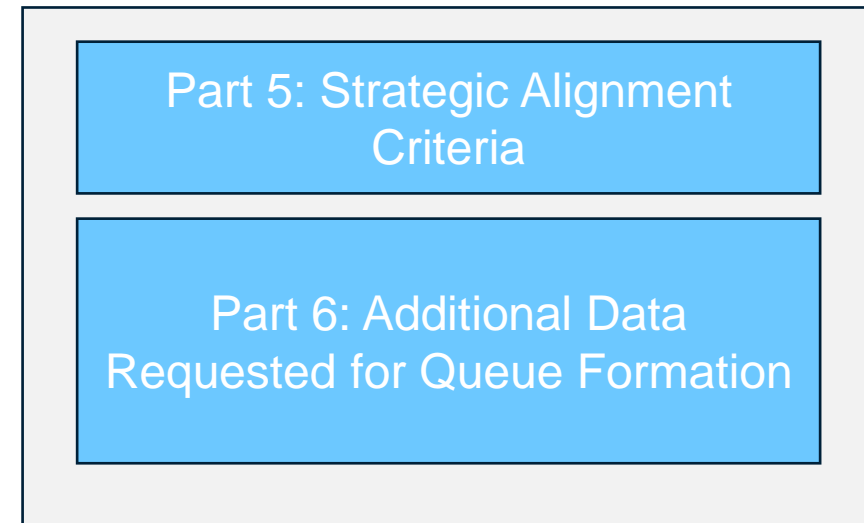


Parts 1–4 are mandatory to meet Gate 2 Readiness; but applicants are strongly encouraged to complete the whole form

Mandatory to meet Gate 2



Not mandatory, but if incomplete, risk not being Protected or lower queue position



The evidence handbook

The evidence handbook

What is it?

- A self-serve document for customers to guide them through the process and to speed up evidence submission by answering queries upfront
- A single source of truth document for every connections' customer wishing to participate in reform
- A detailed overview of exactly what customers must submit to either NESO, their DNO or their Transmission Connected iDNO to prove both their readiness to connect and their alignment with national priorities
- A commitment from NESO and network colleagues to provide accurate upfront information to deliver a fair and equal process

What it covers?

Overview

Name

Section 1: Introducing
Readiness Declaration

Content

- Background context
- How Connections queue will be reformed
- Overview of Readiness Declaration and evidence submission requirements
- Customer archetypes overview

Section 2:
Submission of
Readiness Declaration
and evidence

- Additional supporting context to the Readiness Declaration
- Detail breakdown on the requirements

Appendix

1. Gate 1 and customer agreed terminations
2. Treatment of Hybrid projects
3. Original Red Line Boundary examples
4. Glossary

Handbook – Section 1: key points

Customer archetypes

To help in-scope customers submit their Readiness Declaration and accompanying evidence, we have used the below customer archetypes throughout this handbook to distinguish between customer's relevant submission requirements:

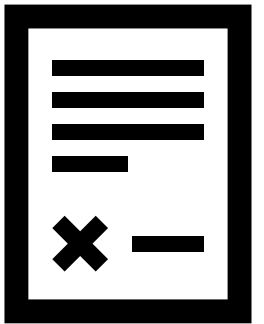
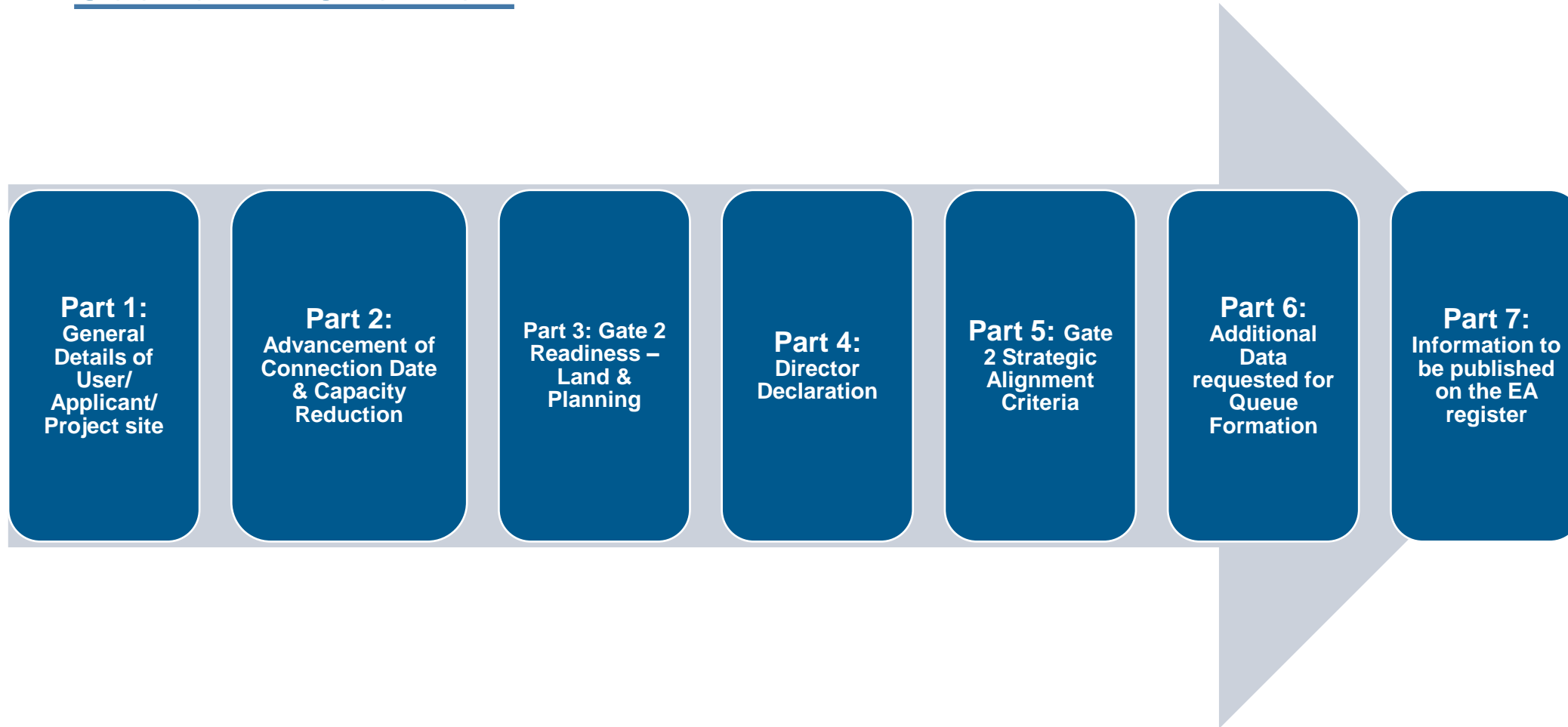
Transmission connected
projects

Large embedded projects
with a BEGA or BELLA,
connected to DNO or
Transmission connected
iDNO

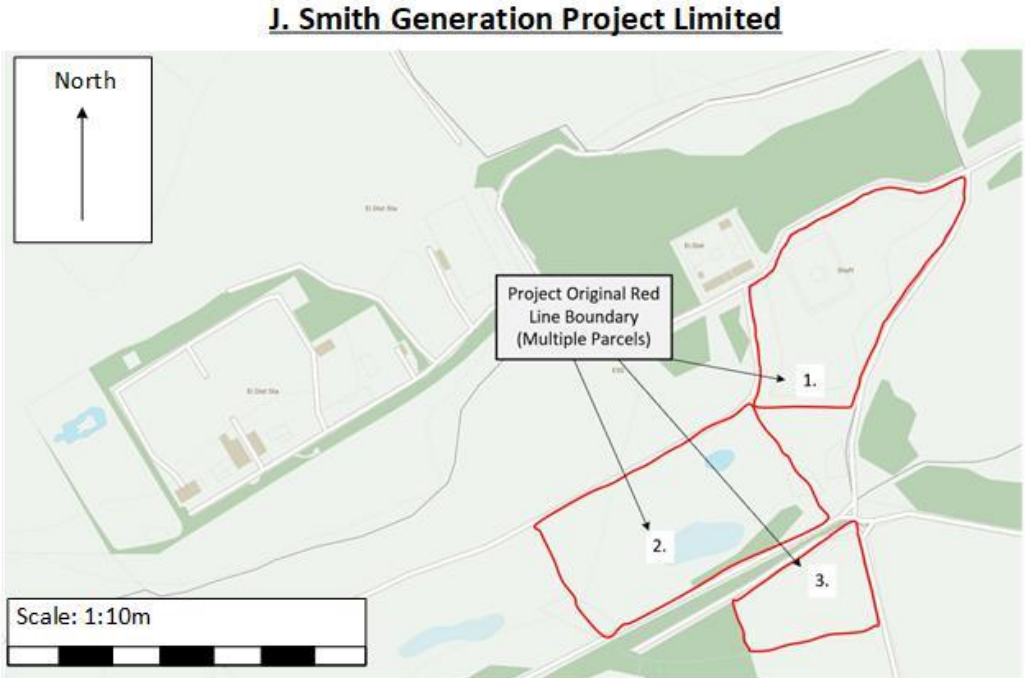
Small / Medium embedded
projects including those with
a BEGA, connected to DNO
or Transmission connected
iDNO

Handbook – **Section 2: submission of readiness** **declaration and accompanying evidence**

Section 2: Overview



ORLB
Example



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

Postcodes (nearest):
SR7 9JP

Technology Installed:
30.0MW of Solar PV

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

Appendix

Hybrid case study

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

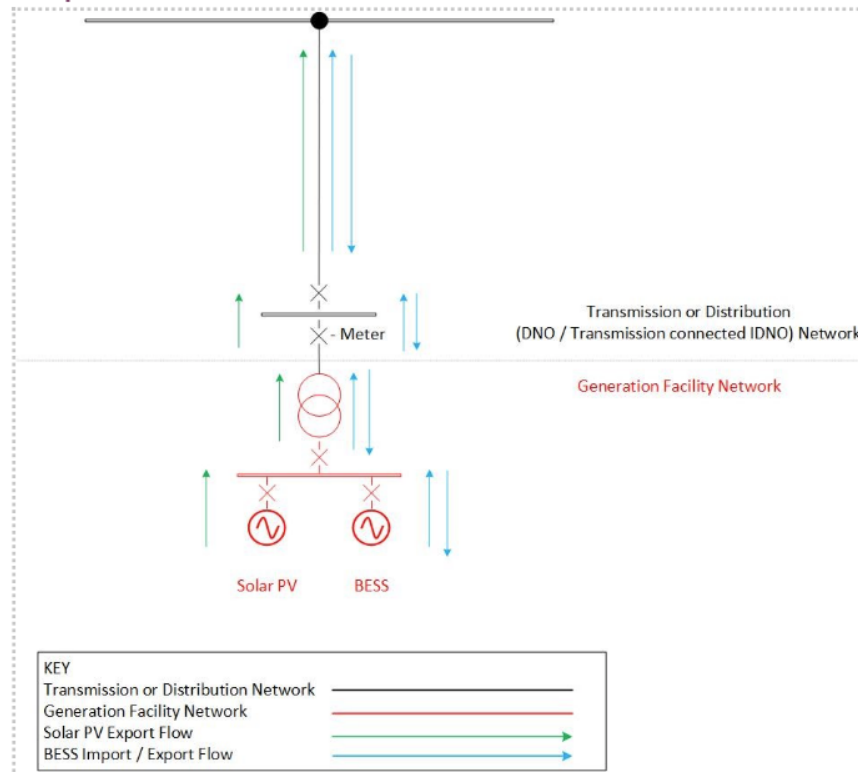


Figure 4: Example of a hybrid solar PV and BESS installation with import and export capability

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 and export on the connected network. The solar PV array will also export onto the connected network.

Therefore, both the solar PV and the BESS will need to apply for Readiness in line with the Gate 2 Criteria as separate technologies.

Q&A

Part 1

- Is a postcode mandatory or not?
- For projects with multiple landowners do we submit the longitude and latitude extreme coordinates for each land parcel or extreme coordinates for "the project" i.e. the most easterly, westerly, northerly and southerly coordinates?
- Is more than one Gate 2 application required where there is more than one technology type for a single project (e.g. co-located solar and BESS) or can a single joined application be made?

Part 2

- We may make some projects changes on entry to G2TWQ window via our CMP435 Application & supporting evidence, e.g. removal of tech, advancement, reduction of CEC. How will the host DNO know?
- Are advancement offers likely to happen just through queue reform, without having to request in the readiness document?
- Is submission of ModApp required to request advancement of contracted connection date, if so what document is to be used? Subsequently could you also be offered a different PoC as part of the advancement offer?
- What date will be used for Dx projects through TIA but without Tx impact? Don't think they will have a TO/DNO countersigned date?
- What are the NESO limits of a potential POC change, and could we request a voltage change?
- For projects that apply for an accelerated gate-2 offer but receive either no change to connection date or a Gate-1 offer, will the ModApp fee be refunded?
- What will be the mod app process and fees for DNO connections? Historically there has been no formal process for developer to mod app with DNO?

Part 3 – Land Readiness

- Does the land Option/Lease need to be in place before the gate 2 opens, or it can be secured even after that date but before the project submission evidence to gate 2?
- Is a letter from the entity required where User = Parent company and land rights are in the name of a subsidiary SPV company?
- For M3 evidence for an Option & Lease Agreement, is it acceptable to only issue the specific pages from the O&L docs establishing the 3-year option period and 20-year lease term or is the entire O&L document required to be uploaded?
- Does NESO's land policy require additional land to be contiguous as does this apply to DNO connections too?

Part 4

- Is an e-signature on the Directors Declaration acceptable?

Part 5

- Will a project with a Technical Limits connection date pre-31st December 2027 fall under protection 2a even if the PP date is post-2035?
- Many protection clauses require evidence "received confirmation from NESO that they have met the relevant Queue Management Milestones" Is this post submission or should we request confirmation from NESO for each project prior to submitting ?
- For single technology projects, could you confirm if TEC/Developer Capacity (MW) will be used for Strategic Alignment rather than Installed Capacity?

Top Tip

Top tips for customers

Do

- Ensure your contact details are correct in the NESO portal or with your DNO.
- Read the Evidence Submission Handbook and Supporting Guidance.
- Refer to the FAQ on NESO website at the first point of call for answers.
- Be careful when submitting information(a recent webinar sign up issued by NESO and the ENA had 6% of users not fill out their email address in the email address field).
- Review the On Demand content from NESO that we will publish every week .

Don't

- Leave it to the last minute. Early submission benefits everyone.
- Disregard the information published. It's your quickest route to answers.

Connections reforms - evidence submission

This page contains all of the electricity network operator's information on evidence submission matters for the UK connections reforms

