

Public

Land matters, ORLB, Protections & Project Designation

Connections Reform Summer
2025 Webinar Series

Agenda

1. Window opening reminder
2. Land matters: inc your Q&A
3. Original Red Line Boundaries: inc your Q&A
4. Protections and Demand: inc your Q&A
5. Project Designation
6. Next Webinar sign up and feedback

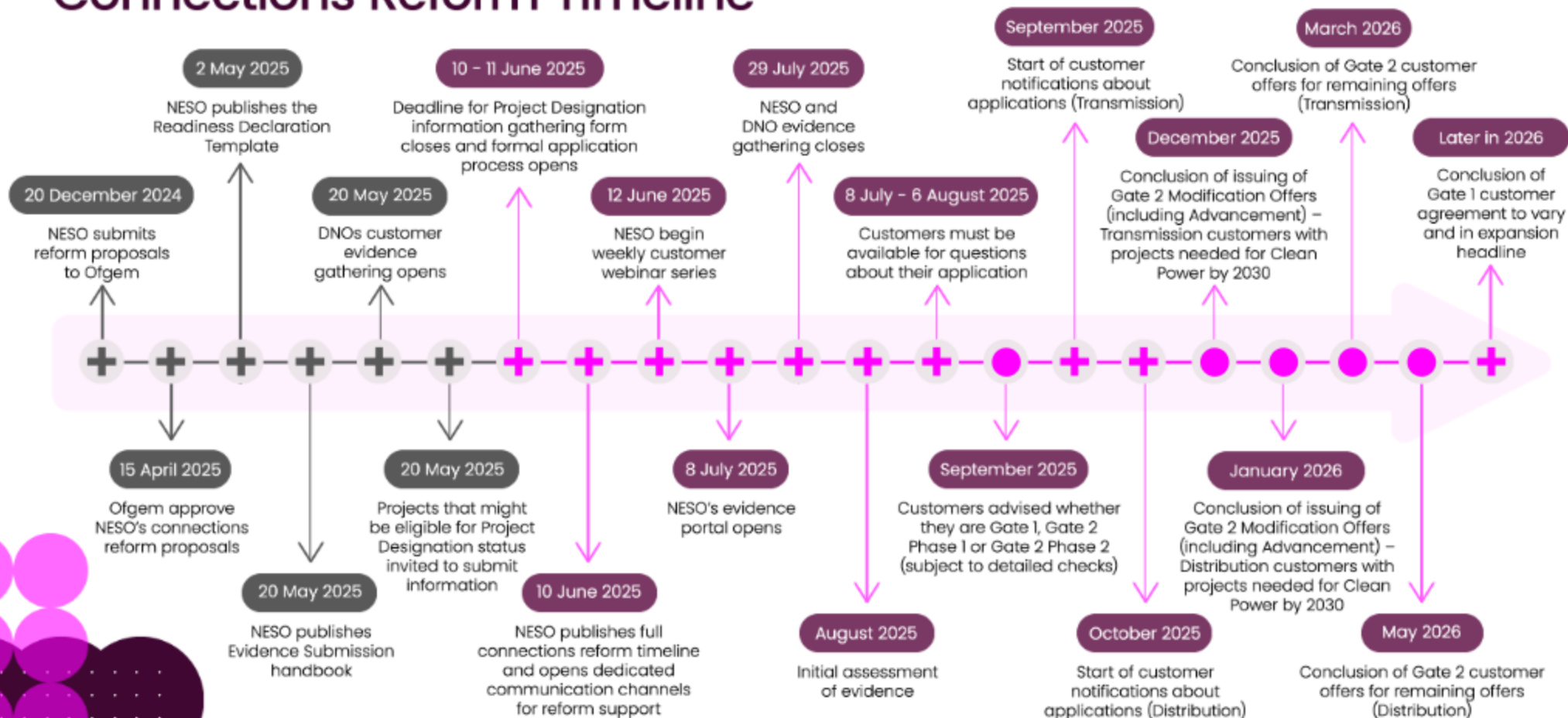
Timeline and welcome

Kate Garratt



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Connections Reform Timeline

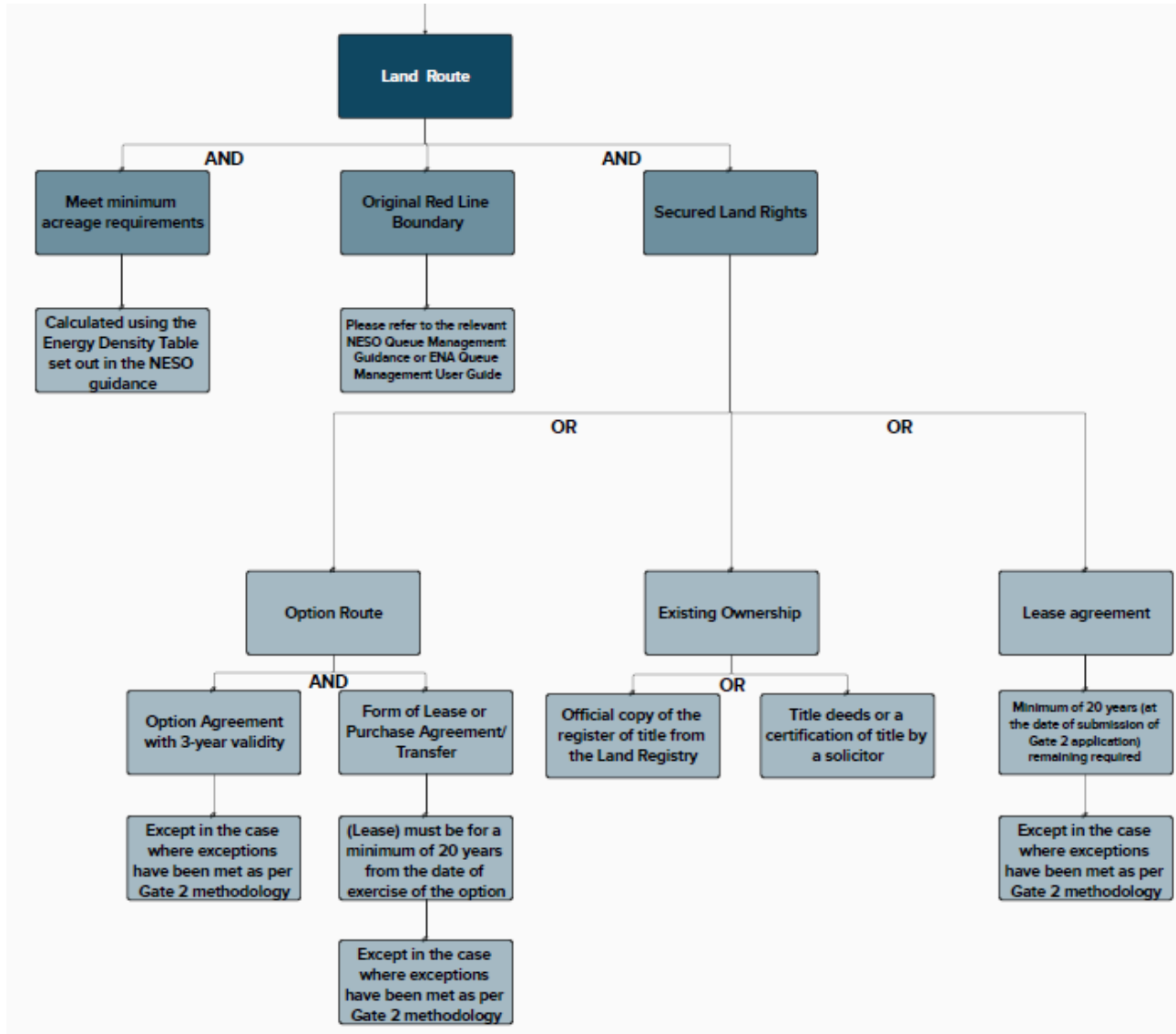


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Land matters

Paul Mullen

There are 3 broad routes to evidence a project has secured land rights:



Your questions: Land

1. Please can you confirm if land obtained solely for the purpose of access routes should form part of the project site for the ORLB, or whether they are excluded in a similar way to cable routes?
2. "Still no definitive answer on 'Installed Capacity'. This is not a term in connection application. For Gate 2 should IC be: i) as per Appendix O of the original application (e.g. no. of inverters x capacity) or ii) a revised figure, and an opportunity to represent a more accurate latest design?"
3. In one of my existing contracts my M3# deadline is 29th July, M3# evidence is also required for my G2TWQ Application. Do I have to tell you guys guys twice so to speak, if so, how do I notify NESO that we have met M3#, I tired doing on Portal with a Query, but it won't let me upload the evidence?
4. Would options to lease signed by way of "conditional missives" be acceptable to meet the land readiness? Typically, restrictions on title like bank consents can take a lot of time to obtain. Those agreements are binding for the landowner (obtaining the bank consent being the only condition).

Your questions: Land

1. Would NESO accept the option agreement with the landlord's countersignature and our signature on different copies as valid land right evidence? Is this counterpart approach acceptable for NESO? If not, is a brief written explanation confirming remote execution sufficient for compliance?
2. I was told that DNOs won't consider assessing minimum scheme as a part of Gate 2 offer assessment. Why can't my Gate 2-qualified project shift from GSP2 (10 miles away) to GSP1 (1 mile away), if GSP1 becomes available due to project attrition? Shouldn't the minimum scheme be revisited in such cases?
3. the schedule for planning approvals in initial offer stage is too less is it practically possible
4. What exactly will NESO check in relation to planning status? The Queue Management Guidance says that for M2 (on p13), NESO will check that site location, technology and capacity are in line with the data submitted to NESO.

Your questions: Land

These questions were asked in last week's webinar on Demand and we have rolled them into this week's webinar on Land Matters. We are still developing the answers to these but wanted to assure you they have been captured.

1. Tables 48/49/51 state "Where a project doesn't require planning consent, director can submit a signed letter confirming that no statutory consent is required" We believe this was intended to cover Permitted Development. But PD is still planning/stat consent so can't write that. What to submit for M2?
2. Please confirm the evidence to be submitted under Handbook Table 35 in circumstances that a directly connected demand BCA is held by a Licence Exempt Distribution Network which will never require use of the "project site" land rights. ie. only the project developer will require land rights
3. Re NESO checking technology type, noting that some planning permissions do not refer to specific technologies but only use classes (e.g. B8 for data centres), what evidence will NESO expect in relation to technology type?

Original Red Line Boundary

Paul Mullen

ORLB – an overview

Mandatory info that needs to be included and examples of what it should look like are in Appendix 3 of Evidence Submission handbook

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.

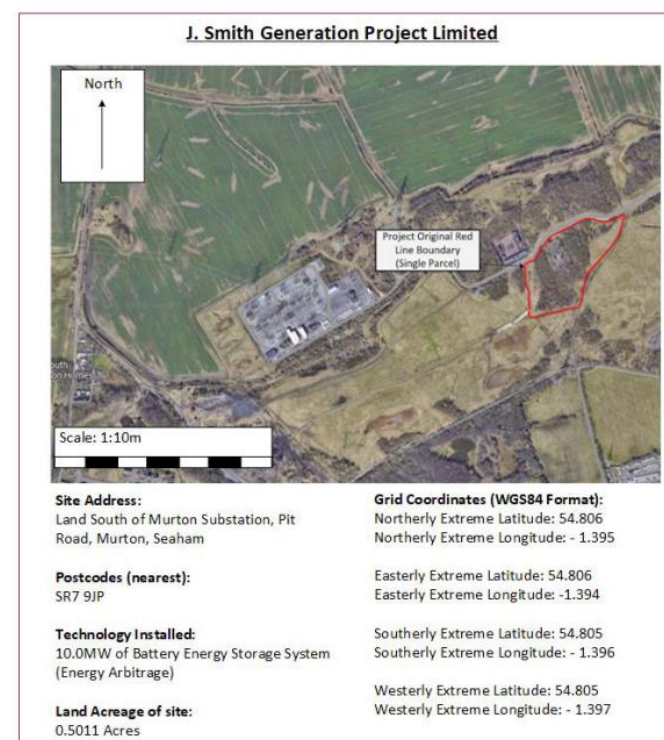


Figure 7: Satellite image with single parcel of land

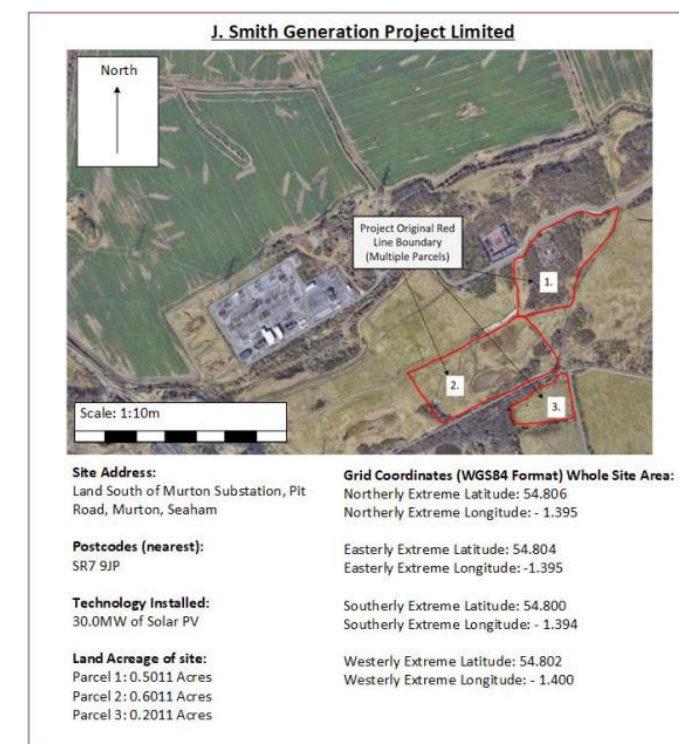
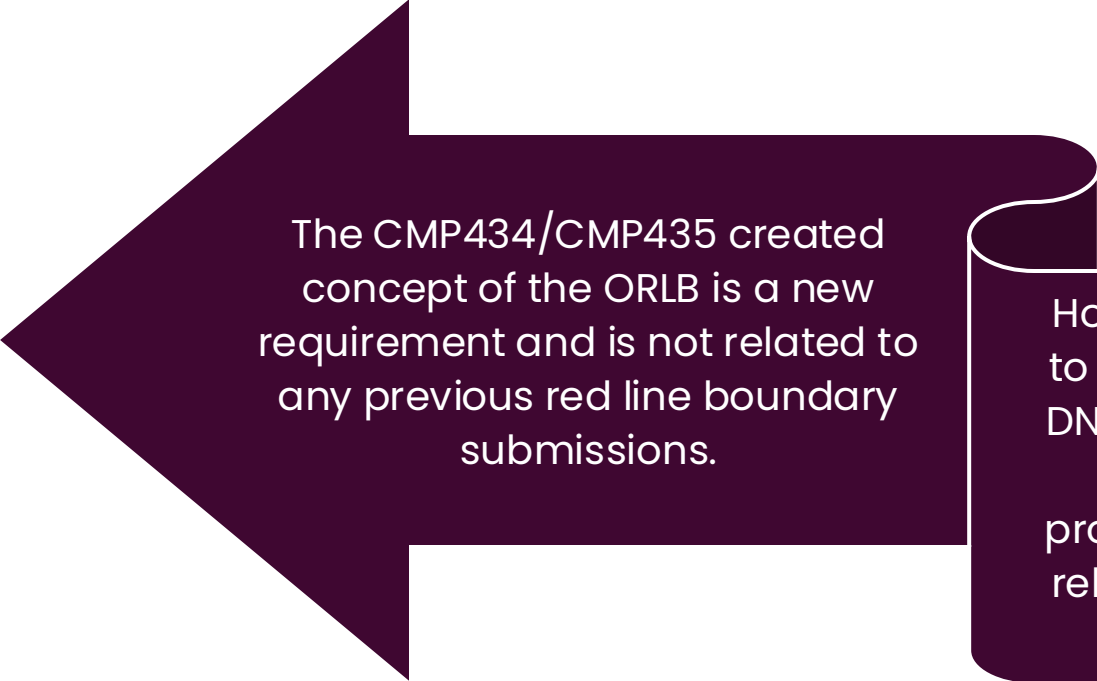
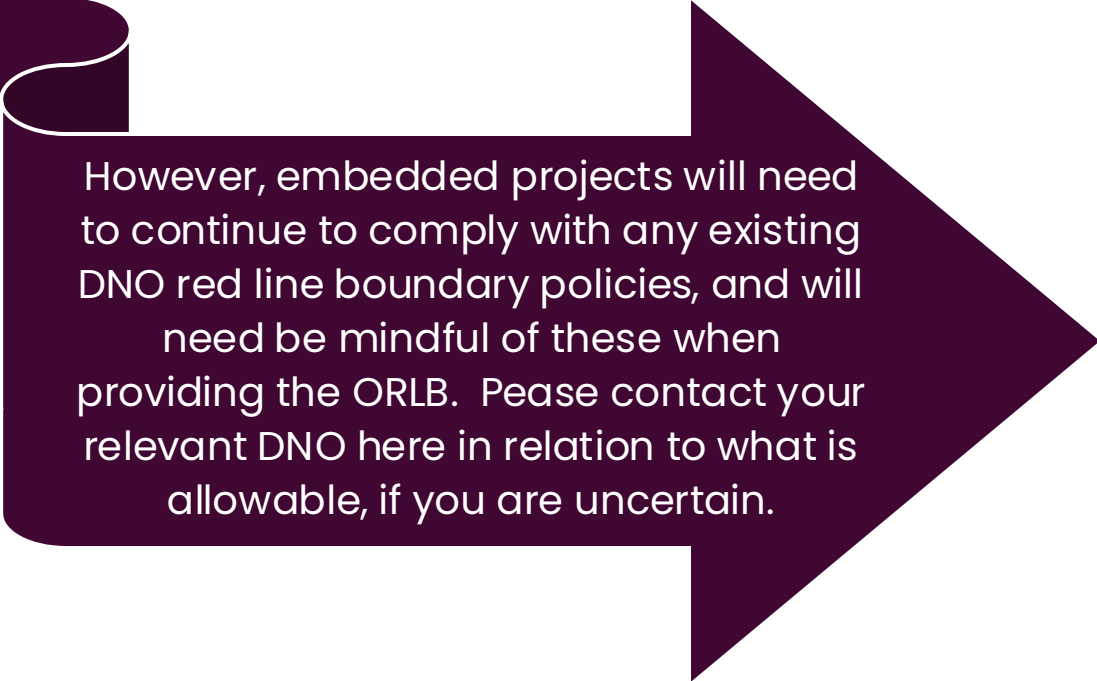


Figure 8: Satellite image with multiple parcels of land

ORLB – Transmission and Distribution Connected

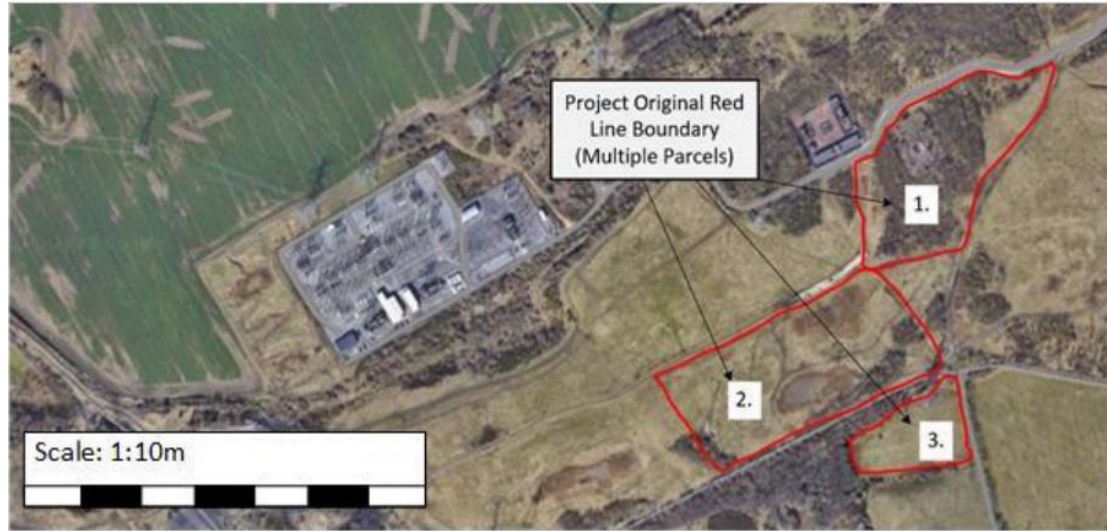


The CMP434/CMP435 created concept of the ORLB is a new requirement and is not related to any previous red line boundary submissions.



However, embedded projects will need to continue to comply with any existing DNO red line boundary policies, and will need be mindful of these when providing the ORLB. Please contact your relevant DNO here in relation to what is allowable, if you are uncertain.

ORLB – Key clarifications



Project Site

Doesn't need to match secured land boundary but needs to be within the secured land and cover the minimum acreage for the Installed Capacity within the Original Red Line Boundary confirmed as meeting the Gate 2 Readiness Criteria

Every title/existing lease/option is a different parcel – separate parcels could be the same "parcel", if on the same title/existing lease/option

Not a requirement for separate technology ORLB

Grid Coordinates for Project Site to 3 decimal places in WGS84 format (decimal not degrees, minutes and seconds)

Your questions: ORLB

1. If a project has secured land rights for one land parcel (which satisfied minimum acreage requirements etc) but is also pursuing another without rights secured before the deadline, can the second parcel still be included in the Gate 2 submission?
2. What is the definition of "Land Parcel"? Interpret that every title/option is a different parcel – is that right? Irrespective of whether or not they are contiguous? Therefore separate fields could be the same "parcel", if on the same title/option? Please confirm if that's correctly understood.
3. 2 stage Connection Agreement, where each stage is also hybrid, with discreet allocated development areas for each technology (including demand and generation). How many ORLB drawings/documents should we be presenting? One per Tech? One per Stage? One for Everything? or any of the above is ok?
4. When a developer is selecting the extreme grid coordinate based on rounding to 3dp, with respect to the actual point, should this be: the closest rounded grid coordinate outside the ORLB, inside the ORLB, or the absolute closest grid coordinate irrespective of being outside or inside the ORLB?
5. If I have secured one land parcel but have two projects (two separate conn agreements) on this one land parcel can I provide a single ORLB showing both projects within the one RLB or must each ORLB only show that portion of the secured land allocated to each particular project?

Your questions: ORLB

1. With regards to the extreme coordinates on the red line boundary plan, there will be occasions when two of them may be the same, should we just duplicate these?
2. We have an initial RLB that was submitted with our initial application. We have now extended the land under our control with an option on 2 further parcels. Is this now our ORLB? If we increase our land holdings past our gate 2 evidence date, can we use this for our project (demand project).
3. "If a project has two technologies with one project site offshore, and one project site onshore please would you be able to advise on how should the grid coordinates be provided? Will the Portal allow us to submit two sets of coordinates (one for offshore, and one for onshore)?"
4. ORLB - Can a single landowner, with a consented (e.g. LDO or DCO) multi-project site, submit the same sitewide ORLB for each individual project (with independent connection agreements) where there is sufficient land for all projects and individual plot location depends upon connection date?
5. If the nearest postcode is over 2km away, do we provide this postcode on the ORLB or will a partial postcode (eg PE7) suffice?
6. If a project submits an ORLB that results in a change to the Connection Point and the scope of Connection Assets required for the connection changes, will the gate 2 offer reflect all these changes? Or are there circumstances when a further gated Mod App would be required?

Protections and demand

Rachael Eynon

Your questions: Protections

1. Partial protections – what criteria is used to determine what capacities qualify for protection? I have a scheme partially planning secured, partially planning submitted (before 20/12/24). Should I use the energy density table to work out what capacities qualify for 2a, and what potentially for 3a?
2. Is Section 36 Planning Consent alone sufficient evidence to demonstrate a project has met Queue Management Milestone M2? (This is in relation to Protection Clause 2a – see page 46 of the handbook).
3. If you're not sure you'll satisfy the protection criteria, is there any disadvantage to applying for protection (and not getting it) versus entering into the CMP435 process without protection?
4. Demand: On 19th, at 21:40, James implies that Demand can apply for Protections. Is this true? We understood Strategic alignment should be d), which doesn't then allow for "protections". However is it also possible to eg. select a) 2a) (planning submitted?) for Demand? Would that be different result?
5. Can NESO confirm that the Protection Clause 2a under Gate 2 Strategic Alignment Criteria below: provide evidence Queue Milestone(QM) M1 (submitted by 20 Dec 2024 and validated) and provide evidence QMM M2, does not only applies to project with contracted connection date of on or before 31 Dec. 2027?

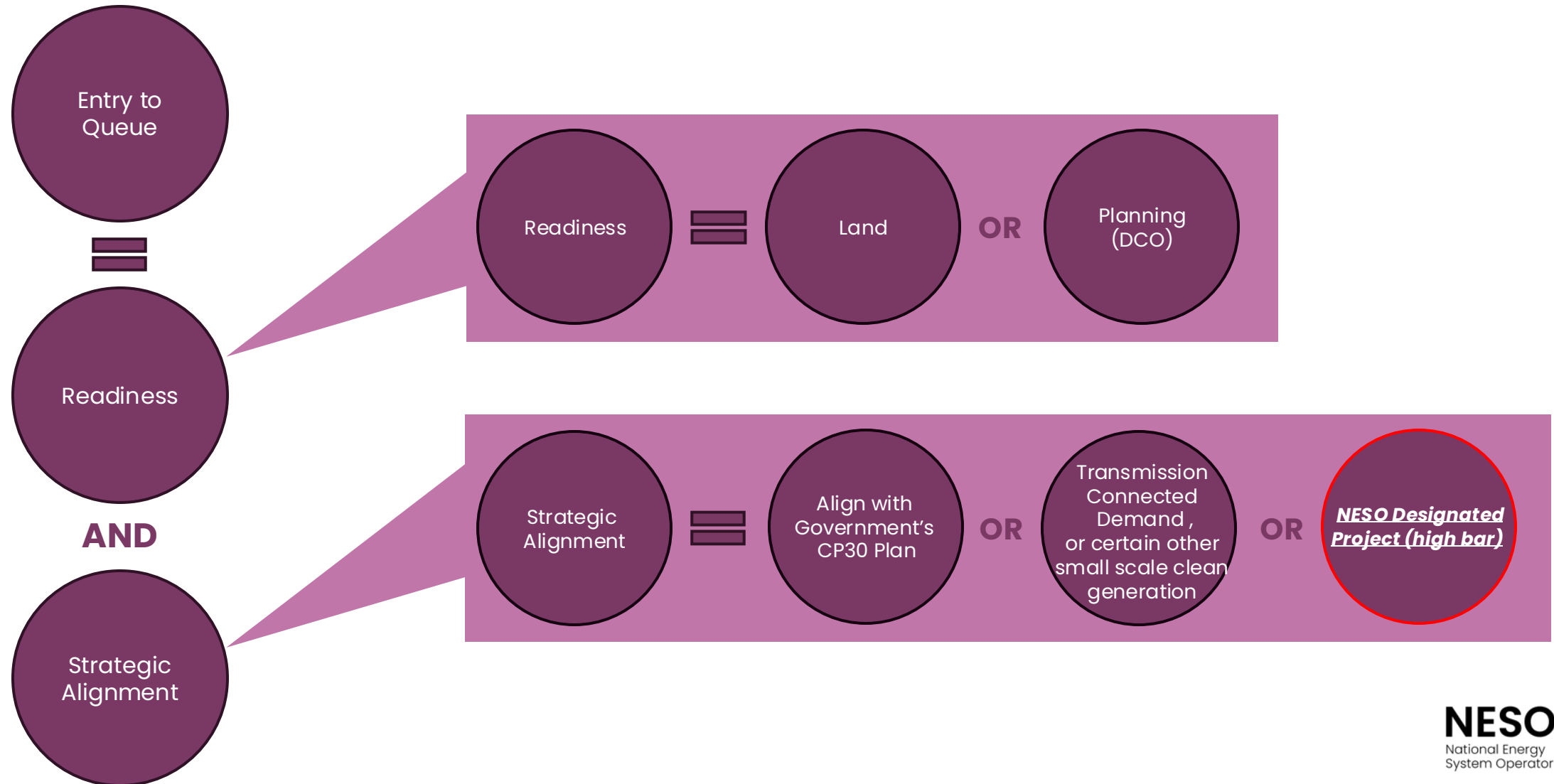
Your questions: Demand

1. As NESO will know each GSP solution will this be shared with DNOs for onward communication to Demand customers to better inform them for their business decision making.
2. The “In Scope” column on Page 12 of the Handbook seems entirely generation-focused. Where do data centres fit in?
3. Please clarify the treatment of offshore transmission owners (OFTOs) in relation to the G2WQ (CMP435) and enduring process (CMP434). Are they treated as demand projects or generation/storage projects, i.e. do they need to meet strategic alignment criteria? Which entity needs to submit for OFTO assets?

Project Designation

Neil Copeland

Overall Gate 2 Criteria



**Developers
can only
apply to NESO
following
publication of
a NESO Notice**

A

Critical to security
of supply



D

Highly innovative



B

Critical to system
operability



C

Materially Reduces
Constraint costs



E

Long lead times



Windowed

Designation Types

The five categories

Anytime

**Developers
can apply
directly to
NESO at any
time**

Important dates

Projects that can make use of G2TWQ

- We will aim to make decisions for applications we receive before **8 July** – where we have an expectation application will meet the readiness requirements.
- We will aim to make a decision before **23 July** – this will be dependent on applications we receive.

Projects that cannot make use of G2TWQ

- These will go through a longer assessment process lasting around 4-5 months.

Additional questions

Your questions: Misc

1. We need clarification on the question "Do you want to change connection point" on readiness declaration when we have been given a connection node substation which has not yet been sited. In this case, How can we determine where the nodded substations are being sited, in order to propose changes?
2. Can we maintain the TEC of the project but amend the technology split of a co-located project, like reducing PV from 500MW to 400MW while keeping BESS at 500MW? a) Can we do this in the G2 process during readiness dec/mod? b) Would this incur a cancellation charge despite maintaining the total TEC?
3. The question was asked last week concerning the 'nearest onshore substation'. Has this question been answered? Are we expected to use the named new onshore substation that is included in the grid connection offer?

Public

Next webinar

Sign up now

Public

Next webinar 1:30pm 3rd July

Common stumbling blocks with
evidence submission

Coming up soon... Portal training and walk
through. We hope to announce this date and
sign up in the next week.



Sign Up

Polls



Public

Thank you