

Agenda

Topics to be discussed	Lead
Timeline and Topics	Chair
Scene Setting – WG8	Proposer
Gate 2 Criteria Update	ESO SMEs
Evidence Submission Process	ESO SMEs
DTFC	ESO SMEs
Workgroup Consultation Update	Chair
Actions	Chair
Query Log	ESO SMEs
Any Other Business	Chair
Next Steps	Chair

Timeline and Topics

Claire Goult – ESO Code Administrator

Timeline for CMP434 and CM095 as at 02 May 2024

Milestone	Date	Milestone	Date
Workgroup Nominations (4 Business Days)	26 April 2024 to 02 May 2024	Code Administrator Consultation (9 Business Days)	19 August 2024 to 02 September 2024
Ofgem grant Urgency	01 May 2024(5pm)	Draft Final Modification Report (DFMR) issued to Panel (3 Business Days)	09 September 2024
Assuming Ofgem have granted Urgency Workgroup meetings 1 - 10	07 May 2024 14 May 2024 16 May 2024 22 May 2024 28 May 2024 05 June 2024 11 June 2024 13 June 2024 18 June 2024 20 June 2024	Panel undertake DFMR recommendation vote (Special Panel)	13 September 2024 (by 2pm)
Workgroup Consultation (8 Business Days)	25 June 2024 – 05 July 2024	Final Modification Report issued to Panel to check votes recorded correctly	13 September 2024 (by 4pm)
Workgroup meeting 11 - 15	16 July 2024 18 July 2024 24 July 2024 30 July 2024 06 August 2024	Final Modification Report issued to Ofgem	13 September 2024 (by 5pm)
Workgroup report issued to Panel (2 Business Days)	13 August 2024	Ofgem decision	06 November 2024
Special Panel sign off that Workgroup Report has met its Terms of Reference	16 August 2024	Implementation Date	01 January 2025

Outline of Workgroup(s) Meeting Topics

WG meeting 1	Set the scene, ToR, timeline, ways of working, context-why connections reform, what are the issues and solutions, what is and isn't scope, cross code impacts, who is impacted and how?
WG meeting 2	 Clarifying which projects go through the primary process. Clarifying any deviations from primary process e.g. for certain technologies.
WG meeting 3 and WG meeting 4	 Gate 1 criteria (including financial element requirement) and process Gate 1 Licence changes Introducing the concept of a Connections Network Design Methodology (the content and any approvals of this to be covered outside the Code Modification process) and DFTC
WG meeting 5 and WG meeting 6	 Gate 2 Criteria (including land planning financial element requirement), Letter of Authority changes (allowable amendments to red line boundaries and introduction of duplication checks), including impacts to Queue Management (Milestones and impact to all contracts) and NESO designation (criteria and process)
WG meeting 7 and WG meeting 8	 Gate 2 process (including how DNOs notify the ESO of Relevant Embedded Small Power Stations or Relevant Embedded Medium Power Stations which meet Gate 2 criteria)/Material/Significant Technology Change Gate 2 Criteria Update/Evidence Submission Process/DFTC/Workgroup Consultation Update
WG meeting 9 and WG meeting 10	 Gate 1 and Gate 2 disputes process, Gate 1 offer/contract content, Gate 2 offer/contract content Implementation approach Identify which STCPs will change (STC only) Identify which sections of legal text will change (Separate CUSC and STC) Finalise WG Consultation (Separate CUSC and STC)
WG meeting 11	 Assess WG Consultation responses, discuss new points Discuss potential alternatives and agree who develops these
WG meeting 12 and WG meeting 13	 Finalise WG Alternatives (CUSC 1st then reflect in STC) Legal Text (Separate CUSC and STC)
WG meeting 14	 Finalise Legal Text (Separate CUSC and STC) WG Alternative Vote (Separate CUSC and STC) This is where we are re: Alternatives (Separate CUSC and STC)
WG meeting 15	 Workgroup Report (Separate CUSC and STC) Workgroup Vote (Separate CUSC and STC)

WG8 Scene Setting

Graham Lear – ESO Proposer

Meeting Objectives

What is the focus of the meeting?

- Gate 2 criteria including ongoing compliance
- Evidence submission process for gate 2
- DFTC Submission Recap

What is the ask of the workgroup?

 Input on outlined agenda items What is the desired output of the meeting?

Shared understanding of the proposal in relation to:

- Gate 2 criteria and ongoing compliance
- Evidence submission process for gate 2
- DFTC Submission

What should not be discussed?

 Items previously discussed unless expressly listed in the Agenda

Gate 2 Criteria Updates (shown in red text)

Note we will only be talking through the updates in red text but full pack included for completeness

Paul Mullen

Gate 2 Criteria – Overview – *changes shown in red text*

What is the purpose of Gate 2?

- To provide a full offer including a queue position (and so connection point and connection date) to projects.
- With a batched process there may also be an opportunity for some consequential network design co-ordination.

What Gate 2 criteria have we considered previously?

- In our initial consultation, we proposed a Gate 2 of submission of application for planning consents (i.e. Queue Management Milestone M1) but many respondents felt this was too onerous from a development perspective.
- After consultation and stakeholder engagement (including a focused workshop with land and planning experts across different customer groups), we concluded that something in between M1 and M3 that is clearly evidencable, does not unduly discriminate against a particular technology or cause any material issues for projects utilising a particular planning consents route compare to other routes e.g. Development Consent Orders.
- When raising this code modification, we also considered a Gate 2 financial instrument as an additional criteria. However, we believe that if the submission of the application for planning (Queue Management Milestone (M1)) is forward calculated from Gate 2 offer acceptance date, this provides a sufficient incentive for projects to progress to connection and as such propose no further financial instrument at Gate 2.

What Gate 2 criteria are we proposing today?

- Secured Land
- Note there will be ongoing compliance requirements as well

Proposed Gate 2 Criteria:

Secured Land (note there will be ongoing compliance requirements as well)

No longer part of our proposal:

Consideration of a Gate 2 Financial Instrument

Secured Land: Overview as per CMP434 Workgroup 28 May 2024



To meet Gate 2:

- Developer has secured the rights to lease or own the land (or already leases or owns the land) on which their Site is planned to be located. Exclusivity agreement is not sufficient evidence
 - Customers submit 100% of the land required for their project to meet M3 milestone (to be amended to remove exclusivity route) i.e. to meet Gate 2. This will be calculated using the Energy Density Table as defined under CMP427 and contained in the ESO guidance document.
 - Customers to provide a red line boundary for the project site showing the land secured
 - Any Option agreement must have a longstop date that is later than the earlier of the Completion Date or [7] years after submission of Gate 2 evidence
 - Any Option agreement is accompanied by a lease or purchase agreement, which must reflect typical minimum operational timelines suggested a minimum of [20] years from the date of exercise of the option.
 - Or, evidence of existing ownership, or existing land lease with a remaining term of minimum of [20] years from the earlier of the Completion Date or [7] years after submission of Gate 2 evidence

Note that we asked CMP434 Workgroup on 28 May for feedback on the parameters represented by the 5 sub-bullets (by close of play 3 June 2024 for the last 3 sub-bullets) and have worked through this feedback – see next slide

Note: The above relates to the milestone achievement route to Gate 2 and not the NESO Designation Route to Gate 2

Note: The above excludes potential differences in relation to Offshore Wind, Interconnectors and Offshore Hybrid Assets

Secured Land: Minimum Option period – You said

You said:

- Currently 3-5 years in market with an ability for the developer to extend subject to the developer having met agreed milestones. Shorter option lengths could lead to gaming but tough red line boundary changes policy would mitigate this
- Some concern that a minimum length provides an additional barrier and notes that multiple ways to structure an option agreement e.g. X years + ability to extend or use of rent free periods (to secure land rights for a period that is longer than the nominal option contract length)
- Practical concern that the developer won't know at the point of signing the option agreement how long to fix the option agreement as Completion Date not known at that time
- Consider if option length could differ by voltage
- For CMP435 specifically, where options already signed, we should not be applying a minimum option length retrospectively

Secured Land: To Meet Gate 2 updated – *changes shown in red text*

- Developer has secured the rights to lease or own the land (or already leases or owns the land) on which their Site is planned to be located. Exclusivity agreement is not sufficient evidence
 - Customers submit 100% of the land required for their project to meet M3 milestone (to be amended to remove exclusivity route) i.e. to meet Gate 2. This will be calculated using the Energy Density Table as defined under CMP427 and contained in the ESO guidance document.
 - Customers to provide a red line boundary for the project site showing the land secured
 - Any Option agreement should ideally have up to a 7 year longstop date (taking into account any contractual rights to extend the option period or rent free periods) with an ongoing requirement for the developer to keep the land under option by seeking further agreements with the landowner until the Completion Date. However, as a minimum should be sufficient in first instance to meet the time period from Gate 2 offer signature to submission of the application for planning consent (M1 Milestone)*
 - Any Option agreement is accompanied by a lease or purchase agreement, which must reflect typical minimum operational timelines – suggested a minimum of [20] years from the date of exercise of the option.
 - Or, evidence of existing ownership, or existing land lease with a remaining term of minimum of [20] years from submission of Gate 2 evidence

*For CMP435, we are not proposing to retrospectively apply the option requirements to those who have achieved land options but there will be an ongoing requirement for the developer to keep the land under option by seeking further agreements with the landowner until the Completion Date.



Confirms the position we will present as part of Workgroup Consultation - we note other opinions expressed in query log (and we have responded to these) and will see what comes back as part of the Workgroup Consultation

Secured Land: Technology Differences

To provide clarity in relation to Offshore Wind, Offshore Hybrid Assets (OHAs) and Interconnectors.

All Technologies (excluding Offshore Wind, OHAs and Interconnectors)	Offshore Wind	OHAs and Interconnectors
Secured the rights to lease or own the land (or already leases or owns the land) on which the Site is planned to be located.	Agreement for Lease with the Crown Estate / Crown Estate Scotland for the seabed awarded / signed through the leasing round.	Secured the rights to lease or own the land (or already leases or owns the land) for the Onshore Convertor Substation.



Confirms the position we will present as part of Workgroup Consultation - we note other opinions expressed in query log (and we have responded to these) and will see what comes back as part of the Workgroup Consultation

Secured Land: Ongoing Compliance – *changes shown in red text*

Ongoing Compliance:

- Want to avoid situations where Users can amend their project site beyond Gate 2 such that they are actually developing a
 completely new site.
- Any amendments made to the red line boundary post achievement of Milestone M3* (as amended) will have to meet criteria specified by the ESO.
 - *Note there was feedback at the CMP434 Workgroup on 28 May that this should be Milestone M1 instead but we will keep at M3 but allow an exception for changes identified specifically by the Planning Authority
- Proposed initial solution and will be refined in accompanying guidance is:
 - At each Queue Management Milestone, Users have sufficient acreage (calculated using the Energy Density Table as
 defined under CMP427 and contained in the ESO guidance document) of land rights and/or consents for the full
 capacity of all technologies in the Connection Agreement and use existing rights under CUSC (introduced by CAP150)
 to remove and/or reduce the capacity of those technologies; and
 - User builds no more than [5%] of the capacity of a technology outside of their original red line boundary. Where User has built more than [5%] of the capacity of a technology outside their original red line boundary, use existing rights under CUSC (introduced by CAP150) to reduce a User's capacity of that technology or technologies

Have ruled out the option of "No more than 'X%' change to the red line boundary once Gate 2 has been met" – as subjective

Confirms the position we will present as part of Workgroup Consultation - we note other opinions expressed in query log (and we have responded to these) and will see what comes back as part of the Workgroup Consultation

Seeking views on the % of capacity of a technology that is allowable outside of the original red line boundary and why

Gate 2 Criteria – Planning

Paul Mullen

Planning: Ongoing Compliance – *changes shown in red text*

Gate 2 Criteria on its own is not enough so how do you incentivise the project to continue to be developed.

If the submission of the application for planning (Queue Management Milestone (M1)) is forward calculated from Gate 2 offer acceptance date we believe this provides sufficient incentive for projects to progress from Gate 2 to connection.

Ongoing Compliance (Planning):

- Requirement to submit the application for planning consent at the earliest of:
 - i) the Queue Management Milestone M1 ("M1") calculated back from the connection date (as per current CMP376 methodology); or
 - ii) M1 calculated forwards from the Gate 2 offer acceptance date (based on an agreed standard time period calculated from the date that the Gate 2 offer is accepted for each planning type) to move from Queue Management Milestone M3 ("M3") to M1.

Appendix 1 shows how Queue Management Milestone M3 could be amended to reflect this and the evidence requirements for Queue Management Milestone M1

Note: We are currently considering whether more Queue Management Milestones become forward looking to incentivise delivery

Note: Work on alignment of Queue Management Milestones with Distribution is being done via ENA working group



Note that we asked CMP434 Workgroup on 28 May for feedback on what they believe is a suitable timeline for each planning type and why by close of play 3 June 2024. The next slide shares the key feedback.

Planning Ongoing Compliance – You said

Planning Type	Period from Gate 2 Offer acceptance to submission of application for Planning Consent
Town and Country Planning (England, Scotland and Wales)	Typically 18-24 months for the pre-app work including EIA works, surveys and engagement with one developer noting it is extremely rare that can do less than a years worth of ecological surveys. Some support for 12 months (Sufficient time to secure planning permission if developer is ready to go)
	developer is ready to go;
Section 36 (Scotland)	Typically 18-24 months and requirements similar to Town and Country Planning
Development of National Significance (Wales - akin to NSIP)	Typically 24 months - As Town and Country Planning but extra engagement with local stakeholders is required pre-submission
NSIP (need Development Consent Order - England)	Typically 3 years as complex and duration and timing of some surveys e.g. most breeding bird surveys are required to be carried out over two breeding/nesting seasons and comprehensive engagement and consultation. A developer noted this could be 5 years for Offshore and Nuclear



Seeking Workgroup views on whether in practice, developers would progress land and planning in parallel and how does this impact the above typical timelines? - note that under Queue Management Milestones there is only 3 months between Queue Management Milestone M3 and M1 so can Workgroup provide views on why the delta has increased?

Gate 2 Evidence and Assessment

Paul Mullen

Gate 2 Criteria Evidence – changes since CMP435 Workgroup on 4 June 2024 shown in red text

Self-Certification Approach

- Self-Declaration Letter must be signed by a director and must show:
- Date achieved Gate 2 Criteria.
- Red line boundary for site, and confirmed to align with minimum land density requirements.
- Land status information i.e. whether land already owned or leased (for the operational life of the project), or whether an option agreement in respect of lease or purchase.
- If not already owned/leased, parameters of length of option agreement in respect of lease or purchase.
 - (If applicable) Parameters of length of lease (and that this or any extension will cover the operational life of the project).

• Statement that to your best knowledge, no-one else has rights over the land and that it does not overlap in relation to mutual exclusive usage.

- Upload evidence they have secured Land (as per Queue Management Milestone M3 apart from iv)
- CMP435 only
- Developers can also identify on this Self-Declaration Letter if they wish to advance current contracted connection date and if so to which connection date, if possible.
- Not required to re-negotiate an option already agreed but will need to meet ongoing compliance requirements
- Note that for Limited and plc companies we will verify via Companies House. If a company is not listed on Companies House, we will utilise publicly available information to verify authorised individuals. However, recommend that a Covering Letter is provided if clarification is required regarding an organisation.
- Note that for Users who aren't companies, we will need to agree with those the specific authority level for sign off commensurate with director level sign off – e.g. party responsible for "compliance" within that organisation.

Confirms the position we will present as part of Workgroup Consultation - we note other opinions expressed in query log (and we have responded to these) and will see what comes back as part of the Workgroup Consultation

Gate 2 Evidence

Gate 2 Criteria Evidence - changes since CMP435 Workgroup on 4 June 2024 shown in red text

Preferred option on Gate 2 Checks undertaken by ESO/DNO

- Apart from the director check, propose that ESO/DNO:
- Check that all the Self-Certifications meet the Gate 2 criteria e.g., if option agreement needs to be 7 years and Self-Certification says they have one for 5, we can reject and have the right to sample check (% to be defined by ESO/DNO) evidence of secured land rights including duplication checks
- Sample checks could be done by Network companies or an independent external audit body.
 - ?

Confirms the position we will present as part of Workgroup Consultation - we note other opinions expressed in query log (and we have responded to these) and will see what comes back as part of the Workgroup Consultation

Consequences if Selfcertification is later found to be false

- Consequences are:
- Breach of CUSC
- Termination of Bilateral Agreement and Construction Agreement for that site
- Consequences for Director and reputational/credibility issues generally within the industry for the company



Please provide views on other appropriate consequences

DFTCAlison Price

DFTC Submission – for Relevant Embedded Small/Medium Power Stations

- The DFTC will be provided as part of a submission which includes a forward-looking view of forecasted connections (DFTC) that may be made in the future as well as a view of Connected Generation and Accepted but not Connected Generation.
- The DFTC is increasing the visibility to the ESO and TO of this customer group, including forecasted information at a GSP and technology type level.
- The submission of DFTC will sit in the ENA methodology document* initially the DFTC forecast element may only cover a 12 month period in the Jan/Feb 2025 Gate 1 Application window but the ambition is to extend this as and when appropriate.
- For the ESO/TO's, receiving T applications and the DFTC submission at the same time, allows for a more
 coordinated network design across T&D and helps inform from Gate 1, plans for building future network capacity.
- There is no fee for the DFTC submission as it's not an application.
- At Gate 1, DNO's will receive back indicative connection date and transmission location in response to their DFTC submission, which they can chose to put into customer contracts as and when customers contract with them.
- Relevant Small and Medium EG are a forecast of developer capacity (not TEC unless they elect for a BEGA).
- Although there will be a forecast of DFTC, DNO's can still make connection offers if more applications are received then was in the DFTC.
- Embedded Generation only joins the Transmission process at Gate 2 and then only when they meet the Gate 2 criteria.

Workgroup Consultation Update

Lizzie Timmins – ESO Code Administrator

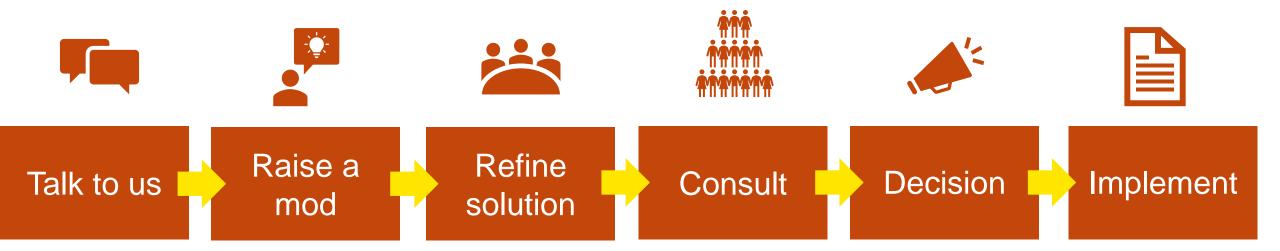
Actions and Query Log

Claire Goult – ESO Code Administrator

Action	Workgroup	Owner	Action	Comment	Due by	/ Status
3	WG1	JH	Tighten up the language RE: User Commitment Methodology/ Final Sums	consultation	WG2	N/A
7	WG2	JH	Explain the interaction of CMP434 with GC0117, consider the potential impact if GC0117 approved such as a need for an additional code modification	consultation	WG3	N/A
11	WG2	ALL	Add agenda time to respond to papers provided by Workgroup members	Ongoing	WG4	Open
12	WG2	JH/PM	ESO to speak to the policy team and consider how the 'Allowable Changes' policy being drafted would interact with CMP434, would all of the policy need to be codified or does the concept of the policy need to be codified?	Answer on 11/06/24 JH	WG4	Open
13	WG2	ALL	Workgroup to propose what they think could change in their application between Gate 1 and Gate 2		TBC	Open
15	WG4	JH	Consider alignment of crown estate invitation to tender and auction timing		TBC	Open
16	WG5	RW/GL	Look into where STC changes for CNDM should be located within main body of STC and STCPs	Later WG	TBC	Open
17	WG5	FP	Are the duplication checks at Gate 2 against projects who are within the gate 2 applicants pool of that period, gate 2 applicants that are yet to accept their offer, or/and applicants who have accepted their Gate 2 offer	Later WG	TBC	Open
20	WG6	JN/AQ	Consider legal perspective on NESO designation		TBC	Open
21	WG6	MO	Update/develop slides presented based on Workgroup feedback		TBC	Open
22	WG6	JH	Consider if an impact assessment by the ESO on the proposed solution is achievable within the current timescales		TBC	Open
23	WG7	LH	Clarify the ESO Position as to why the capacity reallocation process is out of scope for CMP434		TBC	Open
24	WG7	MO	Consult ESO legal team to consider using existing legal definitions for clarification (substantial modification) and reconsider terminology being used (material/significant/allowable)		TBC	Open
25	WG7	LH/SG	Update on the Technology Change Policy Paper and consider request to share prior to consultation		TBC	Open

Any Other BusinessClaire Goult – ESO Code Administrator

Code Modification Process Overview



Forums

Panel decided standard governance route

Workgroup Phase

Workgroup Consultation Workgroup Vote Workgroup Report

Post Workgroup Phase

Code Admin Consultation

DFMR FMR

Code changes: Beginner's Guide | ESO (nationalgrideso.com)

Ofgem

Note - An alternative can be raised only before the Workgroup Vote

Can I vote? and What is the Alternative Vote and Workgroup Vote?

To participate in any votes, you will have been nominated as a Workgroup member (not observer) and need to have attended at least 50% of meetings

Stage 1 – Alternative Vote

- This Vote is carried out to identify the level of Workgroup support there is for any potential Workgroup
 Alternative Requests brought forward by a member of the Workgroup OR an Industry participant as part of
 the Workgroup Consultation. should become Workgroup Alternative CUSC/STC Modifications
 (WACM/WASTM).
- Should the majority of the Workgroup OR the Chair believe that the potential alternative solution may better facilitate the CUSC/STC objectives than the Original then the potential alternative will be fully developed by the Workgroup with legal text to form a Workgroup Alternative CUSC/STC Modification (WACM/WASTM) and submitted to the Panel and Authority alongside the Original solution for the Panel Recommendation vote and the Authority decision.

Stage 2 – Workgroup Vote

- 2a) Assess the Original and Workgroup Alternative (if there are any) against the relevant Applicable Objectives compared to the Baseline (the current code)
- 2b) Vote on which of the options is best.

Next Steps

Claire Goult – ESO Code Administrator

Appendix – Queue Management Milestone Changes

Paul Mullen

Appendix 1 - Queue Management Milestone M3 Changes

Milestone Requirement

The User must have secured the required land rights to enable the construction of the project. The User may be the owner/occupier of the land or has the necessary agreement from the owner/occupier.

Proposed to be removed as part of Gate 2 Criteria

Update to clarify requirements for Offshore Hybrid Assets and Interconnectors

Evidence Required

- The User is an owner or tenant of the land on which the proposed site is or will be situated; or
- (ii) The User has entered into an agreement to lease the land from the owner of the land on which the proposed site is or will be situated; or
- (iii) The User has an option to purchase or to lease the land from the owner of the land on which the proposed site is or will be situated; or
- (iv) The User has entered into an exclusivity agreement in relation to the land with the owner of the land on which the proposed site is or will be situated; or
- v) For an offshore site, the User has entered into an agreement for occupation or use of the seabed upon which the User's project (excluding any OTSDUW) is or will be located Nb the obligation is to secure and evidence the land right for the site of the installation e.g. Power Station or demand site so the evidence does not relate to rights e.g. easements associated with that site or OTSDUW.

Compliance with this milestone is ongoing.

Note proposed changes and feedback (after Workgroup) any initial comments?

Appendix 1 - Queue Management Milestone M1 Changes

Milestone Requirement

Where statutory consents are required for the construction of the User's project, the User must begin the process of seeking statutory consents, including Planning Permission for the project within the timescales and be able to provide the required evidence.

Clarify for those meeting the Gate 2 criteria this will also be calculated forwards (based on an agreed standard time period for each planning type) to move from Queue Management Milestone M3 to Queue Management Milestone M1) as well as calculated back from the connection date (as per current CMP376 methodology). The developer will be required to meet the earliest Queue Management Milestone M1 date

Evidence Required

Submission of planning application to the relevant Statutory Authority or, if the User's project does not require a statutory consent, a declaration from the User to that effect.

?

Note proposed changes and feedback (after Workgroup) any initial comments?

Planning: Ongoing Compliance

Milestone	Examples of evidence submission		
Milestone 1) Initiated Statutory Consents and Planning Permission	Planning application reference number (that is provided to User once they have submitted their application and it has been validated by the relevant Statutory Authority). The ESO will confirm against the Planning Portal (if the site is located		
	in England and Wales) or Scottish Government - Energy Consents Unit - Application Search (if the site is located in Scotland) or alternatively it will confirm with relevant Statutory Authority.		
	If the User's project does not require a statutory consent, then the User needs to provide a signed letter from the companies Director stating that no statutory consent is required.		
	The User to upload the evidence via the Connections Portal for approval by the ESO.		

Queue Management Milestones – Pre-Construction

Conditional Progression Milestones	From 0 up to 2 years (0 – 729 days) from contracted Completion date	2 up to 3 years (730 – 1094 days) from contracted Completion date	3 up to 4 years (1095 to 1459 days) from contracted Completion date	4 up to 5 years (1460 – 1824 days) from contracted Completion date	5 years (1825 days) and above from contracted Completion date	
Milestones:	All durations referenced back from contracted Completion Date					
M1 - Initiated Statutory Consents and Planning Permission	Bilaterally negotiated	18 months	24 months	36 months	48 months	
M2 - Secured Statutory						
Consents and Planning Permission		12 months	18 months	24 months	30 months	
M3 - Secure Land Rights		21 months	27 months	39 months	51 months	