



Customer Guidance: Gate 2 Evidence Checks

**Electricity
Distribution**

nationalgrid

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Introduction

As part of the connections reform project, the Gate 2 readiness checks ensure that projects meet the necessary requirements to be deemed ready to move to Gate 2. This guidance document is to be used in conjunction with the NGED Gate 2 evidence online submission form and in line with the industry [Gate 2 submission handbook](#) which is available on NESOs website. It sets out more detailed guidance than is available on the form itself. The guidance is relevant to small and medium distribution projects, and small and medium distribution projects with Bilateral Embedded Generator Agreement (BEGA). Large embedded projects should apply directly to NESO.

Additional “Director Signed Letters”

Please note that it may be necessary at various stages throughout the form to attach supplementary letters in support of the Applicant’s submission. These letters will require the signature of a company director. **Please ensure you have these letters ready** before beginning, as progress **cannot** be saved once the form is started. The table below details what letters will be required and in what circumstances – please take the time to check if they apply before starting the submission process.

Relevant Section	Applicability	Document to be uploaded	Format
Company details	Required if company is not listed on Companies House or there is imminent change of ownership whilst the gate 2 application is progressing	Covering letter signed by company director explaining why company is not listed on Companies House	PDF
Land rights	Required if lease remaining term is less than 20 years and the operational life of the project is less than 20 years	Document signed by company director explaining why a period of 20 years on the accompanying lease is not required	PDF
Land rights	Required if existing land lease remaining term is less than 20 years and the operational life of the project is less than 20 years	Document signed by company director explaining why a period of 20 years on the existing land lease is not required	PDF
Strategic alignment	Required if seeking protection under ‘Protection clause 1’ and project does not require consents	Letter signed by the director stating why no statutory consents are required	PDF
Strategic alignment	Required if seeking protection under ‘Protection clause 2a’ and project does not require consents	Letter signed by the director stating why no statutory consents are required	PDF

Checklist of documents to be uploaded

In addition to the additional director signed letters listed above, other evidence files may be required to be submitted. A detailed checklist of the required documents is provided in the table below for reference.

Please note the following important information about the online submission form:

All supporting document or files should be in PDF format where possible.

Relevant Section	Applicability	Document to be uploaded	Format
Director Declaration File	Mandatory for all projects	Director declaration file	PDF
Project location	Mandatory for all projects	Original Red Line Boundary	PDF Or GeoJSON file (optional)
Project location	Required if there is more than one Original Red Line Boundary for the project	Additional Original Red Line Boundary	PDF Or GeoJSON file (optional)
Total capacities	Advised if Applicant has any capacity associated to LDES (Long Duration Energy Storage)	Evidence of alignment with Government definition of LDES	PDF
Land rights	Required if the Applicant is not the party who has entered into the land rights agreement	Letter from named entity on land rights stating Applicant has the rights to use the land	PDF
Land rights	Required if seeking to meet Gate 2 readiness criteria via 'land' route	Copy of land lease	PDF
Land rights	Required if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project connection date is less than 3 years away There is less than 3 years remaining until entering the lease Project is a test / demo site with a life cycle of less than 3 years	Project development and construction plan	PDF
Land rights	Required if the land, or part of the land for Applicant's project is subject to a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO)	Evidence that land or part of the land for the project is subject to a CPO	PDF

Land rights	Required if the land, or part of the land for Applicant's project is in probate	Evidence that all or part of the land for the project is subject to an ongoing probate process	PDF
Land rights	Required if seeking to meet Gate 2 readiness criteria via 'land' route	Copy of existing land lease	PDF
Land rights	Required if providing evidence of secured land rights under 'Existing Ownership'	Official Copy of The Register of Title where registered at the Land Registry	PDF
Land rights	Required if providing evidence of secured land rights under 'Existing Ownership'	Title deeds where land not registered at the Land Registry	PDF
Project planning	Required if project is following 'Town & Country Planning' regime	Copies of any consenting applications and subsequent approvals	PDF
Project planning	Required if project is following 'Development Consent Order (DCO)' regime	Copies of any consenting applications and subsequent approvals	PDF
Project planning	Required if project is following 'Section 36' regime	Copies of any consenting applications and subsequent approvals	PDF
Project planning	Required if project is following 'Development of National Significance' regime	Copies of any consenting applications and subsequent approvals	PDF
Project planning	Required if project is following 'Other Planning Route: Exception' regime	Evidence of confirmation from NGED showing project has been approved for the planning exception route	PDF
Project planning	Required if project is following 'Other Planning Route: Exception' regime	Copies of any consenting applications and subsequent approvals	PDF
Strategic alignment	Required if seeking protection under 'Protection clause 1' and project has connection date on or before December 2026 and has achieved Queue Management milestone M2 and M7	Evidence that Queue Management milestone M7 (Financial Investment Decision) has been met	PDF
Strategic alignment	Required if seeking protection under 'Protection clause 2a' and project does not require consents	Evidence that Queue Management milestone M7 (Financial Investment Decision) has been met	PDF
Strategic alignment	Required if seeking protection under 'Protection clause 2a'	Evidence of project holding a "live" Contract for Difference (CfD)	PDF
Strategic alignment	Required if seeking protection under 'Protection clause 2a'	Evidence of project holding a "live" Capacity Market Contract	PDF

Strategic alignment	Required if seeking protection under 'Protection clause 2a'	Evidence of project having a contract with NESO awarded through their 'Network Services' processes	PDF
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When a Gate 2 evidence submission is not required

There are circumstances where the Applicant can opt out of submitting Gate 2 evidence for their project. Where such circumstances apply, please use the **“Submission not required? Click here to let us know”** button on the introduction page to opt out. Please ensure you use the comments box on the next screen to provide information on why the Applicant is not progressing with evidence submission for this project.

Circumstances where the Applicant can opt out of submitting Gate 2 evidence for their project include, but not limited to the following:

- If the particular project related to the submission form link (shown in the 'Application details' box on the right side of the page) is no longer a valid or active project (e.g. it has been previously withdrawn or terminated), the Applicant should click the **“Submission not required? Click here to let us know”** button and provide information in the comments box on the next screen.
- If the details of the particular project related to the submission form link (shown in the 'Application details' box on the right side of the page) are incorrect or the enquiry reference number of the project is not recognised, the Applicant should click the **“Submission not required? Click here to let us know”** button and provide information in the comments box on the next screen.
- If the Applicant wishes to have a Gate 1 offer, please click the **“Submission not required? Click here to let us know”** button and provide information in the comments box on the next screen, making it clear for hybrid sites which technologies they wish to receive a Gate 1 offer for. Please note that a Gate 1 offer would include an indicative connection date and indicative connection location. Projects can pass Gate 2 in future windows and will receive a full offer if the project meets Gate 2 'readiness' and 'strategic alignment' at that point in time. Once the Applicant has entered into a Gate 1 contract, 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 Applicant.

CMP446

Following Ofgem's approval of CMP446 (see [link](#) to decision) - 'Increasing the lower threshold in England and Wales for Evaluation of Transmission Impact Assessment', if the Applicant wishes to reduce their export capacity to **4.949MW or below**, NGED will still require an application to be submitted using the NGED Gate 2 evidence form, the material impact of the change will need to be assessed and therefore these projects will still need to compete the gate 2 evidence submission process. The materiality of the change will be assessed after the conclusion of the gate 2 to whole queue process.

Most projects that fall below 4.949 MW do not need to complete the Gate 2 evidence submission. There is however an exception to the rule in that where a grid supply point has fault level headroom restrictions, it is not appropriate to increase the TIA threshold and the TIA of 1MW will remain in place. On the NGED network those customers due to connect at affected GSPs where there are fault level constraints will be contacted. Projects below 5MW which are due to connect to GSPs that have fault level constraints will still receive a link to complete the Gate 2 evidence submission, this should still be completed if the project wishes to be considered for a Gate 2 agreement.

Declaration

Director declaration, signed by the company director, will need to be submitted and uploaded to the 'signed declaration' section of the form.

Please upload your signed declaration

The director declaration will need to include:

- Confirmation from the statutory director of the Applicant, or where there is no statutory director, a person authorised to make this declaration on behalf of the Applicant; and
- Confirmation that:
 - i. The statements made in the Gate 2 Readiness Declaration are true, accurate and not misleading
 - ii. The evidence submitted by the Applicant for the purpose of satisfying the Gate 2 Readiness Criteria and referred to in this Gate 2 Readiness Declaration are true, accurate and not misleading, and
 - iii. The person signing the Director Declaration understands that if (i) and (ii) is not the case, then a Gate 2 offer will not be made.
- Consent to the information and data about the Applicant and the Project in this Readiness Declaration or as otherwise provided or created through the Gate 2 to Whole Queue process being shared with a competent authority (as defined in CUSC) for the purposes of facilitating and monitoring the effectiveness of connections reform and its objectives.

For the avoidance of doubt, please note that:

- NGED will use Companies House to verify directors of Limited Companies, Public Liability Companies (PLC) or Limited Liability Partnerships (LLP).
- NGED will verify that the name of the director who has signed the Readiness Declaration is a director on Companies House.
- If the verification check is failed, the Applicant does not meet the Gate 2 Readiness Criteria and will not receive a Gate 2 offer (however, they are not precluded from applying into the next Gated Application Window).

A cover letter signed by the director must be provided if:

- The Applicant's organisation is not listed on Companies House; or
- A change in company ownership happens whilst the Gate 2 application is progressing.

Evidence Submission Guidance

Section 1 Company details

Is the company named on your connection agreement registered with Companies House?

The Applicant should confirm if the company named on the connection agreement is registered with Companies House.

If the company named on the Applicant's connection agreement is registered with Companies House, please select 'Yes' to this question. If the company named on the Applicant's connection agreement is **not** registered with Companies House, please select 'No' to this question.

If 'No' is selected, please provide a covering letter signed by the company director explaining why they are not listed on Companies House.

Confirm the registered company name

The Applicant should input the name of the registered business associated with the project.

Confirm the registered company number.

The Applicant should input the registered company number of the business associated with the project, as listed on Companies House.

If there is imminent change of ownership (e.g. a change of ownership could happen whilst the Gate 2 application is progressing), please provide a covering letter signed by the company director to explain the situation.

Please give us the following details for the project lead contact:

The lead contact is the person authorised to deal with this application for and on behalf of the Applicant.

The Applicant should input the name, email address and phone number of the lead contact associated with the project.

Section 2 Project location

Please confirm the Site Name:

The Applicant should input the name of the project site as named in the current connection agreement

Enter the site's postcode/Site Address:

The Applicant should enter the postcode of the project site (if applicable).
If the Applicant does not have a postcode, they should input project site address manually including:

- First line of address
- Second line of address
- Town/City
- County
- Postcode - Please use the postcode lookup to find the site address. If you do not have a postcode for the site, the address can be entered manually excluding the postcode.

Please specify the co-ordinates for your project:

The Applicant should provide the grid co-ordinates (longitude and latitude in WGS84 format to 3 decimal places of Northerly, Easterly, Southerly and Westerly extreme coordinates) of project site.

The address and co-ordinates of the project site should be the same as the submitted Original Red Line Boundary (ORLB) and should match the site location on the project land rights/ planning documentation as appropriate.

For the avoidance of doubt, where applicable, the co-ordinates must factor in land associated with the granted CPO Powers and/or land under Probate/ subject to an application for confirmation, if applicable (see **CPO** and **Probate Acreage** sections below for further details).

Total acreage

The Applicant should input the acreage for the project site (to 4 decimal places). Total acreage must cover the total minimum acreage required across each technology in accordance with the minimum acres per MW as set out in the look up table under the [NESO LoA Guidance](#).

The project site is in the context of the Original Red Line Boundary.

Most technology types will have a minimum acres per MW as set out in the look up table under the [NESO LoA Guidance](#). Where emerging technology types are not represented in the above energy density table, Applicants should refer to NESO LoA Guidance for clarity on the next steps process.

Is any of the land for your project subject to Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) Powers?

The Applicant should confirm if any of the land for their project is subject to Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) Powers, and input the acreage subject to CPO Powers (to 4 decimal places) if applicable.

If any of the land for the Applicant's project is subject to CPO Powers, please select 'Yes'. If Applicant does **not** have any land for their project subject to CPO powers, please select 'No'.

Further details on evidence of Compulsory Purchase Order Powers granted can be found in [section 4.1c of the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology](#).

Is any of the land for your project under Probate?

The Applicant should confirm if any of the land for their project is under Probate, and input the acreage subject to Probate (to 4 decimal places) if applicable.

If any of the land for the Applicant's project is under Probate, please select 'Yes'. If Applicant does **not** have any land for their project under Probate, please select 'No'. For further details on situations where any of the land for applicant's project is under Probate, please see [section 4.1c of the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology](#).

Does the Original Red Line Boundary of the Project Site meet or exceed the minimum acreage land density requirements?

The Applicant should confirm if the Original Red Line Boundary of the project site meets or exceeds the minimum acreage land density requirements.

If the Original Red Line Boundary for the Applicant's project site meets or exceeds the minimum acreage land density requirements, please select '**Yes**'. If the Original Red Line Boundary for the Applicant's project site **does not** meet the minimum acreage land density requirements, please select '**No**' to this question.

If 'No' is selected, where the Original Red Line Boundary provided ([under section 4.1b of the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology](#)) has an acre per MW less than that in the [energy land density table](#), the Applicant should justify why a reduced acreage is appropriate for the project site using the comments section provided on the form.

The acreage figure (to 4 decimal places) must cover the total minimum acreage required across each technology in accordance with the minimum acres per MW as set out in the energy density table under the [NESO LoA Guidance](#).

NGED will review this evidence and may contact the Applicant for further clarification. However, if NGED is not satisfied that the total land acreage provided meets the de minimis level, the minimum acreage requirement will not have been met.

Please do not contact NESO or the DNO but provide appropriate evidence via the Readiness Declaration.

For further details on meeting minimum acreage requirements, please see [section 4.1a of the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology](#).

Please upload your Red Line Boundary file(s)

Applicant should upload the Original Red Line Boundary for the project site.

The Original Red Line Boundary **must**:

- Be clearly marked.
- Show Applicant's enquiry reference number.
- Indicate the scale and orientation used.
- Explain any symbols, colours and abbreviations used.
- State the site address, including postcode (if available).
- State grid co-ordinates (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. The CUSC definition of "Installed Capacity" can be found in the Glossary at the end of this document.
- Show total acreage secured within the ORLB in respect of the project site.

The Original Red Line Boundary **could** (non-mandatory but recommended):

- Include a GeoJSON file of the Original Red Line Boundary.
- Indicate on the ORLB where it covers multiple land parcels (where relevant).

Please note that your redline boundary must align with the original boundary previously submitted to NGED for your project. However, it should be updated to reflect the new information provided above.

The redline boundary must remain within the scope of changes permitted under the ENA Allowable Changes Guidance. You can find more details on this guidance [here](#).

Important: If the redline boundary is altered in a way that does not comply with the ENA allowable changes, the project will no longer hold a valid distribution agreement. As a result, it will not be eligible to receive a Gate 2 Offer.

Is there more than one Red Line Boundary for your project?

The Applicant should confirm if there is more than one Original Red Line Boundary for the project. Please select 'Yes or No' to this question as appropriate.

If the Applicant's project has a single Original Red Line Boundary that includes land that has been granted CPO Powers and/or land under Probate, please select 'No'. If the Applicant's project has separate Original Red Line Boundary plan for land that has been granted (or is subject to an active application for) CPO Powers and/or land under Probate, please select 'Yes'.

If 'Yes' is selected, the Applicant should please provide the details of the separate Original Red Line Boundary and upload the separate Original Red Line Boundary of the site on which the project is located.

If you have secured land rights, does the Red Line Boundary match the Secured Land Rights boundary?

The Applicant should select 'Yes or No' to this question as appropriate.

If the Applicant has secured land rights and the Original Red Line Boundary matches the secured land rights boundary, please select 'Yes'.

If **any** of the following apply:

- The Applicant has not secured land rights; or
- Original Red Line Boundary is smaller than the secured land rights boundary; or
- Original Red Line Boundary differs from the secured land rights boundary, please select 'No'.

If the Original Red Line Boundary differs from the secured land rights boundary, Applicant should please explain how they differ and why the secured land rights are sufficient using the comments section provided on the form.

Please note, the Original Red Line Boundary does not need to match the entire secured land rights boundary or any planning consent boundary (but it could do). The Original Red Line Boundary simply needs to be within the secured land and cover the minimum acreage for the installed capacity within the Original Red Line Boundary to be confirmed as meeting the Gate 2 Readiness Criteria.

To the best of your knowledge, are you or another developer (including the landowner) applying for any other connection using the same land?

The Applicant should select the relevant option 'Yes, No or Unsure'.

If the Applicant is aware of the land for the project being used to apply for any other connection, please select 'Yes' and provide the details using the comments section provided on the form. If the land for the project site is **not** being used to apply for any other connection (to the best of Applicant's knowledge), please select 'No'. If the Applicant is unsure about the land for the project being used to apply for any other connection, please select 'Unsure'.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Applicant should note that NESO will carry out duplication checks against the Original Red Line Boundary. NGED will provide NESO with the Original Red Line Boundaries in order for NESO to undertake this check.

Section 3 Total capacities

Confirm total import capacity

The Applicant should input total import capacity associated with the project (expressed in whole MW or to one decimal place).
For co-located or hybrid sites please enter the total contracted import capacity for the site, as well as the total maximum import capability for each available technology.

Do you intend to import power for the purposes of charging any storage on the site?

This question is only relevant for BESS and LDES projects and therefore if the project is not a LDES or BESS project 'No' should be selected. If 0 MW is entered into the import section, then will be assumed for CP30 purposes that the BESS/LDES component of the project will be exporting.
If the Applicant inputs total import capacity value in above section, please select relevant option 'Yes or No' to the question.
If the Applicant intends to import power for the purposes of charging any storage on site, please select 'Yes'.
Selecting 'Yes' means the storage technology contributes to the LDES (see [Ofgem's LDES guidance](#)) or BESS [CP30 Action Plan](#) permitted capacity for the purposes of strategic alignment.
If the Applicant **does not** intend to import power for the purposes of charging any storage on site, please select 'No'.
Selecting 'No' means the storage will **not** contribute to the [CP30 Action Plan](#) for LDES or BESS for the purpose of strategic alignment.
If 'No' is selected, **does the Applicant intend to charge the storage using co-located generation** (noting that the storage technology will not contribute to the permitted capacity for BESS or LDES)? Please select relevant option 'Yes or No'. Please select 'no' if the project is not LDES or BESS.
If the Applicant intends to charge the storage using co-located generation, please select 'Yes'. If the Applicant **does not** intend to charge the storage using co-located generation, please select 'No'.
Further details on how projects including BESS or LDES should be treated in queue formation can be found in [sections 5.11 and 7.8 of NESO's Connections Network Design Methodology](#)

Confirm total export capacity

The Applicant should input total export capacity associated with the project (expressed in whole MW or to one decimal place).
For co-located or hybrid sites please enter the total contracted export capacity for the site, as well as the total maximum export capability for each available technology.

Please confirm the technologies and associated capacities with your project:

The Applicant should select 'Yes or No' to the relevant technology type(s) and input the associated export capacity (expressed in whole MW or to one decimal place) and acreage (to 4 decimal places) for the project.

Submitted technology type should be one of the following:

- Solar
- Onshore wind technology
- Storage technology
- Long Duration Energy Storage Used
- Other renewable technology
- Non-renewable technology

If the Applicant has any capacity associated to Long Duration Energy Storage, please upload evidence (**in PDF format**) to prove alignment with the definition of LDES provided by Government in its forthcoming [LDES Technical Decision Document](#).

For co-located or hybrid sites please enter both the total contracted import and export capacity for the site, as well as the total maximum import and export capability for each available technology

Note that NGED will check:

- That the technology as listed in the existing agreement with DNO matches the technology provided in the Readiness Declaration.
- That the technology as named in the evidence of land or planning readiness matches the technology provided in the Readiness Declaration.

Where the Applicant does not provide details of a technology for which they have an existing agreement, they will not receive a Gate 2 offer for that technology.

Technology types not seeking to meet the Gate 2 readiness criteria will not receive a Gate 2 offer.

Are you looking to reduce the amount of capacity you are taking through the Gate 2 process?

The Applicant should confirm if they are looking to reduce the amount of capacity they are taking through the Gate 2 process.

If the Applicant wishes to reduce the amount of capacity they are taking through the Gate 2 process, please select 'Yes'. If the Applicant **does not** wish to reduce the amount of capacity they are taking through the Gate 2 process, please select 'No'.

If 'Yes' is selected, please input the reduced capacity figures for export capacity and import capacity (if applicable) the Applicant wishes to take through the Gate 2 process (expressed in whole MW or to one decimal place) for each technology associated with the project.

Please note, it is important to confirm that the reduced capacity figures entered are accurate and what the Applicant wishes to take through the Gate 2 process, as once the form is submitted, this can no longer be changed. The capacity figures submitted will be taken through to NESO as Gate 2 criteria evidence for strategic alignment.

For the avoidance of doubt, it would be possible for the Applicant to remove or drop a technology type or reduce developer capacity from an existing agreement. **To drop a technology, the Applicant should input 0MW in the 'reduced capacity figures' fields.** Technology changes or addition of installation capacity are **not** permissible through [CMP 435](#) and must be separately undertaken.

Section 4 Further details

Under which route are you seeking to meet the Gate 2 readiness criteria:

The Applicant should confirm under which route they would be seeking to meet the Gate 2 readiness criteria: land rights route or planning route.

Land Rights Route: (details can be found in [section 4.1 of the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology](#)).

Planning Route: (details can be found in [section 5.1 of the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology](#)).

Please confirm your existing contracted connection date:

The Applicant should confirm their existing contracted connection date using the calendar tool provided in the form in [DD/MM/YYYY] format.

The **current contracted connection date** is the officially agreed-upon date in the Applicant's connection agreement when the project is scheduled to be connected to the distribution network.

Do you wish to advance your current contracted connection date?

Please note that this section is only to be completed if an existing agreement is seeking to meet Gate 2 readiness criteria and seeking connection date advancement through the Gate 2 to Whole Queue exercise. There are no guarantees that advancement of current connection date will be granted. Applicant should confirm if they wish to advance their current contracted connection date.

If Applicant wishes to advance their current contracted connection date, please select 'Yes'. If Applicant **does not** wish to advance their current contracted connection date, please select 'No'.

Please note that projects cannot select advancement dates that are less than 12 months from their current contracted completion date. Projects cannot advance to a date that is prior to 2026. Advancement fees will be charged per Grid Supply Point for projects that make it through strategic alignment, this could mean that projects that are not successful with an advanced date are still liable for the fee. This will be split by the number of customers that seek advancement and make it through strategic alignment.

Please confirm the earliest date to which you would be willing and able to advance to

Applicants wishing to advance their current contracted connection date should input the earliest date they are willing and able to advance to using the calendar tool provided in the form in [DD/MM/YYYY] format.

Would you accept an earlier connection date on a non-firm basis?

Applicant should indicate whether an earlier connection date on a non-firm basis would be acceptable.

If Applicant is willing to accept an earlier connection date on a non-firm basis, please select 'Yes'. If Applicant is **not** willing to accept an earlier connection date on a non-firm basis, please select 'No'.

Section 5 Land rights

This section is required if your project is meeting the readiness criteria via land rights, if your project is meeting the readiness criteria via the planning route then this section is **not** applicable.

Have you secured land rights for your project?

The Applicant should confirm if they have secured land rights for the project.

If the Applicant has secured land rights for the project, please select 'Yes' and continue to the next question under this section. If the Applicant has not secured land rights for their project, please select 'No'.

If 'No' is selected, the rest of the 'land rights' section is **not** applicable.

Are the land rights in the name of the user?

The Applicant should confirm if the land rights are in their name.

If land rights are in the Applicant's name, please select 'Yes'. If land rights are **not** in Applicant's name, please select 'No'.

If 'No' is selected and the Applicant is not the party who has entered into the land rights agreement, please upload a letter obtained from the named entity on the land rights stating that the Applicant has the rights to use the land.

Confirm the applicable land interests relating to the project site that you are providing evidence for:

This section relates to the secured land rights associated with the Original Red Line Boundary for the project site and seeks to understand if an Applicant has secured the rights to lease or own the land (or already leases or owns the land) for the site on which their project is planned to be located.

The Applicant should select the applicable land interests relating to the project site they are providing evidence for from the agreement types listed:

- a. Option agreement with accompanying Lease or Purchase Agreement
- b. Existing Land Lease
- c. Existing Ownership

For the avoidance of doubt, land documentation (apart from "Existing Ownership") **must** be signed by both the Applicant and the landowner (or their agent). Should the documentation not be signed by both the Applicant and the landowner (or their agent). The Applicant will have the chance to provide an explanation.

Details on the land rights requirements can be found in [section 4.1c of the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology](#)

Please refer to the section below that matches the land rights evidence that you are providing for your project.

Land rights – Option Agreement**Does the Option Agreement have a term greater than or equal to 3 years from the date of the Gate 2 submission?**

The Applicant should confirm if the Option Agreement has a term greater than or equal to 3 years from the date of the Gate 2 submission.

If Option Agreement has a term greater than or equal to 3 years from the date of the Gate 2 submission, please select 'Yes'. If Option Agreement has a term less than 3 years from the date of the Gate 2 submission, please select 'No'.

If 'No' is selected, the Applicant should also complete the exceptions section below.

For the avoidance of doubt, any Option Agreement must have a **minimum 3-year period** (unless NESO discretion applied via [Gate 2 Criteria Methodology](#)) from the date the Option is signed (not the date the Gate 2 application is submitted).

The Option Agreement **must** be accompanied by a Form of Lease or Purchase Agreement (also known as a Transfer)

Further details on Option Agreements can be found in [section 4.1c of the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology](#)

Please select the exceptions that apply to the land for your project:

The Applicant should select the exceptions that apply to the land for their project from the below options and provide evidence:

- a. Connection date is less than 3 years away from application window and the Option Period extends to the Connection date. The Applicant should upload a project development and construction plan as evidence.
- b. Option agreement is less than 3 years, with no option to extend. If this option is selected, the **Applicant should select the relevant exception criteria** from the below options:
 - i. The Option Agreement is entered into before the authority's decision date for CMP 435.
 - ii. There is less than 3 years remaining until entering the lease/ purchase agreement. If this option is selected, the Applicant should upload a project development and construction plan as evidence.
 - iii. Project is a test / demo site with a life cycle of less than 3 years. If this option is selected, the Applicant should upload a project development and construction plan as evidence.
 - iv. Other. If this option is selected, the Applicant should provide comments to support why their option agreement period is less than 3 years using the comments section provided on the form.
- c. The land or part of the land for the Applicant's project is subject to a CPO. If this option is selected, the Applicant should provide evidence (highlighting relevant sections) that evidence all or part of the land is subject to a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO).
- d. The land or part of the land for the Applicant's project is in Probate. If this option is selected, the Applicant should provide evidence that all or part of the land is subject to an ongoing probate process.
- e. Project has already met Queue Management milestone M1 (Consents Initiated).

Please note, for some of the exceptions, queue management milestones need to be met (M5 where applicable and M6). [ENA Queue Management Guidance document](#) sets out the evidence requirements for meeting Queue Management milestones. Further details on allowable exceptions to evidence requirements are given in section 4.1c of the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology.

Please select from the below options in relation to the accompanying Lease or Purchase Agreement:

The Lease or Purchase Agreement which accompanies the Option Agreement must reflect the typical minimum operational timelines for that type of project and this will be a minimum 20 years from the date of exercise of the Option unless the Applicant can demonstrate, to the reasonable satisfaction of NESO, that the expected operational life of the project is less than 20 years e.g. in relation to test and demonstration projects.

The Applicant should select from the below options in relation to the accompanying Lease or Purchase Agreement:

- Term of 20 years or more remaining at the date of submission of Gate 2 Application; or
- Term remaining under 20 years, but the operational life of the Project is less than 20 years (e.g. test and demonstration projects).

Please note that neither of the two options above are applicable if the Applicant has a Purchase Agreement (also known as a Transfer).

Please note that if the term remaining is under 20 years and the operational life of the Project is less than 20 years, the Applicant should upload a document signed by the Director explaining why a period of 20 years is not required.

Please upload a copy of the land lease or purchase agreement

The Applicant should upload a copy of the land lease or purchase agreement.

Does the landlord have unilateral termination provision?

This question is seeking to identify where the landowner or landlord can terminate the option/lease on grounds other than insolvency and material breach.

The Applicant should confirm if the landlord has unilateral termination provision.

If the landlord has unilateral termination provision, please select 'Yes'. If the landlord **does not** have unilateral termination provision, please select 'No'.

For more details on termination provisions in options and leases, please see [section 8.14](#) of the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology.

Agreement start date

The Applicant should confirm the lease/purchase agreement start date using the calendar tool provided in the form in [DD/MM/YYYY] format.

Agreement end date

The Applicant should confirm the lease/purchase agreement end date using the calendar tool provided in the form in [DD/MM/YYYY] format.

Land rights – Existing lease**Please select from the below options in relation to the accompanying Lease or Purchase Agreement:**

The Lease or Purchase Agreement which accompanies the Option Agreement must reflect the typical minimum operational timelines for that type of project and this will be a minimum 20 years from the date of exercise of the Option unless the Applicant can demonstrate, to the reasonable satisfaction of NESO, that the expected operational life of the project is less than 20 years e.g. in relation to test and demonstration projects.

The Applicant should select from the below options in relation to the accompanying Lease or Purchase Agreement:

- Term of 20 years or more remaining at the date of submission of Gate 2 Application; or
- Term remaining under 20 years, but the operational life of the Project is less than 20 years (e.g. test and demonstration projects).

Please note that neither of the two options above are applicable if the Applicant has a Purchase Agreement (also known as a Transfer).

Please note that if the term remaining is under 20 years and the operational life of the Project is less than 20 years, Applicant should upload a document signed by the Director explaining why a period of 20 years is not required.

Please upload a copy of the land lease or purchase agreement

The Applicant should upload a copy of the land lease or purchase agreement.

Does the landlord have unilateral termination provision?

This question is seeking to identify where the landowner or landlord can terminate the option/lease on grounds other than insolvency and material breach.

The Applicant should confirm if the landlord has unilateral termination provision.

If the landlord has unilateral termination provision, please select 'Yes'. If the landlord **does not** have unilateral termination provision, please select 'No'.

For more details on termination provisions in options and leases, please see [section 8.14](#) of the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology.

Lease start date

The Applicant should confirm the lease start date using the calendar tool provided in the form in [DD/MM/YYYY] format.

Lease end date

The Applicant should confirm the lease end date using the calendar tool provided in the form in [DD/MM/YYYY] format.

Existing Ownership

Please select the document you will provide as evidence of ownership

The Applicant should select as appropriate from the options below and upload evidence for each selection:

- Official copy of the register of title where land is registered at the Land Registry; or
- Title deeds or a certification of title by a solicitor where land is not registered Land Registry at the time of submission to Gate 2 evidence.

Section 6 Project planning

This section is for Applicants seeking to meet Gate 2 Readiness via the ‘planning’ route. As per section 5 of the Gate 2 Methodology, a project can submit evidence of a Development Consent Order (DCO) rather than land rights if the project is going through the DCO process.

Please note that if your project is meeting the readiness criteria via land rights but has also submitted planning consent this can be provided in this section as having land rights and submitting planning consent means that the project will be considered as planning submitted for queue formation purposes as per section 5.7 of the NESO Connections Network Design Methodology.

Please note, if the Applicant is also seeking protection 1 or 2a, they need to fill out “**Strategic alignment**” section

What is the planning jurisdiction for your project?

The Applicant should confirm their planning jurisdiction from the below options:

- England
- Wales

Which planning regime is your project following?

The Applicant should confirm which planning regime their project is following from the options below:

- Town & Country Planning. If this option is selected, please see the Town and Country planning sections below.
- Development Consent Order (DCO). If this option is selected, please see the DCO section below.
- Section 36 (England only). If this option is selected, please see the Section 36 section below.
- Development of National Significance (Wales only). If this option is selected, please see the Development of National Significance (DONS) sections below.
- Other Planning Route: Exception. If this option is selected, please see the Other Planning Route: Exception sections below

Further details of the Planning routes can be found in section 5.1 of the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology.

Town & Country Planning

Town & Country application submitted?

The Applicant should confirm if the town & country application for their project has been submitted.

If the town & country application has been submitted for the Applicant's project, please select 'Yes'. If the town & country application has **not** been submitted for the Applicant's project, please select 'No'.

If 'Yes' is selected, enter the submission date using the calendar tool provided in the form in [DD/MM/YYYY] format. The Applicant should also input the planning reference number for their submitted application, the name of the local authority submitted to, and upload copies of any consenting applications and subsequent approvals.

Please note that this option cannot be used to demonstrate planning readiness but it can be used alongside land rights for the purposes of queue formation as per section 5.7 of the NESO Connections Network Design Methodology.

Town & Country consents achieved?

The Applicant should confirm if the town & country consents for their project has been achieved.

If the consents have been achieved for the Applicant's project, please select 'Yes'. If the consents have **not** been achieved for the Applicant's project, please select 'No'.

If 'Yes' is selected, enter the achieved date using the calendar tool provided in the form in [DD/MM/YYYY] format.

Development Consent Order (DCO)

Planning application submitted?

The Applicant should confirm if the Development Consent Order (DCO) planning application has been submitted.

If the DCO planning application has been submitted for the Applicant's project, please select 'Yes'. If the DCO planning application has **not** been submitted for the Applicant's project, please select 'No'.

If 'Yes' is selected, enter the NPIS number and upload a copy of the application submitted.

DCO application validated?

The Applicant should confirm if the Development Consent Order (DCO) application has been validated.

If the DCO application has been validated for the Applicant's project, please select 'Yes'. If the DCO application has **not** been validated, please select 'No'.

If 'Yes' is selected, enter the validated date using the calendar tool provided in the form in [DD/MM/YYYY] format.

Section 36

Section 36 submitted?

The Applicant should confirm if the section 36 application for their project has been submitted.

If the section 36 application has been submitted for the Applicant's project, please select 'Yes'. If the section 36 application has **not** been submitted, please select 'No'.

If 'Yes' is selected, enter the submission date using the calendar tool provided in the form in [DD/MM/YYYY] format. The Applicant should also input the planning reference number for their submitted application, the name of the local authority submitted to, and upload copies of any consenting applications and subsequent approvals.

Please note that this option cannot be used to demonstrate planning readiness but it can be used alongside land rights for the purposes of queue formation as per section 5.7 of the NESO Connections Network Design Methodology.

Section 36 application achieved?

The Applicant should confirm if the section 36 application for their project has been achieved.

If the section 36 application has been achieved for the Applicant's project, please select 'Yes'. If the application has **not** been achieved for the Applicant's project, please select 'No'.

If 'Yes' is selected, enter the achieved date using the calendar tool provided in the form in [DD/MM/YYYY] format.

Development of National Significance (DONS)

DONS submitted?

The Applicant should confirm if the Development of National Significance (DONS) application for their project has been submitted.

If the application has been submitted for the Applicant's project, please select 'Yes'. If the application has **not** been submitted for, please select 'No'.

If 'Yes' is selected, enter the submission date using the calendar tool provided in the form in [DD/MM/YYYY] format. The Applicant should also input the planning reference number for their submitted application, the name of the local authority submitted to, and upload copies of any consenting applications and subsequent approvals.

Please note that this option cannot be used to demonstrate planning readiness but it can be used alongside land rights for the purposes of queue formation as per section 5.7 of the NESO Connections Network Design Methodology.

DONS application achieved?

The Applicant should confirm if the DONS application for their project has been achieved.

If the DONS application has been achieved for the Applicant's project, please select 'Yes'. If the DONS application has **not** been achieved for the Applicant's project, please select 'No'.

If 'Yes' is selected, enter the achieved date using the calendar tool provided in the form in [DD/MM/YYYY] format.

Other Planning Route: Exception**Have you confirmed with NGED that your project has been approved for the planning exception route?**

The Applicant should confirm if they have confirmed with NGED that their project has been approved for the planning exception route.

If the Applicant has confirmed with NGED, please select 'Yes'. If the Applicant has **not** confirmed with NGED, please select 'No'.

If 'Yes' is selected, the Applicant should upload evidence of confirmation from NGED.

Application submitted?

The Applicant should confirm if the Other Planning Route: Exception application has been submitted.

If the application has been submitted for the Applicant's project, please select 'Yes'.

If the application has **not** been submitted for the Applicant's project, please select 'No'.

If 'Yes' is selected, enter the submission date using the calendar tool provided in the form in [DD/MM/YYYY] format. The Applicant should also input the planning reference number for their submitted application, the name of the local authority submitted to, and upload copies of any consenting applications and subsequent approvals.

Consents achieved?

The Applicant should confirm if the planning exception route consents for their project has been achieved.

If the consents have been achieved for the Applicant's project, please select 'Yes'. If the consents have **not** been achieved, please select 'No'.

If 'Yes' is selected, enter the achieved date using the calendar tool provided in the form in [DD/MM/YYYY] format.

Is your project already under construction?

The Applicant should confirm if their project is already under construction.

If the Applicant's project is already under construction, please select 'Yes'. If the Applicant's project is **not yet** under construction, please select 'No'.

Section 7 Strategic alignment

Section 6.1 of the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology states that projects seeking to meet Gate 2 Criteria will need to, in addition to meeting the Gate 2 Readiness criteria, meet one of the following Gate 2 Strategic Alignment Criteria:

- a) Eligible for relevant 'protections' as set out in section 6.2 of the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology; or
- b) Aligned to the capacities within the CP30 Action Plan as described in the Connections Network Design Methodology; or
- c) Designated as described in the Project Designation Methodology; or
- d) A project not within scope of the CP30 Action Plan and of a technology type listed in the table below.

This section is not mandatory, but Applicants seeking to meet Gate 2 Strategic Alignment Criteria (a), (b) or (d), will need to provide evidence if they wish to be considered for these. If no evidence is provided, NGED will not be able to assess against the strategic alignment criteria.

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

Section 6.2 of the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology sets out the scope and requirements for protections, including treatment of projects where a planning application is successfully appealed. The appendix of the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology includes protection scenarios.

Which Gate 2 Strategic Alignment Criteria do you wish to be considered for?

The Applicant should confirm which Gate 2 strategic alignment criteria they wish to be considered for from the below options:

- a. Protections
- b. Project is within the scope of the CP2030 Action Plan
- d. Project technology is not in the scope of the CP2030 Action Plan

or,

None of the above

or,

I am opting not to complete the strategic alignment section (not recommended for queue formation purposes). Please note if this option is selected it may be difficult to align your project to the correct strategic alignment.

Please see table in section 6.3 of the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology for details of which technologies are in scope of the CP2030 Action plan.

Further details on strategic alignment criteria (b) and (d) will be found in section 6.3 of the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology.

Please note, strategic criteria (c) for designated projects, is applied for separately and in accordance with the Project Designation Methodology.

Please confirm the total capacity you are seeking protections for:

This question is not mandatory, but Applicants are recommended to complete it if they are seeking to evidence why they meet strategic alignment criteria (a).

The Applicant should input import capacity (if applicable) and export capacity they are seeking protections for (expressed in whole MW or to one decimal place) per technology type.

Please note, it is important to confirm that the capacity figures entered are accurate and what the Applicant is seeking protection for, as once the form is submitted, this can no longer be changed.

Useful NESO materials (webinar and slides) on protections can be found [here](#).

Please confirm which of the protections are applicable to your project:

This is only applicable if seeking to meet "Protections" under Gate 2 Strategic Alignment Criteria (a).

The Applicant should **confirm which of the protections are applicable to their project:**

- Protection Clause 1 (Projects connecting by end of 2026).
- Protection Clause 2a (Projects which are significantly progressed).
- Protection Clause 2b (Projects which are significantly progressed (those who reapply in CMP434 only)).
- Protection Clause 3 (Projects which obtain planning consent after closure of the CMP435 gated application window (those who reapply in CMP434 only)).

If you are seeking protections 2b or 3 as part of future 434 windows, please select the relevant option.

Details on strategic alignment criteria (a) – ‘Protections’ can be found in [section 6.2 of the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology](#).

For projects seeking protections, evidence will need to be provided of meeting Protection Clause 1 and Protection Clause 2a, as set out below:

Protection Clause 1**Please select the applicable clause protection:**

The Applicant should select the applicable clause protection for their project:

- Project has a connection date on or before 31st December 2026 and has achieved Queue Management milestone M2 (Consents) and M7 (Financial commitment). [ENA Queue Management Guidance document](#) sets out the evidence requirements for meeting Queue Management milestones. If this option is selected, Applicant should upload evidence that Queue Management milestone M7 (Financial Commitment) has been met.
 - 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.
- Project has a connection date on or before 31st December 2026 and does not require consents. If Applicant's project does not require consents, please upload letter signed by the director stating why no statutory consents are required.

Protection Clause 2a**Please select the applicable clause protection:**

The Applicant should select the applicable clause protection for their project:

- Project has achieved queue management milestone M1 prior to 20 December 2024 and has also achieved queue management milestone M2 (Consents).
- Project does not require planning consents. If the Applicant's project does not require consents, please upload evidence that Queue Management milestone M7 (Financial investment decision) has been met. The Applicant should also upload a letter signed by the director stating why no statutory consents are required.
- Project has a "live" Contract for Difference (CfD). If this option is selected, the Applicant should upload the Contract for Difference for their project.
- Hold a "live" Capacity Market contract. If this option is selected, the Applicant should upload the Capacity Market contract for their project.
- Project has a "live" contract with NESO awarded through their 'Network Services' processes (Voltage Network Services, Stability Network Services or Constraint Management Intertrip Services). If this option is selected, the Applicant should upload evidence of their project having a contract with NESO awarded through their 'Network Services' processes.

For the avoidance of doubt, please note that NGED will check publicly available data to verify if the Applicant holds a "live" Contracts for Difference contract, "live" Capacity Market contract, or a "live contract with NESO awarded through their 'Network Services' processes.

Section 8 Other Comments

Do you have any other comments?

The Applicant may input any other comments that are not covered in the prior sections in the comments section on the form.

Section 9 Review and submit

I hereby consent to NESO publishing the following information in an 'EA Register' as a result of the submission of this Readiness Declaration

The 'EA Register' will be published by NESO on their Website as a one-off publication shortly after the conclusion of the queue formation process.

Applicant should choose to opt out if they don't consent to:

NESO publishing the following information in an 'EA Register' as a result of the submission of this Readiness Declaration:

- The technology type(s) which are declared herein to be 'ready'.
- The associated installed capacity.
- The project name.
- The existing connection point(s); and
- The existing connection date(s).

Glossary

Acronym/Term	Definition
BEGA	Bilateral Embedded Generator Agreement
CMP	CUSC Modification Proposal
CUSC	Connection and Use of System Code
Developer Capacity	Developer Capacity typically refers to the capacity that a developer plans to install and connect to the grid. This includes the total potential output of all generating units within a project.
Distribution Network	An electrical network for the distribution of electrical power from and to a third party[s] connected to it, a transmission or another Distribution Network.
DNO	Distribution Network Operator
ENA	Energy Networks Association
Firm Connection	A guaranteed level of network capacity is always available, meaning your generation or demand can operate without restrictions.
Independent Distribution Network Operators (IDNOs)	Independent Distribution Network Operators develop, operate and maintain local electricity distribution network. IDNO networks are directly connected to the Distribution Network Operator (DNO) networks or indirectly to the DNO via another IDNO
Installed Capacity	As defined in CUSC Section 11. 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 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
MW	Megawatt
NESO	National Energy System Operator
Non-Firm Connection	Network access is subject to availability, meaning your connection may be temporarily restricted or curtailed during periods of network congestion or constraints. This allows earlier connection but with limitations on usage.
Option Agreement	Is where the user enters into an agreement with a landowner for the right to buy or lease their land. The Applicant has the option to purchase or lease the land (within a period defined in the agreement) but is not under an obligation to do so.
ORLB	Original Red Line Boundary
Point of Connection (PoC)	Is the point (or points) of physical connection to the existing Transmission / Distribution System.
Temporary Non-Firm Connection	A time-limited arrangement where an applicant may connect earlier than their firm connection date but under restrictions, such as reduced availability during peak periods.

