



Strategic Energy Update

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26-07-21

Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) Webinar 22nd July 2021

Presentations and recording of the session on the 22nd of July will be published in due course at;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/offshore-transmission-network-review>

Minister of State for Housing - Project Speed

[https://www.nipa-uk.org/uploads/news/Letter to NIPA-Christopher Pincher MP.pdf](https://www.nipa-uk.org/uploads/news/Letter_to_NIPA-Christopher_Pincher_MP.pdf)

Glossary

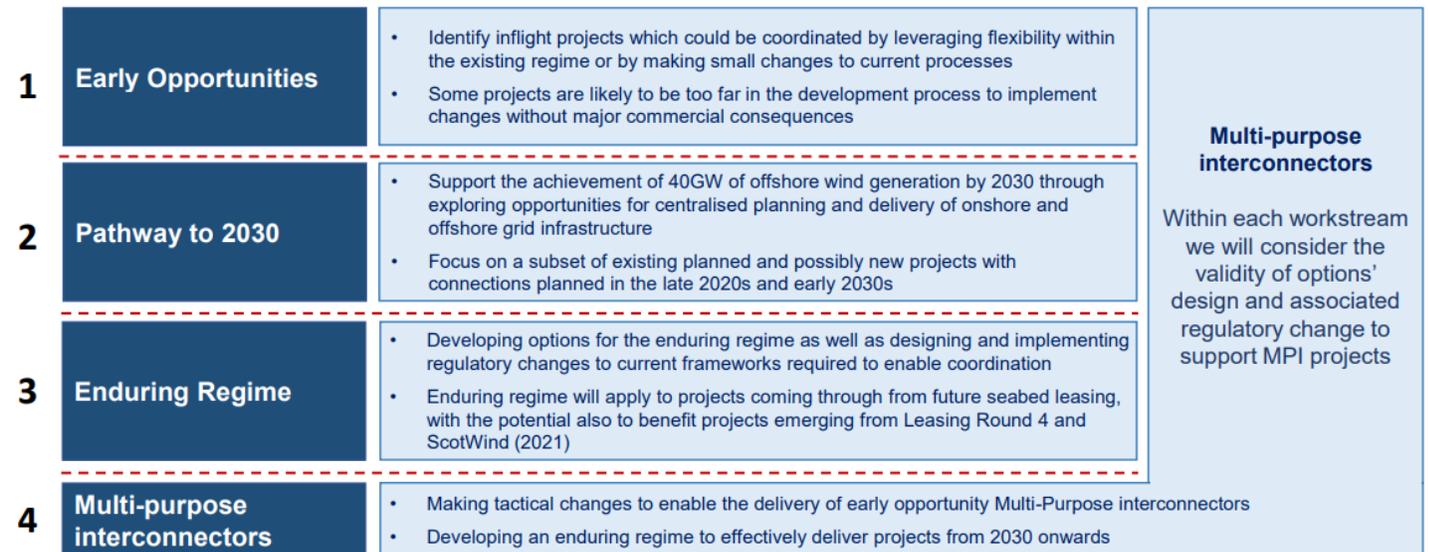
CIION – [Connection Infrastructure Options Note](#)

ESO – National Grid Electricity System Operator

MPI – [Multipurpose Interconnector](#)

Ofgem – Office of Gas and Electricity Markets

OTNR workstreams



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OTNR – Forward Guidance

Ofgem

- a) Consultations regarding **MPI** and anticipatory investment to support **Early Opportunities** and **Pathway to 2030** are ongoing
- b) Consultation on the future of ESO as System Operator is open
 - By Dec 21/Jan 22 Ofgem will publish preliminary “minded to” findings regarding these consultations
 - By June 2022 regulatory changes to facilitate coordination before 2030 will be in place

BEIS & MHCLG

- a) Policy Consultation August/September 2021 regarding **Enduring Regime** with possible further consultation January 2022
- b) **Early Coordination** consultation Q4 2021
- c) Energy National Policy Statements consultation Q4 2021

ESO

- a) Autumn update on Coordination about 22nd Sept 2021
 - By January 2022 the High Level Network Design (HND) will be complete, this will be the basis on which future Connection Offers are made in the CION process

OTNR – Emerging Planning Policy

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Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

The National Infrastructure Planning Reform Programme, operational review and offshore wind

Project Speed was announced by the Prime Minister in Summer 2020 and the National Infrastructure Strategy set out commitments arising from Project Speed. This included the **National Infrastructure Planning Reform Programme** to refresh how the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) regime operates, making it more effective and bringing government departments together to deliver more certainty in the process and better and faster outcomes.

The reform programme will:

- Set an **ambition to cut timescales by up to 50%** for some projects entering the system from September 2023;
- Establish a **project “acceleration team”** of planning experts to accelerate infrastructure projects through the system, identifying innovative ways to deliver faster planning consents; and
- **Monitor the performance** of the NSIP regime, coordinate with relevant departments on the need for a review of their National Policy Statements and ensure effective engagement with infrastructure departments, statutory consultees and the Planning Inspectorate and industry.

Supported by:

- A **new system of environmental assessment** (including Strategic Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impacts Assessments) – to deliver a new framework that provides clarity, removes duplication, and ensures environmental considerations are embedded effectively in decision making at an early stage.

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OTNR – Emerging Planning Policy

Draft National Policy Statement has a clear *expectation of coordination by default*

At OTNR webinar MHCLG discussed the draft NPS, and set out that draft policy wording is such that;

Policy indicates that offshore Transmission should be “*co-ordinated wherever possible*”

This wording will be part of the forthcoming consultation

“The final NPS is due to be adopted by the end of 2021”

Emerging draft NPSs are “*potentially capable of being important considerations in the decision making process*” – a matter for the Secretary of state to consider within the framework of the Planning Act 2008



NGET Network Development Policy Decisions 30th June 2021

East Anglia and South Coast Major Projects (SCD1, BTNO, AENC, ATNC, TENC)

<https://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/electricity-transmission/document/137041/download>

- A set of East Anglia and Thames Estuary major projects has been given 'Proceed' recommendation this year, including;
- HVDC Link from Suffolk to Kent (SCD1) **EISD 2029**
- New 400Kv double circuit from Bramford to Twinstead (BTNO) **ESID 2028**
- A new 400kV double circuit in north East Anglia [Norwich to Bramford] (AENC) **ESID 2030**
- A new 400kV double circuit in south East Anglia [Bramford to Tilbury] (ATNC) **ESID 2030**
- Thames Estuary reinforcement (TENC) **ESID 2030**

"We submitted these reinforcement projects for NOA 2020/21 assessment and ESO's NOA recommendations have confirmed the system benefit in delivering these projects for their **Earliest In Service Dates** (EISDs)

Strategic optioneering for the first four projects has been completed and we will make further progress in project design and development in the coming year"

Policy Exchange

8th July 2021

Crossed Wires



Maintaining public support for offshore wind farms

Ed Birkett

Foreword by Rt Hon Dame Andrea Leadsom DBE MP and
Rt Hon Amber Rudd



Crossed Wires Maintaining public support for offshore wind farms - Policy Exchange

Without more coordination between projects, the impact of this new infrastructure on local communities and the environment risks similar local backlash to onshore wind farms and fracking.

The report also proposes compensation for affected communities in the form of 'Offshore Wind Wealth Funds'.

<https://policyexchange.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Crossed-Wires.pdf>

I and colleagues have been in contact with the author, Ed Birkett

This document focuses on East Anglia

Highlights include:

- 'Offshore Wind Wealth Funds' to fund community projects; Offshore Wind Wealth Funds could be modelled on the Government's prior plans for '[Shale Wealth Funds](#)'
- Offshore wind farms should pay a minimum community benefit of £0.50 per MWh (approximately £2m per year for a 1 GW offshore wind farm).
- Government should make community benefits mandatory for all new offshore wind farms that participate in the Government's Contracts for Difference auctions
- There is no reason why the approach to Community Benefit Funds for *onshore wind farms* could not be extended to communities that host **new network infrastructure**