Public

Project Designation Methodology

November 2024

NESO
National Energy System Operator

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How to read this document

Welcome to our Project Designation Methodology document. This document explains how NESO will designate projects, under the reformed electricity transmission connection process, based on the criteria outlined in this document.

Section 1 provides an overview of the Project Designation process.

The full document provides further detail on the methodology and explains the criteria, definitions and process for applying the Project Designation to projects.

This document will be reviewed and updated in line with the relevant NESO licence conditions.

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01. Introduction

This section provides an overview of the Project Designation Methodology

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1.1 Purpose of this document

1.1.1 The purpose of the Project Designation Methodology is to explain how projects will be designated by NESO within the reformed electricity transmission connection process. This document should be read alongside the Gate 2 Criteria Methodology, the Connections Network Design Methodology (CNDM), and the overarching strategic narrative document.

1.1.2 Designated projects can:

- be included within the reformed connections queue (providing they meet the Gate 2 Readiness Criteria); and
- be prioritised for queue position within a Gate 2 assessment process (including the Gate 2 to Whole Queue process).
    - By 'prioritised for queue position' we mean that they could have priority access to available capacity / earlier connection dates compared to other projects in that Gate 2 tranche by placing them higher up the queue for network design purposes than those in the queue which are not designated). In addition, designated projects may be eligible for acceleration post Gate 2 should another project exit and the capacity can be reallocated. The CNDM sets out how these processes will work in practice.

1.1.3 NESO considers that a project designation process is necessary to ensure that projects that are critical to security of supply and/or operability, demonstrate significant additional consumer, net zero and/or wider economic and/or societal benefits should be capable of being included within the reformed connections queue and/or of being accelerated under the reformed connections process, due to the significant associated benefits that they can provide to GB consumers.

1.1.4 This methodology will be followed by NESO as we assess any applications for projects to be designated from the start of the reformed process for connection to or use of GB's electricity transmission system.

1.1.5 This methodology has been developed under the expectation of a licence condition to maintain in force a Project Designation Methodology, that has been approved by Ofgem and is reviewed on an annual basis.

1.2 Overview of the Methodology

1.2.1 This Methodology :

- Explains the reasons projects could be designated.
- Sets out the criteria to be used by NESO to assess whether individual projects should be designated.
- Sets out the process by which NESO will designate projects, including communication of decisions.

1.3 What other policy and publications does this methodology refer to?

1.3.1 The below table provides links to related publications and policy documents which are referenced within this document.

Existing Policy	Description
Gate 2 Criteria Methodology	The Gate 2 Criteria Methodology sets out the two parts of the Gate 2 Criteria; the Gate 2 Readiness Criteria and the Gate 2 Strategic Alignment Criteria. It also explains how Users evidence they have met the Gate 2 Readiness Criteria, and how such evidence is assessed.
Connections Network Design Methodology (CNDM)	The Connections Network Design Methodology (CNDM) describes how relevant generation and demand connections will be assessed and strategically designed in alignment with wider network planning activities.
Clean Power 2030 Report	NESO has provided advice to Government on achieving Clean Power by 2030 via our Clean Power 2030 Report.

Future Policy	Description
Clean Power 2030 Action Plan	Government's Clean Power 2030 Action Plan is expected later this year.

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02. Identifying projects that can be designated

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2.1 The categories of projects that can be designated

2.1.1 NESO considers that the following categories of projects are most likely to provide significant additional consumer, net zero and/or wider economic and/or societal benefits. NESO therefore only intends to designate individual projects that fall within one or more of the below categories :

- Projects that are critical to Security of Supply;
- Projects that are critical to System Operation;
- Projects that materially reduce system and/or network constraints;
- Projects that are new technologies and/or highly innovative, that are not included within the scope of the pathways in Government's Clean Power 2030 Action plan (CP30 Plan); and/or
- Projects with very long lead times (i.e. long design, consenting and construction periods) that may be needed beyond the 2031 to 2035 pathway (hereafter referred to as the '2035 pathway') within the CP30 Plan which will be based on the Holistic Transition scenario within our Future Energy Scenarios 2024 (FES24) to 2035.

2.1.2 Note that projects that fall under NESO's Network Services Procurement (previously referred to as Pathfinders) are likely to initially go through the 'bay / capacity reservation' process outlined in CMP434 Implementing Connections Reform. Once the outcome of the competition / auction is known, then those projects could also be able to be designated, subject to meeting the relevant criteria, so as to ensure they can provide the necessary services when needed.

2.1.3 Note, in future Competitively Appointed Transmission Owner (CATO) and co-ordinated offshore network design arrangements may also be incorporated into future versions of this methodology and would likely go through the same process as Network Services Procurement.

2.1.4 Also note that this methodology applies to any project in scope of the reformed process for connection to or use of GB's electricity transmission system, i.e. any projects in the current queue, or in future in the reformed queue (including new applicants) can be considered for designation. **A User seeking designation must make a formal application to NESO for their project to be designated via the process set out within this document**.

2.1.5 The following chapters set out more information on:

- What is meant by each of the terms referred to in the categories above
- The key characteristics that designated project may demonstrate; and
- The circumstances under which NESO would designate a project, or projects, in each of the categories above.

2.2 Project Designation Criteria (1/4)

2.2.1 In order to determine whether a specific project, or projects, should be designated NESO will assess projects against the following criteria, which vary depending on the designation category. A designated project needs to meet at least one of the categories of projects and associated criteria within this section.

2.2.2 In assessing projects against the criteria NESO will review the clarity and robustness of information provided by the User to determine whether it provides a high level of confidence that the project meets the relevant criteria.

2.2.3 In general, NESO only envisages designating projects in exceptional circumstances, where those projects demonstrate that they meet the detailed criteria set out in this Project Designation Methodology.

2.2 Project Designation Criteria (2/4)

A. Critical to Security of Supply:

NESO will only designate a project, or projects, under the 'critical to security of supply' category if:

a) NESO assesses that the combination of connected capacity and projects due to connect represents a material risk to NESO meeting its security of supply objectives efficiently within a given year; and

b) NESO identifies that connecting a project, or projects, before that given year would materially mitigate the above risk and/or would deliver material benefits to GB consumers.

B. Critical to system operation:

NESO will only designate a project under the 'critical to system operation' category if:

a) Without such project, NESO assesses that the combination of connected capacity and other connections represents a material risk to NESO maintaining the safe, reliable, and efficient operation of the electricity transmission and distribution system within a given year; and

b) NESO identifies that connecting such a project would materially mitigate the above risk and/or would deliver material benefits to GB consumers.

2.2 Project Designation Criteria (3/4)

C. Materially reduce system and/or network constraints:

NESO will only designate a project under the 'materially reduce system and/or network constraints' category if:

a) NESO assesses that the combination of connected capacity and projects due to connect represents a material risk to NESO's management of constraints on the transmission system and/or network, risking significant additional costs within a given year; and

b) NESO identifies that connecting a project before that given year would materially mitigate the above risk and/or would deliver material benefits to GB consumers.

D. New technologies and/or highly innovative

NESO will only designate a project under the 'new technologies and/or highly innovative' category if that project would deliver benefits to consumers and either:

a) does not correspond with a technology that has been specified within the CP30 Plan; or

b) is within a technology, (e.g. 'Wind' or 'Nuclear) that has been specified within the CP30 Plan but is a novel sub-type which has been successfully developed and demonstrated, is considered commercially viable and would provide benefits for GB consumers.

- As part of considering of how a project performs against this criterion, we will consider when the technology has become a commercial product based on the technology readiness level[1].

[1] https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/EPSRC-11012022-Technologyreadinesslevelsfrombasicresearchtoadoptionanddiffusion.pdf

2.2 Project Designation Criteria (4/4)

E. Projects with 'Very long lead times'

NESO will only designate a project under the 'very long lead times' category if that project provides robust evidence of a very long lead time, and specifically a lead time for commissioning and operation beyond 2035, along with evidence:

a) that it's development timelines are in line with industry best practice; and

b) that the project delivers benefits to consumers.

N.B. If we designate any projects against this category, any connection date offered will not be before end 2035.

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03. Key characteristics of the categories of projects that can be designated

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3.1 Introduction to Section 3

3.1.1 The characteristics that are set out in Section 3 are intended to frame the designation criteria and provide background information on the categories of projects covered by the Project Designation Methodology.

3.1.2 Aligning with these characteristics does not by default mean that a User has met the designation criteria set out in Section 2.2.

3.2 Critical to Security of Supply (1/2)

3.2.1 Under the Energy Act 2023 Section 163, NESO has a duty to promote the "security of supply" objective i.e. "ensuring the security of supply to existing and future consumers, of:

(a) electricity conveyed by distribution systems or transmission systems, and

(b) gas conveyed through pipes."

3.2.2 As the UK's energy is increasingly supplied from many different locations, NESO needs to consider multiple factors that could affect the supply in the future. An understanding of these factors informs what actions are necessary to ensure our security of supply. NESO seeks to enable a foundation for a stable, reliable, and secure energy system through an integrated and co-ordinated approach to ensure our energy supply needs can be securely met.

3.2.3 NESO currently views security of supply in terms of "adequacy", i.e. the ability to meet demand. Under the Reliability Standard Methodology (July 2013), NESO must maintain a reliability standard of less than 3 hours Loss of Load Expectation, which represents the number of hours/periods per annum in which, over the long-term, it is statistically expected that supply will not meet demand. As certain technologies have different De-rated capacity[2], this means that certain technologies provide better contributions to security of supply. For example, based on this definition, gas plants will contribute more to security of supply than solar, and this will have consequential impacts to the network reinforcements.

3.2.4 Whilst the UK has demonstrated consistent success in ensuring secure electricity supplies and is expected to continue this trend in the future, there may be instances where it is necessary to designate projects as being critical to meet the security of supply objective, particularly as there is an anticipation that there will be a significant increase in peak electricity demand by 2035. At the same time, the energy transition is leading to a different mix of technology types being connected to the network, providing differing levels of efficiency in the services they provide (e.g. addition of significant new volumes of wind, solar and short-duration storage, reduction in volumes of unabated gas). Therefore, there may be a requirement to utilise NESO designation under the criteria of Security of Supply to address these changes efficiently and ensure that there is sufficient electricity to handle fluctuations in demand and supply efficiently year on year.

[2] The de-rated capacity can be defined for a particular plant or technology as reflecting the proportion of capacity which can be regarded as firm, on average, across a stress period. To note, de-rating is not just about technical availability, but in the case of storage will be dependent on its duration.

3.1 Critical to Security of Supply (2/2)

3.2.5 In general, dispatchable generation would be prioritised on expected available capacity. Particular types of storage, particularly longer duration storage, may also be of value based on a combination of MW and MWh (or alternatively MW and duration) as we connect a higher proportion of weather dependent renewables. Another consideration might be combined renewables (usually solar) and storage (usually battery) projects. The contribution to Security of Supply of for example a 50MW solar farm and 50MW 4 hour battery would be higher than the battery or solar operation alone, and they might be able to share a 50 MW connection.

3.3 Critical to System Operation (1/2)

3.3.1 "Critical to system operation" within the context of the Great Britain (GB) electricity grid refers to assets, functions, and entities essential for maintaining the safe, reliable, and efficient operation of the electricity transmission and distribution system. These critical components ensure the continuous balancing of supply and demand, the stability of the grid, and the prevention of blackouts or system failures, which could have widespread economic and social impacts.

3.3.2 In GB, the electricity system follows operational standards outlined in the Grid Code and SQSS, legally binding documents that govern the planning, operation, and connection to the high-voltage transmission network. Key elements that may be deemed "critical to system operation" may include:

1) Generation Units: These include power plants, renewable energy sources (wind, solar, etc.), and energy storage systems that provide the required generation capacity to meet demand.
2) Transmission and Distribution Networks: The high-voltage transmission network, managed by Transmission Owners and operated by NESO, and the regional distribution networks, managed and operated by Distribution Network Operators (DNOs), are critical for delivering electricity across GB. The Security and Quality of Supply Standard (SQSS) outlines the minimum standards for network reliability and security.
3) Control Systems and Communication Infrastructure: The real-time monitoring and control of the grid rely on advanced supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems, communication networks, and data flows. These enable NESO to balance generation and demand, respond to system disturbances, and ensure compliance with Licenses.
4) Balancing Services: Assets contracted to deliver frequency response, voltage control, and stability services among others necessary to support system operability. These services are provided through mandatory requirements of the Grid Code, through markets, or under contracts and are essential for maintaining a safe and secure electricity system.
5) Cybersecurity and Physical Security: The increasing digitalisation of grid operations makes cybersecurity critical. The Network and Information Systems (NIS) Regulations 2018 mandate that essential service providers, like NESO and DNOs, implement robust security measures to protect against cyber-attacks.

3.3.3 The above encompasses the assets, services, and infrastructure necessary for the reliable functioning of the GB electricity system. These components must adhere to legal and regulatory requirements set by Ofgem, Government policies, and relevant codes like the Grid Code and SQSS. Their failure or compromise could jeopardise national energy security and the ability to maintain electricity supply to consumers.

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3.3 Critical to System Operation (2/2)

3.3.4 It is proposed that projects that hold or intend to hold a commercial contract to deliver Network Services and will be seeking to connect could be eligible for designation under the 'system operation' category. This includes, but is not limited to, those that would connect to a bay reserved by NESO under System Transmission Code Procedures (STCP) 16.1.

3.3.5 Connections that fulfil those criteria to meet the overarching requirements of operability for maintaining the safe, reliable, and efficient operation of the electricity transmission and distribution system. Those deemed critical components, by NESO, to ensure the continuous balancing of supply and demand, the stability of the grid, and the prevention of blackouts or system failures, which could have widespread economic and social impacts.

3.4 Materially reduce system and/or network constraints

3.4.1 Constraint management is required where the electricity transmission system is unable to transmit power to the location where that power is needed, due to congestion at one or more parts of the transmission network. If the transmission system is unable to transport electricity in the way required, NESO will take actions in the market to increase and/or decrease the amount of electricity at different locations on the network. Example situations include:

- Import - The energy demand cannot be met by localised generation and the flow on the circuits into that area is limited by the capacity of the circuits;
- Export - The generation in the area is not offset by the localised demand and the flow on the circuits out of the area is limited by the capacity of the circuits.

3.4.2 Therefore, there may be a need to designate certain projects that can materially reduce system and/or network constraints to:

- ensure that there are providers in place who can offer the services to do this e.g. local constraint management services or demand reduction readily and economically, avoiding the need for materially more expensive / less efficient solutions, i.e. leading to materially lower balancing costs
- materially reduce or even avoid the need for material network and/or wider system investment (i.e. avoid/materially reduce network costs).

3.5 New technologies and / or highly innovative projects that are not included within the scope of the pathways in Government's CP30 Plan

3.5.1 In our advice to Government on its CP30 Plan we have set out various pathways of technologies (by capacity and location) we consider could deliver Clean Power in 2030. We have also included a pathway of technologies (by capacity and location) to 2035, for the purposes of providing a clear 10-year investment signal to projects in the connections queue.

3.5.2 Whereas the pathways are designed to be as comprehensive as possible across all generation and storage technologies, projects may come forward seeking inclusion within the connections queue that either:

1. do not correspond with a technology that has been specified within the CP30 Plan (if for example the technology is new or was not expected to be deliverable by 2030 or 2035) but would provide benefits for GB consumers; and/or
2. are within a technology, (e.g. 'Wind' or 'Nuclear) that has been specified within the CP30 Plan but is a novel sub-type which has been successfully developed and demonstrated, is considered commercially viable and would provide benefits for GB consumers.
    - As part of considering of how a project performs against this criterion, we will consider when the technology has become a commercial product based on the technology readiness level[3].

[3] https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/EPSRC-11012022-Technologyreadinesslevelsfrombasicresearchtoadoptionanddiffusion.pdf

3.6 Very long lead times (i.e. long design, consenting and construction periods) that may be needed beyond the 2035 pathway within CP30 Plan

3.6.1 In our advice to Government on its CP30 Plan we have set out various pathways of technologies (by capacity and location) we consider could deliver Clean Power in 2030. We have also included a pathway of technologies (by capacity and location) to 2035, for the purposes of providing a clear 10-year investment signal to projects in the connections queue.

3.6.2 The 10-year time horizon for the 2035 pathway should prove sufficient to cover the development period for most, if not all, projects that meet the readiness element of the Gate 2 criteria in the period between now and when the first Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) is introduced. When the first SSEP is introduced (currently estimated as late 2026) this is expected to set a new/additional pathway for projects (technologies, by capacity and location) beyond 2035.

3.6.3 However, it is possible, before the first SSEP, that projects may come forward seeking inclusion within the connections queue that have very long lead times (i.e. long design, consenting and construction periods) that may be needed beyond the 2035 pathway within CP30 Plan. Potential examples might be nuclear projects (for example potentially Sizewell C) or long duration storage projects.

3.6.4 Where any such projects come forward and provide robust evidence of this very long lead time and of the benefits they would provide to consumers, we will consider designating them against this category. If we did designate any projects against this category, any connection date offered would not be before end 2035. This connection date would be firm and the User would need to comply with Queue Management requirements in the same way as any other project that meets the Gate 2 requirements.

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04. Process for designating projects

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4.1 Designation Process

4.1.1 When in the connections process can designation happen?

4.1.1.1 We propose that the designation process and designation decisions will primarily happen in advance of a User applying to Gate 2. This would provide NESO and other parties seeking designation of a project with foresight and subsequently allow for efficient consideration of projects within a Gate 2 window. However, NESO will retain the right to designate projects at any point, including at Gate 1, or even potentially once a project has progressed beyond Gate 2 (this would for example be where there may be benefits in offering accelerated connection to a designated project where capacity has become available due to project termination).

4.1.1.2 Where relevant (i.e. for projects without a Gate 1 contract) NESO would encourage applicants to participate in the Gate 1 process to allow NESO the best opportunities and additional time to consider designation and ensure that consumers and Users are getting the best value from the connections process.

4.1.1.3 For the avoidance of doubt, projects that are designated by NESO are still required to:

- (if they have not done so already) go through the Gate 2 process (i.e. apply for a Gate 2 contract within a Gate 2 window, including where relevant the Gate 2 to Whole Queue exercise); and
- meet the 'readiness' elements of the Gate 2 criteria (including the ongoing obligations associated with the Gate 2 criteria).
- comply with Queue Management milestones..

4.1.1.4 A project cannot benefit from being designated if they do not successfully go through the Gate 2 process, however, that does not mean that a project cannot be designated before Gate 2..

4.1.2 How will the application process work?

4.1.2.1 In general, we would expect the Users seeking designation to approach NESO about the potential for their project to be designated. However, it is possible that NESO may instead directly approach a User. This is more likely for projects under the 'Critical to Security of Supply' or 'Critical to System Operation' or 'Materially reduces system or network constraints' categories, as NESO may be more aware of risks in those areas that could be mitigated by connecting designated projects by a certain date. Other parties (for example Transmission Owner, Distribution Network Operators / Independent Distribution Network Operators, Ofgem or Government, may also notify NESO of projects(s) they consider may be appropriate candidates for project designation.

4.1.2.2 Irrespective of the route taken above**, the User seeking designation must make a formal application to NESO for their project to be designated**. That application must set out the full details of the project and must provide evidence to NESO of how their project meets the relevant criteria for designation. We have provided guidance in Section 5 on the information that Users should include. For clarity, Network Services projects will also need to provide much of the same information as part of the tender process.

4.1.2.3 NESO reserves the right to charge a fee for assessing a designated project application. Any fee will be reflective of NESO's costs associated with assessing that application. Where NESO charges a fee, that fee must be paid in full and on time before a designation decision will be confirmed.

4.1.2.4 NESO does not intend to set any confirmed timescales for making a designation decision, but NESO would typically expect to make a decision within 4-5 months of any application for designation under the enduring process (i.e. following the Gate 2 to the whole queue exercise - see indicative timeline in section 4.2).

4.1.3 Who will designate projects?

4.1.3.1 NESO will designate projects based on an assessment of the designation application against the categories and criteria set out in this document

4.1.3.2 NESO will be the ultimate decision maker and only NESO may ultimately designate a project. However, NESO may seek advice from other parties in making any designation decision, e.g. from Government.

4.1.4 Decisions and appeals

4.1.4.1 NESO will publish all designation decisions (positive or negative) along with reasons for that decision

4.1.4.2 Users have the right to appeal a NESO designation decision. NESO will publish details of that appeals process.

4.1.4.3 If, after receiving designation, a party seeks to amend their project (for example to an alternative technology or to a different connection location or date) then it must notify NESO. In such an instance, NESO will consider whether the project should continue to be designated (for clarity, this NESO designation decision would be outside the Gate 1 or Gate 2 process). Where NESO decides that the project should no longer be designated, then the project would need to re-apply at the next Gate 2 window, in line with the process set out in CMP434. This is to allow NESO to determine the status of the project, i.e. whether it continues to meet the Gate 2 criteria and should be provided with a revised Gate 2 contract, or whether it does not meet the Gate 2 criteria and should be provided with a Gate 1 contract. Any failure to re-apply at the next Gate 2 window would result in the project being provided with a Gate 1 contract.

4.2 Indicative Decision-Making Process

4.2.1 Figure 1 (page 28) shows the indicative process and timeline for designating projects.

4.2.2 The process for applying for designation and for NESO decision making on designation is separate from the connections process (e.g. Gate 1 or Gate 2), i.e. as set out in 4.1.1 the designation application and decision process can happen at any time. However, as also set out in 4.1.1 we propose that the designation process and designation decisions will primarily happen in advance of a User applying to Gate 2, as this would provide NESO and other parties seeking designation of a project with foresight and subsequently allow for efficient consideration of projects within a Gate 2 window. Any project designation applications during a Gate 2 window for example may not allow NESO to make a decision in time for the Gate 2 strategic alignment criteria assessment, which may in turn mean that a project does not meet the overall Gate 2 criteria within that Gate 2 window.

4.2.3 However, given that 'Go Live' of the reformed connections process (including the new project designation process) is due to occur shortly before the Gate 2 to the Whole Queue exercise, for Users with Existing Agreements, whose projects are being reassessed as part of the Gate 2 to Whole Queue exercise, NESO intends to run an expedited process to consider any project designation applications.

4.2.4 Where appropriate, candidates for designation may identify themselves ahead of the Gate 2 to Whole Queue exercise to discuss the process and requirements. However, the designation process will not formally start before 'Go Live' of the reformed connections process.

Indicative process and timeline for designating projects

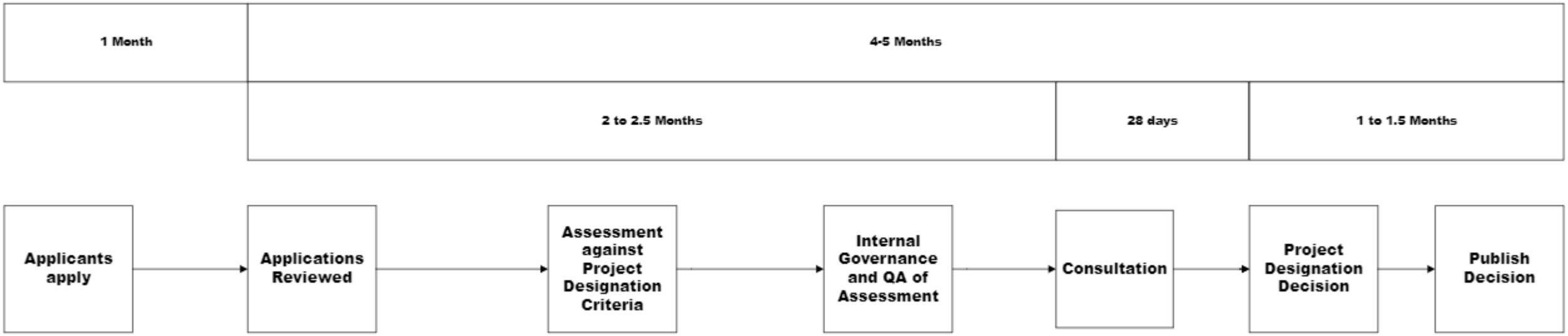

Figure 1

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05. Information provision

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5.1 Indicative information likely to be required to inform NESO's decision whether or not to designate a project

This section is intended to provide non-exhaustive list of the information Users should expect to provide if seeking designated status for their project. The precise information to be provided may vary by project. We will work with Users seeking designation to understand the best information that allows NESO to consider specific applications.

5.1.1 Information to be provided by all projects seeking designation

- Project Name
- Proposed point of connection
- Propose date of connection
- Export/Import Capacity of the Proposed Project

5.1.2 Information to be provided by all projects seeking designation for security of supply category

- Proposed installed generating capacity and proposed export capacity
- For a storage project, duration and round-trip-efficiency
- For a wind or solar project, expect long-term average load factor ideally evidenced from equivalent existing plant rather than manufacturer's documentation
- Any known regular periods of technical unavailability or any key dependency.
- For a project directly connected to load, sufficient details about the likely size and pattern of the load to facilitate accuracy demand forecasting.
- Generating technology / fuel by unit
- For mixed fuel type generators- information about the sub-units (fuel type, location, etc)
- Location
- Duration limit, if any, for units with limited fuel
- Proposed support scheme(s) if any (e.g. Capacity Market, CfD, cap and floor, CCS dispatchable power agreement (DPA), H2P business model (H2PBM) etc.)
- Qualitative rationale explaining why this project should be designated.

5.1.3 Information to be provided by all projects seeking designation for system operability category

- Description of system need project addresses
- Description of how proposed project addresses the system operability need
- Description of any commercial contracts held that aid system operability
- Forecast cost to consumer over life of project
- Forecast benefits to the consumer of the life of project
- Qualitative rationale explaining why this project should be designated.

5.1.4 Information to be provided by all projects seeking designation under materially reduce system and/or network constraints category

- Proposed installed generating capacity (if relevant)
- Proposed import/export capacity
- Proposed generation profile
- Proposed import profile (if relevant)
- Proposed load factor (where relevant, should be in line with load factor values used elsewhere, e.g. TNUoS Charging)
- Forecast cost to consumer over life of project
- Forecast benefits to the consumer of the life of project
- Quantitative case for how proposed project will materially reduce constraint costs
- Qualitative rationale explaining why this project should be designated.

5.1.5 Information to be provided by all projects seeking designation under innovative technology category

- Description of type of technology
- Explanation of why in the proposers view this technology may not have been included in the strategic energy plan.
- The Technology Readiness Level of the innovative technology at the time the previous strategic energy plan was published.
- Explanation of the expected Technology Readiness Level of the innovative technology by the time of the proposed connection date.
- Explanation of the plan for having a market ready solution in line with the proposed date of connection.

5.1.6 Information to be provided by all projects seeking designation under very long lead times category

- Description of type of technology
- Detailed end to end project development plan (to time of commissioning and operation), including design, consenting and construction periods
- Explanation of why the project plan reflects industry best practice.
- Forecast cost to consumer over life of project
- Forecast benefits to the consumer over life of project
- Qualitative rationale explaining why this project should be designated.

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06. Consultation Questions

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6. Consultation Questions

1) Do you agree that the categories of projects that we have identified are the appropriate ones to be designated?
2) Do agree with the proposed criteria for assessing Designated projects?
3) Do you agree with the indicative process NESO will follow for designating projects?

We would like to hear your views.

We would welcome your views on each of these questions in relation to the Project Designation Methodology.

The **Overview Document** contains a summary of all the questions relating to Connections Reform and the three methodology documents.

Please provide your feedback by completing this Connections Reform Consultation Response Form or by completing this Connections Reform: Consultation Response Proforma and sending an electronic copy to box.connectionsreform@nationalenergyso.com by 5pm on the closing date of 2nd December 2024.

We will publish all consultation responses unless they are marked confidential. If you do not wish your response to be published, please clearly mark it as confidential. Please note even confidential responses will be shared with Ofgem. By responding you agree to our sharing your response with Ofgem.

To support you in your response and to answer any questions, we will be holding at least one webinar in November, which we encourage you to attend.

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