

The table below identifies where in the supporting documentation the strategic appraisal issues have been considered.

Issues to be considered	Consideration	ER chapter signpost
<p>Identification of any conflicts between the project and the relevant marine plan.</p>	<p>Approximately 106km of the Proposed Development lies within territorial waters (i.e. within 12 nautical miles of the coastline) and falls within the South East Inshore Marine Plan area. The remaining 3km, which crosses the UK Exclusive Economic Zone, falls within the East Offshore Marine Plan area. Technical Appendix A presents the key policies of the plans and summarises if the Proposed Development is applicable (i.e. there is a potential conflict) to these policies</p>	<p>Technical Appendix A of the GridLink Marine Environmental Report (P2172_R4822_Rev0)</p>
<p>Identification of alignment of the project with the Marine Policy Statement and any relevant National Policy Statement.</p>	<p>GridLink successfully qualified as a European Project of Common Interest (PCI) in 2018. Its status as a European PCI means that GridLink is of strategic importance to the UK and France; is in line with EU policy; aligns with UK Planning Policy; and supports the UK's commitment to the EU Renewable Energy Directive and the UK target of 15% of energy from renewables by 2020. It also means it is considered imperative infrastructure necessary for Europe to meet its climate objectives; a beneficial consequence of primary importance to the environment.</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>Identification of the environmental, social and economic drivers for a project that have been identified through existing feasibility studies or discussions with other public bodies (e.g. Local Authorities or Local Economic Partnerships).</p>		<p>Chapter 2 of the GridLink Marine Environmental Report- P2172_R4822_Rev0</p>
<p>Identification of any potential issues that may arise due to EU legislation (e.g. Water Framework Directive, Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Habitats Directive), and how these can potentially be avoided, or mitigated, at the strategic level.</p>	<p>A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), Marine Conservation Zone Assessment and Water Framework Directive Assessment has been completed and where appropriate mitigation has been proposed to avoid or reduce any potential significant effects.</p>	<p>GridLink Marine Habitat Regulation Assessment (P2172-R4980_Rev0) – Technical Appendix E GridLink Marine Environmental Report GridLink Marine Conservation Zone Assessment (P2172-R4981_rev0) – Technical Appendix F GridLink Marine Environmental Report GridLink Water Framework Directive Assessment (P2172_R5048_Rev0) – Technical Appendix G GridLink Marine Environmental Report</p>
<p>Identification of any priority issues that may need addressing with regard to cumulative effects</p>	<p>A cumulative effects assessment has been undertaken. It has concluded that there is the potential for transboundary and cumulative effects with respect to the detonation of UXO and the associated underwater noise changes. Project specific mitigation has been proposed to avoid or reduce significant cumulative effects.</p>	<p>Chapter 14 GridLink Marine Environmental Report- P2172_R4822_Rev0</p>
<p>Options appraisal undertaken by the applicant, and the social, economic and environmental reasoning behind why the preferred option has been chosen</p>	<p>An appraisal of alternative options has been undertaken. The primary objective of the project is to develop an interconnector linking the electricity transmission networks in the UK and France. This can only be delivered by the development of an onshore and subsea interconnector between the two countries. However how that interconnector is designed is instrumental in determining the environmental effects the final project will have. This appraisal describes the alternatives that were considered and demonstrates that there are no feasible alternative solutions.</p>	<p>Chapter 2 GridLink Marine Environmental Report- P2172_R4822_Rev0</p>