



National Policy Statement for data centres

Appraisal of Sustainability Report – Non Technical Summary

Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade

Prepared by:

SLR Consulting Limited

3rd Floor, Summit House, 12 Red Lion Square,
London, WC1R 4QH

SLR Project No.: 422.065567.00001

27 October 2026

Revision: 6

Revision Record

Revision	Date	Prepared By	Checked By	Authorised By
1	13 January 2026	JA/CT	VP	JM
2	16 April 2026	JA/CT/VP	JM	JM
3	24 August 2026	JA	VP	VP
4	8 October 2026	JA/JM	JM	JM
5	15 October 2026	JM	JM	JM
6	27 October 2026	KH	VP	VP

Basis of Report

This document has been prepared by SLR Consulting Limited (SLR) with reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the timescales and resources devoted to it by agreement with Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade (the Client) as part or all of the services it has been appointed by the Client to carry out. It is subject to the terms and conditions of that appointment.

SLR shall not be liable for the use of or reliance on any information, advice, recommendations and opinions in this document for any purpose by any person other than the Client. Reliance may be granted to a third party only in the event that SLR and the third party have executed a reliance agreement or collateral warranty.

Information reported herein may be based on the interpretation of public domain data collected by SLR, and/or information supplied by the Client and/or its other advisors and associates. These data have been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

The copyright and intellectual property in all drawings, reports, specifications, bills of quantities, calculations and other information set out in this report remain vested in SLR unless the terms of appointment state otherwise.

This document may contain information of a specialised and/or highly technical nature and the Client is advised to seek clarification on any elements which may be unclear to it.

Information, advice, recommendations and opinions in this document should only be relied upon in the context of the whole document and any documents referenced explicitly herein and should then only be used within the context of the appointment.



Table of Contents

Basis of Report	i
1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Overview	1
1.2 National Policy Statement for Data Centres.....	1
2.0 Methodology	3
2.1 What is AoS?	3
2.2 AOS methodology	3
2.2.1 Identification of Sustainability Issues and Opportunities	4
3.0 AoS Assessment Findings	6
3.1 Assessment of Draft NPS-DC.....	6
3.2 Assessment of Alternatives	9
4.0 Cumulative and Transboundary Effects	12
4.1 Cumulative Effects	12
4.2 Transboundary Effects	13
5.0 Mitigation, Enhancement and Monitoring Measures	14
5.1 Mitigation and Enhancement Measures.....	14
5.2 Monitoring Measures.....	18
6.0 Next Steps.....	23

Tables in Text

Table 3-1: Key to Significance of Effects	6
Table 3-2: Draft NPS-DC Assessment Summary	8
Table 3-3: Criteria for Assessment of Alternatives.....	9
Table 3-4: Summary of Comparative Performance of Alternatives	10
Table 5-1: Proposed Mitigation and Enhancement Measures	15
Table 5-2: Monitoring Recommendations.....	19



1.0 Introduction

1.1 Overview

National Policy Statements (NPSs) outline the Government's aims and policies for the development of infrastructure deemed nationally significant within specific sectors. They serve as the basis upon which the Planning Inspectorate advises the appropriate Secretary of State (SoS) on whether such major infrastructure projects should be approved. Draft NPSs apply to developments classified as "Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects" (NSIPs) and are established under the Planning Act 2008. Their role is to clarify how Government policy informs decisions on development consent, thereby excluding debate on the policy itself from the examination process and ensuring that decisions are made solely on planning grounds.

In September 2024, data centres in the UK were recognised as 'Critical National Infrastructure' (CNI) under the Communications sector¹ and will be brought within scope of the NSIP planning regime by January 2026 through secondary legislation under the Planning Act 2008. The Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade (BIST) has therefore initiated the NPS for Data Centres ('NPS-DC') with the aim of consulting on a draft at the beginning of 2026.

1.2 National Policy Statement for Data Centres

The NPS-DC will stand alone, however, other NPSs (for example EN-1 to EN-6 for energy) may be relevant considerations for co-location or cross-sectoral development.

The NPS-DC will:

- Create a pathway for the developers of large data centre projects in England to seek planning approval from the relevant SoS for data centre developments that fall within scope; and

¹ Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (2024) [Data Centres to be given massive boost and protections from cyber criminals and IT blackouts.](#)



- Provide a decision-making framework for the SoS to determine applications for data centre developments that fall within scope, as per other categories of NSIP projects recognised under the Planning Act 2008 (e.g. ports).

For data centre projects that are within scope, but do not proceed for planning approval under the NSIP pathway, the NPS-DC will nevertheless aim to provide relevant guidance to support developers and Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) in their decision-making, including on the preparation of local impact reports.

Further details on the background and objectives of the NPS-DC can be found in **Section 1** of the **main AoS Report**.



2.0 Methodology

2.1 What is AoS?

The preparation of an AoS Report is required by both the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations 2004 (as amended) and The Planning Act 2008.

The Planning Act requires that NPSs undergo an Appraisal of Sustainability (AoS) before designation. While similar in scope to an environmental report under the SEA Regulations, the AoS places greater emphasis on social and economic impacts and is guided by the principles of sustainable development, commonly defined as ensuring that development meets present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs.

By requiring the AoS to be produced alongside the NPS-DC while it is still in draft form, the SEA Regulations ensure a consideration of the potential environmental (and wider sustainability) effects of the NPS-DC. The AoS provides an opportunity for consultees to review and comment on the draft NPS-DC.

2.2 AOS methodology

There is no specific guidance on preparing an AoS, however the process and methods that have been applied follow recognised best practice and the principles and approaches developed in early published guidance documents. Details of these documents can be found in **Section 2.1** of the **main AoS Report**.

The AoS of the draft NPS-DC is being carried out in a staged approach. The key stages of the AoS process are the following:

- **Stage A:** Establishing the baseline (evidence base, policy context, relevant issues) and establishing sustainability objectives for the AoS in a 'AoS Framework'. This was undertaken in September – November 2025;
- **Stage B:** Predicting and assessing the effects of the plan and its alternatives, proposing mitigation measures for any significant negative effects of the draft NPS (and alternatives);
- **Stage C (this stage):** Preparing the AoS Report and documenting the process and findings;



- **Stage D:** Consulting on the NPS and the AoS Report and revising the AoS in response to consultation feedback on the NPS and AoS Report; and
- **Stage E:** Post adoption process and monitoring of the NPS.

HRA has been undertaken in parallel to the AoS and its results incorporated into the AoS as appropriate.

Further details on the background and objectives of the draft NPS-DC can be found in **Section 2** of the **main AoS Report**.

2.2.1 Identification of Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

The AoS Scoping Report outlined other relevant plans, policies and programmes (PPPs) that may influence or be shaped by the draft NPS-DC, baseline information on a national level, and key sustainability issues which could occur without implementation of the NPS-DC.

Full details on the PPP, baseline, and key sustainability issues can be found in **Section 3 and Section 4** of the main **AoS Report**.

The scoping process produced an AoS Framework of objectives, against which the NPS-DC can be assessed. The AoS objectives are:

- **AoS 1:** To minimise greenhouse gas emissions and support the transition to a net zero economy;
- **AoS 2:** To maximise adaptation and resilience to climate change;
- **AoS 3:** To protect, restore and enhance biodiversity promoting net gain, and supporting ecosystem resilience and functionality (linked to separate HRA process for draft NPS-DC);
- **AoS 4:** Conserve and enhance cultural heritage assets and their settings, and the wider historic environment;
- **AoS 5:** To conserve, protect and enhance landscape and townscape quality and visual amenity;
- **AoS 6:** To protect, enhance and increase resilience of water quantity and quality;



- **AoS 7:** To minimise emissions of pollutant gases and particulates and protect air quality;
- **AoS 8:** To conserve and enhance soil health and geology and contribute to the sustainable use of land;
- **AoS 9:** To minimise disturbance to local communities, maximise positive social impacts and protect and enhance the health and wellbeing of communities;
- **AoS 10:** To promote a strong, diverse, and stable economy;
- **AoS 11:** Support local economies and promote opportunities to improve education and skills, and employment;
- **AoS 12:** Promote the national security of the UK; and
- **AoS 13:** Promote sustainable waste management and resource use.

The AoS objectives are supported by guide questions, which are outlined in **Table 2** of the **main AoS Report**.



3.0 AoS Assessment Findings

3.1 Assessment of Draft NPS-DC

The assessment of the draft NPS-DC was carried out for each AoS objective individually. A summary of the effects identified are detailed in **Table 3-2** below.

The AoS applies the mitigation hierarchy, prioritising harm avoidance first. Where avoidance is not possible, mitigation and enhancement measures are recommended. All assessments carry a degree of uncertainty, as the level of impact depends on the specific characteristics of the data centre proposal and its location (or alternative locations).

For each AoS objective, the assessment followed two steps:

- First, identifying the anticipated effects of the infrastructure outlined in the draft NPS-DC.
- Second, evaluating how the draft NPS-DC addresses the AoS guide questions, before concluding on the likely residual effects.

Full details of the assessment of the draft NPS-DC can be found in **Section 5** of the **main AoS Report**.

A key to significance is shown in **Table 3-1**. Significance is defined in more detail in **Sections 2.2** and **2.3** of the **main AoS Report**.

A summary of the draft NPS-DC assessment findings is shown in **Table 3-2**.

Table 3-1: Key to Significance of Effects

Significance	Definitions of Effects
Significant Positive Effect	The option or policy supports the achievement of the objective; it addresses all relevant assessment questions and could result in a potentially significant beneficial effect.
Minor Positive Effect	The option or policy supports the achievement of the objective; it addresses some relevant assessment questions, although it may have only a minor beneficial effect.



Significance	Definitions of Effects
Neutral Effect	The option or policy has no impact or effect and is neutral insofar as the benefits and drawbacks appear equal and neither is considered significant.
Uncertain Effect	Uncertain or insufficient information on which to determine the assessment at this stage.
Minor Negative Effect	The option of policy appears to conflict with the achievement of the objective; it does not address relevant assessment questions and may result in minor adverse effects.
Significant Negative Effect	The option or policy works against the achievement of the objective; it does not address relevant assessment questions; it could exacerbate a negative situation and may result in a potentially significant adverse effect e.g. loss of all or part of a designated ecological site of national importance.



Table 3-2: Draft NPS-DC Assessment Summary

AoS Objective	Potential Effect
AoS 1: To minimise greenhouse gas emissions and support the transition to a net zero economy	Uncertain
AoS 2: To maximise adaptation and resilience to climate change	Minor Positive
AoS 3: To protect, restore and enhance biodiversity promoting net gain, and supporting ecosystem resilience and functionality (linked to separate HRA process for draft NPS for Data Centres)	Uncertain
AoS 4: Conserve and enhance cultural heritage assets and their settings, and the wider historic environment	Neutral
AoS 5: To conserve, protect and enhance landscape and townscape quality and visual amenity	Minor Negative
AoS 6: To protect, enhance and increase resilience of water quantity and quality	Minor Negative
AoS 7: To minimise emissions of pollutant gases and particulates and protect air quality	Minor Negative
AoS 8: To conserve and enhance soil health and geology and contribute to the sustainable use of land	Minor Negative
AoS 9: To minimise disturbance to local communities, maximise positive social impacts and protect and enhance the health and wellbeing of communities	Minor Negative
AoS 10: To promote a strong, diverse, and stable economy	Significant Positive
AoS 11: Support local economies and promote opportunities to improve education and skills, and employment	Minor Positive
AoS 12: Promote the national security of the UK	Minor Positive
AoS 13: Promote sustainable waste management and resource use	Uncertain



3.2 Assessment of Alternatives

The SEA Regulations require an assessment of the plan and its “reasonable alternatives”, in addition to those proposed within the preferred plan. Without this, there cannot be a proper environmental evaluation of the preferred plan. The assessment of reasonable alternatives does not need to include all possible alternatives, but only those that are realistic.

The reasonable alternatives considered are:

- **Alternative 1:** Do Nothing, retaining a ‘business as usual’ approach; and
- **Alternative 2:** utilising National Development Management Plans (NDMPs).

Given the high level nature of the alternatives and the limited information available on NDMPs at the time of writing, a comparative approach has been used in the assessment of alternatives in order to understand how they would perform against the AoS objectives relative to the performance of the draft NPS-DC.

Table 3-3 details the criteria for the assessment of alternatives. It should be noted that these scores are in comparison with the draft NPS-DC assessed in **Section 3.1** and summarised in **Table 3-2**.

Table 3-3: Criteria for Assessment of Alternatives

Scale	Description
Materially more positive than the NPS-DC	A materially more positive outcome is anticipated compared to NPS-DC.
More positive than the NPS-DC	A more positive outcome is anticipated compared to NPS-DC.
Comparable to the NPS-DC	This alternative is anticipated to have the same outcome to NPS-DC.
More negative than the NPS-DC	A more negative outcome is anticipated compared to NPS-DC.
Materially more negative than the NPS	A materially more negative outcome is anticipated compared to NPS-DC.



Scale	Description
Uncertain	The outcome is uncertain.

Table 3-4 Table 3-4 shows the overall outcomes of the assessment of alternatives.

Table 3-4: Summary of Comparative Performance of Alternatives

AoS Objectives	Comparative Performance against draft NPS-DC: Alternative 1	Comparative Performance against draft NPS-DC: Alternative 2
AoS 1	More negative	Comparable
AoS 2	Materially more negative	Comparable
AoS 3	More negative	More negative
AoS 4	More positive	Uncertain
AoS 5	Comparable	Uncertain
AoS 6	More negative	Uncertain
AoS 7	Comparable	Comparable
AoS 8	Materially more negative	Uncertain
AoS 9	More negative	Uncertain
AoS 10	More negative	Comparable
AoS 11	More negative	Uncertain
AoS 12	Materially more negative	Uncertain
AoS 13	Comparable	Uncertain

In order for data centres to use the powers under section 35 of the Planning Act 2008 and classify data centres as NSIP, a threshold for national significance must be set. Alongside the reasonable alternatives identified, a range of thresholds have also been considered.



Within the NPS-DC, the threshold of application is proposed to be set at ≥ 100 MW, with data centres equal to or greater than 100 MW considered nationally significant. The threshold refers to IT load, which is a way of judging the capacity of data centres. Several alternative options for thresholds have been considered, which can be grouped into two scenarios:

- Lower threshold + cluster;
- Medium threshold + cluster; and
- Higher threshold + cluster.

Overall, the assessment of threshold alternatives found there is little difference between the data centres threshold alternative options across the topics of climate change and communities. Lower threshold options generally performed worse without the additional benefit of clustering. Higher and medium threshold options generally performed more positively against the natural environment, resources and national security AoS objectives. In summary, higher and medium thresholds for individual data centre proposals or a variety of sizes, combined with clustering, performed best against the AoS objectives.

Full details on alternative thresholds and their assessment can be found in **Section 6.5** of the **main AoS Report**.



4.0 Cumulative and Transboundary Effects

4.1 Cumulative Effects

A cumulative effects assessment has been undertaken. Cumulative effects could occur when multiple proposals or elements of a plan or project, which individually may have limited impact, combine to create a potential significant effect due to spatial concentration or overlapping timelines. Secondary and indirect effects are those that do not result directly from implementation but occur elsewhere or through a complex pathway. Synergistic effects arise when two or more effects interact to produce an impact greater than the sum of their individual effects. It is common to consider synergistic and secondary effects within the broader concept of cumulative effects. Potential cumulative effects are therefore discussed collectively in the following section.

For the purposes of this AoS, it has been identified that cumulative effects may arise where:

- the effects of several proposed data centres interact with one another; and
- due to effects from the draft NPS-DC combining with effects from other projects, plans and policies (PPPs) in various sectors.

Due to the strategic and high level nature of the NPS-DC, and the lack of any locational and specific detail on any infrastructure developments that are likely to be brought forward, it is not possible to know when any subsequent project proposal will come forward and nor is it possible to predict what other plans and projects will be relevant to future project assessments.

The type of other plans and projects that could have cumulative or in-combination effects with NSIP data centre developments have been identified to be:

- Applications lodged but not yet determined;
- Projects subject to periodic review;
- Projects authorised but not yet started;
- Projects started but not yet completed;
- Known projects that do not require external authorisation;



- Proposals in adopted plans; and
- Proposals in draft plans formally published or submitted for final consultation, examination or adoption.

Potential negative cumulative effects have been identified for AoS 1, AoS 8 and AoS 13.

Potential positive cumulative effects have been identified for AoS 10, AoS 11 and AoS 12.

A potential uncertain cumulative effect has been identified for AoS 3.

There are not anticipated to be any cumulative effects for AoS 2, AoS 4, AoS 5, AoS 6, AoS 7 or AoS 9.

Further details on the assessment of cumulative effects can be found in **Section 7** of the **main AoS Report**.

4.2 Transboundary Effects

Potential transboundary effects from the implementation of NPS-DC have been approached in a similar way to other potential cumulative effects. The assessment has considered potential effects that originate within England and have the ability to extend across national borders.

Overall, limited transboundary impacts have been identified which are expected to be only related to impacts of data centres on greenhouse gas emissions and the realisation of the UK's transition to a net zero economy. Depending on the location of data centres, there may also be visual effects, if sites are located at the borders adjacent to Wales or Scotland.



5.0 Mitigation, Enhancement and Monitoring Measures

5.1 Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

Mitigation of significant negative effects of the plan and enhancement of positive effects are a key purpose of AoS. The SEA Regulations require that mitigation measures are considered to prevent, reduce or offset any potential significant negative effects on the environment.

Proposed mitigation and enhancement measures have been set out in **Table 5-1** below.



Table 5-1: Proposed Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

AoS Objective	Mitigation / Enhancement
AoS 1	• The draft NPS-DC identify a desired PUE performance range for data centres and requires that a monitoring regime is implemented once operational, to confirm that data centres are performing at the expected level of efficiency, with corrective measures implemented if performance levels are not achieved. A further benefit of monitoring would be visibility of the energy demands of data centres, and associated GHG emissions; and • The Framework supporting decision making around Behind the Meter (BtM) power needs to provide clarity on the number and scale of applications that will be permitted to use BtM power. The detail within the framework would need to be assessed to ensure that compliance will mitigate potential effects.
AoS 2	• Whilst the dual benefits of blue infrastructure are acknowledged; greater emphasis is given to green infrastructure to mitigate against extreme heat; • The draft policy could be strengthened by using more explicit language that prioritises natural flood management technology; • The requirement to engage with local flood authorities is strengthened where a proposal increases flood risks or impacts third-party land, so that applicants must engage with flood authorities in this circumstance; and • A high standard be set for justifying the removal of adaptation design features using the Secretary of States power.



AoS Objective	Mitigation / Enhancement
AoS 3	- Additional mitigation has been outlined in the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report which accompanies the main AoS Report should also be referred to for mitigation measures. Full details of this can also be found in Section 5.3.3 of the main AoS Report. - Define the scope of ‘environmental information,’ and what level of information is ‘proportionate’; and - Require applicants to explain where opportunities to enhance biodiversity outcomes have been taken up and, where they have not, provide justification.
AoS 4	Specifically directing applicants to record and conserve sites in situ, or record and remove, rather than referring generally to ‘treatment’.
AoS 6	- Requiring that where the development is located in an area currently or forecast to experience water shortages or stress, that the design must respond by integrating best practice design for water efficiency; - The draft NPS-DC encourage applicants to restore degraded water bodies where these are present on site, and consider water management strategies or plans, where relevant; and - That the Secretary of State must be satisfied that any impact on the water environment resulting from the development meets the required environmental standards and legislation.
AoS 7	Consider applications favourably where they include the use of back-up energy supplies which use non air polluting (e.g. renewable) technologies such as battery storage.



AoS Objective	Mitigation / Enhancement
AoS 8	• The draft NPS-DC states that the Secretary of State ‘should’ ensure that applicants do not site their schemes on the best and most versatile agricultural land without justification. This wording should be enhanced from ‘should’ to ‘shall’ to provide certainty any use of BMV is justified; • For schemes on BMV land, the requirement should be enhanced so that the Secretary of State specifically considers resulting loss of the BMV site on the viability of wider agricultural production; • The draft policy could be enhanced by making it easier for applicants to locate on contaminated land, as a way to incentivise applicants to locate on these sites; and • Set out which geological resources are classified as high value and include reference to SSSI specifically.
AoS 9	• Where direct enhancement opportunities are not practicable, applicants are encouraged to support local authorities plans to enhance open space and recreation facilities, particularly in areas which are deficient of these facilities.
AoS 13	• That the draft NPS-DC provide greater confidence that the waste provisions will be applied by applicants and the Secretary of State though stronger phrasing. This could be achieved by changing the terms ‘should’ for both the assessment and the decision making directive to ‘shall’ or ‘will’ to give confidence that the objective will be consistently addressed. • Data centre applicants should be required to assess potential negative cumulative effects of waste generation during construction taking into consideration the timing of other projects coming forward in the same geographical area.



5.2 Monitoring Measures

Monitoring is intended to compare the potential significant effects predicted through the AoS process with the actual effects of implementing the NPS-DC. The SEA Regulations also require that measures for monitoring potential significant effects are described so that the significant effects of applying the plan can be identified, and remedial action imposed.

Table 5-2 sets out draft monitoring recommendations for the NPS-DC focusing on the focusing on the potential minor negative, negative cumulative and uncertain effects identified in the AoS.



Table 5-2: Monitoring Recommendations

No.	AoS Objective against which a negative effect has been identified	Monitoring / measure indicator	Target	Data Source	Suggested frequency of monitoring	Responsibility for undertaking monitoring
1	AoS 1: To minimise greenhouse gas emissions and support the transition to a net zero economy	Energy efficiency of data centres	Maximise energy efficiency of data centres	- PUE; and - Applicants and operators of data centres under NPS-DC	Annually	- Data Centre applicants and operators in respect of NPS-DC - Department Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ)
2	AoS 3: To protect, restore and enhance biodiversity promoting net gain, and supporting ecosystem	- National biodiversity; - Biodiversity net gain in data centre developments;	Restoration of natural habitats and biodiversity No adverse effects on the integrity of	- Designated sites and condition - Applicants of data centre developments under NPS-DC - Natural England	Annually	- Data Centre applicants in respect of NPS-DC - Natural England



No.	AoS Objective against which a negative effect has been identified	Monitoring / measure indicator	Target	Data Source	Suggested frequency of monitoring	Responsibility for undertaking monitoring
	resilience and functionality	Condition of and extent of European and Ramsar sites	European and Ramsar sites			
3	AoS 5: To conserve, protect and enhance landscape and townscape quality and visual amenity AoS 9: To minimise disturbance to local communities, maximise positive social impacts and protect and enhance the health	Potential effects on communities (e.g. health, socio-economic, noise, landscape/townscap e and light) identified in EIA	Avoid negative effects and maximise positive effects of data centre developments on communities and landscape / townscape	Applicants of data centre developments under NPS-DC	Annually	- Data Centre applicants in respect of NPS-DC - Local authorities



No.	AoS Objective against which a negative effect has been identified	Monitoring / measure indicator	Target	Data Source	Suggested frequency of monitoring	Responsibility for undertaking monitoring
	and wellbeing of communities					
4	AoS 6: To protect, enhance and increase resilience of water quantity and quality	Achievement of Water Framework Directive goals	Achieving good ecological status in water bodies	- Applicants of data centre developments under NPS-DC - The Environment Agency	Annually	- Data Centre applicants and operators in respect of NPS-DC - The Environment Agency
5	AoS 7: To minimise emissions of pollutant gases and particulates and protect air quality	Achievement of national air quality targets	England's main air quality targets	- Applicants of data centre developments under NPS-DC - National and local authority monitoring data	Annually	- Data Centre applicants and operators in respect of NPS-DC - Local authorities



No.	AoS Objective against which a negative effect has been identified	Monitoring / measure indicator	Target	Data Source	Suggested frequency of monitoring	Responsibility for undertaking monitoring
6	AoS 8: To conserve and enhance soil health and geology and contribute to the sustainable use of land	Type of land used for data centre developments	Achieve efficient use of land Avoid loss of soil function	Applicants of data centre developments under NPS-DC	Annually	- Data Centre applicants in respect of NPS-DC
7	AoS 13: Promote sustainable waste management and resource use	Generation of construction and critical minerals waste	Reduce construction waste and disposal of critical minerals	- Applicants of data centres under NPS-DC - Operators of data centres under NPS-DC	Construction – monthly Operation – annually	- Data Centre applicants in respect of NPS-DC - DEFRA



6.0 Next Steps

Consultation on the draft NPS-DC will commence in October 2026. Following closure of the consultation period, feedback on the draft NPS-DC and the AoS will be reviewed and considered by BIST. Before NPSs can be formally adopted by the Government and take effect, they must comply with certain consultation and parliamentary scrutiny requirements. This also includes scrutiny by a select committee or a specially appointed committee.

The NPS-DC will be laid before Parliament. The NPS-DC can then be approved either after a period of 21 days has passed or if the House of Commons votes to approve the statement within the 21 days. The Government is not required to schedule a debate on a NPS-DC.

As soon as possible after the NPS-DC is adopted, an AoS Adoption Statement will be published which will describe the difference the AoS has made to the final NPS-DC, how consultation has been taken into account in the AoS and the reason for selecting the NPS-DC in light of reasonable alternatives.





Making Sustainability Happen