

**TOWARDS A NUCLEAR NATIONAL
POLICY STATEMENT**

Government response to consultations on the Strategic Siting Assessment process and siting criteria for new nuclear power stations in the UK; and to the study on the potential environmental and sustainability effects of applying the criteria

ANNEX C: GUIDANCE FOR NOMINATORS

OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT

JANUARY 2009

Annex C: Guidance for nominators

Strategic Siting Assessment for New Nuclear Power Stations in the UK

Guidance on completing the Nomination Form

This guidance is intended for those nominating sites for consideration as part of the Strategic Siting Assessment (SSA) process as set out in the Government Response to Consultation. It is not intended to describe the policy, which is set out in the Government Response.

The SSA is a process for identifying and assessing sites which are strategically suitable for the deployment of new nuclear power stations by the end of 2025.

Key questions on SSA nominations

Can a site anywhere in the United Kingdom be nominated?

For the reasons set out in the Government Response, nominations are only being accepted for sites in England and Wales.

What are exclusionary and discretionary criteria?

The Government will conduct its assessment using exclusionary and discretionary criteria, using the advice that nominators have supplied, comments from the public and advice from specialists including regulators and others.

Exclusionary criteria are those which, if breached, will categorically exclude all or part of a site from further consideration. Discretionary criteria are those criteria that the Government considers, for various reasons, could, either singly or in combination, make all or part of a site unsuitable for a new nuclear power station but which need to be carefully considered in order to come to a conclusion as to the site's strategic suitability. These criteria will address issues such as flood risk, impact on protected sites or suitable cooling. DECC will assess these issues at a strategic level through the SSA. It is important to note that, through the SSA process, the Government will be conducting a high-level strategic assessment that will not involve site-specific investigations or detailed site-specific data, unless this is material to the impact on one or more criteria, in which case information should be provided on how those impacts could be mitigated. Detailed site-specific information will need to be considered by the IPC and would be identified, for example, in the Environmental Impact

Assessment accompanying any proposal for development. In reaching a decision on whether to include a site that engages one or more discretionary criteria in the list in the Nuclear NPS, DECC will consider, *inter alia*:

- whether the nominator has demonstrated that there is a reasonable prospect of appropriately mitigating (wholly or in part) any potential adverse impacts in relation to the relevant discretionary criterion or criteria;
- where any potential adverse impact(s) cannot be appropriately mitigated, whether the potential adverse impact should prevent the site from being considered suitable at a strategic level taking account of the White Paper on Nuclear Power.

The Government does not expect to form a conclusive view as to the viability of detailed proposals for mitigation or the precise extent of any potential adverse impact. Rather, this will be a matter for the IPC to assess when it receives a specific application for development consent to build on sites listed in the Nuclear NPS. However, the Government would expect the Nuclear NPS to make clear that the IPC, when examining an application, would need to consider the mitigation measures above in more detail before making its decision in relation to the granting of development consent for a specific application to build on a site included in the list in the Nuclear NPS.

The Government will also consider the cumulative impact of the discretionary criteria in relation to a nominated site. Where a site significantly breaches a large number of discretionary criteria, it may be appropriate to exclude it from the Nuclear NPS.

What happens if part of a nomination fails one or more exclusionary or discretionary criteria?

The Government will maintain a dialogue with nominators during the assessment. This may include discussing any areas of concern on the nomination and requesting further information or clarification. For instance, the Government may request more detail on mitigation against a discretionary criterion. If this dialogue results in a request to amend a site boundary in response to concerns, the Government will consider this, although this is not an opportunity for nominators to make a fresh nomination. There will be further opportunity to comment on any such changes when the Government consults on the draft Nuclear NPS.

If, despite this dialogue process, nominators disagree with the result of the SSA, they will have the further opportunity to supply their views during the public consultation on the Nuclear NPS,

What about 'flag for local consideration' criteria?

Nominators do not need to provide information at this stage against criteria which are 'flagged for local consideration' and these criteria are therefore not listed with the nomination form. However, they do appear in the Government Response.

Largely due to the need for detailed site-specific investigations and data, the Government believes these criteria are more appropriately assessed at the local level when details of the specific application for development consent are available. As such these 'flag for local consideration' criteria will form an important consideration at the development consent stage. They do not represent a less onerous test for the nominator to satisfy and a local flag in no way changes their critical nature, but recognises that assessment at a strategic level is not capable of adequately addressing these issues. The Nuclear NPS will reflect the importance of these issues.

Who can nominate a site?

Anyone can nominate a site. If the nomination is on behalf of a company or other corporate entity, the Government will require evidence that the person signing the form is duly authorised to make that nomination.

Any sites which are listed on the Nuclear NPS will not be nominator specific, so any forthcoming application for development consent for a new nuclear power station at a site which is listed on the Nuclear NPS does not have to be brought forward by the person or entity that nominated a site.

A nominator does not have to own a site, but, if the nominator is not the landowner, they should note that they will be required to demonstrate that they have taken steps to raise awareness of the nomination with local communities living in the vicinity of the site, including the owner(s) of the nominated site. In some cases, awareness raising and engagement on a nomination may be carried out by third parties, such as potential operators, rather than the nominator themselves.

All nominated sites will be considered under the SSA process. This will include their ability to be deployed by 2025 and the Government will have to be satisfied that the site is credible for deployment by 2025 for it to be taken forward.

Can nominations be made by consortia or groups of companies?

Yes. In such cases, the declaration should be signed by a representative of each of the relevant companies and appropriate evidence that each signatory is duly authorised to sign the nomination form should be provided.

How should the area covered by the nomination be described?

Nominators are expected to describe the boundary of their proposed area in words and to indicate the outline of their proposed sites using an Ordnance Survey map at the 1:10,000 scale. This boundary is intended to cover the land required for the operation of one or more new nuclear power stations at the site specified for deployment by the end of 2025, including the safe and secure storage of all the spent fuel and intermediate level waste produced through operation and from decommissioning on the site of the station for several decades until it can be sent for disposal in a geological disposal facility. It is not intended to cover land for construction or decommissioning.

Actual applications for development consent, which will be for a specific site, might not be put forward for a number of years, and not necessarily by the nominator, so modifications to the site boundary may subsequently be necessary. To reduce this likelihood and increase the usability of the nominated site, nominators are encouraged to ensure that the area nominated includes within it all likely actual site plans and all reasonable variations to those plans. It is therefore possible that the nominated area will be larger than the actual site plan that will be put forward, in due course, for development consent.

Nominators will be required to demonstrate that it is reasonable to conclude there is enough land within the boundary they have nominated to operate at least one new nuclear power station and for the safe and secure storage of all the spent fuel and intermediate level waste produced through operation and from decommissioning on the site of the station for several decades until it can be sent for disposal in a geological disposal facility. Operators will be expected to factor the need for this into the area nominated and the government will consider this as part of its assessment against the SSA criteria. An assessment will be made of whether there is adequate land available for secure operation of that station, with particular reference to the regulators.

The Government recognises that the level of project definition may be limited at the point of nomination. An element of flexibility of the site boundary may occasionally be needed at the IPC stage and this will enable meaningful detailed discussion to take place with relevant parties at the local level. The Nuclear NPS will therefore outline that, in some circumstances, development can take place outside the site boundary listed on the NPS. Any additional land that is proposed for development will not have undergone an assessment of strategic suitability. We would expect that such land will form part of the main development consent, to be considered by the IPC.

The Government reserves the right, in conjunction with nominators, to make changes to the area nominated, for instance so that it includes all likely actual site plans and all reasonable variations to those plans. The Government may also need to adjust the boundaries of areas nominated where two or more nominations overlap.

What is a Credible Nuclear Power Operator?

A Credible Nuclear Power Operator (CNPO) is one which:

- Currently operates a nuclear power plant anywhere in the world; and
- Currently operates an electricity generating station subject to UK health, safety and environmental regulation, or, which has made a public commitment to become an operator of an electricity generating station (with a capacity in excess of 50MW) by 2016-2025 in a market subject to UK health, safety and environmental regulation.

What happens if all the questions cannot be answered?

Nominators should fill in as much of the nomination form as possible. This document offers guidance on the information sought and the most appropriate sources of that information. However, for some areas, for example possible mitigation actions, it is up to the nominator to determine what is appropriate and relevant.

If a nominator does not provide enough information, this may result in a request for further information. However, nominators should be aware that the failure to provide sufficient information may lead to the decision on the strategic suitability of the site for a new nuclear power station being subject to a number of conditions, or to the nomination being rejected completely.

Further information and guidance

Further information about the nomination process can be obtained by emailing SSAnominations@decc.gsi.gov.uk.

What supporting documentation is required?

In many cases, the nomination form makes clear what supporting documentation will be required. In other cases, it will depend on the details of the nomination (for example, the specific mitigation actions that may be required). Details of the supporting documentation being provided should be included in the table at the end of each question and in the overall list of supporting documents provided in Section F of the nomination form. Nominators should also include a document reference number (e.g. "001") for each separate supporting document they include and this reference should appear in the relevant tables and be clearly marked on the front of each supporting document itself.

How many copies of the completed form and supporting documentation should be provided?

Please submit the original and 3 copies of the nominated form and all other supporting material. Please send all the required information to us in a sealed envelope or package marked "SSA Nomination Process" clearly on the front.

Please also provide a copy of the form and all supporting documents electronically, preferably on an accompanying disc. We would prefer these documents as clean PDF files. Alternatively please supply Microsoft Word (2003 or earlier) files.

May nominations be submitted by email?

Because of the number of supporting documents required, paper-based nominations (with electronic files on an accompanying disc) are strongly preferred.

What is the deadline?

Completed nomination forms and all associated documents should reach us by 5pm on Tuesday, 31 March 2009.

Where should completed nomination forms be sent?

The address for nominations is:

SSA Nominations
Bay 128
Department of Energy and Climate Change
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET
ssanominations@decc.gsi.gov.uk

How will the Government handle information that is commercially confidential?

The Government is committed to ensuring transparency and openness throughout this process. The assumption is therefore that the Government will make public all information provided by nominators as part of the nomination process except where there is a particular need to maintain confidentiality (for instance due to data protection, security or commercial confidentiality). If nominators regard any information that they provide as commercially confidential and not for publication, they should make this clear on the relevant document or relevant part of the nomination form. They should also provide two electronic versions of the documents – one for publication (with the information removed or blacked out) and one not for publication.

Guidance on completing specific sections of the form

Section	Requirement	Notes and Guidance
A1	Title of the site and description in words	<p>Nominators should include a title for the site they are nominating and a short description of its boundary in words. This should make clear which land is to be included and which is not. In doing this, it may be helpful to use grid references, GPS references or other such spatial information.</p> <p>This boundary for the nominated site is intended to cover the land required for the operation of one or more new nuclear power stations at the site specified for deployment by the end of 2025. It is not intended to cover land for construction and decommissioning.</p> <p>Actual applications for development consent, which will be for a specific site, might not be put forward for a number of years, and not necessarily by the nominator, so modifications to the site boundary may subsequently be necessary. To reduce this likelihood and increase the usability of their site, nominators are encouraged to ensure that the area nominated includes within it all likely actual site plans and all reasonable variations to those plans. It is therefore possible that the nominated area will be larger than the actual site plan that will be put forward, in due course, for development consent.</p> <p>In response to section D9, nominators will be required to demonstrate that it is reasonable to conclude there is enough land within the boundary they have nominated to operate at least one new nuclear power station. The Government expects nominators of new nuclear power stations to make provision for safe and secure storage of all the spent fuel and intermediate level waste produced through operation and from decommissioning on the site of the station for several decades until it can be sent for disposal in a geological disposal facility. Operators will be expected to factor this need into the area nominated and the Government will consider this as part of its assessment against the SSA criteria. An assessment will be made of whether there is adequate land available for secure operation of that station, with particular reference to the regulators.</p>

Section	Requirement	Notes and Guidance
		<p>The Government recognises that the level of project definition may be limited at the point of nomination. An element of flexibility of the site boundary may occasionally be needed at the IPC stage and this will enable meaningful detailed discussion to take place with relevant parties at the local level. The Nuclear NPS will explain that in some circumstances development can take place outside the site boundary listed in the Nuclear NPS.</p> <p>The Government reserves the right, in conjunction with nominators, to make changes to the area nominated, for instance so that it includes all likely actual site plans and all reasonable variations to those plans (but no more than this). The Government may also need to adjust the boundaries of areas nominated where two or more nominations overlap.</p>
A2	Site boundary on an Ordnance Survey map at 1:10,000 to show the site boundary	The nomination should show the area nominated by means of a boundary on an Ordnance Survey map at 1:10,000 scale. The boundary should clearly show which land is to be included in the nomination and which is not.
A3	Letter of support from a Credible Nuclear Power Operator (or a statement from the nominator demonstrating that the nomination is credible for deployment by 2025, plus an indication as to whether there is the potential for early deployment on the site)	<p>Nominations should include either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the letter of support from a CNPO; or • a statement from the nominator to demonstrate that the nomination is credible from the perspective of deployment (i.e. commencement of electricity generation) of one or more new nuclear power stations on the site by the end of 2025. <p>Any letter from a CNPO should include a contact name, address, telephone number and email address of an individual within the CNPO that the Government can contact for further information.</p> <p>The Government will accept separate letters of support from two different companies that together satisfy the requirements of the definition of a CNPO as defined in the consultation document and as reflected in our guidance in Annex C, recognising that this will enable credible consortia to enter into the SSA process.</p>

Section	Requirement	Notes and Guidance
		<p>The letter of support from the CNPO or the nominator’s own statement should not seek to duplicate other information included in the nomination. Rather, it is required to demonstrate the achievability of timescale for deployment by the end of 2025. It should therefore focus on factors such as constructability, site planning, commissioning and the potential timing of any transmission and distribution infrastructure required to make the site operational and licensing issues. This is not an exhaustive list and the Government is looking for a statement that demonstrates that the end of 2025 timescale is credible, rather than a detailed project plan, which will not normally be needed.</p> <p>Government must be satisfied that the site is credible for deployment by 2025, and failure to do so will result in a nomination not being included in the SSA.</p> <p>Demonstration that a site is credible for the 2025 timescale for deployment will be sufficient for a nomination to be considered for strategic suitability under the SSA process. However, given the importance of meeting our objectives on climate change, the Government would welcome information about sites that are capable of early deployment. The letter of support from the CNPO or the nominator’s own statement should therefore also consider whether a new nuclear power station could be deployed on the site before 2025, the potential timescales for this early deployment, an estimate of the profile of early generation capacity that may be achievable on the nominated site and the reasons behind this statement.</p>

Section	Requirement	Notes and Guidance
A4	Awareness raising with local communities living in the vicinity of the nominated site (including the owner(s) of land who may be affected)	<p>The nomination must demonstrate that the nominator or, where applicable, a third party have taken steps to raise awareness of the nomination with local communities living in the vicinity of the site, including the owner(s) of the nominated sites. There will be a number of ways in which this could be done. As a minimum, nominators should make the local authority, RDA and any land owners aware of their nomination, and have taken steps to publicise their nomination to the wider community through advertisements in local newspapers. In the case of existing nuclear sites, nominators should consider raising awareness with the existing site stakeholder group. Nominators should also consider discussing their awareness raising plans with the relevant local authorities and should deposit a hard copy of their nomination with the relevant local authority / authorities. Details of what has been done should be included on the nomination form.</p> <p>At awareness raising events (such as meetings) nominators must make available the leaflet <i>New nuclear power stations: How sites will be chosen and how you can have your say</i> or refer attendees to the leaflet, which is available at www.nuclearpowersiting.decc.gov.uk. Please email ssanominations@decc.gsi.gov.uk for copies.</p> <p>In the adverts nominators place, nominators must refer to the fact that information on how to have your say to the Government can be obtained at www.nuclearpowersiting.decc.gov.uk.</p> <p>If, in the Government's view, the steps taken to raise the awareness of the nomination with local communities living in the vicinity of the site, including the owner(s) of the nominated sites, are insufficient (or suitable evidence is not provided), it may not be possible for a particular nomination to be considered further.</p>

Section	Requirement	Notes and Guidance
A5	Consideration of alternative sites	To ensure that alternative sites for new nuclear build have been sufficiently considered at the strategic level, the Government would like nominators to outline their decision making process in nominating this site, rather than any alternatives. Please set out the process you followed for selecting this site for nomination together with the reasons that led you to make this selection.
B1	Name and full address of the nominator plus the details of someone we can contact about the nomination	The nomination form needs to make clear who is making the nomination, whether an individual, company or other corporate body.
B2	Details of any holding company (if relevant)	If the nomination is from a company and it is a subsidiary of a holding or parent company, the nomination form should set out the details of the holding or parent company as well.
B3	Details of someone we can contact about your nomination	<p>The Government may have queries or points to discuss about a nomination during the assessment period. Nominators therefore must supply a contact with whom the Government can get in touch during the assessment process. This should be someone whom the Government can contact directly and who has the authority to act on behalf of the nominator.</p> <p>Nominators must inform the Government of any changes to the details specified in B1 to B3, which occur during the assessment period, including change of ownership of the company or the intention for the nominated site to be developed by a company other than the nominator putting forward this nomination.</p>

Section	Requirement	Notes and Guidance
C1	<p>(Exclusionary criterion)</p> <p>No information is required from nominators on Demographic risk as it will be assessed by the NII on the basis of the boundary specified in section A</p>	<p>For the purpose of the SSA process, the Government will use the Semi-Urban siting criteria (as set out in the consultation document as an exclusionary criterion. Given the complexity of this calculation the Government has decided that it is not reasonable to expect nominators to carry it out themselves; rather the calculations will be undertaken by the NII for the area of the nominated site.</p> <p>Nominators therefore do not need to provide any further information, beyond the description of the site set out in A1 and A2, to support the assessment of this exclusionary criterion. However, they are encouraged to consider demographic and proximity to population issues when deciding where to locate the site that they nominate.</p>
C2	<p>(Exclusionary criterion)</p> <p>No information is required from nominators about the proximity of the site to military activities as it will be assessed by the MoD on the basis of the boundary specified in section A</p>	<p>The purpose of this criterion is twofold. First, to seek to avoid the external hazards to nuclear power station safety that could be created by neighbouring military activities. Secondly, to ensure that the capabilities of the armed forces to carry out essential training and operations are not adversely affected by the siting of new nuclear power stations.</p> <p>The Government will reject nominations (in whole or in part) if the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is within certain Military Low Flying Tactical Training Areas and Air Weapon Ranges; • is within the air space surrounding a MoD aerodrome or an aerodrome used for defence activities contained within a designated Military Air Traffic Zone (MATZ); • is within the air space surrounding a MoD aerodrome or an aerodrome used for defence activities contained within a designated Air Traffic Zone (ATZ);

Section	Requirement	Notes and Guidance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is within or affects the use of the areas used for live firing or other military training activities. These include (but are not limited to) the following areas: Aldershot and Minley Training Area, Hankley and Elstead Commons Training Area, Leek and Upper Hulme Training Area, Longmore Range and Training Area, Otterburn Training Area and Salisbury Plain Training Area; • is within the explosive safeguarding zones surrounding MoD explosive storage facilities. <p>Given the security considerations around the information for this criterion, the Government has decided that it is not reasonable to require nominators to provide it themselves; rather the assessment will be undertaken by MoD for the area of the nominated site.</p> <p>Nominators therefore do not need to provide any further information, beyond the description of the site set out in A1 and A2, to support the consideration of this exclusionary criterion.</p> <p>However, they are encouraged to check items on the above list for their site (set out in A1 and A2), which are available in the public domain. This information can be obtained from the CAA and UK Aeronautical Information Service.</p>

Section	Requirement	Notes and Guidance
D1	<p>(Discretionary criterion)</p> <p>Information about flooding, storm surge and tsunami and (if necessary) the potential for appropriate mitigation</p>	<p>The SSA process will consider flooding issues from two perspectives. First, the possible threats to the safety of a new nuclear power station in an area exposed to flood risk. Secondly, the wider impacts of flood protection countermeasures on areas surrounding potential new nuclear power station sites.</p> <p>All new developments in England, including infrastructure such as new nuclear power stations, must take due account of the policies set out in Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25). PPS25⁴¹ outlines how flood risk should be considered in making planning decisions. The policy's aim is to make development safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere and, where possible, to reduce flood risk overall. The Government does not propose to apply the PPS25 tests at strategic level in the SSA as we do not expect the necessary detailed site-specific information to be available for this assessment.</p> <p>For nominations in England, nominators will be expected to use the flood maps publicly available on the Environment Agency website to provide a strategic overview of flood risk for the site.</p> <p>http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/31656.aspx</p> <p>This flood map will not be used for detailed local planning purposes but is considered a first step in identifying whether a site is at risk of flooding.</p>

41 <http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningpolicyguidance/planningpolicystatements/planningpolicystatements/pp25>

Section	Requirement	Notes and Guidance
		<p>All proposed developments in Wales, including infrastructure such as new nuclear power stations must take due account of the policies set out in Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15⁴². In Wales the constraint map for detailed planning purposes is the TAN 15 development advice map published by the Welsh Assembly Government, not the Flood Map provided by the Environment Agency. However, for the purposes of the SSA, for nominations in Wales nominators should provide both the publicly available flood map from the Environment Agency website and copies of the development advice map published by the Welsh Assembly Government for the site, which is available at the local planning office or at local libraries.</p> <p>Where a site falls within an area of high flood risk, the Government expects nominators to indicate why it is reasonable to conclude, at a strategic level, that a nuclear power station within the nominated site could be protected against those flood risks, including the potential effects of climate change, throughout the lifetime of the station. The lifetime of the station needs to include the safe and secure storage of all the spent fuel and intermediate level waste produced through operation and from decommissioning for several decades until it can be sent for disposal in a geological disposal facility. In particular, nominators should outline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the protection measures they believe would be appropriate to protect the site against flooding; • whether the protection measures would affect other designated areas; • the assumptions that have been made about off-site flood protection and water management and, in particular, the reliance on flood protection measures which are in the control of other parties, such as neighbouring landowners or government bodies; • the potential for flooding to impede access to the site in respect of both normal operations and emergency services; and • whether the development of a new nuclear station on the site (including any likely mitigation measures) is likely to increase flood risk elsewhere.

Section	Requirement	Notes and Guidance
		<p>Nominators should comment holistically on the risk of flooding to likely sites for nuclear power station development within the site recognising that flooding can come from rivers and the sea (including storm surges), directly from rainfall on the ground surface and from rising groundwater, overwhelmed sewers and drainage systems and other sources – and that such sources may occur in parallel and the combined effect must be considered. In addition, nominators should explain why it is reasonable to conclude that the nominated site is likely to pass the sequential test which requires developments to be located in the lowest possible flood-risk zone unless there is no reasonable alternative.</p> <p>Nominators (and in due course, developers) should also be mindful of the latest predictions of climate change and the long potential lifetime of a new nuclear station. Annex B of PPS25 includes the current Defra policy guidance on climate change through to 2115 and nominators should take account of this in their protection measures. Similarly Annex 2 of TAN 15 should be used as guidance for nominations in Wales.</p> <p>Additionally nominators should indicate how any likely power station developments within the site could be protected against the risks of tsunami. Details of the current tsunami risk to the UK can be found on the Defra website.</p> <p>http://www.defra.gov.uk/environ/fcd/emergencyplanning/tsunami.htm</p>

Section	Requirement	Notes and Guidance
D2	<p>(Discretionary criterion)</p> <p>Information about coastal erosion or other landscape change scenarios risk and (if necessary) the potential for appropriate mitigation</p>	<p>For all sites on or near the coast, the Government expects nominators to indicate why it is reasonable to conclude, at a strategic level, that a nuclear power station within the site could be protected against coastal erosion and other landscape change scenarios, including the potential effects of climate change, for the lifetime of the station. The lifetime of the station needs to include the safe and secure storage of all the spent fuel and intermediate level waste produced through operation and from decommissioning for several decades until it can be sent for disposal in a geological disposal facility. In particular, nominators should outline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the countermeasures that could be taken to protect any new nuclear power station within the nominated site from the effects of coastal erosion or other landscape change scenarios; • the dependencies on coastal protection measures that may be under the control of other parties, such as neighbouring landowners or government bodies; and • the potential for these risks to impede access to the site in respect of both normal operations and emergency services access. • In addressing these points, or otherwise, nominators should demonstrate that they have taken account of: • the wider impacts of any coastal protection countermeasures on areas surrounding the development of a new nuclear power station within the site; • interaction with the local and regional plans for coastal protection and watercourse management; and • any reliance on third party schemes for protection that is being assumed.

Section	Requirement	Notes and Guidance
D3	<p>(Discretionary criterion)</p> <p>No information is required from nominators about the proximity of the site to hazardous facilities as it will be assessed by the HSE on the basis of the boundary specified in section A. Nominators may wish to put forward arguments for countermeasures or mitigations, if they think that the nominated site may be affected.</p>	<p>For large installations that fall under the Control of Major Accidents and Hazards Regulations 1999 (which is determined by chemical type and inventory), these “COMAH” sites have certain legal obligations. There is an explicit need for consultation on any proposed development within the defined consultation zone for each COMAH installation. There are also a large number of “lower tier” COMAH installations that carry lesser inventories of hazardous substances. These too can require consultation to be entered into but the defined zones are much smaller.</p> <p>Nominated sites may be unsuitable for the development of new nuclear power stations if they are within the consultation distance of an existing or proposed hazardous facility.</p> <p>It would be a matter for the HSE to decide whether existing nuclear power stations or sites undergoing decommissioning should be regarded as hazardous industrial facilities and the level of consultation zone⁴³ that may be appropriate.</p> <p>This will depend on the nature of the site, including the presence of hazardous materials. It is unlikely that such proximity will rule out a site from further consideration, provided that appropriate mitigation measures can be put in place. The Government will draw on advice from the HSE in considering the level of hazard and whether it is likely, recognising that the SSA process is at a strategic level, that suitable countermeasures should be able to mitigate any risk.</p> <p>Given the security considerations around the information for this criterion, the Government has decided that it is not reasonable to require nominators to provide this themselves. Rather the assessment will be undertaken by the HSE for the area of the nominated site.</p>

⁴³ There is an explicit need for consultation on any proposed development within the defined consultation zone for each COMAH installation - large installations that fall under the Control of Major Accidents and Hazards Regulations 1999 (which is determined by chemical type and inventory).

Section	Requirement	Notes and Guidance
		<p>Nominators therefore do not need to provide any further information, beyond the description of the site set out in A1 and A2, to support the consideration of this discretionary criterion.</p> <p>However, they are encouraged to check the proximity of hazardous facilities to the nominated site (as set out in A1 and A2), which information is available in the public domain. Nominators can obtain this information from the local planning authority. The local authority also has a list of major hazard sites and pipelines and the constraints imposed by the consultation zones set by HSE.</p> <p>Nominators may wish to put forward arguments for countermeasures or mitigations, if they think that the nominated site may be affected.</p>
D4	<p>(Discretionary criterion)</p> <p>No information is required from nominators about risks from civil aircraft movements as it will be assessed by the HSE on the basis of the boundary specified in section A. Nominators may, however, wish to put forward arguments for countermeasures or mitigations, if they think that the nominated site may be affected.</p>	<p>Certain higher risk areas and zones are defined to protect infrastructure and minimise human casualties in the event of an air crash. Examples of such areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Safety Zones (PSZs) around commercial aerodromes with large volumes of traffic. Thirty of the UK’s 150 licensed aerodromes currently have a PSZ. Inside these zones, planning guidance makes a general presumption against new developments and would probably rule out approval of a new nuclear site within a PSZ; • Aerodrome Safeguarding Plans, for each licensed aerodrome, which are lodged by the aerodrome operator with the relevant local planning authority. Any planning application to build in these areas is subject to an independent collision risk assessment and must also meet the aerodrome safeguarding requirements. Unlicensed aerodromes, such as some helicopter landing sites, are encouraged to lodge plans for an aerodrome safeguarding plan but cannot be forced to do so. However most do lodge plans as it protects their ability to operate safely;

Section	Requirement	Notes and Guidance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Traffic Control Areas, which are areas surrounding aerodromes where traffic is controlled in and out of that aerodrome. Areas of high density flying may be created because of the way aircraft are directed into and out of surrounding aerodromes. • Enhanced airspace arrangements surrounding aerodromes and other areas of known air traffic activity. Areas of increased air traffic density may be created as a result of aircraft routing into and out of surrounding aerodromes being restricted by the siting of a nuclear power station. <p>It should also be noted that air exclusion zones around nuclear power stations, established by the Air Navigation (Restriction of Flying) (Nuclear Installations) Regulations 2007 could affect the safe operations of neighbouring aerodromes or air traffic control areas.</p> <p>The Government recognises that not all the information for this criterion is in the public domain and has therefore decided that it is not reasonable to require nominators to provide this themselves; rather the assessment will be undertaken by the DfT (in respect of PSZs) and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) for the area within the site provided by the nominator.</p> <p>Nominators therefore do not need to provide any further information, beyond the description of the site set out in A1 and A2, to support the consideration of this discretionary criterion.</p> <p>However, they are encouraged to check the proximity of civil aircraft movements to the nominated site (as set out in A1 and A2), where information is available in the public domain. This information can be obtained from the CAA and UK Aeronautical Information Service.</p> <p>Nominators may wish to put forward arguments for countermeasures or mitigations, if they think that the nominated site may be affected.</p>

Section	Requirement	Notes and Guidance
D5	<p>(Discretionary criterion)</p> <p>Information about other military activities not covered by C2 above and (if necessary) the potential for appropriate mitigation</p>	<p>C2, which is an exclusionary criterion, will be applied for the five designations of zones and areas set out above. In addition, the Government wants to know whether the site is in close proximity to, or may affect, other MoD assets or activities not covered by Section C2.</p> <p>If the nominated site is in close proximity to, or may affect, any other MoD assets or activities not covered by Section C2, the Government expects nominators to indicate why it is reasonable to conclude, at a strategic level, that this proximity should not rule out the site for consideration for a new nuclear power station. Nominators may wish to put forward arguments for countermeasures or mitigations, if they think that the nominated site may be affected.</p> <p>MoD assets or military activities that should be included in the response to Section D5 include (but are not limited to) technical sites and transmitters, offshore danger areas and nuclear facilities (including ports used by military vessels).</p> <p>The Government recognises that nominators may not have definitive information on all military activities near to the nominated site (as set out in A1 and A2).</p> <p>Advice from the MoD will be sought during the assessment of nominations on the application of this criterion.</p>

Section	Requirement	Notes and Guidance
D6	<p>Discretionary</p> <p>Information on internationally designated sites of ecological importance and (if necessary) the likely level of impact and the potential for appropriate mitigation</p>	<p>There are numerous ecological sites across the UK that are, or will be, protected from the impacts of development by International and European legislation and agreements.</p> <p>Natura 2000 is the EU-wide network of areas established by the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) which are designated to conserve habitats and species that are rare, endangered, vulnerable or endemic within the European Community. These 'Natura 2000 sites' include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated by the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC). The Habitats Directive is transposed into UK law, in England and Wales through the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 and in Northern Ireland through the Northern Ireland Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2007.</p> <p>It is a matter of law that candidate SACs (cSACs) and potential SPAs (pSPAs) are considered under the terms of the Directive. It is Government policy that possible SACs (pSACs), draft SACs (dSACs), and potential SPAs (pSPAs) should also be considered through the SSA process. Further, it is Government policy that all sites designated under the Ramsar convention⁴⁴ for their internationally important wetlands ('Ramsar Sites') are considered as part of the Natura 2000 network.</p>

⁴⁴ The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, adopted as an intergovernmental treaty at Ramsar in Iran 1971, as updated

Section	Requirement	Notes and Guidance
		<p>Nominators can find out details of the complete list of UK Natura 2000 sites and information about the site and features (includes maps and physical data) of SAC, SPA and Ramsar sites' from:</p> <p>The Joint Nature Conservation Committee and the individual responsible statutory bodies. www.jncc.gov.uk</p> <p>England – Natural England www.naturalengland.org.uk</p> <p>Wales – Countryside Council for Wales www.ccw.gov.uk</p> <p>Scotland – Scottish Natural Heritage www.snh.org.uk</p> <p>Northern Ireland – Department of the Environment – Northern Ireland Environment Agency www.ni-environment.gov.uk</p>
		<p>In July 2008 the Government undertook a Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening of the impact of siting new nuclear power stations in accordance with the SSA criteria. Further Habitats Directive screening will be taken forward alongside the SSA process and will include Appropriate Assessment (where necessary) of the draft list of nominated sites that are included in the draft Nuclear NPS.</p>

Section	Requirement	Notes and Guidance
		<p>Nominators will be expected to identify the site, qualifying features and specific vulnerabilities of Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites that have the potential to be either directly impacted (e.g. land take) or indirectly impacted (e.g. discharge of cooling water to river or sea) by the development of a new nuclear power station on the nominated site. If Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites are impacted in this way, the Government expects nominators to comment on the likely level of impact and indicate why it is reasonable to conclude, at a strategic level, that it should be possible to avoid or mitigate any such impact in line with the standards set by the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>As part of the assessment process, the Government will seek the views of statutory consultees on nominated sites. Nominators are encouraged to share the results of any discussions they have had with statutory consultees and other nature conservation bodies responsible for overseeing the management of the areas in response to this criterion on the nomination form.</p>

Section	Requirement	Notes and Guidance
D7	<p>(Discretionary criterion)</p> <p>Information on nationally designated sites of ecological importance and (if necessary) the level of impact and the potential for appropriate mitigation</p>	<p>In line with the criterion described in D6 above for internationally designated sites, the Government also intends to use the SSA process to help minimise the adverse impacts of development on nationally designated sites of ecological importance. Such designations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites of Special Scientific Interest (England, Scotland and Wales) /Areas of Special Scientific Interest (Northern Ireland), some of which are also Natura 2000 or Ramsar sites and are therefore covered by D6; • National Nature Reserves; • Marine Nature Reserves; • Marine Conservation Zones; • Areas of Special Protection (England, Scotland, Wales)/Wildlife Refuges (Northern Ireland); • Natural Heritage Areas (in Scotland); • Limestone Pavement Orders; and • Areas of Special Protection (AoSP) (in England, Scotland and Wales) and Wildlife Refuges (in Northern Ireland) <p>The Joint Nature Conservation Committee provide information on all statutory designations from the relevant statutory bodies:</p> <p>England – Natural England www.naturalengland.org.uk</p> <p>Wales – Countryside Council for Wales www.ccw.gov.uk</p> <p>Scotland – Scottish Natural Heritage www.snh.org.uk</p> <p>Northern Ireland – Department of the Environment – Northern Ireland Environment Agency www.ni-environment.gov.uk</p>

Section	Requirement	Notes and Guidance
		<p>The potential impacts on biodiversity and wider conservation and natural environment interests from site nominations both individually and cumulatively, will also be considered as part of the Appraisal of Sustainability, incorporating the SEA, that the Government is undertaking in parallel to the SSA process. The findings of the Appraisal of Sustainability will be fed into the SSA assessment.</p> <p>Where a nomination covers an area that includes a nationally designated site of ecological importance, the Government expects nominators to comment on the likely level of impact and indicate why it is reasonable to conclude, at a strategic level, that it should be possible to avoid or mitigate any such impact.</p> <p>As part of the assessment process, the Government will seek the views of statutory consultees on nominated sites. Nominators are encouraged to share the results of any discussions they have had with statutory consultees and other nature conservation bodies responsible for overseeing the management of the areas in response to this criterion on the nomination form.</p>
D8	<p>(Discretionary criterion)</p> <p>Information on areas of amenity, cultural heritage and landscape value and (if necessary) the likely level of impact and the potential for appropriate mitigation</p>	<p>The UK's planning system seeks to protect, where possible, sites and structures of specific amenity, cultural heritage and landscape value. For the purposes of the SSA, these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unesco World Heritage Sites; • Scheduled Monuments; • Protected Wreck Sites; • National Parks; • Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (England, Wales and Northern Ireland); • National Scenic Areas (Scotland); • Listed buildings; • Conservation Areas; and • Areas of Archaeological Importance.

Section	Requirement	Notes and Guidance
		<p>Where a site is nominated in an area that may affect a nationally designated area of high amenity, landscape or cultural heritage value, the Government expects nominators to comment on the likely level of impact and indicate why it is reasonable to conclude, at a strategic level, that it should be possible to avoid or mitigate any such impact.</p> <p>As part of the assessment process, the Government will seek the views of statutory consultees on nominated sites. Nominators are encouraged to share the results of any discussions they have had with statutory consultees and other nature conservation bodies responsible for overseeing the management of the areas in response to this criterion on the nomination form.</p>
D9	<p>(Discretionary criterion)</p> <p>Information to demonstrate that it is reasonable to conclude that the nominated site is large enough to accommodate operations</p>	<p>Nominators will be required to demonstrate that it is reasonable to conclude there is enough land within the boundary they have nominated for the secure operation of at least one new nuclear power station.</p> <p>The Government expects nominators of new nuclear power stations to make provision for safe and secure storage of all the spent fuel and intermediate level waste produced through operation and from decommissioning on the site of the station until it can be sent for disposal in a geological disposal facility. Nominators must therefore factor the need for this into the area they nominate and in their answer to this criterion.</p> <p>An assessment will be made of whether there is adequate land available so that effective control over activities and access may be exercised on and around a new nuclear power station on the nominated site, with particular reference to the regulators.</p>

Section	Requirement	Notes and Guidance
D10	<p>(Discretionary criterion)</p> <p>Information on cooling technologies that are likely to be feasible</p>	<p>Nuclear power stations require suitable cooling for safe and efficient operation. Feasible options for cooling include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • direct use of sea, lake or river water without cooling towers; • use of cooling towers, typically combined with lake or river sites and using considerably less water than direct cooling; and • air-based cooling, with minimal water requirements but utilising large heat exchangers. <p>The environmental impacts of cooling depend largely on the environmental sensitivity of the area, the cooling requirements of the nuclear power station and the detailed design of the cooling system. Both abstraction and discharge of cooling water can affect the environment. Cooling towers can also have some visual impact.</p> <p>The Government expects nominators to offer information about cooling technologies that are feasible for likely nuclear power station developments within the nominated site. For example, the Government expects nominators to explain whether cooling towers are likely to be necessary or whether a less visually intrusive form of cooling is likely to be possible.</p> <p>In responding to this question, nominators should keep their answers at a strategic level. They should not specify particular reactor designs or the number of reactors to be developed on the nominated site. However, they should cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether it is reasonable to conclude that there are suitable sources of cooling for a new nuclear power station within the nominated site. If water-based cooling is to be employed, the nominator should indicate why it believes that there is sufficient water for this purpose or other measures that need to be put in place; • what impacts (including visual impact) there are likely to be from the need for cooling and why it is reasonable to conclude that these impacts are manageable or able to be mitigated;

Section	Requirement	Notes and Guidance
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether, at a strategic level and subject to local considerations, it is reasonable to conclude that a new nuclear power station on the nominated site will be able to be operated within normal environmental and regulatory requirements; • any issues that may affect cooling over the lifetime of the new nuclear power station (including changes in meteorology, climate, etc).
E	Signed declaration and (if necessary) evidence that the signatory has the authority to do so.	<p>Nominations will not be considered as part of the SSA process unless the nomination form is signed. Nominations on behalf of a company or corporate entity should be accompanied by evidence that the individual signing the declaration is a Director of the Company, the Company Secretary, Partner or other duly authorised signatory. If this is not the case, other evidence could include the minutes of a board meeting authorising the individual to sign the form on behalf of the company.</p> <p>Where the nomination is on behalf of more than one company – for example, a consortium – the declaration should be signed by a representative of each of the relevant companies and appropriate evidence that each signatory is duly authorised to sign the nomination form should be provided.</p>
F	List of all supporting documents provided with the nomination, plus individual reference numbers	<p>All supporting documentation being provided with the nomination should be listed in the table in section F of the nomination form.</p> <p>Documents appearing in this list should also be referred to under the appropriate question on the nomination form.</p> <p>Nominators should also include a document reference number (e.g. "001") for each separate supporting document they include and this reference should appear in the relevant tables and be clearly marked on the front of each supporting document itself.</p> <p>The Government will not return documents submitted as part of the nomination process.</p>

