

Reformed connections process

12 April 2026

Connections Reform

Over 750GW of generation and storage projects were seeking to connect to the GB electricity network and an increasing number of those projects had connection dates into the mid to late 2030s.

Renewable project developers are waiting too long to connect to the network and this is hindering our progress to reach Clean Power by 2030 and Net Zero by 2050.

Drivers



UK's Net zero goals



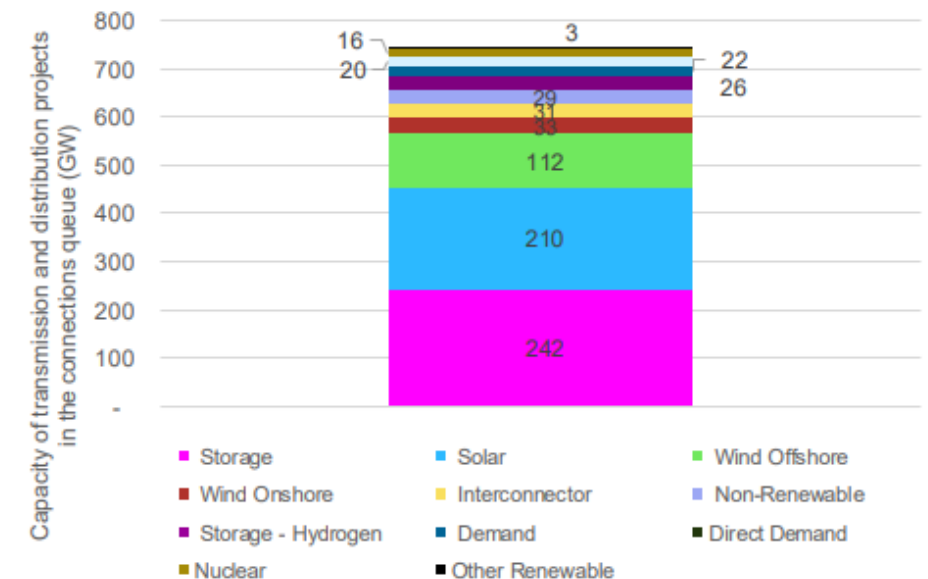
Connections queue size and backlogs



Connection dates under status quo

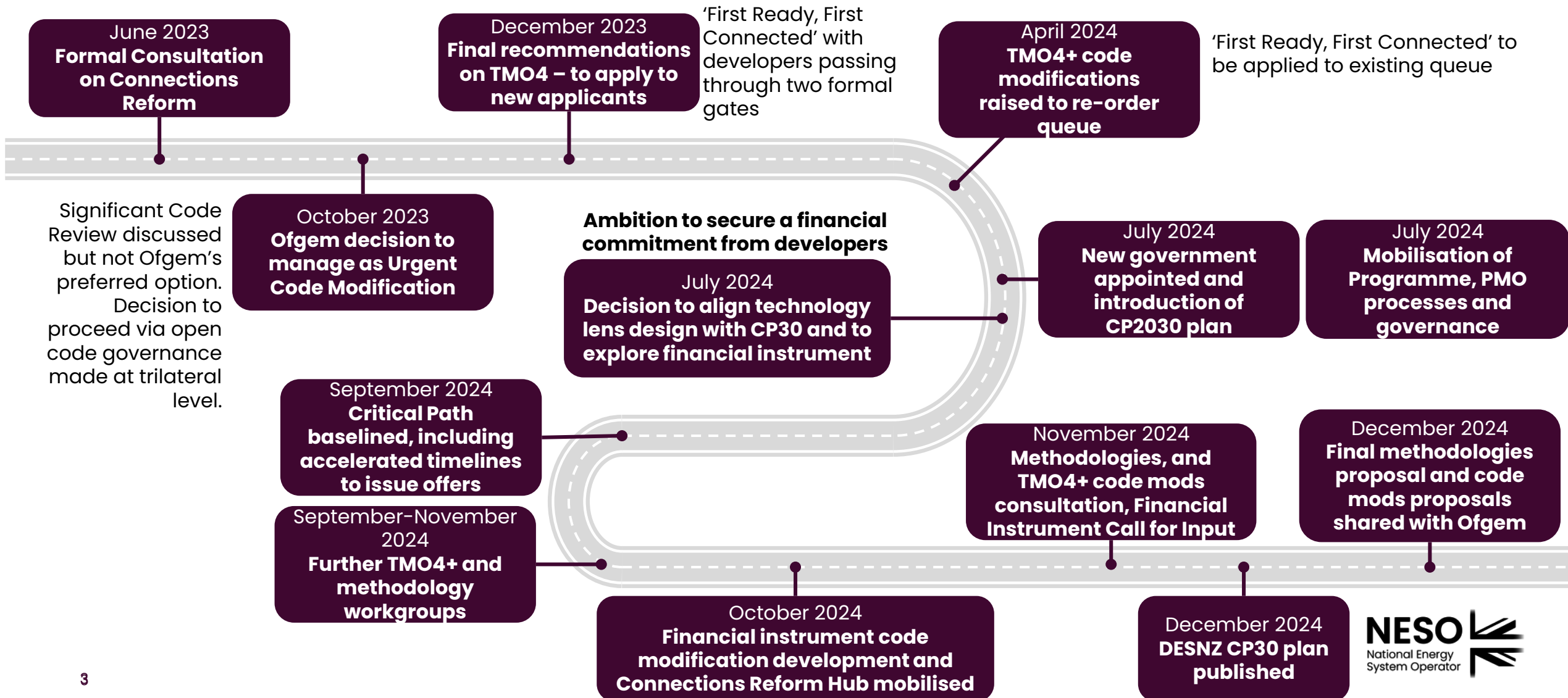
Connections Queue, by technology type

Current connections queue for transmission and distribution including built capacity and split by technology type (Oct 2024)

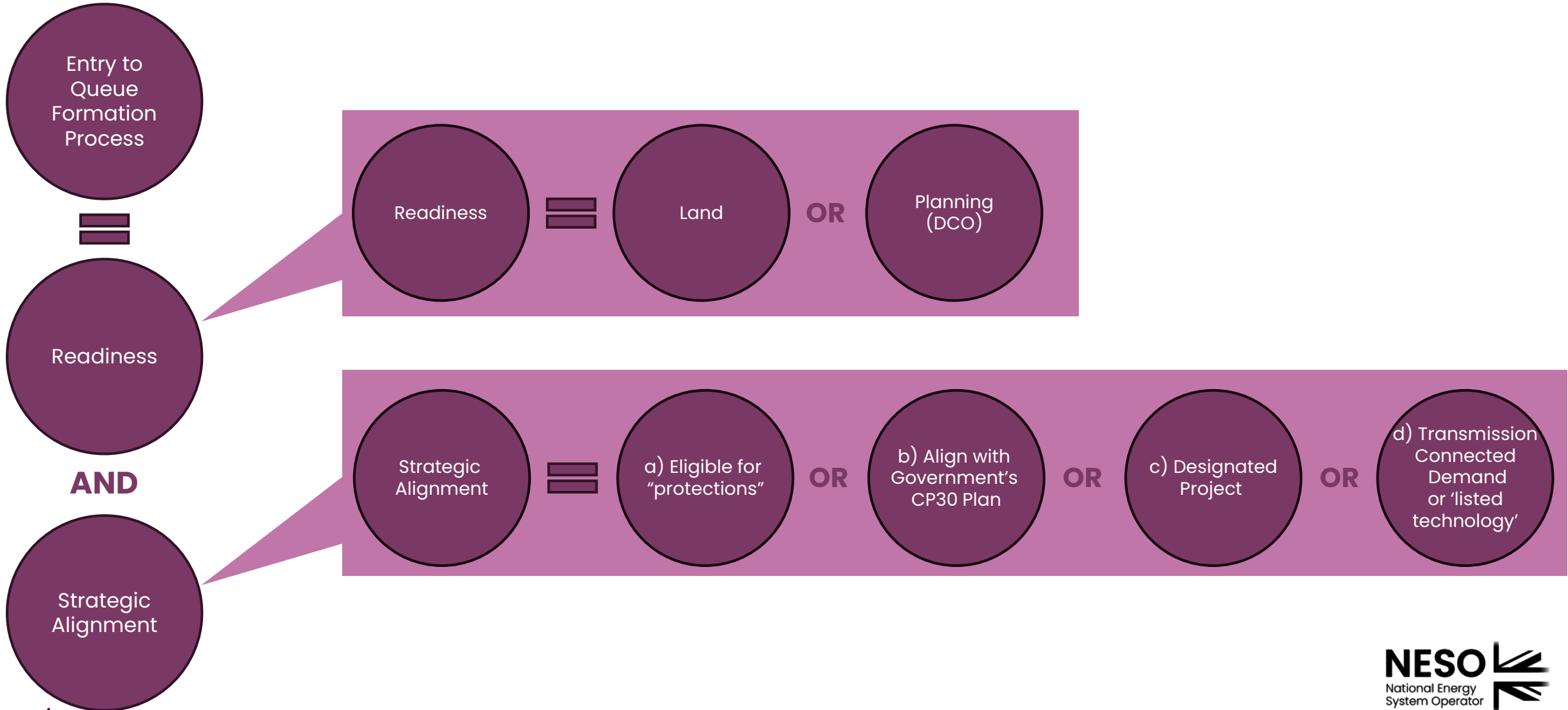


The connections queue contains over 750 gigawatts of projects, over double what is needed to meet our 2050 forecasts

Decisions and activities undertaken to date



Gate 2 Criteria



Aligning the Queue to the CP30 Action Plan in first Window

After applying the Gate 2 Readiness Criteria, the process below will be used to determine the projects that meet Strategic Alignment Criteria b):

1. Form a sub-queue for each technology in each zone (e.g. Solar in Transmission Zone T1)

2. Identify projects that are eligible for 'protections'

3. Assign these projects to a phase, based on their contracted connection date, or advancement date where requested*

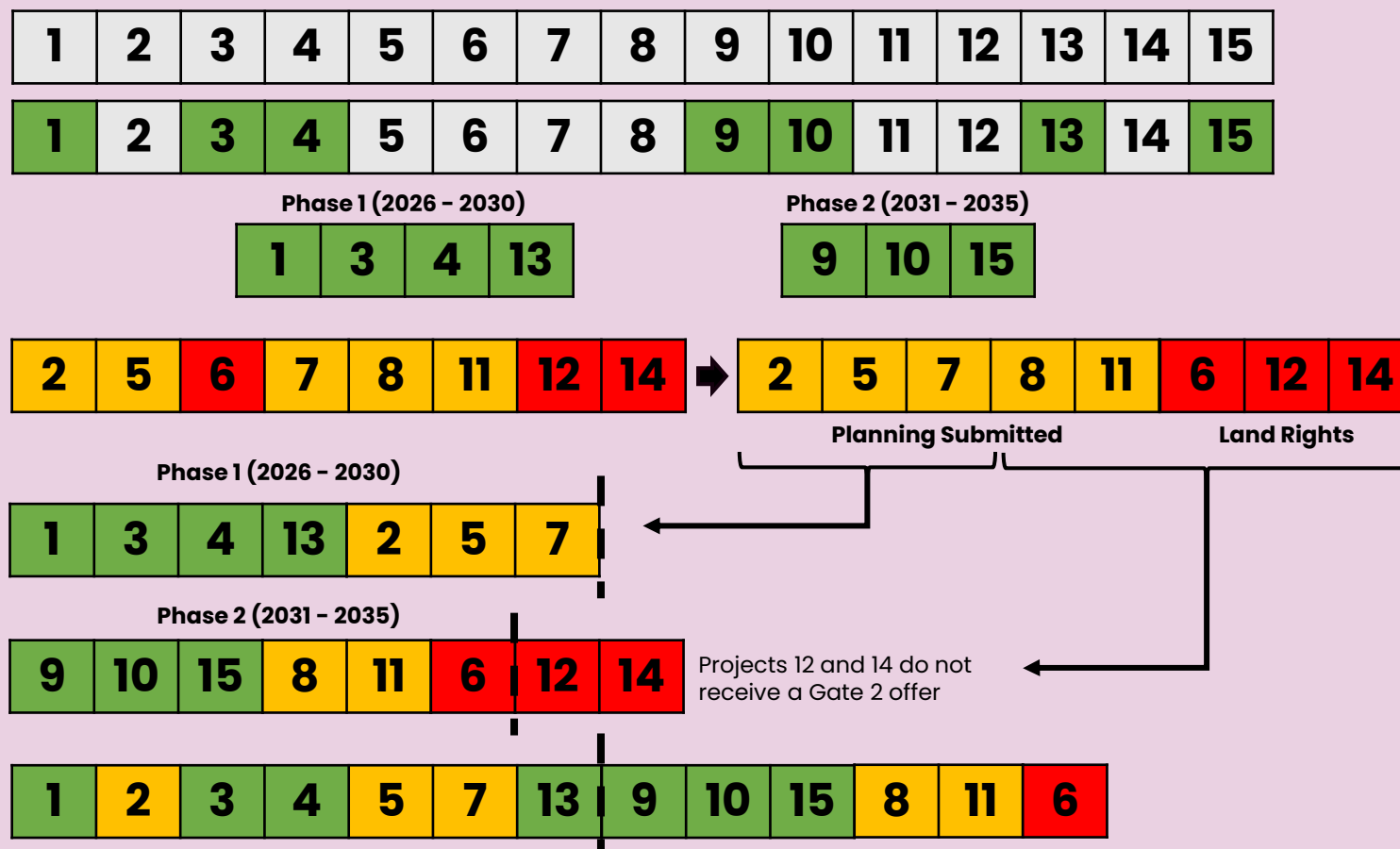
4. Determine the planning status of the remaining projects and order them based on this planning status

5. Relevant TO/DNO identify any network limitations preventing advancement (prior to detailed network study)

6. Where remaining projects have an existing or requested date of 2030 or earlier, add them to Phase 1 until the permitted capacity is reached

7. Add the rest of the remaining projects to Phase 2 until the permitted capacity is reached. Any exceeding this will not receive a Gate 2 offer

8. Return Phase 1 projects to existing relative queue positions and recombine Phase 1 and Phase 2



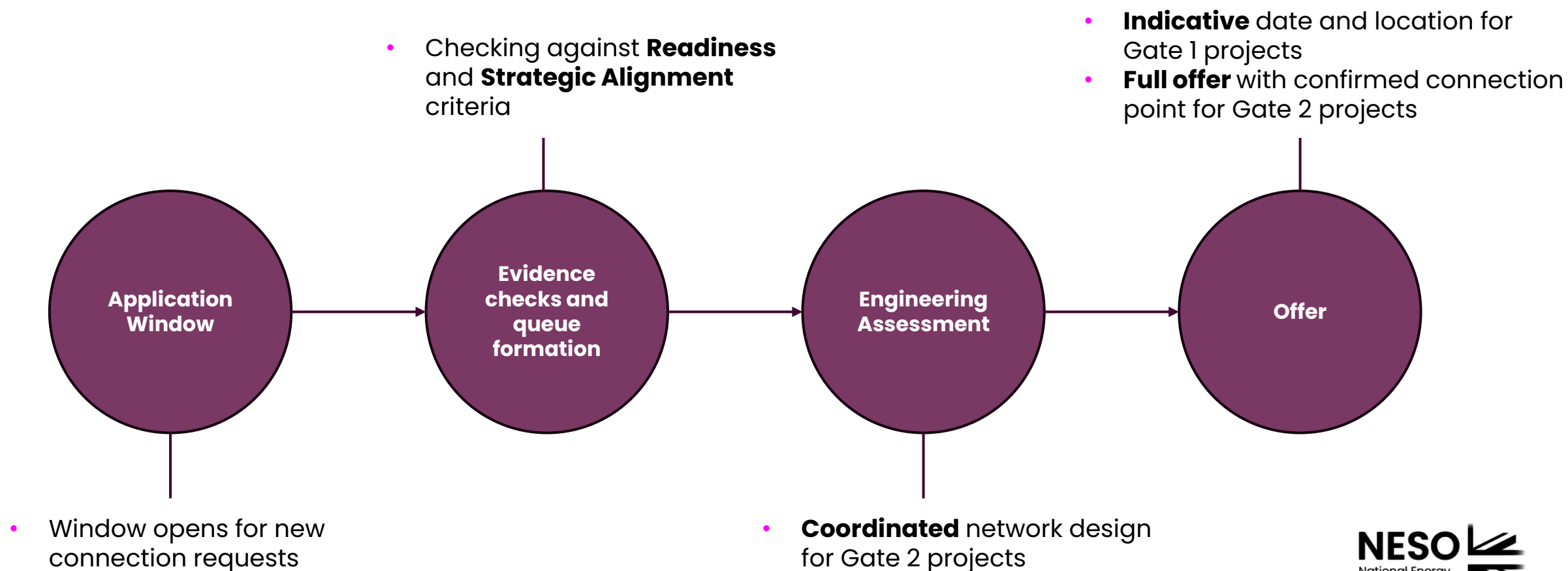
*if the 2030 permitted capacity is reached at this stage, all remaining 'green' projects will be allocated to Phase 2, even if this results in the 2035 permitted capacity being exceeded.

Connections Reform Comparison – Existing vs New Regime

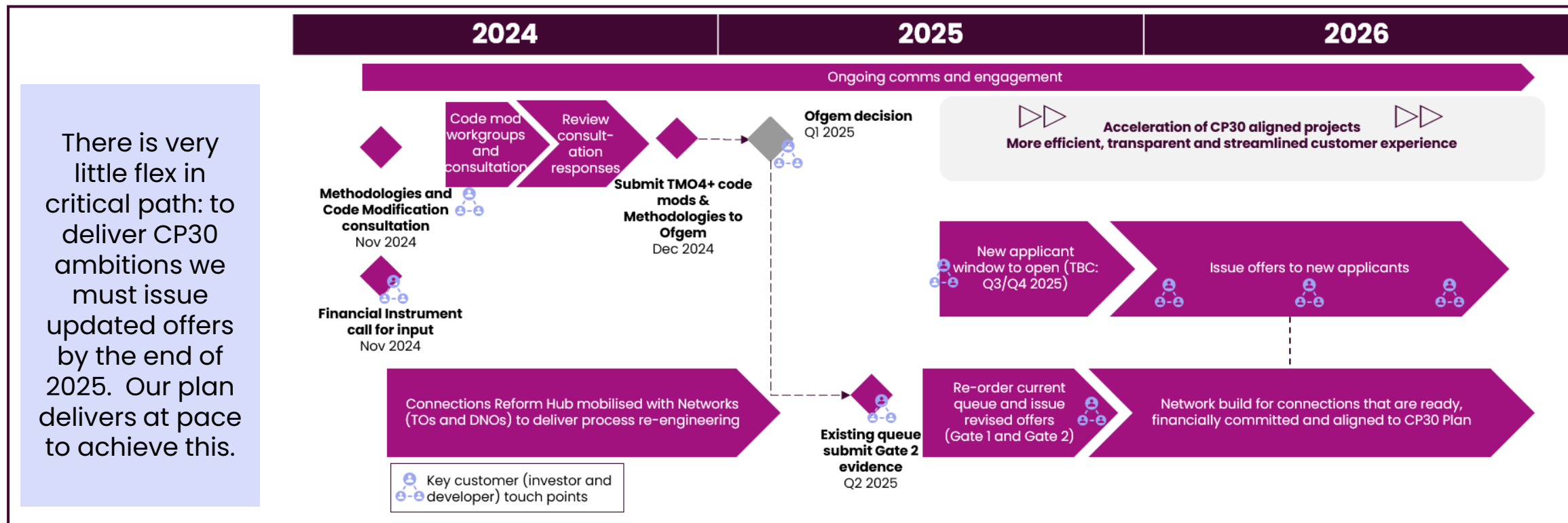
Process	Existing Regime	New Reform Process
Queue Priority	First-Come, First-Served: queue order based purely on application date	First-ready and needed, first-connected. Order based on readiness and alignment to strategic plans
Application Timing	Rolling applications accepted anytime. Processed one by one	Application windows bi-annually, with projects competing in gates rather than by who applied first
Connection Offer	Full offers only: connection point and date given in contract	Two options for offer: Gate 1 providing indicative point & date. Gate 2: provides firm point and date once the criteria are met
Project Requirements	Low initial requirements – minimal info and relatively small application fee. Contract has less stringent milestones which lead to many projects stalling	High requirements to establish and keep position in the queue – must show readiness (e.g. land rights) and meet Gate 2 milestones or risk being removed
Network Planning	Reactive, reinforcements triggered by each application with little ability to optimise across a number of projects	Proactive and strategic– coordinated network design across batches and aligned with long term network plans
Handling Backlog	Legacy queue of ~750GWs with many ‘zombie projects’	Application of Gate 2 criteria to existing queue to free up capacity for projects that are progressing

New Connections Process Overview

Connections Reform will offer faster connections for viable projects aligned to strategic energy plans, a more coordinated and efficient network design that benefits customers and consumers, and a streamlined process that effectively supports the transition to net zero.



We are working at pace to deliver an ambitious Reform



The scale of the Reform is unprecedented

60

Over **60 workgroups** held through code governance **over 6 months** (compared with 12 workgroup meetings over **2.5 years as a standard timeline** for code modification)

1500

1500 Transmission applications will be reviewed in **5 months** (subject to Ofgem agreement). Typically, **~80 applications** are processed each month

172

172 consultation responses received across 4 code mods (compared with 15-20 responses per mod normally)

40

40 workgroup members to agree code mods – normally we'd expect 10

154

154 methodology consultation responses summarised and addressed in just 3 weeks

Project Progression Milestones

Milestone	Name	How far before Completion Date (indicative timing framework)
M1	Initiate Statutory Consents & Planning	Typically several years before completion (early development stage); exact timing negotiated per project
M2	Secured Statutory Consents & Planning	Typically ~2–4+ years before completion , depending on project duration
M3	Secure Land Rights	Typically ~2–4+ years before completion , slightly after M2
M4	(Not applicable)	N/A
M5	Contestable Design Works Submission	Typically ~1–2 years before completion
M6	Agree Construction Plan	Typically ~9–18 months before completion
M7	Project Commitment	Typically ~6–15 months before completion
M8	Initiate Construction	Typically ~3–15 months before