



## Meeting note

<b>File reference</b>	EN020007
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	Siân Evans
<b>Date</b>	14 March 2017
<b>Meeting with</b>	National Grid
<b>Venue</b>	Temple Quay House
<b>Attendees</b>	Chris White – Planning Inspectorate Richard Hunt – Planning Inspectorate Kay Sully – Planning Inspectorate Siân Evans – Planning Inspectorate  Richard Gwilliam – National Grid John Bevan – National Grid Richard Westwood – National Grid
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	Update in relation to the North West Coast Connections Project
<b>Circulation</b>	All attendees

### Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

The developer was aware of the Planning Inspectorate's (the Inspectorate's) openness policy and that any advice given would be recorded and placed on the Inspectorate's website under section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). Any advice given does not constitute legal advice upon which the applicant (or others) can rely.

National Grid advised that their consultation finished on 6 January 2017. Through consultation feedback, over 800 change requests were received and National Grid is currently considering how these could be incorporated into the scheme design. National Grid acknowledged that depending on the scale of changes accommodated it may be necessary to undertake further consultation prior to application submission but indicated that this is likely to be on a geographically targeted basis. The Inspectorate advised that should targeted consultation be undertaken National Grid may want to consider providing the opportunity for all consultees to comment. Before undertaking any consultation National Grid should also consider whether further consultation is needed on the Statement of Community Consultation if any changes are in a local authority area not previously consulted.

The Inspectorate advised that feedback is being received from the local community that they are unclear as to what the timescale for submission of the application is, and

also that they sought more information on alternative routes. The Inspectorate advised that National Grid should keep the local community informed as much as possible. National Grid explained that they are attending regular meetings with various stakeholder groups and will share further information with them as soon as they are able.

The Inspectorate enquired whether any s53 (rights of entry) applications will be required as a result of any further surveys. National Grid advised that if necessary they can potentially use s172 of the Housing and Planning Act.

National Grid provided an update on ecological surveys, highlighting that further survey work would be undertaken during 2017.

With regard to reviewing draft documents the Inspectorate advised that it is preferable to have them as a suite, rather than piecemeal and ideally no later than 2-3 months before the application is submitted. National Grid explained that the Consultation Report may not be ready until 6-8 weeks before submission. The Inspectorate advised that it is good practice for applicants to complete their own s55 checklist before submission to ensure all relevant information is included in the application. For the Development Consent Order (DCO), applicants should explain in their Explanatory Memorandum why any articles or requirements are different to those they have used in previously made DCOs.

### **Follow up required**

National Grid will send a list of dates to the Inspectorate to arrange a further meeting.

The Inspectorate will produce and circulate a note of advice given.