



Meeting note

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| File reference | EN020007 |
| Status | FINAL |
| Author | Mark Wilson |
| Date | 8 December 2016 |
| Meeting with | National Grid |
| Venue | Temple Quay House, Bristol |
| Attendees | Mark Wilson - Infrastructure Planning Lead (PINS) Richard Hunt – Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor (PINS) Chris White – Case Manager (PINS) Richard Gwilliam – National Grid (NG) Richard Westwood – National Grid (NG) John Bevan – National Grid (NG) |
| Meeting objectives | Project update |
| Circulation | All attendees |

Project Update

All parties were familiar with the Planning Inspectorate's statutory duty, under section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 as amended (PA 2008), to record the advice that is given in relation to an application or a potential application and to make this publicly available. All parties were also aware that any advice given by the Planning Inspectorate does not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) can rely.

NG explained how the 10-week pre application consultation was progressing. PINS brought to the attention of NG that we had been copied into correspondence from individuals and community representatives who were expressing concern about the timing of the consultation over the Christmas holiday period. NG commented that they understood the concerns but the 10-week consultation period included time before and after the Christmas school holidays.

NG also commented that the 10-week consultation period was in excess of the minimum statutory 28 day period prescribed for consultation with prescribed (technical) bodies under s42 of the Planning Act 2008. NG commented they would act reasonably in relation to any responses received after the consultation deadline.



The Planning Inspectorate

NG explained that an error had been identified in the publicity notice (s48). The deadline date for responses was incorrectly referred to in the local newspaper notices as 6 January 2016, rather than 6 January 2017. As such the notice was re-advertised with the correct date for 2 consecutive weeks in the affected local newspapers along the route alignment. The error was identified and corrected prior to publicity in national newspapers. PINS commented that it was for the applicant to satisfy themselves that they had complied with the requirements of the Act and the relevant secondary legislation in relation to s48. A brief explanation of the issue and the steps taken to remedy it should be included in the Consultation Report.

PINS enquired about the completeness of the ecology survey data at the time the application is expected to be submitted. NG confirmed that there would be some limited information gaps but after seeking legal advice they had concluded that the survey data was not fundamental and they did not foresee any demonstrable impediment to submitting the Environmental Statement with the application. The land in question (not surveyed) represented 6.3% of the project land, of which survey data could be obtained from 3rd parties for most of it. The balance of land remaining not surveyed was therefore likely to be 2.4% of the project land.

NG explained that powers available to them under s172 of the Housing and Planning Act were appropriate to gain access to some land for surveying purposes. PINS directed NG to the powers in the PA2008 that provided for gaining access to land for surveying purposes under s53. PINS was not familiar with the powers proposed to be used by NG and recommended they seek legal advice about the scope of those powers in relation to the purposes for which they are intend to be used.

END