

# **The North Wales Wind Farms Connection Project**

Appendices to the Written Summary of SP Manweb's Oral Case put forward at the Issue Specific Hearing Day 2 responding to Actions from the Examining Authority

Application Reference: EN020014

Deadline 4 Submission  
November 2015



**Appendices to the Written Summary of SP Manweb's Oral Case put forward at the Issue Specific Hearing Day 2 responding to Actions from the Examining Authority**

Author	SP Manweb
Date	2nd November 2015
Version	V1
Planning Inspectorate Reference No.	EN020014
Document reference	SPM NWWFC DL4ISH2

**SP Manweb plc, Registered Office: 3 Prenton Way Prenton CH43 3ET. Registered in England No. 02366937**

**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

**APPENDICES\***

Appendix Number	Action Number	Deadline	Appendix Title
One	1	4	The photomontages submitted with the application should have been adjusted so that they didn't show trees that would be removed as part of the proposal. Concerns were raised that they still included trees that would be lost. The Applicant is to check the photomontages and to make any necessary amendments.
Two	3	3, being submitted for DL4	The Applicant is to confirm whether undergrounding of the route was considered as an option as part of the route selection process.
Three	6	4, being submitted for DL3	The Applicant is to submit a written statement to confirm that College Farm fell within 200m of the Order Limits and has been assessed on this basis with regards to landscape and visual impacts.
Four	7	4	The Landscape Assessment is to be updated/or a statement produced to consider the effect of the natural loss of trees and senescence on the landscape.
Five	9	4, being submitted for DL3	The Applicant is requested to submit the clear acetate sheet that enables the assessment of poles on site including details of the formula for calculating the heights of poles at different distances and an internet link to the relevant Gwynedd/Anglesey document that piloted this approach/formula.
Six	10	3	The Applicant to check whether the Book of Reference includes Mrs E I Mars Jones and Mr R Mars Jones and if it doesn't and it needs to, to amend it accordingly.
Seven	12	3	The Applicant is requested to provide a definition of magnitude in the context of visual impact in writing.
Eight	13	4, being submitted for DL3	The Applicant is to provide a copy of the Inspectors report for the Llandinam Connection.
Nine	15	4, being submitted for DL3	The Applicant is to provide a list of where the 8 new access points are proposed.
Ten	16	4	The Applicant is to consider further the possible wording of a requirement to enable land owners wishes to be taken into account with regards to proposed landscaping measures.
Eleven	19	4, being submitted for DL3	The Applicant is to provide a weblink to the 'Lavender' appeal decision in connection with windfarms in Dover.
Twelve	21	4, being submitted for DL3	The Applicant is to submit the information tabled at the hearing regarding the history of the track at Groesfford Marli.
Thirteen	22	3	The Applicant is to submit a copy of the correspondence from CADW regarding their assessment of the effect of the proposal on the setting of Berain.

**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

Fourteen	24	4, being submitted for DL3	For completeness the Applicant is to update Table 3.2 (a) to include the 3 Ramsar sites that are within 70km of the scheme but are currently omitted from the table, these are the Mersey Estuary, Ribble and Alt Estuary and Martin Mere Ramsar sites.
Fifteen	25	3	The Applicant is to update table 3.1, Q6.2 to include the Great Crested Newt Colony at Halkyn Mountain SAC.
Sixteen	26	3	The Applicant in conjunction with NRW is to provide an update as to where discussions with NRW are with regards to licensing. The Panel are happy for points 26 and 27 to both be addressed through the Statement of Common Ground.
Seventeen	27	3	A Statement of Common Ground with NRW is to be submitted and is to include reference as to NRW agreeing the proposed mitigation strategy for dormice. The Panel are happy for points 26 and 27 to both be addressed through the Statement of Common Ground.
Eighteen	28	4, being submitted for DL3	The Applicant is to provide weblinks (including to the Bat Conservation Trust Guidelines) for information regarding the flying patterns of bats.
Nineteen	31	4	The Applicant is to submit a timetable outlining how they propose to undertake the necessary survey work and obtain the relevant licenses/permits in order to achieve completion of the project by the proposed deadline of 2017.

\* The numbering of the appendices corresponds to the numbering of the actions list set by the Examining Authority, as published on the Planning Inspectorate's website on 06 October 2015 (the "Actions List").

**APPENDIX ONE**

**ACTION NUMBER 1: THE PHOTOMONTAGES SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICATION SHOULD HAVE BEEN ADJUSTED SO THAT THEY DIDN'T SHOW TREES THAT WOULD BE REMOVED AS PART OF THE PROPOSAL. CONCERNS WERE RAISED THAT THEY STILL INCLUDED TREES THAT WOULD BE LOST. THE APPLICANT IS TO CHECK THE PHOTOMONTAGES AND TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY AMENDMENTS.**

1. All of the photomontages have been reviewed and three minor amendments have been made to the following photomontages:-
  - 1.1 Viewpoint 03 – View from the Junction of the B4501 east of Foel Gasyth near Bron Haul - a distant boundary hedgerow tree has been removed from the photomontage;
  - 1.2 Viewpoint 05 – View from the B4501 south of Plas Captain, heading to Penile – 3 boundary trees in the middle distance have been removed. These trees would also feature in Viewpoint 50 if retained but they were removed from this viewpoint;
  - 1.3 Viewpoint 11 – View from the A543 as it runs from Groes to Denbigh – 3 small overgrown hedgerow trees removed
2. A summary of the original ES conclusion for the significance of visual effects at viewpoints 03, 05 and 11 is included below. An assessment of any likely changes in the assessment resulting from the removal of the trees is also included. It should be noted that photomontages are an aid to the assessment but are not relied upon to form the final judgement of significance. This judgement is informed by many factors including detailed site survey and site knowledge, desk top study, experience and an understanding of the nature of the Proposed Development, and an understanding that tree losses will occur in close proximity to the Proposed Development.
3. Viewpoint 03:  
*ES Viewpoint Assessment -*
  - 3.1 As identified in the original ES Viewpoint Assessment (Appendix 7.3D, DCO Document Ref 6.20.3D) the following receptors are likely to experience views representative of views from this viewpoint:
    - 3.1.1 Local communities:
      - (a) South and east of Foel Gasyth
      - (b) Scattered residential receptors
    - 3.1.2 Recreational receptor:
      - (a) Public rights of way
      - (b) Foel Gasyth Open Access Area
      - (c) Bryn Glas and Caer Mynydd Caravan Park
    - 3.1.3 Users of roads:
      - (a) B4501
      - (b) Local lanes

**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

Table 1: Extract from Appendix 6.20.3D, summarising the key findings of the original Viewpoint Assessment 03.

Ref No	Description of Location	Distance to Nearest Visible Indicative Wood Pole, to centreline of Limits of Deviation, and Nearest Edge of Limits of Deviation, East or West of Alignment	Overall Sensitivity of the Viewpoint	Overall Magnitude of Effects	Effect on Visual Amenity	Significance of Visual Effect
03	From the junction of the B4501 east of Foel Gasyth near Bron Haul. Approx. 330m AOD.	Approx. 654m to nearest wood pole. Distance to centreline of Limits of Deviation: 654m west of alignment. Distance to nearest edge of Limits of Deviation: 625m.	High	Medium	Moderate	<b>Significant</b>

*Re-assessment based on the updated photomontages:*

3.2 The photomontage has been updated to reflect the removal of one small hedgerow tree at a distance of approximately 1.2km from the viewpoint. The removal of this hedgerow tree, which is a minor element in the landscape of a wide and distant view, will not increase the effect on visual amenity beyond the original assessment of moderate.

Table 2: Key findings of the re-assessment of Viewpoint 03.

Ref No	Description of Location	Distance to Nearest Visible Indicative Wood Pole, to centreline of Limits of Deviation, and Nearest Edge of Limits of Deviation, East or West of Alignment	Overall Sensitivity of the Viewpoint	Overall Magnitude of Effects	Effect on Visual Amenity	Significance of Visual Effect
03	From the junction of the	Approx. 654m to nearest wood pole.	High	Medium	Moderate	<b>Significant</b>

**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

	B4501 east of Foel Gasyth near Bron Haul. Approx. 330m AOD.	Distance to centreline of Limits of Deviation: 654m west of alignment.  Distance to nearest edge of Limits of Deviation: 625m.				
--	---	--	--	--	--	--

4. Viewpoint 05:

*ES Viewpoint Assessment*

4.1 As identified in the original ES Viewpoint Assessment (Appendix 7.3D, DCO Document Ref 6.20.3D) the following receptors are likely to experience views representative of views from this viewpoint:

4.1.1 Local communities:

- (a) Scattered residential properties east of Peniel settlement and northeast of Foel Gasyth

4.1.2 Recreational receptor:

- (a) Public rights of way, including near Bwlch/Moel Prion

4.1.3 Users of roads:

- (a) Local lanes
- (b) B4501

Table 3: Extract from Appendix 6.20.3D, summarising the key findings of the original Viewpoint Assessment 05.

Ref No	Description of Location	Distance to Nearest Visible Indicative Wood Pole, to centreline of Limits of Deviation, and Nearest Edge of Limits of Deviation, East or West of Alignment	Overall Sensitivity of the Viewpoint	Overall Magnitude of Effects	Effect on Visual Amenity	Significance of Visual Effect
--------	-------------------------	--	--------------------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------

**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

05	From the B4501 south of Plas Captain, heading to Peniel. Approx. 190m AOD.	Approx. 91m to nearest wood pole. Distance to centreline of Limits of Deviation: 91m east of alignment. Distance to nearest edge of Limits of Deviation: 70m.	High	Medium	Moderate	<b>Significant</b>
----	--	---	------	--------	----------	--------------------

*Re-assessment based on the updated photomontages:*

- 4.2 The photomontage has been updated to reflect the removal of three small boundary trees, over 600m from the viewpoint, as the 132 kV Overhead Line runs north down the localised valley slope as it heads towards the B4501 and Peniel. The removal of these boundary trees will open up a path through the hedgerows as the overhead line runs down the sloping landform. However, there are a number of existing trees and hedgerows that will remain in proximity to the alignment, and some of these existing hedgerows have frequent gaps. As such, the removal of these trees will not break any strong forms in the surrounding landscape pattern, and the trees that remain will assist in breaking up the views of the poles. The wood poles that lie closest to the removed trees will also remain backclothed by the landform and no significantly increased effects on visual amenity are anticipated as a result of this tree removal. Therefore the effect on visual amenity would remain as moderate, as per the original assessment.

Table 4: Key findings of the re-assessment of Viewpoint 05.

Ref No	Description of Location	Distance to Nearest Visible Indicative Wood Pole, to centreline of Limits of Deviation, and Nearest Edge of Limits of Deviation, East or West of Alignment	Overall Sensitivity of the Viewpoint	Overall Magnitude of Effects	Effect on Visual Amenity	Significance of Visual Effect
05	From the B4501 south of Plas Captain, heading to Peniel, Approx. 190m AOD.	Approx. 91m to nearest wood pole. Distance to centreline of Limits of Deviation: 91m east of alignment. Distance to nearest edge of Limits of	High	Medium	Moderate	<b>Significant</b>



**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

		Deviation: 70m.				
--	--	--------------------	--	--	--	--

5. Viewpoint 11:

*ES Viewpoint Assessment*

5.1 As identified in the original ES Viewpoint Assessment (Appendix 7.3D, DCO Document Ref 6.20.3D) the following receptors are likely to experience views representative of views from this viewpoint:

5.1.1 Users of roads:

(a) A543

Table 5: Extract from Appendix 6.20.3D, summarising the key findings of the original Viewpoint Assessment 11.

Ref No	Description of Location	Distance to Nearest Visible Indicative Wood Pole, to centreline of Limits of Deviation, and Nearest Edge of Limits of Deviation, East or West of Alignment	Overall Sensitivity of the Viewpoint	Overall Magnitude of Effects	Effect on Visual Amenity	Significance of Visual Effect
11	From the A543 as it runs from Groes to Denbigh, Approx. 180m AOD.	Approx. 43m to nearest wood pole. Distance to centreline of Limits of Deviation: 34m east of alignment. Distance to nearest edge of Limits of Deviation: 23m.	Medium	Medium	Moderate	<b>Significant</b>

*Re-assessment based on the updated photomontages:*

**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

- 5.2 The photomontage has been updated to reflect the removal of a short section of small hedgerow trees that lie in proximity to the centre line of the alignment, and are visible in the foreground to the left of the A543 on photomontage 11. The trees to be removed are the closest trees in a short strip of overgrown hedgerow trees alongside the A543. Their removal will slightly increase the effects on visual amenity in this area when viewed on the photomontage. However, the trees have not yet reached full maturity and are not as prominent in the landscape as some of the mature boundary trees in the surrounding fields.
- 5.3 The original assessment does not rely on these trees for any screening effects and notes that poles would be perceptible as the route approaches and crosses the A543, and would be skylined as the route reaches the road. This assessment remains true and it is concluded that the effect on visual amenity would not increase beyond a moderate effect, as referred to in the original assessment.

Table 6: Key findings of the re-assessment of Viewpoint 11.

Ref No	Description of Location	Distance to Nearest Visible Indicative Wood Pole, to centreline of Limits of Deviation, and Nearest Edge of Limits of Deviation, East or West of Alignment	Overall Sensitivity of the Viewpoint	Overall Magnitude of Effects	Effect on Visual Amenity	Significance of Visual Effect
11	From the A543 as it runs from Groes to Denbigh, Approx. 180m AOD.	Approx. 43m to nearest wood pole. Distance to centreline of Limits of Deviation: 34m east of alignment. Distance to nearest edge of Limits of Deviation: 23m.	Medium	Medium	Moderate	<b>Significant</b>

6. The three photomontages listed above have been updated and submitted at Deadline 4 (Document Reference SPM NWWFC Updated Photomontages).

**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

**APPENDIX TWO**

**ACTION NUMBER 3: THE APPLICANT IS TO CONFIRM WHETHER UNDERGROUNDING OF THE ROUTE WAS CONSIDERED AS AN OPTION AS PART OF THE ROUTE SELECTION PROCESS.**

SP Manweb's response is included within the note on routing submitting with the response to Issue Specific Hearing Day 1 Action 6a (Document Reference SPM NWWFC DL4ISH1).

**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

**APPENDIX THREE**

**ACTION NUMBER 6: THE APPLICANT IS TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN STATEMENT TO CONFIRM THAT COLLEGE FARM FELL WITHIN 200M OF THE ORDER LIMITS AND HAS BEEN ASSESSED ON THIS BASIS WITH REGARDS TO LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACTS.**

SP Manweb submitted this for Deadline 3, in accordance with the Action Points published by the Examining Authority on 6th October 2015.

**APPENDIX FOUR**

**ACTION NUMBER 7: THE LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT IS TO BE UPDATED/OR A STATEMENT PRODUCED TO CONSIDER THE EFFECT OF THE NATURAL LOSS OF TREES AND SENESCENCE ON THE LANDSCAPE.**

1. In response to specific issues and questions raised during Day 2 of the Issue Specific Hearings (Landscape and Visual), this document considers the likely landscape and visual effects which would result in the event of substantial or complete woodland loss close to the 132 kV Overhead Line between Clocaenog and St Asaph.
2. It must be noted that substantial or complete woodland loss is highly unlikely. The law on environmental impact assessment is underpinned by the concept of likely significant effects. The assessment of unlikely effects is inconsistent with the legal basis on which assessments should be conducted. Whilst, therefore, this paper has been provided for information at the Examining Authority's request, it is considered that no weight should be placed on it.
3. The subheadings and descriptions that follow are based on locations along the route which have substantial areas of woodland, which currently would provide screening of the 132 kV Overhead Line and have been taken into account when undertaking the assessments presented in the Chapter 7 of the ES (ES Chapter 7: 'Landscape and Visual', DCO Document Ref 6.7, Section 7, examination library reference APP-098).

**Clocaenog to Bwlch (Section A)**

*Clocaenog/ Tir Mostyn*

4. The 132 kV Overhead Line originates within a strip of managed coniferous forestry on the northerly edge of Clocaenog Forest, east of the existing Tir Mostyn windfarm. Landscape and visual effects in this area are noted in Table 7.20 (Area 3) and 7.7.101 (ES Chapter 7: 'Landscape and Visual', DCO Document Ref 6.7, Section 7, examination library reference APP-098) to be moderate and therefore significant. Since the forestry would be subject to a managed programme of felling, the assessment does not rely on the presence of existing forestry to provide visual screening when arriving at this conclusion. The intervening landform of Tir Mostyn and Moel Ytta would prevent wider views of the overhead line from Saron and the Lliwen Valley. Both landscape and visual effects would therefore remain as noted in the ES.

*Saron*

5. The 132 kV Overhead Line runs to the west of a strip of woodland and local wildlife site northwest of the village of Saron for approximately 800m before crossing a short section of the woodland (approximately 40m in length) at the base of a small ridgeline east of Foel Gasyth. Landscape and visual effects in this area are noted in Table 7.20 (Area 3) and 7.7.101 (ES Chapter 7: 'Landscape and Visual', DCO Document Ref 6.7, Section 7, examination library reference APP-098) to be moderate and therefore significant. In arriving at this conclusion, it is assumed that the existing woodland would provide some screening and backclothing of the 132 kV Overhead Line for visual receptors moving in and around the area and that the presence of trees would help accommodate the line into the wider landscape, thereby lessening its effects on the landscape character of the area.
6. In the unlikely event that this woodland were removed in its entirety, the landscape and visual effects would increase due to the reduction in potential screening and

backclothing of the 132 kV Overhead Line provided by the woodland. The increase in visual effects would be most noticeable close to Saron, and would particularly affect views from the western edge of Saron village, and the properties near Plas Cefn Maen. However, the relatively low lying and undulating nature of the landscape at this location would continue to screen and/ or provide a backdrop to views of the 132 kV Overhead Line. In addition, the elevated areas at Foel Gasyth and Moel Ytta would contain the visibility of the 132 kV Overhead Line within the localised Saron valley, and prevent wider views of the line. As such, whilst both the landscape and visual effects would increase slightly, they would remain local in effect and are considered to remain moderate.

### **Bwlch to Eriviat (Section B)**

#### *Peniel*

7. The 132 kV Overhead Line runs east of and parallel to a woodland strip located to the southeast of Peniel, for a distance of approximately 900m. Landscape and visual effects in this area are noted in Table 7.20 (Area 3) and paragraph 7.7.105 (ES Chapter 7: 'Landscape and Visual', DCO Document Ref 6.7, Section 7, examination library reference APP-098) to be moderate and therefore significant. In arriving at this conclusion, it is assumed that the existing woodland would provide some screening and backclothing of the 132 kV Overhead Line for visual receptors moving in and around the area and that the presence of trees would help accommodate the line into the wider landscape, thereby lessening its effects on the landscape character of the area.
8. In the unlikely event that this woodland were removed in its entirety, the landscape and visual effects would increase due to the reduction in potential screening and backclothing of the 132 kV Overhead Line provided by the woodland. The increase in visual effects would be most noticeable close to Peniel, including views from the B4501 and the clustered properties near College Farm. The 132 kV Overhead Line would be visible over a wide area to the north of Peniel, as it crosses the skyline on the ridge east of Foel Gasyth. However, due to the height of the wood pole structures and the direct nature of the crossing, the line would appear as a relatively small feature in the wider landscape setting, and the number of skylined poles would be minimised. As the 132 kV Overhead Line passes down the slope into the lower valley area near the B4501 and College Farm, it would be visible but would affect a relatively small area. The structures would appear stacked in some views but would be fully backclothed by the rising landform. As such, whilst the skylining and stacking effects would increase, they are likely to be perceived over a very localised area in the lower valley close to Peniel. The judgement of the effects on residential visual amenity at College Farm could increase to the lower end of moderate, and landscape and visual effects would remain moderate.

#### *Pandy*

9. The 132 kV Overhead Line runs through a small wooded river valley located in Pandy Wood, near the Afon Ystrad, over a distance of approximately 170m. Landscape and visual effects in this area are noted in Table 7.20 (Area 3) and paragraph 7.7.105 (ES Chapter 7: 'Landscape and Visual', DCO Document Ref 6.7, Section 7, examination library reference APP-098) to be moderate and therefore significant, albeit with a minor assessment of likely effects on residential visual amenity noted for a derelict property that sits within the woodland at Pandy Wood. In arriving at this conclusion, it is assumed that the existing woodland would provide some screening and backclothing of the 132 kV Overhead Line for visual receptors moving in and around the area and that the presence of trees would help accommodate the line into the wider landscape, thereby lessening its effects on the landscape character of the area.

**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

10. In the unlikely event that this woodland were removed in its entirety, the landscape and visual effects in this area would increase due to the reduction in potential screening and backclothing of the 132 kV Overhead Line provided by the woodland. The increase in visual effects would be noticeable close to Pandy, including the derelict agricultural building at Pandy that lies some 20m from the edge of the Limits of Deviation. As the 132 kV Overhead Line passes down the slope into the lower valley area and crosses the Afon Ystrad, views of the line would become very localised and contained, and structures would be fully backclothed by rising landform. As such, whilst the visibility of the structures would increase, they are likely to be perceived over a very localised area (approximately 300m) in the lower valley close to Pandy. The likely effects are considered to remain moderate.

**Eriviat to Plas Buckley via Hafod (Section C)**

*Eriviat Park*

11. The 132 kV Overhead Line runs east of the woodland blocks within Eriviat Park over a distance of approximately 700m. Landscape and visual effects in this area are noted in Table 7.20 (Area 5) and paragraph 7.7.111 (ES Chapter 7: 'Landscape and Visual', DCO Document Ref 6.7, Section 7, examination library reference APP-098) to be moderate and therefore significant. It is likely that the woodland would provide some screening and backclothing of the 132 kV Overhead Line for visual receptors moving in and around the area on footpaths, local roads and lanes, including the B5428 and the A543.
12. In the unlikely event that this woodland were removed in its entirety, the landscape and visual effects in this area would increase due to the reduction in potential screening and backclothing of the 132 kV Overhead Line provided by the woodland. The overhead line passes through a visually contained lower valley area of Eriviat before rising up to a small and more widely visible localised ridgeline north of Eriviat Park where the poles would skyline in some views. Loss of trees on the ridgeline would increase the likely visual effects in close proximity to Eriviat, and from the scattered residential properties close to Eriviat Park, and potentially from the settlement at Henllan. Henllan lies over 1km from the route and the poles would therefore appear as small features in the landscape (less than 1cm high when viewed at arm's length). The spacing and scale of the structures and the intervening distance would limit these effects, and effects would remain moderate.

*Coed Mawr – Eriviat Bach Isaf*

13. The 132 kV Overhead Line runs for approximately 90m through a small wooded valley containing a watercourse located in Coed Mawr. Landscape and visual effects in this area are noted in Table 7.20 (Area 5) and paragraph 7.7.111 (ES Chapter 7: 'Landscape and Visual', DCO Document Ref 6.7, Section 7, examination library reference APP-098) to be moderate and therefore significant. It is likely that the woodland would provide some screening and backclothing of the 132 kV Overhead Line for visual receptors moving in and around the area on footpaths.
14. In the unlikely event that this woodland were removed in its entirety, the landscape and visual effects in this area would increase due to the reduction in potential screening and backclothing of the 132 kV Overhead Line provided by the woodland. The loss of woodland may result in a pole appearing on the skyline adjacent to Coed Mawr, and receptors close to the two poles located near Coed Mawr may experience an increase in visual effects. The effects would be very localised, are likely to effect a small number of receptors, and would occur over a short distance. As such, effects would remain moderate.

**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

*Hafod*

15. The 132 kV Overhead Line runs through a narrow incised wooded river valley located in Hafod Dingle, near the Afon Asa, over a distance of approximately 100m, and runs to the east of Hafod Wood over a distance of some 500m. Landscape and visual effects in this area are noted in Table 7.20 (Area 8) and paragraph 7.7.111 (ES Chapter 7: 'Landscape and Visual', DCO Document Ref 6.7, Section 7, examination library reference APP-098) to be moderate and therefore significant, albeit with a minor assessment of likely effects on residential visual amenity noted for Hafod Farm and a moderate significant effect for Llechryd Bach. In arriving at this conclusion, it is assumed that the existing woodland would provide some screening and backclothing of the 132 kV Overhead Line for visual receptors moving in and around the area and that the presence of trees would help accommodate the line into the wider landscape, thereby lessening its effects on the landscape character of the area.
16. In the unlikely event that the woodland at Hafod Dingle and Hafod Wood were removed in their entirety, the landscape and visual effects in this area would increase due to the reduction in potential screening and backclothing of the 132 kV Overhead Line provided by the woodland. As the 132 kV Overhead Line crosses the Afon Asa and heads north, it would be visible over a wider area and skylined in some views close to the line.
17. The increase in visual effects would be noticeable close to Hafod Dingle and Hafod Wood. The property at Llechryd Bach that lies less than 150m from the 132 kV Overhead Line would have clear skylined views of the 132 kV Overhead Line to the rear, with no backclothing (due to the assumed loss of Hafod Wood). Similarly, visual effects on the users of the Clwydian Way (which is crossed by the proposed overhead line) would be heightened due to the loss of screening and backclothing, and the 132 kV Overhead Line would be visible along a greater length of the path. Visual effects in this location would be heightened and the overall significance judged to be at the higher end of moderate. The farm at Hafod (that lies over 200m from the edge of the Limits of Deviation) sits within a farm setting, and intervening farm buildings limit views in the direction of the 132 kV Overhead Line. Effects on residential visual amenity are unlikely to become significant, but the overall judgment would remain in the minor category.

**Plas Buckley to Groesffordd Marli (Section D)**

*Croen Llwm Mawr (Coed Bont Newydd)*

18. The 132 kV Overhead Line runs through a narrow area of woodland that originates from the Elwy Valley and stretches southwest along a narrow shallow valley towards Croen Llwm Mawr, and then Plas Buckley and Tyddyn Bartley. The route crosses three short sections of this woodland over distances of approximately 80m, 60m and 40m. Landscape and visual effects in this area are noted in Table 7.20 (Area 8) and paragraph 7.7.117 (ES Chapter 7: 'Landscape and Visual', DCO Document Ref 6.7, Section 7, examination library reference APP-098) to be moderate and therefore significant, albeit with a negligible assessment of likely effects on residential visual amenity noted for Plas Buckley and a minor effect for Croen Llwm Mawr and Tyddyn Bartley. In arriving at this conclusion, it is assumed that the existing woodland would provide some screening and backclothing of the 132 kV Overhead Line for visual receptors moving in and around the area and that the presence of trees would help accommodate the line into the wider landscape, thereby lessening its effects on the landscape character of the area. In addition, wider visibility of this area is contained by rising landform to the north, south and west.
19. In the unlikely event that this woodland were removed in its entirety, the landscape and visual effects in this area would increase due to the reduction in potential



**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

screening and backclothing of the 132 kV Overhead Line provided by the woodland. As the 132 kV Overhead Line crosses this shallow, contained valley area before heading northwest towards Bodysgawen Isaf, it would be visible over a slightly wider area, and skylined in some views close to the 132 kV Overhead Line.

20. The property at Croen Llwm Mawr that lies less than 60m from the 132 kV Overhead Line would have clear views of the 132 kV Overhead Line in primary views from the front of the property, the side of the property and its garden. Some backclothing would be provided by rising landform to the west of the proposed overhead line, and the judgement of the significance of effects on residential visual amenity would increase to the upper end of moderate. Tyddyn Bartley would also experience wider and unobstructed views of the 132 kV Overhead Line, as it passes southwest to northeast in primary views some 185m to the front of the property, and from the side of the property. Plas Buckley would also experience some wider and some unobstructed views of the proposed overhead line, as it passed southwest to northeast some 150m in views to the front and side of the property. In both cases, some backclothing would be provided by rising landform to the east of the 132 kV Overhead Line, however there are likely to be some poles visible and skylined near Tyddyn Bartley. It is likely that the judgement of the significance of effects on residential visual amenity would increase to moderate. Similarly, effects on visual amenity for the users of the North Wales Pilgrims' Way (which is crossed by the proposed overhead line) would be heightened due to the loss of screening and backclothing, and the 132 kV Overhead Line would be visible along a greater length of the path. Visual effects in this location would be heightened and the overall significance judged to be at the higher end of moderate.

*Coed Nant y Graig*

21. The 132 kV Overhead Line runs through woodland at Coed Nant y Graig, as the 132 kV Overhead Line heads up the sloped pasture west of Bryniau Bychain and in the direction of Bodysgawen Isaf and the western slopes of the Elwy Valley. The woodland originates from the Elwy Valley, then diverts and stretches west along two separate sections. The 132 kV Overhead Line crosses these two sections of woodland over a distance of approximately 110m. Landscape and visual effects in this area are noted in Table 7.20 (Area 8) and paragraph 7.7.117 (ES Chapter 7: 'Landscape and Visual', DCO Document Ref 6.7, Section 7, examination library reference APP-098) to be moderate and therefore significant, albeit with a minor assessment of likely effects on residential visual amenity noted for Bodysgawen Isaf and Bryniau Bychain. In arriving at this conclusion, it is assumed that the existing woodland would provide some screening and backclothing of the 132 kV Overhead Line for visual receptors moving in and around the area and that the presence of trees would help accommodate the line into the wider landscape, thereby lessening its effects on the landscape character of the area.
22. In the unlikely event that this woodland were removed in its entirety, the landscape and visual effects in this area would increase due to the reduction in potential screening and backclothing of the 132 kV Overhead Line provided by the woodland. As the 132 kV Overhead Line heads northwest towards Bodysgawen Isaf, it would be visible over a wider area, and skylined in some views as it reaches the upper slopes. The rising landform to the west would continue to provide some backclothing of the proposed overhead line in some views.
23. The property at Bodysgawen Isaf, which lies some 150m from the 132 kV Overhead Line, could have some views of the 132 kV Overhead Line as it approached from the south and reached the upper slopes close to the property, although these views would include the existing, intervening agricultural sheds. The judgement of likely effects on residential visual amenity could therefore increase to the upper end of minor. Bryniau Bychain would also experience slightly wider views of the proposed overhead line as it heads up the sloped pasture some 240m from the rear of the

**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

property. Some backclothing would be provided by rising landform to the east of the 132 kV Overhead Line, however there are likely to be some poles visible and skylined, and it is likely that the judgement of the significance of effects on residential visual amenity would increase to the upper end of minor. Similarly, effects on visual amenity for the users of the public footpath network and on receptors in the Elwy Valley would be heightened due to the loss of screening and backclothing. The 132 kV Overhead Line would be visible along a greater distance and skylined in places along the Elwy Valley slopes. Visual effects in this location would be heightened and the overall significance judged to be at the higher end of moderate.

*Coed Wig and Coed y Fadir/Ddol – Afon Elwy*

24. The 132 kV Overhead Line crosses one sections of woodland (130m) at Coed Wig and passes in close proximity to another section (40m) near Coed y Fadir/ Ddol as the 132 kV Overhead Line crosses the Afon Elwy and the isolated base of the Elwy Valley. Landscape and visual effects in this area are noted in Table 7.20 (Area 8 and 9) and paragraph 7.7.117 (ES Chapter 7: 'Landscape and Visual', DCO Document Ref 6.7, Section 7, examination library reference APP-098) to be moderate and therefore significant. It is likely that the woodland would provide some screening and backclothing of the 132 kV Overhead Line for visual receptors moving in and around the area. There are no footpaths in this exact location, but users of more distant footpaths within the Elwy Valley, and some scattered residential receptors have views of this area.
25. In the unlikely event that this woodland were removed in its entirety, the landscape and visual effects in this area would increase due to the reduction in potential screening and backclothing of the 132 kV Overhead Line provided by the woodland. Visual receptors using the network of public footpaths in the Elwy Valley, and potentially a small number of residential receptors with views in the direction of this location would experience an increase in visual effects, but these would be felt at some distance from the location due to its isolated nature. As such, the judgement of likely effects would remain moderate.

*Coed Plas Newydd – Cefn Meiriadog*

26. The 132 kV Overhead Line runs parallel to the woodland block at Coed Plas Newydd as the route crosses the Cefn Meiriadog ridge in the direction of Groesffordd Marli. Landscape and visual effects in this area are noted in Table 7.20 (Area 10) and paragraph 7.7.117 (ES Chapter 7: 'Landscape and Visual', DCO Document Ref 6.7, Section 7, examination library reference APP-098) to be moderate and therefore significant. It is likely that the woodland would provide some screening and backclothing of the 132 kV Overhead Line for visual receptors moving in and around the area to the north and west of the route as it crossed the Cefn Meiriadog ridge.
27. In the unlikely event that this woodland were removed in its entirety, the landscape and visual effects in this area would increase due to the reduction in potential screening and backclothing of the 132 kV Overhead Line provided by the woodland as it crosses the Cefn Meiriadog ridge. The 132 kV Overhead Line would become more visible to the north and west at the point where the poles skyline on the ridge. Views from the south and east of the route will lose the potential backclothing effect provided by the woodland. Residential receptors would experience an increase in effects on their residential visual amenity due to the increased visibility of the 132 kV Overhead Line, however, due to the distance from the poles, the direct nature of the crossing of the ridge, and the subsequent small number of visible and skylined poles, the judgement of the significance of the effects is unlikely to change. Similarly, visual receptors including users of the network of public footpaths in the Elwy Valley and along the Cefn Meiriadog, and users of local lanes would

**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

experience an increase in visual effects but the judgement of likely effects would remain moderate.

**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

**APPENDIX FIVE**

**ACTION NUMBER 9: THE APPLICANT IS REQUESTED TO SUBMIT THE CLEAR ACETATE SHEET THAT ENABLES THE ASSESSMENT OF POLES ON SITE INCLUDING DETAILS OF THE FORMULA FOR CALCULATING THE HEIGHTS OF POLES AT DIFFERENT DISTANCES AND AN INTERNET LINK TO THE RELEVANT GWYNEDD/ANGLESEY DOCUMENT THAT PILOTED THIS APPROACH/FORMULA.**

SP Manweb submitted this for Deadline 3, in accordance with the Action Points published by the Examining Authority on 6th October 2015.

**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

**APPENDIX SIX**

**ACTION NUMBER 10: THE APPLICANT TO CHECK WHETHER THE BOOK OF REFERENCE INCLUDES MRS E I MARS JONES AND MR R MARS JONES AND IF IT DOESN'T AND IT NEEDS TO, TO AMEND IT ACCORDINGLY.**

SP Manweb submitted this for Deadline 3, in accordance with the Action Points published by the Examining Authority on 6th October 2015.

**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

**APPENDIX SEVEN**

**ACTION NUMBER 12: THE APPLICANT IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE A DEFINITION OF MAGNITUDE IN THE CONTEXT OF VISUAL IMPACT IN WRITING.**

**INTRODUCTION**

SP Manweb submitted this for Deadline 3, in accordance with the Action Points published by the Examining Authority on 6th October 2015.

**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

**APPENDIX EIGHT**

**ACTION NUMBER 13: THE APPLICANT IS TO PROVIDE A COPY OF THE INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE LLANDINAM CONNECTION.**

SP Manweb submitted the Inspector's Report for the Llandinam Connection to the Examination by email from Jake Dabscheck of Pinsent Masons on 30th September 2015 at 12.25pm.

**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

**APPENDIX NINE**

**ACTION NUMBER 15: THE APPLICANT IS TO PROVIDE A LIST OF WHERE THE 8 NEW ACCESS POINTS ARE PROPOSED**

SP Manweb submitted this for Deadline 3, in accordance with the Action Points published by the Examining Authority on 6th October 2015.



## **APPENDIX TEN**

### **ACTION NUMBER 16: THE APPLICANT IS TO CONSIDER FURTHER THE POSSIBLE WORDING OF A REQUIREMENT TO ENABLE LAND OWNERS WISHES TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WITH REGARDS TO PROPOSED LANDSCAPING MEASURES.**

SP Manweb submitted a revised draft of the DCO for DL3 (examination library reference REP3-031). It included revised requirements 5 (landscaping), 6 (implementation and maintenance of landscaping) and 7 (reinstatement planting). The revisions take into account discussions at the hearings and, in SP Manweb's opinion, address the concerns raised at those hearings.

Requirement 5 applies to the planting to take place on the dark green land and the dark green stippled land shown on the Land Plans.

The dark green land on the Land Plans are the areas where new trees, shrubs and other soft landscaping is proposed (Class 3 Rights) for enhancement or mitigation purposes. The requirement provides that SP Manweb will submit to the relevant planning authorities for approval a written landscaping scheme (following consultation with relevant landowners). There will also be a maintenance scheme for this planting, again to be approved by the relevant planning authorities. The stipple green over the yellow land on the Land Plans are the areas where new trees, shrubs and other soft landscaping is proposed (for enhancement or mitigation purposes) which is on land that will be used for temporary construction works (Class 2 and Class 3 Rights). This planting will be subject to the same provisions as in relation to the dark green land on the Land Plans.

Requirement 6 has been amended. It provides that where any planting is removed, dies or becomes seriously damaged or diseased, such planting will be replaced within 5 years. It is important to note that this requirement would not override any maintenance regime agreed pursuant to requirement 5 and 7.

Requirement 7 applies to the planting to take place on the blue and yellow land shown on the Land Plans.

The yellow land and blue land on the Land Plans are the areas where reinstatement planting is to take place (i.e. where hedgerows have been removed to enable the construction of the Proposed Development, these hedgerows will be reinstated). This reinstatement may also include improvements to vegetation; e.g. where a hedgerow had gaps, the Applicant would intend to restore those gaps. This reinstatement planting can only include improvement measures in the form of new trees on the blue and yellow land where agreement has been reached with the relevant landowner. It should be noted that where the Landscaping Plans show hedgerows with tree planting, these are hedgerows with trees already in them. The Landscaping Plans are not showing that each circle would be a tree or indeed a new tree, rather the Landscaping Plans are showing those hedgerows that would need reinstating and, at the same time improvement planting *could* be carried out.

**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

**APPENDIX ELEVEN**

**ACTION NUMBER 19: THE APPLICANT IS TO PROVIDE A WEBLINK TO THE 'LAVENDER' APPEAL DECISION IN CONNECTION WITH WINDFARMS IN DOVER**

SP Manweb submitted this for Deadline 3, in accordance with the Action Points published by the Examining Authority on 6th October 2015.

**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

**APPENDIX TWELVE**

**ACTION NUMBER 21: THE APPLICANT IS TO SUBMIT THE INFORMATION TABLED AT THE HEARING REGARDING THE HISTORY OF THE TRACK AT GROESFFORDD MARLI.**

SP Manweb submitted this for Deadline 3, in accordance with the Action Points published by the Examining Authority on 6th October 2015.

**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

**APPENDIX THIRTEEN**

**ACTION NUMBER 22: THE APPLICANT IS TO SUBMIT A COPY OF THE CORRESPONDENCE FROM CADW REGARDING THEIR ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECT OF THE PROPOSAL ON THE SETTING OF BERAIN.**

SP Manweb submitted this for Deadline 3, in accordance with the Action Points published by the Examining Authority on 6th October 2015.

**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

**APPENDIX FOURTEEN**

**ACTION NUMBER 24: FOR COMPLETENESS THE APPLICANT IS TO UPDATE TABLE 3.2 (A) TO INCLUDE THE 3 RAMSAR SITES THAT ARE WITHIN 70KM OF THE SCHEME BUT ARE CURRENTLY OMITTED FROM THE TABLE, THESE ARE THE MERSEY ESTUARY, RIBBLE AND ALT ESTUARY AND MARTIN MERE RAMSAR SITES.**

SP Manweb submitted this for Deadline 3, in accordance with the Action Points published by the Examining Authority on 6th October 2015.

**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

**APPENDIX FIFTEEN**

**ACTION NUMBER 25: THE APPLICANT IS TO UPDATE TABLE 3.1, Q6.2 TO INCLUDE THE GREAT CRESTED NEWT COLONY AT HALKYN MOUNTAIN SAC.**

SP Manweb submitted this for Deadline 3, in accordance with the Action Points published by the Examining Authority on 6th October 2015.

**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

**APPENDIX SIXTEEN**

**ACTION NUMBER 26: THE APPLICANT IN CONJUNCTION WITH NRW IS TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE AS TO WHERE DISCUSSIONS WITH NRW ARE WITH REGARDS TO LICENSING - THE PANEL ARE HAPPY FOR POINTS 26 AND 27 TO BOTH BE ADDRESSED THROUGH THE STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND**

SP Manweb submitted this for Deadline 3, in accordance with the Action Points published by the Examining Authority on 6th October 2015.

**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

**APPENDIX SEVENTEEN**

**ACTION NUMBER 27: A STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND WITH NRW IS TO BE SUBMITTED AND IS TO INCLUDE REFERENCE AS TO NRW AGREEING THE PROPOSED MITIGATION STRATEGY FOR DORMICE. THE PANEL ARE HAPPY FOR POINTS 26 AND 27 TO BOTH BE ADDRESSED THROUGH THE STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND**

SP Manweb submitted this for Deadline 3, in accordance with the Action Points published by the Examining Authority on 6th October 2015.



**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

**APPENDIX EIGHTEEN**

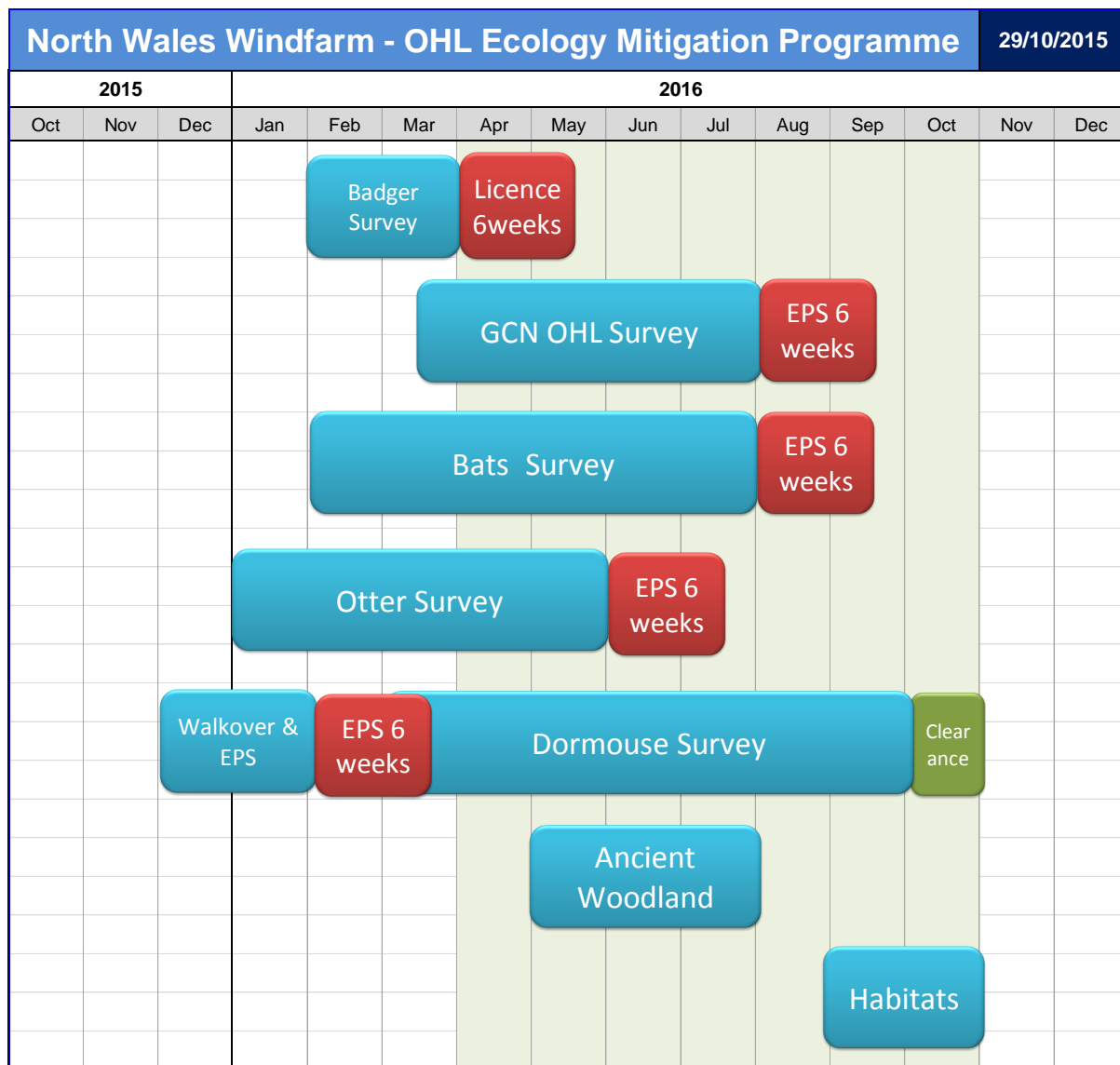
**ACTION NUMBER 28: THE APPLICANT IS TO PROVIDE WEBLINKS (INCLUDING TO THE BAT CONSERVATION TRUST GUIDELINES) FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THE FLYING PATTERNS OF BATS.**

SP Manweb submitted this for Deadline 3, in accordance with the Action Points published by the Examining Authority on 6th October 2015.

APPENDIX NINETEEN

**ACTION NUMBER 31: THE APPLICANT IS TO SUBMIT A TIMETABLE OUTLINING HOW THEY PROPOSE TO UNDERTAKE THE NECESSARY SURVEY WORK AND OBTAIN THE RELEVANT LICENCES/PERMITS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT BY THE PROPOSED DEADLINE OF 2017.**

The outline Ecology Mitigation Programme is shown below:



1. Badger: Survey shall commence February 2016 and a licence should be granted in April 2016 should it be required.
2. Great Crested Newts: Survey shall commence Mid-March 2016 and a licence should be granted in September 2016 should it be required.
3. Bats: Survey shall commence with inspections in February 2016 and activity surveys starting in May 2016. A licence should be granted in September 2016 should it be required.
4. Otter: Survey shall commence January 2016 and a licence should be granted in July 2016 should it be required.

**SP Manweb: Appendices to the Applicant's Oral Summary to the Issue Specific Hearing held on 30 September 2015 – Deadline Four Documentation Submission**

5. Dormouse: Licence has been identified as being required. Walkover survey shall commence December 2015 and a licence shall be granted March 2016. This approach has been agreed with NRW and is currently being finalised. Further Dormice surveying should then be required to commence March 2016 and vegetation clearance shall commence October 2016.
6. Ancient Woodland – Survey required between May and July 2016 to inform method statement to minimise impact on ancient woodland plants. Tree clearance to commence September 2016.
7. Habitats: When habitat needs to be modified to render it unsuitable for dormice, nesting birds etc this will be undertaken in September and October 2016.