



Meeting note

File reference	North Wales Wind Farms Connection
Status	Draft
Author	Georgina Murray
Date	21/10/14
Meeting with	SP MANWEB
Venue	Telephone Conference
Attendees	<u>Planning Inspectorate</u> Nicholas Coombes Kathryn Powell Steffan Jones Georgina Murray Alison Down Linda Rossiter <u>SP Manweb</u> Claire Duffy – Environmental Planner – North Wales Wind Farms Connection Bill Fleming – Environmental Planning manager Steve Edwards – Environmental Planner - Mid Wales connection
Meeting objectives	To discuss progress on the application and the expected submission date
Circulation	All

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

- Nicholas Coombes was introduced as case manager from the Planning Inspectorate; his contact details are to be sent to SP Manweb. Claire Duffy is the Environmental Planner from SP Manweb.
- SP Manweb has selected their final route with the 'Hafod' option, having analysed responses from statutory consultation and considering environmental and technical issues.
- SP Manweb extended the statutory consultation period and are progressing the draft application documents.

- The approximate application submission date is 27 February 2015.
- The next update will be W/C 8th December 2014, scheduled for one hour.

Specific discussions

SP Manweb were made aware of the Planning Inspectorate's openness policy, that any advice given will be recorded and placed on the Planning Inspectorate's website under s.51 of the Planning Act 2008, as amended by the Localism Act 2011. Any advice given does not constitute legal advice on which applicants or others can rely.

Following statutory consultation, SP Manweb is making a few minor amendments. There are two options in one section of the route; one by the village of Henllan, the other by Hafod woodland. The western of these routes, near Hafod, has been chosen based on the consultation and the technical and environmental assessment. SP Manweb is in discussions with landowners about voluntary option agreements for the project.

SP Manweb has met with National Resources Wales (NRW), which has had a change of landscape officer since the submission of the Scoping Report. NRW were satisfied with the ecological surveys.

Denbighshire County Council (DCC) Councillors have passed a motion to call for the overhead line to be situated underground. SP Manweb has been discussing a Planning Performance Agreement, but this has been rejected for the pre-application stage. Nonetheless, DCC and Conwy County Borough Council are to be provided with draft documents in advance of the submission.

SP Manweb has now frozen its pole locations and defined the limits of deviation, thus refining the Development Consent Order limits. Statutory consultation was on a 100m wide corridor, with small extensions for temporary access tracks. The limits of deviation for the poles are based upon ground conditions; where ground conditions are poor deviation is 20m either side of the centre line and where ground conditions are good it is 10m either side of the centre line.

SP Manweb has been advised that the shape file will be required 2 weeks before submission. They are working to a submission date of 27 February 2015. As this is a Friday, the Planning Inspectorate requested that it be submitted in a timely manner or on the following Monday. The Inspectorate also advised that while land plans must be provided at a 1:2500 scale, overview, key or location plans can be at a larger scale if that is appropriate to describe the scheme.

SP Manweb advised that prior to preparing Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs), NRW and the relevant Councils are keen to see draft submission documents. These should be ready in December, so there should be draft SoCGs available at submission. The Planning Inspectorate advised that it is helpful to finalise these agreements prior to submission but drafts are also useful.

The application package includes:

- Application form
- A location plan – showing the extent of the Order
- Land Plans

- Work Plans
- Draft Development Consent Order
- Explanatory memorandum
- Statement of Reasons
- Consultation Report
 - This is the largest document
 - Some responses are missing to the detailed comments
- Environmental Statement
- Habitat Regulations Assessment
 - This indicates that there are no significant effects

SP Manweb has been advised that a table outlining the dates of consultation is helpful. SP Manweb will share their document schedule with the Planning Inspectorate.

The Planning Inspectorate has received a complaint; SP Manweb advised that they were also aware. The Inspectorate advise that SP Manweb make correspondence/discussions with the complainant available in the consultation report.

Depending on whether the application is accepted, the Planning Inspectorate advised that the minimum time scale for pre examination is approximately three months, but that it is controlled by the applicant.

SP Manweb's request for a short pre-exam period is noted. To ensure an efficient pre-examination period, the Planning Inspectorate advised SP Manweb to have their advertisements lined up, to progress the SoCGs and research the likely questions asked by the Examining Authority for similar applications.

SP Manweb is aware that SoCGs may be requested as issue-specific, whilst others are party-specific statements.

ACTIONS:

SP Manweb

- SP Manweb will send The Planning Inspectorate a copy of the statutory Consultation letter
- SP Manweb will send The Planning Inspectorate the new contact details of LPA officers involved.
- SP Manweb will send The Planning Inspectorate a test link to the ftp site
- SP Manweb will send The Planning Inspectorate the details of their Welsh Assembly Government contact
- SP Manweb will prepare a table of their statutory and non-statutory consultation dates
- SP Manweb will prepare a draft document list
- SP Manweb will confirm the date of the next meeting for the W/C 8th December

The Planning Inspectorate

- The Planning Inspectorate will send SP Manweb Nicholas Coombes' details
- The Planning Inspectorate will send SP Manweb their response to the complaint received
- The Planning Inspectorate will check SP Manweb's Welsh Assembly Government contact against their details.