



Meeting note

File reference	EN020014
Status	FINAL
Author	Caroline Harvey
Date	25 October 2013
Meeting with	SP Manweb
Venue	Temple Quay House
Attendees	Kathryn Powell – Planning Inspectorate Jan Bessell – Planning Inspectorate Kathryn Powell – Planning Inspectorate Steffan Jones – Planning Inspectorate Caroline Harvey – Planning Inspectorate Will Spencer – EIA and Land Rights Advisor Claire Duffy – SP Manweb
Meeting objectives	General Meeting Update
Circulation	All

The Planning Inspectorate advised that a note of the meeting will be taken and it cannot provide legal advice on which applicants and others can rely.

The North Wales Connections Project is a 132kV single circuit proposal to connect four wind farms in North Wales to an existing St Asaph substation. The proposal is 19km in length. Currently, it is proposed to use wood poles along the majority of the route, with a small section of undergrounding and the possibility of the use of tower structures in the steep sided river valleys. A separate planning application will be submitted to Denbighshire Council for a collector substation.

The application for a development consent order is due to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in September 2014.

SP Manweb commenced early non-statutory consultation in 2012 and January 2013 on this proposal, after which SP Manweb selected the preferred route corridor in May 2013. SP Manweb explained that the preferred route corridor was not the public's preferred option (it was the second option). SP Manweb informed the Planning Inspectorate that they consider the preferred route corridor to be the less environmentally sensitive route.

SP Manweb undertook further non-statutory consultation in 2013 after the preferred route corridor was selected.

SP Manweb intends to undertake statutory pre-application consultation in Spring 2014. The Planning Inspectorate advised to be cautious of Easter period, SP Manweb explained the intention of involving tourists in their consultation.

The Planning Inspectorate advised that it can comment on draft application documents and these documents should be submitted for comment well in advance of the application submission to ensure a thorough response.

SP Manweb intends to submit the scoping request in November 2013. The Planning Inspectorate advised to avoid public holidays, to ensure statutory nature conservation bodies have the opportunity to provide a detailed response. SP Manweb has held discussions with Natural Resources Wales on their environmental studies.