



Meeting note

File reference	EN020015
Status	Final
Author	Karl-Jonas Johansson
Date	10 February 2017
Meeting with	National Grid
Venue	Temple Quay House
Attendees	Planning Inspectorate Chris White (Infrastructure Planning Lead - Energy) Tracey Williams (Case Manager) Karl-Jonas Johansson (Case Officer) Hannah Pratt (Senior Land Rights and EIA Advisor) Alison Down (Land Rights and EIA Advisor) National Grid Eloise Frank (DCO Manager) Jacqui Fenn (Senior Consents Officer) Graham Denison-Smith (Senior Consents Officer)
Meeting objectives	Project meeting update
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

The Applicant and the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) case team introduced themselves and their respective roles. The Inspectorate continued by outlining its openness policy and ensured those present understood that any issues discussed and advice given would be recorded and placed on the Inspectorate's website under s51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008). Further to this, it was made clear that any advice given did not constitute legal advice upon which the Applicant (or others) can rely.

The Inspectorate explained the rationale for the changes in the case team.

Project History and Update

The Applicant introduced the project to the Inspectorate case team. The project's major milestones and the level of engagement from the local stakeholders were discussed.

The Applicant explained that the route of the proposed overhead line has been refined through various rounds of consultation and that the route presented within the section 42 consultation material was final, subject to any changes made as a result of feedback received, and some potential micro-siting. It is proposed that the proposed overhead line would run in parallel with the existing 400kV power line from the

existing Wylfa power station, except for in some specific circumstances e.g. around the Cors Erddreiniog Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

It was explained that transpositions would be required in specific locations. As a result, temporary diversions of the overhead line would be required during construction. The Inspectorate advised that the temporary diversions needed to be fully assessed, including potential impacts on landowners.

The Applicant also explained that in some locations, the proposed overhead line would traverse existing utility assets for example those positioned on wooden poles. To minimise the number of overground crossings, short sections of the existing utility assets would be undergrounded in approximately 100 locations. These works would be undertaken by the utility providers in advance of the main construction activities for the proposed overhead line. The Inspectorate advised that these works should be fully assessed within the Environmental Statement and to explore protective provisions with these statutory undertakers.

The Applicant confirmed that when possible, it will try to minimise the impact of the project on the local communities. The Applicant was advised to record all engagements with landowners and to incorporate this information in the consultation report so this information is available to the Examining Authority (ExA) during the examination.

The Applicant was advised to review the relevant National Policy Statement to ensure the project was in line with its design standards and that policy related to design within the National Policy Statements had been considered. This applies not only to the overhead line but the other permanent structures e.g. the tunnel head houses and substation works.

Potential bird strikes along the proposed electricity lines were discussed. The historic data indicates that this is not likely to be an issue for the project. The Applicant confirmed that it was in discussion with Natural resources Wales (NRW) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) regarding this matter.

Section 42 Consultation

The responses to the consultation held in 2016 were discussed. The Applicant received approximately 1,800 responses; the majority of which raised similar issues. There was a broad geographical spread of responses, however there was a high response rate from the village of Star (Gaerwen)

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that any further consultation needed was likely to be targeted; for example around changes to specific pylon locations.

The Applicant confirmed that they have a good working relationship with Cadw and NRW. It is likely that a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between the Applicant and Cadw will be produced.

Engagement with the Isle of Anglesey County Council

Engagement with the Isle of Anglesey County Council (IACC) was discussed. The Applicant explained that they had received a response from IACC to the section 42 consultation.

The Inspectorate clarified that should the application be accepted for examination, the Local Impact Report (LIR) produced by IACC should be a factual document presenting the potential impacts of the project. Councillors may then put in their individual views on the project.

The Applicant was advised to discuss with IACC delegated powers as deadlines within examinations may not necessarily accord with their committee meeting dates.

The possibility of holding a round table meeting chaired by the Inspectorate was discussed.

Draft documents review

The advice given by the Inspectorate on the drafting of the Development Consent Order (DCO) was discussed. The Inspectorate offered to review the following documents: the draft DCO and Explanatory Memorandum, Statement of Reasons, Funding Statement, Book of Reference, Plans, the Consultation Report and its appendices and the Habitats Regulations Assessment Report. The importance of submitting as near-final versions of documents as possible was raised, including appendices. The turnaround for the initial draft documents review is usually 3-4 weeks including a feedback meeting at Temple Quay House.

The Applicant was advised to evidence clearly in the Consultation Report how both statutory and non-statutory consultation had influenced the project.

Decommissioning

It was explained that when the proposed Wylfa Newydd Generating Station ceases to export electricity, an overhead line would still be required for the local distribution of electricity. The Applicant explained that as a result of the transposition work, there would not be one complete 'new' line to be decommissioned (as some new line would be on old pylons, and some old line on new pylons). The Applicant will consider how they should approach this within their DCO.

Compulsory Acquisition

The Applicant explained that they have positioned the electricity lines in such a way that it minimises the need for voluntary or compulsory acquisition of residential properties. However, it was explained that there would be a small number of residential properties which would be enclosed by the existing and the proposed line. The Applicant confirmed it is in discussion with the property owners.

Protective Provisions

It was confirmed that the Applicant has started to work on a schedule of protective provisions needed for the project.

Submission

The Applicant stated that submission was anticipated to be in October 2017.

The implications of having examinations for both this project and Wylfa Newydd Generating Station running almost in parallel were discussed. The Applicant did not foresee that their submission date would change as it is determined by commercial drivers, including Horizon's final investment decision date of April 2019.

Welsh language

The Applicant stated that the majority of consultation responses received have been in English, although it was acknowledged that approximately 80% of the local community have Welsh as their first language. It was confirmed that the Applicant's non-technical summaries of application documents would be translated to Welsh; that there is a Welsh help line in place and that all of the Applicant's letters would be sent out in both English and Welsh. The Applicant's project team also include members that are fluent in Welsh.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

The Applicant explained it is undertaking vantage point surveys to inform the HRA. It also explained that drainage works could be required within a SAC therefore they are currently considered water management and mitigation measures in this location.

The Applicant could not confirm at this point in time whether a stage two assessment of the project would be needed.

AOB

The Applicant was advised to explain about the differences between the Councils' area boundaries and the mapping data boundaries in the keys of the maps.

The issues relating to possible venues in which to hold the Preliminary Meeting (PM) and hearings during the examination were discussed. It was suggested that IACC's offices might be a suitable venue. The Applicant was advised that the number and type of hearings would be determined by the ExA.

The Applicant confirmed that they will not be making any changes to the proposed approach to consent of the proposed development as a result of the enactment of the Wales Act 2017.

The likelihood of a site visit before the start of the examination was discussed. The Inspectorate did not think one would be necessary but did not rule out a visit in the future to inspect potential venues needed for the examination.

The Applicant was recommended to investigate the use of GPS positioning for visualising the positioning of the pylons during the examination site visit.

The Applicant confirmed that there are no drainage boards impacted by the project.

Specific decisions / follow up required?

- The Inspectorate to explore the possibility of further legal advice regarding decommissioning;
- The Inspectorate to send the Applicant the list of requirements for the PM and hearings;

- The Applicant to send the Inspectorate a list of potential PM and hearing venues; and
- The Applicant to explore the usage of GPS for the site visit.