



Meeting note

File reference	EN020015
Project	North Wales Connection
Status	Final
Author	Karl-Jonas Johansson
Date	12 May 2017
Meeting with	National Grid
Venue	Temple Quay House
Attendees	The Planning Inspectorate Chris White (Infrastructure Planning Lead) Tracey Williams (Case Manager) Karl-Jonas Johansson (Case Officer) Zena Madden (Assistant Case Officer) Hannah Pratt (Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor) National Grid Eloise Frank (National Grid) Charlotte Clinton (AECOM) Graham Denison-Smith (Senior Consents Officer)
Meeting objectives	Project update
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

Introduction

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 (PA2008). Further to this, it was made clear that any advice given did not constitute legal advice upon which the Applicant (or others) can rely.

Limits of deviation

The Applicant set out the various components of the overhead line's maximum limits of deviation (50m laterally either side of the centre line for the electrical line (smaller around sensitive receptors such as hedgerows), up to 6m vertically for towers, and 20m each way laterally for the tower foundations). The Applicant clarified that the limit of deviation was unlikely to be more than $\pm 20\text{m}$ in reality around the centre line.

It was requested that the draft Development Consent Order's (DCO) schedule three would contain GPS co-ordinates for the locations of the towers.

Options in the DCO

The Applicant clarified that the DCO will have two options for the overhead line in one location as a contingency if no land agreements can be reached with the land owners. The Applicant clarified that if agreements were reached the DCO would contain no alternative options. The changes to the overhead line route would have a low impact on the project as it would only have to be realigned 30-40m. It was further clarified that the EIA would cover both options.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to continue to seek agreement with the landowner.

Engagement with Isle of Anglesey County Council (IACC)

The Applicant updated the Inspectorate on the impact of the local election on IACC, and informed the Inspectorate that IACC has seconded a dedicated DCO case officer for the project.

The Inspectorate informed the Applicant that a meeting to discuss resourcing issues for both the Wylfa Newydd Nuclear Power Station and the North Wales Connection projects post-submission has been scheduled with IACC.

Statement of Common Ground (SoCG)

The Applicant raised concerns that the draft SoCG with IACC might not get a final sign-off before the start of the examination. The Inspectorate advised that it was not necessary to submit a finalised SoCG with the application and that it was common that they evolved during the examination. The Applicant was advised to seek officer sign-off for the draft SoCG with IACC. The Applicant clarified that it has produced a schedule of issues it is working with IACC to get sign-off on. The Applicant stated that it is making progress on the SoCGs with Natural Resources Wales (NRW), Cadw and Gwynedd Council. The Applicant was advised to review the Richborough Connection Project's 'Statement of Commonality for SoCG' document which was submitted as an application document and updated throughout the course of the examination. This document lists the SoCG; sets out the status of each SoCG; sets out the commonality between the SoCG and the final position and provides an update of the final position of Protective Provisions at the end of examination.

The Applicant explained that NRW's main concerns to date have been in relation to temporary drainage outfalls during construction and potential impacts to the Anglesey Fens SAC/NNR. The Applicant explained it has undertaken further work to reduce the extent of the outfalls and will continue to work with NRW on the issue.

Draft documents review

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that it would like to submit its draft documents in the week commencing 12 June 2017. It was agreed that the Inspectorate would provide a legal review of the DCO and Explanatory Memorandum (EM). It was agreed that the Applicant would highlight the parts of the DCO and EM

that had changed since the initial review that was carried out last year. The Inspectorate confirmed that the funding statement could be submitted at this stage without the financial figures and that the Inspectorate was content for the Consultation Report to be submitted without its appendices as long as a list is provided.

The Inspectorate advised that the draft documents review normally takes 4 weeks and culminates with a face to face meeting to discuss the comments on the draft documents. The Applicant was advised to bring a member of their legal team to that meeting. It was further clarified that the draft documents would not be published, however the Inspectorate's comments and note of the meeting would be.

Potential examination venues

The Inspectorate clarified its request for attendance numbers at venues the Applicant used for consultation, alongside information on consultation hotspots. The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that this information would also be included in the Consultation Report. The Applicant agreed to send the Inspectorate further information about the rooms available at IACC offices (post meeting - this information has now been received).

Submission date

The Applicant confirmed that it is intending to submit the application to the Inspectorate in October 2017.

Any Other Business

The Applicant confirmed that it had completed its targeted consultation and that it had resulted in minimal impact on the design presented at s42 consultation.

Specific decisions / follow up required?

- The Inspectorate to update the anticipated submission date on its website – Completed
- The Inspectorate to reschedule the 9 June meeting