



# The Planning Inspectorate Yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

## Meeting note

<b>File reference</b>	EN020015
<b>Project</b>	North Wales Connection
<b>Status</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Author</b>	Hefin Jones
<b>Date</b>	12 January 2018
<b>Meeting with</b>	National Grid
<b>Venue</b>	Temple Quay House, Bristol
<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Planning Inspectorate</b> Chris White –Infrastructure Planning Lead Tracey Williams – Case Manager Hefin Jones – Case Manager Hannah Pratt - Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor Alison Down - EIA and Land Rights Advisor  <b>National Grid</b> Jacqui Fenn - Senior Consents Officer Jacqueline Stoddart – Lands Lead Catrin Owen - Consents Officer
<b>Meeting objectives</b>	Project update
<b>Circulation</b>	All attendees

### Introductions

National Grid (the Applicant) and the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) case team introduced themselves and their respective roles. Hefin Jones was introduced as the new bilingual case manager for the project. Jacqueline Stoddart was introduced as the Applicant's new Lands Lead and it was confirmed that Ken Guest, who was not present at the meeting, has recently been appointed as the new Development Consent Order (DCO) Manager.

The Inspectorate outlined 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.



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## **Project Update**

Since the previous meeting in [September](#) 2017, the Applicant has been in discussions with land owners and has carried out a review of documents. The draft Environmental Statement (ES) and draft DCO requirements are in the process of being shared with the local authorities (Isle of Anglesey County Council and Gwynedd Council), Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales, National Trust and the Emergency Services. Responses are due by the end of March.

In order for the Applicant to fully consider consultation responses, the application is now likely to be submitted at the end of June 2018.

## **Progress on Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs)**

The Applicant is in the process of drafting SoCGs with stakeholders. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to consider producing a commonality approach document similar to that used in the [Richborough](#) application; the Applicant confirmed that work was underway to do so.

## **Submission of Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) report for review**

The Applicant confirmed that the HRA report is in draft form and at an advanced stage; the finalised draft will be shared with technical stakeholders on 9 February 2018. The Inspectorate confirmed that it would provide procedural comments on the document by mid-March 2018.

## **Update on Welsh translation of documents**

The Applicant advised that it had reached an agreement with Horizon to adopt a consistent approach for the submission of bilingual documents. This approach has been shared with both local authorities and the Isle of Anglesey County Council has provided its written agreement to the approach.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that it will be beneficial for them to ensure that a Welsh-speaking member of their team is present at the Preliminary Meeting (PM) and hearing sessions to respond to any media queries.

## **PINS update on Examination/venues**

The Inspectorate advised that consideration has been given to suitable venues for the PM and hearings. It advised that Horizon will be carrying out a visit to a potential venue ([Anglesey Showground](#)) shortly to assess its suitability for the Wylfa Newydd project (one of several potential venues currently being considered). The Applicant will liaise closely with Horizon on this matter.



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The Inspectorate is likely to also consider holding open-floor hearing sessions at other venues in Anglesey and in Gwynedd. This matter will be given further consideration closer to the submission of the application.

The Applicant confirmed that discussions have already commenced with audio and translation companies. Arrangements will be finalised in due course.

The Applicant asked if adverse weather would be factored into the Examination timetable and the Inspectorate confirmed it is something which will be given consideration.

### **AOB**

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant of the fees increase, which take effect from April 2018. The Applicant confirmed it was already aware of this and has calculated accordingly.

The Applicant will contact the Inspectorate to arrange further monthly teleconference meetings, and a face-to-face meeting prior to the submission of the application. There may also be a request for a face-to-face meeting between the Inspectorate, National Grid and Horizon with regard to hearing and PM logistics.