



# 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>	The Planning Inspectorate
<b>Date</b>	15 March 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 Hefin Jones – Case Manager Siân Evans – Case Officer Hannah Pratt - Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor Helen Lancaster - Senior EIA and Land Rights Advisor Alison Down - EIA and Land Rights Advisor <b>National Grid</b> Ken Guest - DCO Manager Jacqui Fenn - Senior 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. 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 section 51 (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.

### Project Update

The Applicant advised that they are continuing to engage with landowners and stakeholders to refine the application however there are no changes that have triggered any further consultation. The Applicant advised that they are still in discussions with a landowner in relation to options A and B however they advised that regardless of the outcome of these discussions the two options are likely to remain in the application.

The Applicant advised that they are currently intending to submit their application in late June 2018.



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## **Environmental Statement**

The Applicant advised that a draft Environmental Statement has been shared with stakeholders. Some useful feedback has been received to date and further feedback is expected.

## **Statements of Common Ground**

The Applicant advised that with the submission of their application they will provide a summary table of progress being made on their Statements of Common Ground. This will be referred to in their Planning Statement. The Applicant advised that they also intend to provide a Statement of Commonality during the Examination.

The Applicant also advised that they will submit a 'Guide to the Application', which will be updated throughout the Examination with hyperlinks to documents on the Inspectorate's website.

## **Habitats Regulations Assessment**

The Inspectorate advised that their comments on the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) will be sent to the Applicant imminently. The Inspectorate advised that their comments were on issues of detail and if the Applicant addressed these in the HRA report submitted with the application the number of Written Questions on HRA matters may be reduced. The Inspectorate queried whether Natural England had been consulted on potential effects on Liverpool Bay Special Protection Area, as this was in both English and Welsh territorial waters.

## **Submission requirements**

The Applicant advised that they will submit two hard copies of the application documents and seven USBs. The Inspectorate advised that they would request hard copies of particular documents at each deadline, if required. The Inspectorate requested that the photomontages be provided at A3 size, as well as the appropriate size to be viewed on site (if this differs).

## **Translation**

The Inspectorate confirmed that application documents submitted in Welsh should be submitted at the same time as those submitted in English to be accepted.

The Inspectorate confirmed that any representations made in Welsh would only be translated for the internal use of the Examining Authority; the translations would not be made publically available and it is for parties to provide their own translation.



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## **Hearing venues**

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that it would be helpful if they could scope potential venues for the Preliminary Meeting and hearings. At the last meeting the Inspectorate advised that Horizon (the applicant for the Wylfa Newydd project) was assessing Anglesey Showground for suitability as a hearing venue. The Inspectorate updated the Applicant to advise that Horizon did not consider this a suitable venue due to its distance from the main highway.

## **Site Inspection**

The Inspectorate advised that it would be helpful if the Applicant could prepare a suggested route to view the site of the Proposed Development from public viewpoints. A suggested route for any Accompanied Site Inspection would also be helpful.

## **Interaction between Horizon and National Grid submissions**

The Inspectorate advised that the date of the Wylfa Newydd Preliminary Meeting is not known as the application has not been submitted or accepted yet.

The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that the timing of the submission of their application is a matter for them, but reminded them that it would be helpful to all parties to maintain a gap between the examinations for each application to avoid clashes of hearings and deadlines.

## **AOB**

The next teleconference is arranged for 12 April 2018. The Applicant will contact the Inspectorate if they do not consider it necessary to hold the meeting.