



Meeting note

Project name	North Wales Connection
File reference	EN020015
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	20 June 2018
Meeting with	National Grid
Venue	Temple Quay House, Bristol
Meeting objectives	Project update
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

Introduction

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 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 intend to submit their application in September 2018. They have discussed with Natural Resources Wales regarding which consents cannot be included in the Development Consent Order (DCO). The Applicant still intends to include options in the application. They hope to resolve this before commencement of the Examination.

The Applicant advised that they will include a section within the Consultation Report (CR) to explain why targeted consultation has taken place. The Applicant advised that they have recently issued a newsletter to the community to ensure they are fully informed on the latest developments on the project. The Applicant advised that there is an internal cut-off date for the submission of comments on the proposals before the report is finalised for submission to the Inspectorate. Any comments received after the date will not be included in the CR but will still be considered by the Applicant.

The Applicant advised that they are considering including design flexibility in the DCO. The Applicant is aiming to mirror the existing line however due to unknown archaeology on Anglesey the Applicant explained that it could be necessary for the location of pylons to alter. The Applicant advised that they are undertaking ground investigation work at locations where there are most likely to be archaeological remains. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to ensure the Environmental

Statement (ES) assesses the worst case scenario and present justification as to why this is needed in the application. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to consider photomontages and how any changes to location of pylons would affect different receptors. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to consider how they could mitigate any potential impacts on archaeology.

The Applicant advised that, following the recent Judgement (People over Wind & Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta), they will now review and update their Habitat Regulations Assessment.

The Applicant advised that some ecology surveys are ongoing but are unable to access some sites. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to justify why they consider the ES is complete if surveys are not completed.

The Applicant advised that, if the DCO is granted, Scottish Power will undertake some minor work on lower voltage lines which will trigger the DCO and require, for example, a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which would be inappropriate for the level of works they would be undertaking. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant that this could be resolved through careful drafting of the DCO and in particular the requirements relating to the CEMP. The approach and flexibility sought by the Applicant should be clearly set out in the Explanatory Memorandum.

The Applicant advised that they are aware of a small number of occupiers of land within the red line boundary but is unclear of their legal rights on the land (a number of attempts have been made to obtain this information). The Applicant intends to include them in the Book of Reference as Category 1 persons on a precautionary basis. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to explain this approach in their Statement of Reasons and / or Consultation Report.