



3/18 Eagle Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Customer Services: 0303 444 5000
e-mail: brechfaconnection@pins.gsi.gov.uk

Your Ref:

To interested parties, statutory parties
and other persons invited to the
preliminary meeting

Our Ref: EN020016

Date: 13 October 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Section 89 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 8 (as amended)

Application by Western Power Distribution (South Wales) for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Brechfa Forest Connection

Examination timetable and procedure

I write to tell you about the procedural decisions following the Preliminary Meeting held on 6 October 2015 at St Peter's Civic Hall, 1 Nott Square, Carmarthen, SA31 1PG. This letter also provides you with the examination timetable, a link to the initial questions that I am asking in the examination and other matters.

All documentation associated with this project, including a note of the Preliminary Meeting and the audio recording taken at that meeting can be found using this link:

<http://planninginspectorate.gov.uk/BrechfaConnection>

An advice note about how to get involved in the examination can be found on the Planning Inspectorate webpage or can be requested via the case manager.

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/advice-note-8.5.pdf>

Procedural decisions

I have made my procedural decisions about the way in which the proposal is to be examined. The examination timetable is attached as **Annex B** and includes the deadlines by which certain information should be submitted. This examination timetable replaces the draft examination timetable that was included with the Rule 6 letter dated 3 September 2015. Procedural decisions and changes to the draft examination timetable made after the Preliminary Meeting are explained in **Annex C**. The examination timetable has sought to accommodate requests made at the Preliminary Meeting.

If I consider it necessary to vary the timetable (set out in **Annex B**), I will notify interested parties and 'other persons' invited to the PM (reference numbers beginning with OP) and publish the changes on the National Infrastructure Planning website.

Deadlines for receipt of submissions

It is important to note that if you do not submit the information by the dates specified in the timetable, I may disregard them.

Any submissions that exceed 1500 words should also be accompanied by a summary. This summary should not exceed 10% of the original text. The summary should set out the key facts of the written representation and must be representative of the submission made.

All deadlines are 11:59pm on the date stated. I request that interested parties send, where practicable, electronic copies of their submissions as email attachments, to brechfaconnection@pins.gsi.gov.uk on or before the applicable deadline. Electronic attachments should be clearly labelled with subject title and not exceed 12MB for each email. Providing links to websites where your submissions can be viewed is not acceptable. All documents, once accepted into the examination by the ExA, must be able to be viewed in full on our website. Timely submissions in advance of the deadlines set in the timetable are encouraged. If interested parties prefer to issue submissions in hard copy by post, please ensure they arrive by the deadline.

If no written requests are received for open floor hearings or compulsory acquisition hearings by the deadline specified in **Annex B**, I am not required to hold any such hearings. I may nevertheless choose to do so.

The time, date and place of any confirmed hearing will be notified in writing to all registered interested parties, providing at least 21 days' notice.

Below I have explained some of the submissions requested in the timetable in greater detail for your information, however please refer to **Annex B** for all submission deadlines for this proposal.

Examining Authority's First Round of Written Questions

I have decided to ask a number of written questions. These questions are now published on the National Infrastructure Planning website and can be accessed through the following link:

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/document/3459073>

If you wish to receive an email notification of when these are published you can register on the project website to do so.

The deadline for responses to these questions is listed in the examination timetable in **Annex B**.

Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) and Local Impact Reports (LIRs)

In my Rule 6 letter dated 3 September 2015 I requested SoCGs. I now formally invite submission of completed SoCGs, and any draft SoCGs, by the deadline listed in the examination timetable at **Annex B**.

Local authorities defined in s56A of the PA 2008 are invited to submit LIRs by the deadline specified in **Annex B**.

Written representations

I also invite all interested parties to submit written representations and comments on relevant representations already submitted by the deadline specified in **Annex B**.

There is no prescribed form for written representations. Written representations can deal with any relevant matter. They are not restricted to the matters set out in my Initial Assessment of Principal Issues which was discussed at the Preliminary Meeting, nor restricted to the questions I have asked. Please note that under Rule 10(4) of the Examination Procedure Rules any person, other than the Applicant, who submits a written representation must identify in their written representation those parts of the proposal with which they agree and those parts with which they do not agree, and must state the reasons for such disagreement.

Furthermore, in accordance with DCLG 'Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008): Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent (March 2013)' <http://bit.ly/1Bf8qFY>, participants should provide with their written statements, 'the data, methodology and assumptions used to support their submissions'.

Notification of a wish to attend a hearing

I now request notifications from –

- (a) any interested party who wishes to be heard at an **open floor hearing**.
- (b) any affected person who wishes to make oral representations at a **compulsory acquisition hearing**.
- (c) any interested party who wishes to make oral representations at an **issue specific hearing** listed in **Annex B**.

These notifications must be received by the deadline specified in **Annex B**.

If an interested party wishes to make an oral representation at an open floor or issue specific hearing they should indicate which topics they wish to address at the hearing. Similarly, any affected person wishing to make an oral representation at a compulsory acquisition hearing should identify clearly the plots of land about which they wish to speak.

Procedure at hearings and notification of wish to speak at hearings

The procedure to be followed at hearings is set out in Rule 14 of the Examination Procedure Rules <http://bit.ly/1wLTj8E>. Any oral representations must be based on either the relevant or written representations made by the person by whom or on whose behalf the oral representations are made. I shall be responsible for the oral questioning of a person giving evidence but your attention is drawn to Rule 14(5) of the Rules and the circumstances that apply to cross-questioning between parties.

My examination will be principally undertaken through a written process, and I will decide whether a hearing on a particular issue or topic is necessary. This decision is not connected to how relevant or important I consider an issue or topic to be.

Os hoffech gwneud cyfraniadau drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn ystod y gwrandawid dylech nodi ni o'ch dymuniad i wneud hyn gan fydd cyfieithydd ar gael.

Site inspections

I have undertaken (and will continue to undertake) unaccompanied site inspections at times convenient to me.

I will consider, as set out in the examination timetable, any requests to inspect other sites. Nominations of additional locations to be inspected must be received by the deadline. You must indicate the reason for the nomination and whether the Examining Authority can proceed with the inspection unaccompanied (and if not, why not). Please be aware that I cannot carry out unaccompanied inspections on private land or where special measures with regards to safety must be followed.

Please note that the site inspection is not an opportunity to make any oral representations on the proposal. However, I may invite participants to indicate specific features or sites of interest.

Habitats Assessment Regulations

Under the Habitats Regulations, in order to inform the Secretary of State as the Competent Authority, certain information needs to be provided and consultation undertaken, during the course of the examination.

Award of costs

You should be aware of the possibility of the award of costs against parties who behave unreasonably.

To assist understanding of what 'unreasonable behaviour' means in the context of an examination under the PA 2008 you may find it helpful to read the Government guidance: 'Awards of costs: examinations of applications for development consent orders (July 2013)' which can be found on the National Infrastructure Planning website (<http://bit.ly/1zV1wSq>).

Future notifications

If you are an interested party (100 or BFC) you will continue to receive correspondence from the Planning Inspectorate about the examination throughout the process.

If you have received this letter because you were invited to attend the Preliminary Meeting, but you are not an interested party (reference number beginning with OP) you will **not** receive any further communication from us relating to this proposal. You can, however, visit the relevant project page on the National Infrastructure Planning website to stay informed of the progress of the examination of the proposal.

If you are a statutory consultee, or a local authority without direct responsibility in the proposed development area, and have not made a relevant representation (reference number beginning with BFC–SP) then you should inform the case manager if you wish to become a registered party by **Monday 9 November 2015**. **Statutory consultees who have not made a relevant representation and do not notify the case manager of their wish to become an interested party will not receive any further correspondence.**

If I require further information or written comments (a Rule 17 request) on the dates specified within Annex B, this will be sent to only those persons I consider it is applicable to, however it will be published on the National Infrastructure Planning Website.

Management of Information

The Planning Inspectorate has a commitment to information transparency. Therefore, all information submitted for this project (if accepted) and a record of advice which the Planning Inspectorate have given can be found on the Planning Inspectorate website together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information has been protected in accordance with our Information Charter.

Yours faithfully

Martin Broderick

Martin Broderick, Examining Inspector

Annexes:

- A. Availability of representations and application documents
- B. Timetable for examination of the proposal
- C. Procedural decisions made after the Preliminary Meeting

A. Availability of representations and application documents

All application documents including relevant representations and application documents are available on the National Infrastructure pages of the Planning Portal website:

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/BrechfaConnection>

Documents can be viewed electronically at the following locations. Please note that you may need to bring a form of ID to use the computer at these locations.

Electronic Deposit Locations: Local Authority	Library/ Address	Opening Hours
Carmarthenshire	Carmarthen Library St Peter's Street Carmarthen SA31 1LN	Monday – 9am – 7pm Tuesday – 9am – 6pm Wednesday – 9am – 6pm Thursday – 9am – 7pm Friday – 9am – 6pm Saturday – 9am – 5pm Sunday - closed
Printing Costs	Black and White	Colour
A4	15p	25p
A3	65p	£1

<http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/residents/libraries-archives/>

<http://www.sirgar.llyw.cymru/cartref/preswylwyr/llyfrgelloedd-ac-archifau>

B. Timetable for examination of the proposal

The Examining Authority (ExA) is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the day after the close of the preliminary meeting.

My examination of the application primarily takes the form of the consideration of written submissions. The ExA will also consider any oral representations made at the hearings.

Item	Matters	Due Dates
1	Preliminary Meeting	Tuesday 6 October 2015
2	Publication by ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination timetable • First written questions (on website) 	As soon as practicable following the Preliminary Meeting
3	Deadline 1 Deadline for receipt of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on relevant representations • Written representations (WRs) by all interested parties • Local Impact Reports from any local authorities • Statements of Common Ground requested by the ExA • Responses to ExA's first written questions • Comments on revised application documents • Notification of wish to make oral representations at the December issue specific hearings • Notification of wish to speak at an open floor hearing • Notification of wish to speak at a compulsory acquisition hearing • Notification of wish to attend an accompanied site inspection, suggested locations and justifications • Notification by statutory parties of wish to be considered an interested party • Comments on documents submitted by the applicant since acceptance. 	Monday 9 November 2015 at noon

4	Publication by the ExA of: Draft Accompanied Site Inspection itinerary for comment.	Wednesday 11 November 2015
5	Deadline 2 Deadline for receipt by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on WRs • Comments on Local Impact Reports • Comments on responses to ExA's first written questions • Comments on the draft Accompanied Site Inspection itinerary • Revised draft DCO from applicant 	Tuesday 24 November 2015 at noon
6	Open Floor Hearing (evening)	Monday 30 November 2015
7	Day 1: Accompanied route alignment and surrounding areas inspection – North of Afon Tywi/ River Towy	Tuesday 1 December 2015
8	Open floor hearing (evening)	Tuesday 1 December 2015
9	Compulsory acquisition hearing	Wednesday 2 and Thursday 3 December 2015
10	Issue specific hearings (including, landscape, route optioneering, undergrounding, socio-economic biodiversity and construction issues)	Tuesday 8 to Wednesday 9 December 2015
11	Issue specific hearing on draft DCO (including integral arguments)	Thursday 10 December 2015
12	Day 2: Accompanied route alignment and surrounding areas inspection – South of Afon Twyi/ River Towy	Friday 11 December 2015

13	<p>Deadline 3</p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-hearing documents • Applicant's revised draft DCO • Any further information requested by the ExA 	<p>Thursday 17 December 2015 at noon</p>
14	<p>Publication on website by ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second round of written questions (if required) 	<p>Monday 11 January 2016</p>
15	<p>Deadline 4</p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to ExA's second written questions • Notification of wish to make oral representations at the February hearings 	<p>Monday 1 February 2016 at noon</p>
16	<p>Reserved day for accompanied site inspection (if required due to weather)</p>	<p>Tuesday 9 February 2015</p>
17	<p>Issue specific hearing on the DCO, residual matters and/or compulsory acquisition hearings (if required)</p>	<p>Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 February 2016</p>
18	<p>Reserved day for accompanied site inspection (if required due to weather)</p>	<p>Friday 12 February 2015</p>
19	<p>Deadline 5</p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-hearing documents • Any further information requested by the ExA • Comments on responses to ExA's second written questions • Any further information requested by the ExA • Revised draft DCO from applicant 	<p>Thursday 18 February 2016 at noon</p>

20	<p>Reserved for possible issue by the ExA of a Revised draft DCO taking issues and comments raised into account</p> <p>And;</p> <p>Publication of the RIES</p>	Thursday 25 February 2016
21	<p>Deadline 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on ExA's consultation draft DCO and RIES • Any further information requested by the ExA 	Thursday 17 March 2016 at noon
22	<p>Deadline 7</p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to comments on the ExA's consultation draft DCO • Comments on any further information requested by the ExA 	Thursday 31 March 2016 at noon
23	<p>The ExA is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.</p>	Wednesday 6 April 2016

C. Procedural Decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA)

The ExA has made the following procedural decisions under sections 89(1) of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (PA 2008):

Additional documents

1. By letter dated 21 August 2015, the Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate that it had updated certain application documents. The request to admit these additional documents was made and a list of those documents was provided. The new and updated documents were submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on the 21 August 2015. The ExA has made a procedural decision to accept these documents into the examination. They have been published on the Planning Inspectorate website and are available electronically at the deposit locations listed in Annex A. The ExA will accept comments on these additional documents by Deadline 1, Monday 9 November 2015.
2. By email dated 25 September 2015, the Applicant notified the Planning Inspectorate that it had updated one of its application documents i.e APP-150. The request to admit these additional documents was made and the document was provided. The new and updated document was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on the 25 September 2015. The ExA has made a procedural decision to accept this document into the examination. This has been published on the Planning Inspectorate website and is available electronically at the deposit locations listed in Annex A. The ExA will accept comments on this additional document by Deadline 1 Monday 9 November 2015.

Examination Timetable

1. The ExA has made a procedural decision to the effect that Deadline 3 will be Wednesday 16 December 2015. A list of the material to be submitted at this deadline is included in the examination timetable attached at Annex B.
2. The ExA has made a procedural decision to the effect that an additional Open Floor Hearing (OFH) will be held on Monday 30 November 2015 in response to the discussion which took place at the Preliminary Meeting.
3. At the Preliminary Meeting, discussion took place regarding the dates reserved for the accompanied site visit. The ExA has made a procedural decision to include a second reserved date for such a visit to take place on Friday 11 December 2015.