



The Planning Inspectorate Yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

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Customer Services: 0303 444 5000
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To interested parties

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN020016

Date: 5 November 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Act 2008 (as amended) and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rule 13 and Rule 16

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

Notification of Hearings and Accompanied Site Inspection

I write to all interested parties to provide notice of the hearings and accompanied site inspection below, as set out in the examination timetable annexed to our letter of 13 October 2015. Those interested parties who wish to speak at any hearing should notify Katherine King at the postal or email address above by deadline 2 at noon on **24 November 2015**. I would be grateful if you would inform us if you plan to attend the hearing even if you do not wish to speak. It would also assist us if you could notify us of any special requirements you may have (e.g. disabled access, hearing loop etc.). Please also inform us in advance if you wish to speak in Welsh or make use of translation services and ensure that you include your interested party reference number in your correspondence and make it clear which hearing(s) and site inspection you wish to participate in.

We have aimed to set out below, the topics upon which hearings will be held and agendas will be published 1 week prior to the hearings to clarify this.

Open Floor Hearings

Date of hearing: Monday 30 November & Tuesday 1 December 2015

Time of hearing: 18:00 room open from 17:30

Venue: St. Peter's Civic Hall, 1 Nott Square, Carmarthen, SA31 1PG

The purpose of an open floor hearing is to allow interested parties to address me on relevant matters of their choosing. Speaking time will be shared between interested parties who register in advance. Parties who do not register in advance will be heard at the end of the meeting, at my discretion.

Compulsory Acquisition Hearing

Date of hearing: Wednesday 2 December and continuing on Thursday 3 December 2015

Time of hearing: 10:00 room open from 9:30

Venue: Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru, Y Llwyfan, College Road, Carmarthen, SA31 3EQ

The purpose of a compulsory acquisition hearing is to examine the merits of the case for compulsory acquisition (CA) including, but not limited to:

- Whether the statutory conditions in relation to the right to exercise CA as set out in s122 and s123 of PA2008 are met in principle and in relation to individual plots;
- The case for seeking powers of temporary possession;
- Alternatives;
- Provision and updating of the required documentation as set out in Regulation 5 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications, Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009; including the relevant DCO provisions;
- Human Rights and Equality duties;
- Funding;
- Crown Land in relation to s135 of PA 2008;
- Category 3 persons;
- Statutory Undertakers' land and apparatus in relation to the requirements of s127 and s138 of PA 2008; and
- Protective Provisions.

I will lead the hearings, with involvement from affected persons (landowners, tenants, etc), statutory undertakers and the applicant. Affected persons should register their desire to participate by deadline 2, 24 November 2015 and identify the specific plots that would be affected. Parties should expect to be questioned by me and justify their statements.

Issue Specific Hearing

Date of hearing: Tuesday 8 December and continuing on Wednesday 9 December 2015

Time of hearing: 10:00 room open from 9:30

Venue: Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru, Y Llwyfan, College Road, Carmarthen, SA31 3EQ

To include, but not limited to:

- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment;
- Route optioneering;
- Application of Holford Rules
- Undergrounding;
- Integral development;
- River Towy Horizontal Directional Drilling;
- Socio-economic issues (including tourism);
- Biodiversity; and
- Construction issues.

Further information on these topics and the matters to be discussed will be provided in agendas that will be published on our website a week before the hearings.

Issue Specific Hearing on the draft Development Consent Order

Date of hearing: Thursday 10 December 2015

Time of hearing: 10:00 room open from 9:30

Venue: Theatr Genedlaethol Cymru, Y Llwyfan, College Road, Carmarthen, SA31 3EQ

This hearing will concentrate on the specific issue of the draft Development Consent Order (DCO). The DCO is the order which the Secretary of State would make if he/she wished to consent the application. Discussion at this hearing is 'without prejudice'; this means that parties may make contributions to improve the quality of the draft DCO without invalidating their own positions of support or opposition to the scheme as a whole.

Irrespective of its recommendation, I am required to present a draft DCO to the Secretary of State. Discussion about the specifics of the draft DCO does not indicate that I have up my mind about the application.

The hearing into the draft DCO is likely to be of a technical nature and will be based on the specific wording of the draft DCO.

Accompanied Site Inspection

Date of Inspection: Tuesday 1 December (North of River Towy) &
Friday 11 December (South of River Towy) 2015

Time of inspection: Meet at 8:30 to leave promptly at 9:00

Departure point: The Pavilion, Crychiau, Carmarthen, SA31 2JJ

An itinerary for the accompanied site inspection will include details on those locations I wish to see and on which days. Please note that the site inspection is not an opportunity to provide any oral representations on the scheme. I may invite participants to indicate specific features of sites of interest.

It is important for any party who wishes to attend the accompanied site inspection or suggest site location that this is set out clearly in any submission by deadline 1. The Inspectorate will endeavour to accommodate suggestions in the draft itinerary which will be published on 11 November 2015.

Agendas for all hearings and a final itinerary for the site inspections will be published during the week prior to the events on the Brechfa Forest Connection project page of our website:

<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/wales/brechfa-forest-connection/?ipcsection=docs>

Every effort will be made to ensure that the issues will be discussed on the days that they are scheduled for. I reserve the right to rearrange the agendas for these hearings and the itinerary for the site inspection at short notice, if necessary, or if they take longer than anticipated, certain issues may have to be adjourned to a later date. The venues will be open to the public half an hour prior to the start of the hearings. The hearings will close when there are no remaining parties present wishing to speak.

Deadlines

Please note that **all deadlines are at noon** on the specified date as stated in the Examination Timetable provided at Annex B of the Rule 8 letter of 13 October 2015. This was incorrectly identified as "All deadlines are 11:59pm on the date stated" within the letter itself.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Martin Broderick

Martin Broderick
Examining Authority

Advice may be given about applying for an order granting development consent or making representations about an application (or a proposed application). This communication does not however constitute legal advice upon which you can rely and you should obtain your own legal advice and professional advice as required.

A record of the advice which is provided will be recorded on the National Infrastructure Planning website together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information will be protected in accordance with our Information Charter which you should view before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.