



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Western Power Distribution (South Wales) plc, Natural Resources Wales and Carmarthenshire County Council and other interested parties

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

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21 September 2016
Our ref: EN020016

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning Act 2008 and The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

Application by Western Power Distribution (South Wales) plc (“the Applicant”) for an Order granting Development Consent for the Brechfa Forest Connection project

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS FROM THE APPLICANT, NATURAL RESOURCES WALES (“NRW”) , CARMARTHENSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (“CCC”) AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES ON THE APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED BRECHFA FOREST CONNECTION PROJECT

Following the completion of the examination on 6 April 2016, the Examining Authority (“ExA”) submitted a Report and Recommendation in respect of its findings and conclusions on the above application to the Secretary of State on 6 July 2016. In accordance with section 107 of the Planning Act 2008, the Secretary of State has three months to determine the application.

The Secretary of State has received late representations from interested parties, Mr and Mrs Reader, attaching correspondence with NRW and CCC, regarding the identification by Butterfly Conservation Wales on 14 September 2016 of marsh fritillary butterfly larval webs and caterpillars in various locations on their smallholding, included within the survey area identified in the Applicant’s Environmental Statement Appendix 10.5, Marsh Fritillary Butterfly Technical Report, May 2015, map 3. The Secretary of State notes that no marsh fritillary caterpillars or larval webs had been located at any of the sites surveyed by the Applicant in September 2014. However, it is considered a precautionary approach would need to be taken in the event that the Secretary of State is minded to grant development consent for the application in due course.

In the circumstances, comments are being sought from the **Applicant, NRW, CCC and any other interested parties** on the following new, draft requirement for inclusion in any Development Consent Order that might be granted by the Secretary of State:

“Marsh Fritillary Butterfly Surveys

30.(1) Prior to the commencement of the section of Work No. 3 shown on Works Plans Section C Drawing Number C/WP/PS/5 in areas where food plants for marsh fritillary butterflies are present, pre-construction marsh fritillary butterfly surveys, the methodology for which shall be determined in consultation with Natural Resources Wales, shall be undertaken where food plants for marsh fritillary butterflies are present within that area and the results submitted to the relevant planning authority and Natural Resources Wales.

(2) The section of Work No. 3, shown on Works Plan Section C Drawing Number C/WP/PS/5 in areas where food plants for marsh fritillary butterflies are present shall not commence until either the absence of marsh fritillary butterfly is confirmed or the mitigation proposed is agreed by the relevant planning authority in consultation with Natural Resources Wales and implemented.”

The deadline for a response is Monday 3 October 2016.

The response should be submitted by email to: BrechfaConnection@pins.gsi.gov.uk

Please also send any hard copy response to the Brechfa Forest Connection Project Team, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, c/o the Planning Inspectorate, 3D Eagle Wing, Temple Quay House, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN.

Responses will be published on the Brechfa Forest Connection project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website as soon as possible after 28 September 2016.

This letter is without prejudice to the Secretary of State’s decision whether or not to grant development consent for the Brechfa Forest Connection project, and nothing in this letter is to be taken to imply what that decision might be.

Yours faithfully

Giles Scott

Giles Scott
Head of Energy Infrastructure Planning and Coal Liabilities