

SP MANWEB

Reinforcement to the North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network



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Consultation Report

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November 2018

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ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION NETWORK:

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The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure)
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PROJECT GLOSSARY

132,000 volt	The electrical capacity of the Proposed Development. Abbreviated to 132kv
Broad Route Corridor(s)	Initial strategic corridors identified for the Proposed Development (s in the Route Corridor Options Report (June 2016) (DCO Document 7.8))
Consultation Corridors	100m wide corridor(s) within which 132kV Overhead Line could be constructed and which were the subject of pre-application consultation pursuant to the Planning Act 2008
Consultation zone	A zone that encompassed likely effects (either permanent or temporary) arising from the proposals. This included potential environmental or visual impacts, but also those arising from construction or maintenance of the route. Community consultation activities are focused with in the consultation zone.
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).	Formed from the merger of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)
Department for Communities and Local Government	The UK Government department responsible for housing, communities and local government in England. Renamed Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government in 2017.
Development Consent Order (DCO)	An order made by the relevant Secretary of State granting development consent following the submission of an application made pursuant to section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for a NSIP
Distribution Network Operator (DNO)	Distribution Network Operators own and operate the electricity distribution network that brings electricity from the national transmission network to the consumer. SP Manweb is the DNO for North and Mid Wales, Cheshire and Merseyside
Draft Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)	Sets out the standard good practice measures that will be adopted by contractors for any construction works associated with the Proposed Development
Electricity Act 1989	The Electricity Act 1989 (as amended)
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	A statutory process whereby a project is assessed through the collection and consideration of environmental information with the aim of taking account of the likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment in the decision making process. The findings are published in an Environmental Statement
Environmental Statement (ES)	Report documenting the outcome of an Environmental Impact Assessment

Local Planning Authority	Is defined by S.1 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and, in the case of the Proposed Development, is Shropshire Council
National Policy Statements (NPS)	Sets out national policy against which proposals for major infrastructure projects will be assessed and decided by the Secretary of State
Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP)	A project designated under the Planning Act 2008
Non-statutory consultation	Consultation carried out in addition to a statutory consultation. SP Manweb carried out non-statutory consultation between June 2016 and July 2017. It consisted of an initial period of consultation (June 2016 – September 2016) and additional engagement until July 2017.
Order Limits	Means the limits shown on the Works Plans within which the Proposed Development may be carried out
Overhead Line	132,000 volts overhead line from the Terminal Pole at Long Wood near Oswestry(SJ 31132 29877) to the SP Manweb Substation at Wem
PILs	Persons with an interest in the land pursuant to section 44 of the Planning Act 2008
Planning Act 2008 (the Act)	The legislation for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects which set out statutory requirements for, amongst other matters, applying for and determining applications for development consent
Planning Inspectorate (PINS)	The Planning Inspectorate administers the examination of applications for development consent
Preferred Route Corridor	Is identified as the preferred route corridor for the Proposed Development and is set out in the Route Corridor Options Report (June 2016) (DCO Document 7.8)
Preliminary Environmental Information	Information that is reasonably required to assess the environmental effects of the development (and of any associated development);
Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)	A report presenting the preliminary environmental information and assessment
Prescribed Consultees	Means persons to be consulted pursuant to the Planning Act 2008 and set out in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009
proposed development	The term used to describe a developer's plans for new infrastructure that have yet to receive consent.
Proposed Development	The development for which an application for an order granting development consent is being made

Route corridor	Search area used to provide a degree of flexibility in which to develop a route alignment, usually approximately 1km wide (see Route Corridor Options Report (June 2016) (DCO Document 7.8))
S37, s42, s43, s44, s45 (etc.)	Refers to relevant sections of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended).
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy	Cabinet position in the UK Government that has overall responsibility for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), who will ultimately determine whether development consent will be granted.
SP Manweb	The DNO for Cheshire, Merseyside, North Wales and Shropshire. The promoter of the Proposed Development.
Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC)	A statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult the local community in respect of the Proposed Development as required by section 47 of the Planning Act 2008
Statutory consultation	Community and stakeholder consultation carried out in line with the statutory requirements set out in the Planning Act 2008.
Statutory consultees	Organisations that SP Manweb is required to consult by virtue of the Planning Act 2008
Statutory undertakers	Companies with regulatory powers and duties, such as gas, electricity, water and transport providers / transmitters
Strategic Options	Initial technical options for the Proposed Development
Trident wood pole	A type of support structure that typically carries 132kV electricity cables.
Undergrounding	Electricity cables laid underground
Wood poles	Wooden poles used to support an overhead electricity line (either single or double) (see Trident wood pole)

1. SUMMARY

1.1 SUMMARY

- 1.1.1 SP Energy Networks manages three regulated electricity network businesses in the UK. These are SP Manweb, SP Distribution and SP Transmission. SP Manweb is the licensed Distribution Network Operator (DNO) for Cheshire, Merseyside, North Shropshire and North Wales and its statutory role is to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity supply within this area. SP Manweb¹ is the named applicant for this proposed development.
- 1.1.2 SP Manweb brings to this project its experience in pre-application consultation obtained in relation to the North Wales Wind Farms Connection Order 2016 which was made on 28 July 2016 and for which it was the applicant.
- 1.1.3 With future growth in North Shropshire planned up to 2036, SP Manweb and Shropshire Council have agreed that there is a need to reinforce the network in order to maintain the required levels of supply in this area. Following a review of a number of network options which addressed how best to meet this need, SP Manweb considered the preferred option for the reinforcement was the installation of a 132kV circuit from Oswestry via a short 1.2km section of underground cable and then approximately 21.3km of overhead line on predominantly single wood pole supports to Wem substation. The proposals include associated construction accesses and laydown areas and diverting existing lower voltage overhead electricity lines.
- 1.1.4 The proposed reinforcement is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) by the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) (the Act).
- 1.1.5 Under the Act, developers of NSIPs are required to carry out pre-application consultation with certain prescribed bodies, those with an interest in land and the local community in the vicinity of the proposals. Developers are also required to have regard to the feedback received. This Consultation Report details the consultation that has been carried out, the feedback received, how the applicant (SP Manweb) has had regard to this feedback and how the feedback has influenced the Proposed Development which is the subject of the application for a DCO.
- 1.1.6 Table 1-1 provides key dates for activities in this pre-application consultation. The activities in table 1-1 are explained in more detail throughout this report, and the table is designed to provide a reference point for activity dates.

¹ SP Manweb is one of fourteen licenced Distribution Network Operators in the UK who have a statutory duty under the Electricity Act 1989 (the Electricity Act) to develop and maintain an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity supply.

Table 1-1 - Summary of consultation undertaken on the proposed development

Non-statutory initial consultation (June 2016 – September 2016) Consultation from 29 June to 9 September which sought views on preferred line route and line route options, likely environmental impacts, previous work (including reinforcement options and broad route corridor options) and the way the consultation was carried out.	
Briefing for county councillors and parish councils held in Ellesmere	28 June 2016
Letters to land owners and tenants	28 June 2016
Consultation launch	29 June 2016
Project Update 1 (Appendix 1.1, DCO Document 5.1.1) published (sent to residents and community and available on the project website)	29 June 2016
Following consultation documents deposited at local libraries and on website; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategic Options Report, 2016 (DCO Document 7.5) - Route Corridor Options Report, 2016 (DCO Document 7.8) - Line Route Report, 2016 (DCO Document 7.9) 	29 June 2016
Website go-live date	29 June 2016
Consultation events held in locations along the route <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whittington – 13 July • Wem – 14 July • Cockshutt – 18 July • Hordley – 19 July 	13 July 2016 – 19 July 2016
Consultation deadline	9 September 2016

Non-statutory extended consultation (September 2016 – July 2017) Ongoing engagement from 10 September 2016 to 31 July 2017 due to further feedback submitted in Woodhouse Estate section, Lower Hordley and Noneley. This led to further work identifying and assessing additional line route options and meetings relating to the Noneley section with local people and landowners and the parish council.	
Receipt and SP Manweb acceptance of responses following close of initial consultation period	9 September 2016 – 12 May 2017
Project Update 2 (Appendix 4.3, DCO Document 5.1.4) issued	2 November 2016
Following consultation documents deposited at local libraries and on project website; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stage One Consultation Feedback Report, November 2016 (Appendix 4.1, DCO Document, 5.1.4) - Updated Line Route Report, November 2016 (DCO Document 7.10) 	2 November 2016

Meetings with Noneley residents	9 Feb 2017
Meeting with Noneley residents and landowners	16 May 2017
Second councillor briefing held in Ellesmere	17 May 2017
Project Update 3 (Appendix 4.5, DCO Document 5.1.4) issued	18 May 2017
Presentation to Loppington Parish Council	11 July 2017

Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation (September 2017 – November 2017)

To give Shropshire Council the fullest opportunity to provide comments on the draft SoCC, SP Manweb provided the Council with two opportunities to review the draft SoCC

Shropshire Council initial review of SoCC (Appendix 6.1, DCO Document 5.1.6)	11 September – 5 October 2017
Shropshire Council statutory review of the SoCC (Appendix 6.1, DCO Document 5.1.6)	9 October – 10 November 2017

Statutory consultation (November 2017 – February 2018)

Consultation from 23 November to 2 February, in accordance with s42, s47 and s48 of the Act, on the proposed development, likely environmental effects, previous work and how the consultation was carried out.

Letters issued to prescribed bodies and those with an interest in land and notice under s46 given to Secretary of State	22 November 2017
Statutory consultation launched	23 November 2017
SoCC (Appendix 3.2, DCO Document 5.1.3) published, available at libraries and online and publicised via a notice (Appendix 3.3, DCO Document 5.1.3) in the <i>Shropshire Star</i>	23 November 2017
Project Update 4 (Appendix 5.2, DCO Document 5.1.5) published (sent to residents and community and available on the project website)	23 November 2017
Website updated	23 November 2017
Following consultation documents deposited at local libraries and on website; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated Line Route Report 2 (DCO Document 7.11) - Updated Strategic Options Report (DCO Document 7.6) - PEIR 	23 November 2017
Consultation events held in locations along the route <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wem – 2 December • Whittington – 5 December • Hordley – 6 December • Cockshutt – 12 December 	2 December – 13 December 2017

• Oswestry – 13 December	
Additional engagement event for Year 6 children at Whittington Primary School	5 December 2017
Statutory consultation deadline	2 February 2018
Additional engagement event for college pupils at Walford Agricultural College	15 February 2018
Consultation Report published, with a summary of the feedback submitted at statutory consultation and how SP Manweb had account of this feedback	November 2018

Further consultation (April 2018 – May 2018) Further consultation from 12 April to 25 May 2018 on proposed changes to the proposed development as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation.	
Letter issued to prescribed bodies, those with an interest in land and those who had taken part in the consultation	12 April 2018
Website updated with latest plans	12 April 2018
Latest plans (Appendix 10.1, DCO Document 5.1.8) deposited at local libraries	12 April 2018
Deadline for comments on further consultation	12 May 2018
Consultation with additionally identified land interests	26 April – 25 May 2018

1.1.8 As SP Manweb has included a non-statutory stage of consultation, this Consultation Report sets out in Chapter 4 the approach to this non-statutory consultation. SP Manweb agreed the approach to the non-statutory consultation with officers at Shropshire Council's Planning Department. The activities carried out for non-statutory consultation included:

- i) Identifying a consultation zone
- ii) publishing a number of technical documents and depositing these at local venues in the vicinity of the proposed reinforcement
- iii) publication of a project newsletter
- iv) holding a series of public events
- v) briefings for county councilors and parish councils
- vi) a regularly updated project website
- vii) a series of press releases
- viii) follow up discussions with statutory and non-statutory bodies who have engaged with the project
- ix) ongoing engagement with a number of landowners

- 1.1.9 SP Manweb informed local people of the project when it launched the non-statutory consultation in June 2016 in Project Update 1. This newsletter was sent to over 3,300 addresses, identified after defining a consultation zone based on route corridors that SP Manweb had used for earlier routeing work (see Chapter 4). It considered that this zone encompassed likely effects (either permanent or temporary) arising from the proposals. This included potential environmental or visual impacts, but also those arising from construction or maintenance of the route. Project Update 1 explained that SP Manweb had identified a 100m wide preferred overhead line route and asked for feedback on this and other line route options which it had considered. It also provided information related to aspects such as likely environmental impacts and related construction activities. The preferred 100m wide line route was split into four sections to relate feedback to particular locations along the line route. Feedback was also sought on likely environmental impacts and the construction aspects of the project.
- 1.1.10 This non-statutory initial stage of the consultation allowed prescribed bodies, those with an interest in land and the local community to engage with SP Manweb on the proposed development at an early opportunity. The consultation ran between June 2016 and September 2016. Details of the consultation are set out in Chapter 2 of the Stage One Consultation Feedback Report November 2016. This feedback report was an interim non-statutory consultation report prepared by SP Manweb to explain the consultation itself, how the feedback was recorded and SP Manweb's analysis of this feedback with its responses. This feedback report is included in this report in Appendix 4.1 (**DCO Document 5.1.4**) and is a useful reference document for this first non-statutory stage of consultation.
- 1.1.11 In response to this phase of consultation, SP Manweb received feedback from 68 individuals and organisations raising between them 126 comments. A comment, for the purposes of SP Manweb's analysis of the consultation feedback is a specific theme or issue identified by an individual. An individual therefore may raise a number of comments. The key concerns highlighted were the proximity of the line route near local settlements Hordley, Cockshutt and Noneley as well as near open areas Baggy Moor and the River Perry.
- 1.1.12 As consultation comments continued to be received from September 2016, SP Manweb extended this non-statutory consultation to allow ongoing engagement on the matters being raised in feedback.
- 1.1.13 Having considered the later feedback alongside that received up to September 2016, SP Manweb proposed changes to two sections of the preferred line route in Lower Hordley and to the south of Cockshutt. These sections were clearly highlighted in Project Update 2 (Appendix 4.3, **DCO Document 5.1.4**) issued in November 2016. The plan shown in Project Update 2 is included below in figure 1-1 (**DCO Document 5.1.9**).

- 1.1.14 Following the publication of Project Update 2, further feedback was received between November 2016 and April 2017, which SP Manweb also considered relevant. This included a number of comments from landowners which SP Manweb considered further in terms of environmental and technical assessments. Following these assessments, SP Manweb made a number of slight alterations. SP Manweb also listened to landowners in the Woodhouse and Lower Hordley sections and to local residents and landowners in the Noneley section. This resulted in SP Manweb identifying three options: in Woodhouse, Lower Hordley and Noneley. SP Manweb presented the slight alterations and invited comments on the three options in Project Update 3 (Appendix 4.5, **DCO Document 5.1.4**) in May 2017.
- 1.1.15 SP Manweb continued to receive relevant comments following the publication of Project Update 3. To allow the local community, prescribed bodies and those with an interest in the land to have an opportunity to further influence the proposals ahead of statutory consultation, SP Manweb considered it beneficial to allow feedback to be submitted to July 2017. This feedback fed into SP Manweb's considerations of the three options and its preferred choice of line route.
- 1.1.16 The above engagement between June 2016 and July 2017 formed the non-statutory consultation and this is described in more detail in Chapter 4.
- 1.1.17 The schematic shown in figure 1-3 (**DCO Document 5.1.9**) shows the changes made to the proposed development as a result of non-statutory consultation.
- 1.1.18 Following the non-statutory consultation, SP Manweb prepared a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) (Appendix 3.2, **DCO Document 5.1.3**), ahead of the statutory consultation, as required by s47 of the Act. This set out how SP Manweb intended to consult with the community. The draft SoCC (Appendix 6.1, **DCO Document 5.1.6**) was consulted on with Shropshire Council over two stages – an informal review period (11 September 2017 to 05 October 2017) and the statutory review period (9 October 2017 to 10 November 2017). Details of how SP Manweb developed the SoCC, the feedback received from Shropshire Council and how this was incorporated in the SoCC can be found in Chapter 6.
- 1.1.19 SP Manweb carried out statutory consultation under sections 42, 47 and 48 of the Act. The consultation opened on 23 November 2017 and closed on 2 February 2018. The consultation followed the format of the earlier Stage One Consultation i.e. publishing technical documents and making these available at local venues as well as on the updated project website, issuing a newsletter to 3,000 plus local people within the consultation zone (revised following the non-statutory consultation, see 6.3.3), writing specifically to prescribed bodies including those identified as having an interest in land affected by the proposals, holding a number of public events, press releases, and running a communications telephone enquiry line. SP Manweb also held a second briefing for county councilors and parish councils.

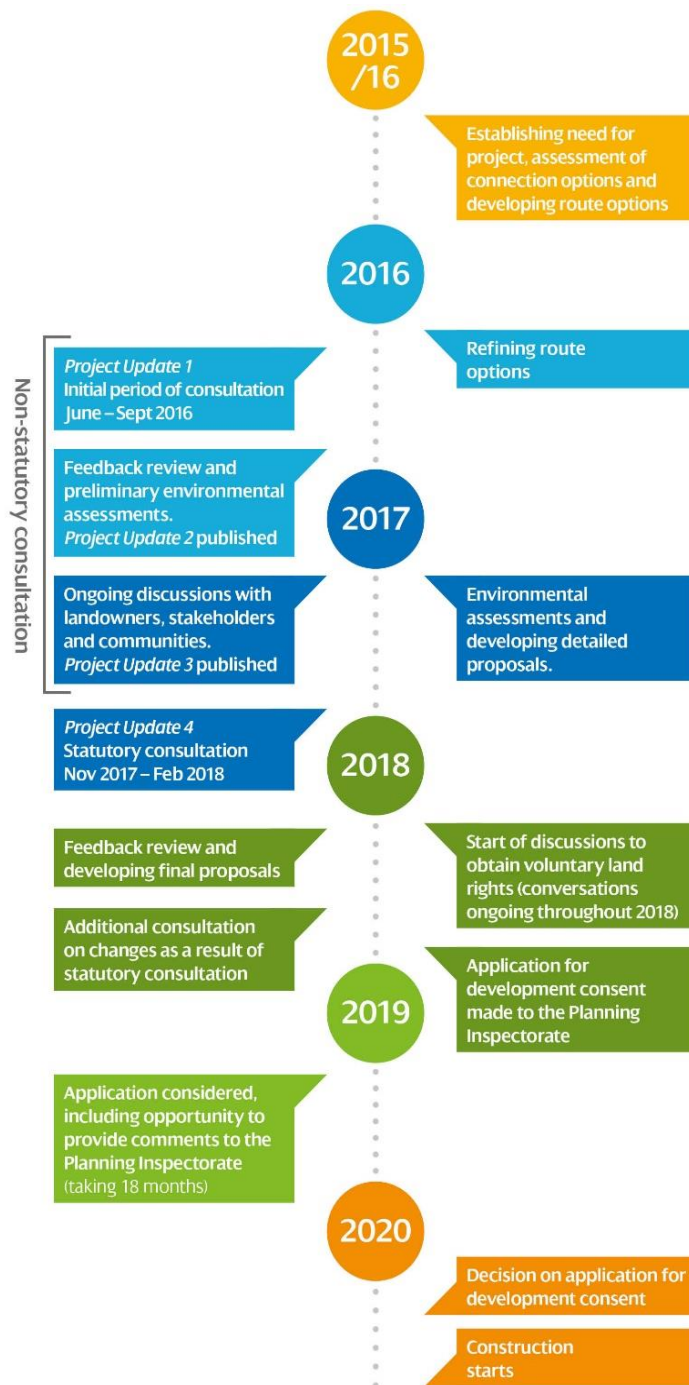
- 1.1.20 Additional events took place to engage with some harder to reach groups – local school children and students at a local agricultural college. In addition, for this statutory stage of the consultation, notices were also published in the local and national press.
- 1.1.21 A description of the statutory consultation with local communities (under s47) can be found in Chapter 6. The statutory consultation was launched with the publication of Project Update 4. A description of the statutory consultation with prescribed bodies and those with an interest in land can be found in Chapter 5.
- 1.1.22 The proposed development which was the subject of consultation at this stage included the 132kV underground cable route, the construction access routes and laydown areas and diversions of existing lower voltage overhead lines crossed by the new 132kV overhead line.
- 1.1.23 In response to the proposals presented in the statutory consultation, 64 responses were received from 51 unique respondents (19 from individuals in the local community and 32 from the prescribed bodies and those with an interest in land). They raised between them 182 comments.
- 1.1.24 A summary of all the relevant responses received at the statutory stage, along with how SP Manweb has had regard to them and whether or not they led to a change in the proposed development, can be found in Chapter 9 of this report. In that chapter SP Manweb has set out a summary of each comment received and then its response in a series of twelve tables which relate to the consultation questions.
- 1.1.25 Feedback received in relation to the overhead line was submitted in a way which enabled SP Manweb to identify the relevant section of the line in question and this is how this feedback has been analysed by SP Manweb. The feedback analysis, detailed further in Chapter 9, shows that the majority of feedback related to the route of the proposed cable and overhead line or the likely environmental effects associated with this route. Over half of the feedback on these topics were in relation to Section Four, the Noneley section.
- 1.1.26 Feedback received during the statutory consultation included a number of suggestions for further changes to the proposed cable and overhead line route and construction accesses and laydown areas. After considering these in turn, this led SP Manweb to accepting most of the changes and proposing to make a number of changes to the proposed development, as reported in Chapter 10. In proposing these changes, SP Manweb acknowledged relevant guidelines on carrying out consultation following the statutory consultation and agreed the approach to the consultation with Shropshire Council's Planning Department.
- 1.1.27 Following receipt of feedback and further construction surveys by SP Manweb changes were made to the proposed development and, as a result, a further targeted consultation was held in spring 2018 between 12 April and 12 May 2018 on these proposed changes.

- 1.1.28 The changes were detailed in the Revised Draft Works Plans April 2018 document. A letter was sent to all those local people that had engaged with the project to date. SP Manweb also consulted all those with an interest in land and prescribed bodies. The letter explained the changes that had been made and advised that the plans could be viewed on the project website, at local venues or by requesting a copy from SP Manweb's communications team.
- 1.1.29 A summary of the responses received is provided in Chapter 9. SP Manweb received 7 comments on route options that it had previously rejected. With regard to other feedback in respect of proposed changes, in some cases the proposed changes were supported. In one case, the proposed change attracted further objections however SP Manweb has reviewed the objections and considers that no further changes are justified. A total of 11 responses were received in response to the further consultation.
- 1.1.30 The changes made following the statutory consultation are shown in the schematic in figure 1-5 (**DCO Document 5.1.9**).
- 1.1.31 Engagement as set out in this report during the pre-application consultation (both non-statutory and statutory) has played a significant role in helping shape the project from an early stage and has allowed SP Manweb to address issues and concerns as it has developed its project proposals. The main changes to the project are summarised as follows:
- Having identified route corridor options between 0.5 and 1 km wide and then 100-metre wide line route options, SP Manweb presented a preferred line route showing alternatives in some sections as a key part of the non-statutory consultation which started in June 2016;
 - From June 2016 until July 2017, SP Manweb subsequently considered further options and where appropriate it amended the line route in three sections: Rednal Mill, Lower Hordley, and Noneley having regard to feedback received (see figures 1-1, 1-2 and 1-3 (**DCO Document 5.1.9**));
 - Having identified what SP Manweb regarded as the preferred line route, it further refined the line routeing and identified a 25m wide corridor along with construction accesses and laydown areas and presented these in the statutory consultation which ran between November 2017 and February 2018; and
 - This 25m corridor for the overhead line (up to 20mm for the cable route and approximately 5m for the construction accesses) has then been refined again following consideration of feedback from that consultation and a number of further changes proposed. These have been subject to further consultation between April and May 2018 (see figure 1-4 (**DCO Document 5.1.9**)).

- 1.1.32 Following the further consultation, which ended in May 2018, SP Manweb has continued to review affected land parcels in terms of the appropriate land rights that need to be secured to deliver the project. Technical reviews of the proposed detailed design have also continued. These activities have led SP Manweb to identify nine minor changes.
- 1.1.33 SP Manweb has considered whether any of these changes impact on other land interests and whether further consultation would be needed. However, as the changes are minor in nature and do not affect any additional land interests, SP Manweb has not undertaken further consultation.
- 1.1.34 Following the further consultation and the small number of further changes detailed above, SP Manweb considers it has a project design which has had regard to relevant responses received to the consultation made over the past two years (in accordance with statutory consultation requirements) and it is this design that is presented in the application for a DCO (the 'Proposed Development'). The drawings of the Proposed Development are shown in the DCO Works Plans and DCO Land Plans (**DCO Volume 2**).
- 1.1.35 SP Manweb acknowledges that engagement with relevant statutory and non-statutory organisations is ongoing. Where applicable, SP Manweb and relevant parties have prepared Statements of Common Ground setting out matters on which there is agreement as well as identifying those areas (if any) where agreement has not been reached.
- 1.1.36 SP Manweb's approach to consultation has been agreed with Shropshire Council, both at officer level in agreeing consultation strategies and at member level through member briefing prior to the launch of each consultation stage. This cooperation has continued with the sharing of this report with representatives of the council.

1.2 PROJECT TIMELINE

1.2.1 The timeline below illustrates the time period during which SP Manweb has developed the proposed development, from initial need case and assessments, to submitting an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO). It includes indicative timescales for the application process and the start of construction.



2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 THE CONSULTATION REPORT

2.1.1 The requirement to produce a Consultation Report is set out in section 37(3)(c) of the Act. Section 37(7) sets out the statutory requirements that need to be included in the Consultation Report:

(7) In subsection (3)(c) “the consultation report” means a report giving details of—

- (a) what has been done in compliance with sections 42, 47 and 48 in relation to a proposed application that has become the application,
- (b) any relevant responses, and
- (c) the account taken of any relevant responses.

2.1.2 Information included for the purposes of subsection (a) can be found in this report in Chapters 5, 6 and 7. Relevant responses (subsection (b)), and how the applicant, in this case SP Manweb, has taken account of these responses (subsection (c)), are detailed in Chapter 9 of this report.

2.1.3 Further to the statutory requirements set out in the Act, SP Manweb has followed the Department for Communities and Local Government’s² *Guidance on the pre-application process* document (March 2015). Particular note was given to paragraph 80, which sets out what a Consultation Report should do. It lists the following (where this information can be found in this report is included in brackets):

- *provide a general description of the consultation process undertaken, which can helpfully include a timeline* (a general description, along with a timeline of the consultation process can be found in Chapter 1);
- *set out specifically what the applicant has done in compliance with the requirements of the Planning Act, relevant secondary legislation, this guidance, and any relevant policies, guidance or advice published by Government or the Inspectorate* (an overview of how SP Manweb has complied with the Act, secondary legislation and relevant guidance is available in Chapter 3);
- *set out how the applicant has taken account of any response to consultation with local authorities on what should be in the applicant’s statement of community consultation* (details of the SoCC consultation with the relevant local authority (Shropshire Council) can be found in Chapter 6);
- *set out a summary of relevant responses to consultation (but not a complete list of responses)* (a summary of the relevant responses to the consultation can be found in Chapter 9);

² Now Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

- *provide a description of how the application was informed and influenced by those responses, outlining any changes made as a result and showing how significant relevant responses will be addressed (a description of how SP Manweb has changed the proposed development as a result of relevant responses is available in Chapter 9 and Chapter 10);*
- *provide an explanation as to why responses advising on major changes to a project were not followed, including advice from statutory consultees on impacts (where SP Manweb has not followed advice on changes to the proposed development, the reasons for these are explained in Chapter 9);*
- *where the applicant has not followed the advice of the local authority or not complied with this guidance or any relevant Advice Note published by the Inspectorate, provide an explanation for the action taken or not taken (any advice that Shropshire Council provided on the SoCC that SP Manweb did not follow is explained in Chapter 6. SP Manweb considers it has followed the appropriate guidance and Advice Notes); and*
- *be expressed in terms sufficient to enable the Secretary of State to understand fully how the consultation process has been undertaken and significant effects addressed. However, it need not include full technical explanations of these matters (SP Manweb considers it has developed a Consultation Report that fully explains the consultation and how SP Manweb has had regard to responses).*

2.2 THE PROPOSED SCHEME

- 2.2.1 The current local electricity distribution 33kV and 11kV network has been supplying North Shropshire reliably for many years. With future growth in the region planned up to 2036, SP Manweb and Shropshire Council have agreed that there is a need to reinforce the network in order to maintain the required levels of supply in this area.
- 2.2.2 During 2015, SP Manweb considered a number of alternative overhead line routes from other substations at Legacy and Marchwiell near Wrexham, Crewe and Shrewsbury. These alternatives were discounted due to technical suitability, costs and potential increased environmental impacts.
- 2.2.3 As a result of this strategic optioneering work, SP Manweb is proposing to invest £18m to install a new permanent 132kV electrical circuit from Oswestry substation, located at the A5/ A495 roundabout, to Wem substation, located on Ellesmere Road on the western side of Wem.

- 2.2.4 As set out in the Updated Strategic Options Report (November 2017) (**DCO Document Ref 7.6**) the new 132kV electrical circuit will provide capacity to support development on land allocated for new jobs and homes in Oswestry, Whitchurch and Wem, as identified in Shropshire Council's adopted Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) Adopted Plan (the Local Plan), adopted 17 December 2015, and revised development proposals as set out in Shropshire Council's Local Plan Review October 2017, as consulted on in December 2017.
- 2.2.5 The Proposed Development comprises a new 22.5 km 132kV electrical circuit between the existing SP Manweb Substations at Oswestry and Wem in North Shropshire, together with associated temporary construction works. The circuit would be a combination of underground cables and overhead line. Works are also required at the existing Oswestry and Wem Substations to accommodate the new circuit.
- 2.2.6 The Proposed Development includes the following elements:
- works within the boundary of the existing SP Manweb Substation at Oswestry including underground cable and the installation of electrical switchgear and associated equipment;
 - approximately 1.2km of 132kV underground cable between Oswestry Substation and a 132kV terminal structure at Long Wood (SJ 31132 29877);
 - approximately 21.3km of 132kV of overhead line supported by Trident wood poles from the terminal structure at Long Wood (SJ 31132 29877) to the existing SP Manweb Substation at Wem; and
 - works within the existing SP Manweb Substation at Wem including the installation of a new 132kV to 33kV transformer.
- 2.2.7 The Proposed Development also includes work to facilitate the new electrical circuit including:
- undergrounding six short sections of existing SP Manweb lower voltage overhead lines in order to ensure safe electrical clearance for the new overhead line; and
 - temporary works required for the construction of the new overhead line including seven temporary laydown areas, welfare unit, security cabin, access tracks, vegetation clearance and reinstatement planting.
- 2.2.8 The construction compound for the Proposed Development would be located at the existing SP Manweb depot at Maesbury Road, Oswestry Industrial Estate, where site offices and welfare facilities are already in place. As this is an existing depot this compound is not included within the application. The construction compound would cater for the following:
- bulk delivery (HGV) and storage of materials, the main components being wood poles, wood baulks, conductor, stay wire, crossarm assemblies and insulators; and
 - storage of construction plant and equipment.

- 2.2.9 The Order Limit for the Proposed Development is 25 metres for the overhead line, up to 20 metres for the underground cable and generally 5 metres for construction access; these limits provide a degree of flexibility to ensure that any further technical (for example ground conditions) or environmental (for example protected species) constraints that may be encountered during construction can be accommodated.

2.3 ABOUT SP MANWEB'S STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

- 2.3.1 As a DNO, SP Manweb has statutory obligations under the Electricity Act 1989. Section 38 and Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act require SP Manweb:

“To have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest”.

and to:

“Do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects”.

- 2.3.2 SP Manweb's Schedule 9 Statement makes commitments that SP Manweb will adhere to when undertaking electricity works, on factors such as need case, designated areas for amenity, minimising impacts from new distribution infrastructure and mitigating adverse impacts. The Schedule 9 Statement can be found in Appendix 2.1 (**DCO Document 5.1.2**).
- 2.3.3 SP Manweb has had regard to its duties under the Electricity Act throughout the project's development including during its non-statutory and statutory consultations.

3. COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND RELEVANT GUIDANCE ON CONSULTATION FOR NSIPS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1.1 SP Manweb considers that its pre-application consultation has met all of the relevant statutory requirements and has complied with relevant guidance from DCLG and Advice Notes from PINS.
- 3.1.2 This chapter details those requirements and demonstrates the activities undertaken to meet them. In order to avoid duplication, the tables cross-refer to relevant parts of this report where activities are covered in further detail.

3.2 STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Table 3-1 - Statutory requirements and SP Manweb's response

Planning Act 2008	
Section	SP Manweb response
37(3)(c). An application for an order granting development consent must be accompanied by the consultation report	This report fulfils SP Manweb's requirement to produce a Consultation Report and is being submitted as part of the application for a Development Consent Order
37(7). "the consultation report" means a report giving details of— (a) what has been done in compliance with sections 42, 47 and 48 in relation to a proposed application that has become the application, (b) any relevant responses, and (c) the account taken of any relevant responses.	Information included for the purposes of subsection (a) can be found in Chapters 5, 6 and 7. Relevant responses (subsection (b)), and how SP Manweb has taken account of these relevant responses (subsection (c)), are detailed in Chapter 9.
42. Duty to consult; including 42(1)(a) prescribed consultees, 42(1)(b) local authorities and 42(1)(d) persons with an interest in the land	Details of how SP Manweb carried out its statutory consultation with bodies prescribed under s42, including local authorities and persons with an interest in land, can be found in Chapter 5.
46. Duty to notify Secretary of State of proposed application	SP Manweb notified the Secretary of State (via the Planning Inspectorate) as detailed in section 5.3 of this report.
47. Duty to consult the local community	SP Manweb's statutory consultation with local communities is described in Chapter 6. SP Manweb also held a non-statutory stage of consultation, which is described in Chapter 4.

48. Duty to publicise	SP Manweb publicised its application in the prescribed manner. Details of this can be found in Chapter 7.
49. Duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity	<p>Responses received under s42 and how SP Manweb had regard to these are detailed in Chapter 9.</p> <p>Responses received under s47 and how SP Manweb had regard to these are detailed in Chapter 9.</p> <p>No responses were received in relation to s48 publicity (see Chapter 7).</p>

3.3 DCLG PRE-APPLICATION GUIDANCE

Table 3-2 - Department for Communities and Local Government guidance and SP Manweb's approach

<p>Department for Communities and Local Government (now Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) Planning Act 2008 – Guidance on the pre-application process (March 2015) DCLG updated its pre-application guidance in March 2015, and SP Manweb has used this version of the guidance to inform its statutory consultation.</p>	
Guidance	SP Manweb approach
The pre-application consultation process	
<p>Para 17 - When circulating consultation documents, developers should be clear about their status, for example ensuring it is clear to the public if a document is purely for purposes of consultation.</p>	<p>Project Update newsletters formed the primary method for informing consultees and the public about the consultation. Where applicable, they explained what SP Manweb was inviting comments on and, if relevant, where changes had been made as a result of earlier feedback or technical assessments.</p> <p>Project Updates were supported by additional consultation documents as required. Details of the materials SP Manweb published during the non-statutory consultation can be found in Chapter 4 and during the statutory consultation in Chapter 6.</p>
<p>Para 18 - Early involvement of local communities, local authorities and statutory consultees can bring about significant benefits for all parties</p>	<p>SP Manweb recognises the importance of early involvement from stakeholders. How SP Manweb facilitated this, via a non-statutory stage of consultation, can be found in Chapter 4.</p>
<p>Para 19 - The pre-application consultation process is crucial to the effectiveness of the major infrastructure</p>	<p>This report explains how SP Manweb used consultation to move from broad route corridor options (between 0.5 and</p>

<p>consenting regime. A thorough process can give the Secretary of State confidence that issues that will arise during the 6 months examination period have been identified, considered, and – as far as possible – that applicants have sought to reach agreement on those issues. Without adequate consultation, the subsequent application will not be accepted when it is submitted. If the Secretary of State determines that the consultation is inadequate, he or she can recommend that the applicant carries out further consultation activity before the application can be accepted.</p>	<p>1 kilometre), via a 100-metre wide preferred line route with alternative line route options in some sections (as presented in June 2016) to a preferred line route within a 25-metre corridor, as presented in the proposed application.</p> <p>SP Manweb’s approach to consultation and how it considered feedback throughout non-statutory and statutory stages can be found in Chapters 4 to 10.</p>
<p>Para 20 - Experience suggests that, to be of most value, consultation should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • based on accurate information that gives consultees a clear view of what is proposed including any options; • shared at an early enough stage so that the proposal can still be influenced, while being sufficiently developed to provide some detail on what is being proposed; and • engaging and accessible in style, encouraging consultees to react and offer their views. 	<p>SP Manweb believes its approach to non-statutory consultation (Chapter 4) and statutory consultation (Chapters 5 and 6) was appropriately planned to provide most value to SP Manweb and to local communities. This included early engagement, regular Project Updates providing accurate information presented in a non-technical way.</p>
<p>Para 23 - In brief, during the pre-application stage applicants are required to:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify whether the project requires an environmental impact assessment; where it does, confirm that they will be submitting an environmental statement along with the application, or that they will be seeking a screening opinion ahead of submitting the application; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As SP Manweb considered the project to be EIA development it sought a scoping opinion from the Secretary of State and notified the Secretary of State that an ES would be submitted with the application. The Scoping Opinion was provided in April 2017;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • produce a Statement of Community Consultation, in consultation with the relevant local authority or authorities, which describes how the applicant proposes to consult the local community about their project and then carry out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Statement of Community Consultation was produced and consulted on with Shropshire Council as required (see sections 6.2 and 6.3);

<p>consultation in accordance with that Statement;</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make the Statement of Community Consultation available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land where the development is proposed, as required by section 47 of the Planning Act and Regulations; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Statement of Community Consultation was publicised and available online and at reference locations in the area of the proposed development (see section 6.4);
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify and consult statutory consultees as required by section 42 of the Planning Act and Regulations; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • statutory consultees under s42 and the relevant regulations were identified and consulted as outlined in Chapter 5;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • publicise the proposed application in accordance with Regulations; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the proposed development was publicised as required by s48 and relevant regulations (see Chapter 7);
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set a deadline for consultation responses of not less than 28 days from the day after receipt/last publication; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the statutory consultation ran for 10 weeks, well in excess of the statutory 28 day minimum period (23 November 2017 – 2 February 2018);
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have regard to relevant responses to publicity and consultation; and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SP Manweb has had regard to relevant responses to both non-statutory and statutory consultation as outlined in Chapters 4 and 9 of this report; and
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • notify the Secretary of State of the proposed application; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of how SP Manweb notified the Secretary of State (via the Planning Inspectorate) can be found in section 5.3;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prepare a consultation report and submit it to the Secretary of State. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • this Consultation Report meets the requirements of s37 (3)(c) of the Act and is submitted to the Secretary of State as part of an application for a Development Consent Order for the Proposed Development.
<p>Para 25 - Consultation should be thorough, effective and proportionate.</p>	<p>By following guidance and involving Shropshire Council in planning the consultation (via the SoCC process), SP</p>

	<p>Manweb developed a consultation approach that was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • thorough – a variety of methods were used to promote the consultation and encourage people to take part in the consultation (see Chapter 4, 5 and 6); • effective – SP Manweb received over 170 responses over its two stages of consultation – non-statutory (June 2016 – July 2017) and statutory (November 2017 – February 2018). These responses have helped develop the proposals and reduce any potential impacts. In particular, responses to the statutory consultation led to several changes to the proposed development and these were subject to an additional consultation (12 April 2018 to 12 May 2018); and • proportionate – SP Manweb consulted at a point where local communities could have a real impact on the proposals. The consultation zone provided an appropriate boundary for the Statutory Consultation and SP Manweb also carried out activities beyond this zone
Who should be consulted?	
<p>Para 26 - The Planning Act requires certain bodies and groups of people to be consulted at the pre-application stage, but allows for flexibility in the precise form that consultation may take depending on local circumstances and the needs of the project itself.</p>	<p>Statutory consultees under s42 and the relevant regulations, and local communities under s47, were identified and consulted as outlined in Chapters 5 and 6.</p> <p>SP Manweb also recognised that there may be bodies beyond the statutory requirements with an interest in the project. A list of non-prescribed bodies was identified and consulted (see section 6.6).</p>
Statutory bodies and other relevant groups	
<p>Para 29 - Applicants will often need detailed technical input from expert bodies to assist with identifying and</p>	<p>Providing early opportunity for local people and stakeholders to take part in the consultation was the primary reason</p>

<p>mitigating the social, environmental, design and economic impacts of projects, and other important matters. Technical expert input will often be needed in advance of formal compliance with the pre-application requirements. Early engagement with these bodies can help avoid unnecessary delays and the costs of having to make changes at later stages of the process. It is equally important that statutory consultees respond to a request for technical input in a timely manner. Applicants are therefore advised to discuss and agree a timetable with consultees for the provision of such inputs.</p>	<p>SP Manweb held an extensive non-statutory stage of consultation. The reasoning for this and details of this consultation are available in Chapter 4.</p>
<p>Local authorities</p>	
<p>Para 38 - prior to submitting their draft Statement of Community Consultation applicants may wish to seek to resolve any disagreements or clarifications about the public consultation design. An applicant is therefore likely to need to engage in discussions with local authorities over a longer period than the minimum requirements set out in the Act.</p>	<p>To give Shropshire Council the fullest opportunity to provide comments, SP Manweb allowed for a non-statutory period of SoCC review, above and beyond the statutory 28-day period. Details of the SoCC consultation with Shropshire Council are available in section 6.3.</p>
<p>Para 41 - Where a local authority raises an issue or concern on the Statement of Community Consultation which the applicant feels unable to address, the applicant is advised to explain in their consultation report their course of action to the Secretary of State when they submit their application.</p>	<p>Full details of SP Manweb's consultation with Shropshire Council on the SoCC can be found in section 6.3.</p>
<p>Para 43 - Local authorities are also themselves statutory consultees for any proposed major infrastructure project which is in or adjacent to their area. Applicants should engage with them as early as possible to ensure that the impacts of the development on the local area are understood and considered prior to the application being submitted to the Secretary of State.</p>	<p>SP Manweb has consulted with Shropshire Council from the start of the project's development. This has included engagement with officers from various departments at the council.</p>
<p>Persons with an interest in land</p>	
<p>Para 50 - It is the applicant's responsibility to demonstrate at submission of the application that due</p>	<p>SP Manweb's approach to consultation with persons with an interest in land is detailed in Chapter 5.</p>

<p>diligence has been undertaken in identifying all land interests and applicants should make every reasonable effort to ensure that the Book of Reference (which records and categorises those land interests) is up-to-date at the time of submission.</p>	<p>SP Manweb has made every reasonable effort to ensure that the Book of Reference is up-to-date at the point of submission.</p>
<p>Para 52 - Applicants should explain in the consultation report how they have dealt with any new interests in land emerging after conclusion of their statutory consultation having regard to their duties to consult and take account of any responses.</p>	<p>Chapter 10 details the additional consultation SP Manweb carried out on the changes made to the proposed development as a result of the review of feedback received during the statutory consultation stage.</p> <p>SP Manweb also carried out a full review of those with an interest in land. 11 new land interests were identified, and these were sent the same information one week later and provided with a deadline for comments that reflected this week delay.</p>
<p>Local communities</p>	
<p>Para 54 - In consulting on project proposals, an inclusive approach is needed to ensure that different groups have the opportunity to participate and are not disadvantaged in the process. Applicants should use a range of methods and techniques to ensure that they access all sections of the community in question. Local authorities will be able to provide advice on what works best in terms of consulting their local communities given their experience of carrying out consultations in their area.</p>	<p>Details of the consultation activities SP Manweb carried out to consult local communities, including its approach to hard to reach groups, can be found in Chapter 6. This approach included a range of techniques for providing information and receiving feedback.</p>
<p>Para 55 - Applicants must set out clearly what is being consulted on. They must be careful to make it clear to local communities what is settled and why, and what remains to be decided, so that expectations of local communities are properly managed. Applicants could prepare a short document specifically for local communities, summarising the project proposals and outlining the matters on which the view of the local community is sought. This can describe core elements of the project and explain what the potential benefits and impacts</p>	<p>Project Update newsletters formed the primary method for informing consultees and the public about the project and the consultation. Four of these were published, with Project Update 1 launching the non-statutory consultation, Project Updates 2 and 3 continued the non-statutory consultation and Project Update 4 launching the statutory consultation.</p> <p>Project Updates detailed what SP Manweb was inviting comments on and, where relevant, any deadline for</p>

<p>may be. Such documents should be written in clear, accessible, and non-technical language. Applicants should consider making it available in formats appropriate to the needs of people with disabilities if requested.</p>	<p>comments. They also made clear how feedback could be provided.</p> <p>The Project Updates were mailed to residents and businesses in the consultation zone and were available online. They were also available in large-print.</p>
<p>Para 56 - Applicants are required to set out in their Statement of Community Consultation how they propose to consult those living in the vicinity of the land. They are encouraged to consider consulting beyond this where they think doing so may provide more information on the impacts of their proposals</p>	<p>The SoCC provided an easy-to-follow overview of the consultation activities SP Manweb was carrying out as part of its statutory consultation.</p> <p>This included carrying out some activities beyond the consultation zone.</p>
<p>Para 57 - The Statement of Community Consultation should act as a framework for the community consultation generally, for example, setting out where details and dates of any events will be published. The Statement of Community Consultation should be made available online, at any exhibitions or other events held by applicants. It should be placed at appropriate local deposit points (e.g. libraries, council offices) and sent to local community groups as appropriate.</p>	<p>SP Manweb developed a SoCC that it considered met all of the requirements set out in legislation and guidance. Sections 6.3 – 6.5 provides more details about the SoCC and its development and where it was made available to be reviewed.</p>
<p>Para 58 - Where possible, the first of the two required local newspaper advertisements (s48 notices) should coincide approximately with the beginning of the consultation with communities.</p>	<p>Details of how SP Manweb published its notices under s48 of the Act can be found in Chapter 7.</p>
<p>When should consultation take place and how much is enough?</p>	
<p>Para 68 - To realise the benefits of consultation on a project, it must take place at a sufficiently early stage to allow consultees a real opportunity to influence the proposals. At the same time, consultees will need sufficient information on a project to be able to recognise and understand the impacts.</p>	<p>Providing early opportunity for local people and stakeholders to take part in the consultation was the primary reason SP Manweb held a non-statutory stage of consultation. The reasoning for this and details of this consultation are available in Chapter 4.</p>
<p>Para 70 - To manage the tension between consulting early, but also having project proposals that are firm enough to enable consultees to comment, applicants are encouraged to</p>	<p>SP Manweb held a non-statutory (June 2016 – July 2017) and a statutory consultation (November 2017 – February 2018). The proposed development presented at the statutory</p>

<p>consider an iterative, phased consultation consisting of two (or more) stages, especially for large projects with long development periods.</p>	<p>stage of consultation had been influenced by feedback from communities and stakeholders. <i>Project Updates 2, 3 and 4</i> (and supporting technical documents) explained where feedback had influenced the design of the proposed development.</p> <p>Following changes to the proposed development as a result of the statutory consultation, SP Manweb held additional targeted consultation between 26 April and 26 May 2018.</p>
<p>Para 71 - Where an iterative consultation is intended, it may be advisable for applicants to carry out the final stage of consultation with persons who have an interest in the land once they have worked up their project proposals in sufficient detail to identify affected land interests.</p>	<p>The proposed development presented at the statutory consultation was defined enough to allow SP Manweb to identify and consult affected landowners (see section 5.2).</p>
<p>Para 72 - Applicants should therefore set consultation deadlines that are realistic and proportionate to the proposed project.</p>	<p>The statutory consultation ran for 10 weeks, well in excess of the statutory 28-day period (23 November 2017 – 2 February 2018).</p>
<p>Para 75 - If the application only changes to a small degree, or if the change only affects part of the development, then it is not necessary for an applicant to undertake a full re-consultation.</p>	<p>SP Manweb made a number of changes to the proposed developed as a result of feedback received during the statutory consultation. As a result, SP Manweb carried out an additional, targeted consultation on these changes. This is detailed in Chapter 10.</p>
<p>The consultation report and responding to consultees</p>	
<p>Para 80 - The consultation report should:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide a general description of the consultation process undertaken, which can helpfully include a timeline; 	<p>A general description, along with a timeline of the consultation process can be found in Chapter 1.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set out specifically what the applicant has done in compliance with the requirements of the Planning Act, relevant secondary legislation, this guidance, and any relevant policies, 	<p>An overview of how SP Manweb has complied with the Act, secondary legislation and relevant guidance is available in Chapter 3.</p>

<p>guidance or advice published by Government or the Inspectorate;</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set out how the applicant has taken account of any response to consultation with local authorities on what should be in the applicant's statement of community consultation; 	<p>Details of the SoCC consultation with the relevant local authority (Shropshire Council) can be found in Chapter 6.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set out a summary of relevant responses to consultation (but not a complete list of responses); 	<p>A summary of the relevant responses to the consultation can be found in Chapter 9.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide a description of how the application was informed and influenced by those responses, outlining any changes made as a result and showing how significant relevant responses will be addressed; 	<p>A description of how SP Manweb has changed the proposed development as a result of relevant responses is available in Chapter 9 and Chapter 10.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide an explanation as to why responses advising on major changes to a project were not followed, including advice from statutory consultees on impacts; 	<p>Where SP Manweb has not followed advice on changes to the proposed development, the reasons for these are explained in Chapter 9.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • where the applicant has not followed the advice of the local authority or not complied with this guidance or any relevant Advice Note published by the Inspectorate, provide an explanation for the action taken or not taken; and 	<p>Any advice that Shropshire Council provided on the SoCC that SP Manweb did not follow is explained in Chapter 6. SP Manweb considers it has followed the appropriate guidance and Advice Notes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be expressed in terms sufficient to enable the Secretary of State to understand fully how the consultation process has been undertaken and significant effects addressed. However, it need not include full technical explanations of these matters 	<p>SP Manweb considers it has developed a Consultation Report that fully explains the consultation and how SP Manweb has had regard to responses.</p>
<p>Para 81 - It is good practice that those who have contributed to the consultation are informed of the results of the consultation exercise; how the information received by applicants has</p>	<p>SP Manweb made changes to the proposed development as a result of feedback received at the statutory consultation. More information on these changes are available in Chapter 9,</p>

been used to shape and influence the project; and how any outstanding issues will be addressed before an application is submitted to the Inspectorate.	while Chapter 10 describes additional consultation undertaken on these changes.
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3.4 PINS ADVICE NOTE FOURTEEN: COMPILING THE CONSULTATION REPORT

Table 3-3 - Planning Inspectorate advice note fourteen and SP Manweb's approach

Planning Inspectorate Advice Note fourteen: compiling the consultation report (April 2012 – version 2)	
Guidance	SPM Approach
Pg 2 - The primary purpose of the report is to capture and reflect upon all of the responses received from these three distinct pre-application consultee groups and explain how the developer has met its duty (s49 of the Act) in the preparation of the application to have regard to the views expressed.	A summary of the responses received under s42 and 47 and 48 and how SP Manweb has considered these can be found in Chapter 9.
The report can also capture non-statutory or 'informal' consultation that takes place outside the requirements of the Planning Act 2008 so that the Secretary of State has a comprehensive picture of all the consultation activity relevant to a particular project.	Details of SP Manweb's non-statutory consultation can be found in Chapter 4.
Pg 2 - Where Department for Communities and Local Government guidance has not been followed in terms of the pre-application consultation, then the consultation report is usually the most appropriate place to explain this. It is vital that the Secretary of State understands the reasons for not following published guidance.	SP Manweb has had regard to DCLG guidance and developed a Consultation Report that adheres to this guidance.
Pg 3 - Explanatory text should set the scene and provide an overview and narrative of the whole pre-application stage as it relates to the particular project. It would assist if a quick reference guide in bullet point form, summarising all the consultation activity in chronological order, is included near the start of the report. This section should define the whole pre-application consultation and explain the relationship between any initial strategic options	Chapter 1 describes the relationship between SP Manweb's initial routing work, non-statutory consultation and the statutory consultation. Chapter 1 also provides a chronology of the project in table form. A broader overview diagram of the consultation timeline is provided in section 1.2.

<p>stage, any subsequent informal consultation that may have taken place, and the statutory consultation carried out under the 2008 Act.</p>	
<p>Pg 3 - The applicant should include a full list of the prescribed consultees as part of the consultation report. If the prescribed consultees have been consulted on multiple occasions, perhaps at different phases of the consultation, then this should be explained. If the applicant's list of prescribed consultees varies in any way from the list of organisations set out in schedule 1 of the Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures Regulations 2009 (APFP) then this should be robustly justified.</p> <p>The list of organisations set out in schedule 1 of the APFP should be followed in terms of the order in which the consultees are presented.</p> <p>A short description of how s43 of the Act has been applied in order to identify the relevant local authorities should be included. This could be supported by a map showing the site and identifying the boundaries of the relevant local authorities.</p>	<p>An explanation of how SP Manweb identified relevant bodies under s42 of the Act can be found in section 5.2. This includes a description of how SP Manweb has noted changes in terms of the relevant contacts and names of these bodies. Beyond these changes, SP Manweb has not identified any further variations from Schedule 1 of the APFP regulations. Reference is also made below to how SP Manweb applied s43 of the Act and a map of the relevant local authorities.</p> <p>SP Manweb developed a list of prescribed bodies using the framework set out in Schedule 1 of the APFP regulations.</p> <p>This list is available in Appendix 3.1 (DCO Document 5.1.3).</p>
<p>Pg 3 - It is important that those with an interest in the land consulted under s44 of the Act are identified as a distinct element of the wider s42 consultation. S44 consultees include those whose land would be subject to compulsory acquisition as part of the development consent order (DCO), those who may have a relevant claim and those whose land may be affected by the development.</p>	<p>Details of how SP Manweb consulted those with an interest in land (under s44 of the Act) can be found Chapter 5.</p>

<p>Pg 4 - Where compulsory acquisition forms part of the draft DCO the consultees who are also included in the book of reference for compulsory acquisition purposes should be highlighted in the consolidated list of prescribed consultees.</p>	<p>Relevant prescribed consultees that are subject to compulsory acquisitions, have been identified and are listed in the Book of Reference (DCO Document 4.3).</p>
<p>Pg 4 - It would be helpful to provide a summary of the rationale behind the SoCC methodology to assist the Secretary of State's understanding of the community consultation and provide a context for considering how the consultation was undertaken.</p>	<p>SP Manweb's approach to developing the SoCC is detailed in section 6.2.</p>
<p>Pg 4 - Evidence should be submitted as part of the consultation report which shows which local authorities were consulted about the content of the draft SoCC; what the local authorities' comments were; confirmation that they were given 28 days to provide their comments and a description about how the applicant had regard to the local authorities' comments.</p>	<p>SP Manweb's consultation with the relevant local authority (Shropshire Council), and how their comments influenced the SoCC, is explained in section 6.3.</p>
<p>Pg 4 - Copies of the published SoCC as it appeared in the local press should be provided along with confirmation of which local newspapers it was published in and when.</p>	<p>A copy of the SoCC is available in Appendix 3.2 (DCO Document 5.1.3). Details of how SP Manweb carried out its consultation in accordance with its SoCC can be found in section 6.5.</p> <p>Details of how SP Manweb publicised the SoCC can be found in section 6.6. A copy of the notice published in local newspapers can be found in Appendix 3.3 (DCO Document 5.1.3).</p>
<p>Pg 4 - A copy of the s48 notice as it appeared in the local and national newspapers, together with a description of where the notice was published and confirmation of the time period given for responses should be included in the report. Applicants should also provide confirmation that the s48 notice was sent to the prescribed consultees at the same time as the notice was published.</p>	<p>A copy of the s48 notice, as it appeared in the newspapers, can be found in Appendix 3.4 (DCO Document 5.1.3). The list of publications it was published in is provided Chapter 7.</p> <p>SP Manweb also sent a copy of the s48 notice to all prescribed consultees (see Chapter 7).</p> <p>Confirmation of the time periods for responses is available in Chapter 7.</p>

<p>Pg 4 - Any consultation not carried out under the provisions of the Act should be clearly indicated and identified separately in the report from the statutory consultation.</p>	<p>SP Manweb carried out non-statutory consultation between June 2016 and July 2017, see Chapter 4.</p>
<p>Pg 5 - Consultation undertaken as part of the EIA regime is separate to that required under the Planning Act 2008. Applicants may wish to draw attention to consultation responses received under the EIA process, but any reference to this consultation should be kept separate from the statutory consultation carried out under the provisions of the Planning Act 2008.</p>	<p>Consultation undertaken as part of the EIA are set out in the technical chapters of the ES (DCO Documents 6.6 – 6.11).</p>
<p>Pg 5 - If the level of response was significant it may be appropriate to group responses under headline issues. Care must be taken to ensure that in doing this the responses are not presented in a misleading way or out of context from the original views of the consultee. Where this approach has been adopted it should be clearly identified and explained in the main body of the report, including any safeguards and cross checking that took place to ensure that the responses were grouped appropriately</p>	<p>For the purposes of this report, SP Manweb has undertaken a process of review and summarised relevant responses by theme. An explanation of how this process was carried out and a summary of all the relevant responses, can be found in Chapter 9.</p>
<p>Pg 5 - A list of the individual responses received should be provided and categorised in an appropriate way. The summary of responses, if done well, can save a significant amount of explanatory text. We advise that applicants group responses under the three strands of consultation as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S42 prescribed consultees (including s43 and s44) • S47 community consultees • S48 responses to statutory publicity. <p>The list should also make a further distinction within those categories by sorting responses according to whether they contain comments which have led to changes to matters such as siting, route, design, form or scale of the scheme itself, or to mitigation or</p>	<p>Within this report, comments from s42 prescribed consultees and the local community (s47) are presented together, to allow differing perspectives from these responses to be better understood. The tables of responses makes clear which have been received from prescribed bodies, from those with an interest in land and from the local community.</p> <p>SP Manweb did not receive any feedback that could be identified as being in response to statutory publicity under s48.</p> <p>The tables also make clear where a response has led to a change to the proposed development.</p>

<p>compensatory measures proposed, or have led to no change.</p>	<p>These tables can be found at section 8.3.</p>
<p>Pg 5 - A summary of responses by appropriate category together with a clear explanation of the reason why responses have led to no change should also be included, including where responses have been received after deadlines set by the applicant.</p>	<p>Where SP Manweb has not made a change following a feedback response, the reason(s) for this are explained in Chapter 9.</p>

4 NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 This chapter describes the non-statutory consultation undertaken by SP Manweb. This introduced the proposed development to the community and gave them an opportunity to influence the proposals ahead of the statutory consultation.
- 4.1.2 The consultation followed DCLG's Guidance on the pre-application process (March 2015) regarding early engagement with consultees (as described in Chapter 3).

4.2 PRELIMINARY ROUTEING WORK

- 4.2.1 Prior to consultation commencing, SP Manweb carried out early routeing work to identify where and how to reinforce the network and identified a number of potential route corridor options between 0.5 to 1km wide. Further assessment work led to the identification of a preferred route corridor. This work is described in the Route Corridor Options Report June 2016 (**DCO Document ref 7.8**). A number of narrower line route options of 100m wide were then identified and assessed. This work is set out in the Line Route Report June 2016 (**DCO Document 7.9**). The availability of these reports was publicised in Project Update 1 (June 2016), which launched the non-statutory consultation.
- 4.2.2 Having identified a 100m wide preferred line route, SP Manweb considered it appropriate to undertake the first stage of non-statutory consultation. In line with DCLG's pre-application guidance, SP Manweb considered that publishing a preferred line route with options, balanced the requirements of providing the local community and prescribed bodies with a real opportunity to influence the proposals, while being sufficiently defined to allow for potential impacts to be understood.

4.3 STAGE ONE CONSULTATION

- 4.3.1 SP Manweb's first stage of non-statutory consultation, referred to as Stage One Consultation, ran from June 2016 to July 2017. The initial consultation period (which was later extended), launched with the publication of Project Update 1 on 29 June 2016 and finished on 9 September 2016.
- 4.3.2 Feedback received during this initial period of consultation, and further conversations with those with an interest in land, resulted in amendments to the preferred line route. These were communicated via the publication of Project Update 2 (November 2016).

- 4.3.3 As SP Manweb continued to receive feedback following Project Update 2, it considered it beneficial to continue non-statutory engagement and this resulted in additional changes to the proposed development. This was communicated via Project Update 3 (May 2017). SP Manweb therefore continued to review feedback up to July 2017.
- 4.3.4 Stage One Consultation therefore covered the period from June 2016 to July 2017. SP Manweb used this continued engagement to better understand the issues put forward by the local community. The feedback received during the non-statutory consultation helped shape the proposed development.

4.4 IDENTIFYING CONSULTEES FOR THE NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION

- 4.4.1 The preferred line route was located within the route corridor options 2 and 3 identified in the Route Corridor Options Report June 2016 (**DCO Document 7.8**). The consultation zone used during the non-statutory consultation was broadly 2km either side of these two route corridor options (2 and 3). This zone is shown in the Stage One Consultation Feedback Report, November 2016 (Appendix 4.1) (**DCO Document 5.1.4**). SP Manweb considered that this encompassed the zone of likely effects (either permanent or temporary) arising from the proposals. This included potential environmental or visual impacts, but also those arising from construction or maintenance of the route.
- 4.4.2 Following consultation with Shropshire Council on the consultation zone in June 2016, SP Manweb considered it appropriate to extend the zone eastwards to include the western fringes of Wem. This was to ensure that those properties, where there was a small possibility of visual impact, had an opportunity to take part in the consultation.
- 4.4.3 SP Manweb also identified specific persons or groups to be consulted as part of the community consultation. These comprised:
- People with homes and businesses within the consultation zone, where there was the possibility of a potential effect on those people;
 - Identified special interest groups (such as local wildlife, heritage and leisure groups);
 - 'Hard-to-reach' groups and bodies or organisations representing groups such as young people or people with disabilities;
 - County councillors within whose wards the proposals were sited and those with relevant portfolios; and
 - Members of Parliament and Members of the European Parliament representing constituencies within the consultation zone.
- 4.4.4 SP Manweb also started its engagement with prescribed bodies as defined in the Act. This included parish and town councils within whose boundaries the proposals are sited. This was to allow for their local or technical expertise to inform any changes to the preferred line route.

4.5 INITIAL CONSULTATION JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2016 (PROJECT UPDATE 1)

- 4.5.1 The initial non-statutory consultation commenced in June 2016 and was launched with the publication of Project Update 1. The consultation focused on:
- The preferred line route, with options in some sections, in terms of its location and limits;
 - The likely environmental impacts of the preferred line route and its associated construction works, such as storage areas for equipment i.e. lay-down areas, and transport;
 - Any other aspects of the proposals or the work to reach this point; and
 - SP Manweb's approach to consultation.
- 4.5.2 Project Update 1 explained the proposed development, the scope of the consultation and the closing date for the consultation. SP Manweb published three other consultation documents:
- Strategic Options Report (May 2016) (**DCO Document 7.5**);
 - Route Corridor Options Report (June 2016) (**DCO Document 7.8**); and the
 - Line Route Report (June 2016) (**DCO Document 7.9**).
- 4.5.3 These documents provided a detailed explanation of the work SP Manweb had undertaken to develop the proposals. Copies of these reports, together with Project Update 1, could be viewed at the following libraries and civic offices.
- Wem Library
 - Oswestry Library
 - Ellesmere Library
 - Cockshutt Memorial Hall
 - Wem Town Council offices
 - Whitchurch Library
- 4.5.4 The locations were advertised in Project Update 1 and on a project poster.
- 4.5.5 Prescribed bodies and other stakeholders were sent a copy of Project Update 1.
- 4.5.6 A briefing, by SP Manweb, was held on 28 June 2016 in Ellesmere for parish councillors and county councillors whose wards are crossed by the proposals. The briefing covered the need for the reinforcement to the North Shropshire electricity distribution network, the work undertaken to identify route options and line routes, and the scope and timing of the consultation. This was followed by a question and answer session. Copies of the *Project Update 1* newsletter and the consultation poster were available for attendees to take away. Councillors were encouraged to display posters in relevant locations within their wards so these could be viewed by members of the public.

Consultation materials

4.5.7 As part of this consultation, SP Manweb provided the following information:

Project Update 1: presented the preferred line route and route options in an A2 plan with an OS base map and invited feedback on this information. It also referred to the reasons why a new 132kV wood pole line was being proposed and what the next stages would be (a copy can be found in the Stage One Consultation Feedback Report, November 2016 (Appendix 4.1, **DCO Document 5.1.4**). Over 3,300 copies were sent to addresses in the consultation zone, to prescribed bodies and to those with an interest in land.

Feedback form: available to download or submit online, at public events, at local libraries and on request from the community relations team (a copy can be found in the Stage One Consultation Feedback Report, November 2016 (Appendix 4.1, **DCO Document 5.1.4**). The feedback form was designed to be easy-to-use and focused on four key points of consultation. A freepost address was provided for forms to be returned. All respondents who provided contact details received an acknowledgement that their feedback had been received. A copy of this acknowledgement can be found in the Stage One Consultation Feedback Report, November 2016 (Appendix 4.1, **DCO Document 5.1.4**).

Consultation documents: these technical documents (Strategic Options Report (May 2016) (**DCO Document 7.5**); Route Corridor Options Report (June 2016) (**DCO Document 7.8**); and the Line Route Report (June 2016) (**DCO Document 7.9**)) provided a detailed explanation of the work SP Manweb had undertaken to develop the proposals. These documents were available on the project website and at libraries in the project area.

Project website: launched on the first day of consultation at www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/north_shropshire. The website provided a hub for all project information, including digital copies of every community and technical document published and an online feedback form. The website was updated throughout the project as new documents were published. Screen shots of the website can be found in the Stage One Consultation Feedback Report, November 2016 (Appendix 4.1, **DCO Document 5.1.4**).

Publicity: a number of news releases were sent to local media outlets, print and broadcast, to publicise the consultation and encourage participation. Scans of media coverage can be found in the Stage One Consultation Feedback Report, November 2016 (Appendix 4.1, **DCO Document 5.1.4**). A poster was also produced and made available to parish councils to display on public notice boards. A copy can be found in the Stage One Consultation Feedback Report, November 2016 (Appendix 4.1, **DCO Document 5.1.4**).

Public events: four public events were held in venues suitable for public gatherings. Events included a full suite of community and technical documents, as well as exhibition panels, image folios and additional maps. The events were staffed by SP Manweb employees and associated specialists, representing a wide range of expertise. Members of the public were able to ask questions of the project team and submit feedback. Event times, dates, venues and attendance are shown in the table below:

Table 4-1 - Stage One Consultation public events and attendance

Date (2016)	Time	Venue	Attendance
Wednesday 13 July	5.00pm-8.00pm	Whittington Community Centre	18
Thursday 14 July	3.30pm-7.30pm	Wem Town Hall	20
Monday 18 July	3.30pm-7.30pm	Cockshutt Millennium Hal	30
Tuesday 19 July	3.30pm-7.30m	Hordley and Bagley Village Hall	11

4.5.8 A record of these consultation events can be found in the Stage One Consultation Feedback Report, November 2016 (Appendix 4.1, **DCO Document 5.1.4**).

4.5.9 The following prescribed bodies provided feedback:

- West Felton Parish Council
- Environment Agency
- Whittington Parish Council
- Oswestry Rural Parish Council
- Severn Trent Water
- Baschurch Parish Council
- Canal & River Trust
- Severn Trent Water
- Cockshutt Parish Council
- Wem Rural Parish Council
- Loppington Parish Council
- Hordley Parish Council
- MOD
- Shropshire Council
- Natural England
- Oswestry Town Council
- Wem Town Council
- NATS (previously known as National Air Traffic Services)
- Historic England
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Forestry Commission

4.5.10 Other stakeholders that provided feedback were:

- NFU
- RSPB
- Shropshire Wildlife Trust
- Woodland Trust
- Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership Scheme

Consulting those with an interest in land

- 4.5.11 SP Manweb also recognised the importance of consulting those with an interest in land, both in terms of their role defined by the Act, but also in ensuring they were actively involved in the consultation from the earliest stages and to begin to build relationships with those potentially affected.
- 4.5.12 Those with an interest in land were identified using desk-based research, such as the Land Registry database. At the non-statutory stage of consultation, this included the land within the route corridor options shown in Appendix 4.2 (**DCO Document 5.1.4**), as well as the Preferred and Alternative Routes being consulted on. This ensured that SP Manweb was consulting landowners on broader basis than the final proposed development, to allow it to understand any land issues in a wider context.
- 4.5.13 Those with an interest in land were sent a letter (which can be found in the Stage One Consultation Feedback Report, November 2016 (Appendix 4.1, **DCO Document 5.1.4**)) together with the Project Update 1 newsletter. This explained the proposals and invited them to attend the public exhibitions.
- 4.5.14 Attendance from those with an interest in land at events was relatively high and landowners had face-to-face discussions with SP Manweb's representatives. Further meetings were held subsequently where requested by landowners.
- 4.5.15 Owners and occupiers were encouraged to provide feedback in writing giving particular regard to the potential implications of the proposals on their land so that it could be used to inform and develop the next stage of its proposals.

4.6 ACCOUNT OF FEEDBACK AND OUTCOMES IN RESPONSE TO THE INITIAL PERIOD OF NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION

Breakdown of feedback to Project Update 1

- 4.6.1 SP Manweb's activities created news coverage and commentary in local media, helping to spread awareness in and beyond the area of the proposals. The community events were attended by 79 people and a number of meetings, phone calls and conversations were held with stakeholders and landowners and occupiers. The feedback helped SP Manweb get a good understanding of consultees' opinions about the proposals.
- 4.6.2 129 comments were received via 68 pieces of written feedback.
- 4.6.3 The 68 pieces of written feedback were sent in the following ways:
- Online feedback forms – 3
 - Hard copy feedback forms – 21
 - Emails – 40
 - Letters – 4

- 4.6.4 All individual respondents were allocated a unique, sequential Consultation Reference ID. (This Consultation Reference ID has been carried through both stages of consultation, allowing all comments by an individual to be attributed accordingly (see section 8.2 for more information)).
- 4.6.5 During this initial consultation, the local community and prescribed bodies provided useful feedback. SP Manweb's review and account of this feedback is set out in the Stage One Consultation Feedback Report November 2016 (Appendix 4.1, **DCO Document 5.1.4**). SP Manweb also published Updated Line Route Report November 2016 (**DCO Document 7.1**), which explained how SP Manweb reviewed the preferred line route and developed it into a proposed line route after consideration of feedback from the Stage One Consultation and additional work undertaken by the project's technical team. These documents were published at this stage and made available on the website and in local libraries.
- 4.6.6 The Stage One Consultation Feedback Report November 2016 (Appendix 4.1, **DCO Document 5.1.4**) sets out background material to the initial consultation including SP Manweb's approach, which it had agreed with Shropshire Council, how the consultation would run and the publicity that it received. The report then covers in Chapter 3 how the feedback was recorded and in Chapter 4 sets out summaries of the feedback and SP Manweb's response. Chapter 5 of the report refers to the key issues drawn from the consultation.
- 4.6.7 Chapter 4 of the Stage One Consultation Feedback Report November 2016 (Appendix 4.1, **DCO Document 5.1.4**) includes reference to feedback from prescribed bodies. In summary, 10 of the parish councils consulted raised no objections. Whittington Parish Council asked why the old tower line could not be used. Natural England, the Forestry Commission and Historic England considered the proposals would not give rise to any impacts to features under their specific remit Severn Trent Water, the Environment Agency and the Canal & River Trust advised on the existence of their own assets in the area which would need to be protected. The MOD, NATS Safeguarding and the CAA all had no concerns but expressed an interest in being kept informed about the proposals.
- 4.6.8 The Updated Line Route Report November 2016 (**DCO Document 7.10**) summarised in Chapter 2 the key issues drawn from the above feedback report in the context of the different sections of preferred line route. Chapter 3 of the report then sets out SP Manweb's responses. Chapter 4 of the report then outlines the line route as amended having taken account of the feedback received.
- 4.6.9 The key issues from the consultation and the changes made to the preferred line route as a result of feedback were described in Project Update 2, which was sent to everyone in the consultation zone and anyone outside the consultation zone who had provided feedback. The key issues noted were as follows:

- The likely local environmental constraints affecting Section 2 (Hordley). As a result of this feedback SP Manweb identified a preference for a new Section 2A. This route supported retaining Section 1 (Babbinswood), as opposed to following the route of a former tower line.
- Comments near Section 3 (Cockshutt), including likely visual impacts in the area from property owners. As a result of this feedback SP Manweb decided to follow a more southerly route. This is further away from Cockshutt and avoided greater impacts on any single property in the area.
- Concerns were raised about the proximity of the new overhead line in Section 4 (Noneley), and suggested alternatives: to use the existing 33kV overhead line; or identify a new line route north of Noneley. As the existing line could not be upgraded, and a parallel route would be less preferable for visual impact reasons, SP Manweb considered replacing the existing 33kV line with the new 132kV line and installing the 33kV line along the preferred line route. However, the likely low level of impact on the landscape character to the south of Noneley of a 33kV overhead line would not be very different to that of the new 132kV line, whereas, it would be different to the north. To reduce any likely visual impacts, the updated line route was moved further south from properties in Noneley.
- Baggy Moor and River Perry area and ponds in the central area of the line route, which are important bird feeding areas and the likely impacts on farming operations in the Hordley area. The line route was changed taking these comments into account.
- Earlier work carried out and whether the line could be placed underground. SP Manweb's assessment at this time showed that the likely level of landscape and visual impact would not justify placing any sections of the overhead line underground.

4.6.10 Project Update 2 (Appendix 4.3, **DCO Document 5.1.4**) showed the changes made following consideration of the feedback received. These changes include introducing new line route sections:

- in the Lower Hordley area (Section 2A);
- a relatively short section near to Cockshutt) (Sections 3A, 3B and 3F) and
- a new section 4B in the Noneley area.

4.6.11 The plan shown in Project Update 2, which shows these new sections and the previous sections is included below in figure 1-1 (**DCO Document 5.1.9**).

4.7 ACCOUNT OF FEEDBACK AND OUTCOMES IN RESPONSE TO CONTINUED NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION FOLLOWING PROJECT UPDATE 2

4.7.1 SP Manweb received consultee correspondence in response to Project Update 2 and the updated preferred line route. SP Manweb also continued its own environmental and technical assessments and discussions with those with an interest in land.

- 4.7.2 To ensure SP Manweb had a clear understanding of issues relating to the updated preferred line route, it continued to meet with community members and landowners to discuss their points of view. This included a number of one-to-one meetings with landowners and conversations with members of the public, which took place between January and May 2017.
- 4.7.3 In total 12 responses were received in response to Project Update 2 or from discussions with landowners. These comments focused on the following areas:
- Woodhouse Estate – a response from a landowner in Section One included a suggestion for an alternative route to the north of the Woodhouse Estate;
 - Cockshutt – responses were received on the alternative options published in Project Update Two. There was a slight preference for the options in Section Three, although several landowners asked to have further discussions;
 - Lower Hordley – landowner feedback in this area requested a change that would reduce the impact on farming activities;
 - Noneley – SP Manweb continued discussions on a route south of Noneley, as well as an option north of Noneley, identified through environmental and engineering assessments.
- 4.7.4 SP Manweb considered options at Lower Hordley and Noneley. To help inform these options, SP Manweb wrote to potentially affected landowners in February 2017 (see Appendix 4.4, **DCO Document 5.1.4**).
- 4.7.5 In response to the continued feedback received and having completed further assessments, SP Manweb made further updates to the line route. This included:
- **New line route alternative near the Woodhouse Estate** – an alternative route to the north of the Woodhouse Estate, following landowner feedback. SP Manweb considered this a viable alternative.
 - **Line route at Lower Hordley** – in this section, SP Manweb had assessed the likely landscape and visual, heritage and ecological impacts alongside those on the farming operations. This found that the Lower Hordley south option would result in slightly fewer environmental impacts, although a newly identified more northerly option had less impact on specific local farming activities and had more support from affected landowners.
 - **Line route at Noneley** – further environmental and engineering work identified a potential route running north of Noneley. There was no overall environmental preference for an option north of Noneley when compared to the published southern route. Affected landowners had expressed support and concerns for both routes, although there was a slight preference for a southerly option.

4.8 ACCOUNT OF FURTHER NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION IN MAY 2017 ON PROJECT UPDATE 3

- 4.8.1 To explain the potential changes and invite people to provide their comments, in May 2017, SP Manweb published Project Update 3 (see Appendix 4.5, **DCO Document 5.1.4**). The newsletter explained the route options that had been introduced and included an A2 map.
- 4.8.2 The newsletter was sent to addresses in the same consultation zone as for Project Update 2. The mailing was also sent to anyone that had previously participated in the consultation, to allow SP Manweb to continue to engage anyone who had taken part from outside the consultation zone. A copy of the newsletter was also sent to prescribed bodies and those with an interest in land. Details of further engagement with those with an interest in land, are provided in section 4.5.
- 4.8.3 At this stage, SP Manweb considered it appropriate to provide another briefing to local councillors. This was held on 17 May 2017 at Cockshutt Memorial Hall for parish councillors and county councillors whose wards are crossed by the proposals. The briefing provided an update on the proposed development, the work undertaken since the initial period of consultation and changes to the proposed development. This was followed by a question and answer session. Copies of the *Project Update 3* newsletter and the consultation poster were available for attendees to take away.
- 4.8.4 Project Update 3 resulted in further comments and feedback from consultees. SP Manweb met with people from the Noneley area in mid-May 2017 and with landowners affected more by the Noneley North option in early July 2017.
- 4.8.5 SP Manweb also attended a local Loppington Parish Council meeting on the Noneley options in mid-July 2017, where a number of local people and landowners were present. Minutes from this meeting are available in Appendix 4.6 (**DCO Document 5.1.4**).
- 4.8.6 SP Manweb advised at these meetings that it would be helpful if feedback on the updated line route was received before the end of July 2017, although in the event most were received by the end of June 2017.
- 4.8.7 Eight residents sent copies of their correspondence to their member of parliament, Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP. Mr Paterson forwarded these to SP Manweb for response in August 2018. SP Manweb had already received these comments but wrote to these eight residents acknowledging receipt of the letters from Mr Paterson.

4.9 ACCOUNT OF FEEDBACK FOLLOWING PROJECT UPDATE 3 AND SP MANWEB'S RESPONSE

- 4.9.1 The feedback received following Project Update 3 is set out in Chapter 2 of the Updated Line Route Report 2 November 2017 (**DCO Document 7.11**). Feedback was received from 27 respondents. All but one of these responses related to the Noneley section (Section 4).
- 4.9.2 The 26 responses received about Noneley related to both the northerly and southerly options, with the majority of the feedback received (75%) relating to the Noneley South route. The feedback included the following points:
- The Noneley South route would:
 - impact on heritage assets, contrary to National Planning Policy Framework 2012 which advises on the need to take account of the significance of the heritage asset including the setting of the asset when considering proposals impact on the landscape to the south of Noneley, which has greater historic interest
 - have greater ecological impact, including proximity to the SSSI site nearby at Rue Pastures
 - have greater visual impacts when viewed southwards from properties in Noneley
 - the southerly option is close to a busy airfield
 - the southerly option passes through more open landscape than the northerly route, with fewer trees present on hedgerows, and would therefore be less visually contained than the northern option, and more prominent in the landscape.
 - Residents and landowners affected by the Noneley North option raised concerns that the Noneley North option would:
 - have visual impacts where it would run parallel to the existing 33kV overhead line from Bentley Farm
 - have ecological impacts where the line route clips the end of a reservoir to the north east of The Shayes used by swans and geese
 - ignore concerns from residents and favour residents affected by the Noneley South route who are being listened to more than those to the north.
- 4.9.3 SP Manweb also noted feedback from the meetings it had with local residents and landowners affected by the Noneley section.
- 4.9.4 The one other comment (referred to above) related to a change at the eastern end of Section 2 (Woodhouse). The proposed change to this section of the line route resulted in a response from the owners of a property at Rednal Mill where they consider that the proposed route option in Project Update 3 would be visible from their house.

4.9.5 Feedback was also received from officers at Shropshire Council. In summary, officers noted:

- The Council's Historic Environment adviser raised the issue of the potential impact on listed and non-designated buildings which benefit from a southerly principal elevation where arable farmland to the south is fairly open in character. When compared to the southerly route option, the northerly route benefits from more hedgerow cover, and thus enables a greater potential to mitigate the visual impacts of the new line.
- With regard to visual impact more generally, arable farmland to the south of the settlement is fairly open in character and when compared to the southerly route option, the northerly route benefits from more hedgerow cover, thus enabling a greater potential to mitigate the visual impacts of the new line.
- The Council's Ecologist and Landscape advisers considered that while there is little difference between the Noneley South line route and the Noneley North option, trees and ponds along the northerly route, should be avoided as these provide screening in visual terms and local habitats.
- In summary, there was a slight preference for the Noneley North route option from a heritage and visual impact perspective.

4.10 UPDATED LINE ROUTE REPORT 2 NOVEMBER 2017

4.10.1 The feedback is summarised in Chapter 2 of the Updated Line Route Report 2 November 2017 (**DCO Document 7.11**).

4.10.2 Chapter 3 of the report sets out the outcome of SP Manweb's response to the feedback received, providing a detailed review of SP Manweb's assessment of the issues raised.

4.10.3 Chapter 4 then sets out the amended detailed line design and other elements such as the construction accesses.

4.10.4 As a result of the feedback received and the further assessment work undertaken, SP Manweb revised the proposed line route at the Woodhouse Estate, near to Lower Hordley and near to Noneley.

4.11 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT-RELATED NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION

4.11.1 SP Manweb has, from the early development of the project, engaged in environmental and technical consultations with a wide variety of stakeholders, including:

- Shropshire Council
- Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership Scheme
- Forestry Commission
- Canal & River Trust
- Natural England
- Historic England
- Highways England
- RSPB
- Environment Agency
- Woodland Trust
- Shropshire Wildlife Trust
- Shropshire Ornithological Society/County Bird Recorder
- Shropshire Tourism UK Ltd
- Marches LEP
- Marches Growth Hub
- Meres and Mosses Business Environment Network
- Sleaf Airfield
- North Shropshire Tourism
- Wem Town Council.

4.11.2 SP Manweb notes that Advice Note 14 advises that “consultation undertaken as part of the EIA regime is separate to that required under the Planning Act 2008”. Therefore, the feedback from this pre-application consultation has been taken into account by the project’s EIA team and in the project design (see the specific topic chapters of the Environmental Statement (**DCO Documents Volume 6**)).

4.11.3 Question 2 of the Stage One Consultation feedback form invited comments on the likely environmental impacts of the proposed development. The comments received are referred to in paragraphs 2.58 to 2.63 of the Updated Line Route Report (November 2016) (**DCO Document 7.10**). Tables 4 and 5 in the Stage One Consultation Feedback Report (November 2016) (Appendix 4.1, **DCO Document 5.1.4**) outline SP Manweb’s response to comments provided in response to that consultation.

4.12 LAND INTERESTS RELATED NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION

4.12.1 The non-statutory consultation included engagement with those with an interest in land likely to be affected by the proposed development. These interests include land owners, tenants and those with an interest such as a third party right, for example, shooting or fishing.

4.12.2 Feedback from persons with these land interests has been recorded and responded to in the context of ongoing land interest negotiations.

- 4.12.3 During this time, SP Manweb liaised with landowners and tenants who own and/occupy land accounting for much of the line route, most of which are arable farmers. The majority of these land interests have engaged on matters relating to the proposed design. Generally, this has been in terms of pole locations, construction access routes and temporary laydown areas.
- 4.12.4 To date, based on these negotiations, SP Manweb estimates 85%-90% of those with an interest in land have responded positively to the project – engaging and seeking to inform the proposed development on their land, as opposed to not engaging or opposing outright.
- 4.12.5 Engagement has enabled SP Manweb to gain access, where agreed with landowners, for environmental and technical surveys.
- 4.12.6 SP Manweb issued questionnaires, requesting information on land interests (known as RFIs - Requests For Information). In total, 125 RFIs were issued and 56 were returned.
- 4.12.7 This engagement has continued through the statutory stage of consultation, which is referred to in more detail in Chapter 5.

4.13 SUMMARY OF THE NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION

- 4.13.1 At the launch of the non-statutory consultation (29 June 2016), SP Manweb issued Project Update 1 to over 3,300 residents, businesses or other organisations, introducing the project and requesting feedback.
- 4.13.2 During the initial non-statutory consultation period, 68 pieces of feedback were received. Broadly, responses were relatively detailed and as a result of the consultation, SP Manweb made changes to the preferred line route.
- 4.13.3 SP Manweb extended its non-statutory consultation until July 2017, in recognition of the relevant responses it continued to receive. This led to further changes, as detailed above, to the preferred line route, which were publicised in Project Updates 2 and 3.
- 4.13.4 SP Manweb also used the non-statutory consultation to launch engagement with prescribed bodies and those with an interest in land.
- 4.13.5 All of the engagement undertaken during the non-statutory consultation allowed SP Manweb to develop its early proposals into a proposed development for statutory consultation. The various changes to the proposed development during the non-statutory consultation are shown in figure 1-3 (**DCO Document 5.1.9**).

5. STATUTORY CONSULTATION (SECTION 42)

5.1 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1 This chapter details the consultation carried out under section 42 (s42) of the Act.
- 5.1.2 This chapter also details SP Manweb's activities to notify the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy of the proposed application, as required by s46 of the Act.
- 5.1.3 Chapter 6 provides more information regarding how SP Manweb consulted the local community pursuant to s47 of the Act.
- 5.1.4 Chapters 5,6,7 and 9 provide the information required under s37 (7)(a) of the Act i.e. what has been done by SP Manweb to comply with s42, 47 and 48 of the Act in relation to the proposed application.

5.2 IDENTIFYING SECTION 42 CONSULTEES

- 5.2.1 Persons prescribed under s42(1)(a) are listed in column 1 of Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009, as amended.
- 5.2.2 S42(1)(aa) requires consultation with the Marine Management Organisation in certain circumstances and is not relevant to the proposed development.
- 5.2.3 Local authorities under s42(1)(b) are defined under s43 as:
 - (1)** A local authority is within this section if the land is in the authority's area.
 - (2)** A local authority ("A") is within this section if—
 - (a) the land is in the area of another local authority ("B"),
 - (aa) B is a unitary council or a lower-tier district council, and
 - (b) any part of the boundary of A's area is also a part of the boundary of B's area.
 - (2A)** If the land is in the area of an upper-tier county council ("C"), a local authority ("D") is within this section if—
 - (a) D is not a lower-tier district council, and
 - (b) any part of the boundary of D's area is also part of the boundary of C's area.
- 5.2.4 S42(1)(c) requires consultation with the Greater London Authority, if the land is in Greater London, and is not relevant to the proposed development.

5.2.5 Persons with an interest in land, under s42(1)(d) are defined within s44 as those persons who own, lease, tenant or occupy land to which the proposed development relates (referred to as Category 1 persons). It also includes those persons that are interested in the land or have power to sell and convey the land or to release the land (referred to as Category 2 persons). The third category is those persons entitled to make a relevant claim if the Order sought by the proposed development was to be made and fully implemented (referred to as Category 3 persons). S42(1)(d) requires consultation with each person who is within one or more of the categories set out in section 44.

S42(1)(a) – prescribed bodies

5.2.6 SP Manweb prepared an initial list of prescribed consultees as part of the Stage One Consultation and these are listed in Appendix 2 of the Stage One Consultation Feedback Report in Appendix 4.1 (**DCO Document 5.1.4**) of this report. This list was based on knowledge of the local area, experience from previous NSIP consultations and the requirements of the Act.

5.2.7 As noted in section 4.6 above, most of the feedback from the prescribed bodies consulted at the non-statutory stage did not raise any concerns. Comments expressed by the Canal & River Trust, the Environment Agency and Severn Trent Water were noted.

5.2.8 In preparing for the statutory consultation, SP Manweb developed a revised list of prescribed bodies using the framework set out in Schedule 1 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009, as amended (APFP regulations).

5.2.9 In developing the list, SP Manweb reviewed PINS' Scoping Opinion (April 2017). SP Manweb ensured that the list included all bodies that were notified of the application by PINS under regulation 9(1)(a) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (EIA Regulations). PINS produced this list following SP Manweb's notification on 09 March 2017 under regulation 6 of the EIA Regulations that it intended to produce an Environmental Statement in respect of the proposed development. The regulation 9 list was initially provided by PINs on 19 April 2017.

5.2.10 In reviewing this list, SP Manweb took account of a number of changes. First, Scotland Gas Networks plc and SP Distribution plc were omitted because they are in Scotland. Second, National Grid Gas Distribution became Cadent Gas and BT Telecommunications became Openreach Ltd. These bodies were subsequently included in the statutory consultation.

5.2.11 Where representatives from prescribed organisations had taken part in the first stage of consultation, or had met with SP Manweb's team, they were used as the contact for their organisation. Otherwise, SP Manweb made efforts to find the most appropriate department or individual.

5.2.12 In following the above approach, SP Manweb considers it has identified the correct prescribed bodies for the purposes of the statutory consultation. A full list of the prescribed persons used in the statutory consultation in 2017 can be found in Appendix 3.1 (**DCO Document 5.1.3**).

5.2.13 SP Manweb's land referencing also identified three additional bodies that could be considered 'statutory undertakers' but were not consulted under s42 (1)(a). All three were consulted under s44. These organisations were:

- British Gas
- Vodafone
- Virgin Media

5.2.14 Having updated the list of prescribed bodies, SP Manweb has continued its engagement with relevant representatives regarding the Proposed Development (see Chapter 9).

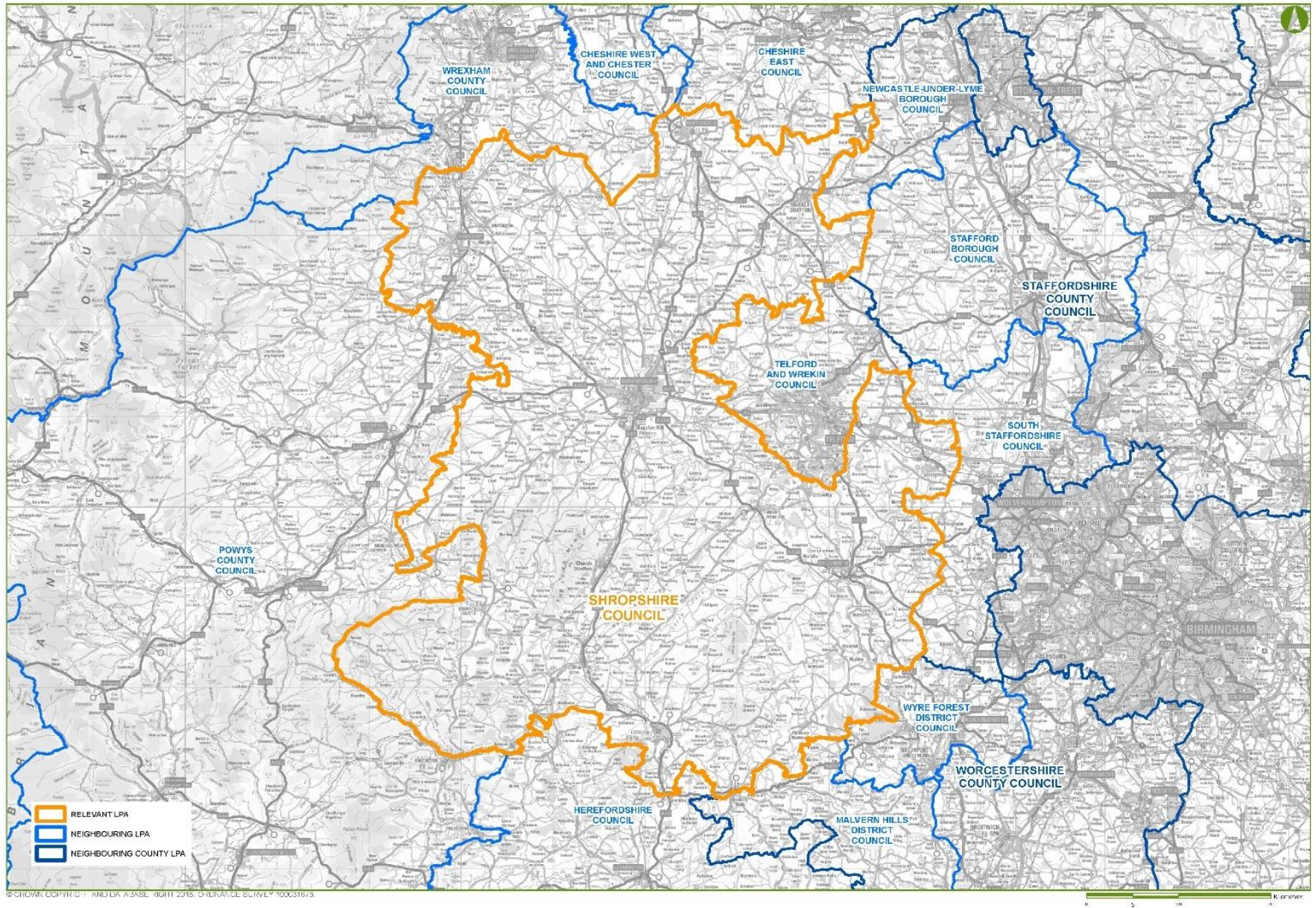
S42(1)(b) and s43 – local authorities

5.2.15 The proposed development is located wholly within the boundary of Shropshire Council, a unitary authority. SP Manweb consulted Shropshire Council as the local authority under s43 (1) of the Act ("B" authorities). Shropshire Council was also the relevant local authority for consultation on the Statement of Community Consultation (see sections 6.2 and 6.3 of this Report).

5.2.16 Those local authorities with a boundary with Shropshire Council, identified as s42 consultees as per s43 (2) of the Act ("A" authorities), were:

- Powys County Council
- Herefordshire Council
- Wrexham County Council
- Cheshire West and Chester Council
- Cheshire East Council
- Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council
- Staffordshire County Council
- Telford and Wrekin Council
- South Staffordshire Council
- Wyre Forest District Council
- Malvern Hills District Council
- Worcestershire Council
- Stafford Borough Council.

Map of local authorities consulted under s42(1)(b) and s43



5.2.17 This list of local authorities is consistent with that provided by PINS in its regulation 9 list.

S42(1)(d) and s44 – those with an interest in land

5.2.18 S44 of the Act sets out several categories for those with an interest in land who should be consulted as s42 consultees. In order to establish who had an interest in land affected by the Proposed Development (and what the nature of that interest was), SP Manweb carried out land referencing which included land registry searches, requests for information (RFI) and one to-one-meetings with landowners, tenants and land agents.

5.2.19 SP Manweb had already taken reasonable steps to identify those with an interest in land ahead of the statutory consultation. RFIs were sent to those SP Manweb believed had an interest in land following initial land registry searches. These requests were sent out in two mailings:

- To those believed to have a freehold, leasehold or occupational interest – on 10 & 11 October 2017.
- To those believed to have other rights over the land – on 5 & 6 November 2017.

5.2.20 In total, 125 RFIs were issued and 56 were returned.

5.2.21 Land registry surveys were supplemented by involving those it was known had an interest in land during the non-statutory stage of consultation. This included face-to-face meetings with landowners, their attendance at community events and written correspondence.

5.2.22 This research provided SP Manweb with details which persons may have an interest in land that would require consultation under s42(1)(d).

5.2.23 SP Manweb continued engagement with landowners throughout the statutory consultation. At least one member of the lands team attended each consultation event (see section 6.6).

5.2.24 In cases where there was no interest identified for land affected by the proposed development, 'unknown land interest' notices were placed on site, giving 21 days to contact SP Manweb. 'Unknown land interest' notices were placed on a total of 12 land parcels.

5.2.25 Three RFI responses were received after the launch of the statutory consultation, which highlighted additional land interests. SP Manweb took steps to ensure that these newly identified interests had an opportunity to comment on the proposed development.

- 5.2.26 While these letters were sent after the launch of the statutory stage of consultation (two on 21 December 2017 and one on 2 January 2018), the recipients had in excess of the statutory minimum 28 days in which to respond. SP Manweb therefore consider that these additional PILs had sufficient opportunity to take part in the consultation.
- 5.2.27 The list of those consulted under s44(1)(d) at the statutory stage of consultation can be found in the Book of Reference (**DCO Document 4.3**).
- 5.2.28 As referred to in Chapter 10, further analysis of title information and Land Registry searches identified eleven additional third-party interests who occupied six properties at Noneley Hall. The groups also appear in the Book of Reference (**DCO Document 4.3**).

5.3 DUTY TO NOTIFY SECRETARY OF STATE OF PROPOSED APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 46

- 5.3.1 S46 of the Act requires an applicant to notify the Secretary of State of the proposed application for a Development Consent Order. This must be done on, or before, the commencement of the statutory consultation under s42 and the Secretary of State must be supplied with the same information as is proposed to be used for the s42 consultation.
- 5.3.2 SP Manweb notified the Secretary of State, via the Planning Inspectorate, on 20 November 2017, setting out its intention under s46 of the Act to submit an application for a Development Consent Order. The letter also included copies of the following consultation documents (which included those sent to s42 consultees):
- the Project Update 4 newsletter, which outlined the proposed development, the consultation activities and summarised the technical documents that had been made available for consultation and where these were located;
 - the notice published in accordance with s48 of the Act and Regulation 11 of EIA Regulations.
 - a memory drive containing the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report and other consultation documents;
 - the letter to be sent to prescribed bodies under s42 of the Act, other than persons under s43 and 44 of the Act;
 - the letter to be sent to local authorities under s43 of the Act;
 - the letter to be sent to persons under s44 of the Act; and
 - lists of s42 prescribed persons.
- 5.3.3 Copies of the letter sent under s46 and the acknowledgement of the s46 notification received from PINS on 29 November 2017 can be found in Appendix 5.1 (**DCO Document 5.1.5**).

5.4 UNDERTAKING CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 42

Timescales

- 5.4.1 S45 (2) of the Act sets out the statutory deadline for the receipt of consultation responses under s42, that deadline:

“must not be earlier than the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the person receives the consultation documents”.

- 5.4.2 S45(1) of the Act also states that an applicant must notify the person being consulted of the deadline for receipt of their response.
- 5.4.3 SP Manweb’s consultation under s42 of the Act took place between 23 November 2017 and 2 February 2018, well in excess of the minimum statutory period required under s42 (2). This consultation ran concurrently with the consultation under s47 (see chapter 6).
- 5.4.4 The consultation dates were prominently displayed in Project Update 4 (Appendix 5.2, **DCO Document 5.1.5**) and the covering letter sent to each s42 consultee. Furthermore, persons consulted under s42 (1)(a) and (b) received a copy of the s48 notice (see Chapter 7) which also included the consultation dates.

Launch of consultation

- 5.4.5 Consultees under s42 of the Act were issued with consultation information via letter. Copies of the letters sent to each group under s42 are provided in Appendix 5.4 (**DCO Document 5.1.5**). The letters were issued by first class post on 22 November 2017 and included an explanation of why SP Manweb was contacting the consultee, an overview of the proposals, details of the consultation and community events and a notification that the proposed development is an NSIP and is an EIA development and, as noted above, the deadline for receipt of consultation feedback.
- 5.4.6 Consultees also received:
- Project Update 4
 - S48 notice (s42 (1)(a) and (b) consultees only)
 - Consultation poster (parish councils only – a copy can be found in Appendix 5.3, **DCO Document 5.1.5**)
- 5.4.7 The letter and newsletter explained how to provide feedback and where further information could be found if required, including details of community events and reference locations (see section 6.6).
- 5.4.8 A USB, containing all of the project documents for the statutory stage, was available on request.

5.5 ACCOUNT OF OUTCOMES OF THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION (SECTION 42)

- 5.5.1 SP Manweb's statutory consultation under s42 of the Act was carried out successfully, adhering to the requirements of the Act, EIA Regulations and APFP Regulations and the relevant Guidance and Advice Notes. All prescribed bodies relevant to the proposed development were consulted under s42 of the Act. A description of how the requirements of the Act, EIA Regulations and APFP Regulations have been complied with in the preparation for, and carrying out of, s42 consultation and section 46 notification is set out in Chapters 3 and 5 of this report.
- 5.5.2 A number of consultees provided comments. Details of the feedback received and how SP Manweb has had regard to this feedback is detailed in Chapter 9. The comments were considered by SP Manweb and, where applicable, have led to changes resulting in the Proposed Development which is the subject of the application for a Development Consent Order.

6. STATUTORY CONSULTATION (SECTION 47)

6.1 INTRODUCTION

- 6.1.1 This chapter details the consultation carried out with the local community, as required by s47 of the Act.
- 6.1.2 This chapter, alongside Chapters 5, 7 and 9 provides the information required under s37 (7)(a) of the Act.
- 6.1.3 S47 of the Act sets out an applicant's duty to consult the local community. It states:
- (1)** The applicant must prepare a statement setting out how the applicant proposes to consult, about the proposed application, people living in the vicinity of the land.
 - (2)** Before preparing the statement, the applicant must consult each local authority that is within section 43(1) about what is to be in the statement.
 - (3)** The deadline for the receipt by the applicant of a local authority's response to consultation under subsection (2) is the end of the period of 28 days that begins with the day after the day on which the local authority receives the consultation documents.
 - (4)** In subsection (3) "the consultation documents" means the documents supplied to the local authority by the applicant for the purpose of consulting the local authority under subsection (2).
 - (5)** In preparing the statement, the applicant must have regard to any response to consultation under subsection (2) that is received by the applicant before the deadline imposed by subsection (3).
 - (6)** Once the applicant has prepared the statement, the applicant must—
 - (za) make the statement available for inspection by the public in a way that is reasonably convenient for people living in the vicinity of the land,
 - (a) publish in a newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the land, a notice stating where and when the statement can be inspected, and
 - (b) publish the statement in such other manner as may be prescribed.
 - (7)** The applicant must carry out consultation in accordance with the proposals set out in the statement.
- 6.1.4 As required by the Act, SP Manweb published a notice regarding the publication of the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and made the SoCC available for the public to review. Consultation activities were carried out in line with the SoCC. Sections 6.2 – 6.4 explain how SP Manweb developed the SoCC; consultation with Shropshire Council on the SoCC; and how the SoCC was publicised. Section 6.5 explains how the commitments outlined in the SoCC were met and the consultation activities SP Manweb carried out. Chapter 9 details the responses received during the statutory consultation and how SP Manweb has had regard to these.

6.2 DEVELOPING THE STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

- 6.2.1 The Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) plays an important role in describing how a developer will conduct its statutory consultation with the local community. To help a developer take advantage of a council's detailed knowledge of the most appropriate ways to consult the local community, the Act requires a developer to consult the relevant local authority regarding the contents of the SoCC.
- 6.2.2 SP Manweb used the experience of its first stage of consultation (the non-statutory consultation) and its knowledge of the area of the proposed development to develop the SoCC. SP Manweb also reviewed other published SoCCs including its own SoCC for the North Wales Wind Farms Connection Order 2016 and those for NSIPs more broadly.
- 6.2.3 SP Manweb aimed to develop a SoCC that described the statutory consultation in a way that would allow interested parties (particularly members of the community who may not have a detailed knowledge of major infrastructure development or NSIP consultations) to easily understand the proposed development; the consultation activities being undertaken; and how to take part in the consultation.
- 6.2.4 As the consultation approach was developed to meet all requirements of the Act, SP Manweb also felt it was important that the SoCC also described the application process and how SP Manweb was meeting the requirements of the Act and application process.

6.3 CONSULTATION WITH THE RELEVANT LOCAL AUTHORITY ON THE SOCC

- 6.3.1 To give Shropshire Council the fullest opportunity to provide comments on the draft SoCC, SP Manweb provided the Council with a non-statutory period to review the draft SoCC (11 September 2017 to 05 October 2017), in addition to the statutory 28-day period (09 October 2017 to 10 November 2017). Copies of these drafts, as reviewed, are provided in Appendix 6.1 (**DCO Document 5.1.6**).
- 6.3.2 Shropshire Council's comments and SP Manweb's response, are outlined in table 6-1.

Table 6-1 - Summary of feedback from Shropshire Council following consultation on draft SoCC (non-statutory), (11 Sept 2017 to 5 Oct 2017)

Request from LPA	How taken into account
Pg 5 – amend title of relevant Council documents to <i>adopted Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan (the Local Plan) and adopted Local Plan</i>	Agreed and SoCC text amended accordingly.
Pg 5 – is following text relevant in SoCC: <i>Many of these can be avoided or reduced through careful design, and part of the reason we are consulting you is to get your thoughts on how this can best be achieved</i>	Agreed and text removed.
Pg 8 – insert ‘ <i>statutory bodies including Shropshire Council</i> ’ in list of organisations SP Manweb has continued to consult	Agreed and SoCC text amended accordingly.
Pg 11 – regarding SP Manweb’s intention to not including Maesbury Road Industrial Estate: <i>Will there be an increase in traffic movements to and from the site as a result of the storage? If so wouldn’t this need to be measured?</i>	Noted. SP Manweb does not expect significant traffic movements from its existing depot at Maesbury Road Industrial Estate. (SP Manweb subsequently agreed that individuals and businesses at the estate may have a view and extended the consultation zone to include the industrial estate. See section 6.3.3)
Pg 11 – insert ‘statutory bodies’ to list of who SP Manweb is consulting with	Noted and agreed. (this reference was later removed, see section 6.3.3)
Pg 12 – Shropshire Council requested that a set of reference documents (including photomontages) be left at parish council offices	SP Manweb noted that many parish council offices are not open full time. Previous conversations with parish council clerks had also suggested space may be an issue. SP Manweb deemed that its reference locations (in libraries and public locations across the route) gave people a good opportunity to view materials. USB memory sticks, with all consultation documents, were also made available on request. The availability of these was noted in letters to parish councils.
Pg 12 – replace ‘the villages and towns closest to the proposals’ with ‘accessible locations where there is the best opportunity to attract the largest number of visitors’	SP Manweb did not change this text to avoid repetition with text later in the description of community events.

Pg 12 – How will community events be advertised?	Details of community events were available in newsletters mailed to all those in the consultation zone. Details of the events were also available in the SoCC and online. Posters, which included the details of community events, were sent to parish councils and businesses in the local area.
Pg 13 – include Shropshire Council, Shirehall and Oswestry Town Council as reference locations	Agreed and these locations were provided with reference packs of consultation documents.
Pg 23 – Please check whether Shropshire Housing Alliance and Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership still exist	SP Manweb checked these organisations still operate. They were retained in the hard to reach list.
Pg 23 – Advised Tourism Service, Shropshire Council no longer exists	Noted and removed from list of consultees.

6.3.3 SP Manweb updated its draft SoCC and resubmitted it for statutory consultation on 9 October 2017. Shropshire Council confirmed it had no further comments on the SoCC following the statutory consultation. However, during the statutory consultation period, SP Manweb made the following minor changes to the document:

- Pg 9 – expanding the consultation zone to include the Maesbury Road Industrial Estate;
- Pg 10 – having updated this section following Shropshire Council comments, SP Manweb reviewed and changed the list of organisations on this page to cover just those who will be consulted under the s47 duty to consult the local community. Chapter 7 outlined those organisations (including statutory bodies) being consulted under s42;
- Pg 10 – SP Manweb no longer intended to produce photomontages and deleted the reference to these;
- Pg 13 – the scale of plans provided in reference packs changed from 1:10,000 to 1:2,500; and
- Pg 14 – updated the project programme in line with Project Update 4 newsletter.

6.3.4 SP Manweb brought these updates to the attention of Shropshire Council during the statutory consultation on the SoCC (see Appendix 6.2, **DCO Document 5.1.6**). Shropshire Council confirmed it had no further comments on the SoCC and agreed to the additional changes (see letter dated 15 November 2017 (Appendix 6.3, **DCO Document 5.1.6**)).

6.4 PUBLICITY UNDER SECTION 47 OF THE ACT

6.4.1 The SoCC was published on 23 November 2017. It was available on the project website and at reference locations (see 6.6). A copy of the published SoCC can be found in Appendix 3.2 (**DCO Document 5.1.3**).

- 6.4.2 S47(6)(a) requires an applicant to publish a notice in a newspaper circulating 'in the vicinity of the land' stating where and when the SoCC can be inspected. SP Manweb placed an advertisement in the Shropshire Star on 23 November 2017. A copy of the relevant advertisement is in Appendix 3.3 (**DCO Document 5.1.3**).

6.5 ADHERENCE TO CONTENTS OF THE SOCC

6.5.1 The table below sets out the commitments SP Manweb made for its statutory consultation with people living in the vicinity of the land, in accordance with s47 of the Act, and summarises how SP Manweb fulfilled these commitments.

Table 6-2 - Summary of commitments made in the SoCC and how SP Manweb fulfilled these

SoCC commitment	How fulfilled?
Pg 3 – The SoCC has been publicised through a public notice, as required by s47 of the 2008 Act.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S47 advert available in published version of the SoCC. • The S47 notice was published in Shropshire Star on 23 November 2017.
Pg 3 - The consultation is running from 23 November 2017 to 2 February 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consultation opened on 23 November 2017 and closed 2 February 2018. • The dates were made clear on community materials and in the SoCC.
Pg 4 - Copies of the PEIR will be made available on SP Manweb's website (www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/north_shropshire) and reference copies provided at the various locations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEIR, along with all technical documents, available on project website from launch date. • Hard copy of PEIR, along with all technical documents, available in the specified reference locations from launch date.
<p>Pg 5 – The aim of the statutory consultation is to present and seek feedback on the proposed development. Whilst SP Manweb will consider all comments submitted as part of the consultation, SP Manweb is specifically seeking comments on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The preferred route for the new 132kV electrical circuit between Oswestry and Wem, comprising of an approximately 1.2 kilometre underground cable between Oswestry substation and Round Wood and an approximately 21 kilometre overhead wood pole Trident line, between Round Wood and Wem substation, consisting of around 176 wood poles with an average height of 12 metres; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on topics SP Manweb was seeking comments on provided in the newsletter, alongside an A2 map of the proposals. This was mailed to all addresses in the consultation zone (see below). • The feedback form was structured to encourage participants to provide feedback on these topics. • Availability of the PEIR was publicised in the SoCC, newsletter and on the exhibition panels at community events. It was also referenced in the SoCC and s48 newspaper notices.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The location of the temporary construction works areas, such as areas where conductor winching equipment will need to be placed, and construction accesses and laydown areas along the preferred line route; and • The installation of lower voltage underground cables to replace existing lower voltage overhead lines where the proposed development would be too close to existing lower voltage lines. <p>Feedback will also be sought on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the likely environmental impacts of the proposed development as set out in the PEIR; • the proposed development’s associated construction works; • SP Manweb’s approach to consultation; and • any other aspects of the proposed development that consultees suggest SP Manweb should consider. 	
<p>Pg 9 – Consultation Zone</p> <p>Community consultation activities are focused on this consultation zone and SP Manweb is engaging with those living and working in the consultation zone. A newsletter will be mailed to all residential and business addresses within the consultation zone and consultation events will take place in the main communities in this zone.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address database for consultation zone produced from latest Royal Mail mailing list data (October 2017). • Newsletter sent on launch day to all addresses within the consultation zone. • Consultation events held in consultation zone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Whittington – 5 December 2017 ○ Lower Hordley – 6 December 2017 ○ Cockshutt – 12 December 2017 ○ East Oswestry – 13 December 2017 • Event also held in Wem (2 December 2017), the major settlement at the east end of the proposals – venue outside the zone but close to proposals and the highest population centre.
<p>Pg 9 - SP Manweb recognises that there may be interest in the proposed development beyond the consultation zone. The proposed development will therefore be promoted beyond the consultation zone</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press releases were issued to local newspapers (see below) at start of consultation and two weeks before the end of consultation.

<p>through press releases to local newspapers with a wider circulation than the consultation zone and through engagement with Shropshire Council and parish councils, whose administrative boundaries extend beyond the consultation zone.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local parish councils were written to on launch day. Parish councils were issued a pack of information including two posters, alongside request to display in a public location • Shropshire Council written to on launch day and provided with reference pack comprising of all technical documents and <i>Project Update 4</i>. • A list of tourist attractions and high footfall areas (cafés, take-aways, convenience stores) near to the proposals was developed (Appendix 6.14, DCO Document 5.1.6). These organisations were sent a poster at the launch of the consultation.
<p>Pg 9 - All information will also be available on the proposed development's website (www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/north_shropshire).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project website was fully updated at the launch of consultation, including all statutory stage documents and a new online feedback form.
<p>Pg 10 - SP Manweb will consult with the following people and groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local communities – people with homes and businesses in the consultation zone and those outside who have previously commented on the proposals; • Elected representatives – parish and town councils; county councillors; Members of Parliament; and Members of the European Parliament; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SP Manweb sent a newsletter to all addresses in the consultation zone and anybody who had taken part in the non-statutory of consultation (or between stages) and provided an address. Total number: 3,821. • All parish and town councils crossed by the consultation zone were written to at the launch of consultation and provided with details of the consultation and posters to display. • County councillors whose ward is crossed by the consultation zone were written to at the launch of the consultation and provided with details of the consultation. The leader of the council and planning portfolio holder were also included. • SP Manweb held a project briefing presentation the day before the launch of the consultation, for relevant

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard to reach groups – individuals and groups that may have difficulties taking part in the consultation process for a range of reasons; • Identified special interest groups – such as local wildlife, heritage and leisure groups. 	<p>ward councillors, portfolio holders and relevant committee members and parish councils.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The constituency MP, Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP, was written to at the launch of the consultation and provided with details of the consultation (Appendix 6.4, DCO Document 5.1.6). • The MEPs for the West Midlands were written to at the launch of the consultation and provided with details of the consultation (Appendix 6.5, DCO Document 5.1.6). • The project developed a “Hard to Reach” list and wrote to these organisations at the launch of the consultation. The approach to consultation was outlined and an offer of any further requirements made. One hard to reach group contacted the project team. No further action was required (see section 6.6, DCO Document 5.1.6). • A list of local special interest groups was developed and these were written to at the launch of the consultation and provided with details of the consultation. • A list of all these groups was available in the SoCC appendices.
<p>Pg 10 - <i>Project Update 4</i></p> <p>This newsletter will provide a summary of the latest proposals, details of the consultation and will include an A2 fold-out map of the proposed development. It will make clear how people can take part in the consultation and what the deadline for feedback is. The newsletter will be sent to homes and businesses in the consultation zone and will be made available on the website, in local libraries and at consultation events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Project Update 4</i> was developed to provide an easy-to-understand overview of the proposed development. It included an A2 map of the overhead line route being consulted on (See section 6.6 for more details).

<p>Pg 10 - Feedback form</p> <p>This questionnaire will provide an easy way for people to record and submit their feedback. The feedback form will be designed to encourage people to provide feedback in relation to the aspects of the proposals SP Manweb is consulting on but also to provide wider feedback in relation to the entirety of the proposed development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The feedback form was structured to encourage participants to provide feedback on specific topics. (See section 6.6 for more details).
<p>Pg 10 - Website</p> <p>The website (www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/north_shropshire) will be updated to explain the latest proposals and provide the latest documents for people to download. It will also include maps of the proposals and details of where people can view hard copy materials.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project website was fully updated at the launch of consultation (See section 6.6 for more details) and it included maps and details where hard copy documents could be viewed.
<p>Pg 11 - To give local people the opportunity to meet the SP Manweb team, better understand the proposals and ask any questions they may have, consultation events will be held in the local area. These events will be organised in the villages and towns closest to the proposals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saturday 2 December 2017 Wem Town Hall 11am-4pm Tuesday 5 December 2017 Whittington Community Centre 4.30pm-8pm Wednesday 6 December 2017 Hordley and Bagley Village Hall 2.30pm-6.30pm Tuesday 12 December 2017 Cockshutt Millennium Hall 2.30pm-6.30pm Wednesday 13 December 2017 Eastern Oswestry Community Centre 4pm-8pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All events took place on the dates and times published. Attendance at each event is listed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wem – 27 Whittington – 8 Lower Hordley – 12 Cockshutt – 7 East Oswestry – 3
<p>Pg 11 - People will be able to take copies of <i>Project Update 4</i> and feedback forms away with them. There will also be an opportunity for people to submit their feedback form at the event.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copies of <i>Project Update 4</i> and feedback forms were made available at all events. Provisions were made for feedback to be submitted at all events.
<p>Pg 11 - The exhibitions will be publicised in the newsletter and on the website.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full details of the events were included in the newsletter, SoCC and online.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posters were also issued that included details of the events.
Pg 11 - SP Manweb is holding a number of events, including one on a Saturday, to give people as much chance as possible to attend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five events were held, including one on Saturday 2 December 2017. • Events were held at a range of times to help people attend.
<p>Pg 12 - SP Manweb community materials, maps, technical reports and plans will be available to view at the following locations throughout the consultation period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wem Library • Oswestry Library • Ellesmere Library • Whitchurch Library • Shropshire Council Planning Department • Oswestry Town Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference packs, including community materials, all technical documents and maps were available at the reference locations listed from the day of launch.
Pg 12 - SP Manweb will operate a freephone enquiry line during the consultation (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm) with an answer phone service outside of these hours and during holiday periods. A dedicated email address and freepost is also available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The freephone enquiry line was available throughout the consultation. • The project email address remained open during the consultation. • The project freepost remained open during the consultation.
Pg 12 - Press releases – news releases will be issued to the local media during the consultation. A press release will be issued at the start of consultation and another two weeks before the close of consultation, encouraging people to take part. The press releases will be issued to publications including <i>Shropshire Star</i> , <i>Oswestry and Border Counties Advertiser</i> and the <i>Whitchurch Herald</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press releases were issued to <i>Shropshire Star</i>, <i>Oswestry and Border Counties Advertiser</i> and the <i>Whitchurch Herald</i>. 12 reports (10 print / online, 2 radio) about the consultation appeared during the consultation. (see Appendix 6.6, DCO Document 5.1.6).
Pg 12 - Public notices – SP Manweb will also take out public notices in local and national newspapers, as required by the 2008 Act.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SP Manweb published public notices as required by the Act.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The s47 notice appeared in the <i>Shropshire Star</i> on 23 November • The s48 notice appeared: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Shropshire Star</i> – 23 November, 30 November ○ <i>The Guardian</i> – 23 November ○ <i>London Gazette</i> – 23 November <p>Copies of these notices are available in Appendix 3.4 (DCO Document 5.1.3).</p>
<p>Pg 13 - SP Manweb has developed the consultation to be accessible and this has played an important role in planning consultation activities. Community events are being held in accessible public locations and over a number of days to encourage attendance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As set out above, a full programme of events was carried out in line with the SoCC.
<p>Pg 13 - It is important that people are able to take part in the consultation, even if they cannot make a consultation event. Therefore, all community materials and technical reports will be available on the website. People will be able to ask questions and find out more by calling the enquiry line or using the freepost or email addresses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project website was fully updated at the launch of consultation, including all statutory stage documents and a new online feedback form. • During the consultation, the community relations channels were open.
<p>Pg 13 - SP Manweb recognises that some individuals or groups may have difficulties taking part in the consultation process for a range of reasons. It has identified a number of organisations representing hard to reach groups in the area. The hard to reach organisations will be written to at the start of the consultation. Requests for specific consultation activities will be planned and agreed with the requesting organisation so that it best meets the needs of its members.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project developed a “Hard to Reach” list and wrote to these organisations at the launch of consultation. The approach to consultation was outlined and an offer of any further requirements made. One hard to reach group contacted the project (see 6.6). • In addition, in response to requests from two local education organisations, SP Manweb held two events for children/young adults. The first of these was in Whittington Primary School and the second was at Walford Agricultural College near Baschurch (see below in section 6.6)
<p>Pg 13 - Project Update 4 is available in large print upon request.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A large-print version of the newsletter, in compliance with government guidelines on large print

	<p>accessibility, was produced and its availability publicised in the newsletter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One request was received for the newsletter. • One consultee requested a large-scale map near their property (due to poor eyesight) and this was provided.
<p>Pg 13 - SP Manweb will respond to reasonable requests for further copies of documents. Requests for hard copies will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. A reasonable copying charge may apply, to be paid by the recipient in advance.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enquiries for documents were received and individuals were advised of document availability on-line provided by email or hard copies were provided, (where appropriate). Hard copy requests were provided free of charge.
<p>Pg 13 - A number of technical reports will be produced to support the proposed line route and other aspects of the proposed development. These are detailed planning documents written by specialists to explain the decisions made and how technical assessments have informed these decisions. These documents will be available on the website and at reference locations. The technical reports available will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated Line Route Report 2 • Updated Strategic Options Report • Preliminary Environmental Information Report • Maps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All technical documents were made available on the project website from the launch date. • All technical documents were made available in reference locations from the launch date.
<p>Pg 14 - There are several ways to submit feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback form – available on the proposed development’s website (www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/north_shropshire), at community events or by request from the community relations team • By email – to enquiries@spennorthshropshire.co.uk • In writing – to FREEPOST SPEN NSR (please be advised it is not possible to send registered post to a freepost address) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All feedback channels were open from launch day and publicised in the newsletter, feedback form and online. • Feedback was received in the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hardcopy feedback form: 8 ○ Online feedback form: 7 ○ Email: 40 ○ Letter: 8

<p>Pg 14 - Everyone submitting their comments to us (and providing their contact details) will receive an acknowledgement that their feedback has been received.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultees completing online feedback forms or taking part by email received an auto-acknowledgement. • Consultees providing hard copy feedback were issued with an acknowledgement by post.
<p>Pg 15 - At the same time as our community consultation, we will consult these consultees directly and will be inviting them to comment on our proposals during the consultation. We'll then consider their feedback alongside the feedback we receive from the public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s42 (1) (a): prescribed persons • s42 (1) (b) and 43: Local authorities as described in the Act • s42 (1) (d) and 44: those with an interest in the land • s46: Secretary of State 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project wrote to all statutory bodies under s42 (1) (a) at the launch of consultation. Feedback was received by 16 of these organisations. • The project wrote to all statutory bodies under s42 (1) (b) and 43 at the launch of consultation. Feedback was received by 3 of these organisations. • The project wrote to all statutory bodies under s42 (1) (d) and 44 at the launch of consultation. Feedback was received by 21 of these organisations. • SP Manweb notified to the Secretary of State, as required under s46, on 20 November 2017.
<p>Pg 15 - SP Manweb has been, and will continue to, contact landowners and occupiers to discuss pole positions and seek to agree rights to construct, operate and maintain the new equipment, voluntarily</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SP Manweb contacted all landowners (as required under s44 of the Act) at the launch of consultation • SP Manweb has continued to engage with landowners following the conclusion of the statutory consultation, to discuss pole positions and land rights

6.6 SECTION 47 CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES

- 6.6.1 The consultation launched on Thursday 23 November 2017 and closed on Friday 2 February 2018. During this time, SP Manweb carried out a number of consultation activities.
- 6.6.2 SP Manweb felt it was important that the consultation was accessible to all even if they could not attend a consultation event. To achieve this, all community and technical materials were available online and at reference locations, and a project enquiry telephone line was open throughout the consultation.
- 6.6.3 Activities were broadly focused within the consultation zone used at the non-statutory stage. However, having carried out further assessments, SP Manweb felt it appropriate to include an area of east Oswestry in the updated consultation zone. This was to ensure that those properties, where there was a small possibility of visual impact, had an opportunity to take part in the consultation.
- 6.6.4 Further, following SP Manweb's decision to use its Maesbury Road industrial estate as a depot, PINS suggested it may be appropriate to include this area within the consultation zone. Shropshire Council also noted that it would be beneficial to include this area within the consultation zone. SP Manweb agreed with this advice.
- 6.6.5 A map illustrating the consultation zone used at the statutory stage of consultation is available in Appendix 6.7 (**DCO Document 5.1.6**).

Materials

- 6.6.6 At the launch of the statutory consultation, SP Manweb published Project Update 4, a feedback form and updated the project website. Details of these materials are provided below. The statutory consultation was also supported by several consultation technical documents and reference copies were made available at libraries in the project area (see section 6.6).
- 6.6.7 **Project Update 4:** issued to homes and businesses in the consultation zone, those who had previously taken part in the consultation and all statutory and non-statutory stakeholders. It was issued to members of the public by second class post on 21 November 2017 and to stakeholders by first class post on 22 November 2017. It was mailed in a project-branded envelope (Appendix 6.8, **DCO Document 5.1.6**) to help people identify its contents and to encourage people to read it rather than thinking it was "junk mail".
- 6.6.8 The newsletter was an important part of informing people of the proposed development and the consultation. As such, it provided a high-level overview of all aspects of the proposed development while making it clear where greater detail could be found (i.e. relevant technical documents). It also included an A2 fold-out map of the proposed development.

- 6.6.9 The newsletter provided full details of the consultation, including what SP Manweb was seeking comments on, methods of providing feedback and the dates and locations of community events. Contact details for the community relations team were also available so members of the public could request further information if needed.
- 6.6.10 The newsletter was issued to home and businesses within the consultation zone (see Appendix 6.7 (**DCO Document 5.1.6**)).
- 6.6.11 **Feedback form:** the feedback form was developed to provide an easy way for consultees to provide feedback to the project. A two-sided A4 document, it presented five questions that were written to encourage consultees to comment on key aspects of the project SP Manweb was seeking feedback on. The final question invited any other comments on the project. This structured approach also helped SP Manweb in its feedback analysis (see Chapter 9).
- 6.6.12 The feedback form included a brief overview of the proposed development and information on where to find more information, directing consultees to the proposed development's website, Project Update 4 and the technical documents.
- 6.6.13 The feedback form was available in hard copy and online. Hard copy versions were available at community events and on request from the community relations team and their availability was publicised in Project Update 4.
- 6.6.14 A copy of the feedback form can be found in Appendix 6.9 (**DCO Document 5.1.6**).
- 6.6.15 **Website:** the project website (www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/north_shropshire) was updated on 23 November 2017, providing updated information on the statutory consultation, community and technical documents and the online feedback form.
- 6.6.16 The website address was publicised in the other community materials, on the proposed development's poster (Appendix 5.3, **DCO Document 5.1.5**), and in the public notices (Appendices 3.4 and 3.5, **DCO Document 5.1.3**).
- 6.6.17 Screenshots of the updated website can be found in Appendix 6.10 (**DCO Document 5.1.6**). The website was visited throughout the consultation period with a noticeably high number of visits at the start of the consultation when the website was first advertised. Visitor numbers to the website can be seen in the graph below.



Above: website visitor data during statutory consultation period.

Consultation technical documents

- 6.6.18 SP Manweb published technical documents to support the consultation, which provided additional detail to that contained in Project Update 4. Their availability was publicised in Project Update 4 and they were available on the website and on request from the project team.
- 6.6.19 These were as follows:
- Updated Line Route Report 2 (November 2017)
 - Updated Strategic Options Report (November 2017)
 - Preliminary Environmental Information Report (including figures and appendices) (November 2017)
 - Draft Works Plans at 1:2,500 scale (November 2017) (reproduced in Appendix 6.11, **DCO Document 5.1.6**)
 - Statement of Community Consultation (November 2017)
- 6.6.20 The above technical consultation documents, plus Project Update 4 (Appendix 5.2, **DCO Document 5.1.5**), were also placed in six public locations, chosen as they were easily accessible and were spread along the proposed route. These were available for the full length of the statutory consultation.

Table 6-3 - Venues for reference materials

Venue	Address	Opening hours
Wem Library	3 High Street, Wem, Shrewsbury SY4 5AA	Tues: 10am-5pm Thurs: 10am-5pm Fri: 2pm-5pm Sat: 9.30am-1pm Closed: Mon, Weds, Sun
Oswestry Library	9 Arthur Street, Oswestry SY11 1JN	Mon: 9.30am-5pm Tues: 9.30am-5pm Weds: 9.30am-6pm Thurs: 9.30am-5pm Fri: 9.30am-5pm Sat: 9.30am-4pm Closed: Sun
Ellesmere Library	Trimpley Street, Ellesmere SY12 0AE	Tues: 10am-6pm Fri: 10am-5pm Sat: 9.30am-1pm; 2pm-4pm Closed: Mon, Weds, Thurs, Sun
Whitchurch Library	High Street, Whitchurch SY13 1AX	Mon: 9.30am-5pm Tues: 9.30am-6pm Thurs: 9.30am-5pm Fri: 9.30am-5pm Sat: 9.30am-1pm Closed: Weds, Sun
Shropshire Council Planning Department	Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY2 6ND	Mon-Fri: 8:30am-5pm Closed: Sat, Sun
Oswestry Town Council	The Guildhall, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 1PZ	Mon-Thurs: 9am-5pm Fri: 9am-4pm Closed: Sat, Sun

6.6.21 Placing reference copies of the consultation documents in the above public locations allowed people to view hardcopy versions of the technical information which could be difficult to access for those without internet or poor internet connections or simply if people preferred to read the materials in hard copy format. These documents were accompanied by a guide to the documents (Appendix 6.12, **DCO Document 5.1.6**).



Above: Consultation documents

Community events

- 6.6.22 SP Manweb held five community events to give local people the opportunity to meet the SP Manweb team, better understand the proposals and ask any questions they may have. These were organised in public venues familiar to local people across the proposed development and at a variety of times, to give people a greater chance of being able to attend. Venues were chosen that were well known in their local communities and had easy access (including disabled access).
- 6.6.23 Community and technical materials, including materials from the non-statutory stage one consultation, were available at the community events. There were also a selection of large scale maps and images to help people better understand the proposed development and exhibition panels (Appendix 6.13, **DCO Document 5.1.6**).
- 6.6.24 Project team members from SP Manweb and its contractors, covering a full range of disciplines (e.g. land, environmental, planning, engineering, construction), were available to answer any questions. They also provided more information regarding why decisions had been taken which had led to the form of the proposed development which was now at the statutory consultation stage.
- 6.6.25 Events were held at the locations listed below. In total, 57 people attended the events:

Table 6-4 - Details of the community events held during the statutory consultation

Venue	Address	Date	Exhibition times	Attendees
Wem Town Hall	28-32 High St, Wem, Shrewsbury SY4 5DG	Saturday 2 December 2017	11am – 4pm	27
Whittington Community Centre	Station Road, Whittington SY11 4DA	Tuesday 5 December 2017	4.30pm – 8pm	8
Hordley and Bagley Village Hall	Lower Hordley, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9BQ	Wednesday 6 December 2017	2.30pm – 6.30 pm	12
Cockshutt Millennium Hall	Ellesmere SY12 0JQ	Tuesday 12 December 2017	2.30pm – 6.30 pm	7
Eastern Oswestry Community Centre	Cabin Lane, Oswestry, Shropshire SY11 2LQ 4	Wednesday 13 December 2017	4pm – 8pm	3

- 6.6.26 Summaries of each of these events and the comments provided at them can be found in Appendix 9.2 (**DCO Document 5.1.7**).

Table 6-5 - Images from the five public events



Above: consultation set-up at Wem Town Hall



Above: event underway at Wem Town Hall



Above: welcome sign in public foyer of Wem Town Hall, advising of exhibition



Above: consultation event underway at Whittington Community Centre



Above: welcome desk and consultation boards at Whittington Community Centre



Above: event underway at Hordley and Bagley Village Hall



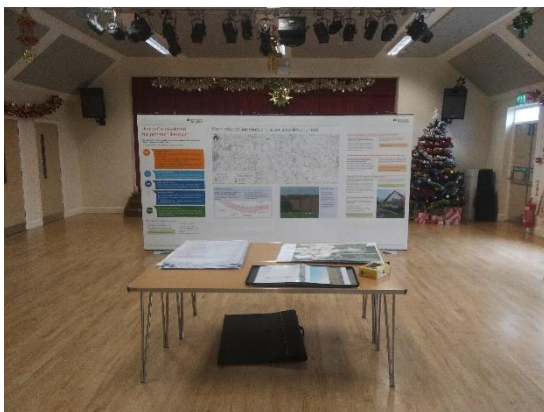
Above: event underway at Hordley and Bagley Village Hall



Above: laptop and welcome desk availability at Hordley and Bagley Village Hall



Above: event set-up at Cockshutt Millennium Hall



Above: large scale map and image availability at Cockshutt Millennium Hall



Above: event in Cockshutt underway



Above: event in Eastern Oswestry Community Centre underway



Above: event in Eastern Oswestry Community Centre underway

Adverse weather at Cockshutt Millennium Hall event

- 6.6.27 There had been heavy snowfall in the days leading up to the event at Cockshutt Millennium Hall, although local main roads were clear by the day of the event. Access was good and all members of the project team were able to attend (with some travelling significant distances).
- 6.6.28 To make access as easy and safe as possible, the project team cleared the main path to the venue door and laid down rock salt. A sign was placed on the main road, to further advertise that the event was open and taking place.
- 6.6.29 Attendance numbers were similar to events unaffected by weather and the demographic of attendees – primarily landowners or those living very close to the proposals – mirrored other events. This suggests that the weather did not have an affect on attendance. The project also received no emails or telephone calls from anyone unable to attend or asking if the event was open / closed.

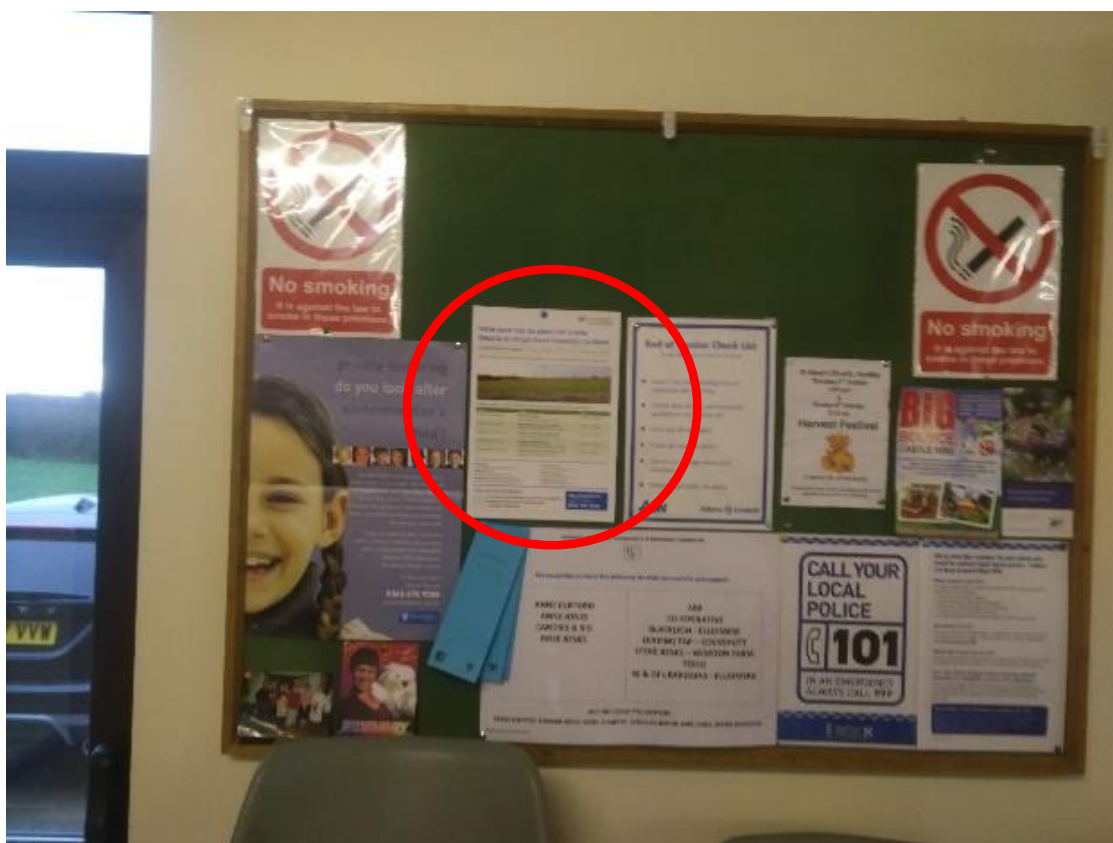
Publicising the consultation

- 6.6.30 **Press releases:** news releases were issued to the local media during the consultation. These were issued at the start of consultation and two weeks before the close of consultation, to remind people of the deadline for comments. The news releases were issued to *Shropshire Star*, *Oswestry and Border Counties Advertizer* and the *Whitchurch Herald*. The project also attracted media coverage separately, before and during the consultation. Copies of all media coverage can be found in Appendix 6.6 (**DCO Document 5.1.6**).
- 6.6.31 **Public notices:** SP Manweb publicised the consultation and the proposed development as required by the Act. The s47 notice appeared in the *Shropshire Star* on 23 November 2017. The s48 notice appeared in the required publications (see Chapter 7).

6.6.32 Copies of these notices are available in Appendices 3.4 and 3.5.

6.6.33 **Additional publicity:** SP Manweb recognised an opportunity for further publicity, in addition to what was set out in the SoCC, by developing a project poster. This poster was designed to be eye-catching and provide a simple guide to when events were taking place and where more information could be found, including reference locations. A copy of this poster can be found in Appendix 5.3 (**DCO Document 5.1.5**).

6.6.34 SP Manweb identified a number of locations near to the proposed development, such as tourist attractions and high footfall areas (cafés, takeaways, convenience stores), that would be suitable for a poster. These locations were chosen to target both local residents and businesses and visitors to the area. A list of addresses where the poster was issued to can be found in Appendix 6.14 (**DCO Document 5.1.6**).



Above: project poster in-situ at Hordley and Bagley village hall.

Additional non-prescribed bodies

6.6.35 DCLG's *Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process* states, at paragraph 27, that "there will be a range of national and other interest groups who could make an important contribution during consultation" beyond those who must be consulted under s42.

- 6.6.36 SP Manweb developed a list of local and national special interest groups who could have had knowledge that could support the proposed development. This list was developed using SP Manweb's knowledge of the local area and industry best practice, as well as desk research into organisations operating in the area. The list was included in the draft of the SoCC provided to Shropshire Council (see section 6.3).
- 6.6.37 A list of these organisations is provided in Appendix 6.15 (**DCO Document 5.1.6**).

Hard to reach groups

- 6.6.38 SP Manweb specifically developed the consultation to be accessible and this played an important role in planning consultation activities. This included ensuring that people were able to take part in the consultation, even if they could not attend a consultation event by making all consultation materials available online and on request from the community relations team. The project enquiry telephone line also allowed people to ask questions.
- 6.6.39 As set out in the SoCC, SP Manweb identified a number of organisations representing "hard to reach" groups in the area (Appendix 6.16, **DCO Document 5.1.6**). These organisations were written to at the start of the consultation, with an offer of additional consultation activities for their members if required.
- 6.6.40 Shropshire Disability Network responded to the consultation explaining that some of their members did not have access to the internet and written communications would be preferable. SP Manweb explained that it had sent hard copy newsletters to all addresses within the consultation zone, as well as placing hard copy documents in locations with disabled access. As such, SP Manweb considered no further action was required but requested that if Shropshire Disability Network became aware of individual cases where SP Manweb's approach had not been sufficient, to pass these on to be considered on a case-by-case basis. No such requests were received.
- 6.6.41 SP Manweb also produced a large-print version of *Project Update 4*. One request for the large-print version was received and a copy was provided. The consultee expressed thanks when this was received. SP Manweb also received a request for a large-scale map of the proposed development near to the property of a resident with poor eyesight. This was also provided.
- 6.6.42 SP Manweb held a further two events which were aimed at children and young adults, following requests from local educational organisations.

- 6.6.43 The first of these was to present the project in a way that children in a Year 6 class (aged 10 and 11) at Whittington Primary School could relate to and ask questions. The event took place on the same day as the Whittington community event (5 December 2017) from 2pm to 3pm. The event enabled these children, and their teachers, to learn about electricity and then about how a project like the proposed development is designed and built. The photos from the day are included in Appendix 6.17 (**DCO Document 5.1.6**).
- 6.6.44 The second event was at Walford Agricultural College on Thursday 15 February 2018 at 9.30am to a class of first year higher education students studying countryside management and agricultural science. SP Manweb presented information on the environmental surveys and assessments carried out to inform the proposed design and how this relies upon the cooperation of local land owners and farmers. Appendix 6.18 (**DCO Document 5.1.6**) shows images of this event.

6.7 ACCOUNT OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION

- 6.7.1 SP Manweb considers that it carried out a successful s47 community consultation. As set out in this chapter, the consultation was compliant with its published SoCC and met all statutory requirements under the Act as well as Government guidance and PINS Advice Notes.
- 6.7.2 The activities SP Manweb carried out to publicise the consultation generated interest from the local community, as evidenced by attendance at community events and in feedback provided during the consultation.
- 6.7.3 A number of members of the local community provided comments as part of the statutory consultation under s47. These comments were considered by SP Manweb and, where applicable, have led to changes incorporated in the Proposed Development. Details of the feedback received and how SP Manweb has had regard to this feedback is detailed in Chapter 9.

7. PUBLICITY UNDER SECTION 48 OF THE PLANNING ACT

7.1 INTRODUCTION

- 7.1.1 This chapter details SP Manweb's approach to its duty to publicise the proposed application, as required by s48 of the Act.
- 7.1.2 This chapter, alongside Chapters 5, 6 and 9, provide the information required under s37 (7)(a) of the Act.
- 7.1.3 S48 of the Act sets out an applicant's duty to publicise its proposed application. It states:
- (1) The applicant must publicise the proposed application in the prescribed manner.
- (2) Regulations made for the purposes of subsection (1) must, in particular, make provision for publicity under subsection (1) to include a deadline for receipt by the applicant of responses to the publicity.
- 7.1.4 Requirements for publicity under s48 (1) are prescribed in regulation 4 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009, as amended (APFP Regulations).
- 7.1.5 Regulation 4 (2) of the APFP Regulations sets out the requirements for publishing the notice. These consist of two consecutive weeks in a local newspaper circulating in the vicinity in which the proposed development is situated, and once in a national newspaper and once in *the London Gazette*. There are further requirements for developments with an offshore element and for those where the land is in Scotland, but these are not applicable to the proposed development.
- 7.1.6 Regulation 4 (3) of the APFP Regulations details the information that must be included within the notice.

7.2 SECTION 48 NOTICE

- 7.2.1 SP Manweb developed its s48 notice with reference to the relevant parts of the APFP Regulations and relevant DCLG guidance and Planning Inspectorate advice. A copy of the s48 notice can be found in Appendix 3.4 (**DCO Document 5.1.3**).
- 7.2.2 Publicity under s48 was carried out to coincide with the launch of statutory consultation under s42 and 47 of the Act, as advised in the relevant guidance. This allowed consistent consultation dates to be used across all three aspects of the statutory consultation.

7.2.3 The s48 notice (as required by regulation 4 (2) of the APFP Regulations) was published in the following newspapers:

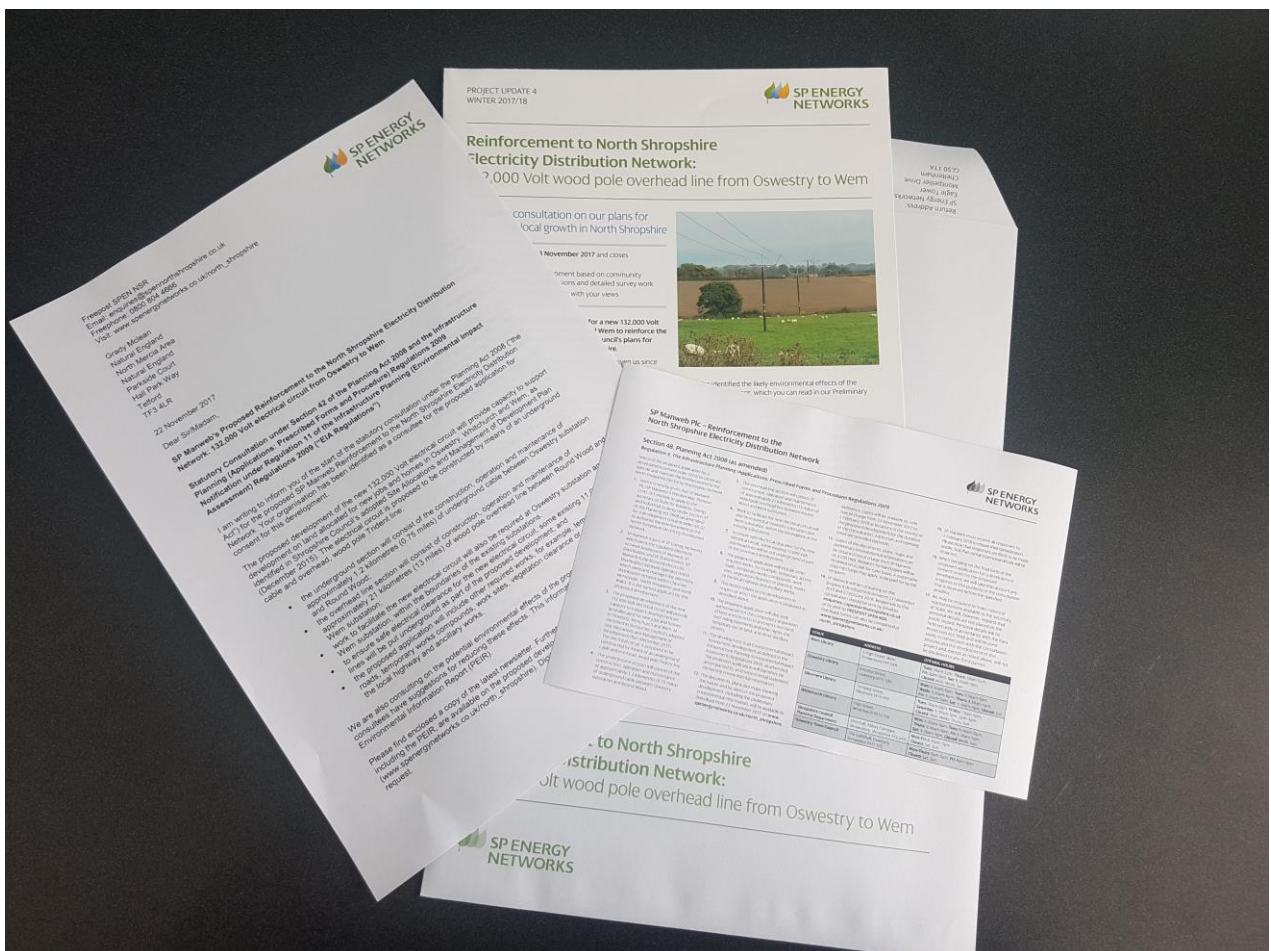
Table 7-1 - Details of the section 48 notices published

Publication	Date of publication
Shropshire Star	23 November 2017
Shropshire Star	30 November 2017
The Guardian	23 November 2017
London Gazette	23 November 2017

7.2.4 Copies of the s48 notice in each publication can be found in Appendix 3.4 (DCO Document 5.1.3).

7.2.5 As the Proposed Development is EIA development, regulation 11 of the EIA Regulations requires consultation bodies to be issued with the s48 notice. SP Manweb included copies of the notice in letters to:

- Prescribed consultees, including community councils and Regulation 9 list consultation bodies (see section 5.2);
- Local authorities under section 43; and
- The Secretary of State (via PINS) under s46.



Above: example correspondence pack sent to relevant EIA bodies, including an enclosed s48 notice

7.3 FEEDBACK IN RESPONSE TO PUBLICITY UNDER SECTION 48

- 7.3.1 SP Manweb did not receive any feedback that could be identified as being specifically submitted as a result of the publicity it carried out as required by s48 of the Act.

7.4 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.4.1 A description of how the requirements of the Act, EIA Regulations and APFP Regulations have been complied with in the preparation for, and carrying out of, s42 consultation is set out in Chapter 3 of this report.
- 7.4.2 SP Manweb published and distributed its s48 notice as set out in the relevant legislation and regulations. The notice contained the required information, including a deadline for comments on the application which coincided with other statutory consultation dates.

8. EIA CONSULTATION

8.1 OVERVIEW

- 8.1.1 Prior to and following the publication of the PEIR, SP Manweb and their environmental consultants, held discussions with stakeholders with regard to the Environmental Impact Assessment, including on the scope of assessment, methodology, assessment findings and the need for mitigation. Further topic specific meetings and one-to-one meetings have been held with stakeholders and prescribed consultees, to inform the more detailed assessment and identification, if appropriate, of measures to mitigate the effects of the proposals.
- 8.1.2 Further details of the consultation and engagement relevant to the EIA are provided in the Environmental Statement (Volume 6 of the application for an order granting Development Consent), and more specifically Chapter 4 'Approach and General Methodology' (**DCO Document 6.4**). Key considerations arising from consultations undertaken are included in each topic chapter (ES Chapters 6-11, **DCO Documents 6.6 – 6.11**).

8.2 EIA SCOPING

- 8.2.1 The Proposed Development falls within Schedule 2 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (the 'EIA Regulations'). These regulations require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out if a project is likely to have significant effects on the environment.
- 8.2.2 SP Manweb formally provided notification under Regulation 6(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that it proposed to provide an ES in respect of the Proposed Development. In the Scoping Opinion (April 2017), the Secretary of State (SoS) confirmed that in accordance with Regulation 4(2)(a) of the EIA Regulations, the Proposed Development was determined to be EIA development.
- 8.2.3 Although the 2009 EIA Regulations have since been superseded by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 ('the 2017 Regulations'), the transitional arrangements for the 2017 Regulations state that the 2009 Regulations continue to apply to projects for which a request for a scoping opinion was submitted prior to the date upon which the 2017 Regulations came into force, which was 16 May 2017. As the request for a scoping opinion was submitted on 6 March 2017, the 2009 Regulations are therefore applicable.
- 8.2.4 A Scoping Opinion was provided by PINS in April 2017. This set out the main potential issues identified at that stage and also addressed those issues which could be scoped-out of the EIA where significant effects were not anticipated. The Scoping Opinion took account of the comments from the numerous prescribed bodies consulted by the SoS.

8.3 EIA CONSULTATION

- 8.3.1 Throughout the non-statutory and statutory consultation process there has been liaison, including meetings, telephone calls and written correspondence, between SP Manweb, its environmental consultants and key stakeholders. Consultation has taken place with Shropshire Council specialists for ecology, landscape and visual amenity, historic environment, water, highways and environmental health. Consultation has also taken place with other prescribed and non-prescribed consultees for topics such as landscape, visual, ecology, historic environment and tourism and the local economy. This engagement has provided advice on baseline conditions and the scope of the assessment.
- 8.3.2 Information about the availability of the Preliminary Environmental Information under Regulation 11 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (as amended) was included in the s48 notice. This was issued to consultation bodies in letters sent to those bodies as prescribed consultees under s42, and as listed in the Regulation 9 List, on 22 November 2017. The PEIR was issued on 20 November 2017 as part of the statutory consultation process as required under the Act. It presented preliminary environmental information which has been incorporated into the ES.
- 8.3.3 The PEIR was made available to all consultees and stakeholders and copies were available at public exhibition events and online. The PEIR was consulted upon and the representations received helped to inform the assessments reported in the ES.
- 8.3.4 The scope of the assessment has been progressively refined subsequent to the issue of the Scoping Report and PEIR. This is in response to comments from consultees, the environmental information resulting from survey or assessment work, and the evolution of the proposed development (see Chapter 2 'Alternatives and Design Evolution' (**DCO Document 6.2**) of the ES. Consultation, through meetings and discussions, with the following prescribed and non-prescribed consultees has taken place throughout the preparation of the ES.
- 8.3.5 Topic specific discussions which have taken place with the following:
- Canal & River Trust
 - Environment Agency
 - Highways England
 - Historic England
 - Marches LEP
 - Meres and Mosses Business Environment Network
 - Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership Scheme
 - Natural England
 - North Shropshire Tourism
 - RSPB
 - Shropshire Council (planning, highways, ecology, environmental health, historic environment and landscape specialists)
 - Shropshire Ornithological Society/County Bird Recorder; and
 - Shropshire Wildlife Trust

- 8.3.6 A number of other organisations have responded in writing to the non-statutory and Statutory Consultation, including:
- Forestry Commission
 - MOD
 - NATS
 - National Grid
 - Public Health England
 - Shropshire Tourism UK Ltd
 - Sleaf Airfield; and
 - Woodland Trust.
- 8.3.7 A number of responses received to the non-statutory and statutory consultation have been in relation to the EIA. The responses received to the statutory consultation are included in the feedback that has been analysed and referred to in Chapter 9 of this report. Responses to the non-statutory consultation are considered in the Stage One Consultation Feedback Report (Appendix 4.1, **DCO Document 5.1.4**). Detailed EIA consultation responses are set out in the individual topic chapters of the ES (Chapters 6 – 11 (**DCO Documents 6.6 – 6.11**)).
- 8.3.8 Feedback from environmental stakeholders and prescribed bodies has helped to inform:
- Assessment methodologies;
 - Management of construction practices;
 - Need for mitigation; and
 - Routeing.

8.4 ONGOING ENGAGEMENT

- 8.4.1 Engagement has been an important theme throughout the EIA process. A variety of methods were used to engage with consultees with an environmental interest. This has included topic specific meetings, one to one meetings with stakeholders and prescribed consultees, and emails to inform and agree detailed assessment and methodology strategies within the ES.
- 8.4.2 Following the ruling (13 April 2018) by the European Court of Justice (Case C323/17 also known as the 'People over Wind' ruling) on Habitats Regulations Assessments, SP Manweb has undertaken further consultation with nature conservation bodies in relation to European designated sites (Natura Sites). The purpose of this was to confirm their responses when considering the potential for 'likely significant effects' on Natura Sites, when considered in the absence of any mitigation which might be considered to be for the purpose of avoiding impacts such sites. SP Manweb has provided a copy of the 'No Significant Effects Report' (**DCO Document 5.4**) to the Natural England and Shropshire Council and is seeking their confirmation.

9. ACCOUNT OF FEEDBACK AND SP MANWEB RESPONSES TO THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION

9.1 INTRODUCTION

- 9.1.1 This chapter explains the process SP Manweb undertook to analyse the feedback received to the statutory consultation under s42 and 47 of the Act (SP Manweb did not receive any feedback that could be identified as being specifically submitted as a result of the publicity it carried out as required by s48).
- 9.1.2 It provides a breakdown of the feedback received, summarises the content of this feedback and how this feedback has been taken into account. This demonstrates how SP Manweb fulfilled its statutory duty to take account of responses to consultation and publicity, pursuant to s49 of the Act.
- 9.1.3 A definition of who SP Manweb consulted under the Act, how SP Manweb identified these groups and how it consulted with these groups at the statutory stage of consultation can be found in Chapter 5 (s42) and Chapter 6 (s47).

9.2 FEEDBACK ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

Logging responses

- 9.2.1 The approach taken to receiving and recording feedback at the statutory stage of consultation followed a similar process to the one that worked successfully during the non-statutory consultation (set out in Chapter 3 of *Stage One Consultation Feedback Report* (Appendix 4.1, **DCO Document 5.1.4**)).
- 9.2.2 When a response was received, SP Manweb identified who had submitted it and whether that response had been submitted by an individual or organisation under s42 or s47. Anyone submitting a response received a standard acknowledgement letter or email (Appendix 9.1, **DCO Document 5.1.7**)
- 9.2.3 The total number of responses from each group were:

Table 9-1 - Responses received in respect of the Planning Act 2008

Category in respect of the Planning Act 2008	Number of responses
Prescribed bodies (s42(1)(a))	16
Local authorities (s42(1)(b) & s43)	3
Those with an interest in land (s42(1)(d) & s43)	22
Local community (s47)	23

- 9.2.4 In some cases, an individual or organisation provided more than one response. In total 13 individuals or organisations responded more than once. Therefore, the 64 responses were received from 51 unique respondents. SP Manweb did not receive any feedback that could be identified as being specifically submitted as a result of the publicity it carried out as required by s48.

- 9.2.5 Details of how feedback could be submitted were included in the community materials and on the proposed development website (see section 6.6). The number of feedback responses received, by method of response, during the statutory consultation was as follows:

Table 9-2 - Methods of response during the statutory consultation

Type	Number of responses
Online feedback form	8
Hard copy feedback form	7
Email (without feedback form)	41
Letter (without feedback form)	8

- 9.2.6 SP Manweb received feedback from the following prescribed bodies (s42) or local authorities:
- Wales & West Utilities
 - Malvern District Council
 - Environment Agency
 - ESP Gas Group
 - Southern Gas Networks
 - Wrexham County Borough Council
 - Historic England
 - Coal Authority
 - Marches LEP
 - Highways England
 - Health and Safety Executive
 - National Grid
 - Shropshire Council Highways
 - Canal & River Trust
 - Public Health England
 - Natural England
 - Shropshire Council

Consultation ID References

- 9.2.7 SP Manweb has used a Consultation ID Reference system to allow responses from the local community or those with an interest in land to be tracked throughout the consultation. This system allows SP Manweb to publish anonymised responses and has been used for responses from the local community (s47) and those with an interest in land (s44).
- 9.2.8 The first time an individual provided a response, the individual was given a unique Consultation ID Reference. Any subsequent responses were logged against this same Consultation ID Reference.
- 9.2.9 From the launch of the first stage of consultation on 29 June 2016 to the close of statutory consultation on 2 February 2018, a total of 89 Consultation ID References have been created for members of the local community or those with an interest in land.

- 9.2.10 Of these 89 Consultation ID References, at the statutory consultation:
- 16 new Consultation ID References were created
 - 18 Consultation ID References that had been assigned at an earlier stage engaged again with the project
 - Therefore, 55 Consultation ID References who had participated at an earlier stage, did not see a need to respond
- 9.2.11 It should be noted that prescribed bodies and local authorities have not been assigned a Consultation ID as these responses do not need to be anonymised.

Framework for recording responses

- 9.2.12 DCLG's *Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process* advises that the report should 'set out a summary of relevant responses to consultation (but not a complete list of responses)'. SP Manweb developed an approach to recording and summarising responses received to the statutory consultation. This process is described in section 8.2 and a summary of the responses is available in section 8.3.
- 9.2.13 The 64 responses received to the statutory consultation ranged from statements of support or objections to the Proposed Development, to more detailed responses that raised a number of themes. In seeing if there were ways to improve the proposed development as a result of feedback, SP Manweb has had regard to each individual response received.
- 9.2.14 For the purposes of this report, SP Manweb has undertaken a process of review and analysis to summarise the responses received. This helps identify the key themes and issues that were raised during the consultation and allows SP Manweb to explain how it has had regard to these.
- 9.2.15 For the purposes of the statutory consultation, SP Manweb provided a feedback form. This was designed to encourage people to provide feedback in relation to the aspects of the proposals SP Manweb was consulting on but also to provide wider feedback in relation to the entirety of the proposed development.
- 9.2.16 While the majority of those who responded did not use the feedback form, SP Manweb considered the general structure of the questions represented broad categories that covered distinct aspects of the proposed development. It therefore considered that these broad categories provided a suitable framework for grouping and presenting feedback.

9.2.17 As noted in section 6.6, the feedback form set out five questions. Each question covered a different aspect of the proposed development:

- **Question 1:** *we are proposing an underground cable between Oswestry substation and Round Wood and an overhead wood pole Trident line between Round Wood and Wem substation. Do you have any comments on these plans? For example, any effects on factors such as ecology, cultural heritage or properties, or the location of the wood pole overhead line.*
- **Question 2:** *we've looked carefully at ways of reducing the number of vehicle movements and effects on the local road network during construction. Do you have any comments on our outline construction plan and temporary works?*
- **Question 3:** *on we'll need to carry out some associated construction works. For example, we're proposing to put short sections of existing lower voltage lines underground where the proposed wood pole Trident line would be too close to them. We may also have to carry out some vegetation clearance, or similar enabling works, to allow us to construct the proposed development. Do you have any comments on our associated construction works?*
- **Question 4:** *the preferred line route has developed as the result of several stages of work over the last two years, including choosing where to reinforce the network, identifying route corridors and considering line route options. Do you have any comments on our previous work and how the preferred line route has developed?*
- **Question 5:** *do you have any other comments about the proposed development, our consultation or the information we have made available for this consultation?*

Recording responses

9.2.18 SP Manweb reviewed each of the 64 'responses' and broke it down to individual elements on specific themes or issues. These individual elements are referred to as 'comments'.

9.2.19 After each response had been broken down to its comments, these comments were recorded against the feedback form question they corresponded to. These comments were logged against the Consultation ID Reference (see section 8.2.7) of the relevant respondent (where applicable, see section 8.2.11).

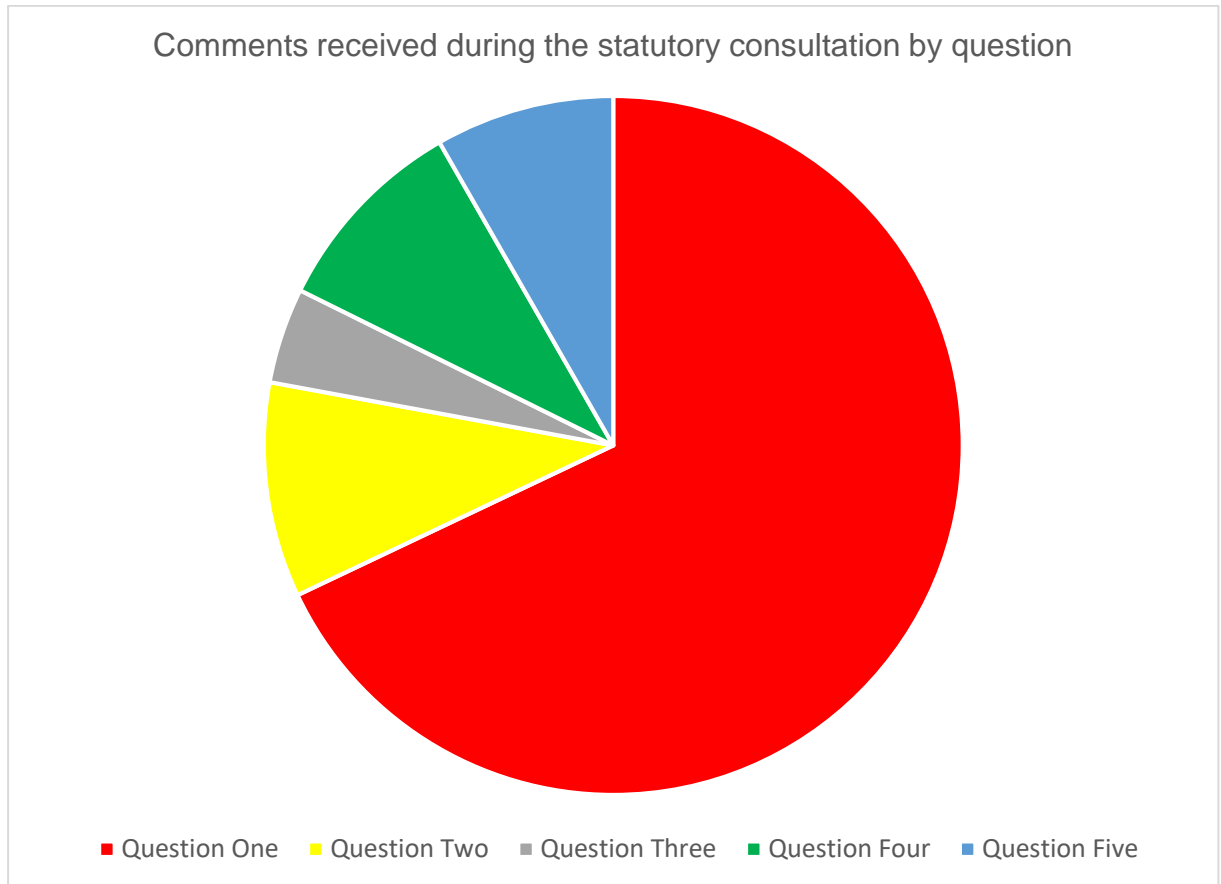
9.2.20 Where applicable, these comments were further grouped by section of the proposed development they referred to, to help understand the comments in their geographical context. Figure 9-1 (**DCO Document 5.1.9**) shows the sections used to group these comments:

- Section One – Round Wood to Rednal Mill
- Section Two – Rednal Mill to north of Bagley
- Section Three – north of Bagley to north of Burlton
- Section Four – north of Burlton to Wem

9.2.21 In summary, there were 182 comments raised in 64 responses by 51 unique respondents.

9.2.22 Having analysed the responses, the comments received during the statutory consultation broken down in terms of the five questions asked in the feedback form are shown below:

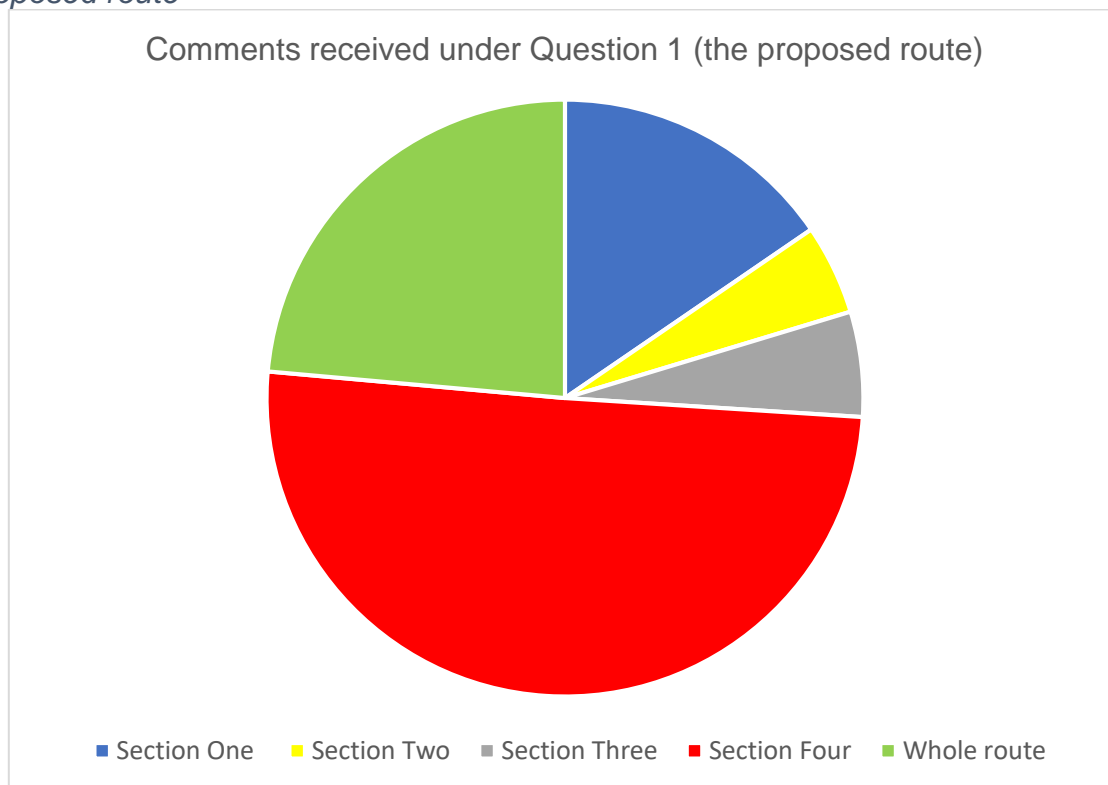
Table 9-3 - Breakdown of comments received by question



9.2.23 The obvious outcome is that over half of the comments received were in response to Question 1 which sought feedback on the proposed route. It should be noted that these responses include a number of comments expressing support for the line route as well as those objecting.

9.2.24 Over half the comments received under Question 1 related to section four (see above and figure 9-1 (**DCO Document 5.1.9**)) of the proposed development. This is broadly reflective of the engagement SP Manweb has had through its consultation process. Comments received about the proposed route (Question 1) broke down as follows in relation to sections of the proposed route:

Table 9-4 - Breakdown of comments received under Question 1 which related to the proposed route



Face-to-face feedback

9.2.25 Details of the public exhibitions held during the statutory consultation can be found in Chapter 6. Attendees were able to view information and ask the SP Manweb team questions about the proposed development. The face-to-face feedback received at these events was in addition to feedback forms and other written feedback. Summaries of these events and the face-to-face feedback received can be found in Appendix 9.2 (**DCO Document 5.1.7**).

9.2.26 The face-to-face feedback received during the events included enquiries seeking more information or comments on the proposed development. In the small number of cases where feedback relating to the proposed development was received face-to-face but not subsequently in written form, this has been addressed in the same manner as written feedback in the recorded feedback.

9.3 RESPONSES TO THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION UNDER S42, S47 AND S48 AND HOW SP MANWEB HAS HAD REGARD TO THEM

- Approach to summarising the responses and SP Manweb's response
- 9.3.1 The responses to the statutory consultation are set out below in relation to how they have been categorised with respect to the consultation questions and route sections as described in section 9.2:
- Tables 9-5 to 9-9 address responses to Question One in Sections One to Section Four;
 - Table 9-10 address responses to Question One relating to the whole of the route;
 - Tables 9-11 to 9-13 address responses to Question 2 in relation to each section (no responses to Question 2 for Section 2 were received)
 - Table 9-14 address responses to Question 2 in relation to the whole route;
 - Table 9-15 address responses to Question 3 (only responses in relation to Section Four were received);
 - Table 9-16 addresses responses to Question Four; and
 - Table 9-17 addresses responses to Question Five.
- 9.3.2 The responses have been listed in terms of those comments received from prescribed bodies as part of the s42 consultation, those with an interest in land under s44 and then comments from people consulted on the proposed development under s47.
- 9.3.3 For ease of reference, comments have been colour-coded to help identify whether they suggested a change to the design of the proposed development:
- **Yellow** – indicates the comment did not suggest a change to the design of the proposed development
 - **Green** – indicates that the comment suggested a change to the design of the proposed development and this was either accepted outright or accepted for further consultation or discussion with landowners
 - **Orange** – indicates that the comment suggested a change to the design of the proposed development but was not accepted by SP Manweb. In these situations, the final column explains how SP Manweb has had regard to the comment and why it was not accepted.
- 9.3.4 Where a prescribed body has commented, then the name of the body is stated. Where the comment is from someone with an interest in the land or from someone in the local community then this is identified by the ID references that have been assigned to that person (see section 9.2).
- 9.3.5 For Tables 9.5 to 9.9 in relation to Question 1, there is an added column which notes whether the response included a suggested change to the proposed 132kV underground cable or to the overhead line route.
- 9.3.6 Where a respondent has commented on different questions, their comments are summarised under the relevant consultation question such that they appear in different places in the tables below.
- 9.3.7 The SP Manweb response column indicates how the comment has been considered and refers to an outcome where relevant.

9.3.8 Some of the comments express support for the proposed development and where this is the case this is noted.

Suggested Changes

9.3.9 Of the feedback in relation to Question 1, a number of comments suggested changes to the proposed 132kV overhead line route. How SP Manweb has had regard to these responses is set out in this section below.

9.3.10 In response to comments received in Question 1, SP Manweb considered the technical design aspects and prepared an alternative 'buildable' line design to reflect each of the suggested changes. These alternatives have then been assessed by SP Manweb. Each comment was assessed having regard to whether the suggested change had been considered previously. Where this has been the case, SP Manweb has reflected on the reasons set out for not accepting the change previously. Where those reasons are considered to still be relevant, then this is stated as the reason for not accepting the suggested change.

9.3.11 For any new suggested changes, the assessment considered the following:

- the likely environmental impacts, comprising landscape and visual impacts, ecological impacts and heritage impacts, having regard to survey information and desk top assessments of existing features;
- the impacts in terms of removing, reducing or adding land interests affected by the suggested change;
- whether the suggested alternative is relevant to and addresses any other comments made in feedback received.

9.3.12 Having considered the above, SP Manweb has formed a view as to whether the suggested changes would benefit the project design by reducing environmental impacts, local concerns and/or overall impacts on persons with an interest in land affected by the proposed development.

9.3.13 The SP Manweb response in relation to whether these changes should be made is set out below in the 'response' column.

9.3.14 Some of these changes to the overhead line route affect other aspects of the proposed development such as lower voltage diversions and construction accesses. Where this is the case, these changes are included in the assessment of the overhead line route change considered.

9.3.15 In addition to comments relating to the suggested overhead line changes, comments have also been received from persons with an interest in land affected by the proposed construction access routes. Where this is the case, these are indicated in the tables below with reference to a SP Manweb response. As with the suggested overhead line changes, these have also been assessed having regard to likely environmental and technical suitability.

9.3.16 Chapter 10 outlines a description of those changes that SP Manweb has made to the proposed development.

9.3.17 Where SP Manweb has made a change as a result of relevant responses to the statutory consultation, SP Manweb has carried out further consultation. The approach to and the outcome from this further consultation is referred to in Chapter 10.

Table 9-5 - Comments and SP Manweb Responses in relation to Question One in Section One of the preferred line route

From prescribed bodies or relevant local authorities (s42(1)(a), s42(1)(b) & s43)			
Organisation	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
Wales and West Utilities	Yes – change accepted	Provided the location of an asset close to the Proposed Development.	The location of the asset has been noted and the proposed route of the 132kV underground cable slightly widened to minimise potential impacts by allowing sufficient space within the order limits to be located either between the A5(T) and gas pipeline or beyond the gas pipeline (see Chapter 10 and Sheet 1 in the Revised Draft Works Plans April 2018 (see Appendix 10.1 (DCO Document 5.1.8) to this Report)). Excavation at this location would be covered by a method statement to ensure safe working.
Highways England	No	The underground cable under the A5(T) and any amendments to the access off the A5(T) will require HE’s technical approval and either further design detail should be provided or the draft DCO worded to reflect approval is needed prior to works commencing.	Noted that works relating to the installation of the underground cable across the A5(T) would need technical approval from HE. SP Manweb have set out their approach to the A5 crossing in the Construction Report (DCO Document Ref 7.2).

			In terms of the proposed location, usage and design of the access off the A5(T), following subsequent discussions between SP Manweb and HE, it has been agreed that temporary traffic signage along this section of the A5(T), identifying the construction access, would be an acceptable form of mitigation for HE.
Organisation	Design Change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
Canal & River Trust	Yes – change not accepted	<p>Noted the ‘Preliminary Environmental Report’ stated that there is considered to be no justification for the undergrounding of the entire line. Asks for clarification of the assessment undertaken in determining whether the benefits of undergrounding the particular section of the line across the canal (as opposed to the entire line) outweigh the impacts of the current proposals.</p> <p>Noted that the proposed development crosses the Montgomery Canal once and acknowledged that SP Manweb had amended the alignment of the crossing following earlier consultation with the Canal & River Trust.</p>	<p>SP Manweb has given special consideration to the Canal & River Trust’s proposals and further details can be found in Appendix 1 of the Planning Statement (DCO Document Ref 7.1). The reasons set out in that document concluded that the benefits of undergrounding would not clearly outweigh the disbenefits.</p> <p>Noted that the Canal & River Trust has acknowledged earlier discussions to amend the section crossing the canal.</p>

		<p>Trident wood pole was the most appropriate technology for the proposed development and poles should be sited as far from the canal as possible and any impacts on the canal and its users need to be fully identified and addressed within the Development Consent Order.</p> <p>Asked for clarification of any tree removal near pole no.38 and requested suitable mitigation measures if any is required.</p> <p>Stated the height of the overhead lines over the canal must be sufficient to ensure that access along the towpath to carry out essential maintenance and repair of the canal infrastructure is not restricted. It must also be sufficient to ensure that boaters, towpath users, anglers and wildlife are not adversely affected.</p> <p>Stated that the proposed development will require a localised 'no fishing' safety restriction and anglers will need to be advised of the power lines via measures such as totem posts with 'no fishing' signs on them installed on the towpath. Any submission should provide details on the provision, installation</p>	<p>Potential effects on the canal are identified within the landscape, visual, ecology, historic environment and socio-economic assessments which are included within the Environmental Statement that will be submitted as part of the application for a DCO.</p> <p>Pole 38 is 15 metres from the edge of the canal waterway and 8 metres from the bottom of the bank on the opposite side of the ditch that runs parallel to the embankment. The ditch is approximately 6 metres wide.</p> <p>There will be 10m of vertical clearance over the canal.</p> <p>Signage for anglers and bird diverters being fitted to avoid bird strikes are noted and are included in the Construction Environmental Management Plan</p>
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		<p>and future maintenance of this safety warning signage.</p> <p>Noted SP Manweb had recognised a section of the Montgomery Canal is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Stated that although the canal is designated primarily for aquatic wildlife, it is also important as a flight line for birds and bats. Requested that measures are put in place to reduce the chance of 'bird strike'.</p>	(CEMP) (DCO Document Ref 6.3.2).
From those with an Interest in land (s42(1)(d) & s44)			
Con ID ref	Design Change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
70	No	<p>Questioned why the route had changed on their land and noted that it had now moved from an unfarmed field to an arable field.</p> <p>Noted that the change in route from that published in May 2017 means that the proposed development now crossed the River Perry twice, and raised local wildlife that use the river should be considered.</p> <p>Suggested that the changes to the preferred route meant that it was now in close proximity to several houses.</p>	<p>Refer to SP Manweb response to Con ID ref 73 below in terms of the proposed change to the line route following the statutory consultation (see also Chapter 10).</p> <p>In terms of the comments in relation to the route published in May 2017, reference should be made to Section 3.2 in the Updated Line Route Report 2</p>

			<p>November 2017 (DCO Document Ref 7.10) which sets out how SP Manweb considered the Woodhouse Option (the green option). This concluded that, with appropriate mitigation, in terms of likely landscape and visual, ecological and heritage impacts, on balance there would not be any difference to the previous option.</p> <p>Although the route is closer to a small number of properties the effects on the residential visual amenity would not be significant other than at Lower Lees Farm.</p> <p>In addition, the Woodhouse Option is substantially within one land ownership.</p>
73	Yes – change accepted for further consultation	Landowner requested change as too close to her property	As explained in response to ID 70 above, SP Manweb has prepared an alternative option based on this feedback (referred to as Rednal Mill). This alternative has been considered having regard to the impacts on the environment in terms of the likely landscape and visual, ecological and heritage effects

			<p>together with land interests affected.</p> <p>In terms of likely environmental impacts, there is a preference for the alternative as it would reduce the significance of the effects on residential amenity at Misty Meadows, the property diagonally to the north, as assessed in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report.</p> <p>In terms of the impacts on land interests, the alternative reflects the concerns of the land interest responsible for the comment, as it moves the overhead line slightly further from the property. A new interest is marginally affected by stays on the edge of their land.</p> <p>As their infrastructure is on the boundary between Section 1 and Section 2 the alternative also addresses a comment made by National Grid about the crossing of the existing 400kV overhead line in that the 132kV wood pole would be further from the nearest</p>
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			<p>400kV pylon which increases the clearance distances between the existing 400kV overhead line and the proposed 132kV overhead line.</p> <p>The alternative also addresses the comment made by Con ID ref 72 (below) which was to underground the existing 11kV near their property.</p> <p>For the above reasons, SP Manweb has accepted that the alternative line design should be considered and be the subject of further consultation (see below in Chapter 10).</p>
88	Yes – change accepted for further consultation	Landowner suggested alternative construction access route which they considered was better suited to the type of construction vehicles across their land thereby reducing the impact on their farmhouse and farming operations.	<p>Proposed change to the access is environmentally and technically acceptable and also assists with working positively with this landowner at this location.</p> <p>For the above reasons, SP Manweb has accepted that the alternative access arrangement should be considered and be the subject of further consultation (see below in Chapter 10).</p>

22	Yes – change accepted for further consultation	Landowner suggested alternative construction access route which they considered was better suited to the type of construction vehicles across their land.	<p>Proposed change to the access is environmentally and technically acceptable and also assists with working positively with this landowner at this location.</p> <p>For the above reasons, SP Manweb has accepted that the alternative access arrangement should be considered and be the subject of further consultation (see below in Chapter 10).</p>
From the local community (s47)			
Con ID ref	Design Change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
72	No	Concerns about impact on wildlife using a river near their property. This included birds such as kingfishers, heron, yellow wagtails and moorhens, as well as otters.	Potential impacts on birds and other species has been considered and reported in Chapter 7 of the ES 'Ecology and Biodiversity' (DCO Document 6.7) and in the 'Ornithology Report' (Appendix 7.5 to the ES (DCO Document 6.7.5)). No significant effects on birds have been identified.
72	No	Concerns about negative impacts on property values because of the proximity of the Proposed Development.	There are already existing high voltage lines (including a 400kV OHL) nearby.

			<p>The proposals for the Reinforcement to the North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network were already in the public domain at the time SP Manweb understands that the property was purchased by the current owner.</p> <p>The property has been considered within the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment that is included within the ES (Appendix 6.5 (DCO Document 6.6.5)). The effects have been assessed as minor adverse (not significant).</p>
72	Yes – pole moved as a result of additional feedback	Prefer pole 52 to be moved using existing trees to obscure it from property.	<p>Although not as a result of this feedback Pole 52 has moved in the context of the comment made by Con ID ref 73. SP Manweb considers that this alternative also addresses this feedback.</p> <p>SP Manweb accepted that the alternative line design should be considered and be the subject of further consultation (see below in Chapter 10).</p>

87	No	On behalf of the Montgomery Waterways Restoration Trust, confirmed it does not object to the proposed development.	No objections noted and no further response necessary.
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Table 9-6 - Comments and SP Manweb Responses in relation to Question One in Section Two of the preferred line route

From prescribed bodies or relevant local authorities (s42(1)(a), s42(1)(b) & s43)			
Organisation	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
National Grid	Yes – change accepted for further consultation	<p>Raised concerns about the proximity of the proposed development where it crosses beneath the existing 400kV overhead line</p> <p>Noted its preferred option would be for the proposed development to be placed underground where it passes under the existing 400kV overhead line. However, it noted that if appropriate clearances would allow future National Grid work it could be agreeable to it being overhead.</p> <p>Requested further discussion on the subject.</p>	<p>Following receipt of the NG comments, SP Manweb has discussed the matter of the clearance distances of the proposed 132kV overhead line crossing the existing 400kV overhead line further with National Grid and reviewed the overhead line design; this review being part of the Rednal Mill change (see response to Con ID ref 73 below). The alternative line design where it crosses the NG 400kV line has been discussed further with NG and they have confirmed their acceptance of the revised overhead design.</p> <p>SP Manweb accepted that the alternative line design should be considered and be the subject of further consultation (see below in Chapter 10).</p>
From those with an Interest in land (s42(1)(d) & s44)			
Con ID ref	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
75	No	Noted the description of their property in Updated Line Report 2 as having good visual connection with the landscape and	The reasons for identifying the Lower Hordley option as presented at the statutory consultation stage are set out in Section 3.3

		<p>high sensitivity to change. They asked why the report concluded there would be no significant impact from the Proposed Development near Lower Hordley.</p> <p>Suggested an amendment to the preferred line route.</p>	<p>in the Updated Line Route Report 2 November 2017 (DCO Document 7.11). Para 3.3.21 in the summary section explains that the preference is based on the outcome of environmental work and landowner discussions.</p> <p>The report, in para 3.3.8, notes that views from the property are at a distance of over 200m from the proposed overhead line and with intervening trees and hedgerows, the visual effects are not significant.</p> <p>As explained above, SP Manweb has prepared an alternative line design based on the suggested change, which is referred to as Lower Hordley, and then assessed this alternative having regard to the impacts on the environment in terms of the likely landscape and visual, ecological and heritage effects together with land interests affected.</p> <p>This is not an alternative that has been considered previously.</p> <p>In terms of likely environmental impacts, and based on survey data, the alternative is marginally less preferred in landscape and visual terms as it would be a longer route and slightly closer to Dandyford Farm, and there is no preference either way in ecology</p>
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			<p>or heritage terms. Overall, none of these slight differences change the level of likely environmental effect.</p> <p>In terms of the impacts on land interests, the alternative reflects the concerns of the land interest responsible for the comment although there is a new land interest slightly affected by the alternative.</p> <p>SP Manweb accepted that the alternative line design should be considered and be the subject of further consultation (see below in Chapter 10).</p>
75	Yes – change accepted for further consultation	Landowner suggested preferred construction access routes through their farm	<p>Proposed change to the access is environmentally and technically acceptable and also assists with working positively with this landowner at this location.</p> <p>For the above reasons, SP Manweb has accepted that the alternative access arrangement should be considered and be the subject of further consultation (see below in Chapter 10).</p>

Table 9-7 - Comments and SP Manweb Responses in relation to Question One in Section Three of the preferred line route

From those with an interest in land (s42(1)(d) & s44)			
Con ID ref	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
11	Yes – change accepted for further consultation	Landowner suggested preferred construction access routes through their farm	<p>Proposed change to the access is environmentally and technically acceptable and also assists with working positively with this landowner at this location.</p> <p>For the above reasons, SP Manweb has accepted that the alternative access arrangement should be considered and be the subject of further consultation (see below in Chapter 10).</p>
37	Yes – change not accepted	Suggested a change to poles 125-126. They requested the line should be moved to the alignment used in May 2017 or south of a small woodland nearby.	<p>As explained above, SP Manweb has prepared an alternative line design based on the suggested change, which is referred to as Coppice Farm, and then assessed this alternative having regard to the impacts on the environment in terms of the likely landscape and visual, ecological and heritage effects together with land interests affected.</p> <p>This is not an alternative that has been considered previously.</p> <p>In terms of likely environmental impacts, the alternative is marginally less preferred</p>

			<p>in landscape and visual and heritage terms and there is no preference either way in ecology terms. Overall, none of these slight differences change the level of likely environmental effect.</p> <p>In terms of the impacts on land interests, the alternative reflects the concerns of the land interest responsible for the comment although there is a new land interest affected.</p> <p>On balance, SP Manweb considers that there is no need to amend the proposed line route and impact on a new landowner where there is no benefit in environmental terms.</p> <p>For the above reasons, SP Manweb has not accepted that the alternative line design should be considered as a proposed change.</p>
44	Yes – change not accepted	Concerned that the preferred route would be visible above the skyline from Cockshutt and noted that they believed residents and the Parish Council had raised concerns about this at earlier consultations.	<p>Comments on previous iterations of the line route were considered and are as set out in previous documents including the Updated Line Route Report (November 2016) (DCO Document 7.10).</p> <p>SP Manweb has prepared an alternative line design based on the suggested</p>

		<p>Stated that they supported the general principles of the proposed development but felt that the current route would limit commercial opportunities on their land.</p> <p>Suggested an amendment to the preferred line route.</p>	<p>change, which is referred to as Stanwardine, and has then assessed this alternative having regard to the impacts on the environment in terms of the likely landscape and visual, ecological and heritage effects together with land interests affected.</p> <p>This is not an alternative that has been considered previously.</p> <p>Based on this assessment, in terms of likely environmental impacts, the alternative is less preferable because, with the existing lower voltage overhead lines in close proximity, it would increase the likely effects on residential visual amenity at Stonehill and Highfields. There are no overall benefits or disbenefits from an ecology and heritage perspective. Overall, the alternative is not preferred.</p> <p>In terms of the impacts on land interests, the alternative reflects the concerns of the land interest responsible for the comment although there would be a new land interest affected by both a section of overhead line and poles.</p> <p>For the above reasons, SP Manweb has not accepted that the alternative line design</p>
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			should be considered as a proposed change.
From the local community (s47)			
Con ID ref	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
32	Yes – change not accepted	Suggested a location change to pole 124. They suggested moving pole 124 further north, with a line running straight between pole 117 and pole 124. This would move pole 124 further from their property	<p>The suggested change, which is near Malt Kiln Farm, has previously been considered in earlier pre-application consultation.</p> <p>They have previously suggested moving the line route further to the north. A similar option was discounted in the Updated Line Route Report (November 2016) (DCO Document ref 7.10) (see Section 3) as it would have positioned the line route closer to neighbouring properties, Coppice Farm and Runners Rest.</p> <p>In response to a subsequent suggestion, SP Manweb’s view is that as this would involve placing additional pole on land owned by the directly affected landowners, who from earlier discussions with SP Manweb would not find this to be an acceptable route. Furthermore, the suggested option does not change the likely significant effects on visual amenity.</p>

			<p>The Proposed Development positions the line route behind the well treed hedgerow along the intervening field boundary. Whilst SP Manweb accepts that this results in likely significant visual effects in this area and on the setting of the listed building, in balancing this outcome with the need to also work with the affected land interests in securing necessary land rights for the project, SP Manweb considers this is a reasonable position and has not accepted the suggested change.</p> <p>For the above reasons, SP Manweb has not accepted that the alternative line design should be included as a proposed change.</p>
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Table 9-8 - Comments and SP Manweb responses in relation to Question One in Section Four of the preferred line route

From prescribed bodies or relevant local authorities (s42(1)(a), s42(1)(b) & s43)			
Con ID ref	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
Environment Agency	Yes – change accepted for further consultation	<p>Object to the poles being directly on the flood bank crest or river face because:</p> <p>(1) the installation of the pole may affect the integrity of the flood bank</p> <p>(2) the EA carry out routine maintenance along the flood bank using large machinery and the pole would cause an additional hazard as well as restricting their access along the bank given that the access route is limited to approximately 3000mm along the crest</p> <p>(3) if the pole were to be positioned on the bank then SP Manweb would need access along the EA’s flood bank to install it which would involve using heavy machinery which has the potential to damage the flood bank by creating rutting and the lowering of the crest level</p> <p>(4) presuming that if the pole is on the bank then SP Manweb will require access to maintain the pole, which again may entail 4x4 vehicles and machinery travelling along the bank which may also result in damage to the bank.</p>	<p>As explained above, SP Manweb has prepared an alternative line design based on this comment, which is referred to as River Roden, and then assessed this alternative having regard to the impacts on the environment in terms of the likely landscape and visual, ecological and heritage effects together with land interests affected.</p> <p>This is not an alternative that has been considered previously.</p> <p>The alternative would avoid damaging the river bank, increases the distance between the closest properties and avoids removing a large mature oak tree to the north of Commonwood Farm.</p> <p>In terms of the impacts on land interests, the alternative reflects the concerns of the land interest</p>

			<p>responsible for the comment and no new land interests would be affected.</p> <p>In considering this alternative, SP Manweb has also had regard to the comment made under Con ID ref 74 (see below) which expressed concern about visual impacts. In reviewing the line design close to the River Roden, SP Manweb now proposes to position the line to the north of a large mature tree which partly screens the line from the nearby property which it considers reduces impacts.</p> <p>For the above reasons, SP Manweb accepted that the alternative line design should be considered and be the subject of further consultation (see below in Chapter 10).</p>
Environment Agency	No	The Environment Agency also made a number of specific comments / observations relating to groundwater, ecology and flood risk	Specific comments relating to ecology and groundwater and flood risk have been addressed in chapters 7 and 9 respectively the ES (DCO Documents 6.7 and 6.9). Standard best practice construction techniques that will

			be adopted are set out in the draft CEMP (DCO Document 6.3.2).
Shropshire Council	No	The Council recognises that there has been some local concern over the choice of route option around the village of Noneley. This response reiterates previous officer comments which conclude that there is a marginal preference for the northern route option, which is currently favoured by SP Manweb;	Noted support for SP Manweb DCO.
From those with an interest in land (s42(1)(d) & s44)			
Con ID ref	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
5	No	Expressed support for the preferred route, particularly as it keeps away from Sleaf Airfield.	Support noted
5	Yes – change accepted for further consultation	Landowner suggested preferred construction access routes through their farm	Proposed change to the access is environmentally and technically acceptable and also assists with working positively with this landowner at this location. For the above reasons, SP Manweb has accepted that the alternative access arrangement should be considered and be the subject of further consultation (see below in Chapter 10).

<p>50</p>	<p>Yes – change not accepted</p>	<p>Initial representations covered the following and Expressed support for the previously proposed southern route at Noneley (May 2017), stating it was more direct and had fewer angles.</p> <p>Questioned the comparison of Grade II listed buildings in the area. It was their view that the northern route around Noneley impacted a Grade II listed building more than the southern route impacts a separate Grade II listed building.</p> <p>Preferred line route is on higher ground than the previous southern route around Noneley. They believe this contradicts SP Manweb’s stated opinion in technical materials that mature trees could be used to screen the preferred line route. They also suggested there are suitable trees for screening on the southern route.</p> <p>Believed that the presence of Sleaf Airfield and associated flight patterns provides a justification for the previous southern route around Noneley.</p> <p>Questioned how SP Manweb can find their property has ‘the highest assessed effects’ but still continue with the choice of preferred line route.</p>	<p>The Updated Line Route Report 2 (November 2017) (DCO Document ref 7.11) concluded that the northern option was marginally preferable to the southern option.</p> <p>The report explains that, while landscape impacts were similar, on the southern option they would spread over a wider area across an existing open landscape. In terms of impacts on cultural heritage, there was no preference for either route in terms of limiting impacts on the historic environment, with both routes performing equally well.</p> <p>Section 3.4 in the Updated Line Route Report 2 November 2017 (DCO Document ref 7.11) sets out how SP Manweb considered the southern and northern options around Noneley. This included (para 3.4.81) consideration of the proximity of the operational Sleaf Airfield. This was not a determining factor in the preference for the northern option.</p>
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50	No	Noted they had been advised of the presence of Great Crested Newts on their property.	Great Crested Newts are present in ponds to the north and west of the line so this does not present any new constraint. Their presence has been taken into account in assessment work which is presented in the ES (DCO Document 6.7).
50	No	Suggested that past bird strikes had caused a loss of electricity in the area and the Proposed Development would increase this.	<p>Potential impacts on birds have been considered and reported on in the ES (DCO Document 6.7).</p> <p>With regard to comments relating to the nearby reservoir, and the presence of birds, this would not materially increase the risk of strikes such that population level effects would result – all waterbodies in the area support birds to some extent, but the area is not a significant goose or waterfowl flight route. Given the outcome of the assessment, bird diverters are not considered necessary.</p>
50	No	Noted the historical importance of their property to the local area, with the context of the site found in very few other locations in the country.	The assessment of effects on listed buildings is presented in the ES (DCO Document 6.8).

50	No	Requested that the existing 33kV overhead line should be put underground.	<p>The Updated Line Route Report (November 2016) (DCO Document 7.10) concluded that the northern option (which was closer to the existing 33kV overhead line) was marginally preferable to the southern option.</p> <p>Existing lower voltage overhead lines are being undergrounded where necessary for technical reasons. This particular overhead line can be operated safely with the new 132kV overhead line in place.</p>
50	Yes – change accepted for further consultation	Following initial feedback (above), subsequent representations suggested that the proposed 132kV overhead line be moved further from the property and included a suggestion for an alternative line route.	<p>SP Manweb has prepared an alternative line design based on the suggested change, which is referred to as Bentley Farm & The Shayes, and then assessed this alternative having regard to the impacts on the environment in terms of the likely landscape and visual, ecological and heritage effects together with land interests affected.</p> <p>This is not an alternative that has been considered previously.</p>

			<p>In terms of likely environmental impacts and based on survey data, there is a slight preference for the alternative in terms of the Historic Environment due to increased distance from the listed property.</p> <p>In terms of the impacts on land interests, the alternative reflects the concerns of the land interests in the area (see Con ID ref 86 below) and incorporates a suggestion made by them as well as those made by the person responsible for the comment.</p> <p>For the above reasons, SP Manweb accepted that the alternative line design should be considered and be the subject of further consultation (see below in Chapter 10).</p>
59	Yes – change accepted for further consultation	<p>Requested a change that would move the preferred line south east as far as possible, to take advantage of the existing tree line.</p> <p>Expressed support for the previous southern route at Noneley, stating it was more direct and had fewer angles.</p>	<p>This suggested change has been considered in the context of the comment made by Con ID ref 50. The SP Manweb response above therefore responds to this comment.</p>

			The reasons for discounting the southern route at Noneley are set out in the Updated Line Route Report 2 November 2017 (DCO Document 7.10).
86	No	Aware of a small adjustment to the route near their property to which no objection is raised.	Noted. Refer to SP Manweb response to Con ref ID 50 above in terms of the revised line route.
86	No	Generally, objects to the northern route as the preferred route is on higher land when compared to the southern route and effects on views from their property to the Grade I listed St Michael and All Angels Church in Loppington.	In terms of the comments in relating to the northern route, Section 3.4 in the Updated Line Route Report 2 November 2017 (DCO Document 7.10) sets out how SP Manweb considered the southern and northern options around Noneley. This includes taking account of visual and heritage impacts, including of the church.
69	No	Expressed support for the previous southern route at Noneley. The landowner stated that the proposed development was within 150 metres of their house and raised concerns over impacts on property prices.	Section 3.4 in the Updated Line Route Report 2 November 2017 (DCO Document 7.11) sets out how SP Manweb considered the southern and northern options around Noneley.

			SP Manweb is not aware of any evidence regarding impacts on property prices.
69	No	<p>Noted a nearby reservoir that was used by swans and Canadian Geese. They suggested that past bird strikes had caused a loss of electricity in the area and the proposed development would increase this.</p> <p>Noted that the Updated Line Route Report 2 states there will be 'unavoidable loss of hedgerow trees' as a result of the Noneley North option, but that this option is preferred because the landscape of Noneley South is flat and open. The landowner suggests that Noneley South should be preferred as this has fewer trees.</p>	<p>In relation to past bird strikes, SP Manweb's records show no incidents being recorded on lower voltage lines within the last five years. Potential impacts on birds have been considered and reported on in the ES (DCO Document 6.7).</p> <p>Section 3.4 in the Updated Line Route Report 2 November 2017 (DCO Document 7.11) sets out how SP Manweb considered the southern and northern options around Noneley.</p>
74	Yes – change accepted in part for further consultation	<p>Suggested change, continuing from pole 158 north of the River Roden. They stated that this change would mean the line was equidistant between nearby properties.</p>	<p>Section 3.4 in the Updated Line Route Report 2 November 2017 (DCO Document 7.11) sets out how SP Manweb considered the southern and northern options around Noneley.</p>

			<p>In reviewing the proposed line route in response to feedback from the EA, SP Manweb has however identified scope for a slight amendment which places the new overhead line behind a mature tree which provides a degree of screening when viewed from Commonwood Farm.</p> <p>This proposed change is referred to as part of the change indicated in relation to the River Roden (see response to the Environment Agency above).</p>
74	No	<p>Questioned why the southern route published in May 2017 had been discounted and felt the preferred line route had been introduced without any consultation. They stated that the preferred line route would travel close to several nearby properties.</p>	<p>SP Manweb has noted that the line route presented at the statutory consultation is different to that presented in the May 2017 newsletter, however, it is aware of the continued concerns of the owners/occupiers of land and properties to the north and considers that the alternative line route suggested in the recent feedback would lead again to concerns expressed by them.</p> <p>In response to this feedback, SP Manweb identified a line route running more equidistant between</p>

			<p>Lower Pools Barn and Commonwood Farm.</p> <p>This change was made in response to the continued concerns of the owners/occupiers of land and properties to the north. A summary of the feedback is outlined in Chapter 2 in the Updated Line Route Report 2 (November 2017) (DCO Document 7.10).</p> <p>Given that the proposed line route does not give rise to significant effects at Commonwood Farm, including the barn conversions referred to in the feedback, SP Manweb does not see a need to alter the line route again.</p>
74	Yes – change considered at further consultation	Stated that the Proposed Development would have an adverse impact on plans to convert barns to residential units on their land. The preferred line route would be around 200m away. They felt that consideration had been given to other barn conversions and the same should happen in this case.	SP Manweb received confirmation of a planning application during the additional consultation and details of how this has been considered can be found in Chapter 10.

74	No	<p>Concerned about the preferred route now crossing a flood plain on their land and noted that the River Roden embankment on their land had not been reinforced, leading to considerable flooding in the winter.</p>	<p>SP Manweb has received feedback from the Environment Agency in response to the statutory consultation.</p> <p>The ES considers potential effects on hydrology (Chapter 9 'Flood Risk, Water Quality and Resources' (DCO Document 6.9)). A Flood Risk Assessment has also been undertaken and submitted with the application for an order granting Development Consent (DCO Document 5.2).</p>
74	No	<p>Noted that the preferred line route would pass over hedgerows and trees. They noted previous experience of being asked to cut back hedgerows and trees in close proximity to power lines and asked whether this would happen in this case.</p>	<p>Effects on trees and hedgerows are set out in the ES (DCO Document 6.7).</p>
74	No	<p>Concerned about 'bird strike' from the Proposed Development, particularly in regard to Canadian geese and swans.</p>	<p>In relation to past bird strikes, SP Manweb's records show no incidents being recorded within the last five years. Effects on birds are assessed within Chapter 7 of the ES 'Ecology and Biodiversity' (DCO Document 6.7) and Appendices 7.2 and 7.5 (DCO Documents 6.7.2 and 6.7.5).</p>

74	No	<p>Noted the proximity of Sleaf Airfield and noted plans for it to be used for gravel extraction. They felt this would mean that the operation of the airfield as a supporting factor for discounting the previous southern route was not a consideration.</p>	<p>As stated above, Section 3.4 in the Updated Line Route Report 2 November 2017 (DCO Document 7.11) sets out how SP Manweb considered the southern and northern options around Noneley. This included (para 3.4.81) consideration of the proximity of the operational Sleaf Airfield. This was not a determining factor in the preference for the northern option.</p>
76	No	<p>Objected to the proposed route across their field. They wanted to understand why the route as published in November 2017 had not been put forward earlier and why the southern route around Noneley, published in May 2017, was no longer preferred.</p> <p>Objected to the proposed route across their field, explaining that it was clay soil which gets very wet and would be damaged by heavy machinery.</p>	<p>See above (Response to ID 74))</p> <p>SP Manweb is grateful for the information submitted by the respondent on this matter.</p> <p>Effects on agricultural land are considered within Chapter 11 of the ES (DCO Document 6.11). Standard good practice construction techniques that will be adopted are set out in the draft CEMP (DCO Document 6.3.2).</p>

From the local community (s47)			
Con ID ref	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
	Support proposed route		
2, 56, 67, 26, 78, 79, 80, 41, 63	No	<p>Supported the choice of the preferred line route in section four, in most cases comparing it against the previously considered route south of Noneley.</p> <p>Those supporting the preferred line route generally felt it had fewer impacts on landscape, environment and local amenity than southerly options. Some also noted that there was less opportunity to screen a southerly route and suggested it affected fewer working farms and listed buildings.</p>	Support noted
61	No	<p>Supported the preferred line route over previous options. However, SP Manweb should have placed parts of the existing line underground and considered a route north of Loppington at an earlier stage.</p>	<p>Support for Noneley North noted.</p> <p>The Planning Statement (DCO Document 7.1) identifies SP Manweb's approach to undergrounding.</p> <p>A line route further north of Loppington was considered at the initial route corridor option stage and this is referred to in the Route Corridor Options Report June 2016 (DCO Document 7.8). Figure 4.9 of that report refers to the environmental constraints to</p>

			the north of Loppington which would need to be avoided and figure 4.10 indicated the route to the north as Route Option 1. This option was discounted in the Route Corridor Options Report due to its length and being less direct than the options that were considered further and because the increase in constraints would affect the potential for line routeing at a later stage (see para 5.20 of the report).
63, 41	No	Noted the location of Sleaf Airfield and felt the preferred line route was best for protecting learner pilots.	Support for Noneley North noted. SP Manweb however notes that proximity to the operational Sleaf Airfield was not a determining factor in the preference for the northern option.
	Object to proposed route		
81, 82	Yes – change not accepted	Opposed to the preferred line route and expressed support for the previously discounted route south of Noneley. Felt that the preferred line route impacted more occupied properties and that, as it was on higher ground, any screening from existing mature trees would be minimal.	Section 3.4 in the Updated Line Route Report 2 November 2017 (DCO Document 7.11) sets out SP Manweb’s consideration of the Noneley North option which included having regard to likely landscape and visual, ecological and heritage impacts, and its

			<p>conclusions that this option would have slightly less adverse environmental effects and so is preferred over the southern option. In SP Manweb's view the visual impacts of the northern route option would be localised compared to the more open views of the southerly route.</p>
<p>81, 82</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Concerned about the effects the preferred line route would have on views of what they consider to be currently unspoiled countryside and views were an issue on all the options and should not be a factor in selecting one option over another.</p>	<p>Visual impacts on views from a number of receptors such as local roads, points of interest and public footpaths in both options have been assessed. These receptors also include the impact on the residential visual amenity enjoyed by occupiers of nearby properties.</p> <p>Paragraphs 3.4.23 to 3.4.34 in the Updated Line Route Report 2 November 2017 (DCO Document 7.11) explain SP Manweb's approach to assessing the likely visual impacts of the Noneley North and South options.</p> <p>The report notes that the level of impact on the existing views would be slightly greater for the southerly option.</p>

			<p>It is noted that properties affected by the southerly option, have views orientated in that direction. These include the small cluster of listed buildings at Noneley Hall and Grafton Farmhouse.</p>
81	No	<p>Concerns about the Proposed Development adding to a number of already existing power lines.</p>	<p>Existing overhead lines have been considered within the Baseline for the landscape assessment as set out in Appendix 6.2 to the ES (DCO Document 6.6.2).</p> <p>The overhead line has been assessed in terms of likely landscape and visual, ecology and heritage effects.</p> <p>The Planning Statement (DCO Document 7.1) identifies SP Manweb's approach to undergrounding, including for some existing lower voltage overhead lines.</p>
82	No	<p>Concerns about impacts on business operations due to the Proposed Development. This included continuing operations at a working farm as well as the potential for barn conversions on the site.</p>	<p>Effects on agricultural land are considered within Chapter 11 of the ES (DCO Document 6.11). Standard good practice construction techniques will be</p>

			adopted as set out in the draft CEMP (DCO Document 6.3.2).
82	No	Noted wet conditions in some fields and asked how long the proposed wood poles last in these conditions and what the process for replacing wood poles is.	Information relating to the wood poles is presented in the Construction Report (DCO Document 7.2).
82	No	Noted migrating birds use many of the fields that the preferred line route is planned to use.	The assessment of the likely impacts of the northerly option included ecological impacts which in turn included impacts on birds. Given the similar nature of ecological features on both route options, the outcome of this assessment was that there is little difference between the two route options in this regard. Effects on birds are assessed within Chapter 7 'Ecology and Biodiversity of the ES (DCO Document 6.7)', and Appendices 7.5 'Ornithology Survey (DCO Document 6.7.5).
82	No	Challenged the heritage findings of the Updated Line Route Report 2 specifically Grafton Farmhouse and questioned why fields in the nearby area have been described as 'post-war fields'.	This comment is made in relation to Section 3.4 of the Updated Line Route Report 2 November 2017 (DCO Document 7.11)

			<p>The Report notes in 3.4.62 that effects at Grafton Farmhouse are assessed as being at the lower end of minor due to its poor visual connection to the surrounding landscape. Effects have been assessed as higher at other listed properties along the southern route</p> <p>The reference to ‘post war fields’ in the Updated Line Route Report 2 November 2017 (DCO Document 7.11) refers to the change in field patterns that has occurred over time (i.e from small fields to larger amalgamated fields) rather than just the immediate post war period.</p>
82	Yes – change accepted	Concerns about removing mature oak and ash trees, particularly at poles 158 and 160.	<p>SP Manweb is proposing a change to the line route to avoid trees, including a large mature oak tree close to pole no. 160.</p> <p>SP Manweb seeks to avoid removing trees wherever possible.</p> <p>Effects on trees are considered within the ES (DCO Document 6.7).</p>

Table 9-9 - Comments in relation to Question One for the whole route

From prescribed bodies or relevant local authorities (s42(1)(a), s42(1)(b) & s43)			
Organisation	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
Malvern Hills District Council	No	Confirmed the Council did not wish to make any formal comments.	Noted
Environment Agency	No	Provided additional information on groundwater and ecology. It did not have concerns about the Proposed Development's impacts on these but did suggest considerations for the Construction Environmental Management Plan.	See Environment Agency response in Table 8.4. Standard good practice construction techniques would be adopted as set out in the draft CEMP (DCO Document 6.3.2).
ESP Gas Group	No	Confirmed it owned no gas or electricity apparatus in the vicinity of this site address and will not be affected by the Proposed Development. Stated that the confirmation lasts 90 days and a new enquiry will need to be submitted for any proposed works beyond this date.	Noted
Southern Gas Networks	No	Confirming the Proposed Development will not interact with its network.	Noted
Wrexham County	No	Confirmed the Council has no comments on the Proposed Development.	Noted

Borough Council			
Historic England	No	Confirmed no further comments at this stage and is content that the project now proceeds to the submission of a DCO.	Noted and welcomed
Coal Authority	No	Confirmed that the Proposed Development site is located outside the defined coalfield and that the Coal Authority has no specific comments to make.	Noted
Marches LEP	No	Noted it had previously recognised a lack of electricity capacity in North Shropshire and the impact this has on local business growth. Stated its support for the Proposed Development, stating it was needed for resilient growth.	Support noted and welcomed.
Health and Safety Executive	No	Stated that the Proposed Development, in its current form, would not lead HSE to advise against the Proposed Development.	Noted.
Shropshire Council Highways	No	Noted that traffic trip generation identified by SP Manweb was modest and not significant in terms of existing traffic flows.	Noted response on construction traffic generation.
Shropshire Council Highways	No	Noted that a Construction Traffic Management Plan should be submitted and include mitigation measures to ensure	The draft CEMP (DCO Document 6.3.2) includes an Outline Transport Management Plan.

		safe vehicle movements where access points may be constrained.	
Shropshire Council Highways	No	Asked for a number of measures to be considered, including: wheel washing facilities, dust control, road sweeping, noise / vibration control, use of banksmen to ensure safe access/ egress of vehicles, convoy support vehicles for wide loads, wide load notifications, compliance with width and weight restrictions, working hours.	Standard good practice construction techniques would be adopted as set out in the draft CEMP (DCO Document 6.3.2).
Public Health England	No	Confirmed it is satisfied with the approach being taken in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and resulting Environmental Statement. Noted the exclusion of Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF) from the scope of the EIA, as SP Manweb considered EMF unlikely to have any significant impacts. Noted an assessment of the vulnerability to risk of major accidents and/or disasters are considered unlikely to be significant given the nature, scale and location of the Proposed Development.	Support for EIA approach noted.
Public Health England	No	Noted the PEIR submission does not include a specific section summarising the	Health impacts are considered in the Planning Statement (DCO Document 7.1).

		<p>potential public health impacts. Acknowledged that issues including air quality, emissions to water, waste, contaminated land etc. will be covered in separate sections of the Environmental Statement suggests a summation of relevant issues into a specific section of the report. Explained what the summary should include.</p>	
<p>Natural England</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Noted previous ecological survey work undertaken. Advised that the proposed development is unlikely to have significant direct impacts on internationally and nationally designated sites.</p> <p>Noted that the majority of direct land take for the proposal, including during construction, is largely agricultural. 0.5ha will be permanently affected and 82ha temporarily. Noted the commitment to reinstate habitats affected during construction.</p> <p>Noted the protected species surveys completed so far. Stated it did not appear that significant numbers of protected species are likely to be affected by the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>Natural England acceptance of approaches taken is noted and welcomed.</p>

<p>Shropshire Council</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Shropshire Council gives in principle support to the proposed route between Oswestry and Wem.</p> <p>It is recognised that the proposal represents a significant investment of around £18million and that the provision of additional electricity capacity will support the successful delivery of the Council's adopted and emerging Local Plans and the aspirations of the adopted Economic Growth Strategy;</p> <p>It is considered SP Manweb have undertaken a robust and comprehensive Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) which has benefited from early and ongoing discussions with Council officers and the wider public;</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the new 132kv circuit is proposed to be carried on wooden poles using a trident design. This design feature has been considered in responding to PEIR in assessing the overall environmental impact of the proposal.</p> <p>At this stage it is considered there are no significant matters identified relating to the impact upon landscape, heritage, ecology</p>	<p>Support noted.</p>
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		or access resulting from the proposed line route which cannot be mitigated;	
Environment Agency	No	The Environment Agency also made a number of specific comments / observations relating to groundwater, ecology and flood risk	<p>Specific comments relating to ecology, and groundwater and flood risk have been addressed in Chapters 7 'Ecology and Biodiversity' and 9 'Flood Risk. Water Quality and Resources' respectively of the ES (DCO Document 6.7 and 6.9).</p> <p>Standard good practice construction techniques would be adopted as are set out in the draft CEMP (DCO Document 6.3.2).</p>
From those with an interest in land (s42(1)(d) & s44)			
Con ID ref	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
77	No	Had an option to develop land affected by the proposed development. Stated they no longer intended to develop the land and had no objections.	Noted

From the local community (s47)			
Con ID ref	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
8	Yes – change not accepted	Claimed that the connection should be put underground to avoid visual impacts.	<p>SP Manweb's reasons for not undergrounding the 132kV circuit is set out in the Updated Strategic Options Report November 2017.</p> <p>The Planning Statement (DCO Document 7.1) identifies SP Manweb's approach to undergrounding</p>
84	No	Shropshire Area of the Ramblers asked that the proposed development takes into account Public Rights of Way and provided several areas they considered might be adversely impacted.	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Effects on Public Rights of Way are considered within the ES (DCO Document 6.6).</p> <p>Standard good practice construction techniques will be adopted as set out in the draft CEMP (DCO Document 6.3.2).</p>

Table 9-10 - Comments and SP Manweb Responses in relation to Question Two in Section One of the Preferred Line Route

From prescribed bodies or relevant local authorities (s42(1)(a), s42(1)(b) & s43)			
Organisation	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
Canal & River Trust	No	<p>Noted a commitment that all works will be set back at least eight metres from the canal banks and that pollution prevention and specific canal protection measures will be set out in the Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).</p> <p>Requested any construction phase activities are kept away from the canal corridor to minimise any disturbance.</p> <p>Asked that any risks of pollution or other adverse impacts on the water quality of the canal during construction is prevented. Stated that the potential contamination of the waterway and ground water from wind blow, seepage or spillage at the site should be avoided and details of pollution preventions measures should be provided.</p> <p>Requested that construction works should be carried out at appropriate times to avoid adverse impacts to nesting birds, bats etc.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Standard good practice construction techniques will be adopted as set out in the draft CEMP (DCO Document 6.3.2).</p>

		Noted that the Canal & River Trust will require any works to comply with the Canal & River Trust <i>Code of Practice for Works affecting the Canal & River Trust</i> and provided contact details in order to ensure that any necessary consents are obtained.	
From those with an interest in land (s42(1)(d) & s44)			
Con ID ref	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
89	Yes – change accepted	Noted a change to the land use where SP Manweb had proposed a temporary lay down area from agricultural to residential. Asked SP Manweb to consider alternative sites.	Noted and this temporary lay down area has been removed.

Table 9-11 - Comments and SP Manweb Responses in relation to Question Two in Section Three of the Preferred Line Route

From those with an interest in land (s42(1)(d) & s44)			
Con ID ref	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
44	No	Asked that access points onto the local highway were kept to a minimum.	In designing the access points to the highway network, SP Manweb has balanced the number of accesses with protecting hedgerows and habitats.
37	Yes – change considered at further consultation	Landowner suggested preferred construction access routes through their farm	Proposed change to the access is environmentally and technically acceptable and also assists with working positively with this landowner at this location. For the above reasons, SP Manweb has accepted that the alternative access arrangement should be considered and be the subject of further consultation (see below in Chapter 10).

Table 9-12 - Comments and SP Manweb Responses in relation to Question Two in Section Four of the Preferred Line Route

From those with an interest in land (s42(1)(d) & s44)			
Con ID ref	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
76	No	Asked for disruption to the local road network to be kept as low as possible.	Noted.
74	Yes – change to be considered through further landowner discussion	Raised an issue with access to pole 160 and noted that this will be unavailable as it runs close to working barns.	SP Manweb will work closely with the landowner to negotiate the use of this access in a way that minimises disruption to the occupiers of the barns.
From the local community (s47)			
Con ID ref	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
56, 67, 61, 41	No	Asked SP Manweb to look closely at potential effects on the local road network and to keep these to a minimum, including diversions if necessary. Several noted the small nature of some of the roads and narrow passing places	Noted. SP Manweb has, based on previous experience in installing this type of 132kV design, estimated the level of construction traffic movements using the proposed construction accesses and laydown areas. Both Highways England and Shropshire Council have accepted that there is no need for a Traffic Impact Assessment, the levels of construction traffic would not result in significant adverse effects.

			The draft CEMP (DCO Document 6.3.2) includes an Outline Transport Management Plan.
26	No	Supported the plans for construction.	Support Noted
41	No	Suggested carrying out the work in summer to minimise mud and possible damage to local lanes.	Standard good practice construction techniques will be adopted as set out in the draft CEMP (DCO Document 6.3.2).
41	No	Asked for more information to be published about construction plans.	Further details are provided in the Construction Report (DCO Document 7.2) and the draft CEMP (DCO Document 6.3.2).

Table 9-13 - Comments and SP Manweb Responses in relation to Question Two on the whole route

From prescribed bodies or relevant local authorities (s42(1)(a), s42b & s43)			
Organisation	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
Natural England	No	<p>Noted that a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) will be produced which will outline the means of safeguarding the environment. Supported the mitigation for any trees and hedgerows which may need removal.</p> <p>Explained that, based on the work completed so far, that potential indirect impacts (such as pollution of watercourses during construction) can be mitigated and it expects this to be stated within the Construction Environmental Management Plan.</p>	Support noted and SP Manweb will continue discussions with Natural England regarding the CEMP.
From the local community (s47)			
Con ID ref	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
85	No	NFU noted that SP Manweb will need to access farmland as part of the scheme works. Urged SP Manweb to follow best practice and to work with landowners / farmers to find mitigation options during construction	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Standard good practice construction techniques will be adopted as set out in the draft CEMP (DCO Document 6.3.2).</p> <p>SP Manweb will continue to work closely with landowners/farmers during the</p>

			construction and operation of the scheme as it has throughout the pre-application consultation process.
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Table 9-14 - Comments and SP Manweb Responses in relation to Question Three in Section One of the Preferred Line Route

From the local community (s47)			
Con ID ref	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
72	Yes – change accepted	Requested a nearby 11kV line is put underground.	Accepted

Table 9-15 - Comments and SP Manweb Responses in relation to Question Three in Section Four of the Preferred Line Route

From those with an interest in land (s42d & s44)			
Con ID ref	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
5	No	Expressed support for the associated construction plans.	Support noted.
44	No	Noted that their operations were organic and Higher Land Stewardship schemes and that these would need to be considered during construction.	Noted Standard good practice construction techniques will be adopted as set out in the draft CEMP (DCO Document 6.3.2).
59	No	While remaining opposed to the preferred line route, said that if the proposed development is consented tree planting and undergrounding of existing overhead infrastructure should be considered as mitigation.	The ES provides the assessment of the project and includes details of appropriate mitigation (DCO Volume 6). The Planning Statement (DCO Document 7.1) identifies SP Manweb's approach to undergrounding.
69	Yes – change not accepted	Requested that sections of the existing lower voltage lines north of Noneley be put underground. Had concerns that the proposed development would create a 'wirescape', particularly near local footpaths.	The Planning Statement (DCO Document 7.1) identifies SP Manweb's approach to undergrounding. This document explains that undergrounding the existing lower voltage lines is included for technical reasons to maintain safety clearance where wires cross over one another. SP Manweb's landscape and visual assessments have not identified a visual impact arising due to a 'wirescape'.

86	Yes – change not accepted	Requested that sections of the existing lower voltage lines north of Noneley be put underground. Had concerns that the Proposed Development would create a 'wirescape', particularly near local footpaths.	As above in response to ID 69.
From the local community (s47)			
Con ID ref	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
80	No	Expressed support for the plans.	Support noted.
61, 41	No	Asked for any vegetation clearance to be kept to a minimum.	Comment noted.

Table 9-16 - Comments and SP Manweb Responses in relation to Question Four

From those with an interest in land (s42(1)(d) & s44)			
Con ID ref	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
44	No	Felt that the route had attempted to please everyone, and this had led to a bad proposal.	The feedback received and how SP Manweb has responded, is set out in this Consultation Report.
44	No	Had concerns that surveys that took place on their land had happened in the wrong area.	Approach to surveys and the survey results are presented in the ES (DCO Doc 6.4). SP Manweb is satisfied that appropriate surveys have been carried out as required.
50	No	Stated they did not take part at earlier stages as they were not directly affected by the published options.	The respondent has always been within the consultation zones for the project and has been sent the widely circulated project updates. As with all residents within the consultation zone, the respondent has had the opportunity to view the proposed changes at the statutory consultation stage and engage with SP Manweb.
69	No	Suggested that local people had been misled into believing that Noneley North would not be a viable option because they	Section 3.4 in the Updated Line Route Report 2 November 2017 (DCO Document 7.11) sets out how SP Manweb took a number of factors

		were told a majority of landowners supported a southern option around Noneley.	into account when considering the southern and northern options around Noneley.
69	No	Stated that previous correspondence suggested local 11kV lines would be put underground, but this no longer appeared to be the case.	SP Manweb is undergrounding a number of lower voltage overhead lines for technical reasons. Where existing overhead lines can be operated safely with the new 132kV overhead line these will remain in situ.
74	No	<p>Stated they did not take part at earlier stages as they were not directly affected by the published options. Noted the first time an option came near their property was Project Update Three (May 2017) and it was not the preferred option.</p> <p>Concerned that landowners had not been consulted before the preferred line route was published in November 2017.</p>	<p>The respondent has always been within the consultation zones for the project, and has been sent the widely circulated project updates.</p> <p>As with all residents within the consultation zone, the respondent has had the opportunity to view the proposed changes at the statutory consultation stage and engage with SP Manweb.</p>
75	No	Stated they did not take part at earlier stages as they were not directly affected by the published options and noted that any route to the south had now gone. They noted the first time an option came near their property was Project Update Three	<p>The respondent has always been within the consultation zones for the project, and has been sent the widely circulated project updates.</p> <p>As with all residents within the consultation zone, the respondent has had the opportunity</p>

		(May 2017) and it was not the preferred option.	to view the proposed changes at the statutory consultation stage and engage with SP Manweb.
From the local community (s47)			
Con ID ref	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
56, 61, 80, 26	No	Felt that SP Manweb had taken on board previous feedback and had listened to local residents in developing the preferred line route.	Support noted.
61	No	Felt that SP Manweb had listened to previous feedback from local residents in Noneley.	Support noted.
80	No	Felt that SP Manweb had listened to previous feedback from local people.	Support noted.
72	No	Stated they did not take part at earlier stages as they were not directly affected by the published options and noted that any route to the south had now gone. They felt that their property was now closest of any to the preferred line route.	The relevant property has always been within the consultation zones for the project and has been sent the widely circulated project updates. Effects on residential visual amenity are considered within the ES (DCO Document 6.6).
82	No	Concerned that SP Manweb had placed more emphasis on certain people's views it had received, than on others.	Section 3.4 in the Updated Line Route Report 2 November 2017 (DCO Document 7.11) sets out how SP Manweb considered the southern and northern options around Noneley.

			SP Manweb has considered all feedback together with its own environmental assessments, and landowner feedback.
85	No	NFU stated it had been encouraging to see SP Manweb gather local knowledge from landowners on the potential impact on farming businesses.	Noted and welcomed.

Table 9-17 - Comments and SP Manweb Responses in relation to Question Five

From prescribed bodies or relevant local authorities (s42(1)(a), s42(1)(b) & s43)			
Organisation	Change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
Canal & River Trust	No	Requested that other organisations with an interest in the canal, such as those listed in the <i>Conservation Management Strategy</i> are consulted.	The individual bodies that are in the partnership in the Conservation Management Strategy and have been consulted are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canal & River Trust – consulted and responded • Montgomery Waterway Restoration Trust (MWRT) – consulted and responded • Powys County Council – consulted and no response • Shropshire Council – consulted and responded • Natural England – consulted and responded • Historic England – consulted and responded • Environment Agency – consulted and responded • Shropshire Wildlife Trust – consulted and responded
Shropshire Council	No	The Council are supportive of the general approach to consultation used by SP Manweb as proposed in the Statement of Community Consultation and used to promote this consultation.	Noted and welcomed.

From those with an interest in land (s42(1)(d) & s44)			
Con ID ref	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
44	No	Felt that those whose land is affected should have more influence.	SP Manweb has considered all feedback together with its own environmental assessments, and landowner feedback.
50	No	Noted SP Manweb's statement that "60% of landowners expressed a preference for the southern route" (for the Noneley section). They suggest landowners are most affected and should therefore not be ignored.	Section 3.4 in the Updated Line Route Report 2 November 2017 (DCO Document 7.11) sets out how SP Manweb considered the southern and northern options around Noneley. SP Manweb has considered all feedback together with its own environmental assessments, and landowner feedback.
69	No	Questioned a reference to Shropshire Council's support in the Updated Line Route Report 2 and suggested this did not reflect the feelings of the local ward councillor.	The Updated Line Route Report 2 acknowledges that these comments were made at officer level rather than by members.
70	No	Stated they had not been contacted by SP Manweb about the preferred line route on land that they are tenants of.	The relevant property has always been within the consultation zones for the project, and has been sent the widely circulated project updates.
74	No	Concerned that SP Manweb documents did not include photographs of their land and provided these (for the Noneley section).	Section 3.4 in the Updated Line Route Report 2 November 2017 (DCO Document 7.11) sets out how SP Manweb considered

			<p>the southern and northern options around Noneley.</p> <p>SP Manweb has considered all feedback together with its own environmental assessments, and landowner feedback.</p>
76	No	Suggested that objections to the southern option around Noneley had been listened to and the route was a fait accompli. Stated the need for SP Manweb to consider new objections in the same manner as it had done to those received at previous stages.	Please refer to the response to Cons ID ref 82 in Table 8.11 above.
From the local community (s47)			
Con ID ref	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
8	No	Suggested that SP Manweb was only carrying out consultation to give the impression people had an opportunity to influence the proposed development.	<p>The recent statutory consultation followed a process of consultation set out in a Statement of Community Consultation prepared by SP Manweb and submitted to and approved with Shropshire Council.</p> <p>SP Manweb has carried out further consultation on a number of proposed changes and these have been reflected in the DCO submission.</p>
61	No	Local voices were listened to and local impacts kept as low as possible and on this basis supports the consultation carried out. Noneley residents have been listened to.	Noted support.

63	No	Asked whether it would be possible to upgrade the existing power line instead of having two lines near each other.	The need for the proposed development is set out in the Updated Strategic Option Report, November 2017 (DCO Document 7.6). As explained in further detail in the report, upgrading the existing 33kV overhead line would not provide sufficient supply.
82	No	Concerned that homeowners and their views of the landscape have been given more influence than those whose land and farming practices will be affected (for the Noneley section).	Section 3.4 in the Updated Line Route Report 2 November 2017 (DCO Document 7.10) sets out how SP Manweb considered the southern and northern options around Noneley. SP Manweb has considered all feedback together with its own environmental assessments, and landowner feedback.
83	No	Confirmation from Shropshire Disability Network that it had received the material and would add the event details to its website.	Noted.
85	No	Noted concerns from affected landowners / occupiers about the level of compensation. Wished to see the payments per pole reflect the impact of infrastructure on ongoing farm operations.	Negotiations will be carried out based on published grantor payments that are reviewed nationally with NFU input.
85	No	Stated it was vital SP Manweb take the time to ensure that landowners, farmers and farm tenants fully understand the proposed development and are kept informed. Stated that SP Manweb could benefit from regular dialogue with the NFU and recognised that local meetings already held had been useful.	SP Manweb's representatives have continued engagement with landowners, farmers and farm tenants and have met a local NFU representative since the statutory consultation to provide an update.

9.4 SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

- 9.4.1 The above tables show the range of useful feedback received from those consulted as part of the statutory consultation. Whilst the emphasis in the feedback received is on the line route, a number of comments relate to other aspects of the proposed development.

Prescribed bodies

- 9.4.2 SP Manweb has received helpful feedback from just over a third (16) of the number of relevant prescribed bodies consulted under s42 of the Act and is pleased that a number of these bodies have expressed support for the proposed development.
- 9.4.3 This includes (Table 8-5) comments from Shropshire Council which, in addition to expressing support for the scheme generally, also supports the approach taken in the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). Their support for the preference for the Noneley North option is seen in Table 8-4 and their support for the effectiveness of the consultation in Table 8-12. Shropshire Council Highway's comments regarding the minor likely impacts from associated construction traffic as referred to in Table 8-5 are welcomed.
- 9.4.4 A number of prescribed bodies responded with comments on the proposed design and how this could be slightly amended to take account of their interests. These included comments from National Grid and the Environment Agency, as referred to in Tables 8-2 and 8-4.
- 9.4.5 Other comments from Highways England and the Canal & River Trust in respect of how SP Manweb has taken into account considerations in line routeing are set out in respect of certain sections of the line route or along the whole of the line route in Tables 8-1 to 8-5. Having considered these changes and had further discussions with these bodies since receiving their comments, SP Manweb has proposed changes which it considers satisfies their initial concerns.
- 9.4.6 Table 9.5 sets out how feedback from the Health and Safety Executive, Historic England and Natural England support the approaches taken in assessing potential environmental effects. It also notes where these organisations have suggested certain matters should be set out in supporting project documents such as the Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). Table 9.9 refers to how comments from Public Health England regarding the need for a Health Impact Assessment will be addressed in the Planning Statement.
- 9.4.7 Overall, in terms of the responses it has received from prescribed bodies, SP Manweb has noted that the response from ESP Pipelines and Southern Gas confirms the proposed development does not impact on their network assets.

- 9.4.8 Where matters have been raised by National Grid, the Environment Agency, Highways England and the Canal & River Trust these have been addressed by making a number of minor changes to the proposed development design and by including measures for protecting stakeholder interests and assets in construction method statements and other related project documents submitted as part of the DCO consent application.
- 9.4.9 SP Manweb has further engaged with these bodies to seek to agree how their comments can best be addressed in these project documents.
- 9.4.10 Additionally, SP Manweb has also engaged with prescribed bodies that either responded with similar feedback at the non-statutory stage but not at the statutory stage, such as Severn Trent Water.
- 9.4.11 Further, engagement has continued with bodies that it has anticipated would have an interest but not responded due to a change in personnel dealing with SP Manweb's consultation, or change in ownership, or from identifying them from the s44 list that was produced following relevant searches. These follow up enquiries have taken place with Network Rail, BT Telecommunications, Cadent Gas and the Crown Estates (all consulted as prescribed bodies), and Vodafone, Virgin Media, Gas Transportation Ltd and British Gas who were identified through related s44 enquiries. A number of prescribed bodies consulted have not responded due to not having assets affected by the Proposed Development, as evident in them not being listed in the s44 list.
- 9.4.12 The above engagement has been in the context of discussing with them, as a statutory undertaker, the need or otherwise for including draft Protective Provisions in the DCO. In doing so, SP Manweb has had regard to the advice in PINS Advice note fifteen: Drafting Development Consent Orders published in July 2018 (section 4, Protective Provisions) which suggests including a table in the Consultation Report listing all statutory undertakers identified and whether protective provisions are proposed or not. Table 9-8 below summarises the discussions that SP Manweb has had to date with the above mentioned bodies in relation to protective provisions.

Table 9-18 - List of Statutory Undertakers who require / do not require Protective Provisions

Statutory Undertaker	Contact in S42 list or why different to s42 list	Why PP are not required	Link to PP in DCO
Prescribed bodies consulted and responded			
Electricity			
National Grid	As in S42	PPs included in draft DCO	See draft DCO Schedule 6
Water/Drainage /Sewage			
Severn Trent Water	As in S42 although STW subsequently advised that they have instructed land agent to act on their behalf.	PPs included in draft DCO and draft CEMP addresses required measures.	See draft DCO Schedule 6
Canal & River Trust	As in S42	PPs included in draft DCO.	See draft DCO Schedule 6
Gas			
Cadent Gas	As in S42 list	Confirmed no assets affected by the project so no protective provisions required.	
Wales and West Utilities	As in S42 list	Agreed no need for PPs and draft CEMP addresses required measures.	
Telecoms			
Openreach	Listed as BT Telecommunications in S42 list but responsibilities in process	PPs included in draft DCO and draft CEMP addresses required measures.	See draft DCO Schedule 6

	of transferring to Openreach following Ofcom requirement		
Environment Agency	As in S42 list	Agreed no need for PPs provided draft CEMP addresses required measures	
Highways			
Shropshire Council	As in S42 list	PPs included in draft DCO and draft CEMP addresses required measures.	See draft DCO Schedule 6
Highways England (formerly Highways Agency)	As in S42 list	PPs included in draft DCO and draft CEMP addresses required measures.	See draft DCO Schedule 6
Rail			
Network Rail	Different to contact consulted in S42 list as subsequently passed to regional Network rail office	PPs included in draft DCO and draft CEMP addresses required measures.	See draft DCO Schedule 6
Other prescribed bodies consulted and responded			
ESP Pipelines	As in S42 list	Confirmed not affected	
Forestry Commission	As in S42 list	Confirmed not affected	
CAA	As in S42 list	Confirmed not affected	
NATS	As in S42 list	Confirmed not affected	

MOD	As in S42 list	Confirmed not affected	
Crown Estates Commission	As in S42 list	Confirmed not affected	
Coal Authority		Confirmed not affected	
Melverley Internal Drainage Board	As in S42 but not in S44	Confirmed not affected	
Other prescribed bodies consulted and not responded			
Vodafone	Not in S42 but in S44 list	No response received – rights affected and included in Book of Reference (DCO Document 4.3)	
British Gas	Not in S42 but in S44 list	No response received rights identified and no assets affected	
Virgin Media	Not in S42 but in S44 list	No response received and no assets affected	
Independent Power Networks Limited	As in S42 but not in S44	No response received and no assets affected	
The Electricity Network Company	As in S42 but not in S44	No response received and no assets affected	
Western Power Distribution (West Midlands) Plc	As in S42 but not in S44	No response received and no assets affected	
Northern Powergrid	As in S42 but not in S44	No response received and no assets affected	

Energetics Gas Limited	As in S42 but not in S44	No response received and no assets affected	
Energetics Electricity Limited	As in S42 but not in S44	No response received and no assets affected	
ES Pipelines Ltd	As in S42 but not in S44	No response received and no assets affected	
ESP Connections Ltd	As in S42 but not in S44	No response received and no assets affected	
ESP Networks ltd	As in S42 but not in S44	No response received and no assets affected	
ESP Pipelines Ltd	As in S42 but not in S44	No response received and no assets affected	
Fulcrum Pipelines Limited	As in S42 but not in S44	No response received and no assets affected	
GTC Pipelines Limited	As in S42 but not in S44	No response received and no assets affected	
Independent Pipelines Limited	As in S42 but not in S44	No response received and no assets affected	
LNG Portable Pipeline Services Limited	As in S42 but not in S44	No response received and no assets affected	
Quadrant Pipelines Ltd	As in S42 but not in S44	No response received and no assets affected	
SSE Pipelines	As in S42 but not in S44	No response received and no assets affected	
Southern Gas Networks Plc	As in S42 but not in S44	No response received and no assets affected	
Scottish Gas Networks Plc	As in S42 but not in S44	No response received and no assets affected	

Indigo Pipelines Limited	As in S42 but not in S44	No response received and no assets affected	
Wales & West Utilities Limited	As in S42 but not in S44	No response received and no assets affected	
G2 Energy IDNO Ltd	As in S42 but not in S44	No response received and no assets affected	
Harlaxton Energy Networks	As in S42 but not in S44	No response received and no assets affected	
Leep Energy Networks	As in S42 but not in S44	No response received and no assets affected	
UK Power Distribution Ltd	As in S42 but not in S44	No response received and no assets affected	

Those with an interest in land

- 9.4.13 Many of the comments from those with an interest in land related to Section Four of the proposed overhead line route in Noneley (see Table 9-4). These comments stated a preference for the previously considered Noneley South route. In some cases, however, these responses also refer to suggestions made in relation to the proposed route to reduce impacts on their land interests. SP Manweb has responded where possible to amend the line route as suggested. The feedback provided has included useful local information regarding the habitats and flood risks which SP Manweb has considered alongside its own survey results.
- 9.4.14 Elsewhere (see Tables 9-1 to 9-3), comments have been made which express concerns and /or suggestions in relation to parts of the line route or a proposed construction access or laydown area across certain land interests. In a number of cases, SP Manweb has considered that it is possible to amend the proposed design to accommodate the suggested change. These changes have involved further discussions with land interests affected and assessing whether the change can be made without resulting in more environmental impacts than previously predicted.
- 9.4.15 Few people with an interest in land expressed concerns in their feedback relating to construction accesses along local roads (see Tables 9-6 to 9-9).
- 9.4.16 SP Manweb has not accepted the need to amend the line route design in all requested cases due to there being no environmental benefit or in some cases an increased environmental impact; or it is considered that the suggested change is one that has been considered before; or appears to SP Manweb to be at odds with its statutory duties. Where this is the case, SP Manweb has sought to explain these reasons.

Local People

- 9.4.17 Feedback from members of the local community show the comments relating to line route sections one (Round Wood to Rednal Mill) and three (north of Bagley to north of Burlton) have, in each case been made by one local person living in that section (see Tables 8-1 and 8-3). There are more comments from local people in respect of section four and the majority of these (ten out of the twelve) are from local people expressing support for the proposed route (see Table 9-4).
- 9.4.18 The above tables demonstrate how SP Manweb has reviewed relevant responses to the consultation in terms of each specific issue referred to in the feedback so that it can be assured that it has properly considered all the points made.

9.4.19 SP Manweb has noted a number of comments in relation to how the consultation has been managed. It is pleased to note there is support expressed for its approach and it has explained how feedback is balanced against other considerations where concerns about the usefulness of the consultation have been made (see Table 9-12). SP Manweb is pleased to report that some of the local groups such as the Ramblers, the Disability Network Group and the National Farmers Union are broadly supportive and keen to engage further (see Table 9-12).

10. ACCOUNT OF FURTHER CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES

10.1 INTRODUCTION

- 10.1.1 The feedback received in response to the statutory consultation included suggestions for changes to the route of the proposed 132kV electrical circuit and the associated development such as the construction accesses and temporary laydown areas. In addition, SP Manweb carried out further constructability assessments. As a result, SP Manweb decided to make a number of changes to the proposed development and to carry out further consultation on those changes.
- 10.1.2 Having regard to relevant advice (*DCLG Planning Act 2008 Guidance on pre-application process (March 2015)*) on further consultations following statutory consultation, SP Manweb wrote to those that had either engaged in the project consultations up to the end of the statutory consultation (2 February 2018), those who SP Manweb were aware of as a person with an interest in land affected by the proposed development that it previously consulted on or who would now become affected by the proposed changes or was a prescribed body. A copy of this letter can be found in Appendix 10.2 (**DCO Document 5.1.8**).
- 10.1.3 The consultation ran for 28 days from 12 April to the 12 May 2018. The approach to this further consultation and a summary of the feedback received and how SP Manweb has had regard to the feedback is set out below.
- 10.1.4 SP Manweb provided information on the proposed changes by writing to those referred to above and advising them that the changes to the proposed development could be viewed on the Revised Draft Works Plans April 2018 at locations listed in the letter, or by requesting a copy of them from the communications team or by viewing them online on the project website. The letter referred to the proposed changes as follows:

- *Changes to the overhead line and cable route*

Rednal Mill (see Sheet 6 in the Revised Draft Works Plan April 2018 - poles 49 to 54): Changes have been made in response to feedback to move pole 50 to the southern side of the River Perry, to move poles 51 and 52 to reduce visual impacts in the area and to move pole 54 to increase the clearance below the nearby existing National Grid high voltage line. We are now also proposing to place a section of existing 11kV overhead line underground.

Lower Hordley (see Sheet 7 in the Revised Draft Works Plan April 2018 - poles 69 to 81): Changes have been made in response to feedback to place as many poles as possible in this section closer to field boundaries and to minimise placing poles in fields in order to further reduce impacts on farming activities in this area.

Wackley Lodge (see Sheet 10 in the Revised Draft Works Plan April 2018 - poles 112 to 115): Changes have been made in response to feedback to relocate the proposed overhead line from a higher agricultural grade field to a lower grade field, reducing impacts on farming activities.

Bentley Farm/The Shayes (see Sheet 12 in the Revised Draft Works Plan April 2018 - poles 138 to 150): Changes have been made in response to feedback to move this section of the line route which would slightly reduce impacts on the residential visual amenity for the occupiers of Bentley Farm and The Shayes whilst respecting existing landscape features such as ponds, trees and hedgerows.

River Roden (see Sheet 13 in the Revised Draft Works Plan April 2018 - poles 160 to 166): Changes have been made in response to feedback to move poles 161, 162 and 163 to avoid felling a large mature oak tree and to position pole 164 away from the edge of the river bank.

A change in response to feedback to move the 132kV underground cable to avoid an existing High Pressure Gas pipeline and to avoid disrupting an existing field access off the A5 (T) is also proposed. For technical reasons at either end of the new 132kV circuit, a change has been made to include the works required at the two substations within the proposed development.

- *Changes to the accesses*

Changes to the accesses are proposed in response to landowner requests and from a combination of those landowner requests and further SP Manweb constructability assessments. We will also be seeking to secure permanent rights over the access routes by way of the development consent order.

- *Changes to the temporary laydown areas*

Changes to the laydown areas are also proposed as a result of landowner requests and SP Manweb constructability assessments and include the removal of three of the laydown areas and the relocation of five laydown areas, two of which are reduced in size.

- 10.1.5 The above changes were shown on the Revised Draft Works Plans April 2018 with the areas now omitted from the proposed development shaded grey and identified as a red dashed line. The proposed works were included within the thick red line which denotes the proposed 25-metre-wide construction and operations corridor (shown green for the 132kV cable route, brown, yellow and brown/yellow hatching for the lower voltage diversion works, orange for the access routes and blue for the laydown areas).

10.1.6 Comments were invited on the changes outlined above and which were shown in detail on the Revised Draft Works Plans April 2018. Comments could be provided by sending an email to enquiries@spennorthshropshire.com or writing to SP Manweb at FREEPOST SPEN NSR.

10.2 SP MANWEB APPROACH TO FURTHER CONSULTATION

10.2.1 The SoCC as published (23 November 2017) provided SP Manweb with the option to pursue further consultation if considered necessary (see Appendix 3.2, **DCO Document 5.1.3**). Having regard to the DCLG Guidance on the pre-application process (March 2015) paragraphs 73 to 77, SP Manweb considered it was proportionate and appropriate due to the nature of the proposed changes to notify those who had engaged with the project to date, those with an interest in land affected by the proposed development or by the proposed changes, or prescribed bodies.

10.2.2 SP Manweb met with a representative of Shropshire Council in March 2018 and agreed the scope of the further consultation and provided copies of the draft consultation letter to them by email dated 4 April 2018 (see Appendix 10.3, **DCO Document 5.1.8**).

10.2.3 As referred to in the further consultation letter, the proposed changes were set out in the Revised Draft Works Plans April 2018 and could be viewed online or in paper copy at six locations or by way of a copy requested from the project team.

10.2.4 The online version was accessible at the front of an updated web page on the project website. This highlighted that the additional consultation was being undertaken and provided direct links to Revised Draft Works Plans April 2018 and a page describing the changes.

10.2.5 Screenshots of these updated webpages are available in Appendix 10.4 (**DCO Document 5.1.8**).

10.2.6 Hard copies of the Revised Draft Works Plans April 2018 were available for viewing at the following locations:

- Wem Library
- Oswestry Library
- Ellesmere Library
- Whitchurch Library
- Shropshire Council planning department
- Oswestry Town Council.

10.3 FURTHER CONSULTATION WITH PRESCRIBED CONSULTEES AND THOSE WITH AN INTEREST IN LAND (S42 AND S44)

- 10.3.1 Relevant prescribed bodies were sent a copy of the further consultation letter. This was based on the prescribed bodies used at the statutory stage of consultation (Appendix 3.1, **DCO Document 5.1.3**), with contacts updated as relevant. 99 prescribed bodies were contacted. The letters that were issued advised how to provide feedback.
- 10.3.2 SP Manweb also issued letters to those with an interest in land who had been consulted at the statutory consultation or who were now affected by the proposed changes. A total of 150 letters were issued on 12 April 2018.
- 10.3.3 Following further analysis of title information and Land Registry searches, SP Manweb identified a number of additional third-party interests who occupied properties at Noneley Hall. These interests were subsequently notified by the same further consultation letter (see Appendix 9.1, **DCO Document 5.1.7**) dated 26 April and provided with an amended consultation deadline of 26 May 2018. There were six additional third-party interests issued.
- 10.3.4 While SP Manweb considers it has been diligent in its enquiries regarding identifying affected land interests from its previous activities, as set out in Chapter 5, it was also considered appropriate to issue these newly identified interests with Requests for Information (RFI) letters and forms. 22 RFIs were sent on 8 May 2018 with 12 returned. In the event of any further interests coming to light, SP Manweb will contact them.

10.4 FURTHER CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY (S47)

- 10.4.1 SP Manweb notified all those members of the community, or non-prescribed organisations, who had previously engaged with the project since the start of the pre-application consultation in June 2016, at the same time as prescribed bodies and landowners. This comprised 88 individuals or organisations.
- 10.4.2 The channels for providing feedback were the same as those set out in the letter (see 9.1.6).

10.5 SUMMARIES OF RESPONSES AND HOW SP MANWEB HAS HAD REGARD TO THEM

- 10.5.1 In total, 11 responses were received to the additional consultation. These were received by:
- Hardcopy letter – 1
 - Email – 10
- 10.5.2 The feedback received in response to the further consultation is summarised in the following tables. Table 10-1 refers to comments on previously suggested changes that did not form part of the further consultation, table 10-2 refers to comments received on a specific proposed change and 10-3 refers to comments on all of the changes.

Table 10-1 – Comments relating to aspects not included in the additional consultation

From prescribed bodies or relevant local authorities (s42(1)(a), s42(1)(b) & s43)			
Change suggestion?	Design Change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
Canal & River Trust	Yes – change not accepted	Noting that the changes do not alter / amend the proposals in relation to the Montgomery Canal and therefore requested that the comments made in the previous response, dated 2 February 2018 should still be considered.	SP Manweb sees no change in information which affects its previous considerations on this section (see table 9-5).
From those with an Interest in land (s42(1)(d) & s44)			
Con ID ref	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
44	Yes – change not accepted	Unhappy with way SP Manweb has dealt with landowner's comments in not accepting a suggested change.	SP Manweb met with the landowner in May 2018 and advised of the reasons for not accepting the change, as outlined in response to the statutory consultation (see table 9-7). SP Manweb agreed to revisit this location accompanied by the landowner. The DCO process and opportunity for further representations if the application is accepted was also explained.
37	Yes – change not accepted	Stating that the proposed development will inconvenience farming activity. Concerned that the proposed development will create a permanent impact	SP Manweb sees no change in information which affects its previous considerations on this section (see table 9-7).

		upon visual amenity from their dwelling. Requesting that the route is moved south.	
From the local community (s47)			
Con ID ref	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
32	Yes – change not suggested	Requesting a kink that would move the proposed development to the far side of a fishing pond and hide it behind woodland. Noted that the proposed development had been put in its published location on the request of landowners who were now selling the land.	This would not result in any reduction of the likely environmental effects at this location. SP Manweb has not received notification from the landowner that the land ownership has changed. SP Manweb met with the interested party in May 2018 and advised of the reasons for not accepting the change and agreed to revisit this location accompanied by the landowner. The DCO process and opportunity for further representations if the application is accepted was also explained.

Table 10-2 - Comments relating to a specific proposed change in the additional consultation

Proposed change at Rednal Mill			
From the local community (s47)			
Con ID ref	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
72	No	Supporting the proposed change near their property.	Noted
Proposed change at Lower Hordley			
From those with an Interest in land (s42(1)(d) & s44)			
Con ID ref	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
19	No	Objecting to the changed route.	Objection does not provide any substantive reasons for not accepting the proposed change. As such, SP Manweb is maintaining its view that the change is preferred as it accommodates the adjoining landowners' preferences and avoids increasing the level of effects.
90	No	<p>Concerned that the change moving poles north will result in increase in elevation of around 10 metres. Feels that, due to the otherwise flat nature of the local area, the visual impact will be exaggerated.</p> <p>Feels the views of individual landowners are being put above other landowners and</p>	<p>SP Manweb is maintaining its view that the change is preferred as it accommodates the adjoining landowners' preferences and avoids increasing the level of effects, including landscape and visual effects.</p> <p>Landowners' farming activities are relevant considerations.</p> <p>Electricity from a local wind turbine will not be exported to the new overhead line. The need for the new overhead line is set out in the Funding Statement (DCO Document 4.2).</p>

		<p>questions the “farming considerations” used to justify the change.</p> <p>Asks whether electricity from a local wind turbine will be exported to the new overhead line.</p>	
Proposed change at River Roden			
From those with an Interest in land (s42(1)(d) & s44)			
Con ID ref	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
74	No	Providing further evidence of flooding on land where proposed poles are sited.	Refer to the SP Manweb response to the same ID Ref in Table 9.8 in Chapter 9 above.
From the local community (s47)			
Con ID ref	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
82	Yes – access route amended following further discussion with landowner	<p>Noted proximity of proposed development to existing property as well as buildings due to be developed.</p> <p>Felt they had not received a response from SP Manweb to their previous feedback.</p>	<p>Refer to the SP Manweb response to the same ID Ref in Table 9.8 in Chapter 9 above.</p> <p>SP Manweb met with the landowner and advised of the DCO process and opportunity for further representations if the application is accepted.</p> <p>Following further discussions with the landowner, SP Manweb has removed the proposed construction access through Commonwood Farm buildings to avoid the site of the proposed barn conversion.</p>

		<p>Opposed an access route that they suggested goes through their garden. Also notes that published access routes will be blocked by a proposed barn conversion.</p> <p>Feels they have not been given sufficient time to state their objections, particularly when compared to the time given for the earlier proposals south of Noneley.</p> <p>Claims the northern route presents a risk to wild birds in the area.</p> <p>Claims SP Manweb has not consulted with their family, who are landowners with poles on their land.</p> <p>Feels they have been misled that the route would take the earlier, southern route around Noneley.</p>	<p>SP Manweb has consulted with landowners and local communities at several stages during the project and has considered all feedback together with its own environmental assessments, and landowner feedback.</p>
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Table 10-3 Comments relating to all the proposed changes

Relating to all proposed changes			
From prescribed bodies or relevant local authorities (s42(1)(a), s42(1)(b) & s43)			
Organisation	Design change suggestion?	Comment	How SP Manweb has had regard to the comment
Historic England	No	Confirming it had no further comments	Noted
Harlaxton Energy Networks	No	Confirming it had no assets in the area and had no comment to make on the proposed development.	Noted

- 10.5.3 Chapter 9 details suggested changes referred to in feedback received in response to the statutory consultation (November 2017 – February 2018). These include suggested changes to the proposed line route of the overhead line near to Stanwardine Lodge, Malt Kiln Farm and Commonwood Farm. In response to feedback received in relation to the further consultation (April 2018 – May 2018), SP Manweb representatives met with the relevant people with an interest in land in April and May 2018 to explain the reasons for not including their suggested changes and that this would be set out in the consultation report which would be submitted to PINS with the other DCO application documentation, likely to be in the Autumn 2018. A note of each meeting was recorded and sent to the relevant party.
- 10.5.4 SP Manweb considers the steps it has taken to keep those with an interest in land informed of how their comments have been considered and how the DCO process works in terms of engaging with relevant interested parties has been adequate and appropriate and in full compliance with statutory requirements, relevant Government guidance and PINS Advice Notes.

Other responses

- 10.5.5 The Canal & River Trust refer to previous comments and have subsequently acknowledged that pole 38 is not on their land. SP Manweb is continuing discussions with the Canal & River Trust, as appropriate.
- 10.5.6 Other prescribed bodies (HSE and Cadent Gas) raised information which SP Manweb considers have been addressed.

10.6 SUMMARY

- 10.6.1 Responses received to the further consultation show support for the changes to the route at Rednal Mill and Wackley Lodge and Bentley Farm/The Shayes and River Roden.
- 10.6.2 Feedback also shows no responses in relation to undergrounding beneath the A5(T) or in relation to changes to the temporary laydown areas.
- 10.6.3 SP Manweb considers that the responses received to the additional consultation demonstrates the effectiveness of consultation. Where responses referred to continuing concerns, these are focused on localised issues in specific locations in:
- section 2 (one location near Lower Hordley)
 - section 3 (two locations, south east and south west of Cockshutt)
 - section 4 (one location near the River Roden)
- 10.6.4 In relation to the feedback received about the construction access near Noneley and the reference to planning consent for part of the area adjacent to the barn (shown as a construction access on Sheet 13 of the Revised Draft Works Plans 2018) to be used for car parking, the proposed construction access has been removed.

- 10.6.5 Two further pieces of feedback were received from those with an interest in land regarding the proposed change at Lower Hordley. One response expressed an objection to the change but did not provide reasons for the opposition.
- 10.6.6 The other comment raised concerns regarding the landscape and visual impacts of the suggested change. These have been assessed by SP Manweb and the suggested change does not give rise to a greater impact than the previously proposed route at this location. The suggested change also addresses previously stated concerns regarding impacts on farming. As such, SP Manweb's view is that this change is acceptable, and the feedback does not change this view.
- 10.6.7 SP Manweb therefore considered it appropriate to accept all but one of the changes as proposed at the start of the targeted consultation in April 2018.

11. FURTHER CHANGES

- 11.1.1 Following the Further Consultation, which ended in May 2018, SP Manweb has continued to review affected land parcels in terms of the appropriate land rights that need to be secured to deliver the project. Technical reviews of the proposed detailed design have also continued. These activities have led to SP Manweb identifying a small number of further changes.
- 11.1.2 SP Manweb considered whether any of these changes impact on other land interests or resulted in additional likely environmental impacts and in which case whether further consultation would be needed. As these minor changes do not affect any new landowners or result in any new environmental impacts, SP Manweb does not consider that additional consultation has been needed.
- 11.1.3 The further changes made are explained below. There is an explanation of why the change has been made and why SP Manweb is of the view that no further consultation has been needed.
- 11.1.4 The further changes are shown on figure 11-1 (**DCO Document 5.1.9**).
- 11.1.5 The further changes are as follows:
- **Amend access off A5(T) from permanent to temporary** – following review of Highways England response, the preference is for this access to be temporary only. There would be no effects on people with an interest in land or environmental constraints. (Shown in extract 1 on figure 11-1 (**DCO Document 5.1.9**))
 - **Remove temporary laydown area at Stanwardine Grange** – following review of the number of temporary laydown areas being used (and agreed), there is no longer a need for the laydown area at this location. The laydown area has been removed from the order limits. Removing this laydown area does not result in any effects on people with an interest in land or environmental constraints. (Shown in extract 2 on figure 11-1 (**DCO Document 5.1.9**))
 - **Amend cable pulling area near Stanwardine Grange** – a small area of land within the order limits has been removed following review of the extent of the works near to pole 108. This is no longer needed as conductors will be pulled through. Removing this area will result in no effects on people with an interest in land or environmental constraints. (Shown in extract 2 on figure 11-1 (**DCO Document 5.1.9**))
 - **Amend cable pulling area adjacent to A528** – a small area of land within the order limits has been removed following review of the extent of the works near to pole 112. There will not be any works in the public highway. There are no effects on people with an interest in land or environmental constraints from this change. (Shown in extract 3 on figure 11-1 (**DCO Document 5.1.9**))
 - **Amend order limits near Chapel House** – following review of the extent of the works, a section of the order limits which extended slightly over a pond near pole 150 has been amended to exclude the pond. This change results in no effects on people with an interest in land or environmental constraints. (Shown in extract 4 on figure 11-1 (**DCO Document 5.1.9**))

- **Remove construction access through Commonwood Farm** – following discussions with the affected landowner, the first 250 metres of the proposed permanent access from the public road through Commonwood Farm has been removed. Construction access to poles 158 and 159 will be through the construction access to the west of Commonwood Farm. Access to poles 160, 161 and 162 would then be from the line route itself. No additional people with an interest in land are affected by this change and there are no likely environmental impacts. (Shown in extract 5 on figure 11-1 (**DCO Document 5.1.9**))
- **Remove area adjacent to 33kV undergrounding along the order limits north-east of Pole 173** – following technical review, part of the proposed 33kV underground cable has been removed as no longer required. No new landowners are affected by this change and there would be no likely environmental impacts arising from the change. (Shown in extract 6 on figure 11-1 (**DCO Document 5.1.9**))
- **Amend proposed 33kV underground cable route** – following technical review, the underground cable route needs to switch from entering the Wem Substation on the eastern side to the western side. This involves extending the underground cable route for 25m along the public highway. As this is a public highway, Shropshire Council is the relevant landowner. As the new short section is underground cable along a public highway there would be no environmental impacts arising from the change. (Shown in extract 7a on figure 11-1 (**DCO Document 5.1.9**))
- **Extend order limits near pole 175** – following review of the extent of the works near to pole 175, there is an existing 11kV overhead line running close to the new 132kV overhead line. To allow for any changes, the order limit has been extended by a triangular shaped addition measuring 15m at its widest point to infill an area between the Temporary Laydown Area No. 7 and the existing order limit. No new landowners are affected by this change and there would be no likely environmental impacts. (Shown in extract 7b on figure 11-1 (**DCO Document 5.1.9**))
- **Extend order limits south of Wem substation** – following review of the extent of the works between poles 175 and 176, there is an existing 33kV overhead line running close to the proposed 132kV overhead line which is being diverted and placed underground. No additional people with an interest in land are affected by this change and there are no likely environmental impacts. (Shown in extract 7c on figure 11-1 (**DCO Document 5.1.9**)).

- 11.1.6 As part of ongoing engagement with statutory bodies to agree measures to be included as part of the construction of the Proposed Development, SP Manweb provided a draft of its response to the Canal & River Trust's statutory consultation feedback (as summarised in Chapter 9). SP Manweb then received further feedback in September 2018 on behalf of the Canal & River Trust. This feedback requested that SP Manweb provides additional information that had been requested in earlier feedback.
- 11.1.7 In summary, the additional feedback:
- requested further information on how SP Manweb has assessed the potential to underground the proposed development in the vicinity of the canal;
 - queried SP Manweb's suggestion that undergrounding could be considered elsewhere on the canal;
 - stated a concern that SP Manweb had suggested undergrounding could be considered as part of the examination process and questioned SP Manweb's consultation process;
 - noted SP Manweb's principle for supporting a local habitate enhancement initiative but stating more information is required for discussions to take place;
 - asked for evidence of how SP Manweb has calculated a cost of £1 million for undergrounding the proposed development; and
 - requested further visuals and scaled plans of the proposed development, confirmation that bird diverters would be installed and copies of the draft CEMP.
- 11.1.8 SP Manweb's response explained that SP Manweb's decision to route the proposed 132kV overhead line over the Montgomery Canal would be explained in full in the documentation supporting its application for a Development Consent Order. It noted that this documentation would be available on the Planning Inspectorate's website following submission of the application.
- 11.1.9 The response enclosed landscape and visual assessments (and a photomontage) for viewpoints near the Montgomery Canal. It also included draft Protective Provisions for the Canal & River Trust's consideration.
- 11.1.10 The response also explained SP Manweb considered it has undertaken a lengthy and comprehensive statutory and non-statutory consultation in relation to the proposed development.

12. CONCLUSIONS

- 12.1.1 SP Manweb's pre-application consultation was designed to generate feedback that, ultimately, would lead to a proposed development that limits impacts on people and places as far as possible.
- 12.1.2 To achieve this, SP Manweb has provided information on the proposed development and explained to communities and stakeholders how they could comment on the proposed development and why doing so was important. This approach has generated valuable and useful feedback on the proposed development.
- 12.1.3 The feedback generated by SP Manweb's pre-application consultation (both non-statutory and statutory) has played an important role in shaping the project and reducing impacts on local people and places.
- 12.1.4 At the same time, SP Manweb has undertaken a consultation that has met the statutory requirements of the Act.
- 12.1.5 Having first invited feedback when the project consisted of a 100-metre wide line route, with options, the comments received have helped refine the project to the 25m corridor (10m for the cable route and approximately 5m for the construction accesses) Proposed Development that is presented in the application for a DCO.
- 12.1.6 SP Manweb considers that each stage of the consultation has been instrumental in shaping the proposals. Each stage has also provided key learning that have shaped and improve the following stage of consultation.
- Early engagement
- 12.1.7 SP Manweb recognised the important benefits of early engagement and this engaged with Shropshire Council ahead of non-statutory consultation. These discussions helped shape and agree the consultation format.
- 12.1.8 SP Manweb also engaged with elected representatives on Shropshire Council whose wards were affected by the proposed development, and relevant parish councils, ahead of consultation by inviting them to a briefing in the local area.

12.1.9 In carrying out this early engagement, SP Manweb was able to draw a number of conclusions:

- early conversations with Shropshire Council allowed SP Manweb to take advantage of the Council's detailed local knowledge and ensure engagement was appropriate for the local area. This included adopting advice to extend the consultation zone to the western fringes of Wem;
- involving Shropshire Council at an early stage also helped foster a positive working relationship with officers at Shropshire Council that meant SP Manweb has continued to be able to benefit from useful local knowledge and advice, particularly when drafting the SoCC; and
- briefing local councillors and parish council ahead of the public launch of consultation helped ensure that these important representatives were aware of the proposals, could provide accurate information to their communities and encourage participation.

Non-statutory consultation

12.1.10 As explained in Chapter 4 of this report, the non-statutory consultation was designed to allow the local community to put forward issues (and allow SP Manweb to address these) at an early stage. SP Manweb launched the consultation at this stage as there was real opportunity to influence the proposed development, but the project was defined enough for possible impacts to be understood.

12.1.11 The initial period of non-statutory consultation introduced the proposed development to local communities and stakeholders. It explained SP Manweb's initial routeing work and advised on how people could provide feedback to influence the project design. The use of Project Update 1, press releases and events in the local area helped raise awareness of the proposals.

12.1.12 SP Manweb also began engaging with landowners at this early stage and used the project newsletters to demonstrate it was keen to work with those with an interest in land, to address questions over routeing on their land and help them understand the planning process.

12.1.13 Following an initial period of non-statutory consultation, SP Manweb extended the non-statutory consultation from the initial period between June 2016 and September 2016, to July 2017. SP Manweb continued to engage with local communities and those with an interest in land to allow them to influence the proposed development.

12.1.14 SP Manweb considers that the activities carried out during the non-statutory consultation achieved key success as well as providing learnings that benefited later stages of consultation:

- attendance at the consultation events and feedback generated shows that SP Manweb's activities to publicise the consultation were successful. The majority of those taking part in the consultation were from communities close to the proposed development, suggesting SP Manweb successfully engaged those who may be most affected by the project;
- feedback generated was of a quality that, when considered alongside SP Manweb's own environmental and technical work, it led to changes to the line route;
- the feedback received at this stage suggested that people could understand the potential impacts from the proposed development, which supported the project's decision to launch consultation at this stage;
- feedback focused on a small number of specific locations – primarily Woodhouse, Hordley and Noneley. SP Manweb considered that this showed broad support for earlier routeing work and the routeing of the overhead line for the majority of the route;
- early engagement with landowners allowed specific routeing concerns relating to people's land to be addressed;
- the approach to those with an interest in land also resulted in comments that have been openly made during the consultation alongside comments from the local community. This allowed for a transparent consultation that demonstrates the differing concerns that SP Manweb has balanced in developing the proposed development; and
- extending the non-statutory consultation allowed for further engagement with local communities and those with an interest in land. Feedback resulting from these discussions allowed for the proposed development to be further refined and several routeing issues to be addressed before statutory consultation.

Statutory consultation

12.1.15 Using the experience of non-statutory consultation, SP Manweb developed a SoCC that outlined its approach to statutory consultation. As required, SP Manweb consulted on the SoCC with Shropshire Council, which was supportive of the approach. Taking on advice from the Council (and similar advice from PINS), SP Manweb reviewed the consultation zone further to include areas in east Oswestry.

12.1.16 The approach to statutory consultation built on the approach used at non-statutory consultation. Once again, SP Manweb held a briefing for local elected representatives, to provide an update on the proposed development and explain the consultation approach.

12.1.17 While developing an approach to consultation that was designed to generate meaningful feedback, SP Manweb also ensured it met all of the statutory requirements required under the Act.

12.1.18 SP Manweb engaged with local communities through Project Update 4, local press coverage and further consultation events. An additional event was added at East Oswestry, following the consultation zone extension. SP Manweb also continued to engage those with an interest in land and prescribed bodies.

12.1.19 The activities carried out during the statutory consultation led SP Manweb to conclude:

- the project received widespread coverage in the local media (both in print and on the radio), helping raise awareness of the project. The briefing for elected representatives was well attended and those who attended were receptive to the approach to consultation;
- the tracking of the individual respondents who submitted comments and the scaling down of the overall number of responses through the consultation process. Of the total 89 recorded respondents from both the non-statutory and statutory stages, 55 (60%) of those who engaged at the non-statutory stage did not see a need to re-engage in the statutory stage;
- those that engaged with the consultation continued to be from communities near the proposed development, or those with an interest in land affected by the proposed development. This suggested that SP Manweb's had been successful in engaging those who were potentially most affected by the proposed development;
- very few negative comments were received about the approach to consultation and engagement with local people at consultation events was generally positive and constructive;
- the feedback generated was detailed, with the majority of the comments focused on the location of the line route and associated construction routes in specific areas of the route. The quality of the feedback received meant the comments could help refine the proposed development further;
- it was noted that comments focused on a small number of specific areas, primarily in Noneley and near Lower Hordley, and several of the earlier changes to the proposed development (such as at Woodhouse) received no further comments. This suggests that SP Manweb's efforts to refine the proposed development had satisfied a number of local people; and
- very few comments on the previous work or the choice of pole design were received. The focus of the feedback therefore enabled SP Manweb to focus on amending the project design to address specific concerns.

Additional consultation

12.1.20 Having considered the feedback received during the statutory consultation, SP Manweb made further refinements to the proposed development to address outstanding concerns. Having made several changes to the proposed, SP Manweb consider it would be beneficial to local communities and stakeholders to carry out additional, targeted consultation on these changes.

12.1.21 SP Manweb engaged with prescribed stakeholders, those with an interest in land and members of the local community who had previously taken part in the consultation process and invited comments on the changes.

12.1.22 SP Manweb was able to draw the following conclusions following this additional activity:

- of the five changes to the overhead line presented at this additional consultation, three received no further comment or comments in support of the change. SP Manweb concluded that this suggested the changes following statutory consultation had addressed the concerns raised in these areas; and
- Where concerns were raised, these mirrored comments provided at the statutory consultation and provided no substantive reasons for SP Manweb to re-consider its decisions following statutory consultation.

Proposed Development presented in the application for a DCO

12.1.23 The Proposed Development presented in the application for a DCO is the result of over two years of engagement with local people, those with an interest in land and stakeholder bodies. As this report demonstrates, the feedback provided by these groups has played a meaningful role in improving the project design and helping refine the proposals.

12.1.24 SP Manweb considers that the resulting Proposed Development represents the best balance of feedback from these groups, technical assessments and its own engineering work.