

SP MANWEB

Reinforcement to the North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network



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Socio-Economic

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November 2018

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Electricity Distribution Network**

**CHAPTER 10
SOCIO-ECONOMIC**

**Environmental Statement
DCO Document 6.10
November 2018
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The Planning Act 2008

**The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure)
Regulations 2009**

Regulation 5(2)(a)

Reinforcement to the North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network

Environmental Statement Chapter 10 Socio-Economic

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Document	Chapter	Document
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6.2	2	Alternatives and Design Evolution
6.3	3	Proposed Development
6.4	4	Approach and General Methodology
6.5	5	Planning Considerations
6.6	6	Landscape and Visual
6.7	7	Ecology and Biodiversity
6.8	8	Historic Environment
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6.11	11	Land Use and Agriculture
6.12	12	Cumulative Effects
6.13	13	Summary of Environmental Effects
6.14		Environmental Statement Figures
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Reference is also made to the following DCO documents:

DCO Document	Document
2.4	Access and Rights of Way Plans
5.1	Consultation Report

CHAPTER 10: SOCIO-ECONOMIC

10.1 INTRODUCTION

- 10.1.1 This chapter presents information about the potential socio-economic effects that have been identified, which could result from the Proposed Development described in Chapter 3 ‘The Proposed Development’ (**DCO Document 6.3**) and includes works at the existing substations at Oswestry and Wem, and underground cable, overhead line, lower voltage temporary diversions, access tracks and temporary laydown areas.
- 10.1.2 This chapter and its associated appendices describe the current baseline profile for socio-economic features and identifies any likely significant socio-economic effects associated with the Proposed Development. The socio-economic baseline presented provides details on the population, employment and skills, businesses, recreation and tourism resources within the study area (defined in Section 10.3 of this chapter). The aim of the baseline profile is to establish the sensitivity of communities to socio-economic impacts (both beneficial and adverse), from and associated with, the Proposed Development. Potential socio-economic effects are then identified and assessed taking into account the baseline profile. Socio-economic assessment considers social effects. It refers to the consequences to local populations in terms of ways in which people live, work and interact; and economic effects that include issues such as employment and impact on economic sectors.
- 10.1.3 Tourism and recreation were identified as having the potential for significant socio-economic effect (as explained in the Scoping Opinion (April 2017¹) and the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) (November 2017²).

¹ Available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020021/EN020021-000012-Scoping%20Opinion.pdf>

² Available at: https://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/userfiles/file/SPM_NSRP_PEIR.pdf

Following consultation with socio-economic stakeholders, including Shropshire Council, the addition of business issues (due to the beneficial impacts anticipated) was added to the assessment. However, likely effects on farms and farming activities within the Order Limits for the Proposed Development have been assessed and presented in Chapter 11 'Land Use and Agriculture' (**DCO Document 6.11**).

10.1.4 More information, including greater detail on the assessment methodology and baseline information is presented in the following appendices and figures:

- Appendix 10.1: Socio-Economic Assessment Methodology (**DCO Document 6.10.1**);
- Appendix 10.2: Socio-Economic Baseline and Assessment (**DCO Document 6.10.2**);
- Appendix 10.3: Socio-Economic Scoping Opinion Responses (**DCO Document 6.10.3**);
- Figure 10.1 Socio-Economic Super Output Areas (baseline data) (**DCO Document 6.14**);
- Figure 10.2 Socio-Economic Assessment Study Areas (**DCO Document 6.14**);
- Figure 10.3 Public Rights of Way (**DCO Document 6.14**); and
- Figure 10.4 Airfields and Approach Route (**DCO Document 6.14**).

10.2 LEGISLATION AND POLICY BACKGROUND

10.2.1 The following is a summary of the legislation and policy relevant to the socio-economic assessment.

National Planning Policy

10.2.2 The principal guidance for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) is that provided by the National Policy Statements (NPS). These set out Government policy for the delivery of major energy infrastructure and are

material considerations in decision making for NSIPs. NPS EN-1³ and NPS EN-5⁴ are relevant to both the Proposed Development and socio-economic considerations.

NPS EN-1 and NPS EN-5

10.2.3 NPS EN-1 is directly relevant to this chapter and the relevant sections and how they have been addressed are summarised in Table 10.1. NPS EN-5 does not provide specific guidance in relation to socio-economic assessment.

Table 10.1 – Compliance with NPS EN-1	
NPS EN-1 Section	Covered in ES Section
<p>Para 4.4.2 The IPC will find it helpful if the applicant sets out information on the likely significant social and economic effects of the development, and shows how any likely significant negative effects would be avoided or mitigated.</p> <p>This information could include matters such as employment, equality, community cohesion and well-being</p>	<p>Tourism and recreation were identified as having the potential for significant socio-economic effect (as set out in the Scoping Opinion (April 2017) and the PEIR (November 2017). Business concerns were added following stakeholder consultation activities (see further explanation and letter included in Appendix 10.1 (DCO Document 6.10.1)).</p>
<p>Para 4.13.4 New energy infrastructure may also affect the composition, size and proximity of the local population, and in doing so have indirect health impacts, for example if it in some way affects access to key public services, transport or the use of open space for recreation and physical activity</p>	<p>The scoping and PEIR process established that the nature and scale of the Proposed Development means this is not a concern for this development.</p> <p>The design of the route and the siting of associated infrastructure has been developed within the underlying principle of good</p>

³ Department for Energy and Climate Change (July 2011), Overarching Energy National Policy Statement (EN-1)

⁴ Department for Energy and Climate Change (July 2011), National Policy Statement for Electricity Energy Infrastructure (EN-5)

Table 10.1 – Compliance with NPS EN-1

NPS EN-1 Section	Covered in ES Section
	design. This is covered in Chapter 2 'Alternatives and Design Evolution' (DCO Document 6.2).
<p>Para 5.12.2 Where the project is likely to have socio-economic impacts at local or regional levels, the applicant should undertake and include in their application an assessment of these impacts as part of the ES</p>	<p>Tourism, recreation and business issues are considered within the socio-economic assessment process, see Appendix 10.1 (DCO Document 6.10.1) for further detail.</p>
<p>Para 5.12.3 This assessment should consider all relevant socio-economic impacts, which may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the creation of jobs and training opportunities; • the provision of additional local services and improvements to local infrastructure, including the provision of educational and visitor facilities; • effects on tourism; • the impact of a changing influx of workers during the different construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the energy infrastructure. 	<p>The nature and scale of the Proposed Development means that creation of jobs and training is unlikely as a direct consequence.</p> <p>There would be improvements to local infrastructure (captured in the business issues assessment in Appendix 10.2 (DCO Document 6.10.2).</p> <p>The potential for effects on tourism have also been considered in Appendix 10.2 (DCO Document 6.10.2).</p> <p>The nature and scale of the Proposed Development means that the impact of a changing influx of workers during the different construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the energy infrastructure is unlikely as a direct consequence.</p>
<p>Para 5.12.4 Applicants should describe the existing socio-economic conditions in the areas surrounding the proposed development and should also refer to how the development's socio-</p>	<p>Appendix 10.2 (DCO Document 6.10.2) details the existing socio-economic baseline. Local planning policies are considered below.</p>

Table 10.1 – Compliance with NPS EN-1

NPS EN-1 Section	Covered in ES Section
economic impacts correlate with local planning policies.	
<p>Para 5.12.5 Socio-economic impacts may be linked to other impacts, for example the visual impact of a development is considered in section 5.9 but may also have an impact on tourism and local businesses.</p>	<p>The socio-economic assessment has been completed taking into account findings of other relevant chapters, including the assessment of potential visual effects as set out in Chapter 6 ‘Landscape and Visual’ (DCO Document 6.6).</p>

National Planning Policy Framework

10.2.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) provides national planning policies to be used in the preparation of development plan documents and determining planning applications. The NPPF does not contain specific policies for NSIPs. However, matters that the decision maker considers 'important and relevant' when making decisions on NSIP applications, (which is equivalent to a material consideration in the Town and Country Planning Act) may include the NPPF itself. When promoting an NSIP, it should be considered, whether the project is compatible with what is set out in the NPPF. Whilst the NPS are the primary policy tools for determination of applications for development consent, the NPPF remains relevant in terms of shaping and guiding the environmental topic assessments.

10.2.5 The revised NPPF^[1], published in July 2018, incorporates policy proposals

[1] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, National Planning Policy Framework, London, July 2018 available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/728643/Revised_NPPF_2018.pdf

previously consulted on in the Housing White Paper^[2] and the ‘Planning for the right homes in the right places’^[3] consultation.

10.2.6 The NPPF sets out that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development (environmental, social and economic). The proposed development is supportive of Section 6 that notes the need to promote the retention and development of local services in rural areas (para. 83). The NPPF also notes the need to protect and enhance public rights of way and access (para. 98). The socio-economic assessment has considered PRoW within the assessment process.

Local Planning Policy

10.2.7 The Local Plan for Shropshire comprises several planning documents.

10.2.8 The two key documents which make up the Shropshire Local Plan are the:

- Core Strategy DPD - adopted 24 February 2011; and
- Site Allocations and Management of Development Adopted Plan – adopted 17 December 2015.

10.2.9 As explained in Para. 5.12.4 of NPS EN-1 the socio-economic assessment is considered from the context of the local planning policies. This is demonstrated in Table 10.2 below.

^[2] Housing White Paper, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (February 2017)

^[3] Planning for the right homes in the right places: consultation proposals, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (Updated March 2018)

Table 10.2 – Local Planning Policy and the Socio-Economic Assessment	
Requirement	Covered in ES Chapter
Shropshire Core Strategy DPD (2011)⁵	
Para 1.3 A sustainable place has sufficient social, economic and environmental infrastructure to meet the needs of its current population	The infrastructure the Proposed development offers would help support the needs (current and future) of the population as highlighted by stakeholder responses
Policy CS3 The Market Towns and other Key Centres will maintain and enhance their roles in providing facilities and services to their rural hinterlands...supported by improvements in infrastructure	The infrastructure the Proposed Development offers would help support this policy
Policy CS8 The development of sustainable places in Shropshire will be assisted by...working closely with network providers to ensure provision of necessary energy distribution networks	The infrastructure the Proposed Development offers would help support this policy
Shropshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-2020⁶ (2009)	
Priority 1 Three priorities have been identified within the strategy the first of which is 'Enterprise and growth, with strong market towns and rebalanced rural settlements'	The infrastructure the Proposed Development offers would help support this priority
Economic Growth Strategy for Shropshire 2017-2021⁷ (2017)	

⁵ Shropshire Local Development Framework: Adopted Core Strategy (February 2011) [available at: <https://shropshire.gov.uk/media/8534/core-strategy.pdf>]

⁶ Shropshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-2020 (2009) [available at: <http://www.baystonhill.net/cd-content/uploads/files/Shropshire-s-Community-Strategy-2010-2020.pdf>]

⁷ Economic Growth Strategy for Shropshire 2017-2021 (2017) [available at: <http://shropshire.gov.uk/business-support/economic-growth-strategy-2017-2021/>]

Table 10.2 – Local Planning Policy and the Socio-Economic Assessment	
Requirement	Covered in ES Chapter
Page 9 Having readily available serviced employment sites in the right locations is key to our growth strategy and fundamental to increasing our economic productivity.	The infrastructure the Proposed Development offers would help support this statement
Page 21 We know that on some of our existing and future housing and employment sites there are constraints as a result of the lack of capacity in some of the utilities. We will work closely with landowners, tenants and utility providers to foster the effective planning of infrastructure investment in Shropshire, to understand capacity constraints and to explore ways of addressing these where it is possible to do so.... For example, we have engaged with Scottish Power Energy Networks in helping to secure significant investment proposals in the north of the County to improve electricity infrastructure by 2021.	The infrastructure the Proposed Development offers would help support this statement

10.2.10 Further information on local planning policy is provided in Chapter 5 ‘Planning Considerations’ (**DCO Document 6.5**) of this ES and the Planning Statement (**DCO Document 7.1**).

10.3 METHODOLOGY, SCOPE, ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

Methodology

10.3.1 The detailed methodology for the socio-economic assessment is presented in Appendix 10.1 (**DCO Document 6.10.1**).

Scope – Study Area

- 10.3.2 In the socio-economic context receptors are individuals, organisations or groups who are users or beneficiaries of socio-economic resources (community facilities, businesses, accommodation providers etc.). Defining the spatial scope can be complex because of the need to consider individuals and structures at a variety of distances from the Proposed Development. These individuals and structures may be affected because of a number of potential effects such as economic impact (that is difficult to define categorically), and visual impacts that can vary over distance.
- 10.3.3 The nature of potential socio-economic effects with tourism (including hotels and bed and breakfasts) and recreation, means they have a direct relationship to visual effects as set out in Chapter 6 'Landscape and Visual' (**DCO Document 6.6**). Therefore the decision was taken to correspond the study area with the 1km study area for the visual assessment. The 1km study area extends from the Order Limits for the 132kV overhead line only i.e. it does not extend from the Order Limits for the substations, 132kV underground cable, temporary access routes, temporary laydown areas and lower voltage diversions. This is because the potential visual effects resulting from the Proposed Development in these locations would only be related to relatively minor construction works and would be transient and/or very short term in duration. There is not expected to be a negative effect on tourism related receptors (such as hotels) when the visual effect is not significant.
- 10.3.4 For the assessment of business effects a wider study area was required due to potential effects on business potentially extending to wherever the Proposed Development provided reinforcement to the energy supply. In addition the relevant baseline information was only available on a county wide basis. Therefore the geographical area of Shropshire has been used to consider likely business effects. This is a much wider area than any effect would be reasonably expected but ensures all likely effects resulting from the Proposed Development have been identified. The spatial scope for the

assessment was reviewed by stakeholders (including groups related to tourism and economic development) via distribution of a description and map of the socio-economic baseline study area.

- 10.3.5 Lower super-output areas (LSOAs) have been used for baseline data collection as they present census data at a small, standard statistic level of data. The Shropshire Council boundary has also been used for some baseline data (where data was not available at a LSOA level).
- 10.3.6 The assessment focuses on those areas with the potential for significant effects.
- 10.3.7 The study area was reviewed throughout the assessment, both in the light of ongoing site surveys and as the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Proposed Development developed. This was to ensure that all potentially significant socio-economic effects were captured by the assessment.
- 10.3.8 Further details of the study area and how it was established are presented in Appendix 10.1 'Socio-Economic Assessment Methodology' (**DCO Document 6.10.1**).

Surveys

- 10.3.9 No surveys specific to this assessment were undertaken. Contact was however made with Shropshire Wildlife Trust to access the results of a visitor survey they undertook in March 2017. This related to sites associated with their Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership Scheme, which includes a number of areas within North Shropshire that are a resource for recreation and tourism. The visitor survey was completed over a number of weeks and promoted via social media, so it is noted that respondents are likely to be members of the organisation rather than general visitors or tourists to the area. Shropshire Wildlife Trust agreed to share the results from the survey and the results (84 responses in total) are included in Appendix 10.2 'Socio-Economic Baseline and Assessment' (**DCO Document 6.10.2**).

Assumptions and Limitations

10.3.10 A number of assumptions and limitations are made in relation to the information presented in this chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES).

- The baseline data was based on the most up-to-date information at the time of publication of the ES but the nature of socio-economic data means it is not static;
- The baseline data on business was only available at a county level which is larger than required for assessment purposes;
- Where required, judgement included consideration of the worst-case scenario (precautionary principle) on which to base the assessment; and
- Attempts were made to contact a number of stakeholders related to socio-economic issues. Some stakeholders did not respond and therefore, as indicated within the text, some assessment work has been based on professional judgement.

Determining the Significance of Effects

10.3.11 Following identification of potential effects a level of significance needs to be assigned to that effect. A three stage approach to the assessment has been adopted:

- Assigning a socio-economic value (or sensitivity of) a resource or receptor;
- Assigning a level of effect (the magnitude); and
- Assigning a level of significance.

10.3.12 The first step in assessing the socio-economic effects is to determine the sensitivity of the socio-economic context to the Proposed Development. Socio-economic sensitivity requires a judgement to be made about the susceptibility of a community or individuals (receptor(s)) to accept or adapt to changing socio-economic conditions caused by a development. A receptor

or resource can experience a socio-economic effect in different ways:

- As an economic gain and/or financial loss; and
- As a gain or loss of a resource, or access to a resource.

10.3.13 Once sensitivity has been considered a decision on magnitude of a potential effect is undertaken; this can be adverse or beneficial, permanent or temporary and be experienced at a range of geographical extents.

10.3.14 For the purposes of the assessment moderate and major effects are deemed to be 'significant'. Greater detail on determining significance for the socio-economic assessments is presented in Appendix 10.1 (**DCO Document 6.10.1**).

10.4 CONSULTATION

10.4.1 To inform the preparation of the application for an Order granting development consent, SP Manweb undertook a through pre-application consultation process, which included publication of the following documents:

- Scoping Report submitted to the PINS (9th March 2017)⁸;
- Scoping Opinion received from the Secretary of State (25th April 2017)⁹; and
- Statutory consultation (in accordance with section 42 of the Planning Act 2008) on a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) (November 2017).

10.4.2 Detailed responses to the points raised in the Scoping Opinion is provided in Appendix 10.3 (**DCO Document 6.10.3**).

⁸ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020021/EN020021-000027-Scoping%20Report.pdf>

⁹ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020021/EN020021-000012-Scoping%20Opinion.pdf>

10.4.3 Information on the statutory and non-statutory consultation is provided in the Consultation Report (**DCO Document 5.1**).

10.4.4 Table 10.3 summarises the consultation that occurred on socio-economic matters. The responses received were supportive or confirmed there were no negative concerns associated with the Proposed Development.

Table 10.3 – Summary of EIA Relevant Consultation Responses		
Consultee	Summary of Contact	Response/Outcome
Meres and Mosses Landscape Partnership Scheme and Nature	Contacted as they were undertaking a survey on tourism in the area.	Meeting with Craig Baker (Meres and Mosses) on 22/05/2017 to discuss results of survey. Relevant results emailed to Bryony Turner (06/07/2017).
ABP (Local Business)	Contacted in March 2017 as the route at that time passed in proximity to their premises.	Response received by email 03/03/2017 to confirm they have no issue with the Proposed Development (route now moved away from their business).
Shropshire Council, Economic Growth Service	Provided with the socio-economic section of the Scoping Report for their consideration (03/03/2017).	Email response received on 10/03/2017 including letter and presentation slides of support for Proposed Development.
Shropshire Tourism UK Ltd., Chairman of Oswestry Borderland Tourism	Comment requested on plans and spatial scope of assessment from a tourism perspective.	No concerns raised

Table 10.3 – Summary of EIA Relevant Consultation Responses		
Consultee	Summary of Contact	Response/Outcome
Marches Local Enterprise Partnership / Marches Growth Hub	26/07/2017 comment requested on spatial scope of socio-economic assessment from an economic perspective.	No concerns raised
Sleap Airfield	26/07/2017 comment requested on spatial scope of socio-economic assessment from a tourism / recreation local business perspective.	No concerns raised
North Shropshire Tourism	26/07/2017 comment requested on spatial scope of socio-economic assessment from a tourism / recreation perspective.	No concerns raised
Rights of Way Officer	26/07/2017 comment requested on spatial scope of socio-economic assessment from an access / PRow perspective.	No concerns raised
Wem Town Council	In December 2017 Wem Town Council undertook a survey into the Local Plan. Contacted 01/12/2017 to request details of the survey.	Survey results received and used to inform assessment.
Local Angling Member	Contacted local angling member 14/02/2018 to request the route was checked	Consultee confirmed there were no issues with the route from an angling perspective.

Table 10.3 – Summary of EIA Relevant Consultation Responses		
Consultee	Summary of Contact	Response/Outcome
	for any issues from an angling perspective.	

10.5 BASELINE DESCRIPTION

10.5.1 The aim of the baseline description is to provide an understanding of the existing socio-economic features and conditions within the study area to assist in the identification and assessment of effects (positive and negative).

10.5.2 Greater detail on the socio-economic baseline is provided in Appendix 10.2 (DCO Document 6.10.2).

Existing Socio-Economic Baseline

10.5.3 Wem and Oswestry are market towns located in North Shropshire. The study area extends between the towns through a rural area with agricultural businesses and some isolated commercial premises. There are a number of PRoW (see Figure 11.3 (DCO Document 6.14)) within the area. There are a total of 11,631 residents within the identified LSOAs with an average density of 5.2 persons per hectare.

10.5.4 Shropshire has a high proportion of the population past the retirement age (like many rural areas) and comparatively low levels of unemployment (compared to UK average). The Shropshire labour force is well qualified compared to the West Midlands area in general but supports fewer professionals, with more work in elementary occupations¹⁰ or as process, plant and machine operatives. Shropshire also supports an above average number of people working in skilled trade occupations. Net out-commuting is

¹⁰ As defined in “Standard Occupational Classification 2010: Volume 1 Structure and descriptions of unit groups” Office for National Statistics (2010) Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/methodology/classificationsandstandards/standardoccupationalclassifications/oc/soc2010>

significant (with more resident workers than job availability). There are significant numbers of economically inactive people who would like to be in employment (10,400 in 2016, Annual Population Survey) suggesting that there is an available labour resource within the County. 31% of Shropshire employers report employment staff who have qualifications or skills that are not used in their current role (UKCES Employers Skills Survey, 2015¹¹) and levels of part-time employment are exceptionally high (34.8% of all Shropshire jobs in 2015 against 30.9% nationally). All of these factors are indicative of a level of underemployment within the County.

10.5.5 Shropshire supports a primarily small business economy, with more than nine out of 10 enterprises employing less than 10 and with comparatively few large employers. There are only 35 organisations in Shropshire that employ 250 or more (IDBR, 2016¹²).

10.5.6 Tourism and recreation locations within the LSOA include:

- Cole Mere and White Mere popular for sailing and walking;
- Rednal Karting (karting, paintball and laser activities);
- Montgomery Canal (including the Perry Aqueduct) (recreation activities) pole location 38 is to the east of the canal ;
- Shropshire Way (Route 27) walking trail (Lower Frankton to Llanymynech, a total of 11 mile canalside walk);
- Bed and Breakfasts (e.g. Hordley Hall);
- Pub and restaurants (e.g. The Burlton Inn);

¹¹ UK CES Employers Skills Survey available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ukces-employer-skills-survey-2015-uk-report> [last accessed 01/10/2017]

¹² Inter-Departmental Business Register, 2016 available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/whatwedo/paidservices/interdepartmentalbusinessregisteridbr>

- Sleap Airfield (various recreation activities including café, restaurant and museum); and
- National Cycle Route 455 (Oswestry, Ellesmere and Whitchurch route, 28 mile route).

10.5.7 There are also a number of Public Rights of Way (PRoW), including footpaths, bridleways and byways.

10.5.8 North Shropshire tourism data¹³ identify that North Shropshire and Oswestry proximity to larger urban areas and main road networks (M6, Chester, North Wales) make it an attractive proposition, particularly to day visitors falling within the radius of 1-1.5 hour drive time. The survey undertaken by Shropshire Wildlife Trust also confirmed this. The visitor survey undertaken for Shropshire Council indicates that general sightseeing at 27% and shopping at 25% are the main activities undertaken by day visitors. There were low numbers of overseas visitors (for both surveys analysed, Shropshire Council and Shropshire Wildlife Trust) so the area is not viewed as a priority for overseas tourism at this time. The main age group of visitors are 45 plus. There are relatively low numbers of serviced accommodation within North Shropshire, and particularly, within the study area (1km from the proposed line route of the Proposed Development). Due to the nature of the Proposed Development it is considered that serviced accommodation outside the 1km study area would not experience significant effects, as the most likely effects on users of the service accommodation would be visual and (as detailed in Section 6.3.2 of Chapter 6 'Landscape and Visual' (**DCO Document 6.6**) of the ES) at a distance of 1km a 12m Trident wood pole would appear

¹³ Overview Report: North Shropshire & Oswestry DDP Marketing Strategy available at: <http://www.stmem.com/downloads/company-documents/North-Shropshire-Oswestry-DDP-Marketing-Strategy.pdf>

approximately 7mm high in the view, which is highly unlikely to give rise to significant effects.

Future Baseline

10.5.9 North Shropshire has plans, as detailed in the SAMDev Plan to 2026¹⁴, for further growth. The main intentions are for the following increases:

- Oswestry 2,600 dwellings and 45ha employment (p.180 of SAMDev);
- Whitchurch 1,200 dwellings and 26ha employment (p.226 of SAMDev);
- Ellesmere 800 dwellings and 18 ha of land for leisure and tourism uses (p.143 of SAMDev);
- Wem 500 dwellings and 4ha employment (p.221 of SAMDev); and
- Several villages (community hubs and community clusters) also taking sustainable levels of growth.

10.5.10 Improved electricity supply infrastructure is important to support these growth plans with enhancing electricity supply across North Shropshire having been identified as a local infrastructure priority, hence there is local support from the local business community that has been highlighted by Shropshire Council's response to consultation associated with the Proposed Development (see Appendix 10.1 Socio Economic Assessment Methodology (**DCO Document 6.10.1**) and the Consultation Report (**DCO Document 5.1**) for the detailed response from Shropshire Council). The construction of the Proposed Development would safeguard a small number of existing jobs for a contractor (this may not be a local contractor and may require specialist staff that are not locally based) and would indirectly support the growth of the market towns and the rural economy.

¹⁴ Available at: <http://shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/local-plan/samdev-plan-2006-2026/> & <http://shropshire.gov.uk/media/1900363/SAMDev-Adopted-Plan.pdf>

10.6 ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

10.6.1 This section of the chapter presents the assessment of likely significant socio-economic effects, based on the Proposed Development as described in Chapter 3 'Description of the Proposed Development' (**DCO Document 6.3**). It considers likely significant effects that may arise during construction and operation from a socio-economic perspective.

10.6.2 This chapter only details the likely significant effects for consideration, with more detailed analysis of effects, including non-significant effects, provided in Appendix 10.2 (**DCO Document 6.10.2**).

Effects during Construction

10.6.3 Due to the short term nature of the construction in any one location and due to the limited visual impact (see Chapter 6 'Landscape and Visual' (**DCO Document 6.6**)), there are not anticipated to be any significant socio-economic effects resulting from the construction of the Proposed Development.

10.6.4 Further information on effects during construction is provided within Appendix 10.2 'Socio-Economic Baseline and Assessment' (**DCO Document 6.10.2**).

Effects during Operation

10.6.5 Stakeholder consultation has revealed strong support from Shropshire Council (Economic Growth Service) for the Proposed Development, with the Economic Growth Service noting that there would be a positive economic impact from the investment in new electricity infrastructure that would facilitate growth plans for North Shropshire. Development proposals for housing and employment are predicated on the availability of power which has been an issue in Whitchurch and Oswestry due to supply and capacity constraints. Improved electricity infrastructure is an important and integral part of Shropshire Council's growth plans.

10.6.6 The conclusion is that the Proposed Development is expected to have a significant beneficial effect on business in terms of growth plans for the area

(including housing and employment development).

- 10.6.7 The tourism surveys have revealed that whilst visitors are keen to enjoy the views and tranquility of the area, they also visit for the purposes of shopping and to see friends and family. Taking into consideration the limited visual effects associated with the Proposed Development there would not expect to be any significant effect on tourism for the area.
- 10.6.8 The likely significant effects on socio-economic receptors during operation are limited to the beneficial effects for businesses, as a result of the increased electricity capacity in the area.¹⁵
- 10.6.9 No potentially significant negative impacts are anticipated during the operational phase.
- 10.6.10 Further information on effects during operation is provided within Appendix 10.2 (**DCO Document 6.10.2**).

10.7 CUMULATIVE ASSESSMENT

- 10.7.1 The development proposals identified as part of the cumulative assessment, as set out in Chapter 4 'Approach and General Methodology' (**DCO Document 6.4**) have been considered from a socio-economic perspective. There are a number of residential developments around Wem and Oswestry and some extensions to existing businesses, in addition to a proposed solar farm near Hengoed 3km north of Oswestry. As noted in this chapter there is a need for electricity provision for residential and commercial premises to continue to expand and operate within the area. Therefore, there are no significant adverse socio-economic effects anticipated during the construction

¹⁵ The Consultation Report (**DCO Document 5.1**) has noted that some residents have raised the issue of house prices. SP Manweb is not aware of any evidence regarding impacts on property prices. It is worth noting that property and land prices are not a material planning consideration because there are so many factors outside the project that can affect the prices (such as inflation etc.); therefore, this has not been considered within this socio-economic assessment.

or operation phase. However, during operation there is an expected beneficial positive cumulative effect on multiple developments (by contributing to their viability as developments and provision of electricity availability).

10.8 MITIGATION AND RESIDUAL EFFECTS

10.8.1 Effects during the construction period would be reduced by ensuring good construction and environmental working practices as outlined in the draft Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (Appendix 3.2 (**DCO Document 6.3.2**)).

10.8.2 The only significant socio-economic effect that has been identified is a beneficial operational socio-economic effect. Accordingly, no mitigation measures are required, from a socio-economic perspective.

10.8.3 Therefore the residual significant effects are as per the significant effects reported above in Section 10.6 of this chapter, summarised as:

- There are not anticipated to be any significant socio-economic effects resulting from the construction of the Proposed Development;
- No potentially significant negative impacts are anticipated during the operational phase; and
- The Proposed Development is expected to have a significant beneficial effect on business in terms of growth plans for the area (including housing and employment development) during operation.

10.9 SUMMARY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS

10.9.1 The socio-economic assessment concludes that the operational phase of the Proposed Development is likely to result in significant beneficial effects for local businesses. In addition, there would be significant beneficial effects in operation with improved electrical provision that will allow for continued development plans in the area in keeping with local planning policy intentions. No significant adverse effects are predicted during the construction or operational phases of the Proposed Development.