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All Interested Parties and Statutory
Parties

Your Ref:

Our Ref: EN020021

Date: 20 February 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Act 2008 (as amended) – Section 88 and the Infrastructure
Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) – Rule 6**

**Application by SP Manweb for an Order Granting Development Consent for
the Reinforcement to the North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network**

Appointment of the Examining Authority

I write to you following my appointment by the Secretary of State as the Examining Authority (ExA) to carry out an examination of the above application submitted by SP Manweb. A copy of the appointment letter can be viewed here:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020021/EN020021-000301-190208%20Notice%20of%20Appointment%20of%20Single%20Examiner%20EN020021.pdf>

Invitation to the Preliminary Meeting

This letter is an invitation to the Preliminary Meeting to discuss the examination procedure:

Date of meeting: Wednesday 20 March 2019

Seating available from: 9.30am

Meeting begins: 10.00am

Venue: The Old Rectory, Lowe Hill Road, Wem, SY4 5UA

Access and parking: Free parking available at venue

Purpose of the Preliminary Meeting

I would like to thank those of you who submitted Relevant Representations which have assisted me in preparing my proposals for examining this application. The purpose of the Preliminary Meeting is to enable views to be put to me about the way in which the application is to be examined and provides you with an opportunity to have your say about procedural issues before these decisions are finalised. I will cover briefly the examination process at the beginning of the meeting. At this stage, I will be looking at the procedure only, and not the merits of the application. These will be considered once the examination starts, which is after the Preliminary Meeting has closed.

I wish to run a fair, efficient and effective meeting so that all relevant views can be heard. As such, where this is appropriate I strongly encourage groups of individuals who have similar views on the procedure to choose one representative to speak for the group.

This letter contains a number of annexes. The agenda for the meeting is in **Annex A**. This has been set following my initial assessment of the Principal Issues arising on the application, set out in **Annex B**. As a result of this assessment I wish to hear at the meeting from the Applicant, Interested Parties, Statutory Parties and Local Authorities where they consider changes may be needed to the draft timetable set out in **Annex C**. **Annexes D, E, F** and **G** are covered later in this letter.

Attendance at the Preliminary Meeting

If you wish to attend the Preliminary Meeting, would you please contact the Case Team using the details set out at the top of this letter by **11 March 2019**.

It will help the management of the meeting and benefit everyone if you also:

- Tell us whether you wish to speak at the meeting and on which agenda items, listing points you wish to make; and
- Notify us of any special requirements you may have (eg disabled access, hearing loop etc).

If you intend to play an active part in the examination of this application or you have questions about procedure it is useful to attend the meeting. However, please note that you are not required to attend the Preliminary Meeting in order to participate in the examination. If you are an Interested Party, you will still be able to make written representations and participate in any hearings that are arranged.

Should you no longer wish to be an Interested Party and do not wish to be involved in the examination process, you can notify the Case Team of this in writing.

After the Preliminary Meeting

After the Preliminary Meeting you will be sent a letter setting out the firm timetable for the examination in the light of my consideration of any points which have been put to me. An audio recording and a note of the meeting will also be published on the project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

Interested Parties have the right to request an Open Floor Hearing and those persons affected by any request for compulsory acquisition or temporary possession of their land or rights may request a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing. Any other Issue Specific Hearings are at the discretion of the ExA and will be arranged if I feel that consideration of oral representations would ensure an issue is adequately considered. My examination will consist principally of Written Representations about the proposal and any oral representations made at the hearings, in addition to consideration of the application documents, policy and legal positions, site inspections and any other matters I consider to be relevant and important.

All relevant and important matters will be taken into account when I make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy who will take the final decision in this case

Communicating with you

Given the volume and frequency of letters the Planning Inspectorate needs to send to Interested Parties during an examination, we aim to communicate with people by email wherever possible. If you can receive communications by email, please confirm this with us.

Up to date information about the project and the examination can be obtained from:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/west-midlands/reinforcement-to-north-shropshire-electricity-distribution-network/?ipcsection=overview>

This is the project website address from which I will make copies of all future communications and examination documents available to the public. You can use this page to track progress of the examination and access all relevant documents and correspondence from the links it contains. As the examination process makes substantial use of electronic documents, it will be useful to become familiar with this resource.

If you wish to receive an email notification when relevant documents and correspondence are published, you can register on the project website to do so.

Notification of initial hearing

I have made a procedural decision to hold the following hearing:

- An **Issue Specific Hearing dealing with matters relating to the draft Development Consent Order** on the afternoon of 20 March 2019.

Important information about this hearing is contained within **Annex F** and a proposed agenda for this hearing is set out at **Annex G**.

If you wish to make an oral representation at this hearing please write, email or telephone the Case Team using the address and contact details at the top of this letter. We will need to receive the above notice **no later than 11 March 2019** It will help the management of this hearing and benefit everyone if you also:

- Set out the issues about which you wish to make oral representations (if you wish to speak); and
- Notify us of any special needs you may have (eg disabled access, hearing loop etc)

Procedural decisions made by the ExA under ss89(3) and 93(1) of the Planning Act 2008

I have made some preliminary procedural decisions in addition to the hearing referred to above. These include deadlines for submission of various documents and representations, and notification of a proposed accompanied site inspection. These procedural decisions are set out in full at **Annex E**.

Your status in the Examination

This letter has been sent to you because you (or the body you represent) fall within one of the categories in s88(3) of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008).

If you have made a Relevant Representation, have a legal interest in the land affected by the application, or are a relevant Local Authority (reference numbers beginning with 2001, 2002, NSRP-AFP, you have a formal status as an Interested Party in the examination.

Interested Parties will receive notifications from the Planning Inspectorate about the examination throughout the process and may make written and oral submissions regarding the application.

If you are a prescribed consultee (i.e. body specified in the relevant regulations supporting the PA2008) but have not made a Relevant Representation (reference number beginning with NSRP-SP) you will not automatically be an Interested Party. However, following the Preliminary Meeting, you will have a further opportunity to notify the Planning Inspectorate that you wish to be treated as an Interested Party.

If you are not sure whether you are an Interested Party, please contact the Case Team using the details at the top of this letter. Information regarding the formal status of Interested Parties and how you can get involved in the process is set out in the Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 8 Series on the National Infrastructure Planning website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>.

Award of Costs

I also draw your attention to the possibility of the Award of Costs against Interested Parties who behave unreasonably. You should be aware of the relevant cost guidance "Awards of costs; examinations of applications for development consent orders" which applies to National Infrastructure projects. This guidance is available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/guidance/>.

Management of Information

The Planning Inspectorate has a commitment to transparency. Therefore, all information submitted and accepted for this project and any record of advice which has been provided, is published at:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/west-midlands/reinforcement-to-north-shropshire-electricity-distribution-network/>

All examination documents can also be viewed electronically at the locations listed in **Annex D**.

Please note that in the interest of facilitating an effective and fair examination, we consider it necessary to publish some personal information. To find out how we handle your personal information, please view our Privacy Notice.

Finally, I look forward to working with all parties in the examination of this application.

Yours faithfully

Paul Hudson

Examining Authority

Annexes

- A** Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting
- B** Initial Assessment of Principal Issues
- C** Draft timetable for examination of the application
- D** Availability of examination documents
- E** Procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority
- F** Notification of the Issue Specific Hearing on the Development Consent Order
- G** Agenda for the Issue Specific Hearing on the Development Consent Order

This communication does not constitute legal advice.
Please view our [Privacy Notice](#) before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

Agenda for the Preliminary Meeting

Date: Wednesday 20 March 2019

Registration open from: 9.30am

Meeting start time: 10.00am

Venue: The Old Rectory, Lowe Hill Road, Wem, SY4 5UA

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 09.30am | Registration opens |
| Item 1 (10.00am) | Welcome and introductions |
| Item 2 | The Examining Authority's (ExA's) remarks about the examination process |
| Item 3 | Initial Assessment of Principal Issues – see Annex B |
| Item 4 | Draft timetable for the examination – see Annex C |
| Item 5 | Deadlines for submission of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on Relevant Representations; • Written Representations; • Local Impact Reports; • Responses to the ExA's Written Questions; • Statements of Common Ground; • Notifications relating to hearings; • Nominations of suggested locations with justifications for site inspections; • Procedural requests for submissions to the Planning Inspectorate in advance of the Preliminary Meeting. |
| Item 6 | Hearings and Accompanied Site Inspection (ASI): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dates of Issue Specific Hearing on the Applicant's draft Development Consent Order; • Date reserved for Open Floor Hearing; • Dates reserved for Issue Specific Hearings; • Date reserved for Compulsory Acquisition Hearing • Date of ASI to application site and surrounding area; |
| Item 7 | Any remaining submissions regarding procedural matters not set out in the agenda that have been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in advance of the Preliminary Meeting. |
| Item 8 | Any other matters |
| | Close of the Preliminary Meeting |

Please note: Please register and be available from the start and throughout the meeting. The agenda is subject to change at the discretion of the ExA. The ExA will conclude the meeting as soon as all relevant contributions have been made. If there are any additional matters to be dealt with or submissions take a considerable amount of time the ExA may change the order of the agenda items and may introduce breaks in the proceedings.

Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

This is the initial assessment of the principal issues arising from consideration by the Examining Authority (ExA) of the application documents and Relevant Representations received. It is not a comprehensive or exclusive list of all relevant matters; regard will be had to all important and relevant matters in reaching a recommendation after the examination is concluded. The identified Principal Issues are listed in alphabetical order and should not be taken to imply an order of importance.

The policy and consenting requirements and documents associated with the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) are an integral part of the examination and are therefore not set out as separate Principal Issues. In addition, it should be noted that a number of these Principal Issues set out below have an interrelationship and overlap and these will be reflected in the examination.

- 1. Adequacy of protective provisions for statutory undertakers**
- 2. Agreements with landowners concerning temporary possession for access during construction**
- 3. Crossings of existing main networks**
 - A5 and A528
 - Montgomery Canal
 - Shrewsbury to Chester railway
 - Ironbridge to Shrewsbury 400 kV overhead line
- 4. Flexibility of proposed limits of deviation and siting of individual poles**
- 5. Flood risk**
- 6. Impacts on existing farm operations during construction and operation**
- 7. Impacts on landscape and visual amenity**
 - Hedgerows and veteran trees
 - Laydown areas during construction

Draft timetable for examination of the application

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

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

| Item | Matters | Due Dates |
|------|---|---|
| 1 | Preliminary Meeting | Wednesday 20 March 2019 (10.00am) |
| 2 | Issue Specific Hearing Dealing with matters relating to the draft Development Consent Order (DCO). | Wednesday 20 March 2019 (2.00pm) |
| 3 | Issue by the ExA of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination Timetable Publication of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ExA's Written Questions Notification by the ExA of an Accompanied Site Inspection. | As soon as practicable following the Preliminary Meeting |
| 4 | Deadline 1 Deadline for receipt of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on Relevant Representations (RRs); • Summaries of all RR's exceeding 1500 words; • Written Representations (WRs); • Summaries of all WRs exceeding 1500 words; • Local Impact Report(s) from local authorities; • Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs) requested by the ExA; • Notification of wish to attend the Accompanied Site Inspection; | Friday 29 March 2019 |

| | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested locations for site inspections and justification for consideration by the ExA; • Post hearing submissions including written submissions of oral cases; • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules¹. | |
| 5 | Accompanied Site Inspection | Thursday 11 April 2019 |
| 6 | <p>Deadline 2</p> <p>Deadline for receipt by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on WRs; • Comments on any SoCG; • Comments on Local Impact Report(s); • Responses to the ExA's Written Questions; • Revised draft DCO from the Applicant; • Comments on updated application documents; • Comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received to Deadline 1; • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules. | Wednesday 24 April 2019 |
| 7 | <p>Deadline 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notification of wish to speak at a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing; • Notification of wish to speak at an Open Floor Hearing; • Any revised / updated SoCG; • Comments on the Applicant's revised draft DCO; | Tuesday 14 May 2019 |

¹ The Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

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|----|---|-------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on responses to the ExA's Written Questions; • Comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received to Deadline 2; • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules. | |
| 8 | <p>Deadline 4</p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on any revised/updated SoCG; • Revised draft DCO from the Applicant; • Comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received to Deadline 3; • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Exam Rules. | Tuesday 4 June 2019 |
| 9 | <p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ExA's Further Written Questions (if required). | Wednesday 12 June 2019 |
| 10 | <p>Notification by the ExA of further hearings (if required).</p> | By Friday 14 June 2019 |
| 11 | <p>Deadline 5</p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to the ExA's Further Written Questions (if required); • Any revised/ updated SoCG; • Comments on the Applicant's revised draft DCO; • Comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received to Deadline 4; • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules | Thursday 27 June 2019 |

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|----|--|---|
| | (including probably a request for a further revised draft DCO prior to the ISH programmed for Thursday 11 July 2019). | |
| 12 | Open Floor Hearing (if required) Date reserved to hold an Open Floor Hearing | Wednesday 10 July 2019 (afternoon) |
| 13 | Issue Specific Hearing Dealing with matters relating to the draft Development Consent Order (DCO) | Thursday 11 July 2019 (morning) |
| 14 | Compulsory Acquisition Hearing (if required) Date reserved to hold a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing | Thursday 11 July 2019 (afternoon) |
| 15 | Issue Specific Hearing (if required) Date reserved to hold an Issue Specific Hearing on any other matter | Friday 12 July 2019 |
| 16 | Deadline 6 Deadline for receipt of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post hearing submissions (if required); • Applicant's final preferred DCO on SI template and validation report; • Comments on any revised / updated SoCG; • Comments on responses to the ExA's Further Written Questions (if required); • Comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received to Deadline 5; • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules. | Friday 19 July 2019 |
| 17 | Deadline 7 Deadline for receipt of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on the Applicant's final preferred DCO; | Wednesday 31 July 2019 |

| | | |
|----|---|---------------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received to Deadline 6; • Any further information requested by the ExA under Rule 17 of the Examination Rules. | |
| 18 | <p>Publication by the ExA of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES) (if required). | Wednesday 7 August 2019 |
| 19 | <p>Deadline 8</p> <p>Deadline for receipt of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to comments on the Applicant's final preferred DCO; • Comments on any further information requested by the ExA and received to Deadline 7; • Comments on the RIES (if required). | Wednesday 28 August 2019 |
| 20 | <p>The ExA is under a duty to complete the examination of the application by the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the day after the close of the Preliminary Meeting.</p> | Friday 20 September 2019 |

Publication Dates

All information received will be published on the project website as soon as practicable after the deadline for submissions. An Examination Library will be kept up to date throughout the examination and can be accessed via the project page. Each document will be afforded a unique reference. These references will be used by the ExA during the examination.

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/west-midlands/reinforcement-to-north-shropshire-electricity-distribution-network/?ipcsection=docs>

Hearing Agendas

Please note that we will aim to publish a detailed draft agenda for each hearing on the project website at least five working days in advance of the hearing date, but the actual agenda on the day of each hearing may be subject to change at the discretion of the ExA.

Report on the Implications for European Sites (RIES)

Where the Applicant has provided a No Significant Effects Report (NSER) or a Habitats Regulations Assessment Report (HRA Report) with the DCO application, the ExA may decide to issue a RIES during the examination. The RIES is a factual account of the information and evidence provided to the ExA on HRA matters during the examination up to the date of the publication of the RIES, for the purposes of enabling the Secretary of State, as competent authority, to undertake its HRA. It is not the ExA's opinion on HRA matters. Comments on the RIES will be invited by the ExA and any received will be taken into account as part of the ExA's Recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State may rely on the consultation on the RIES to meet its obligations under Regulation 63(3) of the Habitats Regulations and / or Regulation 28 of the Offshore Marine Regulations.

Availability of examination documents

All application documents including Relevant Representations and application documents are available on the National Infrastructure Planning website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/west-midlands/reinforcement-to-north-shropshire-electricity-distribution-network/?ipcsection=docs>

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

Electronic Deposit Locations:

| Local Authority | Library/ Address | Opening Hours |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Shropshire | Whitchurch Library Libraries Team Shropshire Council High Street Whitchurch SY13 1AX | Monday – 9.30 – 17.00 Tuesday – 9.30 – 18.00 Wednesday – CLOSED Thursday – 9.30 – 17.00 Friday – 9.30 – 17.00 Saturday – 9.30 – 13.00 Sunday – CLOSED |
| | Oswestry Library Arthur Street Oswestry Shropshire SY11 1JN | Monday – 9.30 – 17.00 Tuesday – 9.30 – 17.00 Wednesday – 9.30 – 18.00 Thursday – 9.30 – 17.00 Friday – 9.30 – 17.00 Saturday – 9.30 – 16.00 Sunday – CLOSED |
| | Ellesmere Library Our Space Trimpley Street Shropshire SY12 0AE | Monday – CLOSED Tuesday – 10.00 – 18.00 Wednesday – CLOSED Thursday – CLOSED Friday – 10.00 – 17.00 Saturday – 9.30 – 13.00 and 14.00 – 16.00 Sunday – CLOSED |
| | Wem Library High Street Wem Shrewsbury Shropshire SY4 5AA | Monday – CLOSED Tuesday – 10.00 – 17.00 Wednesday – CLOSED Thursday – 10.00 – 17.00 Friday – 14.00 – 17.00 Saturday – 9.30 – 13.00 Sunday – CLOSED |
| Printing Costs | Black and White | Colour |
| A4 | Whitchurch - 18p Oswestry – 18p Ellesmere – 18p Wem – 18p | Whitchurch - 40p Oswestry – 40p Ellesmere – 40p Wem – 40p |
| A3 | Whitchurch – None Oswestry – None | Whitchurch – None Oswestry – None |

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | Ellesmere – 25p Wem - None | Ellesmere – 65p Wem - None |
| Link to all council library locations: | | |
| http://shropshire.gov.uk/libraries/find-a-library/ | | |

Procedural decisions made by the Examining Authority (ExA)

As ExA, I have made the following procedural decisions under s89(3) of the PA2008:

1. Notification of Issue Specific Hearing on the draft Development Consent Order

I have made a Procedural Decision to commence oral examination of the draft Development Consent Order by holding my first Issue Specific Hearing (ISH) shortly after the close of the Preliminary Meeting (PM) on 20 March 2019. **Annex F** provides notice of this decision.

For the purposes of Rule 13(1) and (6) of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 (as amended) (the EPR), the periods of not less than 21 days with reference to which I must provide notice of a hearing and the Applicant must publicly notify and advertise the hearing arrangements is no later than **Wednesday 27 February 2019**. This is a date before the start of the examination, but it ensures that the required statutory 21 days' notice has been provided for this hearing.

In light of this ISH commencing shortly after the PM, I have also decided that any person intending to participate in this ISH must notify the Case Team of their intention to attend by **11 March 2019**.

2. Deadline for comments on Relevant Representations

I have made a Procedural Decision to seek comments on Relevant Representations (RR) by **Friday 29 March 2019**, being Deadline 1.

The RRs were published on 7 February 2019 therefore there is sufficient time for them to have been read and responded to by the deadline I propose to set.

3. Deadline for submission of Written Representations

I have made a Procedural Decision to seek Written Representations (WR) by **Friday 29 March 2019**, being Deadline 1. WRs provide Interested Parties (IP) with the opportunity to amplify and provide evidence for the matters set out in their RRs.

For the purposes of Rule 10(2) of the EPR, the 'period of 21 days' with reference to which I must provide notice for the submission of WRs commences on 8 March 2019. This is a date before the start of the examination, however as the deadline for submission of WRs as set for 29 March 2019 is more than the statutory requirement of 21 days' notice, I am satisfied that IPs have been permitted sufficient time in which to draft and submit WRs.

By providing early notice, I am ensuring that all IPs will have a reasonable time period in which to draft their WRs before the deadline for submission.

4. Deadline for summaries of Representations

My Procedural Decisions (2) and (3) above also seek the early submission of summaries pertaining to RRs and WRs exceeding 1500 words. It is normal for ExAs to request that summaries are provided of RRs, comments to RRs and WRs, where these original representations exceed 1500 words in length. I have therefore also made a Procedural Decision to request the submission of summaries by **Friday 29 March 2019**, being Deadline 1.

5. Deadline for submission of Local Impact Reports

Under s60 of the PA2008 and Rule 8 (1)(j) of the EPR, I have made a Procedural Decision to seek submission of a Local Impact Report from Shropshire Council by **Friday 29 March 2019**, being Deadline 1.

6. Accompanied Site Inspection – nominations and requests to attend

The Applicant, IPs and Other Persons will be provided with an opportunity to provide comments to me on the approach that I should take to site inspections at the PM. Subject to this discussion they are invited to nominate sites that I should inspect, the features that I should observe there and whether the inspection should be on an accompanied or an unaccompanied basis, by **Friday 29 March 2019**, being Deadline 1.

Site inspections can be carried out on an accompanied or an unaccompanied basis. In principle, inspections need to be carried out on an accompanied basis in the following circumstances:

- Where the land is private, and consent is required for the ExA to enter it;
- Where there are health and safety or other regulatory considerations that require any visitor to a location to be accompanied; and / or
- Where there are particular features that an IP wishes to ensure are pointed out to the ExA.

I consider that these circumstances apply in this case and therefore I propose to carry out a site inspection on an accompanied basis on **Thursday 11 April 2019**.

Before agreeing to hold site inspections at particular locations, I will consider the degree to which it is necessary to visit a site that has been nominated for an inspection to inform me about the application. I may decide not to visit nominated locations where I may have already visited the location, or I consider that it is not necessary to see the features observed there.

7. Statements of Common Ground (SoCGs)

In relation to some of the Principal Issues identified in **Annex B**, I would be assisted by the preparation of SoCGs between the Applicant and certain Interested Parties. The draft timetable for the examination therefore provides a deadline for submission of SoCGs of **Friday 29 March 2019**, being Deadline 1.

The aim of a SoCG is to agree factual information and to inform the ExA and all other parties by identifying where there is agreement and where the differences lie at an early stage in the examination process. It should provide a focus and save time by identifying matters which are not in dispute or need not be the subject of further evidence. It can also usefully state where and why there may be disagreement about the interpretation and relevance of the information. The reasons for the differences and interpretation of the implications of a difference can then be expanded in the evidence. Unless otherwise stated or agreed, the SoCG should be agreed between the Applicant and the other relevant interested party or parties and submitted by the Applicant.

I therefore request that SoCGs are prepared between the Applicant and the following bodies:

- Shropshire Council
- Highways England
- National Grid Electricity Transmission Ltd
- Severn Trent Water Ltd
- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd
- Canal and River Trust

The SoCGs should cover the following topics where relevant:

- Methodology for Environmental Impact Assessment including assessment of cumulative effects
- Data collection methods
- Baseline data
- Data / statistical analysis, approach to modelling and presentation of results (including forecast methodologies)
- Full expression of expert judgements and assumptions
- Identification and sensitivity of relevant features and quantification of potential impact
- Likely effects (direct and indirect) on special interest features of sites designated or notified for any nature conservation purpose
- Feasible and deliverable mitigation and method for securing such mitigation within the Development Consent Order

8. Other information

The Applicant is requested to submit at or before the Preliminary Meeting on **Wednesday 20 March 2019** responses to those matters set out in the letter of 10 December 2018 from the Planning Inspectorate, being advice under s51 PA2008:

- In relation to the Land Plans, at this stage a schedule of changes proposed to the Book of Reference and Statement of Reasons would be appropriate rather than a full revision of these documents.
- Concerning the Limits of Deviation, it is appreciated that the pole locations marked on the submitted Works Plans are shown in a way that they can be easily seen and do not represent a scaled representation of the poles themselves. An amendment to the wording of the notes on the Works Plans would be appropriate, but in addition a separate set of Plans showing the proposed Limits of Deviation of the Works within the Order limits is requested.
- The Applicant is asked to identify the river basin management plan that is relevant to the Proposed Development, provide a plan that clearly identifies the water bodies within it that could potentially be affected, and identify where in the application documents an assessment of potential effects on these features may be found.
- Confirmation that a number of potentially relevant bodies which, on the basis of the information provided by the Applicant, do not appear to have been consulted at the pre-application stage have now been notified by the Applicant of the accepted application under s56 PA2008.

Notification of Hearing under Section 91 of the Planning Act 2008

The first Issue Specific Hearing will be held as follows:

| Date | Hearing | Starting Time | Venue | Access and Parking |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Wednesday, 20 March 2019 | Issue Specific Hearing into the draft Development Consent Order | 2.00pm | The Old Rectory, Lowe Hill Road, Wem, SY4 5UA | Free parking available at venue |

Information about hearings is included in the Planning Inspectorate's 'Advice Note 8.5: The examination: hearings and site inspections', available on the National Infrastructure Planning website here:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Advice-note-8-5v3.pdf>

If you wish to attend this hearing please contact the Case Team using the details at the top of this letter **no later than Monday 11 March 2019** stating:

- Whether you wish to speak at the hearing; and
- Notifying us of any special needs you may have (eg disabled access, hearing loop etc).

Please ensure that you include your reference number in your correspondence.

The hearing venue will be open 30 minutes prior to the start of the hearing to enable a prompt start. Hearings will finish as soon as the Examining Authority deems that all those present have had their say and all necessary issues have been covered.

An agenda for the hearing is set out at **Annex G**.

Application by SP Manweb for an Order Granting
Development Consent for the Reinforcement to the
North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network

Issue Specific Hearing on the Applicant's
Draft Development Consent Order
(dDCO)

2.00pm Wednesday, 20 March 2019

The Old Rectory, Lowe Hill Road, Wem, SY4 5UA

Agenda

1. Welcome, introductions, purpose and arrangements for this Issue Specific Hearing
2. Brief explanation by the Applicant of the status of the submission dDCO, including Protective Provisions.
3. Discussion of the ExA's comments below.
4. Action Points arising from this Issue Specific Hearing.
5. Any other business.

COMMENTS BY THE EXAMINING AUTHORITY

Generally

Consistency in capitalisation of Order.

Preamble

Update to refer to the 'single appointed person' and the appropriate parts of the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008).

Reference to special category land refers to “rights imposed” – see instead wording in M20 J10a made DCO. Also, as in that DCO, refer to the article number in which the special category land is defined?

Article 2

“date of final commissioning” – relevance of “commercial basis” (articles 12 (1) and 26 (3))?

“Order land” – is this saying anything is required to facilitate or is incidental to?

“Shropshire County Council” – delete County.

Article 3

(2) – this suggests some works are outside the Order limits - why is this needed?

Article 4

(1)(a) – delete “activities” after “maintenance”.

Article 5

(1) – define by reference to scheduled works?

(3) – significance of “England and Wales”?

Article 8

(1)(a) and (b) – significance of reference to “including any of the numbered works”?

(4) – in practice, are the powers ever likely to be transferred to a body other than a statutory undertaker?

Article 9 (and Part 3 generally)

What is the relationship to the Access and Rights of Way Plans which do not appear to be referred to in the dDCO?

(3) – are HA and SC content with this provision?

(4) – where are the circumstances where the Applicant as undertaker is the street authority?

Article 10

(1) – given the description of the works in Schedule 3, does this list need to be so extensive?

Article 11

(3) – are SC content with this?

Article 12

(2) – why is the phrase “in respect of prohibitions ----on a road” included when it is not in paragraph (3)?

Article 13

What does “other” in line 3 refer to?

Article 15

How does this article relate to the provisions of s146 PA 2008?

(1) – what does “carrying out” refer to – construction, operation or both?

(8) (a) – simplify the range of bodies referred to.

Article 16

Consider adding a provision obliging removal of apparatus following completion of surveys/investigations.

Article 18

Check that this article (and articles 22 and 24, and Schedule 4) are appropriate following legislative changes enacted by the Housing and Planning Act 2016.

Also consider other recently made DCOs (e.g. M20 J10a and Silvertown Tunnel)

(6) – is any Crown land involved? If not, delete?

(7) – capital “Subject”.

Article 19

Consider whether s203 Housing and Planning Act 2016 may be applicable.

Article 21

(2) – is it the intention that the Applicant’s own rights etc. will be extinguished, as currently drafted?

Article 25

(1) - examples of “ancillary purposes”?

Article 26

(12) – lower case “article”

Article 28

(1) – relevance of “So much”? Are parts of plots 2,3 and 4 not required?

– what is the trigger event for discharge e.g. the exercise of a particular Order power?

(2) – would this actually be “discharge”, as opposed to “suspension” and on what legal basis?

Article 29

What does this add to articles 18 and 21?

Article 37

(1) – are SC and relevant SUs content?

Article 38

Capital “Business”.

Article 30

This refers to “public utility undertaker” and “public communications provider” and would appear to only allow removal of their apparatus if they themselves fall within the A2(1) definition of “statutory undertaker” in article 2(1).

Article 31

(1) – Punctuation?

Schedule 1

Which works constitute the NSIP and which Associated Development?

Schedule 2

Generally -what is their status given paragraph 4.8.3 (k) of the Explanatory Memorandum?

(1) – where are “outline” hedgerow and construction traffic management plans referred to in the requirements?

(3)- Table 1 Heading Pole Type (TBC)?

- in which of the proposed certified documents are the specific pole types identified?

(8)- is the EA content?

Schedule 6

An article is needed to give effect to this Schedule.

Generally – current position concerning agreements with the relevant SUs.

Part 4 – Delete “Network” from the heading?

Explanatory Note (final page):

Has Wem Library agreed to be a place to inspect certified documents?