



Application by SP Manweb for Reinforcement to the North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network
The Examining Authority's written questions and requests for information (ExQ1)
Issued on 27 March 2019

The following table sets out the Examining Authority's (ExA's) written questions and requests for information - ExQ1. If necessary, the examination timetable enables the ExA to issue a further round of written questions in due course. If this is done, the further round of questions will be referred to as ExQ2.

Questions are set out using an issues-based framework derived from the Initial Assessment of Principal Issues provided as Annex B to the Rule 6 letter of 20 February 2019. Questions have been added to the framework of issues set out there as they have arisen from representations and to address the assessment of the application against relevant policies.

Column 2 of the table indicates which Interested Parties (IPs) and other persons each question is directed to. The ExA would be grateful if all persons named could answer all questions directed to them, providing a substantive response, or indicating that the question is not relevant to them for a reason. This does not prevent an answer being provided to a question by a person to whom it is not directed, should the question be relevant to their interests.

Each question has a unique reference number which starts with 1 (indicating that it is from ExQ1) and then has an issue number and a question number. When you are answering a question, please start your answer by quoting the unique reference number.

If you are responding to a small number of questions, answers in a letter will suffice. If you are answering a larger number of questions, it will assist the ExA if you use a table based on this one to set out your responses. An editable version of this table in Microsoft Word is available on request from the case team by emailing NorthShropshireReinforcement@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.

Responses are due by Deadline 2: Wednesday 24 April 2019

Abbreviations used:

PA2008	The Planning Act 2008	LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact assessment
Art	Article	NE	Natural England
ALA 1981	Acquisition of Land Act 1981	NPS	National Policy Statement
BoR	Book of Reference	NSER	No Significant Effects Report
CA	Compulsory Acquisition	NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
CEMP	Construction and Environment Management Plan	NSRP	North Shropshire Reinforcement Project (the application, Reinforcement to the North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network)
CLVIA	Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact assessment	PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
CRT	Canal and River Trust	R	Requirement
dDCO	Draft DCO	RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
EM	Explanatory Memorandum	SAC	Special Area of Conservation
ES	Environmental Statement	SC	Shropshire Council
ExA	Examining authority	SWT	Shropshire Wildlife Trust
FRA	Flood Risk Assessment	SI	Statutory Instrument
FRAP	Flood Risk Environment Permit	SoS	Secretary of State
HE	Highways England	TP	Temporary Possession
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment	WFD	Water Framework Directive
LIR	Local Impact Report	ZOI	Zone of Influence
LPA	Local planning authority		



The Examination Library

References in these questions set out in square brackets (eg [APP-010]) are to documents catalogued in the Examination Library. The Examination Library can be obtained from the Inspectorate's webpage:

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

It will be updated as the examination progresses.

Citation of Questions

Questions in this table should be cited as follows:

Question reference: issue reference: question number, eg ExQ1 1.0.1 – refers to question 1 in this table.



Index

1. General and Cross-topic Questions.....	5
2. Planning Policy	5
3. Air Quality and Emissions.....	5
4. Biodiversity, Ecology and Natural Environment.....	6
5. HRA Assessment.....	6
6. Compulsory Acquisition, Temporary Possession and Other Land or Rights Considerations.....	8
7. Draft Development Consent Order (DCO)	8
8. Historic Environment	9
9. Landscape and Visual.....	9
10. Noise and Vibration	11
11. Socio-economic Effects	11
12. Transportation and Traffic	11
13. Water Environment.....	11

ExQ1: 27 March 2019

Responses due by Deadline 2: 24 April 2019

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
1. General and Cross-topic Questions		
Q1.0.1	The Applicant	Examples of proposed Trident poles For which existing schemes has the range of proposed Trident poles been used in similar circumstances to the North Shropshire Reinforcement Project (Legacy to Oswestry in 2015 is mentioned for example in the Construction Report, APP-087)?
Q1.0.2	The Applicant	Examples of proposed Trident poles Are there any issues arising from the experience of these schemes now constructed which have informed the approach to the NSRP application?
Q1.0.3	The Applicant	Land use What is the argument for 7 temporary laydown areas to facilitate construction compared with perhaps fewer used for a longer period of time?
Q1.0.4	The Applicant	Interruptions to supply Is there any likelihood of interruptions to electricity supply locally during the construction works, and if so how will this be managed?
2. Planning Policy		
Q2.0.1	SC	Local Plan Review What is the current position with the Council's review of the Local Plan (Core Strategy and SAMDev) and are there any considerations for the safeguarding of sand and gravel resources potentially affected by the route of the overhead line between Cockshutt and Wem?
3. Air Quality and Emissions		
		None at present.

ExQ1: 27 March 2019**Responses due by Deadline 2: 24 April 2019**

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
4.	Biodiversity, Ecology and Natural Environment	
Q4.0.1	NE	Ecological effects Please state whether the measures contained in the draft CEMP [APP-036] are considered sufficient to avoid significant effects on the ecological receptors identified in the ES.
Q4.0.2	The Applicant, NE	Protected species licences The draft CEMP [APP-036] makes several references to protected species licences that may be required post-consent, depending on the results of pre-construction surveys. Please confirm whether NE were consulted on this approach, and whether a 'Letter of No Impediment' from NE will be forthcoming.
Q4.0.3	The Applicant	Hedgerow reinstatement What is the likely success rate of reinstating hedgerows removed during construction works within 48 hours [APP-043, paragraph 1.3.4]?
Q4.0.4	The Applicant	Invasive species What is the extent of invasive non-natural species along the route of the proposed development and how is it proposed they are controlled?
Q4.0.5	The Applicant	Trees Several trees, including a small number of veteran trees, are proposed to be felled along the route of the overhead line alignment. Please explain how avoiding the need to fell trees was considered in the various routing scenarios for the location of the poles.
5.	HRA Assessment	
Q5.0.1	The Applicant	NSER

ExQ1: 27 March 2019**Responses due by Deadline 2: 24 April 2019**

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
		Please provide Word versions of the two screening matrices that are contained in Appendix 1 of the NSER [APP-029].
Q5.0.2	The Applicant	NSER The NSER [APP-029] does not appear to confirm that the worst case has been assessed. Please confirm the basis of the HRA assessment.
Q5.0.3	The Applicant, NE, SC, RSPB, SWT	NSER Although paragraph 3.3.1 of the NSER [APP-029] notes that survey extents and potential ZOIs were agreed with relevant consultees and set out in the Scoping Report, it is not explicitly stated that NE (and other relevant parties) agreed the methodology and confirmed that all of the correct European sites and site features have been included in the assessment. The Midlands Meres and Mosses Phase 1 and Phase 2 Ramsar sites are considered but the Midlands Meres and Mosses SAC is not, although it was raised in consultation responses. Please confirm the agreement of NE and other relevant nature conservation bodies.
Q5.0.4	The Applicant	NSER The projects considered in the HRA in-combination effects (ICE) assessment are those listed in Table 12.3 of ES chapter 12 [APP-076]. The NSER [APP-029] also refers to a list of projects contained in Table 5.2. Where is this table to be found, and in the light of this please confirm exactly which projects were considered in the ICE assessment.
Q5.0.5	NE	NSER Please confirm whether the approach to the assessment is considered appropriate and whether the conclusions of the NSER [APP-029] are agreed in the light of the European Court of Justice 'People Over Wind' judgement.

ExQ1: 27 March 2019**Responses due by Deadline 2: 24 April 2019**

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
6.	Compulsory Acquisition, Temporary Possession and Other Land or Rights Considerations	
Q6.0.1	The Applicant	<p>Land agreements</p> <p>Please provide a schedule showing which of the 43 access points and 7 temporary laydown areas identified in the Transport and Highways Technical Note [APP-032] have been agreed with the land owners.</p>
7.	Draft Development Consent Order (DCO)	
Q7.0.1	The Applicant	<p>Response to s51 advice</p> <p>Please provide the revised Book of Reference, Statement of Reasons and Land Plans referred to in paragraphs 2.11 to 2.16 of the Responses to s51 advice and Comments on the s55 Checklist [AS-002].</p>
Q7.0.2	The Applicant, SC, HE, EA	<p>Response to matters raised at the ISH</p> <p>Annex F to the Rule 6 Letter dated 20 February 2019 provided notice of an ISH on the draft DCO [APP-012] which was held on 20 March 2019 (ISH1). Annex G to that letter set out a schedule of issues and questions for discussion at ISH1. The Applicant's (and other IPs as appropriate) written response to these matters is requested by Deadline 2 [24 April 2019] and reflected in the revised draft DCO as appropriate, also requested for Deadline 2.</p>
Q7.0.3	The Applicant	<p>Heritage assets</p> <p>Given that a degree of uncertainty exists with regard to sub-surface archaeology [APP-062], how is this addressed in the draft DCO [APP-012] in order to deal with unexpected heritage assets?</p>
Q7.0.4	The Applicant	<p>Description of pole types</p> <p>There are inconsistencies between the description of pole types in column 4 of Table 1 of R3 of the draft DCO [APP-012], and the description of the pole types in chapter 3 of the ES [APP-034]. R3 of the draft DCO refers to 7 pole types and these are consistent with the</p>

ExQ1: 27 March 2019**Responses due by Deadline 2: 24 April 2019**

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
		<p>description of 7 pole types shown in Table 3.1 of APP-034, apart from the Terminal H-pole which is presumably the same as the Double H-pole. However, Diagram 3.2 of APP-034 illustrates 6 pole types but these do not immediately correspond to the description in the draft DCO [APP-012].</p> <p>Please provide a note which relates the description of pole types in column 4 of Table 1 of R3 of the draft DCO [APP-012] to illustrations of them and add this note to the list of documents proposed to be certified.</p>
Q7.0.5	The Applicant	<p>Access and Rights of Way</p> <p>In relating the provisions of articles 9 to 14 of the draft DCO [APP-012] to the various items shown in the legend to the Access and Rights of Way Plans [APP-008], please explain whether the limits of access to be created, maintained, restored and/or prohibited or restricted shown by the capital letters in blue are intended to restrict these powers.</p>
Q7.0.6	The Applicant	<p>Access and Rights of Way Plans</p> <p>What is the difference between private road/ access (shown in brown) and privately maintained access (shown in red hatching)?</p>
8. Historic Environment		
		None at present.
9. Landscape and Visual		
Q9.0.1	SC, NE, CRT	<p>LVIA and CLVIA</p> <p>Please confirm agreement to the findings of the LVIA [APP-041] and CLVIA [APP-045].</p>
Q9.0.2	The Applicant	<p>Montgomery Canal</p> <p>Please provide a wireframe showing the terminal poles at 36 and 40 pursuant to Table A7 in the Planning Statement [APP-086].</p>

ExQ1: 27 March 2019**Responses due by Deadline 2: 24 April 2019**

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
Q9.0.3	The Applicant	Visual assessment A full viewpoint assessment sheet is provided in APP-044 for any viewpoint deemed to experience an effect of minor or above, totalling 33 of the 76 viewpoints. Does this mean such assessments have been carried out for the other 43 viewpoints but not included in the document, or were not considered further?
Q9.0.4	The Applicant	Visual assessment What is the correct title to the sheet for Viewpoint 34 in APP-044?
Q9.0.5	The Applicant	Visual assessment How do the selected photomontages and wirelines included in APP-047 relate to the 76 viewpoints considered in APP-044?
Q9.0.6	The Applicant	Visual assessment Can photomontages and wirelines be provided for all locations where <ul style="list-style-type: none">• section single poles• section H poles• terminal H poles are proposed?
Q9.0.7	The Applicant	Residential assessment What is the impact of the proposed development on the property the subject of RR-002, and has this been considered in the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [APP-046]?
Q9.0.8	The Applicant	Mitigation of visual effects Please explain the full extent of the mitigation considered and the limiting factors to its implementation.

ExQ1: 27 March 2019

Responses due by Deadline 2: 24 April 2019

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
Q9.0.9	SC	Mitigation of visual effects Please confirm agreement with the conclusion that no further mitigation can be provided which would reduce the potential operational visual effects of the proposed development from significant to not significant [APP-041].
10. Noise and Vibration		
Q10.0.1	The Applicant	Substations What noise controls are proposed during construction works at Oswestry and Wem substations [APP-038], and how are these to be secured in the draft DCO?
11. Socio-economic Effects		
Q11.0.1	The Applicant	Job creation Is there any quantitative assessment of socio-economic effects, particularly the number of jobs expected to be generated during construction and operation [APP-070]?
12. Transportation and Traffic		
Q12.0.1	SC	Local access Please confirm agreement with the conclusions of the Transport and Highways Technical Note [APP-032] that the proposed project would have minimal impact on local access and traffic generation.
Q12.0.2	SC, HE	Traffic management Please confirm agreement with the provisions of the Traffic Management Plan contained within the draft CEMP [APP-036] to control and manage traffic during construction.
13. Water Environment		
Q13.0.1	The Applicant	The Proposed Development

ExQ1: 27 March 2019**Responses due by Deadline 2: 24 April 2019**

ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
		<p>The description of the proposed development set out in chapter 3 of the ES [APP-034] and shown on the Works Plans [APP-007] is consistent with the draft DCO [APP-012] with the exception of references in the draft DCO to temporary culverts (Work Nos 2, 3, 4A and 4B) and an area of hardstanding at Wem substation (Work No.5). The only reference made to culverts in the ES [APP-066] is that they will not be required for the temporary access tracks.</p> <p>Please confirm whether these elements form part of the proposed development and, if so, how they have been assessed.</p>
Q13.0.2	The Applicant	<p>Flood zones</p> <p>The FRA [APP-027] states that the existing substations, the majority of the overhead line route and six of the laydown areas would be located in Flood Zone 1 (FZ1); some pole locations and the laydown area at Brookfield Farm would be in FZ2; and some access tracks, principally near Brookfield Farm, would be in FZ3. Figures 5.1 – 5.6 and Appendices 2 and 3 of the FRA [APP-027] identify the fluvial and the surface water FZ2 and FZ3 along the route of the proposed development. However, paragraph 1.2.14 of Appendix 9.2 of the FRA [APP-027] states that both main rivers crossed by the proposed development are associated with land in FZ3.</p> <p>Please clarify the position and explain the basis for assessing the route as contained entirely within FZ2.</p>
Q13.0.3	The Applicant	<p>WFD</p> <p>The chemical and ecological status of the Rivers Roden and Perry regarding compliance with the requirements of the WFD is described according to the EA's classification [APP-068]. Please confirm that an assessment has been made of potential impacts on watercourses as required by the WFD, and where this is contained within the application documents.</p>
Q13.0.4	The Applicant, EA	<p>Impact assessment</p>

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ExQ1	Question to:	Question:
		The study area applied to the assessment was 50m either side of the Order Limits [APP-066 and APP-068]. This was reduced from that previously used for the PEIR due to only local impacts being anticipated following further analysis. Please can the Applicant explain the extent to which the reduced study area applied to the flood risk, water quality and water resources assessment described in the ES [APP-066] is appropriate and confirm whether it was agreed with relevant consultation bodies, in particular the EA.
Q13.0.5	EA	Agreement to assessments Please confirm agreement with the conclusions of the water quality and resources assessment [APP-066] and the FRA [APP-027].
Q13.0.6	EA	FRAP It is noted in APP-068 and the FRA [APP-027] that any construction activity on or near the flood defences associated with the River Roden would need to be controlled through a FRAP granted by the EA. Has a letter of comfort/no impediment been provided to indicate that the permit would be likely to be granted.