

SP MANWEB



Reinforcement to the North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network

Position Statement on Statements of Common Ground

Application Reference: EN020021

Deadline 1 Submission

SP MANWEB

**Reinforcement to the North Shropshire Electricity
Distribution Network**

**Position Statement on Statements of Common
Ground**

**March 2019
PINS Reference EN020021**

QA Box

Author		SP Manweb	
Planning Inspectorate Application Reference		EN020021	
Date			
Version	Status	Description/Changes	
28/03/2019	1	Final	Submitted to PINS (Deadline 1)

SP Manweb plc, Registered Office: 3 Prenton Way Prenton CH43 3ET. Registered in England No. 02366937

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2 COMPLETED STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUNDError! Bookmark not defined.

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- Appendix C – Draft SoCG with National Grid
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- Appendix E – Draft SoCG with Natural England
- Appendix F – Draft SoCG with Severn Trent Water
- Appendix G – Draft SoCG with Canals and River Trust

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1.1 This document sets out the position of the Statements of Common Ground ("SoCG") which were requested by the Examining Authority ("ExA") in its letter dated 20 February 2019 sent pursuant to Rule 6 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Regulations 2010 ("Rule 6 Letter").

1.1.2 The position of the SoCGs with the interested parties fall within the following categories:

- Completed SoCGs; these are submitted as separate submissions to assist the Planning Inspectorate to display the completed documents on its website;
- Draft SoCGs where SP Manweb remains in discussion with them interested party or is awaiting feedback from the interested party on the draft. These are appended to this document.

2 COMPLETED STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND

2.1.1 SP Manweb Plc has agreed a SoCG with the Environment Agency and as set out above this has been submitted separately.

2.1.2 .The agreed SoCG follows recent discussions between the two parties following a first draft issued 20th February 2019 and the receipt of comments from the Environment Agency followed by the issuing of two further amended versions in March 2019.

3 DRAFT STATEMENTS OF COMMON GROUND

3.1.1 SoCGs have been prepared between SP Manweb and various interested parties as requested by the ExA in Annex F of the Rule 6 Letter. This section set out the current position of the SoCGs with each interested party at the Deadline 1 Submission, 29 March 2019.

3.1.2 SP Manweb will continue to work with these interested parties to conclude completed SoCGs as soon as possible.

3.1.3 The draft SoCGs submitted for Deadline 1 are listed in Table 1.

3.1.4 The drafts SoCGs have been prepared on the basis that the parties agree with the matters SP Manweb is seeking to agree in the relevant SoCG. However, in a number of the SoCGs feedback has not been received from the interested party on the draft and therefore it may not necessarily represent the position of that interested party.

Table 1 Draft Statements of Common Ground			
Party	Draft issued	SOCG status	Appendix
Shropshire Council	First draft issued 21 Feb 2019	Amended to include ref to ES matters noted in Annex E ExAs Rule 6 Letter dated 20 Feb 2019	
	Second draft issued 8 March 2019		
	Third Draft issued 25 March 2019	Further revised draft to include: a) Updates to ES matters noted in ExA’s Rule 6 letter dated 20 Feb 2019 b) Updates following matters noted in ExA’s Annex E Rule 6 letter dated 20 Feb 2019 c) Updates following matters raised in ExA’s	A

		Annex E and Annex G in Rule 6 letter and ISH on draft DCO of 20 March 2019	
Highways England	First draft issued 21 Feb 2019	HE response received 8 March 2019 with suggested changes	
	Second draft issued 26 March 2019	Further revised draft to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Above amendments provided by HE b) Reference to SPM signage strategy for access off A5(T) as ongoing c) Reference to HE letter 25 March 2019 regarding powers provided in Article 9(3) in the draft DCO d) Clarification that HE also agree with Article 37 	B
National Grid	First draft issued 27 Feb 2019 Second draft issued 12 March 2019	Revised draft to include ref to ES matters noted in ExAs Rule 6 Letter dated 20 Feb 2019	
	Requested response to above draft 25 March 2019	Amended version with minor comments received 28 March 2019	
	Version 2.1 issued 28 March 2019		C
Network Rail	First draft issued 25 Feb 2019	Revised draft to include ref to ES matters noted in ExAs Rule 6 Letter dated 20 Feb 2019	

	Second draft issued 12 March 2019		
	Requested response to above draft 25 March 2019	Amended draft with comments received 28 March 2019	
	Version 2.1 issued 28 March 2019		D
 			
Natural England	First draft issued 13 March 2019	No response received	
	Second draft issued 26 March 2019	Revised draft to include ref to ES matters noted in ExAs Rule 6 Letter dated 20 Feb 2019	E
 			
Canal and River Trust	First draft issued 18 March 2019	No response received	
	Second draft issued 26 March 2019		F
 			
Severn Trent Water	First draft issued 18 March 2019	No response received	G
	Requested response to above draft 26 March 2019		

4 SUMMARY

4.1.1 SP Manweb remains in discussion with the relevant interested parties on the draft SoCGs. SP Manweb will continue to work with these interested parties to conclude SoCGs as soon as possible and by the date specified in the Rule 8 letter i.e. 27th June 2019.

Appendix A

Statement of Common Ground

**Between SP Manweb PLC and
Shropshire Council**

SP MANWEB

**Reinforcement to the North Shropshire
Electricity Distribution Network**

**Statement of Common Ground
Between SP Manweb PLC and Shropshire Council**

**March 2019
PINS Reference EN020021**

Author		SP Manweb	
Planning Inspectorate Application Reference		
Date	Version	Status	Description/Changes
21/02/2019	V1	Live	New document for discussion with Shropshire Council
08/03/2019	V2		Revised New document for discussion with Shropshire Council with reference to matters raised by ExA in Rule 6 letter of 20 Feb 2019
25/03/19	V3		Revised document for discussion with Shropshire Council with further reference to matters raised by ExA in the Rule 6 letter of 20 Feb 2019 and in the ISH Hearing on 20th March 2019

SP Manweb plc, Registered Office: 3 Prenton Way Prenton CH43 3ET. Registered in England No. 02366937

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of Document

- 1.1.1 This document is submitted to the Secretary of State through the Planning Inspectorate (as responsible agency) in relation to the application by SP Manweb Plc ("SP Manweb") for a Development Consent Order ("DCO") for the Reinforcement to the North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network ("Application"). The DCO would grant powers to construct, operate and maintain a new 22.5 kilometre 132,000 volt (132kV) connection between the existing Oswestry Substation and Wem Substation within the administrative boundary of Shropshire County.
- 1.1.2 This statement of common ground (SOCG) has been prepared in respect of the Proposed Development. Guidance about the purpose and possible content of SOCGs is given in paragraphs 58-65 of the Department for Communities and Local Government's "Planning Act 2008: examination of applications for development consent" (March 2015). Paragraph 58, confirms the basic function of SOCGs:
- 'A statement of common ground is a written statement prepared jointly by the applicant and another party or parties, setting out any matters on which they agree. As well as identifying matters which are not in real dispute, it is also useful if a statement identifies those areas where agreement has not been reached. The statement should include references to show where those matters are dealt with in the written representations or other documentary evidence.'*
- 1.1.3 SOCGs are a useful and established means of ensuring that the evidence at the post-application examination focuses on the material differences between the main parties, and so aim to help facilitate a more efficient examination process.

1.2 Parties to this SoCG

- 1.2.1 This SOCG has been prepared in respect of the Proposed Development, by SP Manweb, as the applicant and Shropshire Council.
- 1.2.2 To supply and distribute electricity within an area an operator is required to hold an Electricity Distribution Licence. SP Manweb, as the holder of a Distribution Licence for the Cheshire, Merseyside, Shropshire, North and Mid Wales areas and, as the Distribution Network Operator (or DNO) for these areas, must comply with various statutory and licence duties and obligations.
- 1.2.3 Shropshire Council is the relevant local authority of Shropshire (excluding Telford and Wrekin) in England.
- 1.2.4 Section 1.4 provides an overview of consultation to date between SP Manweb and Shropshire Council.
- 1.2.5 Section 1.5 provides a summary of the relevant documents that relate to the information considered in this SOCG.
- 1.2.6 Section 2 provides a summary of areas that have been agreed and areas that have not been agreed.
- 1.2.7 Section 3 provides a record of areas still under discussion.
- 1.2.8 This SOCG has been structured to reflect matters and topics of interest to Shropshire Council in relation to the Proposed Development. Shropshire Council is a party to this SOCG as the Relevant Local Authority and a Statutory and Interested Party for the purposes of the Application.
- 1.2.9 This SOCG relates to the following topics:
- The Proposed Development
 - Policy and Legislative Context
 - Content of the Environmental Statement (ES) being within Shropshire Council's remit:

- Ecology and Biodiversity
- Landscape and Visual
- Historic Environment
- Flood Risk and Water Quality
- Socio-economics and Tourism
- Traffic and Transport
- Emissions
- Draft Construction Environmental Management Plan
- Content of the draft Development Consent Order

1.2.10 This SOCG sets out the matters agreed between the Parties and those that are still outstanding.

1.2.11 Throughout this SOCG:

1.2.12 The “Parties” for the purposes of this SOCG means SP Manweb and Shropshire Council.

1.2.13 Where a sentence begins “It is agreed”, this signifies a matter that has been specifically stated as agreed by SP Manweb and Shropshire Council.

1.2.14 Where a sentence begins “It is not agreed”, this signifies a matter that has been specifically stated as not agreed by SP Manweb and Shropshire Council.

1.2.15 Where a sentence begins “It is under discussion”, this signifies a matter is not yet agreed however is still under discussion by SP Manweb and Shropshire Council.

1.2.16 It is agreed that any matters not specifically mentioned in Sections X and Sections X of this SOCG are not of material interest or relevance to the Parties, and therefore have not been the subject of any discussions between the Parties.

1.2.17 Reference in this SOCG to DCO means the draft DCO as submitted.

1.3 Proposed Development

1.3.1 The Proposed Development comprises a new 22.5 km 132kV electrical circuit between the existing SP Manweb Substations at Oswestry and Wem in North Shropshire, together with associated temporary construction works. The circuit would be a combination of underground cables and overhead line. Works are also required at the existing Oswestry and Wem Substations to accommodate the new circuit.

1.3.2 The Proposed Development includes the following elements:

- Works within the boundary of the existing SP Manweb Substation at Oswestry including underground cable and the installation of electrical switchgear and associated equipment;
- Approximately 1.2km of 132kV underground cable between Oswestry Substation and a 132kV terminal structure at Long Wood (SJ 31132 29877);
- Approximately 21.3km of 132kV of overhead line supported by Trident wood poles from the terminal structure at Long Wood (SJ 31132 29877) to the existing SP Manweb Substation at Wem; and
- Works within the existing SP Manweb Substation at Wem including the installation of a new 132kV to 33kV transformer.

1.3.3 The Proposed Development also includes work to facilitate the new electrical circuit including:

- Undergrounding six short sections of existing SP Manweb lower voltage overhead lines in order to ensure safe electrical clearance for the new overhead line; and
- Temporary works required for the construction of the new overhead line including seven temporary laydown areas, one of which at Wem also includes a welfare unit and security cabin, and construction access tracks, vegetation clearance and reinstatement planting.

1.4 Consultation

- 1.4.1 Shropshire Council has provided feedback in response to both the non-statutory and statutory stages of consultation and how SP Manweb has had regard to these responses is set out in the Consultation Report (DCO Document 7.2). The statutory consultation feedback from Shropshire Council dated 13th February 2018 refers to the Council's support for the need and design of the proposed development, including the proposed route to the north of Noneley, the Preliminary Environmental Assessment Information and there being no significant matters identified on landscape, heritage, ecology, or access which cannot be mitigated, and that the consultation has been appropriate and followed the Statement of Community Consultation. A copy of the adequacy of the consultation letter is attached to this SOCG.
- 1.4.2 SP Manweb's response to Shropshire Council's comments raised at the statutory consultation stage have been informed by further discussions that it has had with the Council following the close of the consultation.
- 1.4.3 A summary of these further discussions following the statutory consultation that has taken place between SP Manweb ("SPM") and Shropshire Council ("SC") in relation to the Proposed Development is outlined in the table below.

Table 1.1 – Further discussions between SP Manweb and Shropshire Council

Date	Form of contact or type of correspondence	Summary of that contact and key outcomes and points of discussion
22/05/18	Email from SC to SPM	Confirm that SC has no comments to make to minor changes
16/06/18	Email from SC to SPM	Confirm draft requirements
31/07/18	Meeting Note from SPM to SC	Agreed draft requirements Agreed discharging requirements procedures
28/09/18	Email from SPM to SC	Revised traffic note including reference to construction accesses strategy of avoiding breaching hedgerows.

04/10/16	Email from SPM to SC	Proposed streetworks to be included in Draft DCO Order Approach to traffic management
26/11/1	Letter from SC to Planning Inspectorate	Confirming SC's adequacy of consultation
21/02/19	Email from SPM to SC	Draft SOCG V1 for comment
08/03/19	Email from SPM to SC	Draft SOCG V2 for comment
25/03/19	Email from SPM to SC	Draft SOCG V3 for comment

1.4.4 It is agreed that this is an accurate record of the key correspondence between SP Manweb and Shropshire Council since the closing of the statutory consultation February 2018 in relation to the matters recorded in Section 2 and 3.

1.5 Documents considered within this SOCG

1.5.1 The following documents have been considered with this SOCG:

- Construction Report (**DCO Document 7.2**)
- Environmental Statement (**DCO Volume 6**)
- Updated Traffic and Transport Note (**DCO Document 6.1.1**)
- Noise and Air Quality Technical Note (**DCO Document 6.4.1**)
- Draft DCO (**DCO Document 3.1**)
- [Draft Construction Environmental Management Plan \(**DCO Document 6.3.2**\)](#)
- [Construction Access Location Plan \(new DCO Document\)](#)

2 MATTERS AGREED AND MATTERS NOT AGREED

2.1 The Proposed Development

2.1.1 Matters agreed

Table 2.1 – Matters agreed

Ref	Matters agreed
	SP Manweb and Shropshire Council AGREE that the Proposed Development is accurately described in Chapter 3 of the ES (DCO Document 6.2), Chapter 2 of the Planning Statement (DCO Document 7.1) and sections 1.1 of the Statement of Reasons (DCO Document 4.1).
	SP Manweb and Shropshire Council AGREE the following in respect of the Construction Report (DCO Document 7.2): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The need and design of the Proposed Development 2. SPM's approach to construction including the use of construction accesses and measures to protect existing field boundary hedgerows, the approach to traffic management on the public highway, and the distribution of construction traffic from the construction compound to the construction sites and temporary laydown areas.
	SP Manweb and Shropshire Council AGREE that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the necessary diversions of existing lower voltage overhead lines are accurately described. b. SP Manweb has given consideration to the environmental effects of the works described above as part of the cumulative assessment undertaken for the Proposed Development. The conclusions of that assessment are agreed as being sound and robust.

2.1.2 Matters not agreed

- a. None to report

2.2 Policy and Legislative Context

2.2.1 Matters agreed

Ref	Matters agreed
1	SP Manweb and Shropshire Council AGREE that Chapter 4 and 5 of the Planning Statement (DCO Document 7.1) and Chapter 5 of the ES (DCO Document 6.5) summarise the applicable development plan policies in respect of the application for development consent and that the Proposed Development is compliant with those policies.
	SP Manweb and Shropshire Council AGREE that the consultation detailed in the Consultation Report (DCO Document 5.1) was adequate and met the legislative requirements.

2.2.2 Matters not agreed

- b. None to report

2.3 Content of the ES

Approach and methodology

2.3.1 Matters agreed

Ref	Matters agreed
<u>4</u>	<u>SP Manweb and Shropshire Council AGREE the following in respect of SP Manweb’s approach and methodology:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>a) approach to the assessment methodology (see ES Chapter 4 (DCO Document 6.4);</u> <u>b) data collection, baseline data, statistical modelling (see section 4.5 of the ES (DCO document 6.4))</u> <u>c) approach to deliverable mitigation (see section 4.6 of the ES (DCO document 6.4)); and</u> <u>d) no outstanding issues that need to be addressed at any issue specific hearing.</u>

2.3.2 Matters not agreed

- a. None to report

Ecology and Biodiversity

2.3.12.3.3 Matters agreed

Ref	Matters agreed
4	<p>SP Manweb and Shropshire Council AGREE the following in respect of ecology and biodiversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a)c) approach to the assessment methodology and significance criteria for ecology and biodiversity impacts (see ES Chapter 4 (DCO Document 6.4) and Chapter 7 (DCO Document 6.7)); d) data collection, baseline data, statistical modelling (see section 7.5 of the ES (DCO document 6.7)) c) identification and sensitivity of relevant features and conclusion on assessment of significance (alone and cumulatively) (see sections 7.6 (DCO document 6.7) and 7.7(DCO document 6.7) of the ES); d) deliverable mitigation (see section 7.8 of the ES (DCO document 6.7)); and e) no outstanding issues that need to be addressed at any issue specific hearing.

2.3.22.3.4 Matters not agreed

a.b. None to report

Landscape and Visual

2.3.32.3.5 Matters agreed

Ref	Matters agreed
7	<p>SP Manweb and Shropshire Council AGREE the following in respect of landscape and visual impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) approach to the assessment methodology and significance criteria for landscape and visual impacts (see ES Chapter 4 (DCO Document 6.4) and Chapter 6 (DCO Document 6.6)); b) data collection, baseline data, statistical modelling (see section 6.5 of the ES (DCO document 6.6)) c) identification and sensitivity of relevant features and conclusion on assessment of significance (alone and cumulatively) (see sections 6.6 (DCO document 6.6) and 6.7(DCO document 6.6) of the ES); d) deliverable mitigation (see section 6.8 of the ES (DCO document 6.6)); and e) no outstanding issues that need to be addressed at any issue specific hearing.

2.3.42.3.6 Matters not agreed

- a. None to report

Historic Environment

2.3.52.3.7 Matters agreed

Ref	Matters agreed
9	<p>SP Manweb and Shropshire Council AGREE the following in respect of historic environment impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) approach to the assessment methodology and significance criteria for historic environment (see ES Chapter 4 (DCO Document 6.4) and Chapter 8 (DCO Document 6.8)); b) data collection, baseline data, statistical modelling (see section 8.5 of the ES (DCO document 6.8)) c) identification and sensitivity of relevant features and conclusion on assessment of significance (alone and cumulatively) (see sections 8.6 (DCO document 6.8) and 8.7(DCO document 6.8) of the ES); d) deliverable mitigation (see section 8.8 of the ES (DCO document 6.8)); and e) no outstanding issues that need to be addressed at any issue specific hearing.

2.3.62.3.8 Matters not agreed

- a. None to report

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Flood Risk and Water Quality

2.3.72.3.9 Matters agreed

Ref	Matters agreed
12	<p>SP Manweb and Shropshire Council AGREE the following in respect of flood risk and water quality:</p> <p>a) approach to the assessment methodology and significance criteria for flood risk and water quality (see ES Chapter 4 (DCO Document 6.4) and Chapter 9 (DCO Document 6.9));</p> <p>b) <u>data collection, baseline data, statistical modelling (see section 9.5 of the ES (DCO document 6.9))</u></p> <p>c) <u>identification and sensitivity of relevant features</u> and conclusion on assessment of significance (alone and cumulatively) <u>(see sections 9.6 (DCO document 6.9) and 9.7(DCO document 6.9) of the ES);</u></p> <p>d) <u>deliverable mitigation (see section 9.8 of the ES (DCO document 6.9));</u> and</p> <p>e) no outstanding issues that need to be addressed at any issue specific hearing.</p>

2.3.82.3.10 Matters not agreed

- a. None to report

Socio-economic and Tourism

2.3.92.3.11 Matters agreed

Ref	Matters agreed
14	<p>SP Manweb and Shropshire Council AGREE the following in respect of socio-economic and tourism:</p> <p>a) approach to the assessment methodology and significance criteria for socio-economic and tourism (see ES Chapter 4 (DCO Document 6.4) and Chapter 10 (DCO Document 6.10));</p> <p>b) <u>data collection, baseline data, statistical modelling (see section 10.5 of the ES (DCO document 6.10))</u></p> <p>c) <u>identification and sensitivity of relevant features</u> and conclusion on assessment of significance (alone and cumulatively) <u>(see sections 10.6 (DCO document 6.10) and 10.7(DCO document 6.10) of the ES);</u></p>

	<p>d) deliverable mitigation (see section 10.8 of the ES (DCO document 6.10)); and</p> <p>e) no outstanding issues that need to be addressed at any issue specific hearing.</p>
	<p>SP Manweb and Shropshire Council AGREE that the assessment of the effect of the Proposed Development on the Public Right of Way was appropriate and the conclusions in respect of the level of significance of effect was acceptable.</p>

[2.3.10](#)[2.3.12](#) Matters not agreed

- a. None to report

DRAFT

Traffic and Transport

[2.3.14](#)[2.3.13](#) Matters agreed

Ref	Matters agreed
14	<p>SP Manweb and Shropshire Council AGREE the following in respect of the Traffic and Transport Note (DCO Document 6.1.1)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Levels of construction traffic would have no adverse impact on traffic using the local highway network 2. Proposed use of construction traffic routes would not require works to the local public highway 3. That construction traffic can be scoped out for the Proposed Development during construction 4. No outstanding issues that need to be addressed at any issue specific hearing. 4.5. That the plan attached as Annex A to this SoCG adequately shows the construction access locations where construction access is to be taken from the public highway and SPMs approach to submit this as a separate DCO Document in Deadline 1

[2.3.12](#)[2.3.14](#) Matters not agreed

- a. None to report

Emissions

[2.3.13](#)[2.3.15](#) Matters agreed

Ref	Matters agreed
15	<p>SP Manweb and Shropshire Council AGREE the following in respect of the Noise and Air Quality Note (DCO Document 6.4.1)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The effects on air quality during construction would not potential for significant effects b) The effects on noise during construction would not potential for significant effects
16	<p>SP Manweb and Shropshire Council AGREE the following in respect of emissions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the baseline; b) approach to the assessment methodology and significance criteria for emissions; c) conclusion on assessment of significance (alone and cumulatively); d) mitigation; and e) no outstanding issues that need to be addressed at any issue specific hearing.

[2.3.14](#)[2.3.16](#) Matters not agreed

- a. None to report

2.4 The Draft Construction Environmental Management Plan

2.4.1 Matters agreed

Ref	Matters agreed
1	<p>SP Manweb and Shropshire Council AGREE the following in respect of the Draft Construction Environmental Management Plan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Measures to manage noise and air quality within acceptable standards 2. Measures for managing local public highway and public rights of way during construction 3. Measures for managing trees and hedgerows removals and reinstatements 4. Draft Traffic Management Plan

2.4.2 Matters not agreed

- a. None to report

2.5 Content of the draft Development Consent Order

2.5.1 Matters agreed

Ref	Matters agreed
1	<p>SP Manweb and Shropshire Council AGREE the following in respect to the draft DCO:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The draft requirements in Schedule 6 b) The approach to discharging requirements in Schedule 7
2	<p>SP Manweb and Shropshire Council AGREE the following specific matters in respect to the draft DCO:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> c) Article 9 (3) d) Article 11 (3) e) Article 37 f) Schedule 3 as amended with reference included to the individual ARoW sheet nos. in relation to the street works listed

2.5.2 Matters not agreed

- b. None to report

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3 RECORD OF MATTERS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION

3.1.1 The table below provides a 'tracker' for each issue currently under discussion between SP Manweb and Shropshire Council.

Table 3.1 – Current discussions			
Ref	Issue	SP Manweb response	Shropshire Council response
	Review of submitted draft DCO in respect of references to street works other than the above references	Agreed to continue to progress to an agreement stage through dialogue on this SOCG.	
	The proposed streetworks in Schedule 3		

4 AGREEMENT ON THIS SOCG

This Statement of Common Ground has been jointly prepared and agreed by:

Name: Steven Edwards

Signature:

Position: Senior Environmental Planner

On behalf of: SP Manweb Plc

Date:

Name:

Signature:

Position:

On behalf of: Shropshire Council

Date:

Appendix B

Statement of Common Ground

**Between SP Manweb PLC and Highways
England**

SP MANWEB

**Reinforcement to the North Shropshire
Electricity Distribution Network**

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Between SP Manweb PLC and Highways
England**

**February 2019
PINS Reference EN020021**

QA Box

Author		SP Manweb	
Planning Inspectorate Application Reference		
Date	Version	Status	Description/Changes
21/02/19	1	Live	New document for discussion with Highways England
27/03/19	2	Revised document following comments from Highways England
.....
.....

SP Manweb plc, Registered Office: 3 Prenton Way Prenton CH43 3ET. Registered in England No. 02366937

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STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

1.1 PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

- 1.1.1 This document is submitted to the Secretary of State through the Planning Inspectorate (as responsible agency) in relation to the application by SPManweb Plc ("**SP Manweb**") for an Order granting development consent for the Reinforcement to the North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network (the 'DCO'). The DCO would grant powers to construct, operate and maintain a new 22.5 kilometre 132,000 volt (132kV) connection between the existing Oswestry Substation and Wem Substation within the administrative boundary of Shropshire County.
- 1.1.2 This statement of common ground (SoCG) has been prepared in respect of the Proposed Development. Guidance about the purpose and possible content of SoCGs is given in paragraphs 58-65 of the Department for Communities and Local Government's "Planning Act 2008: Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent" (March 2015). Paragraph 58, confirms the basic function of SoCGs:
- "A statement of common ground is a written statement prepared jointly by the applicant and another party or parties, setting out any matters on which they agree. As well as identifying matters which are not in real dispute, it is also useful if a statement identifies those areas where agreement has not been reached. The statement should include references to show where those matters are dealt with in the written representations or other documentary evidence."
- 1.1.3 SoCGs are a useful and established means of ensuring that the evidence at the examination focuses on the material differences between the main parties, and so aims to help facilitate a more efficient examination process.

1.2 PARTIES TO THE SOCG

- 1.2.1 This SOCG has been prepared in respect of the Proposed Development, by SP Manweb, as the applicant and Highways England.
- 1.2.2 To supply and distribute electricity within an area an operator is required to hold an Electricity Distribution Licence. SP Manweb, as the holder of a Distribution Licence for the Cheshire, Merseyside, Shropshire, North and Mid Wales areas and, as the Distribution Network Operator (or DNO) for these areas, must comply with various statutory and licence duties and obligations.
- 1.2.3 Highways England (formerly the Highways Agency) is the government-owned company charged with operating, maintaining and improving England's motorways and major A roads under licence from the Secretary of State for Transport.
- 1.2.4 Section 1.3 provides an overview of the Proposed Development.
- 1.2.5 Section 1.4 provides a summary of the relevant consultation between SP Manweb and Highways England.
- 1.2.6 Section 1.5 provides a summary of the relevant documents that relate to the information considered in this SoCG.
- 1.2.7 Section 1.6 provides a summary of areas that have been agreed, and areas that have not been agreed.
- 1.2.8 Section 1.7 provides a record of areas still under discussion.

1.3 THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1.3.1 The Proposed Development comprises a new 22.5 km 132kV electrical circuit between the existing SP Manweb Substations at Oswestry and Wem in North Shropshire, together with associated temporary construction works. The circuit would be a combination of underground cables and overhead

line. Works are also required at the existing Oswestry and Wem Substations to accommodate the new circuit.

1.3.2 The Proposed Development includes the following elements:

- Works within the boundary of the existing SP Manweb Substation at Oswestry including underground cable and the installation of electrical switchgear and associated equipment;
- Approx. 1.2km of 132kV underground cable between Oswestry Substation and a 132kV terminal structure at Long Wood (SJ 31132 29877);
- Approx. 21.3km of 132kV of overhead line supported by Trident wood poles from the terminal structure at Long Wood (SJ 31132 29877) to the existing SP Manweb Substation at Wem; and
- Works within the existing SP Manweb Substation at Wem including the installation of a new 132kV to 33kV transformer.

1.3.3 The Proposed Development also includes work to facilitate the new electrical circuit including:

- Undergrounding six short sections of existing SP Manweb lower voltage overhead lines in order to ensure safe electrical clearance for the new overhead line; and
- Temporary works required for the construction of the new overhead line including seven temporary laydown areas, welfare unit, security cabin, access tracks, vegetation clearance and reinstatement planting.

1.4 CONSULTATION

1.4.1 Highways England submitted comments in response to the statutory consultation. A summary of the correspondence that has taken place

between SP Manweb and Highways England in relation to the Proposed Development since the close of statutory consultation is outlined in the table below:

Ref	Date	Form of contact or type of correspondence	Summary of that contact and key outcomes and points of discussion
	16/02/18	HE Email	Confirming that low level of construction traffic and duration of activities would not have an adverse impact on traffic flows along the A5(T)
	21/03/18	HE Email	Provide signage along the A5(T) - these should be included in the Construction Traffic Management Plan.
	12/09/18	HE Email and letter	Advising of HE requirements to be included in the DCO in relation to temporary works access being temporary only along the A5 trunk road and the cable under the A5 trunk road being a matter for the Order with other outline matters to be included in protective provisions.
	24/10/18	HE Email and letter	Notes principal of temporary access off of the A5(T) has been agreed provided additional signage of construction works ahead in place and agreed with HE and that the access is clearly

			shown in the DCO as temporary works only. In terms of the cable under the A5(T), HE require certain matters to be included in the Order.
	08/11/18	HE Email and letter	Broadly agree principals of using temporary access and drilling under the A5(T)
	17/01/2019	HE Email	Noting submitted DCO documents and providing copy of response to be sent to PINs.
	08/03/2019	HE Email	HE comments on Draft SOCG V1
	18/03/19	SPM Email	Details of signage strategy provided
	25/03/19	HE Email	HE confirming for both parties to have powers to conduct street works

1.4.2 It is agreed that this is an accurate record of the key correspondence between SP Manweb and Highways England in relation to the matters recorded in Section 4.

1.4.3 There is ongoing discussion between the parties in relation to land agreements for the cabling under the A5 trunk road.

1.5 DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED WITHIN THIS SOCG

1.5.1 The following documents have been considered with this SOCG:

- Construction Report (**DCO Document 7.2**¹);

¹<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020021/EN020021-000262-7.2%20Construction%20Report.pdf>

- Draft Construction Environmental Management Plan (**DCO Document 6.3.2²**);
- Revised Transport and Highway Technical Note (**DCO Document 6.1.1³**); and
- Draft Development Consent Order (**DCO Document 3.1⁴**).

1.6 MATTERS AGREED AND MATTERS NOT AGREED

Content of the Revised Traffic and Transport Note, the Construction Report, the Draft CEMP and the Draft DCO Order

1.6.1 Matters agreed:

1	SP Manweb and Highways England AGREE the conclusions of the Revised Traffic and Transport Note (DCO Document 6.1.1)	Agreed through dialogue on this SoCG.
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1.6.2 There are no matters not agreed.

1.7 RECORD OF MATTERS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION

1.7.1 Matters still under discussion include:

1	SP Manweb and Highways England YET TO AGREE the approach to the <u>provision, signage and removal of the temporary access off the A5(T)</u> as set out in the	
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² <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020021/EN020021-000228-6.3.2%20ES%20Appendix%203.2%20-%20Draft%20Construction%20Environmental%20Management%20Plan.pdf>

³ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020021/EN020021-000226-6.1.1%20ES%20Appendix%201.1%20-%20Transport%20and%20Highways%20Technical%20Note.pdf>

⁴ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020021/EN020021-000185-3.1%20Draft%20Development%20Consent%20Order.pdf>

	Construction Report (DCO Document 7.2).	
2	SP Manweb and Highways England YET TO AGREE the approach (including civil engineering) to the crossing under the A5(T) as set out in the Draft DCO Order (DCO Document 3.1).	
<u>3</u>	<u>SP Manweb and Highways England YET TO AGREE the detail of the Protective Provisions (Schedule 6 Part 6) as they apply to Highways England</u>	

1.8 AGREEMENT ON THIS SOCG

This Statement of Common Ground has been jointly prepared and agreed by:

Name: Steven Edwards

Signature:

Position: Senior Environmental Planner

On behalf of: SP Manweb Plc

Date:

Name:

Signature:

Position:

On behalf of: Highways England

Date:

Appendix C

Statement of Common Ground

Between SP Manweb PLC and National Grid

SP MANWEB

**Reinforcement to the North Shropshire
Electricity Distribution Network**

**Statement of Common Ground
Between SP Manweb PLC and National Grid**

**February 2019
PINS Reference EN020021**

QA Box

Author		SP Manweb	
Planning Inspectorate Application Reference		
Date	Version	Status	Description/Changes
21/02/2019	1	Live	New document for discussion with National Grid
<u>28/03/2019</u>	<u>2.1</u>	<u>Live</u>	<u>Amended document for discussion with National Grid</u>

SP Manweb plc, Registered Office: 3 Prenton Way Prenton CH43 3ET. Registered in England No. 02366937

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STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

1.1 PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

1.1.1 This document is submitted to the Secretary of State through the Planning Inspectorate (as responsible agency) in relation to the application by SPManweb Plc ("**SP Manweb**") for an Order granting development consent for the Reinforcement to the North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network (the 'DCO'). The DCO would grant powers to construct, operate and maintain a new 22.5 kilometre 132,000 volt (132kV) connection between the existing Oswestry Substation and Wem Substation within the administrative boundary of Shropshire County.

1.1.2 This statement of common ground (SoCG) has been prepared in respect of the Proposed Development. Guidance about the purpose and possible content of SoCGs is given in paragraphs 58-65 of the Department for Communities and Local Government's "Planning Act 2008: Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent" (March 2015). Paragraph 58, confirms the basic function of SoCGs:

- "A statement of common ground is a written statement prepared jointly by the applicant and another party or parties, setting out any matters on which they agree. As well as identifying matters which are not in real dispute, it is also useful if a statement identifies those areas where agreement has not been reached. The statement should include references to show where those matters are dealt with in the written representations or other documentary evidence."

1.1.3 SoCGs are a useful and established means of ensuring that the evidence at the examination focuses on the material differences between the main parties, and so aims to help facilitate a more efficient examination process.

1.2 PARTIES TO THE SoCG

1.2.1 This SOCG has been prepared in respect of the Proposed Development, by SP Manweb, as the applicant and National Grid.

1.2.2 To supply and distribute electricity within an area an operator is required to hold an Electricity Distribution Licence. SP Manweb, as the holder of a Distribution Licence for the Cheshire, Merseyside, Shropshire, North and Mid Wales areas and, as the Distribution Network Operator (or DNO) for these areas, must comply with various statutory and licence duties and obligations.

1.2.3 National Grid plc owns and operates the high voltage electricity transmission network.

1.2.4 This SoCG has been prepared in the context of the Ironbridge to Shrewsbury 400kV overhead line in the Rednal area in relation to the Proposed Development.

1.2.5 Section 1.3 provides an overview of the Proposed Development.

1.2.6 Section 1.4 provides a summary of the relevant consultation between SP Manweb and National Grid.

1.2.7 Section 1.5 provides a summary of the relevant documents that relate to the information considered in this SoCG.

1.2.8 Section 1.6 provides a summary of areas that have been agreed, and areas that have not been agreed.

1.2.9 Section 1.7 provides a record of areas still under discussion.

1.3 THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

1.3.1 The Proposed Development comprises a new 22.5 km 132kV electrical circuit between the existing SP Manweb Substations at Oswestry and Wem in North Shropshire, together with associated temporary construction works. The circuit would be a combination of underground cables and overhead line. Works are also required at the existing Oswestry and Wem Substations to accommodate the new circuit.

1.3.2 The Proposed Development includes the following elements:

- Works within the boundary of the existing SP Manweb Substation at Oswestry including underground cable and the installation of electrical switchgear and associated equipment;
- Approx. 1.2km of 132kV underground cable between Oswestry Substation and a 132kV terminal structure at Long Wood (SJ 31132 29877);
- Approx. 21.3km of 132kV of overhead line supported by Trident wood poles from the terminal structure at Long Wood (SJ 31132 29877) to the existing SP Manweb Substation at Wem; and
- Works within the existing SP Manweb Substation at Wem including the installation of a new 132kV to 33kV transformer.

1.3.3 The Proposed Development also includes work to facilitate the new electrical circuit including:

- Undergrounding six short sections of existing SP Manweb lower voltage overhead lines in order to ensure safe electrical clearance for the new overhead line; and
- Temporary works required for the construction of the new overhead line including seven temporary laydown areas, welfare unit, security

cabin, access tracks, vegetation clearance and reinstatement planting.

1.4 CONSULTATION

1.4.1 National Grid submitted comments in response to the statutory consultation. A summary of the correspondence that has taken place between SP Manweb and National Grid in relation to the Proposed Development since the close of statutory consultation is outlined in the table below:

Ref	Date	Form of contact or type of correspondence	Summary of that contact and key outcomes and points of discussion
	21/03/18	NG Email	NG confirmed the proposed 132kV as amended is acceptable.
	08/08/18	NG Email	NG confirmed new project contact
	22/05/18	NG Email	NG provided copy of Protective Provisions template.
	22/10/18	SPM Email	SPM refer to previous NG email of 21/03/18 requesting confirmation design is acceptable and included marked up copy of draft PPs as amended to be included in draft DCO.
	29/11/18	NG Email	NG confirmed instructed solicitor to review protective provisions. No further comments on proposed design provided..

1.4.2 It is agreed that this is an accurate record of the key correspondence between SP Manweb and National Grid in relation to the matters recorded in Section 4.

1.4.3 There is ongoing discussion between the parties in relation to agreeing land rights and protective provisions.

1.5 DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED WITHIN THIS SOCG

1.5.1 The following documents have been considered with this SOCG:

- Construction Report (**DCO Document 7.2**¹);
- Draft Construction Environmental Management Plan (**DCO Document 6.3.2**²); and
- Draft Development Consent Order (**DCO Document 3.1**³).

1.6 MATTERS AGREED AND MATTERS NOT AGREED

Content of the Construction Report

1.6.1 Matters agreed:

1	SP Manweb and National Grid AGREE in respect of the 400kV overhead line that the clearance distance and outage notice of a minimum of 12 months is acceptable.	Agreed through email received on 21 March 2018.
<u>2</u>	<u>The parties agree that protective provisions for the protection of National</u>	<u>Agreed and currently being negotiated between the parties.</u>

¹<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020021/EN020021-000262-7.2%20Construction%20Report.pdf>

² <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020021/EN020021-000228-6.3.2%20ES%20Appendix%203.2%20-%20Draft%20Construction%20Environmental%20Management%20Plan.pdf>

³ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020021/EN020021-000185-3.1%20Draft%20Development%20Consent%20Order.pdf>

	<u>Grid are required in the Order.</u>	
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1.6.2 There are no other matters not agreed.

1.7 RECORD OF MATTERS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION

Ref	Issue	SP Manweb response	NG response
	Protective Provisions		

1.8 AGREEMENT ON THIS SOCG

This Statement of Common Ground has been jointly prepared and agreed by:

Name: Steven Edwards

Signature:

Position: Senior Environmental Planner

On behalf of: SP Manweb Plc

Date:

Name:

Signature:

Position:

On behalf of: National Grid

Date:

Appendix D

Statement of Common Ground

Between SP Manweb PLC and Network Rail

SP MANWEB

**Reinforcement to the North Shropshire
Electricity Distribution Network**

**Statement of Common Ground
Between SP Manweb PLC and Network Rail**

PINS Reference EN020021

QA Box

Author		SP Manweb	
Planning Inspectorate Application Reference			
Date	Version	Status	Description/Changes
25/02/19	1	Live	New document for discussion with Network Rail
12/03/19..	2.....	Revised document for discussion with Network Rail
<u>28/03/2019</u>	<u>2.1</u>	<u>Live</u>	<u>Amended document for discussion with Network Rail</u>

SP Manweb plc, Registered Office: 3 Prenton Way Prenton CH43 3ET. Registered in

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1 STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

1.1 PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

1.1.1 This document is submitted to the Secretary of State through the Planning Inspectorate (as responsible agency) in relation to the application by SP Manweb Plc ("**SP Manweb**") for an Order granting development consent for the Reinforcement to the North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network (the 'DCO'). The DCO would grant powers to construct, operate and maintain a new 22.5 kilometre, 132,000 volt (132kV), connection between the existing Oswestry Substation and Wem Substation within the administrative boundary of Shropshire County.

1.1.2 This statement of common ground (SoCG) has been prepared in respect of the Proposed Development. Guidance about the purpose and possible content of SoCGs is given in paragraphs 58-65 of the Department for Communities and Local Government's 'Planning Act 2008: Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent' (March 2015). Paragraph 58, confirms the basic function of SoCGs:

'A statement of common ground is a written statement prepared jointly by the applicant and another party or parties, setting out any matters on which they agree. As well as identifying matters which are not in real dispute, it is also useful if a statement identifies those areas where agreement has not been reached. The statement should include references to show where those matters are dealt with in the written representations or other documentary evidence.'

1.1.3 SoCGs are a useful and established means of ensuring that the evidence at the examination focuses on the material differences between the main parties, and so aims to help facilitate a more efficient examination process.

1.2 PARTIES TO THE SOCG

1.2.1 This SoCG has been prepared in respect of the Proposed Development, by SP Manweb, as the applicant and Network Rail.

- 1.2.2 To supply and distribute electricity within an area an operator is required to hold an Electricity Distribution Licence. SP Manweb, as the holder of a Distribution Licence for the Cheshire, Merseyside, Shropshire, North and Mid Wales areas and, as the Distribution Network Operator (or DNO) for these areas, must comply with various statutory and licence duties and obligations.
- 1.2.3 Network Rail is the owner, [operator](#) and infrastructure manager of most of the rail network in Great Britain. [Network Rail is a statutory undertaker in respect of its railway undertaking, with statutory and regulatory obligations in respect of it.](#) Network Rail is an arms-length public body of the Department for Transport with no shareholders, which reinvests its income in the railways.
- 1.2.4 This SoCG has been prepared in the context of the crossing of the Shrewsbury to Chester Railway Line by the Proposed Development (by overhead conductors) to the south of Babbinswood.
- 1.2.5 Section 1.4 provides an overview of consultation to date between SP Manweb and Network Rail.
- 1.2.6 Section 1.5 provides a summary of the relevant documents that relate to the information considered in this SOCG.
- 1.2.7 Section 2 provides a summary of areas that have been agreed and areas that have not been agreed.
- 1.2.8 Section 3 provides a record of areas still under discussion.
- 1.2.9 This SOCG has been structured to reflect matters and topics of interest to Network Rail in relation to the Proposed Development. Network Rail is a party to this SOCG as a Statutory and Interested Party for the purposes of the Application.
- 1.2.10 This SOCG relates to the following topics:
- Content of the Environmental Statement (ES)
 - Content of the draft Construction Environmental Management Plan
 - Content of the Construction Report

- Content of the draft Development Consent Order

1.2.11 This SOCG sets out the matters agreed between the Parties and those that are still outstanding.

1.2.12 Throughout this SOCG:

1.2.13 The “Parties” for the purposes of this SOCG means SP Manweb and Network Rail.

1.2.14 Where a sentence begins “It is agreed”, this signifies a matter that has been specifically stated as agreed by SP Manweb and Network Rail.

1.2.15 Where a sentence begins “It is not agreed”, this signifies a matter that has been specifically stated as not agreed by SP Manweb and Network Rail.

1.2.16 Where a sentence begins “It is under discussion”, this signifies a matter is not yet agreed however is still under discussion by SP Manweb and Network Rail.

1.2.17 It is agreed that any matters not specifically mentioned in Sections 2 and Sections 3 of this SOCG are not of material interest or relevance to the Parties, and therefore have not been the subject of any discussions between the Parties.

1.2.18 Reference in this SOCG to DCO means the draft DCO as submitted (**DCO Document 3.1**, November 2018).

1.3 THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1.3.1 The Proposed Development comprises a new 22.5 km 132kV electrical circuit between the existing SP Manweb Substations at Oswestry and Wem in North Shropshire, together with associated temporary construction works. The circuit would be a combination of underground cables and overhead line. Works are also required at the existing Oswestry and Wem Substations to accommodate the new circuit.
- 1.3.2 The Proposed Development includes the following elements:
- Works within the boundary of the existing SP Manweb Substation at Oswestry including underground cable and the installation of electrical switchgear and associated equipment;
 - Approx. 1.2km of 132kV underground cable between Oswestry Substation and a 132kV terminal structure at Long Wood (SJ 31132 29877);
 - Approx. 21.3km of 132kV of overhead line supported by Trident wood poles from the terminal structure at Long Wood (SJ 31132 29877) to the existing SP Manweb Substation at Wem; and
 - Works within the existing SP Manweb Substation at Wem including the installation of a new 132kV to 33kV transformer.
- 1.3.3 The Proposed Development also includes work to facilitate the new electrical circuit including:
- Undergrounding six short sections of existing SP Manweb lower voltage overhead lines in order to ensure safe electrical clearance for the new overhead line; and
 - Temporary works required for the construction of the new overhead line including seven temporary laydown areas, welfare unit, security cabin, access tracks, vegetation clearance and reinstatement planting.
- 1.3.4 The Proposed Development includes provisions which would, if granted, compulsory acquire rights in or over land or temporarily use land which forms part of Network Rail's operational railway land and which Network Rail relies upon for the carrying out of its statutory undertaking.

1.4 CONSULTATION

1.4.1 A summary of the correspondence that has taken place between SP Manweb and Network Rail in relation to the Proposed Development since the close of statutory consultation is outlined in the table below:

Ref	Date	Form of contact or type of correspondence	Summary of that contact and key outcomes and points of discussion
	21/05/18	NR Email	NR notifying SPM of a change to contact.
	02/06/18	SPM Email	SPM providing project information to new NR contacts.
	20/08/18	NR Email	Provided Easement Application Forms.
	10/12/18	NR Email	NR clarifying contacts within NR for reviewing PPs
	28/01/19	NR Email	From NR's legal agent dealing with PPs – NR's Required Amendments
	<u>15/03/19</u>	<u>NR Email</u>	<u>From NR's legal agent providing a draft Framework Agreement</u>
	<u>15/03/19</u>	<u>NR Email</u>	<u>From NR's legal agent requesting a cost undertaking for costs and legal costs reasonably incurred.</u>

1.4.2 It is agreed that this is an accurate record of the key correspondence between SP Manweb and Network Rail in relation to the matters recorded in Sections 1.6 – 1.8.

1.4.3 There is ongoing discussion between the parties.

1.5 DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED WITHIN THIS SOCG

1.5.1 The following documents have been considered with this SOCG:

- Environmental Statement (**DCO Document 6.1 to 6.28**)
- Draft Development Consent Order (**DCO Document 3.1**);
- Environmental Statement, Appendix 3.2 Construction Environmental Management Plan (**DCO Document 6.3.2**);
- Construction Report (**DCO Document 7.2**); and

- Relevant Representation submitted to PINS on 31st January 2019 by Eversheds Sutherland (International) LLP on behalf of Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd¹.

2 MATTERS AGREED AND MATTERS NOT AGREED

2.1 Content of the Environmental Statement

2.1.1 Matters agreed:

Table 2.1 – Matters agreed	
Ref	Matters agreed
1	SP Manweb and Network Rail AGREE the following in respect of assessments undertaken for the Environmental Statement: a) the baseline; b) approach to the assessment methodology; c) conclusion on assessment of significance (alone and cumulatively); d) mitigation; and e) there are no impacts which are of more than local significance that need to be addressed at any issue specific hearing.

2.1.2 Matters not agreed

- a. None to report

2.2 Draft Construction Environmental Management Plan

Ref	Matters agreed
1	SP Manweb and Network Rail AGREE the content of the Draft Construction Environmental Management Plan.

2.2.1 Matters not agreed

- b. None to report

¹ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/west-midlands/reinforcement-to-north-shropshire-electricity-distribution-network/?ipcsection=relreps&relrep=36507>

2.3 Content of the Construction Report

2.3.1 Matters agreed:

Ref	Matters agreed
4	SP Manweb and Network Rail AGREE the design of the Proposed Development and approach to managing construction in respect of the crossing Shrewsbury to Chester railway as set out in the Construction Report other than in the draft Protective Provisions in Schedule 6 Part 3.

2.3.2 Matters not agreed

c. None to report

2.4 Content of the draft Development Consent Order

2.4.1 Matters agreed:

Ref	Matters agreed
4	SP Manweb and Network Rail AGREE the content of the draft DCO apart from Schedule 6b Part 3.

2.4.2 Matters not agreed

Ref	Matters not agreed
Part 5	<u>The parties are not agreed on the necessity for powers to be granted to SP Manweb for the compulsory acquisition of interest belonging to Network Rail or of any rights benefitting Network Rail. Network Rail does not believe this to be justified or necessary and will strongly resist acquisition of rights which are needed to be retained in order for Network Rail to carry out its undertaking.</u>

d. None to report

3 RECORD OF MATTERS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION

3.1.1 The table below provides a 'tracker' for each issue currently under discussion between SP Manweb and Network Rail:

Table 3.1 – Matters still under discussion			
Ref	Issue	SP Manweb response	Network Rail response
DCO Document	Protective Provisions	Currently considering NR	<u>Network Rail has provided a copy of</u>

3.1 draft DCO Schedule 6 Part 3		proposed amendments	<u>its standard protective provisions. Network Rail has not had any response to date.</u>
<u>Framework Agreement</u>	<u>Obligations on parties</u>	<u>Currently considering NR's Framework Agreement</u>	
<u>Construction Report</u>	<u>The design of the Proposed Development and approach to managing construction in respect of the crossing Shrewsbury to Chester railway</u>		<u>NR does not yet agree with the Construction Report as this states conductors would be installed in a manner agreed by NR.</u>

4 AGREEMENT ON THIS SOCG

This Statement of Common Ground has been jointly prepared and agreed by:

Name: Steven Edwards

Signature:

Position: Senior Environmental Planner

On behalf of: SP Manweb Plc

Date:

Name:

Signature:

Position:

On behalf of: Network Rail

Date:

Appendix E

Statement of Common Ground

**Between SP Manweb PLC and
Natural England**

SP MANWEB

**Reinforcement to the North Shropshire
Electricity Distribution Network**

**Statement of Common Ground
Between SP Manweb PLC and Natural England**

**March 2019
PINS Reference EN020021**

QA Box

Author		SP Manweb	
Planning Inspectorate Application Reference			
Date	Version	Status	Description/Changes
13/03/2019	1	Live	New document for discussion with Natural England
26/03/19	2	Live	Amended document following review of ExA's Rule 6 letter Annex E for discussion with Natural England

SP Manweb plc, Registered Office: 3 Prenton Way Prenton CH43 3ET. Registered in England No. 02366937

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4	AGREEMENT ON THIS SOCG	13

1 STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

1.1 PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

1.1.1 This document is submitted to the Secretary of State through the Planning Inspectorate (as responsible agency) in relation to the application by SP Manweb Plc ("**SP Manweb**") for an Order granting development consent for the Reinforcement to the North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network (the 'DCO'). The DCO would grant powers to construct, operate and maintain a new 22.5 kilometre, 132,000 volt (132kV), connection between the existing Oswestry Substation and Wem Substation within the administrative boundary of Shropshire County.

1.1.2 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared in respect of the Proposed Development. Guidance about the purpose and possible content of SoCGs is given in paragraphs 58-65 of the Department for Communities and Local Government's "Planning Act 2008: Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent" (March 2015). Paragraph 58, confirms the basic function of SoCGs:

"A statement of common ground is a written statement prepared jointly by the applicant and another party or parties, setting out any matters on which they agree. As well as identifying matters which are not in real dispute, it is also useful if a statement identifies those areas where agreement has not been reached. The statement should include references to show where those matters are dealt with in the written representations or other documentary evidence."

1.1.3 SoCGs are a useful and established means of ensuring that the evidence at the examination focuses on the material differences between the main parties, and so aims to help facilitate a more efficient examination process.

1.2 PARTIES TO THE SOCG

- 1.2.1 This SoCG has been prepared in respect of the Proposed Development, by SP Manweb, as the applicant and Natural England.
- 1.2.2 To supply and distribute electricity within an area an operator is required to hold an Electricity Distribution Licence. SP Manweb, as the holder of a Distribution Licence for the Cheshire, Merseyside, Shropshire, North and Mid Wales areas and, as the Distribution Network Operator (or DNO) for these areas, must comply with various statutory and licence duties and obligations.
- 1.2.3 Natural England is the government's adviser for the natural environment in England, helping to protect England's nature and landscapes for people to enjoy. Natural England is an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs.
- 1.2.4 This SoCG has been prepared in the context of the Environmental Statement, and specifically Chapter 7 'Ecology' (**DCO Document 6.7**) and the No Significant Effects Report (**DCO Document 5.4**).
- 1.2.5 Section 1.3 provides an overview of the Proposed Development.
- 1.2.6 Section 1.4 provides a summary of the relevant consultation between SP Manweb and Natural England.
- 1.2.7 Section 1.5 provides a summary of the relevant documents that relate to the information considered in this SoCG.
- 1.2.8 Section 2 provides a summary of areas that have been agreed, and areas that have not been agreed.
- 1.2.9 Section 3 provides a record of areas still under discussion.

1.2.10 This SOCG has been structured to reflect matters and topics of interest to Natural England in relation to the Proposed Development. Natural England is a party to this SOCG as a Statutory and Interested Party for the purposes of the Application.

1.2.11 This SOCG relates to the following topics:

- The Proposed Development
- Policy and Legislative Context
- Content of the Environmental Statement (ES) being within Natural England's remit:
 - Ecology and Biodiversity
 - Draft Construction Environmental Management Plan
 - Content of the draft Development Consent Order

1.2.12 This SOCG sets out the matters agreed between the Parties and those that are still outstanding.

1.2.13 Throughout this SOCG:

1.2.14 The “Parties” for the purposes of this SOCG means SP Manweb and Natural England.

1.2.15 Where a sentence begins “It is agreed”, this signifies a matter that has been specifically stated as agreed by SP Manweb and Natural England.

1.2.16 Where a sentence begins “It is not agreed”, this signifies a matter that has been specifically stated as not agreed by SP Manweb and Natural England.

1.2.17 Where a sentence begins “It is under discussion”, this signifies a matter is not yet agreed however is still under discussion by SP Manweb and Natural England.

1.2.18 It is agreed that any matters not specifically mentioned in Sections 2 and Sections 3 of this SOCG are not of material interest or relevance to the Parties, and therefore have not been the subject of any discussions between the Parties.

1.2.19 Reference in this SOCG to DCO means the draft DCO as submitted.

1.3 THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

1.3.1 The Proposed Development comprises a new 22.5 km 132kV electrical circuit between the existing SP Manweb Substations at Oswestry and Wem in North Shropshire, together with associated temporary construction works. The circuit would be a combination of underground cables and overhead line. Works are also required at the existing Oswestry and Wem Substations to accommodate the new circuit.

1.3.2 The Proposed Development includes the following elements:

- Works within the boundary of the existing SP Manweb Substation at Oswestry including underground cable and the installation of electrical switchgear and associated equipment;
- Approx. 1.2km of 132kV underground cable between Oswestry Substation and a 132kV terminal structure at Long Wood (SJ 31132 29877);
- Approx. 21.3km of 132kV of overhead line supported by Trident wood poles from the terminal structure at Long Wood (SJ 31132 29877) to the existing SP Manweb Substation at Wem; and
- Works within the existing SP Manweb Substation at Wem including the installation of a new 132kV to 33kV transformer.

1.3.3 The Proposed Development also includes work to facilitate the new electrical circuit including:

- Undergrounding six short sections of existing SP Manweb lower voltage overhead lines in order to ensure safe electrical clearance for the new overhead line; and
- Temporary works required for the construction of the new overhead line including seven temporary laydown areas, welfare unit, security cabin, access tracks, vegetation clearance and reinstatement planting.

1.4 CONSULTATION

1.4.1 Natural England submitted comments in response to the statutory consultation. A summary of the key contacts that have taken place between SP Manweb and Natural England in relation to the Proposed Development is outlined in the table below:

Table 1.1 – Consultation between SP Manweb and Natural England		
Date	Form of contact or type of correspondence	Summary of that contact and key outcomes and points of discussion
13/09/18	SPM Email to NE	Requesting NE response to SPM's 'HRA' report and that unless received by 21 st September 2018 assumes agreed with report.
5/11/18	SPM Email to NE	Further request for NE to confirm it agrees that SPM has avoided causing non-significant effects on the relevant european sites.
21/11/18	SPM Email to NE	Further request for NE to confirm it agrees that SPM has avoided causing non-significant effects on the relevant european sites.

1.4.2 It is agreed that this is an accurate record of the key correspondence between SP Manweb and Natural England in relation to the matters recorded in Sections 2 – 3.

1.5 DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED WITHIN THIS SOCG

1.5.1 The following DCO documents have been considered with this SOCG:

- ES (**DCO Volume 6**)
- Construction Report (**DCO Document 7.2**);
- Draft Construction Environmental Management Plan (**DCO Document 6.3.2**); and
- Other Consents and Licences Report (**DCO Document 5.5**)

2 MATTERS AGREED AND MATTERS NOT AGREED

2.1 Content of the Environmental Statement

Approach and methodology

2.1.1 Matters agreed

Ref	Matters agreed
1	<p>SP Manweb and Natural England AGREE the following in respect of SP Manweb's approach and methodology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) approach to the assessment methodology (see ES Chapter 4 (DCO Document 6.4)); b) data collection, baseline data, statistical modelling (see section 4.5 of the ES (DCO document 6.4)) c) approach to deliverable mitigation (see section 4.6 of the ES (DCO document 6.4)); and d) no outstanding issues that need to be addressed at any issue specific hearing.

2.1.2 Matters not agreed

- a. None to report

Ecology and Biodiversity

2.1.3 Matters agreed

Ref	Matters agreed
2	<p>SP Manweb and Natural England AGREE the following in respect of ecology and biodiversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) approach to the assessment methodology and significance criteria for ecology and biodiversity impacts (see ES Chapter 4 (DCO Document 6.4) and Chapter 7 (DCO Document 6.7)); d) data collection, baseline data, statistical modelling (see section 7.5 of the ES (DCO document 6.7)) c) identification and sensitivity of relevant features and conclusion on assessment of significance (alone and cumulatively) (see sections 7.6 (DCO document 6.7) and 7.7(DCO document 6.7) of the ES); d) deliverable mitigation (see section 7.8 of the ES (DCO document 6.7)); and e) no outstanding issues that need to be addressed at any issue specific hearing.

2.1.4 Matters not agreed

- a. None to report

2.2 Draft Construction Environmental Management Plan

2.2.1 Matters agreed

Ref	Matters agreed
1	<p>SP Manweb and Natural England AGREE the content of the Draft Construction Environmental Management Plan including the species protection plans as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Badgers b) Bats c) Great crested newts d) Water voles and otters

2.2.2 Matters not agreed

- a. None to report

2.3 Content of the Construction Report

2.3.1 Matters agreed

Ref	Matters agreed
1	<p>SP Manweb and Natural England AGREE that the Proposed Development is accurately described in Chapter 3 of the ES (DCO Document 6.2), Chapter 2 of the Planning Statement (DCO Document 7.1) and sections 1.1 of the Statement of Reasons (DCO Document 4.1).</p>
2	<p>SP Manweb and Natural England AGREE the following in respect of the Construction Report (DCO Document 7.2):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The need and design of the Proposed Development 2. SPM's approach to construction including the use of construction accesses and measures to protect existing field boundary hedgerows, the approach to traffic management on the public highway, and the distribution of construction traffic from the construction compound to the construction sites and temporary laydown areas.
3	<p>SP Manweb and Natural England AGREE that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the necessary diversions of existing lower voltage overhead lines are accurately described. b. SP Manweb has given consideration to the environmental effects of the works described above as part of the cumulative

	assessment undertaken for the Proposed Development. The conclusions of that assessment are agreed as being sound and robust.
--	--

2.3.2 Matters not agreed

- a. None to report

2.4 Other Consents and Licences Report

2.4.1 Matters agreed:

Ref	Matters agreed
1	SP Manweb and Natural England AGREE the content of the Other Consents and Licences Report

2.4.2 Matters not agreed

- a. None to report

3 RECORD OF MATTERS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION

3.1.1 There are no matters still under discussion.

4 AGREEMENT ON THIS SOCG

This Statement of Common Ground has been jointly prepared and agreed by:

Name: Steven Edwards

Signature:

Position: Senior Environmental Planner

On behalf of: SP Manweb Plc

Date:

Name:

Signature:

Position:

On behalf of: Natural England

Date:

Appendix F

Statement of Common Ground

**Between SP Manweb PLC and
Severn Trent Water**

SP MANWEB

**Reinforcement to the North Shropshire
Electricity Distribution Network**

**Statement of Common Ground
Between SP Manweb PLC and Severn Trent
Water**

**March 2019
PINS Reference EN020021**

QA Box

Author		SP Manweb	
Planning Inspectorate Application Reference		EN020021	
Date	Version	Status	Description/Changes
18/03/2019	1	Live	Document for discussion with Severn Trent Water

SP Manweb plc, Registered Office: 3 Prenton Way Prenton CH43 3ET. Registered in England No. 02366937

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STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

1.1 PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

- 1.1.1 This document is submitted to the Secretary of State through the Planning Inspectorate (as responsible agency) in relation to the application by SPManweb Plc ("**SP Manweb**") for an Order granting Development Consent for the Reinforcement to the North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network (the 'DCO'). The DCO would grant powers to construct, operate and maintain a new 22.5 kilometre 132,000 volt (132kV) connection between the existing Oswestry Substation and Wem Substation within the administrative boundary of Shropshire County.
- 1.1.2 This Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared in respect of the Proposed Development. Guidance about the purpose and possible content of SoCGs is given in paragraphs 58-65 of the Department for Communities and Local Government's "Planning Act 2008: Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent" (March 2015). Paragraph 58, confirms the basic function of SoCGs:
- *"A statement of common ground is a written statement prepared jointly by the applicant and another party or parties, setting out any matters on which they agree. As well as identifying matters which are not in real dispute, it is also useful if a statement identifies those areas where agreement has not been reached. The statement should include references to show where those matters are dealt with in the written representations or other documentary evidence."*
- 1.1.3 SoCGs are a useful and established means of ensuring that the evidence at the Examination focuses on the material differences between the main parties, and so aims to help facilitate a more efficient examination process.

1.2 PARTIES TO THE SOCG

- 1.2.1 This SOCG has been prepared in respect of the Proposed Development, by SP Manweb, as the applicant and Severn Trent Water.
- 1.2.2 To supply and distribute electricity within an area an operator is required to hold an Electricity Distribution Licence. SP Manweb, as the holder of a Distribution Licence for the Cheshire, Merseyside, Shropshire, North and Mid Wales areas and, as the Distribution Network Operator (or DNO) for these areas, must comply with various statutory and licence duties and obligations.
- 1.2.3 Severn Trent plc is a water company based in the United Kingdom, employing more than 15,000 people across the United Kingdom, United States and mainland Europe, with some involvement in the Middle East. As with all water companies in the United Kingdom, Severn Trent is regulated under the Water Industry Act 1991.
- 1.2.4 This SoCG has been prepared in the context of Severn Trents' assets which are potentially affected by the Proposed Development.
- 1.2.5 Section 1.3 provides an overview of the Proposed Development.
- 1.2.6 Section 1.4 provides a summary of the relevant consultation between SP Manweb and Severn Trent Water.
- 1.2.7 Section 1.5 provides a summary of the relevant documents that relate to the information considered in this SoCG.
- 1.2.8 Section 1.6 provides a summary of areas that have been agreed, and areas that have not been agreed.
- 1.2.9 Section 1.7 provides a record of areas still under discussion.

1.3 THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1.3.1 The Proposed Development comprises a new 22.5 km 132kV electrical circuit between the existing SP Manweb Substations at Oswestry and Wem in North

Shropshire, together with associated temporary construction works. The circuit would be a combination of underground cables and overhead line. Works are also required at the existing Oswestry and Wem Substations to accommodate the new circuit.

1.3.2 The Proposed Development includes the following elements:

- Works within the boundary of the existing SP Manweb Substation at Oswestry including underground cable and the installation of electrical switchgear and associated equipment;
- Approx. 1.2km of 132kV underground cable between Oswestry Substation and a 132kV terminal structure at Long Wood (SJ 31132 29877);
- Approx. 21.3km of 132kV of overhead line supported by Trident wood poles from the terminal structure at Long Wood (SJ 31132 29877) to the existing SP Manweb Substation at Wem; and
- Works within the existing SP Manweb Substation at Wem including the installation of a new 132kV to 33kV transformer.

1.3.3 The Proposed Development also includes work to facilitate the new electrical circuit including:

- Undergrounding six short sections of existing SP Manweb lower voltage overhead lines in order to ensure safe electrical clearance for the new overhead line; and
- Temporary works required for the construction of the new overhead line including seven temporary laydown areas, welfare unit, security cabin, access tracks, vegetation clearance and reinstatement planting.

1.4 CONSULTATION

1.4.1 Severn Trent Water submitted comments in response to the statutory consultation. A summary of the correspondence that has taken place between SP Manweb and Severn Trent Water in relation to the Proposed Development since the close of statutory consultation is outlined in the table below:

Ref	Date	Form of contact or type of correspondence	Summary of that contact and key outcomes and points of discussion
	06/07/18	SPM Email	Providing link to project website and series of plans showing Severn Trent apparatus with draft DCO order limits marked and draft protective provisions.
	July-Aug 2018	SPM/STW Emails	Regarding cost undertaking.
	08/11/18	STW Email	STW response referring to matters of interest to STW.
	20/11/18	SPM Email	Providing response to matters in above email with plan showing STW assets marked.
	01/02/19	SPM /STW Emails	Noting SPMs action following SPM/STW meeting on 17 th Jan 2019 to review STW assets affected by the Order limits and STWs progress on reviewing draft PPs and fees.

	04/03/19	SPM Email	Progress email following SPM/STW phone call on 01/03/19 referring to (i) revised plan showing STW assets affected by the SPM scheme in relation to plot nos. from the SPM Land Plans and (ii) references for proposed standards in the draft CEMP and draft DCO documents for working with STW assets, (iii) progressing legal and STW agents engagement including fee recovery and (iv) a draft of this SOCG.

- 1.4.2 It is agreed that this is an accurate record of the key correspondence between SP Manweb and Severn Trent Water in relation to the matters recorded in Section 4.
- 1.4.3 A copy of the plan showing the STW assets in relation to the draft Order limits is included in Appendix A to this SOCG.
- 1.4.4 There is ongoing discussion between the parties in relation to working standards where there are STW assets in the draft protective provisions included in the draft DCO document.

1.5 DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED WITHIN THIS SOCG

- 1.5.1 The following documents have been considered with this SoCG:

- Construction Report (**DCO Document 7.2¹**);
- Draft Construction Environmental Management Plan (**DCO Document 6.3.2²**);
- Draft Development Consent Order (**DCO Document 3.1³**); and
- Environmental Statement (**DCO Document 6.1 to 6.28**).

1.6 MATTERS AGREED AND MATTERS NOT AGREED

There is ongoing discussion between the parties in relation to working standards

1.6.1 Matters agreed:

Ref	Matters agreed	
1	SP Manweb and STW AGREE that the Proposed Development is accurately described in Chapter 3 of the ES (DCO Document 6.2), Chapter 2 of the Planning Statement (DCO Document 7.1) and the Construction Report (DCO Document 7.2).	Agreed through dialogue on this SoCG
2	SP Manweb and STW AGREE that the Proposed Development is accurately assessed in EIA terms in the relevant chapters of the ES (DCO Document 6.2) in relation to the Environmental Statement: a) the baseline; b) approach to the assessment methodology; c) conclusion on assessment of significance (alone and cumulatively); d) mitigation; and	Agreed through dialogue on this SoCG

¹<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020021/EN020021-000262-7.2%20Construction%20Report.pdf>

² <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020021/EN020021-000228-6.3.2%20ES%20Appendix%203.2%20-%20Draft%20Construction%20Environmental%20Management%20Plan.pdf>

³ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN020021/EN020021-000185-3.1%20Draft%20Development%20Consent%20Order.pdf>

	e) there are no impacts which are of more than local significance that need to be addressed at any issue specific hearing.	
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1.6.2 There are no matters not agreed.

1.7 RECORD OF MATTERS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION

1.7.1 The following matters are still under discussion.

Ref	Issue	SPM response	STW response
Draft CEMP	Draft 1	Appendix B covers working standards in relation to STW assets	Currently under review and will advise
Draft DCO Schedule 6 Part 2	Draft 1	Protective provisions adequately deal with STW requirements	Currently under review and will advise

1.8 AGREEMENT ON THIS SOCG

This Statement of Common Ground has been jointly prepared and agreed by:

Name: Steven Edwards

Signature:

Position: Senior Environmental Planner

On behalf of: SP Manweb Plc

Date:

Name:

Signature:

Position:

On behalf of: Severn Trent Water

Date:

Appendix G

Statement of Common Ground

**Between SP Manweb PLC and
Canal and Rivers Trust**

SP MANWEB

**Reinforcement to the North Shropshire
Electricity Distribution Network**

**Statement of Common Ground
Between SP Manweb PLC and Canal and River
Trust**

**March 2019
PINS Reference EN020021**

QA Box

Author		SP Manweb	
Planning Inspectorate Application Reference			
Date			
Date	Version	Status	Description/Changes
15/03/2019	1	Live	New document for discussion with Canal and River Trust
26/03/19	2	Live	New document for discussion with Canal and River Trust

SP Manweb plc, Registered Office: 3 Prenton Way Prenton CH43 3ET. Registered in England No. 02366937

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DRAFT

1 STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

1.1 PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

1.1.1 This document is submitted to the Secretary of State through the Planning Inspectorate (as responsible agency) in relation to the application by SP Manweb Plc ("**SP Manweb**") for an Order granting development consent for the Reinforcement to the North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network (the 'DCO'). The DCO would grant powers to construct, operate and maintain a new 22.5 kilometre, 132,000 volt (132kV), connection between the existing Oswestry Substation and Wem Substation within the administrative boundary of Shropshire County.

1.1.2 This statement of common ground (SoCG) has been prepared in respect of the Proposed Development. Guidance about the purpose and possible content of SoCGs is given in paragraphs 58-65 of the Department for Communities and Local Government's 'Planning Act 2008: Guidance for the examination of applications for development consent' (March 2015).

Paragraph 58, confirms the basic function of SoCGs:

'A statement of common ground is a written statement prepared jointly by the applicant and another party or parties, setting out any matters on which they agree. As well as identifying matters which are not in real dispute, it is also useful if a statement identifies those areas where agreement has not been reached. The statement should include references to show where those matters are dealt with in the written representations or other documentary evidence.'

1.1.3 SoCGs are a useful and established means of ensuring that the evidence at the examination focuses on the material differences between the main parties, and so aims to help facilitate a more efficient examination process.

1.2 PARTIES TO THE SOCG

1.2.1 This SoCG has been prepared in respect of the Proposed Development, by SP Manweb, as the applicant, and the Canal and River Trust.

- 1.2.2 To supply and distribute electricity within an area an operator is required to hold an Electricity Distribution Licence. SP Manweb, as the holder of a Distribution Licence for the Cheshire, Merseyside, Shropshire, North and Mid Wales areas and, as the Distribution Network Operator (or DNO) for these areas, must comply with various statutory and licence duties and obligations.
- 1.2.3 The Canal and River Trust is responsible for the ownership and maintenance of canals and rivers which contribute to the health and well being of local communities and economies, creating attractive places to live, work and enjoy.
- 1.2.4 This SoCG has been prepared in the context of the crossing of the Montgomery Canal by the Proposed Development (by overhead conductors) to the south of Rednal.
- 1.2.5 Section 1.4 provides an overview of consultation to date between SP Manweb and the Canal and River Trust.
- 1.2.6 Section 1.5 provides a summary of the relevant documents that relate to the information considered in this SOCG.
- 1.2.7 Section 2 provides a summary of areas that have been agreed and areas that have not been agreed.
- 1.2.8 Section 3 provides a record of areas still under discussion.
- 1.2.9 This SOCG has been structured to reflect matters and topics of interest to the Canal and River Trust in relation to the Proposed Development. The Canal and River Trust is a party to this SOCG as a Statutory and Interested Party for the purposes of the Application.

1.2.10 This SOCG relates to the following topics:

- Content of the Environmental Statement (ES)
 - Ecology and Biodiversity
 - Landscape and Visual
 - Historic Environment
 - Flood Risk and Water Quality
 - Socio-economics and Tourism
- Content of the draft Construction Environmental Management Plan
- Content of the Construction Report
- Content of the draft Development Consent Order
- Planning Statement

1.2.11 This SOCG sets out the matters agreed between the Parties and those that are still outstanding.

1.2.12 Throughout this SOCG:

1.2.13 The “Parties” for the purposes of this SOCG means SP Manweb and the Canal and River Trust.

1.2.14 Where a sentence begins “It is agreed”, this signifies a matter that has been specifically stated as agreed by SP Manweb and the Canal and River Trust.

1.2.15 Where a sentence begins “It is not agreed”, this signifies a matter that has been specifically stated as not agreed by SP Manweb and the Canal and River Trust.

1.2.16 It is agreed that any matters not specifically mentioned in Sections 2 and Sections 3 of this SOCG are not of material interest or relevance to the Parties, and therefore have not been the subject of any discussions between the Parties.

1.2.17 Reference in this SOCG to DCO means the draft DCO as submitted (**DCO Document 3.1**, November 2018).

1.3 THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

1.3.1 The Proposed Development comprises a new 22.5 km 132kV electrical circuit between the existing SP Manweb Substations at Oswestry and Wem in North Shropshire, together with associated temporary construction works. The circuit would be a combination of underground cables and overhead line. Works are also required at the existing Oswestry and Wem Substations to accommodate the new circuit.

1.3.2 The Proposed Development includes the following elements:

- Works within the boundary of the existing SP Manweb Substation at Oswestry including underground cable and the installation of electrical switchgear and associated equipment;
- Approx. 1.2km of 132kV underground cable between Oswestry Substation and a 132kV terminal structure at Long Wood (SJ 31132 29877);
- Approx. 21.3km of 132kV of overhead line supported by Trident wood poles from the terminal structure at Long Wood (SJ 31132 29877) to the existing SP Manweb Substation at Wem; and
- Works within the existing SP Manweb Substation at Wem including the installation of a new 132kV to 33kV transformer.

1.3.3 The Proposed Development also includes work to facilitate the new electrical circuit including:

- Undergrounding six short sections of existing SP Manweb lower voltage overhead lines in order to ensure safe electrical clearance for the new overhead line; and
- Temporary works required for the construction of the new overhead line including seven temporary laydown areas, welfare unit, security cabin, access tracks, vegetation clearance and reinstatement planting.

1.4 CONSULTATION

1.4.1 A summary of the correspondence that has taken place between SP Manweb and the Canal and River Trust in relation to the Proposed Development since the close of statutory consultation is outlined in the table below:

Ref	Date	Form of contact or type of correspondence	Summary of that contact and key outcomes and points of discussion
1	21/05/18	CRT Email	Enclosed standard Protective Provisions that the trust will require to be included
2	18/06/18	CRT Email	Enclosed plan of CRT ownership
3	19/08/18	SPM Email	Confirming Pole 38 is outside CRT ownership
4	17/09/18	SPM Email	Enclosed copies of extracts from draft Consultation Report referring to SPMs response to CRT comments
5	25/09/18	CRT Email	Enclosed letter from CRT solicitors Ward Hadaway raising concerns with SPMs approach.
6	02/11/18	SPM Email	SPM response from solicitors Squires Patton Boggs to CRT letter with enclosures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Viewpoints/photomontage - Works plan extract showing canal crossing
7	26/03/19	SPM Email	SPM response including x-section plan showing height of overhead line over the canal and towpath, references in CEMP to bird diverters and installation of fishing signs and agreement in principle to landscape planting/environmental improvement along the canal

1.4.2 It is agreed that this is an accurate record of the key correspondence between SP Manweb and the Canal and River Trust in relation to the matters recorded in Sections 1.6 – 1.8.

1.4.3 There is ongoing discussion between the parties.

1.5 DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED WITHIN THIS SOCG

1.5.1 The following documents have been considered with this SOCG:

- Environmental Statement (**DCO Document 6.1 to 6.28**)
- Draft Development Consent Order (**DCO Document 3.1**);
- Environmental Statement, Appendix 3.2 Construction Environmental Management Plan (**DCO Document 6.3.2**);
- Construction Report (**DCO Document 7.2**); and
- Planning Statement (**DCO Document 7.1**)¹.

2 MATTERS AGREED AND MATTERS NOT AGREED

2.1 Content of the Environmental Statement

2.1.1 Matters agreed:

Approach and methodology

<u>Ref</u>	<u>Matters agreed</u>
	<p><u>SP Manweb and the Canal and River Trust AGREE the following in respect of SP Manweb's approach and methodology:</u></p> <p><u>a) approach to the assessment methodology (see ES Chapter 4 (DCO Document 6.4));</u></p> <p><u>b) data collection, baseline data, statistical modelling (see section 4.5 of the ES (DCO document 6.4))</u></p>

¹ <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/west-midlands/reinforcement-to-north-shropshire-electricity-distribution-network/?ipcsection=relreps&relrep=36507>

	<p>c) approach to deliverable mitigation (see section 4.6 of the ES (DCO document 6.4)); and</p> <p>d) no outstanding issues that need to be addressed at any issue specific hearing.</p>

[2.1.2 Matters not agreed](#)

- [a. None to report](#)

[Ecology and Biodiversity](#)

[2.1.3 Matters agreed](#)

Ref	Matters agreed
	<p>SP Manweb and the Canal and River Trust AGREE the following in respect of ecology and biodiversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) approach to the assessment methodology and significance criteria for ecology and biodiversity impacts (see ES Chapter 4 (DCO Document 6.4) and Chapter 7 (DCO Document 6.7)); b) data collection, baseline data, statistical modelling (see section 7.5 of the ES (DCO document 6.7)) c) identification and sensitivity of relevant features and conclusion on assessment of significance (alone and cumulatively) (see sections 7.6 (DCO document 6.7) and 7.7(DCO document 6.7) of the ES); d) deliverable mitigation (see section 7.8 of the ES (DCO document 6.7)); and e) no outstanding issues that need to be addressed at any issue specific hearing.

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2.1.4 Matters not agreed

b. None to report

Landscape and Visual

2.1.5 Matters agreed

<u>Ref</u>	<u>Matters agreed</u>
	<p><u>SP Manweb and the Canal and River Trust AGREE the following in respect of landscape and visual impacts:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>a) approach to the assessment methodology and significance criteria for landscape and visual impacts (see ES Chapter 4 (DCO Document 6.4) and Chapter 6 (DCO Document 6.6));</u> <u>b) data collection, baseline data, statistical modelling (see section 6.5 of the ES (DCO document 6.6))</u> <u>c) identification and sensitivity of relevant features and conclusion on assessment of significance (alone and cumulatively) (see sections 6.6 (DCO document 6.6) and 6.7(DCO document 6.6) of the ES);</u> <u>d) deliverable mitigation (see section 6.8 of the ES (DCO document 6.6)); and</u> <u>e) no outstanding issues that need to be addressed at any issue specific hearing.</u>

2.1.6 Matters not agreed

c. None to report

Historic Environment

2.1.7 Matters agreed

<u>Ref</u>	<u>Matters agreed</u>
	<p><u>SP Manweb and the Canal and River Trust AGREE the following in respect of historic environment impacts:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>a) approach to the assessment methodology and significance criteria for historic environment (see ES Chapter 4 (DCO Document 6.4) and Chapter 8 (DCO Document 6.8));</u> <u>b) data collection, baseline data, statistical modelling (see section 8.5 of the ES (DCO document 6.8))</u> <u>c) identification and sensitivity of relevant features and conclusion on assessment of significance (alone and cumulatively) (see sections 8.6 (DCO document 6.8) and 8.7(DCO document 6.8) of the ES);</u> <u>d) deliverable mitigation (see section 8.8 of the ES (DCO document 6.8)); and</u> <u>e) no outstanding issues that need to be addressed at any issue specific hearing.</u>

2.1.8 Matters not agreed

d. None to report

Flood Risk and Water Quality

2.1.9 Matters agreed

<u>Ref</u>	<u>Matters agreed</u>
	<p><u>SP Manweb and the Canal and River Trust AGREE the following in respect of flood risk and water quality:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>a) approach to the assessment methodology and significance criteria for flood risk and water quality (see ES Chapter 4</u>

	<p>(DCO Document 6.4) and Chapter 9 (DCO Document 6.9);</p> <p>b) data collection, baseline data, statistical modelling (see section 9.5 of the ES (DCO document 6.9))</p> <p>c) identification and sensitivity of relevant features and conclusion on assessment of significance (alone and cumulatively) (see sections 9.6 (DCO document 6.9) and 9.7(DCO document 6.9) of the ES);</p> <p>d) deliverable mitigation (see section 9.8 of the ES (DCO document 6.9)); and</p> <p>e) no outstanding issues that need to be addressed at any issue specific hearing.</p>
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[2.1.10 Matters not agreed](#)

[e. None to report](#)

[Socio-economic and Tourism](#)

[2.1.11 Matters agreed](#)

Ref	Matters agreed
	<p>SP Manweb and the Canal and River Trust AGREE the following in respect of socio-economic and tourism:</p> <p>a) approach to the assessment methodology and significance criteria for socio-economic and tourism (see ES Chapter 4 (DCO Document 6.4) and Chapter 10 (DCO Document 6.10));</p> <p>b) data collection, baseline data, statistical modelling (see section 10.5 of the ES (DCO document 6.10))</p> <p>c) identification and sensitivity of relevant features and conclusion on assessment of significance (alone and cumulatively) (see sections 10.6 (DCO document 6.10) and 10.7(DCO document 6.10) of the ES);</p>

	<p>d) deliverable mitigation (see section 10.8 of the ES (DCO document 6.10)); and</p> <p>e) no outstanding issues that need to be addressed at any issue specific hearing.</p>
	<p>SP Manweb and the Canal and River Trust AGREE that the assessment of the effect of the Proposed Development on the Public Right of Way was appropriate and the conclusions in respect of the level of significance of effect was acceptable.</p>

[2.1.12 Matters not agreed](#)

[f. None to report](#)

Table 2.1 – Matters agreed	
Ref	Matters agreed
1	<p>SP Manweb and the Canal and River Trust AGREE the following in respect of assessments undertaken for the Environmental Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the baseline; b) approach to the assessment methodology; c) conclusion on assessment of significance (alone and cumulatively); d) mitigation; and e) there are no impacts which are of more than local significance that need to be addressed at any issue specific hearing.

[2.1.12.1.13](#) Matters not agreed

a. None to report

2.2 Draft Construction Environmental Management Plan

Ref	Matters agreed
1	<p>SP Manweb and the Canal and River Trust AGREE the content of the Draft Construction Environmental Management Plan including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Reference in para. 1.16.9 to agreeing to placing signage across the canal to warn anglers of proximity of overhead

	<p>lines and bird diverters along overhead lines where it crosses the canal</p> <p>a)b) Reference in section 1.14 to the Hedgerow Management Plan and provision of reinstatement and newly planted hedgerows-</p>
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- 2.2.1 Matters not agreed
 - b. None to report

2.3 Content of the Construction Report

- 2.3.1 Matters agreed:

Ref	Matters agreed
1	SP Manweb and the Canal and River Trust AGREE the design of the Proposed Development and approach to managing construction in respect of the crossing Montgomery Canal as set out in the Construction Report other than in the draft Protective Provisions in Schedule 6 Part 4.
2	SP Manweb and the Canal and River Trust AGREE the design of the overhead line across the canal and canal towpath is exceeds the stated minimum clearance distances for this type of overhead line design, as shown on the x-section drawing in Annex A attached to this SOCG.

- 2.3.2 Matters not agreed
 - c. None to report

2.4 Content of the draft Development Consent Order

- 2.4.1 Matters agreed:

Ref	Matters agreed
1	SP Manweb and the Canal and River Trust AGREE the content of the draft DCO apart from Schedule 6 Part 4.

- 2.4.2 Matters not agreed
 - d. None to report

3 RECORD OF MATTERS STILL UNDER DISCUSSION

3.1.1 The table below provides a 'tracker' for each issue currently under discussion between SP Manweb and the Canal and River Trust:

Table 3.1 – Matters still under discussion			
Ref	Issue	SP Manweb response	Canal and River Trust response
DCO Document 7.1 Planning Statement	Appendix 1 Undergrounding	Providing additional information relating to SPMs assessment of undergrounding option across the canal	
DCO Document 3.1 draft DCO Schedule 6 Part 4	Protective Provisions	Currently considering NR proposed amendments	

4 AGREEMENT ON THIS SOCG

This Statement of Common Ground has been jointly prepared and agreed by:

Name: Steven Edwards

Signature:

Position: Senior Environmental Planner

On behalf of: SP Manweb Plc

Date:

Name:

Signature:

Position:

On behalf of: Canal and River Trust

Date:
