

SP MANWEB



Reinforcement to the North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network

Deadline 3 Submission

Application Reference: EN020021

**Agreed Statement of Common Ground between SP
Manweb and National Grid**

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Electricity Distribution Network**

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

**February 2019
PINS Reference EN020021**

QA Box

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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 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.

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 in England and Wales.
- 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 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 National Grid in relation to the Proposed Development. National Grid 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:
- 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**

1.2.12 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 National Grid.

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 National Grid.

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 National Grid.

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 National Grid.

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 (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 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 2.

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 7.2¹);
- Draft Construction Environmental Management Plan (DCO Document 6.3.2²); and
- Draft Development Consent Order (DCO Document 3.1³).

2 MATTERS AGREED AND MATTERS NOT AGREED

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>

2.1 Content of the Environmental Statement

2.1.1 Matters agreed:

Table 2.1 – Matters agreed	
Ref	Matters agreed
1	SP Manweb and National Grid 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 National Grid AGREE the content of the Draft Construction Environmental Management Plan.

2.2.1 Matters not agreed

- a. None to report

2.3 Content of the Construction Report

2.3.1 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.
2	The parties agree that protective provisions for	Agreed and currently being negotiated between

	the protection of National Grid are required in the Order.	the parties.

2.3.2 Matters not agreed

- a. None to report

2.4 Content of the draft Development Consent Order

2.4.1 Matters agreed:

Ref	Matters agreed
1	SP Manweb and National Grid AGREE the content of the draft DCO other than Schedule 6 part 5.

2.4.2 Matters not agreed

- a. 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 National Grid:

Table 3.1 – Matters still under discussion			
Ref	Issue	SP Manweb response	NG response
	Draft DCO Schedule 6 Part 5 Protective Provisions	Agree to continue to progress to an agreement stage through the draft DCO	

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: Development Liaison Officer

On behalf of: National Grid

Date: 09/05/2019.

