

# SP MANWEB



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

Deadline 7 Submission

Application Reference: EN020021

**Position Statement on Statements of Common Ground  
(V5)**

**SP MANWEB**

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

**Position Statement on Statements of Common  
Ground (V5)**

**July 2019  
PINS Reference EN020021**

## QA Box

<b>Author</b>		<b>SP Manweb</b>	
<b>Planning Inspectorate Application Reference</b>		<b>EN020021</b>	
<b>Date</b>			
<b>Version</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Description/Changes</b>	
28/03/2019	1	Final	Submitted to PINS (Deadline 1)
24/04/2019	2	Final	Submitted to PINS (Deadline 2) Updated draft SoCGs with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Highways England</li> <li>- Canal and River Trust</li> <li>- Severn Trent Water</li> </ul>
13/05/19	3		Submitted to PINS (Deadline 3) Updated draft SoCGs with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Highways England</li> <li>- Network Rail</li> <li>- Severn Trent Water</li> </ul>
28/05/19	4		Submitted to PINS (Deadline 4) Updated draft SoCGs with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Natural England</li> <li>- Canal and River Trust</li> <li>- Severn Trent Water</li> </ul>
26/07/19	5		Submitted to PINs (Deadline 7) Revised Draft SoCG with Natural England

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**Appendix A – Email from SP Manweb to the Examining Authority 28 May 2019**  
**Appendix B – Revised Draft SoCG with Natural England**

## **1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1.1 This document sets out the updated position of the Statements of Common Ground ("SoCG") as requested by the Examining Authority ("ExA") in its letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019 sent pursuant to rule 8 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Regulations 2010 ("Rule 8 Letter").
- 1.1.2 The position of the SoCGs with the interested parties fall within the following categories:
- 1.1.3 Completed SoCGs; these are submitted as separate submissions to assist the Planning Inspectorate to display the completed documents on its website;
- 1.1.4 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 In addition to the agreed SoCGs with the Environment Agency and Shropshire Council, SP Manweb agreed a SoCG with National Grid which was submitted separately at Deadline 3. In addition, a SoCG with Highways England was also submitted separately and was accepted as a late submission to Deadline 3. The Network Rail SoCG was submitted separately at Deadline 4 and the Canal and River Trust SoCG was submitted as a late submission at Deadline 5. The Severn Trent Water SoCG is being submitted at Deadline 7.

### 3 DRAFT STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

3.1.1 SP Manweb has continued to attempt to progress a SoCG with Natural England. SP Manweb is however receiving no response at all to its emails sent to NE. SP Manweb has drawn this position to the Examining Authority's attention in an email dated 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (see Appendix A). The table below refers to the contact made by SP Manweb to Natural England's offices.

3.1.2 Since May 2019, SP Manweb has emailed the relevant Natural England contact for this project on 15<sup>th</sup> July and on 17<sup>th</sup> July, this latest email including a revised shortened draft SoCG which is attached to this Position Statement as Appendix B. A further follow up email was sent on 19<sup>th</sup> July.

<b>Party</b>	<b>Draft issued</b>	<b>SoCG status</b>	<b>Appendix</b>
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	
		Discussions on 2 <sup>nd</sup> draft still ongoing - as at 16/04/19 SPM awaiting response from NE	
	Reminder on second draft issued on 29/04/19	Requesting response to earlier 26 <sup>th</sup> March email	
	Further copy sent on 28/05/19	Further amended document to update record of SPM emails sent to NE	
	Email of 15/07/2019	Requesting response to earlier 28 <sup>th</sup> May email	

<b>Table 1 Draft Statements of Common Ground</b>			
<b>Party</b>	<b>Draft issued</b>	<b>SoCG status</b>	<b>Appendix</b>
	Revised version of SoCG	Shortened version of SoCG in letter format	B

## **4 SUMMARY**

4.1.1 SP Manweb continues to frequently (twice weekly) progress Natural England’s engagement on the draft SoCG. SP Manweb will continue to progress to conclude the SoCG as soon as possible.

## **Appendix A**

### **Email from SP Manweb to the Examining Authority**

**28th May 2019**



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**From:** Edwards, Steven <Steven.Edwards@spenergynetworks.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 28 May 2019 11:45  
**To:** North Shropshire Reinforcement  
(NorthShropshireReinforcement@planninginspectorate.gov.uk); Sian Evans  
(SIAN.EVANS@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)  
**Cc:** Dean Alford (DEAN.ALFORD@planninginspectorate.gov.uk); Jacquie Critchley  
**Subject:** North Shropshire Reinforcement Project - Engagement with Natural England  
**Attachments:** Grady McLean Natural England 020218.pdf; RE: North Shropshire Reinforcement Project - Protected Species confirmation of no impediment

Hi Sian

I thought it helpful to let you know that we are struggling to encourage Natural England to engage with us on the NSR Project. Since confirming it has no objections to the scheme in response to the statutory consultation last February 2018, as attached, Natural England has, despite several email reminders and phone calls, not returned any emails.

I wondered if you have had any contact with any NE representatives or are aware of any reason why they have not responded.

In the circumstances, I enclose for your information a copy of a recent SPM email to NE requesting them to confirm they see no impediment to any protected species licences being issued and a further request to confirm this by 10<sup>th</sup> May after which SP Manweb will assume this to be the case.

Please note that following no response from NE regarding the draft SOCG, I am this morning sending them a further email requesting them to engage in the SOCG process and will include a copy of this email. I will provide an update of the emails send by SPM to NE in the next SOCG Update to be submitted at Deadline 4.

I'd be grateful for any advice you can offer regarding engaging with NE given their lack of engagement demonstrated to date.

Thanks

Steve Edwards



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Land & Planning  
Senior Environmental Planner Tel: 0141 614 5656 / [REDACTED]



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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

## **Appendix B**

### **Statement of Common Ground**

**Between SP Manweb PLC and  
Natural England**



*BY EMAIL*

FAO: Grady McLean  
Lead Adviser - Planning  
West Midlands Area Team  
North Mercia Area  
Parkside Court  
Hall Park Way  
Telford TF3 4LR

Your Ref EN020021  
Our Ref: NSRP SJE021

Email:  
[steven.edwards@spenergynetworks.co.uk](mailto:steven.edwards@spenergynetworks.co.uk)  
Tel: 0141 614 5656

17<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Dear Grady

**Reinforcement to the North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network - EN020021  
Planning Act 2008  
SP Manweb Plc**

**Statement of Common Ground between SP Manweb and Natural England**

I refer to SP Manweb's application to the Secretary of State 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 area of Shropshire County.

In response to the Examining Authority's (ExA) letter dated 27<sup>th</sup> March, where a request is made for final signed versions of Statements of Common Ground by Deadline 5 (27<sup>th</sup> June), I note that following my sending of previous draft SOCGs to you, I have not received a signed statement that I can forward to the ExA. As such, I have reviewed the previous draft SOCG sent to you and prepared a revised statement in the form of this letter below. I would much appreciate if you could take a few moments to review the below and either sign and return or provide comments that you would like me to consider before signing.

SP Manweb and Natural England have agreed to enter into this Statement of Common Ground in respect of the impact of the Proposed Development on the natural environment.

SP Manweb acknowledges Natural England's comments made in their letter dated 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 which notes that a Construction Environmental Management Plan will be prepared and that the Proposed Development is

unlikely to have any significant impact on internationally and nationally designated sites and any indirect impacts will be managed through the CEMP.

Natural England confirms that surveys to inform the ecological impact assessment have confirmed the presence of great crested newts and potentially bats at certain locations in the vicinity of the proposed route of the North Shropshire reinforcement, however suitable avoidance and mitigation measures have been included in the Environmental Statement and draft CEMP to fully address such matters should the DCO be granted.

Further, in advance of construction commencing, mitigation may require some works to be undertaken under a European Protected Species Mitigation Licence for great crested newts, and potentially for bat roosts in a small number of trees requiring removal. However it is considered that suitable mitigation to fully maintain the favourable conservation status of local populations of these species can be delivered through either Reasonable Avoidance Measures, Low Impact Class Licence, full EPSML or even via District Licensing, should this be in place in Shropshire at the time.

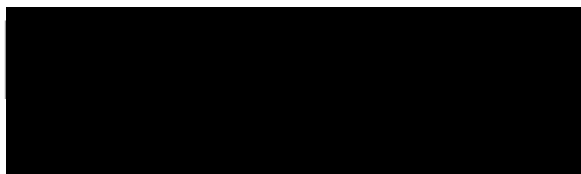
Following assessment of the submitted documents, Natural England confirms that, on the basis of the species information and proposals provided in the Environmental Statement and associated Appendices, it is satisfied in principle in relation to the mitigation proposals. On the basis of the information provided, Natural England sees no impediment to a European Protected Species Mitigation Licence being issued, or other applicable consenting process applied as applicable at the time, should the DCO be granted. ...Please see the advice below concerning the further action that will be required should a licence application require to be formally submitted....

Natural England acknowledges that the Construction Environmental Management Plan is controlled by Requirement 9 included in the draft DCO.

Provided that the above referred to, Natural England in accordance with the representation response submitted in January 2018, has no objection or points of disagreement with SP Manweb in relation to the Application.

On behalf of SP Manweb:

On behalf of Natural England:



Steve Edwards  
For SP Manweb  
17<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Grady Mclean  
For Natural England