

SP MANWEB



Reinforcement to the North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network

Deadline 8 Submission

Application Reference: EN020021

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

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

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

**August 2019
PINS Reference EN020021**

QA Box

Author		SP Manweb	
Planning Inspectorate Application Reference			
Date	Version	Status	Description/Changes
19/07/2019	1	Live	Final Draft Statement of Common Ground with Natural England
21/08/2019	2	Live	Agreed Statement of Common Ground with Natural England

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BY EMAIL

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Your Ref EN020021
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21st August 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 27th March, where a request is made for final signed versions of Statements of Common Ground by Deadline 5 (27th 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 2nd 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.

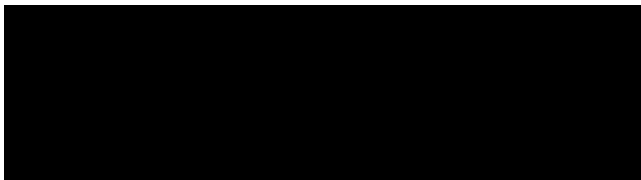
Following assessment of the submitted documents, Natural England confirms that, on the basis of the species information and proposals provided in the Environmental Statement and associated Appendices, it is satisfied in principle in relation to the mitigation proposals. On the basis of the information 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.

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
21st August 2019

Grady Mclean
For Natural England