



Meeting note

File reference	EN020021
Status	Final
Author	Siân Evans
Date	24 January 2017
Meeting with	SP Energy Networks
Venue	Temple Quay House
Attendees	Chris White – Planning Inspectorate Tom Carpen – Planning Inspectorate Tracey Williams – Planning Inspectorate Alison Down – Planning Inspectorate Siân Evans – Planning Inspectorate Steven Edwards – SP Energy Networks
Meeting objectives	Update in relation to the North Shropshire Reinforcement Project
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given:

The Applicant was aware of the Planning Inspectorate's (PINS) openness policy and that any advice would be recorded and placed on PINS' website under section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008). Any advice given does not constitute legal advice upon which the applicant (or others) can rely.

The Applicant advised that they anticipate starting their statutory consultation in October 2017 and that they would like to secure voluntary agreements prior to this date. PINS advised that it should be clear by the time an application is submitted whether compulsory acquisition of land rights are to be included or whether the 1989 Electricity Act Wayleave process is being relied upon. PINS advised that an Examining Authority needs comfort in making their recommendation on an application that a scheme can be progressed and that compulsory acquisition should always be the last resort. PINS advised that the Applicant will need to ensure, and provide clear evidence in their consultation report, that all appropriate parties have been consulted about the scheme prior to its submission.

PINS advised the Applicant to consider carefully about who is included in their Book of Reference, and ensure they carry out diligent inquiry in accordance with section 57 of PA2008. Explanation of the Applicant's approach to consultation would need to be set out in their Statement of Reasons accompanying their application [See Annex D,

paragraph 3 of DCLG *Guidance related to procedures for the compulsory acquisition of land*].

The Applicant advised that they are considering options with regard to the project route, and queried whether this could be carried through to the application. PINS advised that it had been done before and it was for the Applicant to decide whether or not they should do this. However PINS made the Applicant aware of the additional resource implications for both the Applicant and the ExA of examining more than one option [paragraph 105 of the DCLG *Guidance on the pre-application process* provides further guidance on including more than one option in the draft DCO].

The Applicant advised that they intend to submit their scoping request to PINS' Environmental Services Team by the end of February 2017. They will submit their GIS shape file two weeks prior to this. PINS requested the Applicant keep them updated with the timing of this so that they can plan their resources.

The Applicant advised that they are looking at scoping out some topic areas. PINS advised that they should provide sufficient information to explain and justify where this had been done. The Applicant advised that they are intending to submit their application in Spring 2018. PINS advised that if there is any delay to submission it is important to ensure any surveys undertaken for the Environmental Statement are still up to date.