



Wylfa Newydd Project

6.1.7 ES Volume A - Introduction to the project and approach to the EIA A7 - Consultation with environmental stakeholders

PINS Reference Number: EN010007

Application Reference Number: 6.1.7

June 2018

Revision 1.0

Regulation Number: 5(2)(a)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

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7 Consultation with environmental stakeholders

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 This chapter describes the various consultation activities undertaken to help understand the potential environmental effects likely to arise from the Wylfa Newydd Project.
- 7.1.2 A comprehensive account of consultation activities undertaken and the feedback generated relating to the Wylfa Newydd Project overall is provided in the Consultation Report (Application Reference Number: 5.1) that accompanies this Environmental Statement as part of the application for development consent. The purpose of this chapter is to provide context for the Environmental Statement by highlighting those particular consultation activities that have helped shape the assessment work presented in this Environmental Statement. The topic chapters in volume B (introduction to the topics) (Application Reference Numbers: 6.2.2 to 6.2.16) of this Environmental Statement explain how the key issues raised through consultation have been addressed in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
- 7.1.3 The Wylfa Newydd Project EIA has been undertaken in accordance with the advice presented in the Planning Inspectorate’s *Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: Preliminary Environmental Information, Screening and Scoping* [RD1], which gives guidance on EIA screening and scoping, and the role of Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) in Pre-Application Consultation.
- 7.1.4 Chapter A5 (overarching environmental legislation, policy and guidance) (Application Reference Number: 6.1.5) of this Environmental Statement explains why the Wylfa Newydd Project requires an EIA. Chapter A6 (EIA Scoping Report and Addendum) (Application Reference Number: 6.1.6) provides information on the scoping process that has been followed to identify the issues to be addressed in the EIA.
- 7.1.5 PEI was produced in order to inform the three main stages of Pre-Application Consultation, as explained in the following sections of this chapter.
- 7.1.6 Table A7-1 shows how the advice relating to PEI in Advice Note Seven has been followed.

Table A7-1 Advice relating to PEI in Advice Note Seven

Advice	Action taken
<p>Paragraphs 2.4-2.5: A good PEI document is one that enables consultees (both specialist and non-specialist) to understand the likely</p>	<p>PEI was provided at each of the three main stages of Pre-Application Consultation¹ and for consultation on additional land. This information</p>

¹ i.e. Pre-Application Consultation Stage One, Stage Two and Stage Three – please refer to sections 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4 of this chapter for further information

Advice	Action taken
<p>environmental effects of the proposed development and helps to inform their consultation responses on the proposed development</p>	<p>accompanied a Main Consultation Document and Consultation Overview Document at each stage, in which specific questions were asked in order to gather information that could influence project decisions.</p>
<p>The level of detail and type of the PEI may vary depending on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at what stage in the design process the consultation is carried out; • the target audience; and • the complexity of the proposed development and the receiving environment. 	<p>PEI was provided in Pre-Application Consultation Stage One and Pre-Application Consultation Stage Two, and each time was accompanied by a non-technical summary.</p> <p>For Pre-Application Consultation Stage Three, the focus was on changes made to the Wylfa Newydd Project proposals since the previous stage.</p>
<p>Paragraph 2.6: The information provided in the PEI should be accessible yet meet consultees' different needs. Applicants may find it useful to provide more than one version of PEI depending upon whom they are consulting.</p>	<p>Non-technical summaries of the PEI were provided for Pre-Application Consultation Stage One and - Application Consultation Stage Two Pre, and summary tables were produced in the Main Consultation Document for Pre-Application Consultation Stage Three. There was also a Consultation Overview Document which provided a summary of the consultation information.</p>
<p>Paragraph 2.8: The Planning Inspectorate recommends that applicants clearly explain that the information is 'preliminary'; that the applicant is actively seeking their comments on this information; that there will be the opportunity for both the design of the proposed development; and the EIA to take into consideration any comments received through this consultation.</p>	<p>Such explanations were provided in the PEI documents and the Main Consultation Documents at the three main stages of the Pre-Application Consultation process.</p>
<p>Paragraph 2.9: Although applicants are not required to provide PEI when undertaking their formal consultation, applicants are encouraged to provide PEI to enable the statutory consultees to</p>	<p>Statutory consultees were provided with the PEI at the three main stages of the Pre-Application Consultation process.</p>

Advice	Action taken
understand the environmental effects of the development and to inform the context of consultation.	

- 7.1.7 The Department for Communities and Local Government’s *Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process* [RD2] encourages applicants to give consultees as much information as possible on the characteristics of the proposed project, at the Pre-Application Consultation Stage(s). In terms of the information to be provided as PEI, [RD2] refers back to the advice contained in [RD1] rather than duplicating that advice.

7.2 Pre-Application Consultation Stage One

- 7.2.1 Pre-Application Consultation Stage One was undertaken in September 2014 with the aim of sharing information available at the time, asking questions, and promoting an open and ongoing dialogue with Horizon’s consultees, stakeholders and the community, at an early stage in the development of the Wylfa Newydd Project where feedback could reasonably influence design proposals.
- 7.2.2 In line with procedural requirements for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, Pre-Application Consultation Stage One included a PEI Report, which was prepared in line with the Planning Inspectorate’s advice [RD1] to provide information to enable consultees to provide an informed response on the likely environmental effects of the development and associated development. This represented an interim stage in the environmental assessment of the evolving design. A non-technical summary of the PEI Report was also provided.
- 7.2.3 As part of this activity, Horizon also consulted key stakeholders on scoping reports for three supporting assessments, namely the Welsh Language Impact Assessment (Application Reference Number: 8.21), Health Impact Assessment (Application Reference Number: 8.19) and Sustainability Assessment (Application Reference Number: 8.17).
- 7.2.4 Chapters B2 to B16 (Application Reference Numbers: 6.2.2 to 6.2.16), which set out the technical basis for the topic assessments, provide further details on how key topic-specific issues raised in Pre-Application Consultation Stage One have been addressed in the Environmental Statement.
- 7.2.5 Details of the comments received from the Pre-Application Consultation Stage One and how Horizon has had regard to them are included in the Consultation Report (Application Reference Number: 5.1).

7.3 Pre-Application Consultation Stage Two

- 7.3.1 In September 2016, Horizon started Pre-Application Consultation Stage Two on updated proposals for the Wylfa Newydd Project. The consultation documents included a description of how the Wylfa Newydd Project had developed since Pre-Application Consultation Stage One, and how feedback from stakeholders had been taken into account.

- 7.3.2 In line with the requirements for an application for development consent, the consultation documents included a further, detailed PEI Report to assist consultees in formulating their responses. The PEI Report presented preliminary details of the predicted likely environmental effects and mitigation measures for any adverse effects identified.
- 7.3.3 Consultation feedback was used to inform the ongoing development of the designs.
- 7.3.4 Chapters B2 to B16 (Application Reference Numbers: 6.2.2 to 6.2.16), which set out the technical basis for the topic assessments, provide further details on how key topic-specific issues raised in the Pre-Application Consultation Stage Two have been addressed in the Environmental Statement.
- 7.3.5 Details of the comments received from the Pre-Application Consultation Stage Two and how Horizon has had regard to them are included in the Consultation Report (Application Reference Number: 5.1).

7.4 Pre-Application Consultation Stage Three

- 7.4.1 In May 2017, Horizon began Pre-Application Consultation Stage Three, focussed on further updated proposals for the Wylfa Newydd Project. The consultation documents included information on the proposed changes to the Wylfa Newydd Project since Stage Two, including updated environmental information within the Main Consultation Document. The environmental information highlighted where Wylfa Newydd Project changes had led to anticipated differences in the significance of effects.
- 7.4.2 Chapters B2 to B16 (Application Reference Numbers: 6.2.2 to 6.2.16), which set out the technical basis for the topic assessments, provide further details on how key topic-specific issues raised in Pre-Application Consultation Stage Three have been addressed in the Environmental Statement.
- 7.4.3 Details of the comments received from the Pre-Application Consultation Stage Three and how Horizon has had regard to them are included in the Consultation Report (Application Reference Number: 5.1).

7.5 Consultation on additional land

- 7.5.1 Following the Stage Three Pre-Application Consultation, work progressed on the preparation of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application. As part of that exercise it was decided that the extent of the area within which the development authorised by the DCO may be constructed, operated and maintained (referred to as the Order Limits) needed to be amended to reflect additional land required for the Project. The extent of the land required to implement the A5025 Off-line Highway Improvements was also finalised and formed part of this consultation. This represented a continuation of the iterative design process and was influenced by a range of factors including consultation feedback, information emerging from the environmental impact assessment and commercial decisions.
- 7.5.2 The consultation on additional land was undertaken on a statutory basis between 16 January and 16 February 2018. This included consultation with

prescribed consultees under s42(1)(a) of the Act; the relevant local authority under s42(1)(b) of the Act, and persons with an interest in land under s42(1)(d) of the Act. Community consultation under s47 of the Planning Act 2008 was undertaken and was focused on locations close to the additional land in respect of the following changes to the DCO application:

- inclusion of the Ecological Compensation Sites within the DCO application;
- confirmation of the Order Limits in respect of the A5025 Off-line Highway Improvements; and
- changes to the Order Limits in respect of:
 - the Wylfa Newydd Development Area;
 - the Off-Site Power Station Facilities; and
 - the Logistics Centre

7.5.3 A Main Consultation Document (including Preliminary Environmental Information) and a Consultation Overview Document (bilingual) were used as the basis of the consultation. These documents were sent to prescribed consultees and IACC, and were made available online on Horizon's consultation website and at libraries in Anglesey, Gwynedd and Conwy. Eight exhibition events were held in venues close to the proposed additional land.

7.6 Other environmental stakeholder engagement

Environmental Impact Assessment Progress Report

7.6.1 In February and March 2016 (between Pre-Application Consultation Stage One and Pre-Application Consultation Stage Two), an EIA progress report was provided to the Isle of Anglesey County Council and Natural Resources Wales with updated information on the design development and associated environmental assessment. This report comprised an interim stage in the EIA process with the consultation feedback providing valuable information to feed into the design process prior to Pre-Application Consultation Stage Two.

7.6.2 Topic-specific key issues arising through consultation on the EIA progress report are identified in the topic chapters B2 to B16 (Application Reference Numbers: 6.2.2 to 6.2.16) of this Environmental Statement, together with information on the actions taken as a result.

Draft Environmental Statement

7.6.3 During September 2017, draft Environmental Statement chapters were provided to statutory and key non-statutory stakeholders. Key issues arising through this consultation are identified in the topic chapters B2 to B16 (Application Reference Numbers: 6.2.2 to 6.2.16) of this Environmental Statement, together with information on the actions taken as a result.

Topic-specific stakeholder engagement

7.6.4 In addition to the project-wide consultation described above, for each of the individual topics included in the scope of the EIA, key stakeholders have been

consulted on specific issues. Regular meetings have been held from the outset in relation to baseline data gathering, the assessment methods used and the agreement of mitigation measures.

7.6.5 Consultation responses from the Isle of Anglesey County Council, Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales and the National Trust have fed into the discussions at a series of focus groups. These groups enabled Horizon to take a structured approach to engaging with stakeholders. The focus groups covered the following issues:

- economic development and supply chain;
- jobs and skills;
- transport and infrastructure;
- housing and accommodation;
- tourism;
- environment;
- Welsh language and culture;
- Welsh Language Impact Assessment
- health and wellbeing; and
- Habitats Regulations Assessment.

7.6.6 Meetings have been held with stakeholders to discuss specific issues or designated sites, for example Tre'r Gof Site of Scientific Interest and Cestyll Garden.

7.6.7 Meetings have also been held with other developers, for example National Grid, to share information and discuss joint mitigation opportunities, with regard to their proposed application for a Development Consent Order for the North Wales Connections project.

7.6.8 Further information on topic-specific stakeholder engagement is provided in chapters B2 to B16 (Application Reference Numbers: 6.2.2 to 6.2.16) of this Environmental Statement and, in respect of Welsh language and culture, in the Welsh Language Impact Assessment (Application Reference Number: 8.21).

7.7 References

Table A7-2 Schedule of references

ID	Reference
RD1	The Planning Inspectorate. 2015. <i>Advice Note Seven: Preliminary Environmental Information, Screening and Scoping</i> . Version 5. Bristol: The Planning Inspectorate.
RD2	Department for Communities and Local Government. 2015. <i>Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process</i> . London: Department for Communities and Local Government.