### Key Issues –

The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR):

- Was produced in accordance with the requirements of Sections 42 and 47 of the Planning Act 2008, with the intention of obtaining feedback on the proposed development as part of statutory consultation with the local community, landowners and statutory consultees.
- It was part of a fourth stage of consultation undertaken by National Grid.
- It presented and assessed preliminary environmental information gathered to date, to be taken forward as part of the EIA process.
- Feedback will to be considered and used to develop a final design and in the production of the ES.
- Statutory Consultation ran for 13 weeks and involved more than 20 public events.
- A Welsh language version of the NTS was produced and Welsh speakers were present at all consultation events.

### Purpose of the project

National Grid has a legal obligation to connect proposed new onshore wind generation in Mid Wales. National Grid has few assets in Mid Wales and this new connection is needed to convey electricity from the new wind farms to a point on the existing National Electricity Transmission System which would be at Berghill, near Lower Frankton, Shropshire.

### Description of the project

Key components of the project are:

- New 400kV and 132kV substations;
- Two sections of overhead line (approx. 13km and 23km in length comprising two different pylon designs);
- A section of underground cable (approx 13km in length) between the overhead line sections with two sealing end compounds (SECs) that connect the overhead line to the cable;
- A ‘tee-in’ junction connecting the project to the existing 400 kV transmission network; and
- An extension to Shrewsbury Substation.
## EIA Learning Outcomes

### Lessons learnt

Be adaptable and prepared for constantly evolving design. The design ‘freeze’ was delayed by 3 months and remained ‘fluid’) meant that preliminary assessment was challenging as it remained under review throughout and consequently there were a number of changes to written text and figures.

Written text and figures required review by various individuals including legal advisors, which, due to timescale pressures, had to be undertaken concurrently meaning that document control and version history tracking had to be tightly managed.

National Grid sought to complete the S42 Consultation prior to the general election in May 2015 meaning that there was no flexibility to the deadline for PEIR completion and programme squeeze occurred.

### Lessons learnt cont.

The two pylon designs considered added complexity to the assessment due to different and often unknown requirements.

Due to the design delays and programme squeeze, the key preparation period fell during the peak summer holiday season, which could have presented difficulties with staff availability. However this had previously been taken into account within the overall programme.

Close communication was required between the various EIA team specialists and the engineering teams to ensure that the most up to date information was shared for inclusion and assessment within the PEIR.

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