

# Reinforcement to North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network: 132,000 Volt wood pole overhead line from Oswestry to Wem

## Statutory consultation on our plans for supporting local growth in North Shropshire

- Consultation opens **23 November 2017** and closes **2 February 2018**
- Updated proposed development based on community feedback, landowner discussions and detailed survey work
- Your opportunity to provide us with your views

**SP Manweb Plc has updated its plans for a new 132,000 Volt electrical circuit between Oswestry and Wem to reinforce the local network and support Shropshire Council's plans for growth and development in North Shropshire.**

Thank you to everyone for the feedback you've given us since 2016. We've looked carefully at what people have said and carried out our own assessments to consider landscape, ecology, visual impact and cultural heritage.

We have had support and positive comments on our proposals. People have also told us ways in which they think we can make improvements to reduce effects on villages, properties, farming and the environment.

In our last update in May 2017, we showed our preferred line route with options near the Woodhouse Estate, Lower Hordley and Noneley. We've now updated this preferred line route, refining it further and showing where we propose placing wood poles and the underground cable needed for the new circuit.

We consider the proposed development best balances the findings of our assessment work and what communities and landowners have told us since we began our first consultation in 2016.

We've also identified the likely environmental effects of the proposed development, which you can read in our Preliminary Environmental Impact Report.

### Why it's important to take part

We are now consulting on our current proposals. This is your opportunity to let us know if there are any ways we can improve the proposed development and reduce any remaining effects.

It is a statutory consultation as required by the Planning Act 2008. It is likely to be our last consultation on the whole of the proposed development before we submit our application for development consent to the Secretary of State (via the Planning Inspectorate).

We will take your feedback into account when preparing our final plans for the proposed development.

## Visit an event and meet our team

Date	Location	Time
Saturday 2 December	Wem Town Hall	11am–4pm
Tuesday 5 December	Whittington Community Centre	4.30pm–8pm
Wednesday 6 December	Hordley and Bagley Village Hall	2.30pm–6.30pm
Tuesday 12 December	Cockshutt Memorial Hall	2.30pm–6.30pm
Wednesday 13 December	Eastern Oswestry Community Centre	4pm–8pm

**Our events are a great opportunity to ask us any questions you might have and to find out more about the proposed development. We look forward to seeing you there.**

## IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- Plan of the proposed development
- Detailed information about the proposed development and what we're consulting on
- Details of our previous work and where to find out more about it
- How to take part and provide feedback

# What is included in the proposed development?

## Underground cable between Oswestry substation and Round Wood

We are proposing to put the electrical circuit underground for 1.2 kilometres between Oswestry substation and Round Wood. The reason for this is because existing overhead lines at Oswestry substation, as well as the A5, mean we cannot route a new overhead line away from the substation.

The land near to Oswestry substation, east of the A5, has been designated for business growth and our approach will have as little impact on this as possible.

The cable would be buried one metre deep, with any land affected by this work reinstated following construction.

**Let us know** if you have any comments on our proposals for an underground cable.

## Overhead wood pole Trident line between Round Wood and Wem substation

From Round Wood to Wem substation, we're proposing approximately 21 kilometres of wood pole Trident line. We would need to install around 176 wood pole structures, with an average height of 12 metres – that's about the same height as a mature tree.

We have identified preferred locations for the wood poles, within a 25 metre temporary construction works corridor.

For the purposes of this consultation, we've extended the 25 metre temporary construction works corridor to 40 metres. This additional area gives us the opportunity to make minor changes (following landowner discussions) should any new information become available through this consultation.

Our proposals are based on conversations with landowners and local people, which have helped refine our design.

The Trident design we've chosen also offers good flexibility when establishing a route for the line. We think the proposed pole locations are the most suitable to reduce effects on important sites, communities and properties, based on the information people have given us and our technical surveys.

**Let us know** if you have any comments on the location of the wood pole overhead line. Tell us if you think there are any effects, such as on ecology, cultural heritage or properties, that you think we should consider.

## An artist's impression of how the new line could look in a similar landscape

Existing view

Proposed view (artist's impression)

## Constructing the electrical circuit – temporary works and using the local road network

We've looked carefully at ways of reducing the number of vehicle movements and effects on the local road network during construction.

Construction of the electrical circuit would take about 12 months to complete. Typical construction equipment will include an excavator, three or four 4x4 vehicles and some specialist equipment for winching and working at height.

We'll be using our existing depot at Maesbury Road Industrial Estate in Oswestry as our main construction compound. In addition, to reduce vehicle movements further, we'll use a series of temporary sites, known as laydown areas, where poles and other equipment will be stored.

There will be relatively little traffic on the local road network over the course of construction and we don't anticipate much disruption during our project.

After leaving the local road network, we would also need temporary access tracks to get to our pole locations.

More information on how we will use the local road network and our temporary works can be found in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report – available at our events, on our website or at reference locations.

**Let us know** if you have any comments on our outline construction plan and temporary works

## Other associated construction works

At some locations along the line route, the proposed wood pole Trident line would be too close to existing lower voltage lines.

We're therefore proposing to put short sections of existing lower voltage lines underground. The locations of these are included in our detailed maps – available at our events, on our website or at reference locations. Any land affected by this work would be reinstated following construction.

Along the route, we may also have to carry out some vegetation clearance, or similar enabling works, to allow us to construct the proposed development.

**Let us know** if you have any comments on our associated construction works.

The map in this newsletter shows the preferred line route for the electrical circuit, including the underground section and the location of wood poles.

**You can find more detailed maps of the proposed development at our events, on our website or at reference locations.**

## Your comments on the proposed development

We welcome your comments on the proposed development in the following ways:

- Fill in a feedback form online at [www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/north\\_shropshire](http://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/north_shropshire)
- Request a **feedback form** from our community relations team (0800 804 4666) and return it to us
- Write to us at our freepost address **FREEPOST SPEN NSR**
- Email us at [enquiries@spennorthshropshire.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@spennorthshropshire.co.uk)

Let us know your comments. The consultation is open until 2 February 2018.

## Taking part in the consultation and why your comments are important

We'd like you to tell us what effects you think the proposed development could have on the local area, such as communities, farming, the landscape, wildlife, ecology and anything else you consider is important.

We are also consulting with landowners and specialist bodies, such as the Environment Agency, English Heritage and local interest groups.

We'd like you to provide as much detail as possible. This will be helpful when we use your feedback to review our proposed development and see if there are any improvements we can make.

You may find our feedback form helpful in providing your comments. You can fill this in on our website or request one from our community relations team (see back page for details). Alternatively, you can send your comments to [enquiries@spenorthshropshire.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@spenorthshropshire.co.uk) or FREEPOST SPEN NSR.

The consultation is open until 2 February 2018.

## How the preferred line route has developed

The preferred line route has developed as the result of several stages of work over the last two years:

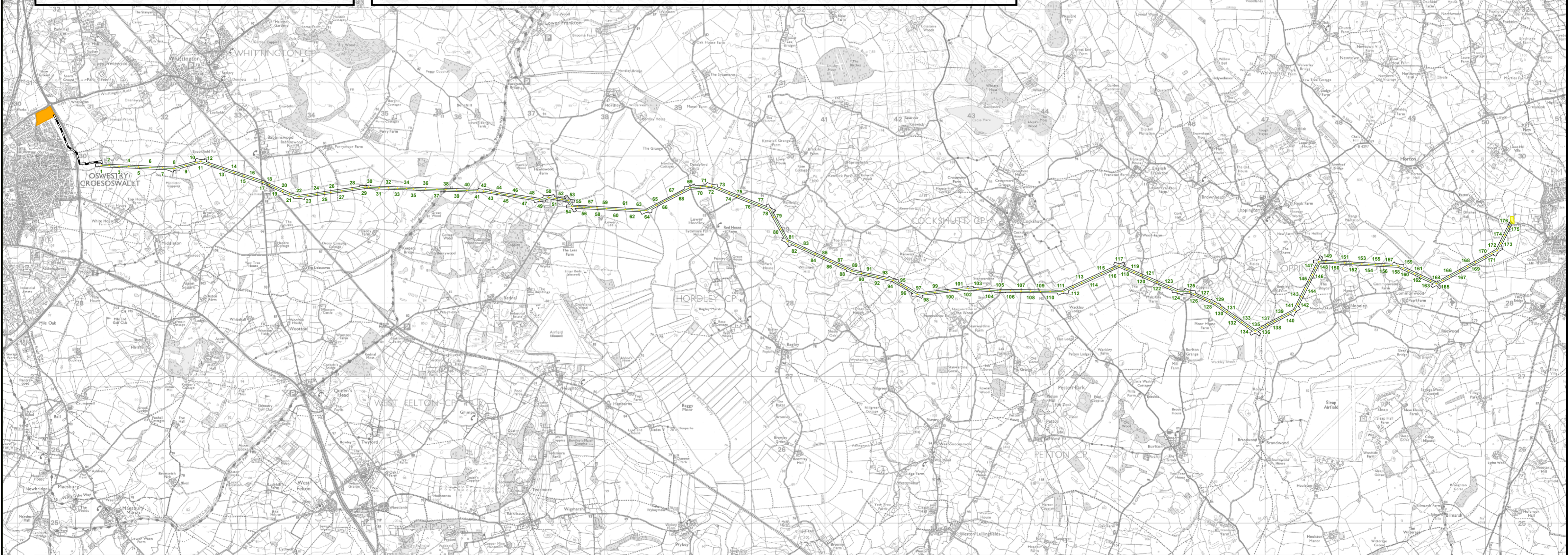
- **Where to reinforce the network** – during 2015, we considered a number of alternative overhead line routes from other substations at Legacy and Marchwiell near Wrexham, Crewe and Shrewsbury. The route from Oswestry to Wem was considered the most suitable.
- **Choosing route corridors** – we then considered the location of villages and towns, the landscape, cultural heritage and other environmental sensitivities to develop broad route corridors which we could route the line within. We then identified two route corridors from Oswestry to Wem, each up to 1km wide, and assessed them to see which had the least impact overall.
- **Identifying line routes** – following this work, we identified a preferred route corridor. We carried out further work within the preferred corridor to consider alternative line route options. These 100 metre wide alternative line routes enabled flexibility for a more refined design.

- **Choosing a preferred line route** – we then identified our preferred line route, which included options in some places. We published this in Summer 2016 and held a first stage of consultation with local people and stakeholders. Since then, we've continued our conversations with local people and carried out further assessments. All of this work led us to refine the preferred line route (shown below), including looking closely at options near Woodhouse, Lower Hordley and Noneley.

Our **Updated Line Route Report** provides a detailed explanation of how we have developed the proposed development.

More information on all of our previous work can be found in our **past technical documents**. These are available, along with the documents we've published at this stage, on our website [www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/north\\_shropshire](http://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/north_shropshire) or at our events (see front page).

**Let us know** if you have any comments on our previous work and how the preferred line route has developed.



We are sending a copy of this newsletter to residents, local parish councils, businesses, landowners and tenants. A large text version is also available.

If you would like further copies or know anyone who would be interested in taking part in this consultation and would like further copies, such as businesses or visitors to the area, please contact us.

## Do you have an interest in land near the proposed overhead line?

We really appreciate the positive approach from those who own, occupy or have another interest in land affected by the proposed development, and their willingness to work with us to reach agreements.

We will continue to negotiate agreements, which is our preferred approach and for which the majority of landowners have indicated a preference. Where no agreement is reached, we may consider it necessary to seek to use the statutory powers granted to us under the relevant legislation.

## What happens next?

Following this consultation, we will review the proposed development in light of the feedback we receive to see if there are opportunities to further reduce the effects of our work. When we're satisfied the proposals are ready we will prepare our application for development consent.

The Reinforcement to the North Shropshire Electricity Distribution Network is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project so the application will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

There is more information about the planning process on the Planning Inspectorate's website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>

- Wood Pole Trident Positions
- Preferred Line Route
- Underground section of 132,000 Volt cable
- 40m Consultation Boundary
- Oswestry Substation
- Wem Substation



## Find out more about the proposed development

We have published the following documents that provide more detail on the proposed development. They are available on our website and at the following reference locations. Digital copies of the documents are available on request by contacting our team using the details at the bottom of this page.

- **Updated Line Route Report 2** – explains how the preferred line route has developed since 2015. A range of assessments were used to refine the technical line design and the temporary construction works.
- **Updated Strategic Options Report** – an updated review of the need for the new 132,000 Volt electrical circuit and preferred technical design. The report includes a summary of the need case as well as consideration of other technologies.
- **Preliminary Environmental Information Report** – sets out the results of initial environmental surveys and our approach to assessing potential environmental effects of the proposed development.
- **Maps** – 1:2,500 plans showing the proposed development.
- **Statement of Community Consultation** – sets out how we're undertaking this statutory consultation.

### Reference locations in your local area

Venue	Address
Wem Library	3 High Street, Wem, Shrewsbury SY4 5AA
Oswestry Library	9 Arthur Street, Oswestry SY11 1JN
Ellesmere Library	Trimpley Street, Ellesmere SY12 0AE
Whitchurch Library	High Street, Whitchurch SY13 1AX
Shropshire Council Planning Department	Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury SY2 6ND
Oswestry Town Council	The Guildhall, Oswestry SY11 1PZ

**Let us know** if you have any comments on our consultation or the information we have made available for this consultation.

### Who is SP Manweb?

SP Manweb plc is the licenced electricity Distribution Network Operator (DNO) which owns and manages the electricity distribution network within Cheshire, Merseyside, North Shropshire and North Wales.

SP Manweb is part of SP Energy Networks which owns three regulated electricity network businesses in the UK.

## Project timeline



For more about the planning process visit the Planning Inspectorate's website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>

## Contact us:

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