

Onshore Planning & Environment (OPEG)

Frequency of meetings: at least 4 times a year

Purpose: *Advocating for decreased barriers and challenges in the planning system and increased efficiency, speed, and robustness of the planning process, with a focus on terrestrial planning and environmental issues.*

Key priorities (2025–2027)

Understanding and working together with SNCBs to alleviate oppositions or rejections in the planning process.

Working on a number of topics to achieve the above, including heritage, BNG, EIA/EORs, planning fees, peatland, and strategic spatial plans, land optimisation, streamlining planning processes, and grid planning issues.

Ensuring that future spatial plans, such as the SSEP, are robust and fit for purpose without jeopardising flexibility within the planning system.

Wider governance/TA/industry interaction

This will be a subgroup of the Planning and Environment strategy group (which will ensure strategic alignment and coordination across delivery, policy and engagement, with a particular focus on marine planning). OPEG representatives will attend the Strategy Group as required, for cross-cutting topics such as SSEP. It will also coordinate with RUK Cymru groups on planning.

OPEG will have a specific focus on terrestrial planning, being the main group responsible for consultations and policy development in relation to the issues listed above.



Engagement priorities

MHCLG, DESNZ, DEFRA, Natural England, Historic England, RTPI, Regen, RSPB

Planning & Infrastructure Bill

Assisting Govt. and statutory consultees with updates to planning guidance, including ETSU, heritage, bird collision, and more.

We work closely with other WGs including the SSEP WG, Aviation WG, and the Ports WG. We will work with the Communities subgroup and Decommissioning subgroup

Structure

