Treatment of 'Confirmation Reference' Number (CRN) in UK Link Systems following UKLP (including Nexus Requirements).

Summary:

Users are asked to approve the ***Reserve Extended Values for Unique Sites***, and confirm that this provides a workable solution for handling the file format changes related to Confirmation Reference Number (CRN) introduced through Project Nexus.

Background:

The UK Link Programme will deliver a UK Link System that reflects the industry requirements gathered through the Project Nexus Requirement Definition activity.

One requirement that was defined within the Supply Point Register Business Principles document was to "Systematise processes that are currently managed outside of the core system, e.g. Unique Sites and Primes and Subs" (IRR Ref 13.27).

Unique Sites are currently classified as such due to the complexity of their arrangements (e.g. Shared Supply Meter Point arrangements) or by virtue of scale. As a result of including Unique Sites there will be changes required to the existing processes to accommodate these sites, but notably the UK Link data model. The corollary is that file formats will have a number of fields extended to take account of this, for example AQ values move to a maximum length of 15 characters.

UKLP Design for Confirmation Reference Number

As part of the requirement to incorporate Unique Sites into UK Link the Confirmation Reference data item is amended from nine numeric characters to a **10 character text field**.

Details of the data item are shown below in figure 1

Figure 1: Confirmation Reference Number Data Item

Technical Field Name	Domain	Length
SUPPLY_POINT_CONFIRMATION_REFERENCE	TEXT	10

This format applies to all records within which the SUPPLY_POINT_CONFIRMATION_REFERENCE field is present irrespective of whether the data is for a unique site or non-unique site.

The design specifically allows the existing Logical Meter Number to be incorporated into this data item. For sites over a certain size currently within UK Link (i.e. sites which are mandated to be Daily Metered (DM) by virtue of their annual quantity consumption (AQ)) the Confirmation Reference and the Logical Meter Number are the same value.

Unique Sites do not specifically have a 'Confirmation Reference' Number in the Unique Site system. The Logical Meter Number has the same traits as a Confirmation Reference – i.e. when an alternative Shipper confirms the Site the Logical Meter Number is incremented.

Logical Meter Numbers are currently constructed in the following manner:
VLDMC / NTS Direct Connect: ATVLDMC**nnn**
LDZ Connect: ATRTS***nnnnn***

nnn / ***nnnnn*** – represents separate sequential incrementing number range.

As a result of the above, it was decided that the Logical Meter Number and Confirmation Reference Number effectively served the same purpose and therefore retention of two data items that perform the same function was logically not correct.

The solution set out in the UK Link File Formats is that the Confirmation Reference Number now becomes a 10 character text field to incorporate the Logical Meter Number.

Figure 2 provides examples of how the CRN field will appear in the U06 file for the following types of site:

- NTS sites
- LDZ Telemetered sites
- All other sites

The figure also details the rules governing how the CRN field will be populated for each type of site.

Figure 2: Worked examples of how the CRN will appear in the U06 File

Site Type	Format within U06 File	Rules
NTS sites	"U06","ATVLDMC123",	• NTS sites will contain 10 characters within the CRN field • The first 7 characters will be ATVLDMC
LDZ Telemetered	"U06","ATRTS12345",	• LDZ telemetered sites will contain 10 characters within the CRN field • The first 5 characters will be ATRTS
All other sites	"U06","198765432",	• All sites other than NTS and LDZ telemetered will contain 9 characters within the CRN field

Challenges by Users through the UK Link Committee Representation Process

Users have highlighted that changing the domain and length of the CRN field will have a significant impact on their systems given the number of interfaces in which Confirmation Reference exists.

A number of Users do not plan to reflect the requirement to incorporate sites currently dealt with as "Unique Sites" within their 'main' systems therefore do not have a requirement (other than in order to receive and process the changed file formats).

As such, a number of Users have requested that this aspect of the design is revisited with respect to the file interfaces.

Investigation by Xoserve into alternative Design Solutions

Xoserve has assessed changing the data structure to revert Confirmation Reference Number to a nine character numeric field. This option would require a further change to the data model as the LMN will need to be held separately, and will need to be provisioned in an alternative manner.

In order to maintain the Project Nexus Implementation Date Xoserve has progressed build and test activities following the conclusion of design (and during the file format consultation process). Confirmation Reference Number is a fundamental data item that is used by many processes within the UK Link Design and as such to incorporate the alternative design option described above would require significant design rework would accordingly impact the October 15 implementation date.

Proposal within UK Link Committee (Pre-UKLC) File Format Walkthrough – Reserve Extended Values for Unique Sites

During a discussion at the Pre-UKLC walkthrough Users sought assurances that the 10th character within the CRN field (SUPPLY_POINT_CONFIRMATION_REFERENCE) would be utilised exclusively for Unique Sites as this would help manage the impacts to their systems.

Xoserve can confirm that the SUPPLY_POINT_CONFIRMATION_REFERENCE will be populated as per the rules defined in Figure 2.

Xoserve proposes that these rules are incorporated into the UK Link Overview Manual. Any changes to the rules would require agreement via UK Link Committee with a satisfactory notice period. It is assumed that the notice would be in line with system change notice periods – i.e. currently six months.