

The Wrexham (Gas Fired Power Station) Order

5.2 Planning Statement

Planning Act 2008 The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

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Glossary 1

Summary

Overview of the Scheme and the Application

- 1.1 Wrexham Power Limited (WPL) is applying to the Secretary of State under the Planning Act 2008 (the 2008 Act) and for powers to construct, operate and maintain a combined cycle gas turbine Power Station Complex together with infrastructure and landscape works (the Power Station Complex Site), and the Gas Connection, all of which forms part of the Scheme, known as Wrexham Energy Centre (WEC). The Scheme will be constructed on land at Wrexham Industrial Estate (WIE), to the east of Wrexham, and is known as the Wrexham Energy Centre (WEC).
- 1.2 WPL is a joint venture company established by St. Modwen and Glenfinnan Properties. Both companies have an extensive background in the development and economic regeneration of sites throughout the UK, including experience in the energy sector.
- 1.3 The Power Station Complex Site constitutes a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ('NSIP') by virtue of section 14(1)(a) and section 15 of the 2008 Act, which include within the definition of an NSIP any onshore generating station in England or Wales of more than 50 megawatts capacity. Under section 31 of the 2008 Act a Development Consent Order ('DCO') is required to develop an NSIP. Under section 37 of the 2008 Act this can only be granted if an application is made for it to the relevant Secretary of State (SoS) (the 'Application').
- 1.4 The Gas Connection element of the Scheme is being consented separately under the Town and County Planning Act 1990 by means of a planning application to the local planning authority, Wrexham County Borough Council ('Wrexham CBC' or 'the Council'). Powers of compulsory acquisition over the land required for the Gas Connection are being sought as part of the DCO application. The ES that accompanies the Application has assessed both the Power Station Complex Site and the Gas Connection pursuant to the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulation 2009 and the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulation 1999. In addition the ES has cumulatively assessed other proposed developments including the Electrical Connection required for the WEC.
- 1.5 The Scheme comprises:
 - a combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power station (the 'Power Station Complex') (work numbered 1 in Schedule 1 to the Order) which would be fuelled by natural gas and would have a generation capacity of up to 299 megawatts (MWe);
 - the temporary and permanent Laydown Areas (works numbered 2A and 2B respectively in Schedule 1 to the Order);
 - surface water drainage works (work numbered 3 in Schedule 1 to the Order);

- the landscape and ecological mitigation works (work numbered 4 in Schedule 1 to the Order);
- the alteration and use of the Kingmoor Park Access Road (work numbered 5 in Schedule 1 to the Order) (together the 'Power Station Complex Site');
- the Gas Pipeline and an Above Ground Installation (AGI) (the 'Gas Connection').

- 1.6 The Power Station Complex will be located on the WIE, in the administrative area of Wrexham CBC. It will occupy a site known as Kingmoor Park South, on the north-eastern side of the WIE, adjacent to Bryn Lane and to the north of a large logistics warehouse and distribution centre operated by Norbert Dentressangle. The Gas Connection Route is approximately 3.5km in length and would largely cross a generally level area of agricultural land, connecting to the AGI Site located adjacent to the existing Maelor Gas Works, 0.75km south of the WIE.
- 1.7 The Electrical Connection is not part of the Application for the Power Station Complex Site, but will be required for the export of electricity. It is assumed that works will be undertaken broadly at the same time as the Scheme construction works. To ensure that a robust assessment is carried out in the ES a number of realistic assumptions have been made regarding the Electrical Connection works as set out below.
- 1.8 The Electrical Connection is likely to consist of underground cabling between the Scheme's electrical switchgear located within the Power Station Complex and the existing Marchwiell substation, located on Abbey Road on the Wrexham Industrial Estate.
- 1.9 The wider existing electrical distribution network will also need upgrading to accommodate the new generation. This is likely to consist of works to the existing Marchwiell substation, re-stringing of existing pylons between Legacy and Wrexham substations, replacement of the existing portal frame towers between Legacy and Marchwiell substations, and laying of underground cables. Once completed, the electrical distribution network that currently serves the Wrexham Industrial Estate will have increased capacity and resilience from that which exists presently.
- 1.10 WPL has made an electrical connection application. The final technical and physical solution for the Electrical Connection will be determined at a later date by Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) in its role as the statutory undertaker for electrical infrastructure in the area. Any works associated with the Electrical Connection will be consented through the appropriate and lawful consenting regime and will be environmentally assessed as required. Further details of the Electrical Connection and the consultation undertaken with SPEN to date are explained in the Grid Connection Statement (Document Ref: 8.1).
- 1.11 The Power Station Complex would be fuelled by natural gas and would have a rated electrical output of up to 299 megawatts (MW_e).

- 1.12 S.10 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 and The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 require an environmental impact assessment (EIA) to be carried out for the Scheme on the basis that it is likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of its nature, size or location. The findings of the EIA are presented in an Environmental Statement (ES - document reference 6.2) which accompanies the Application. The ES describes the likely significant environmental effects of the Scheme during construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning. Where significant adverse effects on the environment are identified, the ES sets out the ways in which these will be prevented, reduced and, where possible, offset.

Purpose of this document

- 1.13 The purpose of this Planning Statement is to act as the primary reference document for an explanation of the planning considerations pertinent to the Scheme and a description of how the Application addresses these. In so doing, it describes the Scheme in the light of relevant planning policies, plans, strategies and guidance, in order to examine the extent to which the Scheme would comply with identified requirements.
- 1.14 The Planning Statement is one of a series of documents produced to accompany the Application submitted in accordance with Section 37 of the 2008 Act and Regulations 5 and 6 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (APFP Regulations) and the planning application submitted to Wrexham CBC. It should be read in conjunction with:
- the Design and Access Statement (Document reference: 5.3);
 - the Environmental Statement main statement (Document reference 6.2); and
 - the draft Development Consent Order (Document reference: 3.1).

Scheme consultations

- 1.15 Stakeholder consultations undertaken by WPL during the design and assessment of the current proposals are described in a Consultation Report (Document reference 5.1). Following earlier rounds of non-statutory consultation, which included a touring public exhibition, statutory consultation and publicity in accordance with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act took place in July and August 2014.
- 1.16 The Consultation Report describes the feedback from these consultations and explains how the design of the Scheme was refined in response to representations. Feedback highlighted matters including landscape and visual effects, health, construction, transport and the implications for the wider socio-economic development of the locality.

UK energy policy

- 1.17 Chapter 2 of this Planning Statement considers the Scheme in the context of UK and Welsh energy policy. The national need for new gas-fired power generation is acknowledged explicitly in national policy, including the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), the National Policy Statement for Fossil-Fuel Electricity Generation Infrastructure (EN-2), the National Policy Statement for Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines (EN-4), the Gas Generation Strategy 2012 and the National Infrastructure Plan 2014. Proposals such as the Scheme will help to replace aged power generation infrastructure, enhance national security of electricity supply and assist in the transition to a low carbon economy.

Welsh and local planning policy

- 1.18 Chapter 3 of this Planning Statement considers the Scheme in the context of Welsh and local planning policy. The Scheme is found to be consistent with relevant provisions of Planning Policy Wales and relevant supporting Technical Advice Notes concerning sustainable development, economic growth and employment, the use of brownfield land and environmental protection. In these terms, it is considered to be a sustainable development.
- 1.19 The Scheme would actively support the implementation of policies in the adopted Wrexham Unitary Development Plan (UDP) concerning the economy and employment, as provided for in UDP Policy E3. It is also consistent with UDP policies concerning the natural environment and green infrastructure, nature conservation, landscape, the historic environment and the provision of infrastructure, and with relevant local guidance notes.

Environmental policy

- 1.20 Chapter 4 of this Planning Statement employs the environmental information presented in the ES (Document reference: 6.2) to appraise the Scheme in the light of the topic-specific policy and guidance provided in relevant National Policy Statements. With the environmental mitigation inherent in the Scheme design or otherwise provided for in Requirements (in Schedule 2 of the Order), it is concluded that the Scheme is a low impact proposal. In part this reflects the circumstances of the WIE, which is a large expanse of industrialised land of generally low environmental and amenity value, with sensitive receptors generally remote from the Scheme.
- 1.21 The ability to secure the required Gas Connection to the National Transmission System at a point approximately 2.2 km from the Power Station Complex Site further substantiates the low impact nature of the Scheme.

The need for and benefits of the Scheme

- 1.22 Chapter 5 of this Planning Statement presents the overall conclusions of this analysis. These are set in the context of Section 104 of the 2008 Act, which requires that the Secretary of State decides the Application in accordance with any relevant National Policy Statement(s), except to the extent that certain matters apply. This includes where the Secretary of State is satisfied that the adverse impact of a project would outweigh its benefits. The conclusions of this analysis should also be set in the context of the determination of the Gas Connection under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, which requires that determination of planning applications shall have regard to the provisions of the development plan, so far as material to the development, and to any other material considerations.
- 1.23 The urgent need for energy generation, including gas fired generating stations, is explained in NPS EN-1, the Gas Generation Strategy (DECC, 2012) and the National Infrastructure Plan (HM Treasury, 2014). The benefits of the Scheme also align with those anticipated by relevant National Policy Statements. Fundamentally, the Scheme will help to meet the urgent national need for new efficient electricity generation capacity. CCGT power stations can provide power flexibly and reliably in response to demand from the network. In these terms they are complementary to intermittent sources of renewable energy and will support the transition to low carbon energy supply in the UK. The Scheme would contribute to the immediate and medium term needs for flexible and reliable power generation and facilitate the transition to a low carbon economy.
- 1.24 The construction and operation of the Scheme would benefit the local economy. Chapter 6 of the ES (Document reference: 6.2) considers the socio-economic effects of the Scheme and finds that it would deliver positive benefits in these terms. No significant adverse socio-economic effects are identified in the assessment.
- 1.25 Additionally, at the local level, the Scheme would support the regeneration of a part-brownfield site, allocated in development plan policy for a single major employment user. The Scheme should help to attract the interest of other incoming occupiers to the WIE. On balance, the local, regional, and national economic interest in this Scheme proceeding is considered to be substantial.
- 1.26 The Scheme will be up to a £300m investment, approximately half of which could be procured from within the UK. The construction phase would lead to the creation of up to 515 jobs during the peak period of construction activity, or 220 jobs averaged over a 36 month construction period. The construction phase is anticipated to result in approximately £3.19m of direct gross value added (GVA). The indirect employment benefit is expected to generate £3m GVA and an employment income of £1.9m in the sub-region during construction. Once operational the Scheme will provide approximately 30 skilled jobs and is anticipated to result in approximately £1.45m of direct GVA annually and between £0.6m and £2.2m of indirect GVA annually through the supply chain.

Planning Assessment

- 1.27 Section 104 of the 2008 Act provides that, in making decisions on DCO applications, the Secretary of State must have regard to any relevant National Policy Statement and must decide applications in accordance with it, unless the adverse effects of the proposal would outweigh its benefits or in certain other limited circumstances.
- 1.28 As National Policy Statement EN-1 explains, ‘this NPS, when combined with the relevant technology-specific energy NPS, provides the primary basis for decisions’ (paragraph 1.1.1), and the Secretary of State ‘should start with a presumption in favour of granting consent to applications for energy NSIPs’ (paragraph 4.1.2). The relevant National Policy Statements in the context of the Scheme are:
- National Policy Statement EN-1 - The Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy
 - National Policy Statement EN-2- National Policy Statement for Fossil Fuel Electricity Generating Infrastructure
 - National Policy Statement EN-4 - National Policy Statement for Gas Supply Infrastructure
- 1.29 Paragraph 4.4.2 of NPS EN-1 lists certain obligations on an applicant regarding the consideration of alternatives, such as the obligation to include in the ES information about the main alternatives they have studied, which should include an indication of the reasons for these choices, having taken into account the environmental, social and economic effects and including, where relevant, technical and commercial feasibility. The potential for adverse impacts arising from a CCGT power station and its gas connection is identified in general terms in relevant National Policy Statements. These are described in the ES (Document reference: 6.2). The overall conclusion of the ES is that there would be few significant adverse environmental effects resulting from the implementation of this Scheme that cannot be mitigated. When these residual effects are balanced against the benefits of the Scheme, most notably the need for new gas electricity generation, socio-economic benefits, land remediation and positive re-use of brownfield land, the long-term effects of the Scheme are considered to be positive.
- 1.30 The Scheme meets explicit objectives of national energy and planning policy and development plan policy at the local level. There is clear national interest in securing new electricity generation capacity and in the large financial investment required to deliver this. At the local level the inward investment, physical regeneration and potential for industrial heat supply are all considered to represent significant net benefits. The proposed environmental and amenity safeguards should minimise the effects on local residents during the construction and operation of the Scheme.
- 1.31 In accordance with the considerations set out in Section 104 of the 2008 Act, it is concluded that there are no adverse impacts sufficient to outweigh the identified benefits of the Scheme, and that there is a clear and compelling case in the public interest for the Order to be made for the Scheme and planning permission granted for the Gas Connection, in the terms proposed and in an absence of sufficient indications to the contrary.

Crynodeb

Trosolwg o'r Cynllun a'r Cais

- 1.32 Mae Wrexham Power Limited (WPL) yn cyflwyno cais i'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dan Ddeddf Cynllunio 2008 (Deddf 2008) am rymoedd i adeiladu, gweithredu a chynnal a chadw Cyfadeilad Pwerdy tyrbin nwy cylch cyfun ynghyd â gwaith datblygu seilwaith a thirwedd (Safle Cyfadeilad y Pwerdy), a'r Cysylltiad Nwy, sydd oll yn rhan o'r Cynllun, a elwir yn Ganolfan Ynni Wrecsam (WEC). Caiff y Cynllun ei adeiladu ar dir yn Ystâd Ddiwydiannol Wrecsam (WIE), i'r Gorllewin o Wrecsam, ac enw'r cynllun yw Canolfan Ynni Wrecsam (WEC).
- 1.33 Mae WPL yn fenter ar y cyd a sefydlwyd gan St. Modwen a Glenfinnan Properties. Mae gan y ddau gwmni brofiad helaeth o ddatblygu safleoedd a'u hadfywio yn economaidd ar draws y DU, yn cynnwys profiad o'r sector ynni.
- 1.34 Mae Safle Cyfadeilad y Pwerdy yn Brosiect Seilwaith Cenedlaethol ei Arwyddocâd ('NSIP') o dan adran 14(1)(a) ac adran 15 Deddf 2008, ac mae'r diffiniad o NSIP yn cynnwys unrhyw bwerdy ar y tir yng Nghymru a Lloegr sydd â chapasiti o dros 50 megawatt. Dan adran 31 Deddf 2008, mae angen Gorchymyn Caniatâd Cynllunio ('DCO') i ddatblygu NSIP. Dan adran 37 Deddf 2008, ni ellir caniatáu hyn oni chyflwynir cais amdano i'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol perthnasol (SoS) (y 'Cais').
- 1.35 Ceisir caniatâd am elfen Cysylltiad Nwy y Cynllun ar wahân o dan Ddeddf Cynllunio 1990 trwy gyflwyno cais cynllunio i'r awdurdod cynllunio lleol, Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Wrecsam ('CBS Wrecsam' neu 'y Cyngor'). Mae grymoedd prynu gorfodol dros y tir sy'n ofynnol i sefydlu'r Cysylltiad Nwy yn cael eu ceisio fel rhan o'r cais am DSO. Mae'r ES sy'n ategu'r Cais wedi asesu Safle Cyfadeilad y Pwerdy a'r Cysylltiad Nwy yn unol â Rheoliad Cynllunio Seilwaith (Asesiad o'r Effaith Amgylcheddol) 2009 a Rheoliad Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref (Asesiad o'r Effaith Amgylcheddol) (Cymru a Lloegr) 1999. Yn ychwanegol, mae'r ES sy'n ategu'r cais wedi gwneud asesiad cronus o'r datblygiadau arfaethedig eraill yn cynnwys y Cysylltiad Trydanol sy'n ofynnol ar gyfer WEC.
- 1.36 Mae'r Cynllun yn cynnwys:
- pwerdy tyrbin nwy cylch cyfun (CCGT) ('Cyfadeilad y Pwerdy') (gwaith rhif 1 yn Atodlen 1 y Gorchymyn) a fyddai'n cael ei danio gan nwy naturiol, a byddai ganddo gapasiti cynhyrchu trydan o hyd at 299 megawatt (MW_e);
 - manau cadw parhaol a dros dro (gwaith 2A a 2B yn eu trefn yn Atodlen 1 y Gorchymyn);
 - gwaith draenio dŵr wyneb (gwaith rhif 3 yn Atodlen 1 y Gorchymyn);
 - gwaith lliniaru'r effeithiau ar y dirwedd ac ar ecoleg (gwaith rhif 4 yn Atodlen 1 y Gorchymyn);

- newid a defnyddio Ffordd Mynediad Kingmoor Park (gwaith rhif 5 yn Atodlen 1 y Gorchymyn) (gyda'i gilydd 'Safle Cyfadeilad y Pwerdy');
- y Lein Beipiau Nwy a Gweithfa Uwchben Tir (AGI) (y 'Cysylltiad Nwy').

1.37 Lleolir Cyfadeilad y Pwerdy yn WIE, yn ardal weinyddol CBS Wrecsam. Caiff ei leoli ar safle o'r enw De Parc Kingmoor, ar ochr ogledd-orllewinol WIE, gerllaw Lôn Bryn ac i'r gogledd o warws logisteg mawr a chanolfan ddosbarthu sy'n cael eu rhedeg gan Norbert Dentressangle. Mae hyd Llwybr y Cysylltiad Nwy oddeutu 3.5km, a byddai'n croesi llecyn o dir amaethyddol gwastad yn bennaf, ac yn cysylltu â Safle AGI a leolir gerllaw Gwaith Nwy presennol Maelor, 0.75km i'r de o WIE.

1.38 Nid yw'r Cysylltiad Trydanol yn rhan o'r Cais ar gyfer Safle Cyfadeilad y Pwerdy, ond bydd yn ofynnol ar gyfer allforio trydan. Tybir y bydd y gwaith hwn yn digwydd fwy neu lai ar yr un pryd â gwaith adeiladu'r Cynllun. I sicrhau y gwneir asesiad trylwyr yn yr ES, gwnaed nifer o ragdybiaethau realistig ynghylch y gwaith ar gyfer y cysylltiad trydanol fel y nodir isod:

- Mae'n debygol bydd y Cysylltiad Trydanol yn cynnwys ceblau tanddaearol rhwng offer switsio trydan y Cynllun a leolir o fewn Cyfadeilad y Pwerdy a'r is-orsaf bresennol ym Marchwial, a leolir ar Ffordd yr Abaty ar Ystâd Ddiwydiannol Wrecsam.
- Hefyd bydd angen uwchraddio'r rhwydwaith dosbarthu trydan presennol i gynnwys y trydan newydd a gynhyrchir. Mae'n debygol bydd hyn yn cynnwys gwaith i is-orsaf bresennol Marchwial, ailosod ceblau ar beilonau presennol rhwng is-orsafoedd Legacy a Marchwial, amnewid tyrau ffrâm porthol presennol rhwng is-orsafoedd Legacy a Marchwial, a gosod ceblau tanddaearol. Ar ôl cael ei gwblhau, bydd gan y rhwydwaith dosbarthu trydan sy'n gwasanaethu Ystâd Ddiwydiannol Wrecsam well capasiti a chadernid na'r hyn sy'n bodoli nawr.

1.39 Mae WPL wedi gwneud cais am gysylltiad trydanol. Bydd ateb technegol a ffisegol terfynol y Cysylltiad Trydan yn cael ei bennu'n ddiweddarach gan Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) yn rhinwedd ei rôl fel yr ymgwymerwr statudol sy'n gyfrifol am seilwaith trydanol yn yr ardal. Bydd angen cael caniatâd am unrhyw waith sy'n gysylltiedig â'r Cysylltiad Trydan trwy'r gyfundrefn gydsynio briodol a chyfreithiol, a bydd angen gwneud asesiadau amgylcheddol yn ôl y galw. Mae rhagor o fanylion ynghylch y Cysylltiad Trydanol a'r ymgynghoriad a wnaed gyda SPEN hyd yn hyn wedi'u hegluro yn y Datganiad ynghylch y Cysylltiad â'r Grid (Cyfeirnod y Ddogfen: 8.1).

1.40 Byddai Cyfadeilad y Pwerdy yn cael ei danio gan nwy naturiol a byddai'n gallu cynhyrchu hyd at 299 megawatt (MW_e) o drydan.

- 1.41 Mae Rheoliadau Seilwaith (Asesiad o'r Effaith Amgylcheddol) 2009 a Rheoliadau Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref (Asesiad o'r Effaith Amgylcheddol) (Cymru a Lloegr) 1999 yn mynnu fod asesiad o effaith amgylcheddol (EIA) y Cynllun yn cael ei gynnal, ar y sail ei fod yn debygol o effeithio'n sylweddol ar yr amgylchedd yn sgil ei natur, ei faint neu ei leoliad. Cyflwynir canfyddiadau'r EIA mewn Datganiad Amgylcheddol (ES - cyfeirnod y ddogfen 6.2) sy'n ategu'r Cais. Mae'r ES yn disgrifio effeithiau amgylcheddol tebygol y Cynllun wrth ei adeiladu, ei redeg, ei gynnal a'i gadw, a'i ddatgomisiynu. Lle nodir effeithiau andwyol sylweddol ar yr amgylchedd, mae'r ES yn amlinellu sut byddant yn cael eu hatal, eu lleihau, a lle gellir, sut gwneir iawn amdanynt.

Pwrpas y ddogfen hon

- 1.42 Pwrpas y Datganiad Cynllunio hwn yw bod yn brif ddogfen gyfarwyddyd i gynnig eglurhad o'r ystyriaethau cynllunio sy'n berthnasol i'r Cynllun a disgrifiad o sut mae'r Cais yn mynd i'r afael â'r rhain. Wrth wneud hynny, mae'n disgrifio'r Cynllun mewn perthynas â pholisïau, cynlluniau, strategaethau ac arweiniad perthnasol ynghylch cynllunio, er mwyn archwilio i ba raddau y byddai'r Cynllun yn cydymffurfio â gofynion a nodir.
- 1.43 Mae'r Datganiad Cynllunio yn un o blith cyfres o ddogfennau a gynhyrchir i ategu'r Cais a gyflwynwyd, yn unol ag Adran 37 Deddf 2008 a Rheoliadau 5 a 6 Rheoliadau Cynllunio Seilwaith (Ffurflenni a Gweithdrefn Ragnodedig) 2009 (Rheoliadau APFP) a'r cais cynllunio a gyflwynwyd i CBS Wrecsam. Dylid ei ddarllen ar y cyd â'r:
- Datganiad Dylunio a Mynediad (Cyfeirnod y ddogfen: 5.3);
 - Prif ddatganiad y Datganiad Amgylcheddol (Cyfeirnod y ddogfen 6.2); a'r
 - Gorchymyn Caniatâd Datblygu drafft (Cyfeirnod y ddogfen: 3.1).

Ymgynghoriadau ynghylch y cynllun

- 1.44 Disgrifir ymgynghoriadau â rhanddeiliaid a gynhaliwyd gan WPL wrth ddylunio ac asesu'r cynigion presennol mewn Adroddiad ar Ymgynghoriadau (Cyfeirnod y ddogfen 5.1). Yn dilyn digwyddiadau ymgynghori statudol blaenorol, oedd yn cynnwys arddangosfa gyhoeddus deithiol, cynhaliwyd ymgynghoriad statudol a chyhoedduswyd yn unol ag Adrannau 42, 47 a 48 Deddf 2008 yng Ngorffennaf ac Awst 2014.
- 1.45 Mae'r Adroddiad ar yr Ymgynghoriadau yn disgrifio'r adborth o'r ymgynghoriadau hyn ac yn egluro sut cafodd dyluniad y Cynllun ei fireinio mewn ymateb i sylwadau. Roedd yr adborth yn amlygu materion megis effeithiau ar y dirwedd ac ar yr olygfa, iechyd, adeiladu, cludiant a'r oblygiadau o ran datblygiad cymdeithasol ac economaidd ehangach yr ardal.

Polisi ynni'r Deyrnas Unedig

- 1.46 Mae pennod 2 y Datganiad Cynllunio hwn yn ystyried y Cynllun yng nghyd-destun polisi ynni'r Deyrnas Unedig a Chymru. Cydnabyddir angen y wlad am bwerdai nwy newydd yn eglur mewn polisi cenedlaethol, yn cynnwys y Datganiad Polisi Ynni Cenedlaethol Trosfwaol (EN-1), y Datganiad Polisi Cenedlaethol ynghylch Seilwaith Cynhyrchu Trydan â Thanwydd Ffossil (EN-2), y Datganiad Polisi Cenedlaethol ynghylch Seilwaith Cyflenwi Nwy a Leiniau Peipiau Nwy ac Olew (EN-4), Strategaeth Cynhyrchu Trydan â Nwy 2012 a Chynllun Seilwaith Cenedlaethol 2014. Bydd cynigion megis y Cynllun hwn yn helpu i ddisodli hen seilwaith cynhyrchu trydan, gwella ymdrechion i ddiogelu'r cyflenwad trydan a chynorthwyo i newid i economi carbon isel.

Polisi cynllunio Cymru a lleol

- 1.47 Mae pennod 3 y Datganiad Cynllunio hwn yn ystyried y Cynllun yng nghyd-destun polisi cynllunio Cymru a lleol. Canfyddir fod y cynllun yn gyson â darpariaethau perthnasol Polisi Cynllunio Cymru a Nodiadau Cyngor Technegol ategol perthnasol ynghylch datblygiad cynaliadwy, twf yr economi a chyflogaeth, y defnydd o safleoedd tir llwyd a gwarchod yr amgylchedd. Yn hyn o beth, caiff ei ystyried yn ddatblygiad cynaliadwy.
- 1.48 Byddai'r Cynllun yn ategu ymdrechion i weithredu polisiâu yng Nghynllun Datblygu Unedol (UDP) Wrecsam sy'n ymwneud â'r economi a chyflogaeth, yn unol â Pholisi E3 yr UDP. Mae hefyd yn gyson â pholisiâu EDP sy'n ymwneud â'r amgylchedd naturiol a seilwaith gwyrdd, gwarchod natur, y dirwedd, yr amgylchedd hanesyddol a darparu seilwaith, ac â nodiadau cyfarwyddyd lleol perthnasol.

Polisi amgylcheddol

- 1.49 Mae Pennod 4 y Datganiad Cynllunio hwn yn defnyddio'r wybodaeth amgylcheddol a gyflwynir yn yr ES (Cyfeirnod y ddogfen: 6.2) i werthuso'r Cynllun mewn perthynas â pholisi a chanllawiau sy'n ymwneud â phynciau penodol a ddarperir mewn Datganiadau Polisi Cenedlaethol. Gan ystyried y dulliau o liniaru'r effaith ar yr amgylchedd sy'n rhan gynhenid o ddyluniad y Cynllun neu a ddarperir trwy ddulliau eraill yn y Gofynion (yn Atodlen 2 y Gorchymyn), cesglir y byddai effaith y Cynllun arfaethedig yn isel. Yn rhannol, mae hyn yn adlewyrchu amgylchiadau WIE, sy'n ehangder helaeth o dir diwydiannol â gwerth amgylcheddol ac amwynder isel, ac ar y cyfan, mae derbynyddion sensitif yn ddigon pell o'r safle.
- 1.50 Mae'r gallu i sicrhau Cysylltiad Nwy â'r System Trawsyrro Genedlaethol mewn man sydd oddeutu 2.2km o Safle Cyfadeilad y Pwerdy yn ychwanegu at natur effaith isel y Cynllun.

Yr angen am y Cynllun a'i fuddion

- 1.51 Mae Pennod 5 y Datganiad Cynllunio hwn yn cyflwyno casgliadau cyffredinol y dadansoddiad hwn. Ystyrir y rhain yng nghyd-destun Adran 104 Deddf 2008, sy'n mynnu fod yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol yn gwneud penderfyniad ynghylch y Cais yn unol ag unrhyw Ddatganiad(au) Polisi Cenedlaethol, ac eithrio i'r graddau bydd materion penodol yn berthnasol. Mae hyn yn cynnwys lle byddai'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol yn argyhoeddedig y byddai effaith andwyol prosiect yn gorbwyso ei fanteision. Dylid hefyd ystyried canlyniadau'r dadansoddiad yng nghyd-destun penderfyniad ynghylch lleoli'r Cysylltiad Nwy o dan Ddeddf Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref 1990, sy'n mynnu bod penderfyniadau ynghylch ceisiadau cynllunio yn ystyriol o ddarpariaethau'r cynllun datblygu, i'r graddau bydd hynny'n berthnasol i'r datblygiad, ac unrhyw ystyriaethau perthnasol eraill.
- 1.52 Eglurir yr angen brys i gynhyrchu trydan, yn cynnwys pwerdai nwy, yn NPS EN-1, y Strategaeth Cynhyrchu Trydan â Nwy (DECC, 2012) a'r Cynllun Seilwaith Cenedlaethol (Trysorlys EM, 2014). Mae buddion y Cynllun hefyd yn cyd-fynd â'r rhai a ragwelir gan y Datganiadau Polisi Cenedlaethol perthnasol. Yn ei hanfod, bydd y Cynllun yn cynorthwyo i ddiwallu'r angen cenedlaethol brys am ddulliau effeithiol newydd o gynhyrchu trydan. Gall pwerdai CCGT gyflenwi pŵer yn hyblyg ac yn ddibynadwy mewn ymateb i alw o'r rhwydwaith. Yn hyn o beth, maent yn ategu ffynonellau ysbeidiol o ynni adnewyddadwy a byddant yn cynorthwyo'r gwaith o newid i gyflenwad ynni carbon isel yn y Deyrnas Unedig. Byddai'r Cynllun yn cyfrannu at anghenion presennol ac anghenion tymor canolig am ddulliau hyblyg a dibynadwy o gynhyrchu trydan a hwyluso'r gwaith o newid i economi carbon isel.
- 1.53 Byddai adeiladu a gweithredu'r Cynllun yn llesol i'r economi leol. Mae Pennod 6 yr ES (Cyfeirnod y ddogfen: 6.2) yn ystyried effeithiau cymdeithasol ac economaidd y Cynllun ac mae'n canfod y byddai'n sicrhau buddion positif yn hyn o beth. Ni nodir unrhyw effeithiau cymdeithasol ac economaidd andwyol yn yr asesiad.
- 1.54 Yn ychwanegol, ar y lefel lleol, byddai'r Cynllun yn cynorthwyo i adfywio safle sy'n safle tir llwyd yn rhannol, a glustnodir yn y cynllun datblygu lleol i'w ddefnyddio gan un defnyddiwr cyflogaeth o bwys. Dylai'r Cynllun gynorthwyo i ennyn diddordeb darpar ddeiliaid eraill i ddod i WIE. Ar y cyfan, ystyrir y byddai buddion sylweddol i'r economi yn lleol, yn rhanbarthol ac yn genedlaethol yn sgil bwrw ymlaen â'r Cynllun hwn.
- 1.55 Bydd y Cynllun yn golygu buddsoddiad o hyd at £300m, a gellid canfod oddeutu hanner hynny o fewn y Deyrnas Unedig. Byddai'r cam adeiladu yn arwain at greu 515 o swyddi yn ystod cyfnod prysuraf y gwaith adeiladu, neu 220 o swyddi ar gyfartaledd dros gyfnod adeiladu 36 mis. Rhagwelir y bydd y cam adeiladu yn arwain at oddeutu £3.19m o werth ychwanegol gros (GVA) uniongyrchol. Disgwylir y bydd y buddion o ran cyflogaeth anuniongyrchol yn creu GVA gwerth £3m ac incwm o gyflogaeth gwerth £1.9m yn yr is-ranbarth yn ystod cyfnod y gwaith adeiladu. Pan fydd y Cynllun yn weithredol, bydd yn darparu oddeutu 30 o swyddi medrus a rhagwelir y bydd yn creu GVA uniongyrchol sy'n werth oddeutu £1.45m bob blwyddyn, a GVA anuniongyrchol sy'n werth £2.2m bob blwyddyn trwy'r gadwyn gyflenwi.

Asesiad Cynllunio

- 1.56 Mae Adran 104 Deddf 2008 yn mynnu y dylai'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol, wrth wneud penderfyniadau ynghylch ceisiadau am DCO, fod yn ystyriol o unrhyw Ddatganiad Polisi Cenedlaethol perthnasol a dylai benderfynu ar geisiadau yn unol â hynny, oni fyddai effeithiau andwyol y cynnig yn gorbwyso ei fuddion neu dan rai amgylchiadau cyfyngedig eraill.
- 1.57 Fel mae Datganiad Polisi Cenedlaethol EN-1 yn egluro, 'yr NPS hwn, ar y cyd â'r NPS ynni perthnasol ynghylch technoleg, yw'r prif sail a ddefnyddir i wneud penderfyniadau' (paragraff 1.1.1), a dylai'r Ysgrifennydd Gwladol 'gychwyn â rhagdybiaeth o blaid caniatáu ceisiadau am NSIPs ynni' (paragraff 4.1.2). Dyma'r Datganiadau Polisi Cenedlaethol yng Nghyd-destun y Cynllun:
- Datganiad Polisi Cenedlaethol EN-1 - Y Datganiad Polisi Cenedlaethol Trosfwaol ynghylch Ynni
 - Datganiad Polisi Cenedlaethol EN-2- Datganiad Polisi Cenedlaethol ynghylch Seilwaith Cynhyrchu Trydan â Thanwydd Ffossil
 - Datganiad Polisi Cenedlaethol EN-4 - Datganiad Polisi Cenedlaethol ynghylch Seilwaith Cyflenwi Nwy
- 1.58 Mae paragraff 4.4.2 NPS EN-1 yn rhestru ymrwymadau penodol sydd gan ymgeisydd o ran ystyried dewisiadau eraill, megis cynnwys gwybodaeth yn yr ES am y prif ddewisiadau eraill y mae wedi'u hastudio, a dylai hynny gynnwys manylion y rhesymau dros y dewisiadau hynny, yn dilyn ystyriaeth o'r effeithiau cymdeithasol ac economaidd, a lle bydd hynny'n berthnasol, dylai gynnwys dichonoldeb technegol a masnachol. Yn unol â hynny, mae'r ES (Cyfeirnod y ddogfen: 6.2) yn disgrifio'r dewisiadau eraill a ystyriwyd.
- 1.59 Diffinnir y potensial am effeithiau andwyol yn deillio o bwerdy CCGT a'i gysylltiad nwy yn gyffredinol yn y Datganiadau Polisi Cenedlaethol perthnasol. Disgrifir y rhain yn yr ES (Cyfeirnod y ddogfen: 6.2). Mae'r ES yn casglu ar y cyfan mai prin iawn fyddai'r effeithiau amgylcheddol andwyol na ellir eu lliniaru yn deillio o weithredu'r cynllun hwn. Pan ystyrir y sgil effeithiau hyn mewn cymhariaeth â buddion y Cynllun, yn enwedig yr angen am bwerdai nwy newydd, y buddion cymdeithasol ac economaidd, adfer tir a'r ailddefnydd positif o dir llwyd, ystyrir fod effeithiau tymor hir y Cynllun yn bositif.
- 1.60 Mae'r Cynllun yn cyflawni amcanion penodol polisi ynni a chynllunio cenedlaethol a pholisi'r cynllun datblygu ar y lefel lleol. Mae'n amlwg y byddai sicrhau'r capasiti cynhyrchu trydan newydd hwn a'r buddsoddiad ariannol sylweddol sy'n ofynnol i gyflawni hyn yn fuddiol i'r wlad. Ar y lefel lleol, ystyrir fod buddsoddiadau o'r tu allan, adfywio ffisegol a'r potensial i gyflenwi gwres i ddiwydiannau oll yn fuddion net sylweddol. Dylai'r mesurau arfaethedig i warchod yr amgylchedd a mwynderau leihau'r effeithiau ar breswylwyr lleol yn ystod y gwaith o adeiladu a gweithredu'r Cynllun.

- 1.61 Yn unol â'r ystyriaethau a amlinellir yn Adran 104 Deddf 2008, cesglir nad oes unrhyw effeithiau niweidiol sy'n ddigonol i orbwyso buddion canfyddadwy'r Cynllun, ac mae achos clir a grymus er budd y cyhoedd dros wneud y Gorchymyn i ganiatáu'r Cynllun a rhoi caniatád cynllunio i ddatblygu'r Cysylltiad Nwy, yn unol â'r telerau a gynigir ac yn absenoldeb arwyddion digonol i'r gwrthwyneb.

Chapter 1 ♦ Introduction

WREXHAM ENERGY CENTRE AND CONNECTIONS: BACKGROUND TO THE SCHEME

- 1.1 This statement is the Planning Statement for the Wrexham Energy Centre.
- 1.2 Wrexham Power Limited (WPL) is applying to the Secretary of State under the Planning Act 2008 (the 2008 Act) for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to construct, operate and maintain a new combined cycle gas turbine power station on land at Wrexham Industrial Estate (WIE), to the east of Wrexham. A planning application for the approximately 3.5km Gas Pipeline and Above Ground Installation (AGI) will be submitted to Wrexham County Borough Council (WCBC or 'the Council') as the local planning authority under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Together, this development is referred to as the 'Scheme' in this document and in other documents throughout the Application.
- 1.3 WPL is a joint venture company established by St. Modwen and Glenfinnan Properties. Both companies have an extensive background in the development and economic regeneration of sites throughout the UK, including experience in the energy sector.
- 1.4 The Scheme includes:
 - a combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power station (the 'Power Station Complex') (work numbered 1 in Schedule 1 to the Order) which would be fuelled by natural gas and would have an electrical generation capacity of up to 299 megawatts (MW_e);
 - the temporary and permanent Laydown Areas (works numbered 2A and 2B respectively in Schedule 1 to the Order);
 - surface water drainage works (work numbered 3 in Schedule 1 to the Order);
 - the landscaping and ecological mitigation works (work numbered 4 in Schedule 1 to the Order);
 - the alteration and use of the Kingmoor Park Access Road (work numbered 5 in Schedule 1 to the Order) (together the 'Power Station Complex Site');
 - the Gas Pipeline and an Above Ground Installation (AGI) (the 'Gas Connection').
- 1.5 The Power Station Complex Site is situated to the east of Bryn Lane in the north-east part of the WIE, on land allocated for major employment development by policy E3 of the Wrexham Unitary Development Plan (UDP). The WIE is one of the largest industrial estates in Wales. Agricultural land with well-defined field boundaries lies to the east and north of the Power Station Complex Site, although the land to the north has planning permission for employment use.

- 1.6 The proposed Gas Connection follows a route through farmland to the east and south of Wrexham Industrial Estate to the proposed Above Ground Installation (AGI) at Maelor Gas Works approximately 2.5km to the south of the Power Station Complex Site.
- 1.7 The location of the Power Station Complex Site is shown on the Land Plan (Document reference: 2.2) and the various components that comprise the Power Station Complex Site are shown on the Works Plans (Document reference: 2.3). The Gas Connection Route and AGI are shown on the plans that have been submitted with the planning application for the Gas Connection to WCBC.
- 1.8 The Power Station Complex would be fuelled by natural gas and would have a rated electrical output of up to 299 MW_e.
- 1.9 The electricity generated would be exported to the electricity distribution network via the anticipated Electrical Connection. The Electrical Connection is not part of the Application for the Power Station Complex Site, but will be required for the export of electricity. It is thus assumed that the Electrical Connection will be built broadly at the same time as the Scheme construction works. To ensure that a robust assessment is provided in the Environmental Statement (ES), a number of realistic assumptions have been made regarding the anticipate Electrical Connection works as set out below:
- the Electrical Connection is likely to consist of underground cabling between the Scheme's electrical switchgear located within the Power Station Complex and the existing Marchwiell substation, located on Abbey Road on the Wrexham Industrial Estate;
 - the wider existing electrical distribution network will also need upgrading to accommodate the new generation capacity. This is likely to consist of works to the existing Marchwiell substation, re-stringing of existing pylons between Legacy and Wrexham substations, replacement of the existing portal frame towers between Legacy and Marchwiell substations, and the laying of new underground cables. Once complete, the electrical distribution network that currently serves the Wrexham Industrial Estate will benefit from enhanced capacity and resilience.
- 1.10 The final technical solution for the Electrical Connection will be determined at a later date by Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) in its role as the statutory undertaker for electrical infrastructure in the area. Any works associated with the Electrical Connection will be consented through the appropriate and lawful consenting regime and will be environmentally assessed at that time, as required. Further details of the Electrical Connection and the consultations undertaken with SPEN to date are described in the Grid Connection Statement (Document reference: 8.1).

- 1.11 The Power Station Complex also requires a reliable source of fuel and will thus obtain gas from National Grid's gas network, known as the National Transmission System (NTS). The Gas Connection will be made in a secure AGI close to the Maelor Gas Works, shown on the Illustrative Gas and Electrical Connection Plans (Document reference 2.7.1). Because the proposed Gas Connection constitutes 'Associated Development' under section 115 of the 2008 Act, it cannot be included in a DCO application in Wales and is instead the subject of a separate planning application to WCBC under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This Planning Statement has been prepared in support of both the DCO application for the Power Station Complex Site and the planning application for the Gas Connection.
- 1.12 There is a considerable national need for the Scheme, acknowledged in government policy. An explanation of the need for the Scheme is set out in Chapter 2 of this Planning Statement but some examples of relevant policy include:
- paragraph 3.3.1 of National Policy Statement (NPS) EN-1 (DECC, July 2011) which states *'...the government believes there is an urgent need for new electricity NSIPs...'*;
 - paragraph 3.6.1 of NPS EN-1, which states that *'Fossil fuel power stations play a vital role in providing reliable electricity supplies: they can be operated flexibly in response to changes in supply and demand, and provide diversity in our energy mix...'*;
 - paragraph 3.6.2 of NPS EN-1, which states that *'Gas will continue to play an important role in the electricity sector - providing vital flexibility to support an increasing amount of low-carbon generation and to maintain security of supply'*;
 - Paragraph 3.3.22 (third bullet) of NPS EN-1), which identifies the need for 'a balance of 18 GW of new non-renewable capacity by 2025';
 - paragraph 1.40 of the National Infrastructure Plan (HM Treasury, December 2014), which states *'new (unabated) gas plant is [also] needed and will be vital in supplying a backup for less flexible renewable generation and ensuring that the system can meet peak electricity demand'*.
- 1.13 The 2008 Act includes in the definition of an NSIP any onshore electricity generating station in England and Wales of more than 50 MW capacity. Under s.31 of the 2008 Act a Development Consent Order (DCO or 'the Order') is required to develop an NSIP. Under s.37 of the 2008 Act, this can only be granted if an application is made to the Secretary of State.
- 1.14 This Application has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS), based in Bristol, which will examine the Application on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change. The Application seeks powers of compulsory acquisition of rights and the imposition of restrictions. The justification for the powers of compulsory acquisition is set out in the Statement of Reasons (Document reference: 4.1). The planning application for the Gas Connection has been made to Wrexham County Borough Council as the Local Planning Authority under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

- 1.15 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 and The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 require an environmental impact assessment (EIA) to be carried out for the Scheme on the basis that it is likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of its nature, size or location. The findings of the EIA are presented in an ES (Document reference: 6.2), which accompanies the Application. The ES describes the likely significant environmental effects of the Scheme during construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning. Where significant adverse effects on the environment are identified, the ES sets out ways in which these will be prevented, reduced and, where possible, offset.

PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

- 1.16 The purpose of this Planning Statement is to act as the primary reference document for an explanation of the planning considerations pertinent to the Scheme and a description of how the Application and the planning application for the Gas Connection responds to these. In so doing, the Planning Statement reviews the Scheme in the light of relevant planning policies, plans, strategies and guidance, in order to examine the extent to which the Scheme would comply with identified requirements.
- 1.17 The Planning Statement is a part of a series of documents produced to accompany the DCO application submitted in accordance with Section 37 of the 2008 Act and Regulations 5 and 6 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (APFP Regulations). The Planning Statement also accompanies the planning application for the Gas Connection submitted to Wrexham CBC. The Planning Statement should be read in conjunction with the following documents which accompany the DCO Application and the planning application for the Gas Connection, which set out design features, mitigation, or other commitments that address relevant planning issues:
- the Design and Access Statement (Document reference: 5.3):
 - the Environmental Statement (Document references: 6.1-6.4):
 - the Order (Document reference: 3.1) including its Schedule 2 (Requirements).
- 1.18 A glossary of acronyms and defined terms is provided in the Glossary appended to this Planning Statement.
- 1.19 To assist the Secretary of State's and Local Planning Authority's decision making this Planning Statement considers the likely benefits and disbenefits of the Scheme.
- 1.20 This Planning Statement considers the overall acceptability of the Application in accordance with the decision making framework established in s. 104 of the 2008 Act and the acceptability of the planning application for the Gas Connection in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

THE APPLICANT

- 1.21 The applicant for the Scheme is WPL, registered in England (Company Number: 06762265). WPL is a joint venture company established by St. Modwen and Glenfinnan Properties to develop the Scheme. Both companies have an extensive background in the development and economic regeneration of sites throughout the UK, including experience in the energy sector.
- 1.22 Further information on WPL is available on the Scheme website at the following address: www.wrexham-power.com
- 1.23 The Scheme is being managed by WPL, which has employed a project team of external consultants comprising:
- Atkins - engineering design and environmental consultants;
 - Savills - town planning and property consultants;
 - Pinsent Masons LLP - solicitors;
 - Local Dialogue - community and stakeholder relations consultants;
 - Bruton Knowles – land rights valuation advisors.
- 1.24 WPL has undertaken its own land referencing.
- 1.25 The team was tasked with developing the Scheme in dialogue with Wrexham County Borough Council, other relevant local authorities, the local community, landowners and other interested parties including relevant statutory bodies, with the aim of securing both a DCO and planning permission for the Scheme. This Planning Statement was produced by Savills.

LOCATION

- 1.26 The Power Station Complex Site is situated off Bryn Lane on Kingmoor Park South, Wrexham Industrial Estate, on approximately 19.5 ha of land, part of which was previously developed. The terrain gently slopes downwards to the north-east. The highest point is on the southern boundary at 31m AOD and the lowest is in the north-eastern corner at 22m AOD.
- 1.27 An Owens Corning fibreglass factory complex formerly occupied the western and south-eastern areas of the Power Station Complex Site. The western area of the Power Station Complex Site is largely laid to hardstanding, having been the former staff car park for the fibreglass factory, and is broadly of level terrain. A small brook flows along the western and northern boundary of the Power Station Complex in a north-easterly direction. A line of mature trees separates this area from the eastern area of the Power Station Complex Site.

- 1.28 The south-eastern area of the Power Station Complex Site (closest to the B5130) was occupied formerly by parts of the fibreglass factory, accommodating a number of large structures and silos which have now been demolished. This area comprises a raised area of scrub grassland with spoil mounds and two ponds, and an extensive area of hardstanding close to the eastern boundary. A further, concrete lined, pond is located in the west of this area (adjacent to the south-eastern corner of the Power Station Complex).
- 1.29 The remainder of the Power Station Complex Site comprises open land with hedgerows defining three main fields. The terrain slopes gently downwards to the north-east towards a pond in the north-eastern area. A ditch and an overgrown hedgerow form the eastern boundary of the Power Station Complex Site, beyond which is open countryside. The ditch water flows into the small brook immediately to the north of the Power Station Complex Site.
- 1.30 The western boundary of the Power Station Complex Site is formed by Bryn Lane. Immediately to the west of Bryn Lane is a Kellogg's food processing complex. This includes a range of tall industrial structures, including chimneys. To the south of the Power Station Complex Site is a large logistics warehouse and distribution centre operated by Norbert Dentressangle.
- 1.31 Land to the north of the Power Station Complex site is known as Kingmoor Park North. This is allocated in the Wrexham UDP for employment uses, and has planning permission for B1/B2/B8 development.
- 1.32 The Order Limits encloses an area of approximately 36.2 ha, including approximately 19.5 ha for the Power Station Complex Site, of which 3.3 ha would be occupied by the proposed Power Station Complex and a further 4.1 ha by landscape and ecological mitigation. The Gas Connection Route comprises 16.7 ha of land.

MAIN COMPONENTS OF THE PROPOSED SCHEME

- 1.33 Table 1.1 below reproduces the maximum physical dimensions of the built elements in the Scheme, and a description of the principal elements follows. A definitive description of the Scheme can be found in the Order (Document reference: 3.1) and Chapter 4 of the ES (Document reference: 6.2). The positions of the individual built elements for the Application identified in table 1.1 are identified in the Works Plans (Document reference: 2.3) and Detailed Plans (Document reference: 2.5.1 – 2.9.7). The built elements of the Gas Connection are shown in the application drawings which accompany the planning application.

Table PS1.1: Maximum physical dimensions of built elements in the proposed WEC, with heights measured from 30m AOD

Reference (Figure 4.8 / 4.9)	Name	Number	Height (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Diameter (m)
1	Gas turbine building (part of Work No.	1		60	45	-

Reference (Figure 4.8 / 4.9)	Name	Number	Height (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Diameter (m)
	1A)		25			
2	HRSB (part of Work No. 1A)	1 to 2	35	25	13	-
3	Stack/s (part of Work No. 1A)	1 to 2	50	-	-	6.5
4	Transformer Compounds (part of Work No. 1D)	1 to 2	6	15	10	-
5	Steam turbine building (part of Work No. 1A)	1	21	45	26	-
6	Transformer Compound (part of Work No. 1D)	1	6	15	15	-
7	Switchgear room (part of Work No. 1A)	1	5	15	10	-
8	132 kV switchyard (part of Work No. 1D)	1	10	73	42	-
9	Air cooled condenser (part of Work No. 1A)	1	26	48	48	-
10	Administration/control building (Work No. 1E)	1	10	20	10	-
11	Pressure regulating installation (part of Work No. 1B)	1	5	35	25	-
12	Raw/fire water tank (part of Work No.1C)	1	20	-	-	15
13	Water tank (part of Work No. 1C)	1 to 2	20	-	-	5
14	Water treatment system (part of Work No. 1C)	1	10	20	25	-
15	Workshop (part of Work No. 1B)	1	10	30	20	-
16	Parking (part of Work No. 1G)	Up to 20	-	4.8	2.4	-
17	Heat network interface building (Work No. 1F)	1	15	45	25	-
18	Foul water pumping Station	1		12	8	

Reference (Figure 4.8 / 4.9)	Name	Number	Height (m)	Length (m)	Width (m)	Diameter (m)
			-			

The Power Station Complex

- 1.34 A CCGT Power Station Complex uses an efficient combination of gas and steam turbines to generate electricity. In the gas turbine, air is compressed and passed into a combustion chamber where it is mixed with natural gas fuel to produce hot combustion gases at high pressure. This thermal and pressure energy is converted to mechanical energy by expanding the combustion gas through the gas turbine and air compressor. The gas turbine is connected to a generator that produces electrical power. The hot exhaust gases from the gas turbine are passed to an unfired boiler (usually referred to as a heat recovery steam generator or HRSG) to produce steam. This steam is in turn passed through a steam turbine to drive another generator to produce more electrical power.
- 1.35 The detailed engineering design for the best available capacity and efficiency combinations has yet to be determined. Therefore, consideration has been given to various configurations for the Power Station Complex within the maximum design parameters of the power plant. The Power Station Complex might consist of two gas turbines and up to two HRSGs, one steam turbine, and a generator for each turbine. It could equally comprise a single larger gas turbine, one HRSG, one steam turbine and two separate generators.
- 1.36 Other components essential to the CCGT Power Station Complex include the following.
- **Heat recovery steam generator (HRSG):** as noted, each gas turbine requires a HRSG for the recovery of heat and production of steam from the gas turbine exhaust for further electricity generation.
 - **Stack:** Each HRSG has its own exhaust flue contained within a Stack, of which there would be either one or two, with continuous emissions monitoring (CEM) devices installed.
 - **Cooling system:** a dry air-cooled condenser will be required to condense steam omitted from the steam turbine.
 - **Water treatment plant:** this is required to provide demineralised water and process water.
 - **Switchgear:** this component is essential to export electrical energy produced by the Power Station Complex.

- **Surface water drainage:** all run-off from impermeable areas such as roofs, hardstanding and highway areas at the Power Station Complex Site would be intercepted by trapped gullies, permeable paving or filter drains to the surface water storage / attenuation area via a system of pipework. Surface water will then flow along an open channel or swale to the ponds in the north eastern corner of the Power Station Complex Site prior to discharge into the watercourse along the northern boundary.
- **Foul water drainage:** trade effluent from the plant and domestic foul water flows would be directed via underground pipes to a foul water pumping station, located in the north-west of the Power Station Complex. From here the foul water would be pumped to Welsh Water's local foul water sewerage network along Bryn Lane under separate consents to the DCO, to a Welsh Water combined manhole approximately 130m south of the Power Station Complex Site.
- **Internal site roads and parking:** within the Power Station Complex, service roads are required to allow the movement of staff, maintenance vehicles and emergency vehicles. Up to 20 car parking spaces for operational staff would be provided within the southern part of the Power Station Complex to enable easy access to the facilities.
- **Security fencing:** security fencing of up to 2.5 m in height is proposed along the perimeter of the Power Station Complex.
- **Lighting:** external lighting would comprise street lights for roads within the Power Station Complex Site and lighting of the perimeter fence.

Gas Connection

- 1.37 The Power Station Complex will use gas from National Grid's gas network, the NTS. The proposed connection point is close to the Maelor Gas Works, shown on the Land Plans (Document reference: 2.2), approximately 2.5km south of the Power Station Complex Site. The consideration of the Gas Connection has taken account of the demand of the Power Station Complex and maximum capacity and pressure available from the established network in the area.
- 1.38 The Gas Connection will be made adjacent to a secure AGI, located alongside the Maelor Gas Works. The AGI would comprise a 46m by 47m compound, secured by fencing with a maximum height of 2.5m. The compound would contain an instrument kiosk, a series of pipes and valves with a flow meter, isolation control valves, and a pipeline inspection gauge (PIG) function for cleaning and inspection. From this compound natural gas would be conveyed to the Power Station Complex by means of a pipeline with a nominal bore of 400 mm.

CONSULTATIONS

- 1.39 Stakeholder consultations undertaken by WPL during the design and assessment of the current proposals are described in a Consultation Report (Document reference: 5.1). Following earlier rounds of non-statutory consultation that included a touring public exhibition, statutory consultation and publicity in accordance with Sections 42, 47 and 48 of the 2008 Act took place in July and August 2014.
- 1.40 The Consultation Report describes the feedback from these consultations and explains how the design of the Scheme was refined in response to representations.
- 1.41 Feedback highlighted matters including landscape and visual effects, health, construction, transport and the implications for the wider socio-economic development of the locality.

CONSENTING REQUIREMENTS AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Development Consent Orders

- 1.42 Because the electricity generation capacity of the Power Station Complex will exceed 50MW_e the Scheme is classed as a NSIP, which requires development consent under the 2008 Act. Development consent for an NSIP is granted by means of a Development Consent Order (DCO).
- 1.43 Applications for a DCO are required by primary and secondary legislation including the 2008 Act, the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 ('the APFP Regulations') and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009.
- 1.44 The 2008 Act sets out the legal framework for the application, examination and determination process for an NSIP. Under these provisions, an applicant submits an application for a DCO to PINS, following an integrated process of EIA and design refinement informed by public consultations. PINS appoints an Inspector(s) who acts as the Examining Authority that makes a recommendation to the Secretary of State on whether a DCO should be made or not. The final decision is made by the minister – in this case, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.
- 1.45 Section 104 paragraph (2) of the 2008 Act states:
- 'In deciding the application the Secretary of State must have regard to -*
- a). Any national policy*
- 1.46 The following National Policy Statements (NPS) are relevant in the current context. They were each approved in Parliament in July 2011, and form the primary source of reference for this Planning Statement.
- EN1 – Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy

- EN2 – National Policy Statement for Fossil Fuel Electricity Generating Infrastructure
- EN4 – National Policy Statement for Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines

1.47 The matters that the Secretary of State may consider as both important and relevant to his or her decision might include a variety of national and local policy documents.

Planning permission

- 1.48 The 2008 Act enables developers to potentially include a wide range of consents and powers in a DCO. Section 115 of the Act allows a developer to include ‘Associated Development’ – defined as development associated with the principal development – in a DCO application.
- 1.49 However, in Wales, Associated Development cannot generally be included in a DCO, compelling developers to seek consent by other consenting methods. In the current context, the Gas Connection for the WEC is therefore subject to a separate planning application made under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (‘the 1990 Act’) and submitted to the local planning authority, Wrexham CBC. At the same time, powers of compulsory acquisition over the land (‘Order Land’) required for the Gas Connection are being sought as a part of the DCO.
- 1.50 Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that ‘where in making any determination under the Planning Acts, regard is to be had to the development plan, the determination shall be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise’. In the current context the relevant development plan is the Wrexham UDP 1996-2011, adopted on 14 February 2005. Its replacement, the Wrexham Local Development Plan 2013-2028, is not programmed to be adopted until March 2018.
- 1.51 Material considerations in the determination of the Gas Connection planning application also include the Welsh Government’s Planning Policy Wales (edition 8, January 2016 – ‘PPW’), and relevant PPW Technical Advice Notes (TANs).

Environmental Impact Assessment

- 1.52 The Scheme is the subject of an EIA under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009, which apply in respect of DCO projects requiring EIA, and The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999, applicable to EIA projects determined under the 1990 Act. The findings of the EIA are reported in the ES that accompanies the DCO and planning application for the Gas Connection. This Planning Statement makes extensive reference to the ES and should be read alongside it.

MAIN STAGES OF THE DCO APPLICATION PROCESS

- 1.53 Under the 2008 Act, the DCO application process comprises six main stages.

- **Pre-application** - during which the applicant undertakes extensive statutory consultation, evolves the design of the project, undertakes an EIA and prepares a draft DCO and other application documents.
- **Submission and acceptance of the DCO application** - the applicant will submit the DCO application to PINS, which acts as the Examining Authority on behalf of the Secretary of State. PINS will formally accept the application after a thorough check that the application satisfies various requirements. The application will include the ES for the project.
- **Pre-examination stage** - including a preliminary meeting at which the arrangements for the examination of the DCO application are discussed.
- **Examination of the application** - during which PINS invites structured comment on the application from interested parties and invites the applicant to respond to questions. The examination is likely to include hearings and must be completed within six months.
- **Reporting** - following examination PINS prepares and submits a report of its findings to the Secretary of State within three months of the end of the examination and recommends whether a DCO should be made.
- **Decision** - is issued by the Secretary of State within three months of receipt of PINS's report.

- 1.54 The detailed requirements of this process are set out in the 2008 Act and its subsidiary legislation including the APFP Regulations. The Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 6: *Preparation and submission of application documents* provides guidance on the preparation, organisation and submission of application documents for DCO applications, and has been followed by the Applicant.
- 1.55 WPL's DCO Application is compliant with the requirements of the 2008 Act, the APFP Regulations, the EIA Regulations and relevant guidance provided by the Secretary of State and Planning Inspectorate.
- 1.56 The Order includes 'Requirements', which comprise a number of commitments similar to the planning conditions that would attach to a Town and Country Planning Act 1990 planning application, alongside a set of documents and plans which are to be approved. To assist future discharge and monitoring, it is requested that Wrexham CBC considers imposing planning conditions consistent with relevant draft DCO Requirements in the event that a planning permission for the Gas Connection is forthcoming.
- 1.57 PINS has been provided with a complete list of documents to be provided alongside the Order, as required by the APFP Regulations. For ease of reference, Table 1.2 (below) identifies documents to which the reader of this Planning Statement might like to refer.

Table PS1.2: Select list of documents submitted with the Application for the WEC

Application document title	Document reference number
Application	
Application Form	1.1
Copies of newspaper notices	1.2
Plans and Drawings	
Land Plan	2.2
Works Plans	2.3
Illustrative Layout and Elevational Plans	2.5
Draft Development Consent Order	
Draft Development Consent Order	3.1
Explanatory Memorandum	3.2
Compulsory Acquisition Information	
Statement of Reasons	4.1
Funding Statement	4.2
Book of Reference	4.3
Reports	
Consultation Report	5.1
Design and Access Statement	5.3
Flood Risk Assessment	5.4
Environmental Impact Assessment	
Environmental Statement main statement	6.2
Environmental Statement figures	6.3
Environmental Statement appendices	6.4
Environmental Statement Non-Technical Summary	6.1
Photographs	
Photographs/Photomontages	7.1
Plan Identifying Locations and Directions of Photographs	7.2
Index of Photographs / Photomontages	7.3
Additional Information	
Grid Connection Statement	8.1
Gas Connection Statement	8.2

Application document title	Document reference number
Other document	
Glossary	9.1

STRUCTURE OF THIS PLANNING STATEMENT

1.58 This Planning Statement has been prepared in sections to allow a clear explanation of the energy and planning policy context for the Scheme, and is arranged as follows.

- **Chapter 2: The need for the Scheme** - sets out the urgent national need for new energy generation and makes specific reference to relevant National Policy Statements for energy in relation to the need for the Scheme. An explanation into the role of gas-fired power generation is provided and the potential for heat supply is addressed.
- **Chapter 3: Planning context** - a description of the policy framework that informs the decision making process. The chapter examines how the Scheme aligns with the development plan and the Welsh Government's planning policy and guidance.
- **Chapter 4: Assessment** – examining how the Scheme responds to specific planning and environmental guidance as set out in National Policy Statements and other guidance.
- **Chapter 5: Anticipated Scheme benefits and disbenefits** - comprises an overall assessment of the likely benefits and disbenefits of the Scheme, in accordance with Section 104 of the 2008 Act and the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- **Chapter 6: Conclusions** – presenting overall conclusions over the extent to which the Scheme accords with relevant policy.

Chapter 2 ♦ The need for the Scheme: UK and Welsh energy policy

INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This Chapter identifies the need for new gas-fired electricity generation in the UK, with particular reference to relevant National Policy Statements on energy and other expressions of UK and Welsh government policy.
- 2.2 As noted in Chapter 1 of this Planning Statement, under the 2008 Act, the NPSs form the primary basis for decisions on NSIP applications. Other considerations set out in the 2008 Act, including any matters which the Secretary of State considers are both important and relevant to a decision, must also be taken into account. For the purposes of the Gas Connection the development plan forms the primary basis for decisions insofar as it is relevant to the development and unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS FOR ENERGY

Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy – EN1 (July 2011)

- 2.3 The urgent need for new electricity generation capacity in the UK is identified in the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1). Para. 3.3.1 states that *‘Electricity meets a significant proportion of our overall energy needs and our reliance on it is likely to increase as we move towards our 2050 goals’*. According to para. 3.3.2, *‘The Government needs to ensure sufficient electricity generating capacity is available to meet maximum peak demand, with a safety margin or spare capacity to accommodate unexpectedly high demand and to mitigate risks such as unexpected plant closures and extreme weather events’*.
- 2.4 In respect of the Gas Connection para 1.2.1 confirms that ‘In England and Wales this NPS is likely to be a material consideration in decision making on applications that fall under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).’ EN-1 is thus material to the determination of WPL’s planning application for the Gas Connection.
- 2.5 Para. 3.3.7 of EN-1 explains that ‘...at least 22 GW of existing electricity generating capacity will need to be replaced in the coming years, particularly to 2020. This is as a result of tightening environmental regulation and ageing power stations’. Para. 3.3.9 adds that ‘Any reduction in generation capacity from current levels will need to be replaced in order to ensure security of supply is maintained’.

- 2.6 Para. 3.3.15 of EN-1 highlights the urgency of the need for new electricity capacity: ‘In order to secure energy supplies that enable us to meet our obligations for 2050, there is an urgent need for new (and particularly low carbon) energy NSIPs to be brought forward as soon as possible, and certainly in the next 10 to 15 years, given the crucial role of electricity as the UK decarbonises its energy sector’.
- 2.7 In this context paragraphs 3.1.1 to 3.1.4 state:
- ‘3.1.1 The UK needs all the types of energy infrastructure covered by this NPS in order to achieve energy security at the same time as dramatically reducing greenhouse gas emissions.*
- 3.1.2 It is for industry to propose new energy infrastructure projects within the strategic framework set by Government. The Government does not consider it appropriate for planning policy to set targets for or limits on different technologies.*
- 3.1.3 The [Secretary of State] should therefore assess all applications for development consent for the types of infrastructure covered by the energy NPSs on the basis that the Government has demonstrated that there is a need for those types of infrastructure and that the scale and urgency of that need is as described for each of them in this Part.’*
- 3.1.4 The [Secretary of State] should give substantial weight to the contribution which projects would make towards satisfying this need when considering applications for development consent under the Planning Act 2008*
- 2.8 Section 3.6 of EN-1, entitled ‘The role of fossil fuel electricity generation’, explains the particular role of gas-fired power generation in the UK’s future energy mix. According to EN-1 para. 3.6.1:
- ‘Fossil fuel power stations play a vital role in providing reliable electricity supplies: they can be operated flexibly in response to changes in supply and demand, and provide diversity in our energy mix. They will continue to play an important role in our energy mix as the UK makes the transition to a low carbon economy, and Government policy is that they must be constructed, and operate, in line with increasingly demanding climate change goals’.*
- 2.9 Para 3.6.2 acknowledges that ‘Gas will continue to play an important role in the electricity sector – providing vital flexibility to support an increasing amount of low carbon generation and to maintain security of supply . . .’.
- 2.10 EN-1 acknowledges that natural gas is a fossil fuel, the use of which gives rise to the emission of greenhouse gases – principally carbon dioxide. EN-1 thus requires that all commercial scale combustion power stations at or over 300MW generation capacity are designed to be ‘carbon capture ready’ (CCR). At up to 299MW, the Power Station Complex Site falls below the threshold beyond which carbon capture readiness needs to be demonstrated.

- 2.11 Other aspects of EN-1 of relevance to the Scheme include an acknowledgement of the need to upgrade electrical networks to accommodate the new pattern of electricity generation (Section 3.7). As explained in the Grid Connection Statement (Document reference 8.1), an advantage of the Scheme is that it can connect to the electricity distribution network.
- 2.12 Section 4.6 of EN-1 requires consideration of the potential for combined heat and power (CHP) (see paragraphs 2.46 to 2.61 below).
- 2.13 Part 5 of EN-1 considers the 'generic impacts' of major energy projects and how these should be considered in new development projects. These include the following, each of which is addressed in WPL's Application documents and considered later in this Planning Statement:
- biodiversity and geological conservation;
 - air quality and emissions;
 - civil and military aviation and defence interests;
 - dust, odour, artificial light, smoke and steam;
 - flood risk;
 - historic environment;
 - landscape and visual;
 - land use including open space, green infrastructure and green belt;
 - noise and vibration;
 - socio-economic;
 - traffic and transport;
 - waste management;
 - water quality and resources.
- 2.14 The Scheme would help to fulfil the national need for new gas-fired electricity generation as identified in EN-1.

National Policy Statement for Fossil-Fuel Electricity Generating Infrastructure – EN-2 (July 2011)

- 2.15 EN-2 sets out technology-specific national policy for fossil fuel electricity generation, including CCGT projects. The national need is made clear in the first sentence of the document:

'1.1.1 Fossil fuel generating stations play a vital role in providing reliable electricity supplies and a secure and diverse energy mix as the UK makes the transition to a low carbon economy...'

- 2.16 Para. 1.2.3 of EN-2 states that 'In England and Wales this NPS is likely to be a material consideration in decision making on applications that fall under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)'. EN-2 is thus material to the determination of WPL's planning application for the Gas Connection.
- 2.17 Section 2.2 of EN-2 identifies 'factors influencing site selection by developers' under the headings *land use, transport infrastructure, water resources* and *grid connection*. As demonstrated in Chapters 3 and 4 of the ES that accompanies the Application, the Scheme responds to each of these considerations as follows (paragraph numbers cited below are from EN-2):
- **Land use** – the Kingmoor Park South site is able to accommodate the Scheme (para. 2.2.2), with space allowed for CHP infrastructure (para. 2.2.4).
 - **Transport infrastructure** – as explained in Chapter 7 of the ES, the WEC Site is 'accessible for the delivery and removal of construction materials, fuel, waste and equipment, and for employees' (para. 2.2.5). The WEC Site is also 'in the vicinity of existing transport routes' and by means of Bryn Lane and the Wrexham Industrial Estate Northern Access Road has 'suitable access leading from the main highway network' (para. 2.2.6). Rail and water transport options are not available in the locality.
 - **Water resources** – having regard to the fact that the Power Station Complex is air-cooled, a sufficient supply of water is available for the development (para. 2.2.7 - 9).
 - **Grid connection** – WPL has established that, subject to appropriate upgrades, a viable grid connection exists for the Power Station Complex (para. 2.2.11).
- 2.18 The Scheme conforms with the locational criteria identified in EN-2.
- 2.19 Section 2.3 of EN-2 sets out '*Government policy criteria for fossil fuel generating stations*'. These reiterate the requirement for applicants to present evidence that the possibilities for CHP have been explored (para. 2.3.2), a matter considered in paragraphs 2.44 to 2.57 of this Planning Statement.
- 2.20 With respect to climate change adaptation, the WEC Site is considered to be resilient, being away from coastal zones, outside any flood risk area and not reliant on large scale water abstraction for cooling purposes (para. 2.3.13).
- 2.21 With respect to the guidance on good design for energy infrastructure (paras. 2.3.15 – 16), it should be noted that the Scheme follows 'Rochdale Envelope' principles. The EIA has been based on the maximum physical parameters for a functional Power Station Complex structure. Requirements are included in Schedule 2 of the Order to ensure the submission of final design details to the relevant planning authority for approval, including building dimensions, materials and colours.

- 2.22 The extent to which the Scheme follows policy on air emissions, landscape and visual, noise and vibration and water quality and resources, as set out in Sections 2.4-2.10 of EN-2, is considered under the respective topic headings later in the Planning Statement. Section 2.6 of EN-2 recognises that it is not possible to eliminate the visual impacts associated with a fossil fuel generating station. With respect to the policy provisions of EN-2 reviewed in this Chapter, it is concluded that the Scheme is compliant.

National Policy Statement for Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines – EN-4 (July 2011)

- 2.23 Para. 1.1.1 of EN-4 explains the national need for gas supply infrastructure in the following terms:

'The efficient import, storage and transmission of natural gas and oil products is crucial to meeting our energy needs during the transition to a low carbon economy. We cannot achieve national objectives relating to security of supply without enabling investment in new infrastructure'.

- 2.24 Para. 1.2.3 of EN-4 states that 'In England and Wales this NPS is likely to be a material consideration in decision making on relevant applications that fall under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)'. EN-4 is thus material to the determination of WPL's planning application for the Gas Connection.
- 2.25 Part 2 of EN-4 provides guidance on assessment and technology-specific guidance. In respect of the advice on climate change adaption in Section 2.2, the Gas Connection would not be vulnerable to increased flood risk, rising sea levels or risk of storm surge, or to earth movements or subsidence associated with an increased risk of flooding or drought.
- 2.26 Section 2.3 of EN-4 requires applicants to demonstrate good design. '*. . . in particular where mitigating the impacts relevant to the infrastructure*'. WPL's response to this policy is described in the Design and Access Statement for the Scheme (Document reference: 5.3).
- 2.27 Section 2.19 of EN-4 addresses gas and oil pipelines specifically. Chapter 4 of WPL's Design and Access Statement (Document reference: 5.3) explains how pipeline routing and design responds to the guidance on site selection in paras. 2.19.7 – 2.19.10 of this Section. In summary, the location of the AGI and Gas Connection Route respond to physical and land use constraints, with the Gas Pipeline being underground.
- 2.28 The extent to which the Scheme follow advice on noise and vibration, biodiversity, landscape and visual considerations, water quality and resources, and soil and geology, as set out in Sections 2.20 - 2.23 of EN-4, is considered under the respective topic headings later in this Planning Statement.

OTHER UK POLICY

Gas Generation Strategy – DECC, December 2012

- 2.29 The Gas Generation Strategy ('the Strategy') explains the role of gas generation in the UK. According to the foreword by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (page 4):
- 2.30 'The UK faces a threefold energy challenge: how to keep the lights on, at affordable prices, while moving towards a sustainable low-carbon future. I firmly believe the best way to meet these goals is with a competitive, diverse, low-carbon energy mix. A mix where gas continues to play a vital role.
- 2.31 As we put the UK on course to meet our ambitious emissions reduction targets, existing and ageing power plants will close, large amounts of it through the next decade. Gas – as a flexible source of generation, which emits half the CO₂ of coal – will be needed to help balance the relatively inflexible and intermittent low-carbon generation our policies will bring forward. It will provide crucial capacity to keep the lights on and the economy working.
- 2.32 New gas plants, which are relatively cheap and quick to build, will be needed to support the system during this period, providing significant power while greater amounts of renewables technologies are deployed. Gas will also continue to play a significant role in heat, where, as we set out in The Future of Heating, we expect gas to remain the dominant fuel in 2030'.
- 2.33 Having first outlined the current role of gas generation in Chapter 1, Chapter 2 of the Strategy sets out its future role. The Chapter is summarised on p. 14 of the Strategy as follows.

'Government expects that gas will continue to play a major role in our electricity mix over the coming decades, alongside low-carbon technologies as we decarbonise our electricity system. There are several scenarios that may ensue depending on a range of factors, such as fossil fuel prices, carbon prices, demand and the deployment rates and levels of low marginal cost, low-carbon generation.

Including capacity commissioned this year (or expected to be commissioned shortly), we could see a need for investment in up to 26 GW of new gas capacity by 2030.

Our analysis indicates that in the 2020s, some CCGTs (those with the highest efficiencies, i.e. those which are newest or the most recent to have undergone significant maintenance) could achieve load factors over 85%.

By 2030, average load factors across the fleet are likely to be lower than they have been historically.

Gas could play a more extensive role, with higher load factors, should the 4th Carbon Budget be revised upwards. Including capacity commissioned this year (or expected to be commissioned shortly), this could lead to a need for investment in up to 37 GW of new gas capacity by 2030.

There will be an important role for gas in 2030 and beyond, with the ability for gas to provide significant amounts of low-carbon electricity with CCS'.

- 2.34 The Strategy thus foresees an important future role for gas generation as a reliable stepping-stone on the route to a low carbon economy. In these terms, gas-fired power stations have a valuable role to play in the management of electricity supply from intermittent renewable sources such as wind and solar energy. According to para. 4.32 of the Gas Generation Strategy:

'While National Grid Gas (NGG) forecast declining annual and (to a lesser extent) peak gas demand, they expect volatility of gas use to increase in coming years, particularly volatility of demand from the power sector driven by increased intermittency, as CCGTs will have an increased balancing role'.

- 2.35 Power stations of the size proposed by WPL are well suited to this balancing role, whilst helping more generally to meet the national need for new, secure, energy supplies.

National Infrastructure Plan – HM Treasury, December 2014

- 2.36 This document monitors the UK government's progress on delivery and sets out its long-term plans for national infrastructure. Chapter 8 considers energy infrastructure. Under the heading 'Needs', para. 8.3 affirms that *'Large-scale investment in gas and low-carbon electricity generation is vital in order to replace ageing energy infrastructure, maintain secure energy supplies and meet legally-binding environmental targets. Around £100 billion of investment is estimated to be required in electricity generation and networks by 2020'.* According to para. 8.5 . . . *'New gas plant is also needed as a vital backup for less flexible renewable generation and to ensure that the system can meet peak electricity demand. Demand for gas to supply heat to homes and businesses will also remain significant for some time to come'.*

- 2.37 Under the heading 'Delivery Plan', para. 8.28 states that:

'To support delivery of its objectives for the energy sector, the government has included the following within its Top 40 priority infrastructure investments . . .

electricity generation – gas . . . '.

- 2.38 It is concluded that the Scheme accords with the National Infrastructure Plan.

Amber Rudd's speech on a new direction for UK energy policy, November 2015

- 2.39 In November 2015 the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Amber Rudd, outlined the future direction of the UK Government's energy policy. The speech highlighted the need for new gas-fired power stations in the next ten years, noting that *'gas is central to our energy secure future'.* The Scheme responds directly to the need for new gas-fired power stations as identified by the Secretary of State.

Department of Energy and Climate Change: Single Department Plan 2015 to 2020

- 2.40 The department plan describes the priority objectives of the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) from 2015 to 2020. The overall vision identified in the plan is to secure affordable clean energy supplies and deliver energy infrastructure fit for the 21st Century.
- 2.41 A number of objectives are identified in the plan including the new for the right investment incentives for new gas plants to be built in the UK. The plan highlights the commitment of the UK Government to gas infrastructure in the UK and to ‘*deliver the energy infrastructure we need*’. The Scheme would contribute directly to fulfilling the objectives of the plan relating to the provision of new gas-fired power stations.

WELSH ENERGY POLICY

Energy Wales: A Low Carbon Transition (March 2012)

- 2.42 Whilst energy policy is not a matter formally devolved to Wales, this document published by the Welsh Government explains its overall aims and ambitions in respect of energy and related social, environmental and economic issues. On page 7 of the document, it is stated that:

‘Those countries that are at the vanguard of the transition to a low carbon economy will be in a position to exploit significant wealth generation opportunities globally as well as internally. We therefore want to ensure that Wales is in the best possible position to not only create new jobs and supply chain opportunities, but to take advantage of the potential to export energy, expertise, goods and services to other nations seeking to make the transition to a low carbon economy.’

- 2.43 On page 10 of the document it is stated that:

‘Gas will be a key transitional fuel because greenhouse gas emissions from gas are significantly less than coal subject to the method of extraction. Gas is a flexible, responsive and reliable source of energy which can play a key role in the transition to a genuinely low carbon energy system’.

- 2.44 WPL considers that the Scheme accords with the objectives of *Energy Wales: A Low Carbon Transition*. As noted previously, the Scheme would create benefit in terms of jobs and supply chain opportunities, whilst adding generating capacity from a source that is acknowledged to be appropriate.

2.45

COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (CHP)

- 2.46 As mentioned above, Section 4.6 of EN-1 requires consideration of the potential for combined heat and power (CHP). According to paragraph 4.6.1:

'Combined Heat and Power (CHP) is the generation of usable heat and electricity in a single process. A CHP station may either supply steam direct to customers or capture waste heat for low-pressure steam, hot water or space heating purposes after it has been used to drive electricity generating turbines. The heat can also be used to drive absorption chillers, thereby providing cooling'.

- 2.47 Paragraph 4.6.6 explains that, under guidelines issued by the UK government in 2006 ¹, proposals to develop a thermal generating station under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 must either include CHP or contain evidence that the possibilities for CHP have been fully explored to inform the Secretary of State's consideration of the application. This should be through an audit trail of dialogue between the applicant and prospective customers. Paragraph 4.6.6 confirms that:

'...The same principle applies to any thermal power station which is the subject of an application for development consent under the Planning Act 2008. The [Secretary of State] should have regard to DECC's guidance, or any successor to it, when considering the CHP aspects of applications for thermal generating stations'.

- 2.48 Paragraphs 4.6.5, 4.6.7 and 4.6.8 set out some practical considerations with respect to CHP:

'4.6.5 To be economically viable as a CHP plant, a generating station needs to be located close to industrial or domestic customers with heat demands. The distance will vary according to the size of the generating station and the nature of the heat demand. For industrial purposes, customers are likely to be intensive heat users such as chemical plants, refineries or paper mills. CHP can also be used to provide lower grade heat for light industrial users such as commercial greenhouses, or more commonly for hot water and space heating, including supply through district heating networks...'

'4.6.7 In developing proposals for new thermal generating stations, developers should consider the opportunities for CHP from the very earliest point and it should be adopted as a criterion when considering locations for a project. Given how important liaison with potential customers for heat is, applicants should not only consult those potential customers they have identified themselves but also bodies such as the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and Local Authorities and obtain their advice on opportunities for CHP. Further advice is contained in the 2006 DECC guidelines and applicants should also consider relevant information in regional and local energy and heat demand mapping.'

'4.6.8 If the proposal is for thermal generation without CHP, the applicant should... detail the provisions in the proposed scheme for ensuring any potential heat demand in the future can be exploited.'

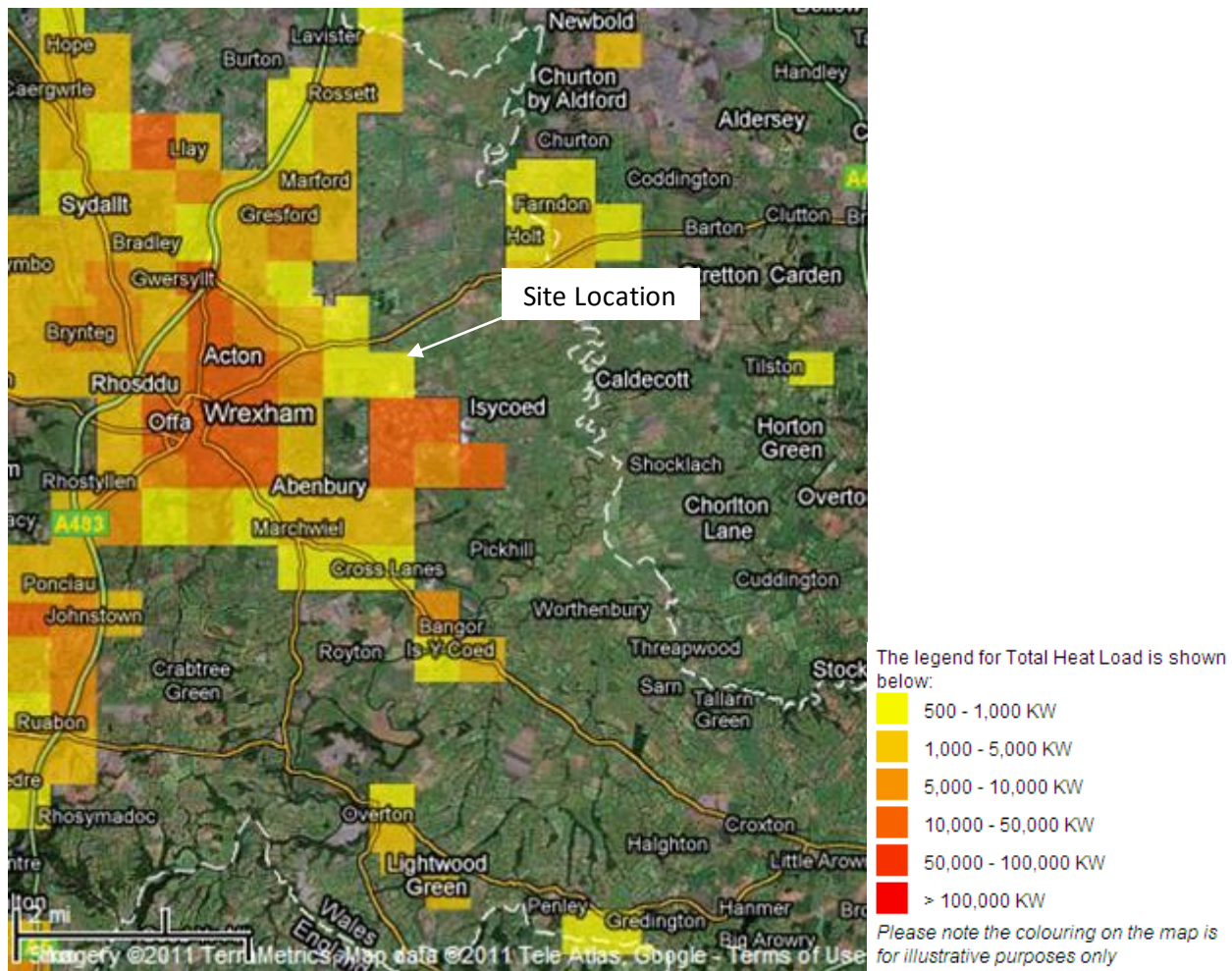
- 2.49 Paragraph 2.3.2 of EN-2 states that:

¹ Guidance on background information to accompany notifications under Section 14(1) of the Energy Act 1976 and applications under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 ("the 2006 Guidance").

'Given the importance which Government attaches to CHP, for the reasons set out in EN-1, if an application does not demonstrate that CHP has been considered the [Secretary of State] should seek further information from the applicant. The [Secretary of State] should not give development consent unless it is satisfied that the applicant has provided appropriate evidence that CHP is included or that the opportunities for CHP have been fully explored. For non-CHP stations, where there is reason to believe that opportunities to supply heat through CHP may arise in the future the [Secretary of State] may also require that developers ensure that their stations are 'CHP ready' and are configured in order to allow heat supply at a later date, as described in paragraph 4.6.8 of EN-1 and the guidance on CHP issued by BIS in 2006'.

- 2.50 Paragraph 11 of the 2006 Guidance requires the applicant to provide evidence to show the steps that they had taken to assess the viability of CHP opportunities in the vicinity of their proposed power plant. This includes:
- (i) an explanation of their choice of location, including the potential viability of the site for CHP;
 - (ii) information on the exploration carried out to identify and consider the economic feasibility of local heat opportunities and how to maximise the benefits from CHP; and
 - (iii) the results of that exploration.
- 2.51 Paragraph 12 of the 2006 Guidance states that if the proposal is for generation without CHP, the application must include a description of potential future heat requirements in the area and the provisions in the proposed scheme for exploiting any potential heat demand in the future. Paragraph 16 of the 2006 Guidance requires the applicant to consult the result of the UK heat mapping exercise to identify opportunities across the UK.
- 2.52 In accordance with EN-1, EN-2 and the 2006 Guidance, WPL has fully explored the opportunities for CHP as part of the Scheme.
- 2.53 The potential viability of a site for CHP was adopted as a criterion when considering locations for the Scheme. As explained in chapter three of the ES (Document reference 6.2), the potential to supply heat and power to industrial occupiers on the WIE was identified as a benefit of the proposed Power Station Complex Site at an early stage.
- 2.54 The UK CHP Development Map for Wrexham identifies WIE as having a sizeable heat load of typically 5 – 10 MW_{th} per km² (see Figure PS2.1 below).

Figure PS2.1 – UK CHP Development Map for the Wrexham area



- 2.55 In order to identify and consider the economic feasibility of local heat supply opportunities, an energy survey was sent to occupiers of the WIE in September 2012. WPL liaised with Wrexham County Borough Council in order to determine the appropriate organisations to send the energy survey to and WCBC provided assistance in obtaining the information requested. A copy of the energy survey is contained in Appendix 33 of the Consultation Report (document reference 5.1). 332 occupiers of the WIE were asked to provide details of their electricity and gas consumption for heating and cooling. WPL then held follow-up meetings with the highest energy users on the WIE to explore the opportunities for CHP.
- 2.56 Discussions have taken place on a strictly confidential basis and WPL cannot therefore disclose the details of the organisations contacted or the nature of the responses. However, WPL can confirm that 32 responses were received to the energy survey and these responses and the follow-up meetings indicated that there is a potential interest in CHP. The economic viability of any CHP at the Power Station Complex Site is dependent upon the actual heat demand from WIE occupiers, the network design and the tariff structures for heat. These details cannot be confirmed at this stage and therefore the Scheme does not include CHP.

- 2.57 However, as a result of the energy surveys and follow up meetings, WPL considers that opportunities to supply heat through CHP may arise in the future. In accordance with EN-1, EN-2 and the 2006 Guidance, WPL has therefore ensured that the Power Station Complex is 'CHP ready'.
- 2.58 The Power Station Complex Site includes sufficient space for future CHP. The Works Plan (Document reference 2.3) includes a Heat Network Interface Building (Works Plan element 1F) from which heat would be transferred and distributed in the event that a heat network is developed.
- 2.59 Requirement 16 of the draft Order includes provisions to ensure that CHP is delivered if viable to do so in the future. The draft Requirement states that:
- (i) Prior to the date of final commissioning, a review of potential opportunities for the use of heat from the authorised development must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority.
 - (ii) The review must provide for the on-going monitoring and full exploration of potential opportunities to use heat from the authorised development and for the provision of subsequent reviews of such opportunities as necessary.
 - (iii) Where viable opportunities for the use of heat are identified, a scheme for the provision of the necessary plant and pipework to the boundary of Work No. 1 must be submitted to and approved by the relevant planning authority; any plant and pipework installed up to the boundary of Work No.1 to enable the use of heat must be installed in accordance with the agreed details.
- 2.60 Similar requirements have been included in DCOs for other power generation projects, for example the North Killingholme (Generating Station) Order 2014.
- 2.61 If the Order is granted, WPL will continue to explore opportunities for CHP and be legally obliged to deliver CHP where it is viable to do so.

CONCLUSION

- 2.62 It is concluded that the Scheme accords with UK and Welsh energy and infrastructure policy and the Strategy for gas generation specifically. National policy for energy and infrastructure identifies a clear and important role for gas generation in the attainment of national energy objectives. Proposals such as the Scheme will help to replace aged power generation infrastructure, enhance national security of electricity supply and assist in the transition to a low carbon economy.
- 2.63 The Scheme would be able to operate flexibly in response to varying electrical demands, and will be able to compensate for intermittent supply from other electricity sources including renewables. The Scheme will also be able to provide additional grid support services including voltage and frequency maintenance.

- 2.64 Having demonstrated compliance with national energy policy objectives, the next section of this Planning Statement considers the Scheme in the light of national and local planning policy.

Chapter 3 ♦ Planning policy

INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 Land use planning policies for Wales are set out in the Welsh Government's document *Planning Policy Wales* (PPW), the latest version of which is Edition 8 (January 2016), and in a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs).
- 3.2 PPW does not contain specific policies for nationally significant infrastructure projects: the framework for this is set out in the National Policy Statements, considered throughout this document. However, PPW and the TANs may be considered to be both important and relevant in the determination of WPL's DCO application and a material consideration in respect of the planning application for the Gas Connection. As noted earlier in this Planning Statement, section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that '*where in making any determination under the Planning Acts, regard is to be had to the development plan, the determination shall be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise*'.
- 3.3 This Chapter considers the Scheme in the context of national planning policy and the development plan.

PLANNING POLICY WALES

- 3.4 The overarching aim of PPW is set out in paragraph 1.1.1 and is centred on a 'commitment to sustainable development into the planning system so that it can play an appropriate role in moving towards sustainability'. Particular objectives in doing so are set out in section 4.4 (paragraph 4.4.3) of PPW, which promotes planning policies, decisions and proposals that:

'promote resource-efficient and climate change resilient settlement patterns that minimise land-take' (PPW para 4.4.3, first bullet-point);

play an appropriate role in securing the provision of infrastructure to form the physical basis for sustainable communities... (including energy supplies and distribution networks) (PPW para 4.4.3 third bullet-point);

encourage the efficient use of non-renewable resources (PPW para 4.4.3 fourth bullet point);

promote a low carbon economy (PPW para 4.4.3, seventh bullet-point);

contribute to the protection and improvement of the environment (PPW para 4.4.3, ninth bullet-point);

promote quality, lasting, environmentally-sound and flexible employment opportunities (PPW para 4.4.3 thirteenth bullet-point).

- 3.5 Other principal matters in PPW of relevance to the Scheme include the following:
- 3.6 **Conserving and improving natural heritage.** Paragraph 5.1.3 of PPW states that ‘A key role of the planning system is to ensure that society’s land requirements are met in ways which do not impose unnecessary constraints on development whilst ensuring that all reasonable steps are taken to safeguard or enhance the environment’, citing the re-use of previously developed land as one means of achieving this. The overall conclusion of the ES for the Scheme is that it is acceptable in environmental terms, with few significant adverse environmental effects that cannot be mitigated. As such it is considered that the PPW objectives in this regard are met.
- 3.7 **Conserving the Historic Environment.** Paragraph 6.1.1 of PPW sets out the Welsh Government’s objectives for historic environment, stating that a key objective is to ‘*preserve or enhance the historic environment, recognising its contribution to economic vitality and culture, civic pride and the quality of life, and its importance as a resource for future generations*’. The ES predicts that there would be no significant effects on the historic environment as a result of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme, and thus it is considered that PPW objectives in relation to the historic environment are met.
- 3.8 **Economic development.** Paragraph 7.1.3 of PPW that the planning system ‘should support economic and employment growth alongside social and environmental considerations within the context of sustainable development.’ Paragraph 7.2.2 continues by stating that: ‘Local planning authorities are required to ensure that the economic benefits associated with a proposed development are understood and that these are given equal consideration with social and environmental issues in the decision-making process, and should recognise that there will be occasions when the economic benefits will outweigh social and environmental considerations’. The socio-economic effects of the Scheme are assessed in Chapter 6 of the ES, from which it is shown that significant benefits would arise, particularly in terms of the creation of employment, the value of construction, and the contribution to local and national energy security and energy production. It is therefore considered that the PPW objectives in relation to economic development are met.
- 3.9 **Transport.** Paragraph 8.1.1 of PPW describes the Welsh Government’s objectives in relation to sustainable transport, stating that it aims to ‘*extend choice in transport and secure accessibility in a way which supports sustainable development and helps to tackle the causes of climate change by: encouraging a more effective and efficient transport system, with greater use of the more sustainable and healthy forms of travel, and minimising the need to travel*’. Chapter 7 of the ES assesses the transport and access effects of the Scheme and concludes there would be no significant long term operational traffic effects, with measures being implemented to reduce the need to travel. In light of this it is considered that PPW objectives in relation to transport are fulfilled.

- 3.10 **Infrastructure.** Chapter 12 of PPW sets out considerations for the provision of infrastructure and services in Wales, with Paragraph 12.1.1 stating that *‘Adequate and efficient infrastructure, including services such as education and health facilities along with water supply, sewers, waste management, electricity and gas (the utilities) and telecommunications, is crucial for the economic, social and environmental sustainability of all parts of Wales. It underpins economic competitiveness and opportunities for households and businesses to achieve more socially and environmentally desirable ways of living and working’*. By replacing aged power generation infrastructure, enhancing national security of electricity supply and assisting the transition to a low carbon economy, the Scheme will make a positive contribution to these objectives.
- 3.11 **Environmental risks and pollution.** Paragraph 13.1.2 states that the Welsh Government’s objectives in relation to environmental risks and pollution are, first, to *‘maximise environmental protection for people, natural and cultural resources, property and infrastructure’*, and second, to *‘prevent or manage pollution and promote good environmental practice.’* As set out in Chapters 8, 13, and 14 of the ES (concerning air quality, ground conditions and the water environment respectively), the effects of the Scheme are concluded to be acceptable in environmental terms given the limited and localised likely significant effects associated with the Scheme, as reported in the ES (Document Reference: 6.2). On this basis it is considered that PPW objectives are met.
- 3.12 Overall it is concluded that the Scheme is consistent with the objectives for sustainable development in Wales, as specified by the Welsh Government in PPW. Where relevant, provisions in PPW are considered further in thematic chapters of the ES.

TECHNICAL ADVICE NOTES

- 3.13 The Technical Advice Notes (TANS) produced by the Welsh Government provide further guidance on specific environmental topics, and are material considerations in the determination of planning applications. The following TANS are considered relevant to the consideration of the Scheme:

Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning (2009)

- 3.14 TAN5 provides advice on how the land use planning system should contribute to protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geological conservation, including the consideration of development affecting protected internationally and nationally designated sites and habitats. The Application is accompanied by a ‘No Significant Effects Report’ (NSER - Document reference: 5.9), which has considered potential effects on identified European sites. The report concludes that the Scheme would not result in any significant effects. In addition, Chapter 11 of the ES (Document reference: 6.2.11) provides an assessment of any effects that the Scheme would have on statutory and non-statutory nature conservation sites and features and the habitats of protected species, important features and other diversity features. The ES concludes that the Scheme would not result in any significant adverse effects on ecology. On this basis it is considered that the Scheme accords with the guidance contained in TAN 5.

Technical Advice Note 6: Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities (2010)

- 3.15 TAN 6 provides guidance on how the planning system can support sustainable rural communities, including supporting the diversification of the rural economy whilst considering the quality of agricultural land and other agricultural factors and seek to minimise any adverse effects on the environment.
- 3.16 Chapter 6 of the ES has assessed the socio-economic effects of the Scheme including effects on community infrastructure, employment and the economy. The assessment concludes that the Scheme would result in significant net socio-economic benefits. In addition, Chapter 16 of the ES has assessed the effects of the Scheme on agricultural land. The conclusions of this assessment are that the Scheme, in isolation and cumulatively, would not result in any likely significant effects. On this basis the Scheme would comply with TAN 6.

Technical Advice Note 11: Noise (1997)

- 3.17 The note advises on how the planning system should minimise the impact of noise without placing unreasonable restrictions on development proposals.
- 3.18 Chapter 9 of the ES (Document reference: 6.2.9) has assessed the noise effects of the Scheme during its construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The ES demonstrates that the Scheme would not result in any significant noise effects. It is considered that the Scheme complies with TAN 11.

Technical Advice Note 12: Design (2014)

- 3.19 TAN12 provides advice on the promotion of sustainability through good design in development, and achieving good design solutions to deliver environmental sustainability, economic development and social inclusion. This includes ensuring that the design of a new development will work with the site and its landscape context.
- 3.20 The Design and Access Statement (Document reference: 5.3) and Chapter 3 of the ES (Document reference: 6.2) explain the design evolution of the Scheme in the round, and explains how the design has been influenced by identified environmental constraints present in the Scheme locality. These include an aspiration to minimise the visual effects of the Power Station Complex by exploiting existing screen vegetation and the natural landform. Other measures to encourage good design have included:
- 3.21 locating Power Station Complex buildings as close together as possible to reduce the footprint of the development;
- maximising the distance between the proposed power station structures and residential neighbourhoods to the east of the scheme, to reduce visual impact and disruption during construction and operation;

- accounting for potential noise impacts on sensitive receptors, including by siting the power station complex as far as possible from residential receptors.

3.22 The landscape strategy for the Power Station Complex Site includes provision for reinforced screening planting to minimise potential landscape and visual effects as identified in the illustrative landscape and ecological mitigation master plan (Document reference 2.9). The Gas Connection follows a route that seeks to avoid specimen trees and water features and minimise hedgerow loss. Following construction, the land above the underground Gas Pipeline would be comprehensively restored. On this basis the Scheme is considered to be in accordance with TAN 12.

Technical Advice Note 15: Development and Flood Risk (2004)

- 3.23 The note provides technical guidance in relation to development and flooding.
- 3.24 The Application is accompanied by a Level 2 Flood Consequence Assessment (Document Reference: 5.4). The FRA concludes there would be no significant risks of flooding arising from the Scheme. The Scheme therefore accords with the requirements of TAN 15.

Technical Advice Note 18: Transport (2007)

- 3.25 The note promotes sustainable development and provides advice on how transport impacts should be assessed and where necessary mitigated in development proposals.
- 3.26 Chapter 7 of the ES has assessed the transport and traffic effects arising from the Scheme. The overall conclusions of the assessment are that the Scheme would result in no significant adverse effects. It is therefore considered that the Scheme fulfils the requirements of TAN 18.

Technical Advice Note 20: Planning and the Welsh Language (2013)

- 3.27 The purpose of TAN 20 is to provide guidance on how the planning system considers the implications of the Welsh language when Local Development Plans are prepared, including the important roles of the Single Integrated Plan and LDP Sustainability Appraisal. The guidance advises how planning policies should ensure that there is a sufficient level and range of economic opportunities, including sites and premises, to support and develop local communities that could also benefit the Welsh language.
- 3.28 Chapter 6 of the ES has assessed the socio-economic effects of the Scheme including effects on community infrastructure. Paragraph 6.49 of the ES assessment states that the study area for the socio-economic assessment has a higher proportion of its workforce with no Welsh language skills (83.5%) compared with the average for Wales (73.3%). ES para. 6.49 notes that the proportion of the study area that can speak Welsh is lower than the Wrexham average (10.1% compared to 12.9%). On this basis it is anticipated that the Scheme would have very little impact on the status of Welsh language in the local community and economy.

- 3.29 The Scheme is located in and adjacent to the WIE, which is a large industrial estate close to the major urban settlement of Wrexham. The Scheme would assist in generating additional economic opportunities that would support existing local communities and potentially thus reduce the need for out-migration in pursuit of economic opportunity. The conclusions of the ES assessment are that the Scheme would result in significant net socio-economic benefits. On this basis it is not considered that the Scheme would result in any significant adverse effects on the Welsh language and as such would comply with TAN 20.

Technical Advice Note 21: Waste (2014)

- 3.30 TAN 21 provides advice on how the land use planning system should contribute towards sustainable waste management and resource efficiency, reflecting the new waste management drivers at a European Union and Wales level.
- 3.31 ES Chapter 15 (Document reference: 6.2) incorporates an assessment of the proposed waste management arrangements for the Scheme and its effects on the environment. The overall conclusion of the assessment is that all waste effects would be insignificant and would therefore be no material effects caused by the Scheme in relation to waste. All waste generated by the Scheme would be dealt with in a sustainable and resource efficient way, as explained in ES Chapter 15. Therefore, the Scheme is considered to comply with the guidance contained in TAN 21.

Technical Advice Note 23: Economic Development (2014)

- 3.32 TAN 23 provides advice on the national planning policy relating to economic development as set out in PPW.
- 3.33 Chapter 6 of the ES assesses the socio-economic effects of the Scheme, including effects on the economy. The assessment concludes that the Scheme would result in significant net socio-economic benefits. On this basis the Scheme would comply with TAN 23.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICY

Wrexham Unitary Development Plan 1996-2011

- 3.34 The current Development Plan for the whole of the WEC Site is the Wrexham Unitary Development Plan (UDP). This was adopted by Wrexham County Borough Council in February 2005 and will remain the statutory development plan for the area until replaced by a new Wrexham Local Development Plan 2 (2013 to 2028), currently under preparation by the Council.
- 3.35 Part 1 of the UDP, entitled *Strategic Policies*, identifies objectives relevant to the whole plan area, with the first four policies (relating to the broad location of development each being relevant to the Scheme:

- 3.36 **Policy PS1** directs new development for housing, employment and community services to within defined settlement limits and employment areas;
- 3.37 **Policy PS2** aims to ensure that new development does not detrimentally affect the countryside, landscape/townscape character, or the quality of the natural environment;
- 3.38 **Policy PS3** sets out the Council's preference for new development to be on previously developed brownfield land comprising vacant, derelict or underused land, stating that where greenfield sites are to be developed, sites of ecological, landscape or amenity value, or comprises agricultural land of grades 1, 2 or 3a quality should be avoided;
- 3.39 **Policy PS4** states that development should maintain the existing settlement pattern and character and be integrated with the existing transport network to help reduce the overall need to travel and encourage the use of alternatives to the car.
- 3.40 By siting a power station on allocated and partly brownfield development land on the Wrexham Industrial Estate, close to the main A5156 / A534 link road between WIE and the strategic highway network (A483 and A5) these strategic policy objectives are fulfilled in the Scheme. These conclusions are supported by the planning history of the Site, particularly the approval on appeal of 47,534 square metres of warehouse and distribution (B2/B8) including 2,144 square metres of B1 office space in a single building on the Power Station Complex Site (reference APP/H6955/A/09/2113258, May 2010). The appeal decision recognised the site as the only location on the WIE available for large scale development of the type then proposed.
- 3.41 All development associated with the Scheme on greenfield land has been assessed in the ES (Document reference 6.2). As noted in earlier chapters, the Gas Connection follows a route largely across open land and seeks where possible to features of landscape or ecological value, such as tree groups, specimen trees and water features.
- 3.42 Chapter 7 of the UDP, *Employment*, describes the principal challenges faced by the local economy, including competition from other parts of the UK and overseas, substantial out-commuting, low economic activity rates and high unemployment, and an over-reliance on manufacturing. As part of the of measures to address this, Policy E1 of the UDP allocates a total of 114 hectares of employment land, of which 65.4 hectares are at Wrexham Industrial Estate, reflecting its scale and significance to the local and regional economy. In addition, policy E3 of the UDP makes a further land allocation on the north east of the Wrexham Industrial Estate, which comprises part of the Power Station Complex Site. This is identified in Figure PS1.
- 3.43 Policy E3 states:
- 'Land is allocated at Owens Corning Fibreglass, Wrexham Industrial Estate for a major single user employment project that requires a site of over 30 hectares for an employment development that cannot be accommodated on allocated employment land or employment land with planning permission. Any development proposed will need to incorporate extensive high quality landscaping in order to mitigate the visual impact of the development on the appearance of the neighbouring countryside and local landscape'.*

- 3.44 Planning permission was granted on appeal in May 2010 for the development of 47,534 square metres of warehouse and distribution (B8) development including 2,144 square metres offices (B1) in a single building (planning application reference P/2008/0993, appeal reference APP/H6955/A/09/2113258). Figure PS2 illustrates the approved Kingmoor Park South development layout on the WEC site.

Figure PS1: Excerpt from UDP Map 2 (Inset 3, Wrexham Industrial Estate), with the proposed Power Station Complex overlain.



Figure PS2: The approved B2/B8 development layout on the Kingmoor Park South site on Wrexham Industrial Estate, with the proposed Power Station Complex overlain. The permission has not been implemented.



3.45 The objectives of UDP Policy E3 are met by WPL's proposals in the following respects:

- whilst the area encompassed by Policy E3 (the Large Single User Employment Site) is the subject of a planning permission for commercial/industrial uses (planning application reference P/2008/0993), this was in outline only, and a specific user of the site has not come forward pursuant to that planning permission. Consequently the Scheme is the first proposal in over ten years that would implement an employment-generating use on the site;
- a power station necessarily requires a large site and benefits from an industrial context, and hence the land allocated by policy E3 is an ideal location to bring forward a project of this kind;
- an extensive landscape and planting scheme is incorporated in the Scheme to mitigate adverse landscape, ecological and visual effects.

- 3.46 Overall, whilst the land-take of the Power Station Complex Site is below the 30 hectare size envisaged under policy E3, the Scheme is consistent with the underlying objectives of this policy. Furthermore, up to 9 ha of land would remain available once the power station is built for other employment uses, subject to obtaining a planning permission.
- 3.47 Other Plan policies to which the Scheme has had regard include the following.
- (i) *Policy GDP1: Development objectives.* This sets out eleven criteria relevant to all new development, including design, access, layout, safety, environmental impacts and public infrastructure. The Scheme has responded to these criteria through good design (described in the accompanying Design and Access Statement, Document reference: 5.3) and by means of an appropriate response to environmental considerations, informed by the EIA process and reported in the Environmental Statement (Document reference: 6.2).
 - (ii) *Policy EC2: Agricultural Land.* This policy seeks to safeguard high quality agricultural land within the County (i.e. grades 1, 2 and 3a). Land within the WEC is not of high agricultural land quality. All effects on agricultural land associated with the Gas Connection Route would be temporary with the land returned to agricultural use once the construction works have been completed. No significant effects were identified in relation to agricultural land.
 - (iii) *Policy EC4: Hedgerows, trees and woodland.* This policy promotes the conservation and management of hedgerows, trees, orchards, woodland, wildlife and other natural landscape and water features. The Scheme has responded to these criteria through the selection of a part brownfield site and through its provision of an illustrative landscape masterplan (Document reference: 2.9.1 – 2.9.7). The proposed Gas Connection follows a route that seeks to avoid specimen trees and minimise hedgerow loss. Following construction, the land above the underground gas connection would be restored. The predicted effects of the Scheme on ecology are reported in the Environmental Statement (Document reference: 6.2).
 - (iv) *Policy EC5: Special Landscape Areas* requires that, within Special Landscape Areas, priority will be given to the conservation and enhancement of the landscape. Part of the underground section of the Gas Connection Route would pass through a Special Landscape Area. The landscape and visual effects associated with this part of the Scheme are considered in Chapter 10 of the ES.
 - (v) *Policy PS10: Waste* promotes waste management approaches that minimise the volume of waste generated. This matter is considered in Chapter 15 of the ES: Waste, which demonstrates that the Scheme would not give rise to any likely significance adverse effects in respect of waste.
 - (vi) *Policy PS11: Biodiversity.* The policy encourages proposals that will improve the biodiversity value of sites. The Scheme incorporates a number of inherent mitigation measures explained in chapter 11 of the, ES which seek to enhance the landscape character and habitat diversity of the Power Station Complex Site. Along the Gas

Connection Route new native hedge, tree and woodland planting would replace any existing vegetation lost as a result of construction.

Wrexham Local Development Plan 2 2013 to 2028

- 3.48 Wrexham County Borough Council is currently in the process of preparing its Local Development Plan (LDP) which will replace the adopted Unitary Development Plan. At its current stage (adoption expected in March 2018) the emerging LDP will remain a material planning consideration that can only be given limited weight in relation to the Gas Connection planning application, albeit it will become more relevant the closer the date of the LDP's adoption.
- 3.49 The latest version of the LDP comprises a vision, options and strategic growth spatial options consultation document that is subject to public consultation until 1 April 2016. The consultation document identifies a number of strategic growth options for the local authority area including options for levels of job and employment growth. The WIE is recognised as key business sector area that might be capable of accommodating a 20-30ha extension of employment land. (emerging Policy SP1).

LOCAL PLANNING GUIDANCE NOTES

- 3.50 In addition to the adopted Wrexham UDP, the Council has approved a series of Local Planning Guidance Notes (LPGN) that amplify development plan policy. The following Local Planning Guidance Notes are considered relevant to consideration of the Scheme.
- 3.51 Local Planning Guidance Note No 7 - Landscape and Development and Local Planning Guidance Note No 26 - Landscape and Industrial Developments
- 3.52 Note 7 provides general guidance on landscape information requirements including consideration of landscape character and the locally identified Special Landscape Areas within the UDP. In addition the note provides guidance on landscape assessment landscape mitigation measures. Chapter 10 of the ES (Document reference: 6.2) explains how this approach was followed in the landscape and visual assessment of the Scheme.
- 3.53 Note 26 provides guidance on the landscape and environmental issues that the Council will take into account when determining applications for industrial development, with a high standard of design being encouraged. The Design and Access Statement (Document reference 5.3) addresses the general considerations raised by the guidance note. It is proposed that the detailed design of the Power Station Complex will be the subject of future submissions to WCBC in response to DCO Requirements on built and landscape design. These DCO Requirements promote compliance with LPGN 26.

Local Planning Guidance Notes No 23 - Development of Sites with Land Contamination

- 3.54 The note provides guidance on the information that is required for planning applications that involve the development of sites that might be contaminated. The note aims to ensure that any risks to the environment are minimised.
- 3.55 On the basis that the Power Station Complex Site is partly brownfield in character, the ES incorporates a ground conditions assessment (Document reference: 6.2) on the basis that contamination might be present in the Power Station Complex Site. The conclusions of the assessment are that the Scheme would not result in any significant adverse effects, subject to the mitigation and safeguards there proposed and reflected in the draft DCO Requirements.. It is thus considered that the Scheme accords with the requirements of LPGN 23.

Local Planning Guidance Notes No 32 - Biodiversity and Development

- 3.56 LPGN 32 highlights the potential significance of nature conservation, protected species and biodiversity issues in the consideration of planning applications.
- 3.57 Chapter 11 of the ES (Document reference: 6.2) provides an assessment of the effects the Scheme would have on statutory and non-statutory nature conservation sites and features and the habitats of protected species, important features and other diversity features. The ES concludes that the Scheme would not result in any significant adverse effects on ecology, subject to the mitigation proposed. On this basis it is considered that the Scheme accords with the guidance contained in LPGN 32.

CONCLUSION

- 3.58 The Power Station Complex site is partly brownfield in character and is allocated for employment use in the adopted Wrexham UDP. The site has a previous unimplemented planning permission for development with a larger physical footprint.
- 3.59 The Scheme is compliant with relevant development plan policy and the Welsh Government's policy guidance. It would promote a range of the planning objectives set out in para. 4.4.3 of PPW, and its siting and design have regard to relevant sustainability, economic development and environmental protection guidance in PPW and TANs.

Chapter 4 ♦ Assessment

INTRODUCTION

- 4.1 This Chapter of the Planning Statement reviews the Scheme in the light of the detailed policy and guidance set out in relevant National Policy Statements for energy and in the Wrexham UDP. The structure of this Chapter follows the structure of the 'Assessment Principles' set out in NPS EN-1.
- 4.2 In weighing potential adverse effects against the benefits of a project, para. 4.1.3 of EN-1 states that the decision-maker should take into account potential benefits *'including its contribution to meeting the need for energy infrastructure, job creation and any long-term or wider benefits'*. Para. 4.1.3 advises that the decision maker should also take into account *'its potential adverse impacts, including any long-term and cumulative adverse impacts, as well as any measures to avoid, reduce or compensate for any adverse impacts'*.
- 4.3 According to paragraph 4.1.4 of EN-1, the decision maker should take into account *'environmental, social and economic benefits and adverse impacts, at national, regional and local levels'*. Para. 4.1.5 states that the decision maker may consider Development Plan Documents or other documents in the Local Development Framework as both important and relevant to its decision-making, whilst noting that *'[i]n the event of a conflict between these or any other documents and an NPS, the NPS prevails for the purposes of [Secretary of State] decision making given the national significance of the infrastructure'*. This approach is applicable to the current DCO application. In respect of the planning application for the Gas Connection, the NPSs are material considerations, as explained in chapter two of this Planning Statement.
- 4.4 EN-1 confirms in paras. 4.1.7 and 4.1.8 that the decision maker can take into account, in the context of any requirements to be imposed on a development, the *'guidance in Circular 11/95, as revised, on 'The Use of Conditions in Planning Permissions' or any successor to it'*. Welsh Government Guidance on the use of planning conditions is contained in the Welsh Government Circular *'The Use of Planning Conditions for Development Management'* (October 2014).
- 4.5 Viability issues are addressed in para. 4.1.9 of EN-1, which advises that the decision maker may consider *'on information provided in an application, that the financial viability and technical feasibility of the proposal has been properly assessed by the applicant it is unlikely to be of relevance in [Secretary of State] decision making'*.

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

- 4.6 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (the 'IP (EIA) Regulations 2009') and The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 (together the 'EIA Regulations') require an EIA to be undertaken on any development that is classed as an EIA development. In both sets of EIA Regulations, EIA development is defined as either Schedule 1 development for which EIA is compulsory or Schedule 2 development for which EIA is required for development likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location.
- 4.7 The thermal output of the Scheme will be under 300MW and therefore it does not constitute a Schedule 1 development as provided in the EIA Regulations. Schedule 2 para. 3 (a) includes the following type of development:
- 'Industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water (projects not included in Schedule 1)'.*
- 4.8 On this basis the Scheme falls within Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations, having regard to the characteristics of the Scheme, its potential impact and the environmental sensitivity of the receptors likely to be affected. An EIA has duly been undertaken for the Scheme in accordance with the both sets of EIA Regulations. The findings of the EIA are described in the ES (Document reference: 6.1 – 6.4).
- 4.9 In accordance with Section 4.2 of EN-1, the ES has considered and described the aspects of the environment likely to be affected by the Scheme. In particular, it has assessed the likely significant effects of the Scheme on the environment, including social and economic effects. The ES considers the likely significant effects arising at all stages of the Scheme and identifies how any likely significant negative effects may be avoided or mitigated.

HABITATS AND SPECIES REGULATIONS (NPS EN-1, 4.3)

- 4.10 Section 4.3 of EN-1 states that the decision maker must, in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, consider whether the project may have a significant effect on a European site or on any site to which the same protection is applied as a matter of policy, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.
- 4.11 In accordance with these requirements a 'No Significant Effects Report' (NSER) is submitted with the current applications (Document reference: 5.7). The NSER concludes that there would be no significant effects on the identified European sites. In accordance with Reg 5(2)(l) of the APFP Regulations 2009, Chapter 11 of the ES (Document reference: 6.2.11) provides an assessment of any effects that the Scheme would have on statutory and non-statutory nature conservation sites and features and the habitats of protected species, important features and other diversity features.

ALTERNATIVES (NPS EN-1, 4.4, NPS EN-4, 2.19.8-10)

- 4.12 Para. 4.4.1 of EN-1 advises that the NPS does not contain any general requirement to consider alternatives or to establish whether the Scheme represents the best option. However, para. 4.4.2 of EN-1 states that *‘applicants are obliged to include in their ES, as a matter of fact, information about the main alternatives they have studied. This should include an indication of the main reasons for the applicant’s choice, taking into account the environmental, social and economic effects and including, where relevant, technical and commercial feasibility’*.
- 4.13 Paragraph 4.4.3 advises on how alternatives (where there is a policy or legal requirement to do so) should be assessed. A number of principles are identified to guide the scope of an assessment including the following:
- the consideration of alternatives should be carried out in a proportionate manner;
 - there should be a realistic prospect of the alternative delivering the same infrastructure capacity in the same timescale as the proposed development;
 - alternative proposals which are vague or inchoate can be excluded.
- 4.14 As required, the ES provides the following details on the following alternatives assessed:
- alternative development sites;
 - alternatives layouts for the Power Station Complex;
- 4.15 Throughout the pre-application process, WPL has taken into account the feedback received in response to the non-statutory and statutory consultations concerning the consideration of alternatives sites and designs for the Scheme. WPL’s responses to this consultation are explained in the Consultation Report (Document reference: 5.1).
- 4.16 WPL has undertaken a strategic search for potential CCGT power station sites in the UK, using a phased methodology. The search focused on identifying locations where gas supply and electrical grid networks, with sufficient capacity to serve a new CCGT power station, coincide.
- 4.17 In evaluating potential locations, the following considerations were taken into account:
- environmental constraints;
 - technical requirements (site size and availability of gas and electrical connections);
 - local planning policy;
 - socio-economic considerations
 - land availability.

4.18 The Site afforded the following advantages:

- it is close to the National Grid's strategic area for new electricity generation;
- it has good access to national gas and electricity distribution networks;
- it is a largely brownfield site with an extant planning permission for business use;
- there are potential synergies with future users of the adjacent WIE;
- there are also potential regenerative effects to the local economy.

4.19 With regard to alternative technologies, NPS EN-1 states at para 3.3.6 that:

'Within the strategic framework established by the Government it is for industry to propose the specific types of developments that they assess to be viable. This is the nature of a market-based energy system...'

4.20 WPL concluded that CCGT power generation represents an appropriate choice of fuel and technology for the Scheme. CCGT technology is highly efficient, resulting in much lower carbon dioxide emissions in comparison with a coal-fired power station. Gas-fired power stations can respond flexibly in terms of their output, thus helping to meet fluctuations in energy demand and maintaining a balanced supply of electricity to the UK.

4.21 In relation to alternative locations and layouts for the Power Station Complex, Chapter 3 of the Design and Access Statement (Document reference: 5.3) explains how the layout has evolved. It describes the specific considerations that have influenced the layout including environmental and physical constraints, options for the Gas Connection, access to the public highway and planning considerations.

4.22 The indicative layout represents the preferred option for a number of reasons, including its proximity to the existing industrial estate, its location on brownfield land that had been previously developed for industrial use and its proximity to grid connections (both gas and electricity).

4.23 In terms of the Gas Connection, para. 2.19.8 of EN-4 advises that the design of new pipelines should consider 'relevant constraints including proximity of existing and planned residential properties.... below surface usage and proximity to environmentally sensitive areas, main river and watercourse crossings'. Chapter 3 of the ES and the Design and Access Statement identify the environmental and design considerations that have influenced the design of the Gas Connection. In design terms the Gas Connection has taken into account considerations including:

- the length of the Gas Pipeline;
- topography and presence of significant engineering challenges;
- avoidance of vegetated areas with the most ecological potential;

- land use.

4.24 The evaluation of alternatives has been informed by iterative EIA and technical analysis, taking into account relevant planning and energy policy and environmental regulations.

GOOD DESIGN (NPS EN-1, 4.5, EN-2, 2.3.16 EN-4, 2.3 AND UDP POLICY GDP1

- 4.25 Para. 4.5.4 of EN-1 requires applicants to *‘demonstrate in their application documents how the design process was conducted and how the proposed design evolved’*. The Design and Access Statement (Document reference: 5.3) and Chapter 3 of the ES (Document reference: 6.2) explain the design evolution of the Scheme. The Consultation Report (Document reference: 5.1) explains how the consultation responses have influenced the design of the Scheme.
- 4.26 Section 4.5 of EN-1 identifies criteria in respect of ‘good design’ for energy infrastructure. Para. 4.5.1 states that ‘Applying ‘good design’ to energy projects should produce sustainable infrastructure sensitive to place, efficient in the use of natural resources and energy used in their construction and operation, matched by an appearance that demonstrates good aesthetic as far as possible’. Furthermore, para. 4.5.3 of EN-1 states that the Secretary of State ‘needs to be satisfied that energy infrastructure developments are sustainable and, having regard to regulatory and other constraints, are as attractive, durable and adaptable (including taking account of natural hazards such as flooding) as they can be’.
- 4.27 Para. 2.3.16 of EN-2 states that ‘Applicants should demonstrate good design particularly in respect of landscape and visual amenity..... and in the design of the project to mitigate impacts such as noise and vibration, transport impacts and air emissions. The ES and the Design and Access Statement explain the Applicant’s response to these policy requirements.
- 4.28 Para. 2.3.2 of EN-4 requires applicants to demonstrate good design, particularly where mitigating the impacts relevant to the infrastructure. As explained, the siting of the Power Station Complex has sought to integrate the development with the surrounding industrial estate. The proposed DCO Requirements on landscape and built design provide for the submission to and approval of the detailed design of the Scheme by WCBC. In terms of the Gas Connection, the design response has been to place the Gas Pipeline underground and on a route that avoids environmental sensitivities where possible.
- 4.29 The Design and Access Statement explains the design considerations relevant to the principal components of the Power Station Complex and the Gas Connection. These include minimising the visual effects of the Power Station Complex and taking advantage of the screening provided by existing trees and natural landform. The ES explains how the siting and design of the Scheme has sought to minimise adverse transport and air emissions effects. Similarly, the noise chapter of the ES explains the measures proposed to mitigate noise and vibration effects arising from the construction, operation and maintenance of the Scheme.
- 4.30 Policy GDP1 of the Wrexham UDP seeks to ensure that new development -

- . . . in its scale, design and layout, and in its use of materials and landscaping, accords with the character of the site and makes a positive contribution to the appearance of the nearby locality;
- takes account of personal and community safety and security in the design and layout of development and public / private spaces;
- makes the best use of design techniques, siting and orientation in order to conserve energy and water resources.

4.31 The design and environmental considerations relevant to the Scheme are explained in Chapter 3 of the ES (Document reference: 6.2.3) and the Design and Access Statement (Document reference: 5.3) which accompany the Application.

4.32 Having regard to the fact that the Scheme is being promoted utilising the 'Rochdale Envelope' principles, draft DCO Requirements 2 and 3 make provision for the approval of the detailed design of the Power Station Complex and the landscape and ecological mitigation scheme by WCBC following a submission by the Applicant. The landscape and ecological mitigation for the Gas Connection will be a planning condition as part of the planning consent.. Nonetheless, the ES assesses the likely worst case in terms of the potential variations to the Scheme in order to ensure that the Scheme as built has been fully assessed, as advised in PINS Advice Note 9: *Rochdale Envelope*.

CONSIDERATION OF COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (NPS EN-1, 4.6)

4.33 Section 4.6 of EN-1 describes the consideration that should be given in projects for the potential for combined heat and power (CHP). Para. 4.6.6 of EN-1 states that '*under guidelines issued by DECC (then DTI) in 2006 [the Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Guidance], any application to develop a thermal generating station under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 must either include CHP or contain evidence that the possibilities for CHP have been fully explored to inform the consideration of the application*'. The paragraph continues '*The same principle applies to any thermal power station which is the subject of an application for development consent under the 2008 Act*'.

4.34 This requirement is addressed in paragraphs 2.44 to 2.57 of this Planning Statement.

CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE AND CARBON CAPTURE READINESS (NPS EN-1, 4.7)

4.35 Section 4.7 of NPS EN-1 deals with CCS and carbon capture. It states in paragraph 4.7.5 that all applications for new combustion plant which have a rated generating capacity at or over 300MW_e and of a type covered by the EU's Large Combustion Plant Directive (LCPD) should demonstrate that the plant is 'carbon capture ready' (CCR). The Scheme has a rated generating capacity of up to 299MW_e and would fall below the threshold of 300MW_e. In accordance with EN-1, the Scheme is not required to demonstrate carbon capture readiness.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTION (NPS EN-1, 4.8, EN-2, 2.3.13, EN-4, 2.2)

- 4.36 Section 4.8 of EN-1 advises that applicants and the SoS should ensure that new energy infrastructure is sufficiently resilient to the possible impacts of climate change (4.8.1). Section 2.2 of EN-4 requires applicants to set out how proposals would be resilient to climate change risks such as flooding and higher temperatures (2.2.2). EN-4 also explains that the Secretary of State expects that climate change resilient measures will form part of the relevant impact assessment in the Environmental Statement accompanying an application (2.2.3).
- 4.37 The ES has assessed the likely significant environmental effects of the Scheme. In addition a Level 2 Flood Consequence Assessment (Document reference: 5.4) has concluded that, subject to the implementation of a site specific drainage strategy, there would be no significant flood risks arising from or to the Scheme. CCGT power stations are an established technology with operational plants located globally including in areas that experience higher average temperatures compared to the UK (e.g. the Middle East). On this basis CCGT technology is considered resilient enough to deal with any temperatures changes associated with climate change.
- 4.38 Para. 2.3.13 of EN-2 anticipates that fossil fuel generating stations are likely to be proposed for coastal or estuarine sites and as such '*climate change is likely, for example to increase risks from flooding or rising sea levels*'. The Scheme is not located in a coastal area or near to any tidal rivers.
- 4.39 On this basis, the Scheme is not considered to be at risk from climate change and therefore accords with relevant national and local planning policy in this regard.

GRID CONNECTION (NPS EN-1, 4.9)

- 4.40 Para. 4.9.1 of EN-1 states that 'it is for the applicant to ensure that there will be necessary infrastructure and capacity within an existing or planned transmission or distribution network to accommodate the electricity generated'. It also states that the '[Secretary of State] will want to be satisfied that there is no obvious reason why a grid connection would not be possible'. The Application is accompanied by a Grid Connection Statement (Document reference: 8.1) and the ES takes grid connection arrangements into account in its assessment of cumulative environmental effects, concluding that the Grid Connection would not result in any significant effects.

POLLUTION CONTROL AND OTHER REGULATORY REGIMES (NPS EN-1, 4.10)

- 4.41 According to para. 4.10.1 of EN1, 'issues relating to discharges or emissions which affect air quality, water quality, land quality or noise and vibration may be subject to separate regulation under the pollution control framework or other consenting and licensing regimes'. Paragraph 4.10.6 advises that '*Applicants are advised to make early contact with relevant regulators, including EA and the MMO, to discuss their requirements for environmental permits and other consents*'. Para. 4.10.7-8 then states:

' . . . the [Secretary of State] should be satisfied, before consenting any potentially polluting developments, that:

the relevant pollution control authority is satisfied that potential releases can be adequately regulated under the pollution control framework; and

the effects of existing sources of pollution in and around the site are not such that the cumulative effects of pollution when the proposed development is added would make that development unacceptable, particularly in relation to statutory environmental quality limits.

4.10.8 The [Secretary of State] should not refuse consent on the basis of pollution impacts unless it has good reason to believe that any relevant necessary operational pollution control permits or licences or other consents will not subsequently be granted'.

- 4.42 There are various other consents and licences that will be required for the Scheme in addition to the Order. These are identified in the Details of Other Consents and Licences (Document reference: 5.6), with an explanation of how they would be obtained at relevant stages of development of the Scheme. The Application submission therefore accords with EN-1 in respect of pollution control and other environmental regulatory regimes.

SAFETY (NPS EN-1, 4.11 AND UDP POLICY GDP1)

- 4.43 Para. 4.11.1 of EN-1 advises that applicants should consult with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) on matters relating to safety. The HSE was consulted during the statutory consultation for the Scheme. As explained in the Consultation Report (Document reference: 5.1), the HSE has confirmed that the WEC Site does not fall within the consultation distances of any current Major Hazard Installations and would not impinge on the separation distances of any licensed explosive sites. Wrexham UDP Policy GDP1 requires new development to promote public safety.
- 4.44 Chapter 17 of the ES (Document reference: 6.2) has assessed relevant safety considerations associated with the Scheme. It concludes that there would be no adverse effects in respect of safety. On this basis the Scheme is considered to comply with EN-1 and UDP Policy GDP1.

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES (NPS EN-1, 4.12 AND EN-4, 2.4)

- 4.45 Section 4.12 of EN-1 states that applicants should consult the HSE at pre-application stage if a project is likely to need hazardous substances consent. Para. 2.4.1 of EN-4 states that:

All establishments wishing to hold stocks of certain hazardous substances, which include oil and gas, above a threshold quantity must apply to the Hazardous Substances Authority (HSA) for hazardous substances consent. In the case of natural gas, the threshold is 15 tonnes. In relation to gas supply infrastructure, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) will advise the IPC on the risks, taking into account the quantities of gas to be stored, the installation type and specification, and the local population'.

- 4.46 As explained in the previous section and in the Consultation Report (Document reference: 5.1), the HSE has been consulted. Its response was that Hazardous Substances Consent would only be required if the proposal includes storage or use of the named or generic categories of substances/preparations at or above the controlled quantities set out in Part 2 of the Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Wales) Regulations 2015 ('the Hazardous Substances Regulations'). If required, WPL will make an application for Hazardous Substances Consent once the detailed engineering design for the Scheme enables the need for such consent to be determined with precision. .

HEALTH (NPS EN-1, 4.13 NPS EN-5, 2.10 AND UDP POLICY GDP1)

- 4.47 Section 4.13 of EN-1 explains how applicants should assess how schemes could have an effect on human beings for each element of the development, '*identifying any adverse health impacts, and identifying measures to avoid, reduce or compensate for these impacts as appropriate*'. Para. 4.13.5 of EN-1 states that:

'those aspects of energy infrastructure which are most likely to have a significantly detrimental impact on health are subject to separate regulation (for example for air pollution) which will constitute effective mitigation of them, so that it is unlikely that health concerns will either constitute a reason to refuse consents or require specific mitigation under the 2008 Act. However, the [Secretary of State] will want to take account of such concerns when setting requirements relating to a range of impacts such as noise'.

- 4.48 Chapter 17 of the ES explains the assessments relevant to health, safety and security that have been undertaken by the Applicant. The chapter concludes that there would be no significant health, safety or security effects arising from the Scheme either in isolation or cumulatively with other developments.
- 4.49 On this basis, it is considered that the Scheme accords with relevant national and local planning policy in relation to health.

COMMON LAW NUISANCE AND STATUTORY NUISANCE (NPS EN-1, 4.14 AND UDP POLICY GDP1)

- 4.50 Section 4.14 of EN-1 highlights the need for the consideration of sources of nuisance by the Examining Authority. Para. 4.14.2 identifies the need for the SoS to consider NSIP schemes and possible sources of nuisance under Section 79(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and how they might be mitigated or limited so that appropriate requirements can be included in any order granting development consent. Policy GDP1(f) of the Wrexham UDP seeks to ensure the safety and amenity of the public and safeguard the environment from the adverse effects of pollution of water, land or air, hazards from industry and associated noise, odour or vibration arising from development.
- 4.51 The Application is accompanied by a Statement of Statutory Nuisance Report (Document reference: 5.5) which sets out the potential statutory nuisances arising from the construction, operation and maintenance phases of the Scheme as defined in Section 79(1) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The Statement of Statutory Nuisance Report concludes that the potential of the Scheme to cause statutory nuisance, subject to the implementation of the identified mitigation measures, would be negligible. In these terms, relevant safeguarding Requirements of the draft DCO include Requirement 4: *Construction and Environmental Management Plan*, Requirement 6: *Piling*, Requirement 9: *Construction Traffic Management Plan*, Requirement 11: *Construction Hours*, Requirement 12: *Foul and surface water drainage* and Requirement 17: *Decommissioning Strategy*. The Scheme is therefore in compliance with EN-1 and Wrexham UDP Policy GDP1.

SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS (NPS EN-1, 4.15)

- 4.52 Para. 4.15.2 of EN-1 states that it is 'Government policy to ensure that, where possible, proportionate protective security measures are designed into new infrastructure projects at an early stage in the project development. Schedule 1 of the Order explains the security measures that will be implemented as part of the Scheme, including cameras, a security lodge and perimeter fencing. Further details of these measures are provided in Chapter 4 of the ES and in the Design and Access Statement. Chapter 17 of the ES provides a summary of the assessments relevant to security that have been undertaken in the ES. The chapter concludes that there would be no significant security effects arising from the Scheme either in isolation or cumulatively with other developments.

AIR QUALITY AND EMISSIONS (NPS EN-1, 5.2 NPS EN-2, 2.5 AND UDP POLICY GDP1)

- 4.53 Para. 5.2.1 of EN-1 advises that infrastructure development can have adverse effects on air quality. Para 5.2.2 of EN-1 states that '*Government has determined that CO₂ emissions are not reasons to prohibit the consenting of projects which use these technologies or to impose more restrictions on them in the planning policy framework than are set out in the energy NPSs (e.g. the CCR and, for coal, CCS requirements). Any ES on air emissions will include an assessment of CO₂.*

4.54 Para. 5.2.4 of EN-1 states that ‘Emissions from combustion plants are generally released through exhaust stacks. Design of exhaust stacks, particularly height, is the primary driver for the delivery of optimal dispersion of emissions and is often determined by statutory requirements’. The paragraph confirms also that the '[Secretary of State] need not...be concerned with the exhaust stack height optimisation process in relation to air emissions, though the impact of stack heights on landscape and amenity will be a consideration'. EN-2 confirms that the guidance contained in EN-1 should be followed in respect of fossil fuel generating stations.

4.55 Para. 5.2.7 of EN-1 identifies the air quality and emission requirements that should be assessed within an ES including the following:

'any significant air emissions, their mitigation and any residual effects distinguishing between the project stages and taking account of any significant emissions from any road traffic generated by the project;

the predicted absolute emission levels of the proposed project, after mitigation methods have been applied;

existing air quality levels and the relative change in air quality from existing levels; and

any potential eutrophication impacts'.

4.56 Para. 5.2.9 of EN-1 states that:

'The [Secretary of State] should generally give air quality considerations substantial weight where a project would lead to a deterioration in air quality in an area, or leads to a new area where air quality breaches any national air quality limits. However air quality considerations will also be important where substantial changes in air quality levels are expected, even if this does not lead to any breaches of national air quality limits'.

4.57 Para. 5.2.10 of EN-1 adds:

'In all cases the [Secretary of State] must take account of any relevant statutory air quality limits. Where a project is likely to lead to a breach of such limits the developers should work with the relevant authorities to secure appropriate mitigation measures to allow the proposal to proceed. In the event that a project will lead to non-compliance with a statutory limit the [Secretary of State] should refuse consent'.

4.58 Para. 5.2.11 of EN-1 advises that the SoS should consider ‘whether mitigation measures are needed both for operational and construction emissions over and above any which may form part of the project application’.

4.59 Policy GDP1 of the Wrexham UDP seeks to safeguard the environment from the adverse effects of air pollution.

- 4.60 In accordance with the guidance of EN-1 and EN-2, an assessment of the likely effects of the Scheme in respect of air quality has been undertaken. The findings of this assessment are presented in Chapter 8 of the ES. The air quality assessment considers direct and indirect emissions of air pollutants during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Scheme.
- 4.61 The air quality assessment concludes that road traffic emissions during the construction and operational phases would have a neutral impact on local pollutant concentrations and as such, an insignificant effect on local receptors. In addition, given that construction plant emissions will be temporary and intermittent, their effect on local air quality has been assessed as not significant.
- 4.62 Likely dust emissions during the construction and operational phases have been considered. No significant residual effects relating to dust emissions are anticipated and on this basis all identified residential, commercial and industrial properties and ecological receptors are likely to remain unaffected by dust.
- 4.63 The Stack emissions from the Scheme would not lead to any exceedances of statutory air quality criteria at sensitive receptors. The emissions effect on air quality is not significant. Effects of oxides of nitrogen concentrations and nitrogen deposition rates at statutory and non-statutory ecological sites were also assessed to be insignificant.
- 4.64 All potential cumulative impacts of the Scheme on air quality were assessed likewise as being insignificant.
- 4.65 During the construction and decommissioning phases of the Scheme, a dust mitigation measures would be developed and incorporated into an overall Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). A draft CEMP is provided in Appendix 6.4.13 to the ES. The dust mitigation will include measures such as water suppression, use of enclosed chutes and covered skips and regular monitoring to ensure compliance.
- 4.66 In terms of the operational phase, no mitigation measures are proposed in addition to those already incorporated in the Scheme design, such as the use of an appropriate Stack height. CCGT technology is inherently clean and the use of natural gas as a fuel ensures that stringent emissions limits for oxides of nitrogen and carbon will be met. An Environmental Permit will be required to operate the Scheme, providing further safeguards.
- 4.67 The number of vehicular movements generated during the operational phase is negligible. As such, no further mitigation beyond those measures at the national level to control vehicle emissions are required.
- 4.68 The ES concludes that there would be no significant adverse effects associated with the Scheme in respect of air quality. On this basis, the Scheme complies with the requirements of national and local planning policy in relation to air quality and emissions.

BIODIVERSITY AND GEOLOGICAL CONSERVATION (NPS EN-1, 5.3 AND NPS EN-4 2.23 AND UDP POLICIES PS11 AND EC4)

- 4.69 Para. 5.3.3 of EN-1 states that an ES should clearly set out ‘any effects on internationally, nationally and locally designated sites of ecological or geological conservation importance, on protected species and on habitats and other species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity’. Para 5.3.4 of EN-1 also requires the applicant to ‘show how the project has taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geological conservation interests’.
- 4.70 Para. 2.23.2 of EN-4 requires applicants to ‘assess the stability of the ground conditions associated with the pipeline route and incorporate the findings of that assessment in the ES’. Policy PS11 of the Wrexham UDP encourages proposals that improve the biodiversity of sites.
- 4.71 Para 5.3.7 of EN-1 requires that ‘As a general principle, and subject to the specific policies below, development should aim to avoid significant harm to biodiversity and geological conservation interests, including through mitigation and consideration of reasonable alternatives’.
- 4.72 Policy EC4 of the UDP seeks to safeguard hedgerows, trees and woodland against inappropriate development proposals.

Biodiversity

- 4.73 In accordance with Reg 5(2)(l) of the APFP Regulations 2009, Chapter 11 of the ES (Document reference: 6.2.11) provides an assessment of any effects that the Scheme would have on statutory and non-statutory nature conservation sites and features and the habitats of protected species, important features and other diversity features. Effects associated with the Scheme have been considered for the construction, operational and decommissioning phases.
- 4.74 The requirement for the ES to include appropriate mitigation measures as an integral part of the Scheme is highlighted in para. 5.3.18 of EN-1. In compliance with this requirement, Chapter 11 of the ES identifies a number of mitigation measures associated with the Scheme. These include the timing of works to avoid the bird nesting season, the use of noise management measures to prevent disturbance or damage to a temporary summer bat roost, reinforced boundary planting that will provide enhanced corridors for wildlife and the introduction of native marginal planting around a surface water attenuation pond. Such measures will be provided for in the CEMP and have been secured by way of Requirement 4 in Schedule 2 of the Order.
- 4.75 Subject to the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, the Scheme would not result in any significant adverse effects on the integrity of any designated site for nature conservation or on any identified receptors or features.

- 4.76 Site preparation will result in the loss of some existing habitats within the Order Land. However, these habitats will either be replaced or subject to compensatory planting through the implementation of a landscape strategy. On this basis, there would be no significant residual adverse effects on the habitats within the Order Land. The landscape strategy would also ensure that the Scheme would not result in any significant effects on the conservation status of any legally protected or notable species.

Geological conservation

- 4.77 In accordance with both EN-1 in 5.3 and EN-4 in Section 2.2.3, Chapter 13 of the ES presents a ground condition assessment covering the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Scheme.
- 4.78 Mitigation inherent to the Scheme includes the avoidance of areas that might contain significant contamination. Additional mitigation measures would be secured through the CEMP (Appendix 17.1 of the ES) and will include measures such as appropriate method statements for the protection of construction workers and development of a methodology to address remedial actions.
- 4.79 Subject to the identified mitigation measures, no potential significant adverse effects on geological conservation interests have been identified. During the construction phase minor adverse effects are predicted for construction workers and property located in the vicinity of the Gas Connection. In addition minor beneficial effects are anticipated associated during the construction phase through the removal of contaminated material and the implementation of a formalised drainage system. The potential residual effects during decommissioning of the Power Station Complex will be similar to those anticipated during construction.
- 4.80 The overall conclusion that there would be no significant adverse effects, subject to mitigation measures, and that the Scheme accords with relevant national and local planning policy in respect of biodiversity and geological conservation.

CIVIL AND MILITARY AVIATION AND DEFENCE INTERESTS (EN-1, 5.4)

- 4.81 Paragraph 5.4.1 of EN-1 states that 'Civil and military aerodromes, aviation and technical sites, and other types of defence interests can be affected by new energy development'. Para. 5.4.10 of EN-1 advises that 'where the proposed development may have an effect on civil or military aviation and/or other defence assets an assessment of potential effects should be set out in the ES'.

- 4.82 Paragraph 5.4.11 states that 'The applicant should consult the MoD, CAA, NATS and any aerodrome – licensed or otherwise – likely to be affected by the proposed development in preparing an assessment of the proposal on aviation or other defence interests'. Paragraph 5.4.12 provides that 'Any assessment of aviation or other defence interests should include potential impacts of the project upon the operation of CNS infrastructure, flight patterns (both civil and military), other defence assets and aerodrome operational procedures. It should also assess the cumulative effects of the project with other relevant projects in relation to aviation and defence'.
- 4.83 By virtue of its scale and location, the Scheme would not affect any civil and military aviation and defence interests. In accordance with para. 5.4.11 of EN-1, the MoD, CAA and NATS were consulted as part of the statutory consultation for the Scheme. Details of this consultation and WPL's responses are provided in the Consultation Report (Document reference: 5.1). No licensed or unlicensed aerodromes are likely to be affected by the Scheme. The MoD and CAA confirmed in their statutory consultation responses that they have no objection to the Scheme. In summary, the Scheme is acceptable in respect of civil and military aviation and defence interests.

DUST, ODOUR, ARTIFICIAL LIGHT, SMOKE AND INSECT INFESTATION (EN-1, 5.6 AND UDP POLICY GDP1)

- 4.84 Para. 5.6.4 of EN-1 advises that applicants should 'assess the potential for insect infestation and emissions of odour, dust, steam, smoke and artificial light to have a detrimental impact on amenity, as part of the Environmental Statement'. Para 5.6.6 also states that 'The applicant is advised to consult the relevant local planning authority and, where appropriate, the EA about the scope and methodology of the assessment'.
- 4.85 In addition, Wrexham UDP Policy GDP1 seeks to safeguard the public and the environment from pollution that may arise from new development proposals.
- 4.86 Dust mitigation measures would be incorporated as part of the CEMP for the Scheme. Chapter 8 of the ES has assessed the air quality implications arising from the Scheme, including dust. The overall conclusions are that, subject to the implementation of the dust mitigation measures, there would not be any significant adverse effects of dust deposition beyond the Order Limits.
- 4.87 The lighting of fires and the burning of waste materials will not be permitted for any construction activities.
- 4.88 During the operational phase, the Stack emissions would be controlled by an Environmental Permit. Chapter 8 of the ES confirms that the Stack emissions from the Scheme would not lead to any exceedences of statutory air quality criteria at sensitive receptors. The effect of Stack emissions is therefore not significant.

- 4.89 Chapter 10 of the ES (Landscape and Visual) has assessed the potential effects of the artificial lighting associated with the Scheme, and proposes measures to minimise light pollution during the construction and operation. Such measures are provided for in the draft Order by means of a Requirement (see Schedule 2 of the Order, Document reference: 3.1).
- 4.90 The Scheme would not be susceptible to insect infestation because it would not handle organic materials likely to attract insects. Good site practices during the construction and operational phases relating to refuse and foodstuffs (where relevant) would prevent any likelihood of insect infestation.
- 4.91 Draft DCO Requirement 4 make provision for the submission and approval of a Construction and Environment Management Plan that includes extensive environmental controls during construction, and stack emissions would be imposed through an Environmental Permit. With these safeguards in place, no significant dust, odour, artificial light, smoke, steam or insect infestation effects are anticipated to be caused by the Scheme. On this basis the Scheme accords with the provisions of EN-1 and UDP policy GDP1.

FLOOD RISK (NPS EN-1, 5.7 AND UDP POLICIES GDP1 AND EC12)

- 4.92 In accordance with Section 5.7 of EN-1, the Application is accompanied by a Level 2 Flood Consequence Assessment (Document reference: 5.4).
- 4.93 The Level 2 Flood Consequence Assessment concludes that there would be no significant risks of flooding associated with the Scheme arising from the following:
- *river flooding (fluvial)* - The Power Station Complex is located in Zone A which in accordance with TAN 15 Development and Flood Risk map is at little or no risk of fluvial flooding. The Gas Connection Route passes through areas associated with the River Clywedog within designated Zone C2 (flood areas without significant flood defence infrastructure and designated Zone B (areas known to have flooded in the past);
 - *coastal/tidal flooding* - the Scheme is not located near the coast;
 - *sewer flooding* - there is no active sewer network within the Order Land;
 - *infrastructure failure flooding* - the Power Station Complex Site is not subject to the potential flood risk from reservoirs or lakes. NRW's Flood map suggests that there are potentially three reservoirs that could affect the Gas Connection Route where the route crosses the River Clywedog and its tributary. Due to the separation distance and likelihood of potential failure the flood risk from the reservoirs is considered highly unlikely.
- 4.94 Any risks associated with surface water flooding would be managed by a site specific drainage strategy to control the management of surface water run-off from the impermeable areas proposed within the Order Limits. Additionally, consultation with WCBC and NRW established that there has been no known groundwater flooding problems historically within the Order Limits.

- 4.95 A risk of overland/pluvial flooding can arise where there is an increase in impermeable areas across a site. The flood assessment proposes that all run-off from the Power Station Complex would be drained into gullies and pipes to an attenuation pond from where it will be discharged via a control chamber to an proposed onsite open channel. It will then pass along the open channel via the ecological mitigation ponds and into the adjacent brook along the northern boundary within a land drainage network, ultimately discharging downstream into the River Dee.
- 4.96 The simulation results presented in the flood assessment show that there is no potential for flooding up to and including the 1 in 100 year +20% rainfall event. On this basis, the surface water run-off would not increase the overland flooding risk to or from the Scheme.
- 4.97 The Gas Pipeline would be constructed underground and make use of a trenchless technique such as horizontal directional drilling or micro-tunnelling to cross the River Clywedog. On this basis considering the Gas Connection is required to connect the Power Station Complex the flood risk risks are assessed as minimal.
- 4.98 The Level 2 Flood Consequence Assessment identifies no significant flooding effects associated with the Scheme, subject to the implementation of the Foul and Surface Water Drainage Strategy ,as provided for in draft DCO Requirement 12. On this basis the Scheme accords with EN-1 in terms of flood risk and with local planning Wrexham UDP policies GDP1 and EC12, which seeks to ensure that development does not result in, or is subject to, flooding.

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT (EN-1, 5.8 AND UDP POLICY)

- 4.99 Section 5.8 of EN-1 recognises that the construction, operation and decommissioning of energy infrastructure has the potential to result in adverse effects on the historic environment. Wrexham UDP Policy EC11 protects archaeological interests and requires archaeological investigations to be undertaken where unknown archaeological interests remain.
- 4.100 Under the Planning Act 2008, regulation 3 of the Infrastructure Planning (Decisions) Regulations 2010 provides that:
- ‘1). When deciding an application which affects a listed building or its setting, the [Secretary of State] must have regard to the desirability of preserving the listed building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.
- 2). When deciding an application relating to a conservation area, the [Secretary of State] must have regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area’.
- 4.101 Sections 66 and 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, which contain similar provisions, might also be of importance and relevance to the SoS's decision making.

- 4.102 In accordance with Reg 5(2)(m) of the APFP Regulations 2009, Chapter 12 of the ES (Document reference: 6.2.12) provides an assessment of any effects that the Scheme would have on statutory and non-statutory sites or features of the historic environment, including scheduled monuments, World Heritage Sites, listed buildings and other historic structures, archaeological sites and registered battlefields.
- 4.103 Consistent with the advice provided by para. 5.8.8 of EN-1, the ES provides a description of the significance of each of the identified heritage assets and the contribution of setting to their significance. Para. 5.8.5 of EN-1 recognises that an absence of formal designation does not imply lower significance. The ES assessment is consistent with this approach and has been informed by consultation with relevant consultees such as Wrexham CBC and through a review of relevant historic sources such as the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record.
- 4.104 Paragraph 5.8.14 of EN-1 states that there 'should be a presumption in favour of the conservation of designated heritage assets and the more significant the designated heritage asset, the greater the presumption in favour of its conservation should be'. Paragraph 5.8.14 also defines harm, advising that 'significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting'. It further advises that instances of substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Instances of substantial harm to or loss of designated assets of the highest significance including scheduled monuments, grade I and II* listed buildings and registered parks and gardens should be wholly exceptional.
- 4.105 In instances of harm, para. 5.8.15 of EN-1 states 'any harmful impact on the significance of a designated heritage asset should be weighed against the public benefit of development, recognising that the greater that harm to the significance of the heritage asset the greater the justification will be needed for any loss'. Where a development will lead to substantial harm, EN-1 advises that consent should be refused unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm to or loss of significance is necessary in order to deliver substantial public benefits that outweigh that loss or harm.
- 4.106 The ES has considered both the potential for direct physical impacts and indirect effects on the setting of identified assets. In terms of indirect effects on designated heritage assets, the ES identifies heritage assets within a 5km study area from the centre of the Power Station Complex Site, including scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens and conservation areas. Direct impacts have been considered within a 1km study area from the centre of the Power Station Complex Site. The study area for the Gas Connection Route was defined as being 500m either side of the Gas Connection Route corridor.
- 4.107 In terms of archaeological potential, the southern part of the Power Station Complex Site comprises brownfield land associated with a former car park and former Owens Corning fibreglass factory. This former development will have most likely removed any archaeological remains. The ES assessment has identified a limited potential for significant archaeological remains to be present in the northern part of the Power Station Complex site. The ES has identified some potential for unknown archaeological sites along the Gas Connection Route.

- 4.108 The results of the assessment identify that the only adverse effects during construction relate to slight adverse effects on currently unknown archaeological remains and a small area of ridge and furrow.
- 4.109 In terms of mitigation, WPL proposes to implement a programme of post-consent archaeological works including geophysical survey and targeted archaeological investigation. The programme would be set out and agreed in the form of a Written Scheme of Investigation in accordance with policy EC11 of the Wrexham UDP.
- 4.110 The main effects on heritage interests during the operational phase relate to the visual presence of the Scheme (particularly its tall elements) resulting in indirect effects on the setting of heritage receptors. Slight adverse impacts are predicted for four assets relating to the Grade II listed buildings, namely Chapel House Farmhouse, St Paul's Church, Sutton Green Barrow and New Holt Lodge Farm.
- 4.111 Potential decommissioning effects on cultural heritage assets are predicted to be similar or less than those predicted for the construction phase.
- 4.112 Overall the Scheme is predicted to result in limited changes to the historic environment that would not amount to significant effects. No effects would be more than slight adverse and therefore would not constitute 'substantial' harm under the terms of para. 5.18.14 of EN-1.
- 4.113 Consistent with the advice contained within para. 5.8.15 of EN-1, this non-substantial harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the Scheme, allowing that the greater the negative effect on the significance of the designated heritage asset, the greater the benefits that will be needed to justify approval.
- 4.114 On the basis that the ES assessment predicts that harm arising from the Scheme is assessed as no more than slight adverse and not substantial, it is considered that the public benefits described in Chapter 5 of this Planning Statement would outweigh the limited identified harm. Draft DCO Requirement 8 make provision for the monitoring and protection of archaeological features... With these safeguards in place it is concluded that in respect of the historic environment the Scheme would comply with relevant national and local planning policy.

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL (NPS EN-1, 5.9, NPS EN-2, 2.6 AND NPS EN-4, 2.21 AND UDP POLICIES PS2, EC5)

- 4.115 A landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) of the Scheme has been undertaken. The LVIA findings are presented in Chapter 10 of the ES. As required by para. 5.9.6 of EN-1, the LVIA has considered impacts associated with the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the Scheme. The assessment responds also to relevant guidance in EN-1, EN-2 and EN-4; to Wrexham UDP Policy PS2, which aims to protect landscape character and the quality of the natural environment, and UDP Policy EC5, which promotes the conservation and enhancement of locally designated Special Landscape Areas.

- 4.116 Paragraph 2.6.5 of EN-2 acknowledges that 'it is not possible to eliminate the visual impacts associated with a fossil fuel generating system. Mitigation is therefore to reduce the visual intrusion of the buildings in the landscape and minimise impact on visual amenity as far as reasonably practicable'. Paragraph 5.9.8 of EN-1 states that 'Virtually all nationally significant energy infrastructure projects will have effects on the landscape'.
- 4.117 WPL's Design and Access Statement (Document reference: 5.3) explains how the Scheme has been designed in order to minimise its landscape and visual impact. Inherent mitigation measures include the planting of new broadleaved species along the eastern extent of the Order Limits to enhance the existing screening.
- 4.118 In addition, the CEMP would incorporate a number of management practices that would help to minimise adverse landscape and visual effects during construction. These measures include the implementation of tree protective fencing for retained vegetation prior to construction and the use of solid hoardings to screen the construction activity visually.
- 4.119 Significant effects during construction are predicted for a number of visual receptors, including some residential properties. This is principally due to the proximity of these visual receptors and the visibility of the larger elements of the Scheme particularly when not filtered by vegetation.
- 4.120 The residual effects arising from construction are assessed as having significant moderate adverse effects on the LCA13 Dee Terraces Landscape Character Areas. This is due to the resulting change in rural tranquillity.
- 4.121 Due to the height of some of the infrastructure located within the Power Station Complex, there would be significant effects for number of visual receptors during the operational phase. This is due principally to the introduction of new built form, visible through existing intervening vegetation.
- 4.122 In respect of the Gas Connection, section 2.21 of EN-4 advises that landscape and visual effects associated with new pipelines are likely to be limited to impacts on landscape features and vegetation over or adjacent to the pipeline and structures necessary to identify the pipeline and provide it with access. To minimise the potential for adverse landscape effects, the proposed Gas Connection follows a route that avoids specimen trees, tree groups and water features. The pipeline would be underground, facilitating a full restoration once constructed. Requirement 3 of the draft DCO provides for the submission and approval of a landscape scheme to that end,
- 4.123 Whilst a number of significant landscape and visual effects have been predicted, in accordance with para. 5.9.15 of EN-1, these impacts must be judged on the basis of whether these adverse impacts would be so damaging that they are not offset by the benefits of the Scheme as described in this Statement and chapter 6: Socio-economic effects of the ES, including the national need for new power generation capacity. On the basis of the assessment provided in the ES, it is concluded that this is not the case.

- 4.124 As explained in the Design and Access Statement, all elements of the Scheme have been subject to design consideration and assessment. Subject to the implementation of the identified mitigation measures, it is concluded that the Scheme would be acceptable in terms of its landscape and visual effects.

LAND USE INCLUDING OPEN SPACE, GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND GREEN BELT (EN-1, 5.10 AND EN-2, 2.2 AND UDP POLICIES PS2, PS3, EC2)

- 4.125 Paragraph 5.10.1 of EN-1 recognises that energy infrastructure projects will have direct effects on the existing use of sites and indirect effects on the use, or planned use of land in the vicinity for other types of development. Section 2.2 of EN-2 recognises that fossil fuel generating stations have large land footprints and can only be sited on suitably sized sites.
- 4.126 Wrexham UDP policy PS3 encourages new development on previously developed land. UDP policies EC2 and PS2 seek to protect high quality agricultural land and ensure that new development does not materially affect countryside character.
- 4.127 The Scheme is not sited on green belt land, open space, sport or recreational land. Neither is it sited on best and most versatile agricultural land. As noted in the previous chapter of this Planning Statement, policy E3 of the adopted Wrexham UDP allocates part of the Power Station Complex site for 30ha of employment land, and planning permission was granted on appeal in 2010 for its comprehensive development. This policy allocation supports in landscape and visual terms the selection of the Power Station Complex Site for the proposals.
- 4.128 Chapter 3 of the ES identifies other factors that have influenced the selection of the WEC Site, including its proximity to accessible gas connections and its relationship to surrounding land uses in terms of potential adverse effects. ES Chapter 3 also explains the physical characteristics of the WEC Site that make it suitable for a fossil fuel generating station in accordance with Section 2.2 of EN-2.
- 4.129 In accordance with para 5.10.7, consultation has been undertaken with WCBC. The LPA has not identified any specific concerns in relation to the land being utilised.
- 4.130 In addition Chapter 16 of the ES has assessed the likely effects of the Scheme on agricultural soils and farming. The assessment concludes that the Power Station Complex would result in the loss of approximately 10.4ha of Grade 3b, resulting in a very minor adverse effect. The effects of the Gas Connection would be temporary and negligible, with affected land returned to agricultural use following construction. On this basis, the Scheme complies with the requirements of national and local planning policy in respect of open space and green infrastructure.

NOISE AND VIBRATION (NPS EN-1, 5.11 NPS EN-2, 2.7, NPS EN-4, 2.20 AND UDP POLICY GDP1)

- 4.131 Section 2.7 of EN-2 recognises that there are noise and vibration effects associated with fossil fuel generating stations. Section 5.11 of EN-1 notes that excessive noise can result in adverse effects on a range of receptors including human life, wildlife and biodiversity. Section 2.20 of EN-4 advises that there are specific noise and vibration considerations that can apply to gas pipelines during the pre-construction and construction phases. Wrexham UDP policy GDP1 seeks to protect public amenity and safeguard the environment from adverse noise effects.
- 4.132 In accordance with paragraph 5.11.14 of EN-1, the ES includes a number of key measures within Chapter 9 of the ES. Chapter 9 of the ES assesses the noise and vibration effects of the Scheme during its construction, operation and decommissioning phases. In accordance with the guidance contained in EN-1 and EN-2, the Scheme incorporates inherent mitigation in the form of the siting of the Power Station Complex to maximise separation distances from noise sensitive receptors and the housing of process plants within noise-insulated buildings.
- 4.133 Additional mitigation measures include the implementation of a CEMP alongside the use of best available techniques to minimise potential noise and vibration effects during construction. Where reasonable and practicable, the use of quieter plant and equipment will be preferred. Subject to these mitigation measures, the Scheme during the construction phase is anticipated to result in negligible noise and vibration effects at all residential receptors.
- 4.134 All noise impacts from temporary construction traffic will be negligible. On this basis no construction noise or vibration are expected to be significant on sensitive receptors. Effects during decommissioning are expected to be consistent with the predicted construction impacts resulting in negligible impacts on all residential noise sensitive receptors.
- 4.135 Subject to mitigation measures including acoustic insulation of buildings and the attenuation of gas turbine exhausts in a manner consistent with para. 2.7.5 of EN-2, operational noise effects would be negligible at all noise sensitive receptors. All operational noise levels would be within World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines to avoid or minimise annoyance.
- 4.136 Cumulative noise effects of the Scheme alongside the identified developments in Chapter 5 of the ES have the potential to give rise to short to medium term increases in predicted construction noise levels. All cumulative operational noise impacts have been assessed as negligible with the exception of one noise sensitive receptor where minor impacts are predicted.
- 4.137 Para. 5.11.9 of EN-1 states that development consent will not be granted unless significant adverse noise impacts on health and quality of life are avoided and other adverse impacts are mitigated or minimised. The paragraph advises also that the decision maker must be satisfied that, where possible, proposals contribute to improvements to health and quality of life through the effective management and control of noise.

4.138 In these terms, the Scheme complies with the aims and requirements of EN-1, EN-2 and Wrexham UDP policy GDP1 in respect of noise. Appropriate mitigation measures to minimise and manage potential noise and vibration effects throughout all project phases are proposed in the ES. These include draft DCO Requirements 4 (make provision for a *Construction and Environmental Management Plan*, Requirement 11: *Construction hours* and Requirement 17: *Decommissioning strategy*. The ES has demonstrated that the Scheme would not result in any significant adverse noise and vibration effects.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS (EN-1 5.12 AND UDP POLICIES GDP1 AND PS1)

- 4.139 Para. 5.12.1 of EN-1 states that ‘the construction, operation and decommissioning of energy infrastructure may have socio-economic impacts at local and regional levels’. Wrexham UDP policy PS1 promotes development within existing employment areas. UDP policy GDP1 seeks to ‘secure the development of sustainable communities through the promotion of the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area’.
- 4.140 Chapter 6 of the ES provides an assessment of the socio-economic effects relating to the Scheme. The assessment considers the full range of effects highlighted and listed in paragraph 5.12.3 of EN-1, including the creation of jobs, effects on tourism and community infrastructure, effects on Welsh language and culture, and cumulative effects.
- 4.141 The ES assessment has not identified any potential for significant adverse socio-economic effects arising from the Scheme. Measures are proposed to enhance the socio-economic benefits of the Scheme. These include a Requirement in the Order to encourage contractors to use local suppliers and to train and recruit construction skilled-staff locally.
- 4.142 The residual socio-economic effects of the Scheme as identified in ES Chapter 6 may be summarised briefly as follows.

Employment

- 4.143 Overall beneficial effects are predicted for all phases of the Scheme. The construction phase would lead to the creation of 515 jobs during the peak period of construction activity, or 220 jobs averaged over a 36 month construction period. This equates to at least approximately 29 FTE jobs locally, 67 FTE sub-regionally and 99 FTE regionally direct and indirect jobs. The operational phase would create 30 FTE permanent jobs. The decommissioning phase is anticipated to generate approximately 50 FTE jobs.

Economic

4.144 The construction phase of the Scheme is anticipated to result in an investment of at least £230m, approximately half of which (an estimated £117.3m) could be procured from within the UK. The construction phase is anticipated to result in approximately £3.19m of direct gross value added (GVA). The indirect employment benefit is expected to generate £3m GVA and an employment income of £1.9m in the sub-region during construction. The operational phase is anticipated to result in approximately £1.45m of direct GVA annually and between £0.6m and £2.2m of indirect GVA annually through the supply chain.

Local disruption

4.145 All socio-economic effects associated with potential disturbance caused during construction of the Scheme have been assessed as negligible. Issues that can influence local disruption such as noise, transport and air quality have been assessed within the ES, with the conclusions of these assessments informing the overall socio-economic conclusion of negligible impact. There is no potential for disruption to local socio-economic activity during the operational phase of the Scheme.

Community infrastructure

4.146 All effects of the Scheme on local community infrastructure have been assessed as negligible.

4.147 It is concluded that the Scheme would result in significant net socio-economic benefits. In support of the Requirement 14 of the draft DCO makes provision for local economic benefits through local contracting, recruitment and training. On this basis the Scheme would comply with both relevant national planning policy and local planning policy in terms of socio-economic effects.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT (NPS EN-1, 5.13)

4.148 Section 5.13 of EN-1 identifies a number of traffic and transport effects that can arise from infrastructure developments. These include increased congestion, social and economic effects, noise and emissions and disturbances caused by traffic and abnormal loads.

4.149 In accordance with para. 5.13.3 of EN-1, the ES assessment has been undertaken in accordance with recognised and appropriate methodologies, as explained in the transport chapter of the ES.

4.150 Para. 5.13.3 of EN-1 advises that applicants '*should consult the Highways Agency and Highways Authorities as appropriate on the assessment and mitigation*'. Chapter 7 of the ES summarises the consultation that was conducted and how this informed the assessment. Further details of the consultation are contained in the Consultation Report (Document reference: 5.1). The Welsh Government and all relevant Highways Authorities were consulted as part of the pre-application consultation process.

- 4.151 Chapter 7 of the ES assesses the transport and traffic effects arising from the Scheme during its construction, operation and decommissioning phases.
- 4.152 All construction traffic delivering materials to the Scheme, including HGVs, would use the route from the north via the A534, Industrial Estate Road (N) and Bryn Lane before turning left onto Kingmoor Park Access Road. All construction staff visiting the Site will be encouraged to enter and exit via Bryn Lane, Industrial Estate Road (N) and the A534. In accordance with para. 5.13.4 of EN-1, these requirements would be secured via a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). A draft CTMP is provided in the ES (Appendix 7.5).
- 4.153 Additional mitigation measures to be included in the CTMP include use of a wheel wash, notification of abnormal loads to the relevant authorities and a HGV booking/management system to ensure an orderly flow of construction traffic. These latter measures will ensure that arrivals and departures are spread across the course of a working day.
- 4.154 All transport and highways effects associated with the construction of the Scheme would be temporary in nature, with potential adverse effect confined to the construction route north of the Power Station Complex Site and the small number of dwellings on Bryn Lane to the south. Operational effects are predicted to be negligible whilst the decommissioning effects would be no worse than the construction phase and therefore no greater than slight adverse. All potential transport cumulative effects would be temporary resulting in no more than slight adverse effects.
- 4.155 The overall conclusions of the transport and traffic assessment contained within the ES are that the Scheme would result in no significant adverse effects. Draft DCO Requirement 9 make provision for the submission and approval of a Construction Traffic Management Plan, and Requirement 10 makes provision for a travel plan to be approved and implemented during the operational phase. On this basis it is considered that the Scheme fulfils NPS requirements with respect to transport and highways.

WASTE MANAGEMENT (EN-1, 5.14 AND UDP POLICY PS10)

- 4.156 Section 5.14 of EN-1 deals with waste management, stating in paragraph 5.14.1 that government policy is intended to protect human health and the environment by producing less waste and by using it as a resource where possible. EN-1 affirms in paragraph 5.14.2 that sustainable waste management is implemented through the waste hierarchy. Wrexham UDP policy PS10 likewise supports this approach. Paragraph 5.14.3 makes clear that *'Disposal of waste should only be considered where other waste management options are not available or where it is the best overall environmental outcome'*.
- 4.157 Para. 5.14.4 of EN-1 recognises that *'all large infrastructure projects are likely to generate hazardous and non-hazardous waste'*. Chapter 15 of the ES provides an assessment of waste material generated by the Scheme and its effects on the environment throughout its construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The ES identifies how this waste can be managed in accordance with the guidance contained in EN-1.

- 4.158 In accordance with EN-1, the ES incorporates an assessment of waste management relating to the Scheme and its effects on the environment. Where appropriate, mitigation measures relating to waste management have been identified.
- 4.159 The Scheme has been sited away from areas where its construction could potentially disturb known deposits of waste material. Furthermore, in accordance with paragraph 5.14.6 of EN-1, mitigation measures include the implementation of a Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP) incorporating measures for the re-use of uncontaminated materials across the Power Station Complex Site as well as the segregation of materials on the Power Station Complex Site to increase the amount available for recycling. Any hazardous materials will be treated on site where possible or otherwise removed off site.
- 4.160 All waste materials removed from the Power Station Complex Site relating to both hazardous and non-hazardous waste would be removed by an appropriately licensed contractor and sent to recycling/treatment facilities as appropriate. In accordance with para. 5.14.7 of EN-1, Chapter 15 of the ES identifies the capacity of existing waste management facilities within the Wrexham area and their ability to deal with the predicted waste generated by the Scheme.
- 4.161 Subject to the identified mitigation measures, the Scheme would result in a small amount of residual waste requiring disposal once the waste hierarchy has been applied. Both the construction and operational phases of the Scheme are anticipated to result in neutral effects on local waste management operations. Decommissioning effects in relation to waste are harder to define, because waste management methods and technologies are expected to evolve. On this basis, a further assessment would be undertaken prior to decommissioning. All potential cumulative waste effects have been assessed as not significant.
- 4.162 The overall conclusion of the assessment is that all waste effects would not be significant. Draft DCO Requirement 4(i) make provision for a Site Waste Management Plan to be approved and implemented during construction. As such, the Scheme is considered to comply with the guidance contained in Section 5.14 of EN-1 and UDP Policy PS10.

WATER QUALITY AND RESOURCES (NPS EN-1, 5.15, NPS EN-2, 2.10 AND NPS EN-4, 2.22 AND UDP POLICIES GDP1 AND EC14)

- 4.163 Para. 5.15.1 of EN-1 states that 'infrastructure development can have adverse effects on the water environment, including groundwater, inland surface water, transitional waters and coastal waters'. Para. 2.22.2 of EN-4 advises that the construction of pipelines can potentially affect watercourses, aquifers, water abstraction and discharge points. Section 5.15.2 of EN-1 advises that, where effects on the water environment are likely, an assessment of the existing status of, and impacts of a development on water quality, water resources and physical characteristics of the water environment should be undertaken. Policy GDP1 of the Wrexham UDP seeks to safeguard water quality from forms of pollution associated with new development, and policy EC14 affords protection for controlled waters.

- 4.164 In accordance with these requirements, Chapter 14 of the ES has assessed the likely effects of the Scheme on the water environment. Effects have been considered during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Scheme in accordance with Section 5.15 of EN-1. Consistent with the advice contained within paragraph 5.15.6 of EN-1, the ES assessment complies with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). Particular regard has been had to the protection of watercourses on the route of the Gas Connection.
- 4.165 4.165 Whilst potential effects on the water environment have been assessed as insignificant, a number of mitigation measures have been proposed. These measures include use of spill kits, bunding of potential contaminant sources and implementation of a drainage strategy. The mitigation measures will be implemented as part of best practice and in accordance with the CEMP.
- 4.166 Subject to the implementation of the identified mitigation measures, all effects associated with the Scheme have been assessed as insignificant. In addition, the WFD assessment screening conducted as part of the ES demonstrates that the Scheme would not:
- cause deterioration in the status of the ecological/chemical elements of the water body;
 - introduce impediments to the attainment of Good WFD status for the water body;
 - compromise the ability of the water body to meet its WFD objectives; or
 - cause a permanent exclusion or compromise achieving the WFD objectives in other bodies of water in the same River Basin District.
- 4.167 Draft DCO Requirement 12 make provision for the submission and approval of a Foul and Surface Water Drainage Strategy. The overall conclusions of the ES demonstrate that the Scheme is in compliance with the requirements of relevant national and local planning policy in respect of water quality and resources.

Chapter 5 ◆ Conclusions

POLICY COMPLIANCE

- 5.1 This Planning Statement has considered the Scheme in the context of relevant National Policy Statements on Energy and other national and local policy, including the Wrexham Unitary Development Plan. To determine the extent to which the Scheme complies with relevant policy, reference has been made to other Application documents including the ES, the Design and Access Statement and the draft Order.
- 5.2 From this assessment, the following overall conclusions are drawn:
- (i) The national need for new gas-fired power generation is acknowledged explicitly in national policy, including the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), the National Policy Statement for Fossil-Fuel Electricity Generation Infrastructure (EN-2), the National Policy Statement for Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines (EN-4), the Gas Generation Strategy 2012 and the National Infrastructure Plan 2014. As explained in Chapter 2 of this Planning Statement, proposals such as the Scheme will help to replace aged power generation infrastructure, enhance national security of electricity supply and assist in the transition to a low carbon economy.
 - (ii) The Scheme is consistent with relevant provisions of Planning Policy Wales and the relevant TANs identified in this statement concerning sustainable development, economic growth and employment, the use of brownfield land and environmental protection. In these terms it is considered to be a sustainable development.
 - (iii) The Scheme would actively support the implementation of policies in the Wrexham UDP concerning the economy, employment and the use of brownfield land, as provided for in Local Plan Policy PS3. It is also consistent with Local Plan policies concerning the natural environment and landscape character. In addition the Scheme is consistent with Policy E3, which allocated approximately 30ha of the Power Station Complex site for employment uses.
 - (iv) Chapter 4 of this Planning Statement summarises the environmental information presented in the ES to appraise the Scheme in the light of the topic-specific policy and guidance provided in relevant National Policy Statements. With the environmental mitigation inherent to the Scheme design, or otherwise provided for in Requirements in Schedule 2 of the Order, it is concluded that the Scheme is a low impact proposal. This reflects the nature of the WIE within which the Power Station Complex will be located.
 - (v) With the Power Station Complex to be located in the northern part of the WIE, which itself is well separated in relation to surrounding settlements, sensitive receptors are generally remote from the Scheme. Local terrain and vegetation will help to contain views of the Power Station Complex.

- (vi) The ability to secure the required highway access and Gas Connection without the need for extensive new infrastructure further substantiates the low impact nature of the Scheme. The Gas Connection Route between the AGI and the Power Station Complex Site is approximately 3.5km in length. The Gas Pipeline would be underground for its entire length.

CONSULTATION FEEDBACK AND SAFEGUARDS

5.3 These conclusions are reinforced by the feedback received from consultees and stakeholders, as recorded in the Consultation Report (Document reference: 5.1). Where consultees have identified a need for environmental mitigation or operational safeguards not already inherent in the Scheme design, WPL has included Requirements in Schedule 2 of the Order. These include:

- Submission of design details to the Relevant Planning Authority for approval
- Landscaping and Ecological Mitigation scheme
- Construction and Environment Management Plan
- Ground investigation
- Piling strategy
- Fencing scheme
- Construction Traffic Management Plan
- Operational Travel Plan
- Limitations on construction hours
- Surface water drainage scheme
- Lighting scheme

5.4 A particular focus of the Requirements in the Order is to ensure that the preparation of the WEC site and construction of the Scheme take place in a well-ordered and neighbourly manner. The Applicant will work with Wrexham CBC to promote consistency between the draft DCO Requirements and the conditions that would attach to a planning permission for the Gas Connection.

LIKELY BENEFITS AND DISBENEFITS OF THE SCHEME

5.5 Section 104 of the 2008 Act requires the decision maker to consider whether the adverse impacts of the Scheme would outweigh the benefits.

Likely benefits

- 5.6 The benefits of the Scheme align with those anticipated by relevant National Policy Statements. Considerable weight must be given to the urgent need for energy generation, including gas fired generating stations as provided in NPS EN-1, the Gas Generating Strategy and The National Infrastructure Plan.
- 5.7 Fundamentally, the Scheme would help to meet the urgent national need for new efficient electricity generation capacity. The Scheme would provide power flexibly and reliably in response to demand from the network and, in these terms they are complementary to intermittent sources of renewable energy and will support the transition to low carbon energy supply in the UK. The Scheme would also contribute materially to the immediate and medium term needs for flexible and reliable power generation.
- 5.8 The Power Station Complex would be CHP Ready and have the potential to deliver sustainable heat to surrounding occupiers.
- 5.9 The design of the Scheme has minimised landscape and visual effects and various measures have been included to improve the experience of those in the area. On balance, the local and regional economic interest in this Scheme proceeding is considered to be a benefit.
- 5.10 The Scheme will be a £300 million investment, approximately half of which could be procured from within the UK. The construction phase would lead to the creation of 515 jobs during the peak period of construction activity, or 220 jobs averaged over a 36 month construction period.
- 5.11 Gross Added Value (GVA) is a measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry or sector of an economy. The construction phase is anticipated to result in approximately £3.19m of direct GVA and the indirect employment benefit is expected to generate £3m GVA and an employment income of £1.9m in the sub-region during construction. Once operational the Power Station Complex will provide c. 30 skilled jobs and is anticipated to result in approximately £1.45m of direct GVA annually and between £0.6m and £2.2m of indirect GVA annually through the supply chain.

Likely disbenefits

- 5.12 The potential for adverse impacts arising from a CCGT power station and its gas connection is identified in general terms in National Policy Statements EN-1 and EN-2 which identify that fossil fuel generating stations have the potential to give rise to adverse effects in relation to air quality and emissions, biodiversity and geological conservation, flood risk, the historic environment, landscape and visual amenity, land use/land take, noise and vibration, socio-economics, traffic and transport, waste and water quality and resources. These are each addressed specifically in the ES. As the ES and Chapter 4 of this Planning Statement explains, some of these effects could occur in respect of the Scheme but the likely impacts have been minimised wherever possible and other effects avoided through appropriate siting, design and mitigation.

- 5.13 Nevertheless, once the inherent design measures and the further mitigation proposed in the Requirements in the Order are taken into account, it is acknowledged that the Scheme would have some residual adverse impact on air quality, noise, traffic and highways, cultural heritage and in terms of landscape and visual effects. From a socio-economic perspective the Scheme would also occupy land allocated for employment use.
- 5.14 Many of these adverse effects would be experienced principally during the construction phase of the Scheme, and would be temporary in nature. Once operational, the Scheme will be a self-contained operation, acoustically contained and generating a relatively low volume of road traffic. There will also be emissions to air for the lifetime of the Scheme. Unavoidably, the Power Station Complex and notably the Stacks will be a feature in some views over the immediate surrounding landscape.
- 5.15 In summary, whilst some disbenefits are likely, they are of a nature that are inherently likely for fossil fuel generating stations, and as such are anticipated in policy, particularly in NPS EN-2. These effects have been anticipated by WPL and have been assessed throughout the pre-application process, including during consultation. This has enabled appropriate siting, design and Requirements to be included in the Order to provide mitigation.

OVERALL CONCLUSIONS

- 5.16 Once the benefits and disbenefits are weighed in the planning balance, it is concluded that there are no adverse impacts or disbenefits sufficient to outweigh the likely benefits of the Scheme, the local and regional economic benefits, and the considerable public benefit to meeting the national need for electricity generation. There would be clear public benefit in allowing the Scheme to proceed.
- 5.17 The Scheme meets explicit objectives of national energy and planning policy and development plan policy at the local level. There is clear national interest in securing new electricity generation capacity and in the large financial investment required to deliver this.
- 5.18 At the local level the inward investment and potential for heat supply are all considered to represent significant net benefits. The proposed environmental and amenity safeguards should ensure that the Scheme minimises adverse effects on local residents during construction and operation.
- 5.19 WPL has maintained dialogue throughout the pre-application period with the relevant planning authorities, Natural Resources Wales and other consultees and regulators and will continue to do so at all relevant stages prior to the operation of the Scheme.

- 5.20 The Scheme is in accordance with the relevant National Policy Statements, being NPS EN-1, NPS EN-2 and NPS EN-4 5. Considerations as to siting, Habitats and Species Regulations, alternatives, good design, consideration of combined heat and power (CHP), grid connection, safety, health, nuisance and security have been given due regard as demonstrated in the ES (Document reference: 6.2), the Design and Access Statement (Document reference: 5.3), this Planning Statement (Document reference: 5.2), Gas Connection Statement (Document reference: 8.2) and the Grid Connection Statement (Document reference: 8.1). The ES has also assessed all relevant likely significant environmental effects and has proposed appropriate mitigation measures. This would be secured through the Requirements in the Order (see Schedule 2 to the Order, Document reference: 3.1).
- 5.21 In accordance with the considerations set out in Section 104 of the 2008 Act, it is concluded that the identified benefits of the Scheme outweigh any adverse impacts, and that there is a clear and compelling case in the public interest for the draft Order to be made for the Scheme.

Glossary

Full Text	Acronym	Notes
Above Ground Installation	AGI	Compound where the infrastructure (pipes, valves and kiosk) is located which is required to connect the Gas Connection to the high pressure gas National Transmission System ('NTS').
AGI Site	-	The land on which the AGI will be located.
Above Ordnance Datum	AOD	Height of land surface above sea level.
Agricultural land classification	ALC	A nationally consistent and recognised method for assessing the potential productiveness of agricultural land.
Air Cooled Condenser		A direct dry cooling system where the steam is condensed and returned condensate to the boiler without water loss. Situated within the Power Station Complex.
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	AONB	A landscape designation protected under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, 2000
Air Pollution Information System	APIS	An information system that provides a comprehensive source of information on air pollution and the effects on habitats and species.
Air Quality Limit Value Regulations 2010		UK regulations to limit the levels of air borne pollutants emitted from industries.
Air Quality Management Area	AQMA	An area designated by a local authority as being at risk of not meeting air quality standards
Air Quality Management Plan	AQMP	A plan developed to improve the air quality in the air quality management area.
Air Quality Modelling and Assessment Unit	AQMAU	An Environment Agency team that targets air quality related issues.
Air Quality Modelling and Risk Assessment Team	AQMRAT	An NRW team that targets air quality related issues
Air Quality Strategy	AQS	The AQS for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland provides details of national air quality standards and objectives for a number of local air pollutants.

Full Text	Acronym	Notes
Air Quality Technical Advisory Group	AQTAG	The joint Environment Agency, Natural England and Natural Resource Wales group. AQTAG was established in 2000 by the agency's Habitats Directive Project to provide technical guidance on the assessment of air emissions from IPC/IPPC processes.
Ancient Woodland	-	A woodland that has existed continuously since 1600 or before.
Annual Average Daily Traffic	AADT	Measurement unit for the total volume of vehicle traffic to indicate how busy the road is.
Annual mean (Air Quality)	-	The average of concentrations measured for a pollutant for one year (usually a calendar year, from January to December). Sometimes it may be reported for a pollution year (April to March) which avoids splitting a winter season, useful for pollutants with higher concentrations during the winter months.
Application	-	The DCO application for the Power Station Complex Site made to the Secretary of State under the Planning Act 2008.
Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure Regulations	APFP	The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 which prescribe various matters in connection with the making of an application for development consent under the Planning Act 2008.
Asbestos Containing Material	ACM	Any material containing more than 1% asbestos.
Automatic Traffic Count	ATC	Means of determining traffic levels in the vicinity.
Automatic Urban and Rural Network	AURN	Air quality monitoring site.
Baseline	-	The conditions that exist without a proposed development at the time an assessment or survey is undertaken.
Bat Conservation Trust	BCT	Voluntary organisation which provides advice and guidance relating to bats.
Below Ground Level	Bgl	A measure unit of distance below ground.
Best Available Technique	BAT	The most effective and advanced stage in the development of activities and their methods of operation which indicates the

Full Text	Acronym	Notes
		practical suitability of particular techniques for providing the basis for emission limit values and other permit conditions designed to prevent and, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions and the impact on the environment as a whole.
Best and most versatile	BMV	Land in grades 1, 2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification
Biodiversity Action Plan	BAP	Plan concerned with the protection of identified species and habitats.
Best Practical Means	BPM	Reasonably applied means that balance best practice against practical constraints.
British Geological Survey	BGS	The UK public body responsible for all aspects of geoscience.
British Society of Soil Science	BSSS	A professional society that aims to advance the study of soil.
BS 4142	-	Method for Rating Industrial Noise Affecting Mixed Residential and Industrial Areas (2014).
BS 8233	-	Guidance on sound insulation and noise reduction for buildings (2014).
BS 5228	-	Code of Practice for Noise and Vibration Control on Construction and Open Sites 2009 (2009).
Cadw		The Welsh Government's historic environment service. Cadw is a Welsh word meaning 'to keep' or 'to protect'.
CAoL Guidance	-	Department of Communities and Local Government guidance 'Planning Act 2008: Guidance related to procedures for the compulsory acquisition of land' (September 2013).
Calculation of Road Traffic Noise	CRTN	Department for Transport Memorandum, Calculation of Road Traffic Noise 1988
Carbon Dioxide	CO ₂	A primary greenhouse gas emitted through human activities as well as natural sources.
Carbon Monoxide	CO	One of the combustion products discharged by CCGT power stations.

Full Text	Acronym	Notes
Chamber of Commerce	CoC	A network of businesses to represent local business interests.
Civil Aviation Authority	CAA	A statutory corporation that oversees and regulates civil aviation in the UK.
Classified Turning Counts	CTC	Measurement of vehicle traffic in particular at junctions.
Coal Authority	-	A non-governmental body that manages coal mining operations and coal reserves throughout the UK.
Construction Industry Research and Information Association	CIRIA	A member-based research and information organisation serving the construction industry
Code of Construction Practices	CoCP	A guidance document that sets out standards and procedures for managing environmental impact of constructing major schemes.
Combined Cycle Gas Turbine	CCGT	A form of power station that uses an efficient combination of gas and steam turbines to generate electricity.
Combined Heat and Power	CHP	A means of using waste heat generated by power station e.g. through a local heat distribution network.
Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management	CIEEM	Professional body governing ecology/ecologists prior to chartership in 2013 the body was known as IEEM and publications refer to this.
Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation	CIHT	IHT is a professional body for transport professionals.
Commercial and Industrial waste	C&I	Both commercial waste and industrial waste are defined by s75 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Commercial waste means "waste from premises ... used wholly or mainly for the purposes of a trade or business or the purposes of sport, recreation or entertainment excluding ... household waste; ...industrial waste and [waste prescribed as being excluded by the Secretary of State]". Industrial waste means "waste from any of the following premises - ... any factory... any premises used for the purposes of, or in connection with, the provision to the public of transport services by land, water or air ...any premises used for the purposes of, or in

Full Text	Acronym	Notes
		connection with, the supply to the public of gas, water or electricity or the provision of sewerage services... any premises used for the purposes of, or in connection with, the provision to the public of postal or telecommunications services; or ... any mine or quarry or any premises used for agriculture within the meaning of the Agriculture Act 1947".
Common Bird Census	CBC	A standardised methodology to map breeding bird territories.
Construction, demolition and excavation waste	CDEW	A type of construction waste as identified by the Natural Resource Wales
Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants	COMEAP	An advisory body that advises the UK government on all matters concerning the health effects of air pollutants.
Conceptual Site Model	CSM	A model that identifies the possible pathways by which a contaminant from a particular source can affect a particular receptor.
Conservation Areas	CA	An area of special architectural and historic interest designated by the local planning authority pursuant to the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
Construction Stage	-	The construction stage of the Scheme begins with enabling works, which will include site set-up and groundworks. Following this, construction of the Power Station Complex Site, and Gas Connection will be undertaken, followed by commissioning.
Construction and Demolition Waste	C&D	A type of construction waste.
Construction Environmental Management Plan	CEMP	A plan describing how the environmental impacts of the construction activities of a project will be minimised and mitigated that is submitted to the relevant planning authority for approval.
Construction Traffic Management Plan	CTMP	A plan for managing construction traffic that is submitted to the relevant Highway Authority for approval
dB(A)	-	A-weighted decibel – a correction applied to each frequency between 20 Hz and 20 kHz that effectively represents the way the human ear works.

Full Text	Acronym	Notes
Decibel	dB	Logarithmic scale for measuring sound levels.
Decommissioning Stage	-	Following the end of its operational life, the Power Station Complex would be decommissioned and will revert to open bare ground. The Gas Connection will be purged of gas and is likely to be left in-situ in order to avoid the adverse environmental effects associated with its removal.
Dee Valley Water		A water supply company that covers North East Wales and the North West of England.
Department for Education and Skills	DfES	Government department responsible for education and children's services.
Department of Energy and Climate Change	DECC	Government department responsible for energy policy
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	DEFRA	Government department responsible for environmental protection, food production and standards, agriculture, fisheries and rural communities.
Department for Transport	DfT	Government department with responsibility for certain areas of transport policy in Wales that have not been devolved.
Deposition	-	The main pathway for removing pollutants from the atmosphere, by settling on land.
Design Manual for Roads and Bridges	DMRB	A suite of technical documents produced by the Highways Agency (as was) that include guidance for environmental appraisal that are also used for non-highways schemes and as such are commonly used in EIA.
Determinand	-	A substance or parameter that is determined analytically, e.g. arsenic concentration in soil, pH of water, concentration of a particular gas in air quality modelling.
Development Consent Order	DCO	An Order made under the Planning Act 2008 granting development consent for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
Electrical Connection	-	The Electrical Connection is not part of the Application for the Scheme, but will be required for the export of electricity. A number of realistic assumptions have been made regarding the electrical connection works as set out below:

Full Text	Acronym	Notes
		- The Electrical Connection is likely to consist of underground cabling between the Scheme's electrical switchgear located within the Power Station Complex and the existing Marchwiell substation, located on Abbey Road on the Wrexham Industrial Estate. - The wider existing electrical distribution network will also need upgrading to accommodate the new generation. This is likely to consist of works to the existing Marchwiell substation, re-stringing of existing pylons between Legacy and Wrexham substations, replacement of the existing portal frame towers between Legacy and Marchwiell substations, and laying of underground cables. Once completed the electrical network which currently serves the Wrexham Industrial Estate will have increased capacity and resilience from that which exists presently.
Electricity Market Reform	EMR	UK government's policy to reform the electricity market. The policy aims to deliver low carbon energy and reliable supplies for the UK, while minimising costs to consumers.
Electric and Magnetic Fields	EMF	EMFs comprise electric and magnetic fields. Electric fields are the result of voltages applied to electrical conductors and equipment. Magnetic fields are produced by the flow of electric current.
Emission	-	The direct or indirect release of substances, vibrations, heat or noise from individual or diffuse sources into air, water or onto land, e.g. pollution may be discharged into the atmosphere from a stack or vent.
Emission Limit Value	ELV	Legal enforcement limit on the physical, chemical or biological characteristics of a point source of emission to water or air.
Energy Efficiency Directive 2012	-	Directive 2012/27/EU establishes a framework of measures for the promotion of energy efficiency within the European Union.
Environmental Health Officer	EHO	A local authority health professional responsible for carrying out measures for protecting public health.
Environmental Impact Assessment	EIA	The process of assessing the likely significant environmental impacts of a proposed project as part of gaining planning consent.

Full Text	Acronym	Notes
Environmental Permit	EP	A permit required in accordance with the Environmental Permitting Regulations.
Environmental Permitting Regulations	EPR	The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 regulate practices that have pollution potential through a permitting system.
Environmental Protection Act 1990	EPA	The Act that covers, amongst other things, the regulation of contaminated land in the UK.
Environmental Protection UK	EPUK	UK environmental Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) working to improve the quality of the local environment
Environmental Quality Standards	EQS	The concentration of a particular pollutant or group of pollutants in water, sediment or biota which should not be exceeded in order to protect human health and the environment.
Environmental Statement	ES	The document which reports the process, findings and recommendations of the EIA.
Environmentally Sensitive Area	ESA	A designation for agricultural areas needing special protection by virtue of their landscape, wildlife or historical value.
Flood Defence Consent	FDC	A consent required by Natural Resources Wales, for construction or maintenance work on over, under or near a main river (usually within 8-10 metres).
Flood Risk Assessment or Flood Consequence Assessment	FRA or FCA	An assessment that determines the risk of flooding to a proposed project.
Full Time Equivalents	FTE	The equivalent number of full time jobs provided by a project - e.g. two half-time jobs equates to one FTE.
Gas Connection	-	This element comprises all the equipment required to connect the Power Station Complex to the National Transmission System, including the Gas Pipeline and the Above Ground Installation. This is being separately consented under the TCPA 1990 though it forms part of the Scheme that has been environmentally assessed through the EIA. The Gas Connection forms part of the Order Land.
Gas Connection Route		The route within which the Gas Connection is situated

Full Text	Acronym	Notes
		together with the temporary construction working areas.
Gas Pipeline	-	A continuously welded underground steel pipe with a nominal bore of up to 400mm.
Gas Turbine	GT	A turbine driven by hot combustion gases at high temperature.
Great Crested Newt	GCN	A species of newt protected by European Legislation.
Greenhouse Gas	GHG	An atmospheric gas such as carbon dioxide, methane, chlorofluorocarbon, nitrous oxide, ozone, or water vapour that slows the passage of re-radiated heat through the Earth's atmosphere.
Gross Value Added	GVA	A measure of added value to the overall economy of each additional job created.
Ground Investigation	GI	An intrusive or non-intrusive investigation, and subsequent <u>testing</u> , of surface and subsurface <u>soil</u> and conditions. This is undertaken to obtain information on the physical and chemical properties of the soil, rock, groundwater and gas regimes at and in the vicinity of a site.
Groundwater Protection: Principles and Practice	GP3	A guidance published by the Environment Agency on Groundwater protection.
Groundwater Source Protection Zone	GSPZ	Areas around groundwater abstraction sources that are defined in order to help protect drinking water from contamination.
Guidance for the Environmental Assessment of Road Traffic	GEART	The IEMA guidance on the environmental assessment of road traffic.
Guidance on Transport Assessment	GTA	Department for Transport guidance dated March 2007 on the preparation of Transport Assessments as archived 22 October 2014 and replaced by NPPG "Transport evidence bases in plan making"
Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd	GLVIA	Guidance produced by the Landscape Institute and the Institute for Environmental Management and Assessment dated 17 April 2013

Full Text	Acronym	Notes
Edition		
Habitat	-	A place where an organism (e.g. human, animal, plant, micro-organism) or population of organisms live, characterised by its surroundings.
Habitat Regulations Assessment	HRA	An assessment required under the European Directive 92/43/EEC.
Habitat Suitability Index	HSI	A method for assessing the suitability of ponds for their potential to support Great Crested Newts.
Health and Safety Executive	HSE	The non-departmental government body responsible for workplace safety in the UK.
Heat Recovery Steam Generator	HRSG	A means of recovering heat energy from hot exhaust gases in order to produce steam for driving a turbine.
Heavy Duty Vehicle	HDV	HGVs, buses and coaches.
Heavy Goods Vehicle	HGV	A truck that when laden has a total weight of more than 3500 kg.
Hectare	ha	10,000m ² or 2.471 acres
Highway Authority	HA	The relevant highway authority responsible for the non-core road network (i.e. roads other than trunk roads and motorways).
Historic Environmental Record	HER	The record held by the local planning authority of known archaeological sites, buildings and landscapes of relevance to the historic environment.
Hover	-	An otter's day nest or resting site.
Indices of Multiple Deprivation	IMD	An index to measure deprived areas in local councils.
Industrial Emissions Directive	IED	EU Directive on industrial emissions that came into force in January 2011.
Industrial Estate Road (N)		The new road which connects Wrexham Industrial Estate to the A534.
Infrastructure Planning	IPC	The public body that previously examined applications for development consent to build Nationally Significant

Full Text	Acronym	Notes
Commission		Infrastructure Projects, abolished through the Localism Act 2011 with the role replaced by the Planning Inspectorate and decisions on whether or not to grant a DCO being made by the Secretary of State.
Institute of Acoustics	IOA	Professional body for Acoustics, Noise and Vibration professionals.
Institute of Air Quality Management	IAQM	IAQM is a professional body for air quality professionals.
Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment	IEMA	IEMA is a professional body for environmental professionals that provide industry guidance on many topics including EIA.
Institute of Gas Engineers and Managers	IGEM	IGEM is a chartered professional body, licensed by the Engineering Council.
Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive	IPPC	The EU Directive (2008/1/EC) incorporated into UK law by the Environmental Permitting Regulations on prevention and control of industrial emissions. The Directive aims to achieve a high level protection of the environment through measures to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions to air, water and land from activities listed in Annex I of the Directive (e.g. energy industries, production and processing of metals, mineral industry, chemical industry, intensive pig and poultry farming, waste management, some food and drink industries etc.).
ISO 9613-2	-	Acoustics- Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors – Part 2: General method of calculation.
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	JNCC	The public body that advises the UK government and devolved administrations on UK-wide and international nature conservation.
Kilovolt	kV	A measure of electrical potential.
Kingmoor Park Access Road	-	The road leading from Bryn Lane to the Power Station Complex Site numbered Work 5 on the Works Plan and in Schedule 1 to the Order
LA ₁₀	-	A-weighted noise level exceeded for 10% of the measurement period.

Full Text	Acronym	Notes
LA ₉₀	-	A-weighted noise level exceeded for 90% of the measurement period.
LA _{eq}	-	A-weighted equivalent continuous sound level.
LA _{max}	-	A-weighted maximum sound pressure level recorded over a given period.
Local Air Quality Management	LAQM	The mechanism by which the Government's air quality objectives are to be achieved.
Landscape Character Area	LCA	A area of defined landscape character in Wales.
Land Plans	-	The plans showing the land over which it is proposed to exercise powers of compulsory acquisition or a right to use land; land in relation to which it is proposed to extinguish or suspend existing easements, servitudes and other private rights and/or impose restrictive covenants (submitted with the Application Document Reference 2.2).
LANDMAP	-	A landscape characterisation and assessment system used across Wales.
Large Combustion Plant Directive	LCPD	European legislation to reduce acidification, ground level ozone and particles throughout Europe by controlling emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and from large combustion plants in power stations.
Laydown Areas	-	The temporary (Work numbered 2A on the Works Plan) and temporary/permanent (Work numbered 2B on the Works Plans) laydown areas required for the Scheme. The Laydown Area shown on the Works Plan and numbered Work 2A in Schedule 1 to the Order is located on the eastern side of the Power Station Complex and will be up to 3.6 ha in size. It will be used during construction of the Scheme only. The Laydown Area shown on the Works Plan and numbered Work 2B in Schedule 1 to the Order is located adjacent to the south eastern corner of the Power Station Complex and will be up to 0.25 ha in size. It will be used during construction of the Scheme and for maintenance activities during operation.
Lead Local Flood	LLFA	The authority responsible for developing, maintaining and applying a strategy for local flood risk management in their

Full Text	Acronym	Notes
Authority		areas and maintaining a register of flood risk assets.
Light Duty Vehicles	LDV	Vehicles with a weight less than 3.5 tonnes (gross weight).
Listed Building		A building that has been placed on the statutory list of buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest and protected by the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
Local Nature Reserve	LNR	Statutory designation for places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally.
Local Wildlife Site	LWS	Wildlife rich sites selected for their local nature conservation value.
Made Ground	-	Man-made deposits artificially placed comprising a wide variety of material e.g. concrete, brick etc - typical of previously developed sites.
Maelor Gas Works	-	An existing above ground installation which takes gas from the NTS and distributes it via existing infrastructure.
Maelor Gas Works Access Road	-	The existing road and track between the B5130 and the Maelor Gas Works, which will be used to access the Gas Connection.
Maintenance or Maintain	-	Includes to the extent assessed in the Environmental Statement, inspect, repair, adjust, alter, remove, refurbish, reconstruct, replace and improve any part, but not the whole, of the authorised development and “maintaining” is to be construed accordingly
Manual for Streets	MfS	The guidance produced by the Department for Transport and Department for Communities and Local Government on road layout and balancing the needs of different road users, with a focus on residential roads, dated 29 March 2007.
Megawatts of electrical power	MWe	Measurement of electrical power.
Megawatts of thermal power	MWth	Measurement of thermal power.
Milligrams per normal cubic metre	mg/ Nm ³	Unit of concentration of emission limit values.

Full Text	Acronym	Notes
Multi Agency Geographical Information for the Countryside	MAGIC	A web-based mapping browser showing various geographical designations e.g. nature conservation sites, heritage sites.
Municipal Solid Waste	MSW	Household waste.
National Cycle Network	NCN	A network of signed and promoted cycle routes across the UK.
National Grid Company	NGC	National Grid's principal operations are the ownership and operation of regulated electricity and gas infrastructure networks.
National Nature Reserve	NNR	Statutory designations, where places with wildlife or geological features that are significant at a national level.
Natura 2000 sites	-	A network of European designated sites including Special Protection Areas (designated under Directive 2009/147/EC) and Special Conservation Areas as listed in Annex I and II of the EU Directive 92/43/EEC ("Habitats Directive")
Natural Resources Wales	NRW	NRW is a Welsh Government Sponsored Body, created in 2013, which took over the work of Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency Wales and Forestry Commission Wales.
National Policy Statements	NPS	Statement of planning policy concerning the consenting of NSIPs in the UK – designated under the Planning Act 2008. The Secretary of State must make his or her decision on an application for a DCO in accordance with a relevant NPS unless other considerations apply.
National Transmission System	NTS	The strategic natural gas pipeline serving the UK.
Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project	NSIP	As defined by the Planning Act 2008, which includes within the definition of an NSIP any onshore generating station in England and Wales of more than 50 MW.
National Air Traffic Control Services	NATS	The main air traffic control service provider within the UK.
Nitrate Vulnerable Zone	NVZ	A designated area where land drains into and contributes to

Full Text	Acronym	Notes
		nitrate found in nitrate-polluted waters.
Nitric Oxide	NO	Combustion product discharged by CCGT power station
Nitrogen dioxide	NO ₂	Combustion product discharged by CCGT power station
Oxides of nitrogen	NO _x	Comprises mainly NO and NO ₂ , combustion products discharged by CCGT power stations.
Noise Sensitive Receptor	NSR	Receptors principally residential dwellings (existing or for which planning consent is being sought/ has been given) and any building used for long term residential purposes (such as a nursing home).
Non-Road Mobile machinery	NRMM	Construction vehicles or plant which are transported to site on low loaders as they are not suitable for driving on roads.
Non-Technical summary	NTS	The non-technical summary of the Environmental Statement.
North & Mid Wales Trunk Road Agent	NMWTRA	NMWTRA is responsible on behalf of Welsh Government for managing the strategic road network in North and Mid Wales
Okta	-	A unit used in expressing the extent of cloud cover, equal to one eighth of the sky.
Operation	-	The routine day to day functioning of the Scheme, including Maintenance activities.
Order	-	The Wrexham (Gas Fired Power Station) Order, being the Development Consent Order which has been applied to be made by the Secretary of State authorising the Power Station Complex Site, a draft of which is submitted with the Application (Document Reference 3.1)
Order Land	-	The land as shown on the Land Plans (Document Reference 2.2) within which the Scheme may be carried out.
Order Limits	-	The limits shown on the Works Plans (Document Reference 2.3) within which the Power Station Complex Site may be carried out.
Ordnance Survey	OS	National mapping agency for Great Britain
Overhead Line	OHL	Network of overhead electricity distribution and transmission lines

Full Text	Acronym	Notes
Part II A	-	The section of EPA 1990 that deals with contaminated land.
Annual Average Flow Rate for surface water runoff	Q_{BAR}	-
Particulate Matter	PM	Very small solid or liquid particles.
Pathway	-	The route by which contamination moves from a source to a given receptor.
Peak Particle Velocity	PPV	A term used to measure vibration through a solid surface. When a vibration is measured, the point at which the measurement takes place can be considered to have a particle velocity.
Percentage Heavy Goods Vehicles	%HGV	Percentage of traffic that is classified as Heavy Goods Vehicles over a given period.
Percentile	-	A value below which that percentage of data will either fall or equal. For instance, the 98th percentile of values for a year is the value below which 98% of all of the data in the year will fall, or equal.
Permitted Development	-	Development that is deemed under legislation to have planning consent without the need to obtain planning permission.
Personal Protective Equipment	PPE	Equipment a person may wear to protect themselves from risks e.g. high-visibility jackets, gloves, steel toe capped boots.
Pipeline Inspection Gauge	PIG	Pipeline inspection and cleaning device.
Planning Act 2008	PA 2008	England and Wales legislation which established the legal framework to apply for, examine and determine applications for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects.
Planning Inspectorate	PINS	Executive agency supported by the Department for Communities and Local Government which deals with planning appeals, national infrastructure, planning applications, examinations of local plans and other planning related and specialist casework in England and Wales.
Planning Policy Wales	PPW	Overarching land use planning policy for Wales, produced by

Full Text	Acronym	Notes
		the Welsh Government (edition 8, January 2016).
Pollution Prevention Guidance	PPG	Environment Agency published guidance on pollution prevention and best practice
Potential Contaminant Linkages	PCL	The existence of a contamination source and a receptor where a pathway is also present linking the two.
Power Station Complex	-	The power generating element of the Scheme including gas turbine building, Stack(s), HRSG(s), transformers, steam turbine building, admin/control building, heat interface building, pressure regulation installation, water tanks, car parking, internal site roads, workshop, water treatment plant, switchyard, switchgear room and surface and foul water drainage (please refer to Works numbered 1A to 1G in Schedule 1 to the Order).
Power Station Complex Site		The Power Station Complex, Laydown Areas, surface water drainage, landscaping and ecological mitigation, (Works numbered 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 in Schedule 1 to the Order and as shown on the Works Plan).
Preliminary Environmental Information Report	PEIR	A report describing the preliminary environmental assessment during the pre-application process of an NSIP.
Pressure Regulating Installation	PRI	Part of the Power Station Complex where the gas is received from the Gas Connection. The PRI conditions the gas before use in the gas turbine(s)
Previous Scheme		The scheme proposed by WPL in 2011, for a power station with a generating capacity of up to 1,200 MW _e detailed in the Previous Scoping Report and which has been superseded by the Scheme which is the subject of the Application.
Previous Scoping Opinion		The Scoping Opinion issued by the Secretary of State in January 2013.
Previous Scoping Report		The Scoping Report submitted by WPL to the Secretary of State in November 2012.
Public Right of Way	PRoW	Paths on which the public have legally protected rights to pass.

Full Text	Acronym	Notes
Ramsar site		A designation for wetlands of International importance.
Receptor	-	An identified aspect of the environment - e.g. a resident, protected species, heritage asset, controlled water etc - that may be affected by the Scheme and, as such, has been assessed as part of the EIA undertaken.
Registered Parks and Gardens		Gardens and designed landscapes of special architectural and historic importance, placed on a register by Cadw.
Remediation	-	The clean-up of contaminated soil to make it suitable and safe for future use.
River Basin Management Plan	RBMP	A management tool created by Natural Resources Wales to use for integrated water resources management.
Rochdale Envelope	-	The Rochdale cases provide the basis upon which a project can be described by a series of maximum extents – the ‘worst case’ scenario - allowing the detailed design of the scheme to vary within this ‘envelope’ without invalidating the corresponding EIA. This envelope has been assessed in the EIA for the Scheme.
Scheduled Monument	SM	A "nationally important" archaeological site or historic building, protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.
Scheme (also referred to as the "WEC")	-	The construction, operation, maintenance and eventual decommissioning of the Power Station Complex Site (Work numbered 1-5 in Schedule 1 to the Order) and the Gas Connection.
Scoping Opinion	-	The Scoping Opinion provided by the Secretary of State in May 2014 and included in the Appendices to the Environmental Statement (Document Reference 6.4, Appendix 5.1).
ScottishPower Electricity Networks or SP Manweb plc	SPEN	Company which operates the electrical distribution network in the North Wales and Cheshire area.
Secretary of State	SoS	The decision maker for a NSIP application and head of the relevant government department. In the context of the Application the decision maker is the Secretary of State for

Full Text	Acronym	Notes
		Energy and Climate Change.
Site (also referred to as the "WEC Site")	-	The area in which the Scheme will be constructed, operated and decommissioned as defined by the Order Land.
Site of Nature Conservation Interest	SNCI	Non-statutory areas of local importance for nature conservation.
Site of Special Scientific Interest	SSSI	A geological or biological conservation designation denoting a protected area in the UK.
Site Waste Management Plan	SWMP	The strategic document dealing with the effective management of materials used for the construction and the operation of the Scheme ensuring that waste is considered at all stages of the Scheme. The SWMP will form part of the CEMP for the Scheme.
Spraint	-	Otter Faeces
Soil Framework Directive 2006	SFD	Proposed Directive (proposal withdrawn in 2014) to promote the sustainable use of soil and protect soil as a natural resource.
Sound Power Level	SWL	The Sound Energy flow per unit of time.
Sound Pressure Level	SPL	Logarithmic measure of the sound pressure of a sound relative to a reference value, the threshold of hearing.
Special Area of Conservation	SAC	Area of protected habitats and species as defined in the European Union's Habitat Directive (92/43/EEC).
Special Landscape Areas	SLA	Local designation to provide protection for locally significant and attractive landscapes.
Special Protection Area	SPA	A designated area for birds under the European Union Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (2009/147/EC)
Stack(s)	-	The structure by which the exhaust gases and waste heat from the Power Station Complex will be emitted to the atmosphere during Operation.
Statement of Community Consultation	SoCC	A statement describing how an applicant proposes to consult the local community about a project.

Full Text	Acronym	Notes
SuDs Approval Body	SAB	-
Sulphur Oxides	SOx	One of the combustion products discharged by CCGT power stations.
Sustainable Drainage Systems	SuDS	Water management practices and facilities that drain surface water more sustainably than the conventional practice of routing run-off through a pipe to a watercourse.
Switchgear	-	The combination of switches, fuses or circuit breakers used to control, protect and isolate electrical equipment. Can be air-insulated or gas-insulated.
Technical Advice Notes	TAN	Technical Advice Notes produced by the Welsh Government which provide detailed planning guidance on technical issues.
Tonnes per annum	tpa	Unit for measuring waste produced.
Town and Country Planning Act 1990	TCPA 1990	The Act which consolidates certain enactments relating to town and country planning (excluding special controls in respect of buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest and in respect of hazardous substances)
Transport Analysis Guidance	TAG	Guidance from the Department for Transport on how to assess transportation schemes first published on 29 October 2013 and last updated on 10 November 2014.
Tree Preservation Order	TPO	A written order made by the local authority which makes it an offence to intentionally damage or remove a tree protected by that order without the authority's permission.
Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive	-	A European Directive to protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water.
Waste (England & Wales) Regulations 2011	-	Legislation for waste prevention, management and introduction of waste hierarchy.
Waste Framework Directive	WaFD	The Waste Framework Directive is a European Union Directive which requires all EU states to take the necessary measures to ensure waste is recovered or disposed of without endangering human health or causing harm to the environment. It has been transposed to the Waste (England & Wales) Regulations in 2011.

Full Text	Acronym	Notes
Water Framework Directive	WFD	The Water Framework Directive is a European Union directive which commits EU member states to achieve good qualitative and quantitative status of all water bodies by 2015.
Water Resources Act 1991	WRA	Legislation to prevent and minimise pollution of water.
Welsh Government	-	Welsh Government is the devolved Government for Wales with responsibility for the economy, education, health, planning, and other policy areas.
Welsh Water		Supplies wastewater services within the Scheme area.
Weighted Sound Reduction Index	R _w	Single-number quantity which characterises the airborne sound insulation of a material or building element over a range of frequencies when tested in a laboratory.
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981		Legislation which protects animals, plants and certain habitats in the UK.
Wrexham Energy Centre (also referred to as the "Scheme")	WEC	The construction, operation, maintenance and eventual decommissioning of the Power Station Complex Site (Work numbered 1-5 in Schedule 1 to the Order) and the Gas Connection.
WEC Site (also referred to as the "Site")	-	The area in which the Scheme will be constructed, operated and decommissioned as defined by the Order Land.
Wrexham County Borough Council	WCBC	The unitary authority area within which the Scheme is located
Wrexham Industrial Estate	WIE	The substantial industrial estate to the east of Wrexham within which the Power Station Complex Site will be located.
Wrexham Power Limited	WPL	The applicant and developer of the Scheme.
World Health Organisation	WHO	A United Nations agency concerned with public health.
Works Plan	-	The plan showing the Power Station Complex Site and the limits (and limits of deviations) within which the Power Station Complex Site may be carried out (Document Reference 2.3).

Full Text	Acronym	Notes
Zone of Theoretical Visibility	ZTV	A computer generated plan showing a maximum area of the surroundings within which a project could theoretically be viewed.