### Key Issues –

- The project site is located within the Pembrokeshire National Park and Milford Haven Waterway Landscape of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

- Following site evaluation, it was apparent that the visual impact of the CHP Plant could not be successfully mitigated by just a combination of vegetation screening, bunding and lowering the CHP Plant relative to the surrounding landscape.

- The alternative approach was to ‘mitigate by design’. However, much of the design depends on the type of technology opted for.

- The challenge was ensuring sufficient certainty for a DCO application whilst retaining flexibility.

- The project employed the Rochdale Envelope approach to design. This provided the applicant with flexibility, but enabled the EIA to be undertaken robustly on the maximum or worst case building envelope.

### Purpose of the project

The development of a CHP Plant within the existing boundary of the South Hook Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminal near Herbrandston. The heat from the CHP plant will be used to vapourise LNG which is then fed into National Grid Gas Plc’s National Transmission System for Gas (the Gas NTS). The power generated by the CHP will either be fed into the National Grid or will replace power currently imported by the LNG Terminal.

### Description of the project

- Nominal gross electrical output capacity of 500MW electrical (MWe) and therefore falls within the threshold for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).

- Located within Pembrokeshire National Park.

- The project was consented in October 2014.
Lessons learnt

- Key parameters were used to inform the first stage of consultation under sections 42 and 47 of the Planning Act.
- Following consultation and set against the Rochdale Envelope parameters, three variations for the illustrative external appearance of the plant were explored. It was agreed that visual impact mitigation should be reflected through architectural design by combining elements of the three options into an illustrative design that was considered to offer the lowest degree of visual impact from key views.
- During the second phase of consultation under section 47 of the Planning Act, concern was raised about views from Herbrandston and the arrangement of the main CHP plant buildings/structures was altered to lessen the visual impact from the village.
- Additionally, directional drilling under the Waterway was selected for the grid connection and a dry cooling system was selected as a backup cooling system, to reduce emissions to the Waterway and ecological impacts.

Summary

- Exceptional circumstances for development are required for projects within a National Park.
- The two phase consultation process allowed the developers to refine the parameters for the project to reduce the visual impact on Herbrandston whilst maintaining a degree of flexibility by assessing the project within a worst-case envelope.
- Extensive consultation was undertaken with NRW, leading to the selection of an alternative back up cooling system and grid connection technique to reduce the impact to the Waterway, red maerl and seagrass colonies.
- To meet the requirements of the DCO process and to realise the benefits of early consultation on a project, it must take place at a sufficiently early stage to allow consultees a real opportunity to influence the proposals.

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