



Connah's Quay Low Carbon Power

Environmental Statement Volume IV Appendix 19-C: Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism Impact Assessment Methodology

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1. Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism Impact Assessment Methodology

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 **Chapter 2: Assessment Methodology (EN010166/APP/6.2.2)** provides a summary of the general impact assessment methodology applied in this Environmental Statement (ES). This Appendix to **Chapter 19: Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism (EN010166/APP/6.2.19)** provides further detail on the specific methodology used to assess the potential impacts of the of Connah's Quay Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) with Carbon Capture Plant (CCP) and supporting infrastructure (hereafter referred to as the Proposed Development) on socio-economic, recreation and tourism receptors.
- 1.1.2 There is currently no statutory guidance on the methodology for undertaking assessments of socio-economics, recreation and tourism. The assessment follows best practice methodology and professional judgement applied to assessments undertaken for comparable energy infrastructure developments.
- 1.1.3 The Proposed Development has the potential to have a range of temporary and permanent effects. For the purposes of **Chapter 19: Socio-Economics, Recreation and Tourism (EN010166/APP/6.2.19)**, based on professional judgement and experience, as well as national planning policy, due consideration has been given to the Proposed Development in terms of effects on the following:
- local economy (direct, indirect, and induced impacts) during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases;
 - skills and training during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases;
 - temporary worker accommodation during construction and decommissioning;
 - public rights of way (PRoW) during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases and severance during construction and decommissioning;
 - agriculture and soils during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases;
 - local amenities (residential properties, business premises, community facilities, and visitor attractions) during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases; and
 - development land during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases.

1.2 Significance Criteria and Definitions of Receptor Sensitivity and Impact Magnitude

- 1.2.1 The assessment of potential socio-economic effects uses the effect significance terms and definitions as described within **Chapter 2: Assessment Methodology (EN010166/APP/6.2.2)**. Where possible, socio-economic impacts have been appraised against relevant national standards, such as those provided by Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) (now separated into Homes England and the Regulator of Social Housing). Where relevant standards do not exist, professional experience and expert judgement have been used to assess the scale and nature of the effects of the Proposed Development against baseline conditions.
- 1.2.2 The assessment aims to be objective and quantify effects as far as possible. However, some effects can only be evaluated on a qualitative basis using professional judgement. Effects are defined as follows:
- **beneficial** - an advantageous or beneficial effect on an area, which may be minor, moderate, or major in effect;
 - **negligible** – imperceptible effects on an area;
 - **adverse** - a disadvantageous or adverse effect on an area, which may be minor, moderate, or major in effect; and
 - **no effect** - no effects on an area.
- 1.2.3 The duration of effect is also considered, with more weight given to long-term and permanent changes than to temporary ones. Permanent effects are those which are unable to be reversed following Proposed Development decommissioning. Reversible long-term effects endure throughout the operational phase of the Proposed Development but cease once decommissioned. Temporary effects are those associated with the Proposed Development construction works. For the purposes of the assessment, short-term effects are typically of one year or less, medium-term effects of one to five years, and long-term effects for over five years.
- 1.2.4 For the socio-economics assessment, there is no accepted definition of what constitutes a likely significant (or not significant) socio-economic effect. It is, however, recognised that effects are classified based upon the relationship between the scale (or magnitude) of an impact and the sensitivity (or value) of the affected resource or receptor. As such, socio-economic effects are assessed using professional judgment and experience, considering:
- **sensitivity of resources/ receptors:** specific values in terms of sensitivity are not attributed to socio-economic resources/ receptors due to their diverse nature and scale; however, the assessment takes account of the qualitative (rather than quantitative) 'sensitivity' of each receptor and, in particular, their ability to respond to change based on recent rates of change and turnover (if appropriate);
 - **magnitude of impact:** this entails consideration of the size of the impact on people or business in the context of the area in which impacts would be experienced; and

- **scope for adjustment:** the socio-economic assessment is concerned in part with economies. These adjust themselves continually to changes in supply and demand, and the scope for the changes brought about by the Proposed Development to be accommodated by market adjustment is therefore a criterion in assessing effect significance.

1.2.5 Criteria for receptor sensitivity and impact magnitude are set out below (although specific sensitivity values are not attributed to socio-economics receptors as explained above), which have been grouped as follows: economic impacts, local amenities, land use impacts, PRow and agricultural land. The significance of effect matrix is provided in **Table 11** in Section 1.3, following descriptions of receptor sensitivity and impact magnitude criteria below.

Economic Impacts

- 1.2.6 The following criteria have been used to assess the effects of the Proposed Development on socio-economic receptors in relation to employment, Gross Value Add (GVA), skills and training and temporary worker accommodation which have been grouped together as economic impacts.
- 1.2.7 **Table 1** identifies the sensitivity criteria that have been used to inform the assessment on socio-economic receptors relating to employment and GVA, in conjunction with the magnitude criteria set out above to establish the likely significance of the identified effects.

Table 1: Economic Impact Sensitivity Criteria

| Sensitivity | Description |
|-------------|--|
| High | Businesses, workers or residents who have little or no capacity to experience the impact without incurring an economic loss or have capacity to experience an economic gain. |
| Medium | Businesses, workers or residents that have some capacity to experience the impact without incurring a change on their economic well-being. |
| Low | Businesses, workers or residents that generally have good capacity to experience impacts without incurring a change on their economic well-being. |
| Very-low | Businesses, workers or residents that are resilient to impacts on their economic well-being. |

1.2.8 **Table 2** identifies the magnitude of impact criteria which have been used to inform the assessment on socio-economic receptors relating to employment and GVA.

Table 2: Economic Impact Magnitude Criteria

| Magnitude | Description |
|-----------|--|
| High | An impact that is expected to have considerable adverse or beneficial socio-economics effects. Such impacts will typically affect large numbers of businesses, workers or residents. |
| Medium | An impact that will typically have a noticeable effect on a moderate number of businesses, workers or residents, and will lead to a small change to the study area's baseline socio-economic conditions. |
| Low | An impact that is expected to affect a small number of businesses, workers or residents or an impact that may affect a larger number of receptors but does not materially alter the study area's baseline socio-economic conditions. |
| Very-low | An impact which has very little change from baseline conditions where the change is barely distinguishable, approximating to a 'no change' situation. |

Methodology for Determining Construction Employment Effects

- 1.2.9 The economic impact of the Proposed Development is considered relative to a 60-minute travel time (car) to the Proposed Development. This is considered a reasonable timeframe within which workers would commute to the Proposed Development and therefore represents the principal labour market catchment area.
- 1.2.10 Additionality has been calculated by considering the overall impact of job gains to the area, taking into account the level of leakage, number of displaced jobs and multiplier effects (such as supply chain and worker spending-related jobs). These assumptions have been informed by the HCA Additionality Guidance (Ref 1)¹.
- 1.2.11 **Table 3** below outlines the values that have been allocated within the construction and decommissioning phases' additionality formula, enabling the tailored calculation of the net additional employment and economic impacts. Justifications for the values have been considered and are summarised in the right-hand column of the table.

¹ Although this document was officially withdrawn on 24th May 2022, without a replacement, it continues to serve as a cornerstone of best practice guidance for additionality benchmarks. The guide, while no longer officially endorsed, remains highly regarded within the industry due to its comprehensive framework and established benchmarks for assessing additionality. Its use ensures understanding of additional benefits beyond what would have happened without intervention, thereby maintaining standards of accountability and effectiveness in public and private sector initiatives alike.

Table 3: Calculation of Employment Generation Assumptions

| Additionality Factor | Value | Justification |
|---|--------------|--|
| Leakage (% of jobs that benefit those residents outside the Proposed Development's identified target area) | 55% | This is the proportion of jobs taken by people who live outside of the study area, defined as a 60-minute drive area. Based on professional judgment and other similar infrastructure projects, given the specialised nature of the construction, operation and maintenance roles, this has been estimated to be 55%. |
| Displacement (% of jobs that account for a reduction in related jobs in the Proposed Development's identified target areas) | 25% | For the purpose of this assessment, a low level of displacement (25%) has been assumed, in line with the HCA Additionality Guidance (Ref 1). This level of displacement reflects that there are expected to be some displacement effects, although these are only to a limited extent. This displacement level is assessed as appropriate for a construction project, as used in other comparable infrastructure projects. |
| Multiplier (further economic activity associated with the additional local income, supplier purchase and longer-term development effects) | 1.5 | The multiplier is a composite figure which takes into account both the indirect jobs created across the study area based on supply chain activity but also the induced employment created through increased spending across the study area. The HCA Additionality Guidance (Ref 1) provides a 'ready reckoner' of composite multipliers. The study area is likely to have 'average' supply linkages and induced effects based on the scale of its economy. Therefore, a 'medium' multiplier of 1.5 is determined from the HCA guidance to be the most appropriate measure. |

Public Rights of Way and Severance

- 1.2.12 The following criteria have been set to assess the effects on users of PRoW and the local strategic road network focusing on the impact of disruption to existing routes and the resulting changes in journey lengths and times and local travel patterns.

1.2.13 **Table 4** identifies the sensitivity criteria that have been used to inform the assessment on PRow and severance.

Table 4: Public Rights of Way and Severance Impact Sensitivity Criteria

| Sensitivity | Description |
|-------------|---|
| High | PRow is of high importance with limited potential to substitute with other route options to access the wider network or community infrastructure. |
| Medium | PRow is of medium importance with good potential to substitute with other route options to access with the wider network or community infrastructure; or PRow is of high importance with alternative routes available; or PRow is of low importance with limited potential to substitute with other route options to access with the wider network or community infrastructure. |
| Low | PRow is of minor importance and with alternative routes available; or PRow is of very low importance with moderate potential to substitute with other route options to access with the wider network or community infrastructure. |
| Very-low | PRow is of negligible importance and/ or with alternative routes easily available. |

1.2.14 **Table 5** identifies the magnitude of impact criteria which have been used to assess the Proposed Development impacts on PRow.

Table 5: Public Rights of Way and Severance Impact Magnitude Criteria

| Magnitude | Description |
|-----------|---|
| High | Substantial increase/ decrease in journey length and/ or travel patterns and increased/ decreased opportunities for users to access the wider network and/ or community infrastructure. |
| Medium | Noticeable increase/ decrease in journey length and/ or travel patterns and increased/ decreased opportunities for users to access the wider network and/or community infrastructure. |
| Low | Slight increase/ decrease in journey length and/ or travel patterns and increased/ decreased opportunities for users to access the wider network and/or community infrastructure. |
| Very-low | A negligible increase, no change, or a decrease in journey length and/ or travel patterns and no increase or decrease in opportunities for users to access the wider network and/or community infrastructure. |

Agriculture and Soils

1.2.15 This section outlines the criteria that have been set to assess the effects of the Proposed Development on agricultural land and soil receptors. As set out in paragraph 3.58 of PPW (Ref 2), best and most versatile ('BMV') agricultural land is a finite resource with policy to conserve for the future

when making development management decisions. Paragraph 3.58 of Planning Policy Wales further defines BMV agriculture land to consist of Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Grades 1, 2 and 3a. Paragraph 3.59 of the Planning Policy Wales states that 'land in grades 1, 2 and 3a should only be developed if there is an overriding need for the development, and either previously developed land or land in lower agricultural grades is unavailable, or available lower grade land has an environmental value recognised by a landscape, wildlife, historic or archaeological designation which outweighs the agricultural considerations'. Paragraph 6.2.1 of the PPW Technical Advice Note 6 (Ref 3) provides further information on this, stating that when preparing development plans, the quality of agriculture land should be considered and any adverse effects on the environment minimised.

- 1.2.16 For all practical intents and purposes, agricultural land cannot be created or translocated, nor can a compensatory area of land have its ALC grade enhanced. There is, therefore, no viable potential for beneficial effect or mitigation with regard to agricultural land quality.
- 1.2.17 For the agricultural land resource, the presence of BMV land and the grade of that land determine sensitivity, with ALC Grades 1 and 2 land being of higher sensitivity than land in Grade 3a. The magnitude of change criteria is based on the extent of BMV land lost; the loss of 20 hectares (ha) referred to below as a high magnitude impact is derived from the Minister for Climate Change's BMV land letter (Ref 4).
- 1.2.18 The sensitivity of agricultural land is set out in **Table 6**, and is based on the sensitivity criteria within the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) guidance (Ref 5).

Table 6: Receptor Sensitivity Criteria - Agricultural Land

| Sensitivity | Description |
|-------------|---|
| High | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural soils. • ALC grade 1 & 2. |
| Medium | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soils directly supporting a UK designated site (e.g., SSSI). • ALC Subgrade 3a. • Additional sensitivity criteria based on susceptibility of soils to damage when being handled (not the importance of the land for agriculture) can additionally be applied, if appropriate, based on IEMA guidance, reflecting combinations of soil texture, field capacity days and wetness class (for high, medium and low sensitivity classes only). |
| Low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soils supporting non-statutory designated sites (e.g., Local Wildlife Site (LWS), Local Nature Reserve (LNR), LGS, Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI)). • ALC Subgrade 3b. |
| Very-low | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soils supporting non-designated notable or priority habitats. |

| Sensitivity | Description |
|-------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALC Grade 4 & 5. • Previously developed land formerly in 'hard uses' with little potential to return to agriculture. |

1.2.19 The criteria and their respective magnitude of impact classification which has been applied are presented within **Table 7** and is based on the sensitivity criteria within the IEMA guidance.

Table 7: Magnitude Criteria for Agricultural Land

| Magnitude | Description |
|-----------|---|
| High | Permanent irreversible loss (including permanent sealing or land quality downgrading) or permanent improvement of one or more soil functions or soil volumes (due to remediation or restoration) over >20 ha of agricultural land. |
| Medium | Permanent irreversible loss (including permanent sealing or land quality downgrading) or permanent improvement of one or more soil functions or soil volumes (due to remediation or restoration) over >5 ha <20 ha of agricultural land. |
| Low | Permanent irreversible loss (including permanent sealing or land quality downgrading) or permanent improvement of one or more soil functions or soil volumes (due to remediation or restoration) over <5 ha. Temporary loss / reduction of one or more soil function(s) and restriction to current or approved future use (e.g., through degradation, compaction, erosion of soil resource). |
| Very-low | No discernible loss / reduction of soil function(s) that restrict current or approved future use. |

Local Amenities and Development Land

1.2.20 The following criteria have been used to assess the effects of the Proposed Development on local amenities which comprise residential properties, business premises, visitor attractions and community facilities and development land.

1.2.21 **Table 8** identifies the sensitivity criteria that have been used to inform the assessment of effects relating to local amenities, which in conjunction with the magnitude criteria set out in **Table 9**, have been used to establish the likely significance of identified effects.

Table 8: Local Amenities Impact (Residential Properties, Business Premises, Visitor Attractions and Community Facilities) Sensitivity Criteria

| Sensitivity | Description |
|-------------|--|
| High | Amenity or land use is of high importance and rarity with limited potential for substitution or access to alternatives. |
| Medium | Amenity or land use is of medium importance and rarity with moderate potential for substitution or access to alternatives. |
| Low | Amenity or land use is of low importance and rarity with alternatives available. |
| Very low | Amenity or land use is of very low importance and rarity with alternatives available. |

1.2.22 The magnitude of change on local amenities (residential properties, business premises, visitor attractions and community facilities) has been assessed by appraising the level of impact on the receptor and the permanency of change arising from the Proposed Development based on the findings of other environmental topics in relation to likely residual effects; this includes noise and vibration, visual amenity, air quality and traffic and transport. The methodology considers whether, if two or more likely adverse effects were to occur at the same time on the same receptor (or group of receptors) for different technical topics, the potential for an in-combination likely significant effect on the receptor's amenity or enjoyment could occur. **Table 9** identifies the magnitude of impact criteria which have been used to assess the impacts on local amenities.

Table 9: Local Amenities Impact (Residential Properties, Business Premises, Visitor Attractions and Community Facilities) Magnitude Criteria

| Magnitude | Description |
|-----------|---|
| High | An impact that permanently or in the long term affects the integrity and value of a facility or land use; or that considerably enhances the value and quality of a facility or land use. Generally, this will equate to where three or more moderate or major (significant) residual effects are identified on a receptor from across the following environmental topics findings; noise and vibration, air quality, transport, or visual amenity, with at least two of these effects being major (significant). |
| Medium | An impact that causes a noticeable negative effect on the value of a facility or land use, but where its recovery is possible with no permanent or long-term impacts; or an impact that leads to some noticeable improvement in key characteristics and features of the facility or land use. Generally, this will equate to where two or more moderate or major (significant) residual effects are identified on a receptor from across the following environmental topics findings; noise and vibration, air quality, |

| Magnitude | Description |
|-----------|---|
| | transport, or visual amenity, with at least one of these effects being major (significant). |
| Low | An impact that has some negative effect on the value of a facility or land use, but a recovery is expected in the short-term with no change to its integrity; or an impact that has some beneficial impact on the attributes of the facility or land use. Generally, this will equate to where two residual effects which are not worse than moderate (significant) effect are identified on a receptor from across the following environmental topics findings; noise and vibration, air quality, transport, or visual amenity. |
| Very low | An impact which is a very small loss or benefit from baseline conditions where the change is barely distinguishable, approximating to a 'no change' situation. Generally, this will equate to either where only one moderate or major (significant) residual effect is identified on a receptor from across the following environmental topics findings; noise and vibration, air quality, transport, or visual amenity, or where all of these findings are minor adverse or negligible (not significant). An impact which is a very minor loss or benefit from baseline conditions where the change is barely distinguishable, approximating to a 'no change' situation. |

1.2.23 For development land, an assessment has been undertaken of the effects on development land within the study area as identified from a review of planning applications which have received planning permission, or which are under consideration. The assessment considers temporary and permanent land take of development land which may affect its viability. **Table 10** identifies the magnitude of impact criteria which have been used to assess the Proposed Development impacts on development land.

Table 10: Local Amenities Impact (Development Land) Magnitude Criteria

| Magnitude | Description |
|-----------|--|
| High | An impact that permanently affects the integrity and value of a development land resource; or an impact that considerably enhances the value and quality of such a resource. |
| Medium | An impact that negatively affects the value of a development land resource, but a recovery is possible with no permanent impacts; or an impact that improves key characteristics and features of such a resource. |
| Low | An impact that negatively affects the value of a development land resource, but a recovery is expected in the short-term with no change to its integrity; or an impact that has some beneficial impact on the attributes of such a resource. |

| Magnitude | Description |
|-----------|--|
| Very-low | An impact which is a very minor loss or benefit from baseline conditions where the change is barely distinguishable, approximating to a 'no change' situation. |

1.3 Significance of Effects

1.3.1 Socio-economic effects reflect the relationship between the sensitivity of the affected receptor and the magnitude of the impact. **Table 11** illustrates how the significance of socio-economic effects has been determined.

Table 11: Impact Assessment and Significance

| Magnitude of Impact | Sensitivity of Receptor | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|----------|
| | Very Low | Low | Medium | High |
| High | Minor | Moderate | Major | Major |
| Medium | Negligible | Minor | Moderate | Major |
| Low | Negligible | Negligible | Minor | Moderate |
| Very low | Negligible | Negligible | Negligible | Minor |

1.3.2 In accordance with the methodology set out within **Chapter 2: Assessment Methodology (EN010166/APP/6.2.2)**, the following criteria is applied:

- 'moderate' or 'major' effects are classed as '**significant**';
- 'minor' effects are classed as '**not significant**' although they may be a matter of local concern; and
- 'negligible' effects are classed as '**not significant**'.

1.3.3 **Table 12** provides a summary of the criteria for classifying likely significant effects.

Table 12: A Summary of the Classification for Effect Significance Criteria

| Category | Definitions | Significance classification |
|------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Major | <p>A large and detrimental change to a valuable/ sensitive receptor; likely or apparent exceeding of accepted (often legal) threshold. Or;</p> <p>A large and beneficial change, resulting in improvements to the baseline result in previously poor conditions being replaced by new legal compliance or a major contribution being made to national targets.</p> <p>These effects may represent key factors in the decision-making process. Potentially associated with sites and features of national importance or likely to be important considerations at a regional or district scale. Major effects may relate to resources or features which are unique and which, if lost, cannot be replaced or relocated.</p> | Significant |
| Moderate | <p>A medium scale change which, although not beyond an acceptable threshold, is still considered to be generally unacceptable, unless balanced out by other significant positive benefits of a project. Likely to be in breach of planning policy rather than a legal statute. Or;</p> <p>A positive moderate effect is a medium scale change that is significant in that the baseline conditions are improved to the extent that guideline targets are contributed to.</p> <p>These effects, if adverse, are likely to be important at a local scale and on their own could have a material influence on decision making.</p> | Significant |
| Minor | <p>A small change that, whilst adverse, does not exceed legal or guideline standards. Unlikely to breach planning policy. Or;</p> <p>A small positive change, but not one that is likely to be a key factor in the overall balance of issues. These effects may be raised as local issues and may be of relevance in the detailed design of a project but are unlikely to be critical in the decision-making process.</p> | Not significant |
| Negligible | <p>A very small change that is so small and unimportant that it is considered acceptable to disregard. Effects which are beneath levels of perception, within normal bounds of variation or within the margin of forecasting error.</p> <p>These effects are unlikely to influence decision making irrespective of other effects.</p> | Not significant |

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