



ABERGELLI POWER PROJECT

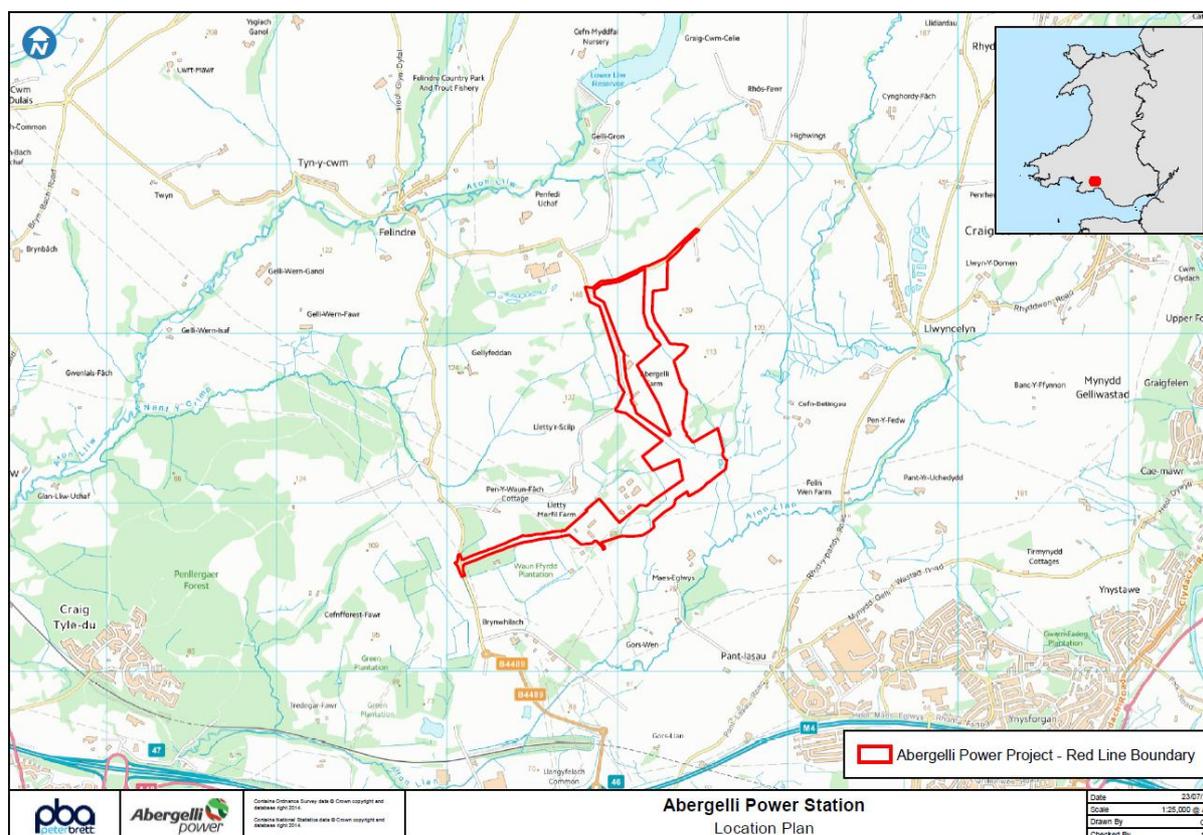
Abergelli Farm,  
Felindre, Swansea

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY  
CONSULTATION

30<sup>th</sup> September 2014

[www.abergellipower.co.uk](http://www.abergellipower.co.uk)

This Statement of Community Consultation is published in connection with a proposed gas-fired power station, including its integral gas and electrical connections, at Abergelli Farm (the Project). It explains how individuals living and working locally, as well as other interests such as local businesses and local civic/community organisations, can comment on the proposals to construct and operate the Project. The Project Site is situated north of Swansea in the City & County of Swansea (north of M4, Junction 46), approximately 1km southeast of Felindre, 750m south-west of Llwyncelyn and 1.5km north of Llanyfelach.



### ***APL: location plan and application boundary***

The Project is being promoted by Abergelli Power Limited (APL), a company established by Watt Power Limited. Watt Power is seeking to develop gas fired power stations at Abergelli Farm and elsewhere in the UK to support the UK Government's drive to a low carbon economy.

APL has consulted City & County of Swansea Council as the local planning authority about the content of this Statement of Community Consultation and has had regard to the council's response.

The capacity of the proposed Project will be in excess of 50 MW of electricity. As such, it is classified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008. This requires a Development Consent Order (DCO), granted under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011 and the Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013 – hereafter referred to as ‘Planning Act 2008 (as amended)’), to build and operate, granted by the Secretary of State for Energy & Climate Change.

The Statement of Community Consultation is part of a consultation process that APL is carrying out before it makes a formal application to the Secretary of State for a DCO.

A consultation/communication plan has previously been developed and is available from APL or via its website [www.abergellipower.co.uk](http://www.abergellipower.co.uk).

**This Statement explains:**

- Some details about the Project;
- How APL is publishing preliminary environmental information about the Project;
- How APL is going to consult local people and communities about the Project and what activities will be undertaken to give them access to information about the proposal and help them to understand what particular aspects of the Project may mean to them, enabling them to provide informed feedback;
- How people can become involved in shaping the Project before a DCO Application is submitted by putting forward their views to influence the Project, particularly regarding specific options under consideration; and
- How people can provide feedback to APL from consultation activities and ensure that they are informed about the Project.

**The Project**

The key details of the proposed Project are:

- The construction of a Power Generation Plant with a rated electrical output of between 50 and 299 MW. The plant will have up to 5 stacks each up to 40m in height. The plant will have a dedicated access road.
- The site for the Power Generation Plant covers an area of approximately 6 ha;
- The Power Generation Plant will produce electricity from natural gas;
- Construction of a new underground electrical connection (up to 1km in length) to the National Grid and the construction of a new underground pipeline (up to 1.4km in length) to bring natural gas to the Power Generation Plant from the National Transmission System;
- Creation of approximately 150 jobs during a construction period lasting two years and 15 permanent jobs once commercial operations have begun;
- It responds to the UK Government's need for new gas generation in order to underpin the country's energy security and its transition to a low-carbon economy;
- The station would emit about 50% less carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) than an equivalent sized coal-fired power plant, and is designed to operate flexibly so that it can respond quickly and efficiently to short-term variation in customer demand and intermittent output from wind power generation; and
- It is acknowledged that during construction and operation there is potential for adverse effects on some local communities and the environment, for example noise and traffic during the construction phase and the visual effects of the of the new stacks. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is being undertaken to understand and seek to minimise these and other potential effects of the Project's construction and operation. More information on this process is provided below. The EIA process is also considering the potential positive effects of the operation of the Project.

### **The Planning Process**

DCO applications for NSIPs are submitted to the Planning Inspectorate which will process and examine the application before making a recommendation to the relevant Secretary of State. The final decision on the application is made by the Secretary of State and if it is successful, a DCO will be made.

The Government's policies in relation to NSIPs are set out in National Policy Statements (NPSs). The Project has been developed with regard to the relevant Energy NPSs, in particular EN-1 (Energy), EN-2 (Fossil Fuel Electricity Generating Infrastructure) and EN-5 (Electricity Networks Infrastructure). EN-1 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"*.

When determining a DCO Application, the Secretary of State must have regard to the relevant NPSs and must make a decision in accordance with these unless she/he is satisfied that the adverse impact of the Project would outweigh its benefits.

When considering whether to accept an application for examination, the Planning Inspectorate must be satisfied that the applicant has undertaken effective pre-application consultation. Pre-application consultation is essential in allowing APL to understand and seek to minimise the effects of the Project and to allow a thorough examination by the Planning Inspectorate. APL is required to submit a Consultation Report with its application for a DCO. This report will include details of the local community feedback received, explain how APL has had regard to the feedback and will detail how APL has complied with the consultation requirements of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended).

The community consultation described in this statement is carried out under Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended). It is in addition to consultation that will be carried out with specific statutory consultees (such as statutory nature conservation bodies) and those with relevant interests in land (including owners and occupiers within the Project boundary) under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended). It is also in addition to wider publication of the proposed Project under Section 48 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended).

Information on the planning process and the NPSs can be found at:

[www.planningportal.gov.uk/planning/planninginspectorate](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/planning/planninginspectorate)

[www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting\\_energy/consents\\_planning/nps\\_en\\_infra/nps\\_en\\_infra.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/consents_planning/nps_en_infra/nps_en_infra.aspx)

## **Environmental Information & Impacts**

The Project will be designed and developed to meet or exceed current quality, safety and environmental standards and efforts will be made to minimise its impact on the local environment, both during its construction and its operation. The extent and scale of the Project and APL's proposals to mitigate its impacts will be amongst the issues considered by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State.

Because of the nature and size of the Project, APL is undertaking an EIA. Therefore, the Project is classed as an EIA development. The EIA considers the potential impacts of the Project including: air quality; noise and vibration; ecology; water quality and resources; geology, ground conditions and agriculture; landscape and visual; traffic, transport and access; cultural heritage and archeology; and socio-economics.

APL has consulted with various statutory bodies concerning the scope of the EIA, including local authorities, Natural Resources Wales (NRW), the South Wales Trunk Road Agency, and utility providers. A request for a Scoping Opinion was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on June 25<sup>th</sup> 2014, accompanied by a Scoping Report. The Scoping Report outlines which environmental topics will be covered by the EIA and how the assessments will be undertaken. The Planning Inspectorate issued its formal Scoping Opinion on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2014.

All documents are available on the Abergelli Power website ([www.abergellipower.co.uk](http://www.abergellipower.co.uk)) and via the dedicated section on the Planning Portal website: <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/projects/wales/abergelli-power/>

As part of the pre-application consultation materials on the proposed Project, APL will publish a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and an associated non-technical summary (NTS). The PEIR will present the information gathered to date and provide the results of APL's preliminary findings of the assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Project. It will not set out the final findings but will include information on provisional mitigation measures. During consultation, APL will make available details on landscaping proposals and other measures to mitigate the Project's impact. APL will provide

copies of the PEIR and its associated NTS to City & County of Swansea Council as the local planning authority. Both documents will also be made available at: Swansea Central Library; local libraries; at public exhibitions held as part of the consultation process and on the APL website.

When the EIA process is complete and APL submits its application for a DCO, it will be accompanied by an Environmental Statement. This will report on the likely significant environmental effects of the Project identified in the EIA and will explain the mitigation measures to avoid or reduce these.

### **Public Consultation**

The views of the local community about the Project are important. In June 2014, APL carried out a non-statutory consultation process sharing its initial plans with the public at three exhibitions held in Clydach, Felindre and Tircoed. At the exhibitions and since, APL has received and responded to comments on the Project and its impact on the environment, local communities and the local economy.

#### ***a. What are we now consulting on and when?***

In the statutory phase of consultation commencing in Autumn 2014, APL will seek views on the preliminary environmental information presented about the Project as well as on other key elements of the Project. Only after responses have been considered will the design be finalised and the application for a DCO be submitted.

Responses will be invited on:

- The preliminary findings of the assessment as to the likely significant environmental effects of the Project;
- The proposed route option(s) for accessing the Project; and
- The indicative layout of the power generation plant within the Project site.

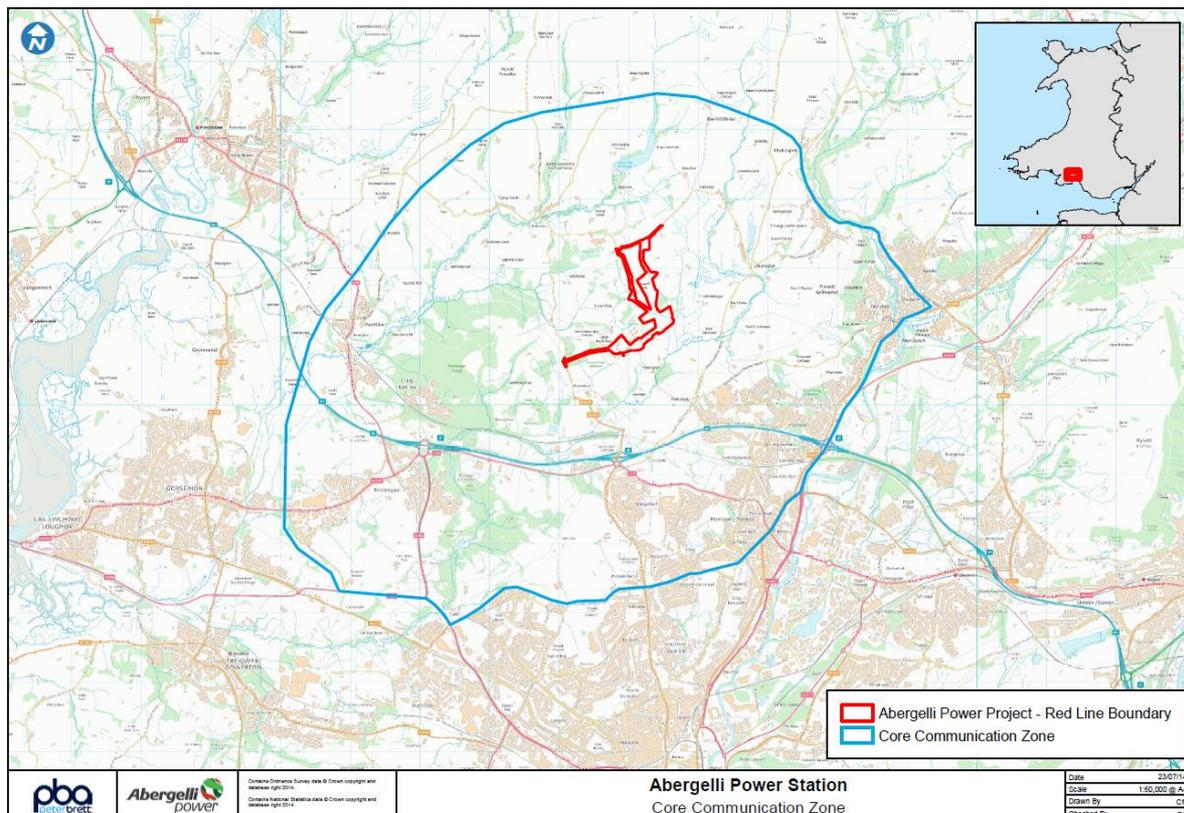
The consultation explained in this Statement will run for 35 days ending on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2014. Comments about the Project must be received by APL by this date.

#### ***b. Who will we consult with?***

The Planning Act 2008 (as amended) states that those *'living in the vicinity of the land'* should be consulted. APL has discussed the scope of the consultation with City & County of Swansea as the local planning authority, and has identified and agreed the Consultation Zones that form the basis of the community consultation.

APL will carry out its consultation activities in two areas: a Core Consultation Zone (CCZ) that equates to an approximate radius of 3.5km from the Project Site and an Outer Consultation Zone (OCZ) that equates to a radius of approximately 8km.

The CCZ has been designed to include the main population areas in the vicinity of the Project Site that have the potential to be affected by the Project and expected to have the greatest interest in the Project. The zone includes the villages of Clydach, Felindre, Llangyfelach and Tircoed, and all or parts of the following community council areas: Clydach, Llangyfelach, Mawr, Morriston, Mynyddbach, Penllergaer and Pontlliw & Tircoed.



***Proposed Core Consultation Zone – approx. 3.5 km radius from the Project Site***

Communities within the OCZ will be informed about the Project (via newspaper advertisements, posters, media coverage and contact with local elected members and community councils in the OCZ and other relevant local organisations) and given the opportunity to comment on the plans. The outer zone includes the main population area of the city of Swansea.

APL does not anticipate that the communities and businesses which lie within the OCZ will be significantly impacted by the Project's construction and operation although APL recognises that they may be interested in it. Outside the two zones, there may well be others interested in APL's plans. They will also be reached through local/regional newspaper advertising and media coverage (print, broadcast and social media). Feedback that is received within the consultation period will be considered.

**c. *How will we consult?***

APL will seek and receive people's views through a number of activities:

- Public exhibitions will be held at Clydach, Felindre, Llangyfelach and Tircoed within the CCZ. Feedback forms, allowing people to provide their views on the Project, will be available at these exhibitions;
- A leaflet or letter will be delivered to households, businesses and institutions in the CCZ, and made available at local council offices, local libraries and other venues as appropriate. The leaflet will also be distributed to those groups that are defined as "hard to reach" (for example, the elderly, the young and minority groups). It will give background on the Project, the consultation process (including exhibitions) and how individuals can engage in it. The leaflet will be made available at libraries and council offices in the OCZ;
- Copies of the leaflet, the SoCC, the Preliminary Environmental Information Report and its Non-Technical Summary as well as other information about the Project will be available to be inspected at the following locations:

	<b>City and County of Swansea Council Offices,</b> Penllergaer Swansea SA4 9GJ (01792) 636000	<b>Swansea Central Library</b> Civic Centre Oystermouth Road Swansea SA1 3SN (01792) 636464	<b>Clydach Library</b> High Street Clydach, Swansea SA6 5LN (01792) 843300	<b>Gorseinon Library</b> 15 West Street Gorseinon Swansea SA4 4AA (01792) 516780	<b>Morrleston Library</b> Treharne Road Morrleston Swansea SA6 7AA (01792) 516770	<b>Pontarddulais Library</b> St Michael's Avenue Pontarddulais Swansea SA4 8TE (01792) 882822
Monday	8.30-17.00	CLOSED	9.30-17.30	9.00-18.00	9.00-18.00	9.00- 13.00 and 14.00 - 17.00
Tuesday	8.30-17.00	8.30-20.00	9.30-17.30	9.00-18.00	9.00-18.00	9.00- 13.00 and 14.00 - 17.00
Wednesday	8.30-17.00	8.30-20.00	9.30-17.30	9.00-18.00	9.00-18.00	9.00- 13.00 and 14.00 - 17.00
Thursday	8.30-17.00	8.30-20.00	9.30-17.30	9.00-18.00	9.00-18.00	9.00- 13.00 and 14.00 - 17.00
Friday	8.30-16.00	8.30-20.00	9.30-17.30	9.00-19.00	9.00-18.00	9.00- 13.00 and 14.00 - 18.00
Saturday	CLOSED	10.00-16.00	9.30-17.30	9.00-17.00	9.00-17.00	10.00- 13.00
Sunday	CLOSED	10.00-16.00	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED

- The leaflet and other information about the Project can be made available in other formats (e.g. large print or braille) and languages upon request;
- A website ([www.abergellipower.co.uk](http://www.abergellipower.co.uk)) provides information on the Project as well as access to documents, and provide visitors the opportunity to ask questions or make comments online;
- An e-mail address to which individuals can write (provided at the end of this document);
- A Freepost mailbox to which people can send questions or comments (provided at the end of this document);
- APL will also notify the local community about the Project and the consultation events via posters in the local community, newspaper advertisements and media coverage;
- In addition, APL will contact a broad spectrum of local stakeholders. These will include elected representatives, local community, special interest groups (including those *“hard to reach groups”* such as the young, elderly and the disabled), and local business groups. APL will provide them with information on the Project and undertake briefings where appropriate.

Individuals and organisations wishing to respond should include their name and an address where correspondence about the response can be sent. Responses may be made public, subject to data protection laws.

Comments made at any stage of the consultation process will be recorded and carefully considered by APL as part of the process of preparing the final proposals for its application to the Planning Inspectorate.

KEY DATES	ACTIVITY
30 <sup>th</sup> September 2014	Statement of Community Consultation published
13 <sup>th</sup> October	Consultation period starts
<b>PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS</b>	
22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2014, 15.00 – 20.00	<b>Llangyfelach Church Hall</b> , Swansea Road, Llangyfelach, Swansea SA5 7JA
23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2014, 14.00 – 19.00	<b>Felindre Welfare Hall</b> , Felindre, Swansea SA5 7NA
24 <sup>th</sup> October 2014, 14.00 – 19.00	<b>Forge Fach Resource Centre</b> , Hebron Road, Clydach, Swansea SA6 5EJ
25 <sup>th</sup> October 2014, 9.00 – 13.00	<b>Tircoed Village Hall</b> , Y Cyswllt, Tircoed SA4 9QZ
16 <sup>th</sup> November 2014	Consultation period closes
Q1 2015	DCO Application submitted
Q2 2015	Planning Inspectorate publically notifies the acceptance of application and sets examination timetable, likely to run during Q3 2014.

### Contact details

APL welcomes queries and comments:

Website: [www.abergellipower.co.uk](http://www.abergellipower.co.uk)

Email: [info@abergellipower.co.uk](mailto:info@abergellipower.co.uk)

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