

The Planning Inspectorate
National Infrastructure Planning
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Ein cyf / Our ref: CAS-75767-V0F5
Eich cyf / Your ref: EN010069

Dyddiad / Date: 1 February 2019

Annwyl Syr/Madam / Dear Sir/Madam

**ABERGELLI POWER LIMITED: PROPOSED GAS FIRED POWER PLANT AT
LAND ADJACENT TO THE FELINDRE GAS COMPRESSOR STATION AT
ABERGELLI FARM, FELINDRE, SWANSEA, SA5 7NN**

DEADLINE 4 COMMENTS

In accordance with the programme set by the Examining Authority (ExA), please find enclosed Annex A which contains our response to the second set of written questions from the ExA.

To confirm, we have no additional comments to make at this current time on the submission of the updated Draft Development Consent Order (DCO) (Revision 3) and Outline Landscape and Ecology Mitigation Strategy (Revision 3) documents.

I hope the above comments are helpful; please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Yn eiddoch yn gywir / Yours faithfully

Hannah Roberts
Development Planning Advisor

Enclosed: Annex A – NRW response to second set of written questions from ExA

Annex A – NRW response to second set of written questions from ExA

Question No.	Question	NRW Response
2.0.5.	<p>Environmental Permit (EP):</p> <p>A copy of the draft permit for the development is available on the NRW website [EV-012] at:</p> <p>https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/permit-applications-consultations-and-decisions/current-consultations-environmental-permit-draft-decisions/drax-power-limited/?lang=en</p> <p>The permitting process is on-going as discussed in the ISH [EV-012]. The draft permit and decision document are currently being advertised on the NRW website (with an end date for comments by 17 January 2019), and any responses to the consultation process will need to be considered as part of the permitting process.</p> <p>Can the Applicant and NRW provide further updates to this as and when the permit progresses?</p>	<p>The NRW Permitting Team received no responses to their ‘Minded to’ public consultation and therefore issued the permit for this development on Friday 18 January 2019.</p> <p>A copy of the issued permit can be found on our website at the following link:</p> <p>https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/permit-applications-consultations-and-decisions/final-permit-decisions-for-sites-under-industrial-emissions-directive/south-west-wales/drax-bergelli/?lang=en</p>

<p>2.6.1.</p>	<p>Status of “Ancient Woodland”:</p> <p>Can NRW confirm the current statutory status of the woodland south east of the Substation and north of the Applicants proposed Access Road?</p>	<p>Information on Ancient Woodland is publically available on our external website at the following link:</p> <p>https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/woodland-management/woodlands-and-the-environment/ancient-woodland-inventory/?lang=en</p> <p>The classification of woodland through the Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) was instigated by the Nature Conservancy Council in the 1980s in an attempt to identify all ancient woodlands in Wales (as well as England and Scotland). Further information on the history of the AWI can be found in the link provided above. Each site was categorised as Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW), Restored Ancient Woodland Site (RAWS), Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) or Ancient Woodland Site of Unknown Category (AWSU) which are further explained below (taken from NRW’s external website):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland (ASNW)</i> – broadleaf woodlands comprising mainly native tree and shrub species which are believed to have been in existence for over 400 years • <i>Plantation on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)</i> – sites which are believed to have been continuously wooded for over 400 years and currently have a canopy cover of more than 50 percent non-native conifer tree species • <i>Restored Ancient Woodland Sites (RAWS)</i> – woodlands which are predominately broadleaves now and are believed to have been continually wooded for over 400 years. These woodlands will have gone through a phase when canopy cover was more than 50% non-native conifer tree species and now have a canopy cover of more than 50 percent broadleaf
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[Please note that information sources do not identify whether broadleaf trees are native to a specific site, therefore an assumption has been made that they are native. The phrase 'restored ancient woodland' describes woodland which appears, with the use of remote sensing techniques, to have returned to a more natural condition. The inventory designation does not mean that the woodland is fully restored or that it is in good ecological condition. Active restoration work may well be essential to consolidate improvements in condition.]

- **Ancient Woodland Site of Unknown Category (AWSU)** – woodlands which may be ASNW, RAWs or PAWS. These areas are predominantly in transition and existing tree cover is described as 'shrubs', 'young trees', 'felled' or 'ground prepared for planting'

Ancient Woodland areas over Wales are available to view via the 'Lle Geo-Portal' (accessible via the link below).

<https://lle.gov.wales/catalogue/item/AncientWoodlandInventory2011/?lang=en>

For the benefit of the ExA, we have provided a screenshot of the map of the general NSIP development area showing the areas of Ancient Woodland, alongside a legend for cross reference with the categories above. Please see Figure 1 below.

For information on licensing and publishing advice with regards to this data, please visit:

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/

Figure 1 - Screenshot of the NSIP Development Area showing Ancient Woodland areas

[Source: <https://lle.gov.wales/catalogue/item/AncientWoodlandInventory2011/?lang=en>]

