

## Design and Access Statement

To be read in conjunction with

‘Construction Traffic Management Plan’; prepared by Acstro Ltd

and

‘Planning Statement’ prepared by Renplan Ltd

Installation of a Peaking Gas Development with an approximate design capacity of 40MW together with associated ancillary equipment, perimeter fencing, ground works and access arrangements

Land on North of Felindre Road, Pencoed (E 296847, N 181403)

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Prepared for Energion Ltd

**Report prepared for Energion Ltd.**

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## **Executive Summary**

The proposed development is a temporary 40MW peaking gas development with permission being required for 25 years. The application being sought is a permission for a 'Development of National Significance' (DNS).

The project will provide back-up power to the Grid during times of peak demand and it is a necessary reinforcement measure to ensure long term sustainable local and regional power distribution and supporting the wider Grid in times of regional and national emergency.

It also acts as an integral reinforcement facility to the adjacent electricity substation and therefore the local community and local businesses by providing stand-by power generation to ensure local residences and business may continue to benefit from a continuous supply of energy.

The application site was chosen as it has sufficient distances to the nearest residential receptors, heritage receptors and it was adjacent existing electrical infrastructure within the landscape.

The infrastructure being proposed is largely pre-fabricated in so far as design and appearance. The generators of choice are the 4.5MW engines that have been installed on other sites in the UK.

The application site is easily accessible from the strategic road network. Installation vehicles accessing the site will arrive via the M4 and then onto the A473 for a short stretch of just 1km and then onto Felindre Road for just 0.5km.

**Executive Summary**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Peaking gas installations are essentially a balancing mechanism to ensure the continued supply of electricity to local people and businesses during what is anticipated as being a volatile energy supply period of transition away from a predominantly fossil fuel bulk supply of energy.
- 1.2 The short term hindrance of renewables is their intermittency. They are not yet able to provide a continuous supply of energy.
- 1.3 The proposed development is for a stand-by generating station that when constructed will have an installed generating capacity of approximately 40MW.
- 1.4 As established by the Developments of National Significance (DNS) (Specified Criteria and Prescribed Secondary Consents) (Wales) Regulations 2016, the proposal falls within the criteria to be considered as a DNS application by virtue of its generating capacity exceeding a threshold of 10MW. The applicant Energen Ltd has formally notified the Welsh Government of an intention to submit a DNS application and this notification was accepted by Ministers on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018.
- 1.5 This report provides an overview of how the proposal has been designed bearing in mind the infrastructure being proposed is largely pre-fabricated, and discusses access arrangements for installation and thereafter for maintenance.
- 1.6 The Statement has been structured to reflect the points of discussion as outlined in 'Design and Access Statements in Wales: Why, What and How' (April 2017) which sets out the 'Design and Access Statement' supplementary planning guidance to Technical Advice Note (TAN) 12: Design (2016) and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 18: Transport (2007).

## 2. SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSAL

- 2.1 The proposal consists of the temporary *Installation of a Peaking Gas Development with an approximate design capacity of 40MW together with associated ancillary equipment, perimeter fencing, ground works and access arrangements* at Land on North of Felindre Road, Pencoed (E 296847, N 181403).

- 2.2 The proposal has evolved from that which was the subject of pre-application discussions with local planning and environmental health officers at Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC). A proposal for 9 x 4.5MW generators has been replaced by a proposal for 9 x 4.5MW generators which have a smaller volume and footprint and importantly are quieter engines which also produce less emissions. Furthermore, the 4.5MW generator option is also the prevailing market option for installation of such proposals.
- 2.3 A 40MW peaking gas generation project, from a technical design perspective, is a largely a pre-designed proposal consisting of the following principal components:
- 9 x 4.5MW gas generators covering an area 43m x 27m
  - Substation
  - Gas cabinet
  - Welfare storage unit
  - Transformers
  - Associated electrical equipment within a fenced area
  - Access hardstanding
  - Perimeter palisade fencing and entrance gate with security wire above
- 2.4 The site extends to approximately 6,368m<sup>2</sup> (0.64ha). Inclusive of the access the application site is 9,923m<sup>2</sup> (0.99ha). The application site lies approximately 1km from the centre of Pencoed to the west and is accessed from Felindre Road to the south, itself accessed from the A473 to the west and the A473 accessed from the M4 to the south.
- 2.5 The M4 motorway is approximately 1.2km to the south of the site.
- 2.6 The map below provides a quick reference to the location of the site.



Source: Google Maps/Earth

- 2.7 The landscape is characterised by electricity pylons and the associated overhead electrical cables. The landscape is a pocket of agricultural land that sits immediately adjacent the substation just north of Felindre Road.

### 3. THE BRIEF AND VISION

- 3.1 Energen Ltd is an energy infrastructure developer. The business aims to deliver projects that make a contribution towards addressing the urgent need for back-up localised energy generation throughout the country.
- 3.2 Most forms of renewable electricity generation exhibit uncontrolled increases (or decreases) in output. The national challenge is to maintain the constant supply of energy to achieve 'energy security'.
- 3.3 The peaking gas proposal is effectively a balancing mechanism project to ensure the continued supply of electricity to local people and businesses during what is anticipated

as being a volatile energy supply period of transition away from a predominantly fossil fuel bulk supply of energy towards renewable sources of alternative energy generation.

- 3.4 The short term hindrance of renewables is their intermittency. They are not yet able to provide a continuous supply of energy.
- 3.5 The adjacent substation to the site has been identified by the local district network operator, Western Power Distribution (WPD) as a substation that should take additional generation; promoting the wider objectives for ensuring a continuous supply of energy on the local Grid until such time as the transitional arrangements to a longer-term renewable sources of generation are able to provide a continuous steady supply of energy.
- 3.6 There are very few opportunities near to sub stations with capacity to connect a scheme such as the proposed which has a secured connection offer from WPD and a nearby mains gas supply.
- 3.7 A peaking gas installation is a temporary development with permission being required for 25 years. It provides back-up power to the Grid during times of peak demand and is a necessary reinforcement measure to ensure long term sustainable local and regional power distribution as well as supporting the wider Grid in times of regional and national emergency.
- 3.8 It also acts as an integral reinforcement facility to the adjacent electricity substation and therefore the local community and local businesses by providing stand-by power generation to ensure local residences and businesses may continue to benefit from a continuous supply of energy.
- 3.9 To secure the grid connection, Energion had to make an application to connect a proposal to the local substation to Western Power Distribution (WPD). WPD require the site location of a proposal to be identified at the outset before they can consider, let alone issue an offer to connect a proposal. In light of the uncertainty surrounding the potential ability to connect a project, site selection process is largely undertaken on a speculative basis at the outset.
- 3.10 Therefore, before submitting a grid connection application to WPD, the developer (Energion Ltd) had to first identify a substation with a suitable capacity bearing in mind many substations will themselves already be located in sensitive residential / landscape locations. The Pencoed Substation was identified as it has available land nearby which falls outside of key designations and which is a suitable distances from residential

properties. It also presented an opportunity to locate the project close to an existing large-scale substation.

- 3.11 The next stage was to identify a specific site close to the substation. The application site is the only site immediately adjoining the substation that is large enough, of a suitable distance from the closest sensitive receptors and which benefitted from electrical infrastructure (overhead pylons) running through the field.

#### **4. SITE AND CONTEXT ANALYSIS**

- 4.1 The site location was chosen following a review of all known planning constraints (including environmental, policy, residential, access etc.). It was also 'available' and thus it made for a 'deliverable' project opportunity.
- 4.2 The site provides sufficient distances to the nearest residential receptors and heritage / landscape / ecological receptors. It is also close to existing electrical infrastructure within the landscape and made best use of existing natural landscaping (field boundaries). Furthermore, it adjoined the Substation itself and its associated overhead electrical infrastructure.
- 4.3 Once Energion identified a suitable site location for this project, a Grid connection application was made to WPD. Following a lengthy application process, WPD provided a connection offer for a peaking gas proposal at the land identified; hereinafter referred to as 'the application site'.

#### **5. INTERPRETATION**

- 5.1 The process of layout design is determined by two factors:
- The need to meet the operational and functional requirements of the Project; and
  - The need to minimise any environmental impacts from the Project.
- 5.2 Within the application field, the site is on balance the most suitable as it provides an appropriate distance to nearby residents in the interests of noise and air quality impacts whilst making best use of existing electrical infrastructure that already dominate the landscape and benefits from a degree of existing natural screening (hedgerows).

- 5.3 The southern part of the field is more exposed to views from Felindre Road and is also within Flood Zone 2 whereas the application site sits outside of this designation.
- 5.4 The site is not within, or near to an environmentally sensitive area as defined by the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (Wales) 2017. The proposal has been screened against the Regulations and a Screening Direction has been issued by the Inspectorate to confirm the proposal is not considered to be 'EIA-development' under those Regulations (3213704 (formerly 3155507) dated 19th December 2019).
- 5.5 This application proposal presents an opportunity for the local community which is set to experience a strategic employment / industrial expansion which will place greater pressure on the local electrical infrastructure to deliver continuous energy to existing residents and business as well as new business premises when they are eventually delivered through the planning process.

## **6. DESIGN DEVELOPMENT**

- 6.1 The purpose of this project is to secure an energy generation balancing facility for the Grid to ensure the continuous supply of energy for the local community and businesses.
- 6.2 The only other viable alternative generation technology for this location would be diesel fired generators that would require a storage facility of diesel at the site as well as regular deliveries of diesel to the storage facility. The diesel technology also has greater emissions in comparison to gas.
- 6.3 The proposed gas generation project is connected to the mains gas supply therefore negating the need to provide a fuel storage facility at the site or any need to make deliveries of fuel to the site or store fuel at the site.
- 6.4 The generators of choice are the market leading 4.5MW engines that have been installed on other sites in England and which are tried and tested with both technical data being available for noise and quality emissions. A layout of smaller gas engines would require a much larger area of land with multiple additional engines being necessary and would result in greater cumulative noise and air quality effects.

Update Following 42-day Consultation:

- 6.5 The proposals have been amended only to move the access gates and substation housing several metres away from the crown / root spread of the tree no. 9 (ref. the Tree Survey; prepared by Woodland and Countryside Management. Some minor discrepancies in drawings have also been corrected and supplementary work to some of the the impact assessment reports and plans have been commissioned and completed as discussed in Paragraphs 7.3.6 to 7.3.44 below. Please refer to the submitted Consultation Statement for further details.

## **7. THE PROPOSAL**

### **7.1 Character**

- 7.1.1 The proposed development will generate electricity from 9 on-site generators. The integral inverter units will convert DC to AC current for transmission on to the Local District Network which is operated by the district network operator.
- 7.1.2 When there is a shortage of available electricity on the local district network. The electricity generated will essentially plug the shortfall to ensure continued delivery of power to the local community and businesses as well as enabling local infrastructure to continue to be served by power e.g. street lighting and other public facilities and services.
- 7.1.3 It is predicted that the proposed gas generators are only likely to operate for approximately 1200hours a year over a 12 month period and are extremely unlikely to operate between 11pm and 5am.
- 7.1.4 Although the facility is expected to operate at around 1200hours per annum, the submitted assessment work assumes the potential for a maximum 2500hours operational hours per annum for completeness.

### **7.2 Access**

*(to be read in conjunction with the submitted Construction Traffic Method Statement; prepared by Acstro Ltd.)*

- 7.2.1 The application site is easily accessible from the strategic road network. Installation vehicles accessing the site will arrive via the M4 and then onto the A473 for a short stretch of just 1km and then onto Felindre Road for just 0.5km.

- 7.2.2 During pre-application discussions, Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) identified a visibility splay of 2.4m x 190m in a 40 mph zone. This has been conformed by Highways officers at the Council to be incorrect. The correct distance for a 40mph zone would be 120m.
- 7.2.3 Appendix 3 of the Acstro Report sets out the access proposed design for installation; providing the required access requirements in accordance with BCBC pre-application advice.
- 7.2.4 Post-installation, the facility is accessed only by limited infrequent traffic associated with occasional visits for maintenance.

### 7.3 **Environmental Sustainability**

#### 7.3.1 Overview of Environmental Credentials

- 7.3.2 The Welsh and UK Governments are increasingly aware of the continual falling power generating capacity in the United Kingdom.
- 7.3.3 All forms of electricity generation exhibit uncontrolled increases or decreases in output (intermittency) and the term intermittency is typically associated with the renewable technologies of wind and solar. The inflexibility of large-scale generation facilities and renewable energy sources to respond to peak power variations in energy demand mean that Peak Power developments are essential in the shorter term to maintain energy security.
- 7.3.4 Peaking gas projects are temporary installations (permission being required for a 25-year period) to provide an important back-up resource for the Local District Network until such time as a longer-term strategy is implemented.
- 7.3.5 In addition to grid reinforcement, it also acts as an integral reinforcement facility to the adjacent electricity substation and therefore the local community and local businesses by providing stand-by power generation to ensure local residences and business may continue to benefit from a continuous supply of energy. The application site's location in an area that is seeing strategic employment / industrial expansion which will place greater demand on the network of high energy consuming operations.

7.3.6 Consideration of Potential Environmental Impacts

7.3.7 This section should be read in conjunction with the submitted Planning Statement which reviews each potential impact in respect of policy justification as well as the specialist environmental reports submitted with the application and which are referenced below.

Noise and Air Quality

7.3.8 In the context of this proposal, the two relevant environmental protection considerations are the potential noise and air quality impacts. The applicant has commissioned detailed noise and air quality assessments undertaken by suitably qualified professionals in these fields and their reports are included with the application.

7.3.9 The Noise Impact assessment was prepared by Inacoustic. It states that suitable noise limits for the control of the effects on nearest noise-sensitive receptors are suggested based on the guidance contained within BS4142:2014 and having regard to the measured background sound levels at locations taken to be representative of the nearest dwellings.

7.3.10 The submitted Noise Assessment prepared by Inacoustic advises that the proposed peaking gas facility would conform to the requirements of BS4142:2014.

7.3.11 The application is also accompanied by an Air Quality Assessment prepared by Kairus Ltd.

7.3.12 The Kairus report states that the proposal would not result in exceedance of the relevant air quality objectives and critical loads at sensitive human and ecological receptors within the vicinity of the Application Site, with concentrations remaining well below the relevant objective limits in all locations.

7.3.13 The submitted Noise and Air Quality Assessments confirm that within a short distance to the nearest residential receptors that the impacts from the proposal would be within the objective limits of prevailing guidance.

Update following 42-day Consultation

7.3.14 No amendments to the Noise Impact Assessment were necessary.

7.3.15 A consultation response from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) requested an 'in-combination' review of the air quality impacts of the proposal. This has now been produced by the Air Quality Consultant Kairus Ltd following dialogue with NRW and features as a Technical Addendum to the Air Quality Assessment report.

7.3.16 Landscape / Visual Amenity

7.3.17 The application site is largely characterised by the adjacent large-scale electricity substation and its associated overhead pylons and cables. The proposed development would sit within the context of this existing infrastructure and therefore is a location considered, from a visual impact perspective, to be appropriate for the proposed installation.

7.3.18 The application site is not in an area designated for its landscape sensitivity and the submitted ecological appraisal and heritage appraisal (discussed further in the following paragraphs) confirm that there would not be an adverse harm arising from this proposal on either heritage or ecological interests.

7.3.19 All equipment sits within a perimeter security palisade fence to a height of 2.4m which has 1m of security wire above. The fence sits opposite mature hedgerows and wider mature landscaping around the substation. Additional landscape planting is proposed as part of this proposal along the southern and eastern boundaries of the site and this is set out in Drawing titled Landscape Masterplan which is submitted with the application.

7.3.20 For further information, an overview of the siting rationale and other design considerations is set out in the submitted Design and Access Statement which explains how the application site was chosen and why it is considered suitable.

Update following 42-day Consultation

7.3.21 No additional landscape / visual impact work has been commissioned over and above the Landscape Masterplan. The site is extremely well screened from the surrounding area and there are existing mature hedgerows and trees that screen the site. The Landscape Masterplan has been updated to ensure the correct layout with the minor amendments to position of access gates and substation housing are included in this drawing.

7.3.22 Heritage

7.3.23 A Heritage Assessment prepared by GK Heritage accompanies the application to review the potential impacts.

7.3.24 The GK Heritage report confirms that there is a low probability that deposits, features and sites would be present within the proposed development site, except for activity relating to agriculture during the later Medieval and Post Medieval. It also states that

there would not be any significant impact to the designated heritage within the study area.

Update following 42-day Consultation

7.3.25 Additional Heritage Settings assessment work was commissioned in response to Cadw comments to the pre-application consultation. This is enclosed with the DNS application as a stand-alone document in addition to the previously prepared Heritage Statement.

7.3.26 No pre-determination archaeological work was carried out given the nature of the proposed works and having had regard for the response received by (Gwent Glamorgan Archaeological Trust (GGAT) to the pre-application consultation advising no further pre-determination archaeological work should be necessary.

7.3.27 Ecology

7.3.28 The application is accompanied by a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal undertaken by Amber Consultancy Ltd. The survey confirms that the proposal is not likely to harm any protected species. For further details and consideration of the potential for ecological opportunities to aid the enhancement of biodiversity near the site, please refer to the recommendations of the submitted Preliminary Ecological Appraisal prepared by Amber Consultancy Ltd.

Update following 42-day Consultation

7.3.29 Habitats Regulations Assessment accompanies the Ecological Statement as an Appendix to that Statement; prepared by Amber Consultancy.

7.3.30 A consultation response from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) requested an 'in-combination' review of the impacts of the proposal. This has now been produced by the Air Quality Consultant Kairus Ltd as a Technical Addendum to the Air Quality Assessment report.

7.3.31 Flood Risk and Surface Water Drainage

7.3.32 The application is accompanied by a Flood Risk Assessment prepared by Nijhuis.

7.3.33 Nijhuis identify the proposed development access track has been shown to lie within Flood Zone 2 and is deemed to be at risk from fluvial flooding from the 1 in 1,000 year event.

- 7.3.34 Nijhuis have advised that the proposed development area is an existing permeable site and therefore the gas plant scheme will slightly increase the impermeable area on the site. It is considered that due to the minimal impermeable area created French drains would be appropriate for the scale and nature of the development.
- 7.3.35 In conclusion, Nijhuis advise that provided the recommendations outlined in this report are adopted in the development proposal then there is the capacity to develop the site with minimal risk from flooding and without increasing flood risk to third parties.

Update following 42-day Consultation

- 7.3.36 Surface Water Drainage Strategy is enclosed with the application prepared by the same consultant (Nijhuis Industries) in response to a request by the Local Planning Authority Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC)

7.3.37 Trees and Hedgerows

- 7.3.38 The existing site benefits from mature hedgerows and trees. This helps screen the proposal from the surrounding landscape. However, it also introduces ecological considerations (as discussed in the Preliminary Ecological Assessment) as well as considerations associated with the importance of preserving the trees and hedgerows which are of importance.
- 7.3.39 The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal carried out by Amber Consultancy identifies the central hedgerow that runs north to south within the site as a protected hedgerow. The proposals create a new vehicular access in this hedgerow, however, they also propose to infill the existing 2 x vehicular access at the northern end of the hedgerow. To ensure minimal disturbance, the removed section of hedgerow would be transplanted to provide the infill of the existing accesses.
- 7.3.40 In all other respects, the hedgerows would not be harmed by the application.
- 7.3.41 The application is also accompanied by a full Arboricultural Survey of the site. To mitigate against any impact, there would be a 'no-dig' construction method for the siting of the substation and the access track that fall within the root protection area of the tree that features centrally within the application site.
- 7.3.42 The submitted Tree survey provides tree protection measures to ensure the trees are protected during installation works. Provided the precautionary / protection measures as

outlined in the submitted arboricultural assessment are followed, the proposal is not going to impact on the well-being of the trees and hedgerows.

- 7.3.43 Additional hedgerow planting is proposed along the southern and eastern boundaries of the application site which will provide additional landscaping and also additional habitat for local wildlife.

Update following 42-day Consultation

- 7.3.44 Amendments to the tree survey work were required to reflect the moving of the access gates and the substation housing away from Tree No. 9; safeguarding the canopy and root protection area of this tree.

**7.4 Community Safety**

- 7.4.1 Construction of the facility would take place between 08:00 and 18:00 Monday to Friday, and between 08:00 and 13:00 Saturday, with no construction on Sundays. Deliveries will be restricted during weekdays to be outside of highway peak hours.
- 7.4.2 During Construction / delivery periods, standard highway safety protocols will be followed and complied with in accordance with the recommendations outlined in the submitted Construction Traffic Management Plan prepared by Acstro Ltd. and in accordance with requirements set by the Highways Authority.
- 7.4.3 Cables connecting the facility are run from the facility beneath the access track directly to the substation to the south east.
- 7.4.4 The facility is perimeter secured during and after construction. Details of the security fencing are enclosed with the application. There is no public access to the site.

**7.5 Response to planning policy**

- 7.5.1 Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 10, December 2018 sets out the most up to date prevailing National Framework for planning guidance in Wales. In light of the 'Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015', Ministers revised Planning Policy Wales (PPW) to reflect the objectives of the strategically set Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

- 7.5.2 Paragraph 1.17 PPW states that the *“legislation secures a presumption in favour of sustainable development in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise to ensure that social, economic, cultural and environmental issues are balanced and integrated.”*
- 7.5.3 Paragraph 3.57 states that *“Adequate and efficient infrastructure, including services such as education and health facilities along with transport, water supply, sewers, sustainable waste management, electricity and gas (the utilities) and telecommunications, is crucial for economic, social and environmental sustainability. It underpins economic competitiveness and opportunities for households and businesses to achieve socially and environmentally desirable ways of living and working.”*
- 7.5.4 Paragraph 5.7.8 of PPW states, inter alia, that *“The benefits of renewable and low carbon energy, as part of the overall commitment to tackle climate change and increase energy security, is of paramount importance.”*
- 7.5.5 Paragraph 5.7.11 of PPW states that *“Planning authorities should plan positively for grid infrastructure. Development plans should facilitate the grid infrastructure required to support the renewable and low carbon energy potential for the area, particularly areas identified for such development. Planning authorities should support appropriate grid developments, whether or not the developments to be connected are located within their authority.”*
- 7.5.6 Paragraph 5.7.15 of PPW states that *“The local balance of the energy network will be a crucial consideration in this regard, and planning authorities should consider the best places for local renewable energy generation to help improve the resilience of the grid in the future.”*

Technical Advice Notes

- 7.5.7 Technical Advice Note (TAN) 12: Design (July 2014) focuses on design and, in particular, provides advice regarding the promotion of sustainability through good design and the preparation and validation of mandatory design and access statements.
- 7.5.8 TAN12 sets out the following objectives of good design:
- Ensuring ease of access for all;
  - Sustaining or enhancing local character;
  - Promoting legible development;
  - Promoting a successful relationship between public and private space;
  - Promoting quality, choice and variety;
  - Promoting innovative design;

- Ensuring attractive, safe public spaces;
  - Security through natural surveillance;
  - Achieving efficient use and protection of natural resources;
  - Enhancing biodiversity;
- Promoting sustainable means of travel.

7.5.9 With regards to transport, TAN18 'Transport' sets out how to integrate land use and transport planning and discusses how transport impacts should be assessed and mitigated.

7.5.10 The Welsh Government published guidance on DASs in Wales is contained within the 'Design and Access Statements in Wales. Why, What & How' published in April 2017. This report has followed the recommended format for such Statements and has attempted to provide a detailed yet concise overview of the design and access considerations surrounding this proposal, whilst allowing for some proportionality given that the proposal is for a technically designed electrical infrastructure installation rather than a traditional residential or commercial development.

## **8. CONSULTATION**

8.1 Energin has undertaken extensive consultation with statutory consultees, key stakeholders and the community; in accordance with Articles 8 and 9 of 'The Developments of National Significance (Procedure) (Wales) Order 2016'. A website containing a draft copy of the planning application acted as a 'consultation hub' for a period of 42 days between 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019 and 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

8.2 Full details can be found in the Pre-Application Consultation Report that is submitted with the application. Please refer to the Consultation Statement for further information.

## **9. CONCLUSION**

9.1 The proposed plant is a temporary development with permission being required for 25 years. It will provide back-up power to the Grid during times of peak demand and it is a necessary reinforcement measure to ensure long term sustainable local and regional power distribution and supporting the wider Grid in times of regional and national emergency.

- 9.2 It also acts as an integral reinforcement facility to the adjacent electricity substation and therefore the local community and local businesses by providing stand-by power generation to ensure local residences and business may continue to benefit from a continuous supply of energy.
- 9.3 The application site was chosen as it has sufficient distances to the nearest residential receptors, heritage receptors, it was close to existing electrical infrastructure within the landscape, it made best use of existing natural landscaping (field boundaries). The site is also within the required close proximity the facility needs to be to the Pencoed Substation point of connection.
- 9.4 The infrastructure being proposed is largely pre-fabricated in so far as design and appearance. The generators of choice are the 4.5MW engines that have been installed on other sites in the UK.
- 9.5 The application site is easily accessible from the strategic road network. Installation vehicles accessing the site will arrive via the M4 and then onto the A473 for a short stretch of just 1km and then onto Felindre Road for just 0.5km.

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