

# 17.0

---

## Socio-economics



## 17.0

### Socio-economics

<b>17.1</b>	<b>Summary</b>	391
<b>17.2</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	391
<b>17.3</b>	<b>Assessment Methodology</b>	392
<b>17.4</b>	<b>Baseline Conditions and Receptors</b>	392
<b>17.5</b>	<b>Potential Impacts</b>	393
<b>17.6</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	394
<b>17.7</b>	<b>Conclusions</b>	395

#### 17.1 Summary

The proposed development will have a highly positive socio-economic impact on the local area of Milford Haven and Pembrokeshire as a whole.

The project is expected to directly create around 300 jobs during the construction phase and 450 jobs during the first 49.9MW phase of the development. Future phases of development will increase full time employment at the site to over 500.

The project will offer a very diverse range of job types, in diverse sectors such as industrial power and energy, aquaculture, horticulture, food production, shipping, logistics and scientific research.

The development will provide an exemplar project for sustainability and has the potential to raise the profile of Pembrokeshire within this industry sector.

#### 17.2 Introduction

This section presents the findings of the assessment of the socio-economic impact of the proposed development. Details of the assessment methodology and significance criteria are provided, together with the baseline conditions upon which the study and the conclusions are based.

All significant potential impacts are discussed and the proposed mitigation and, where appropriate, management methods are detailed.

Cumulative impacts of the proposed development and other developments in the vicinity are also considered.

### 17.3 Assessment Methodology

In order to fully assess the impact of the proposed development, it is necessary to determine the baseline conditions of the affected areas of socio-economy.

In order to achieve this, a desk-study was undertaken to establish the existing baseline situation for the region.

This assessment focuses on Pembrokeshire, and its position in South West Wales, which also includes Carmarthenshire, Swansea and Neath Port Talbot.

The likely impacts of the proposed development have been considered in line with the appropriate local authority objectives for social and economic development.

Comparisons have been made with the present positions of Wales and the rest of the UK

### 17.4 Baseline Conditions and Receptors

The site of the proposed development is situated on the outskirts of Milford Haven and approximately 5km north-west of Pembroke Dock. These two towns have a combined population of around 22,300 that is around 19% of the county population.

The Regional Economic and Labour Market Profile for South West Wales, published in October 2015 record unemployment rate for Pembrokeshire as 6.1 %, which is lower than the Welsh average of 6.7% and higher than the UK average of 5.7 %. The claimant rate in South West Wales was 11.2% in February 2015. This was higher than the rate for Wales (10.3%) and the UK (7.8%). Within South West Wales the claimant rate in Pembrokeshire was 9%. Although within South West Wales compared to 1999 the claimant rate has fallen by 6.1 percentage points with Pembrokeshire showing the smallest fall of 4.7 percentage points compared to 5.1 percentage points for Wales. These figures highlight the precarious nature of the Pembrokeshire labour market that is a fundamental part of the local economy.

Table 17.1 shows the employment breakdown by sector within Pembrokeshire compared to Wales and the UK.

Employment Sector	Pembrokeshire	Wales	UK
Total Workplace (thousands)	51.5	1,306.4	29,783.7
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	8%	3%	1%
Production	8%	12%	10%
Construction	10%	7%	7%
Wholesale, retail, transport, hotels & food	31%	26%	26%
Finance & business activities	13%	16%	24%
Public admin, defence, education, health & other services	31%	36%	32%

Table 17.1: Percentage employment breakdown by sector in Pembrokeshire, Wales and the UK

Sustainable, skilled jobs are of paramount importance to Pembrokeshire to help strengthen economic and social cohesion, which is one of the key aims of the Local Development Plan for Pembrokeshire (LDP). LDP policies promote national and international commerce, aim to foster indigenous development and promote the use of renewable energy while conserving the cultural, historic and biological environments of the region.

## 17.5 Potential Impacts

The LDP outlines that Pembrokeshire has a range of previously developed (brownfield) land. One of the issues in Pembrokeshire is that many of these sites, such as some former airfields, may not be suitable for development because of their location and / or scale. Brownfield land within or adjoining settlements and suitable for development should be prioritised for development over greenfield land in accordance with national planning policy. Some brownfield sites in the LDP area have contamination problems that will need remediation in conjunction with their redevelopment

The UK has signed up to the EU Renewable Energy Directive that includes a UK target of 10% (2010) rising to 15% (2020) of energy from renewable sources by 2020. The Planning and Energy Act 2008 enables Local Planning Authorities in Wales to set reasonable requirements in this Plan for “the generation of energy from local renewable sources and low carbon energy and for energy efficiency”

Work undertaken on behalf of the Welsh Government has demonstrated the potential for renewable energy to contribute to the energy needs of major developments in Pembrokeshire.

The proposed development will convert sustainably sourced biomass into low-carbon electricity for export to the national grid. The residual heat will be utilised by downstream site users. The conversion process is an efficient process producing only small amounts of residual waste material that will be removed from site by ship. There will be no unacceptable risk to public safety in the vicinity of the new development, or any adverse effect to the existing land utilisation practices in the surrounding area.

### 17.5.1 Construction

The construction phase of the development will create around 300 jobs, which will be of significant benefit to the local community. It is anticipated that many of the construction jobs will be drawn from the surrounding area. The development will take approximately twelve months to construct and commission and will provide a substantial amount of work for local contractors and plant hire companies.

The construction jobs will comprise skilled engineering roles, semi-skilled fitters and labourers. By recruiting local construction staff, their wages and project expenditure will be invested directly into the local economy, in terms of purchasing goods and services without making undue extra demands on education, health and recreational facilities. The recruitment of local contractors will be encouraged to generate further economic activity and indirect employment benefits.

### 17.5.2 Operation

The first 49.9MW phase of the development will create 450 new, full-time positions when the site is operational. These jobs will comprise semi-skilled operators, high-skilled technical engineering roles and clerical / administrative positions.

With a strong skill-base in power generation and food production, Milford Haven, Neyland, Pembroke and Pembroke Dock are well placed to provide the recruitment base for the facility employees. Therefore the operator of the plant anticipates that all of the employees will come from within Pembrokeshire.

The staff will have a background appropriate to their discipline and will receive additional training relating to the facility in which they are retained. Staff at all levels will receive training on process and emission control, and regular appraisals will be made of all training requirements. Where necessary, training courses for employees will be sourced locally, and collaboration with local technical colleges will be established to enhance expertise and maximize knowledge transfer.

It is anticipated that the operational staff will work on a shift system, the timing of which will be developed in conjunction with the timetable of the local public transport network. This is to allow widest possible access to low impact means of commuting to take place. Provision will also be made and actively encourage employees to use other forms of low impact transportation such as walking, cycling or car-sharing.

The combined operational and maintenance costs of the proposed development will be in the region of £9.15 million per annum. A significant proportion of this will serve to directly benefit the local economy in terms of employees' wages, local purchases and local capital expenditure. It is expected that annual expenditure of this level could indirectly create additional jobs having a positive impact on the local economy.

It is anticipated that the proposed development will act as a catalyst for similar low carbon generation facilities, the template for which will be developed by the construction and operation of the facility at Milford Haven. This would help to secure existing manufacturing jobs in and around Milford Haven and potentially create further highly-skilled engineering jobs within Pembrokeshire.

**17.6 Mitigation**

**17.6.1 Construction**

The construction of the proposed development will provide jobs for the region. It will bring money into the local economy both directly and indirectly and have a highly positive socio-economic impact of the local area. Therefore no mitigation measures or monitoring programmes are considered necessary during construction phase of the project.

**17.6.2 Operation**

Operation of the development will new create permanent employment opportunities and establish strong local service links. This will directly benefit the local community, industry and services during the operational lifetime of the plant.

The project will generate some extra road traffic in the area from the normal commuting activities of employees. However, by integrating shift patterns with public transport schedules and promoting low-impact alternatives, car commuting journeys can be minimised

Overall there are no significant negative socio-economic impacts resulting from the development of the facility. In fact the proposal is expected to have highly positive socio-economic impact, and as such, no mitigation measures or monitoring programmes are considered necessary during the operational life of the facility.

---

## 17.7 Conclusions

The proposed development will have a high positive socio-economic impact on the local area of Milford Haven and Pembrokeshire as a whole.

The project represents a significant capital investment, which as far as possible will be passed on to the local economy. Around 300 job opportunities of varying skill level will be created during the construction phase. The operation of the plant will create 450 full-time skilled and semi-skilled jobs during the first 49.9MW phase of the development.

It is anticipated that further development of the technology will be also bring socio-economic benefit to the region including the creation of a centre of excellence for sustainable energy production leading to further job creation over the longer term.

There are no significant negative socio-economic impacts associated with the proposed development.