



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 10/09/2020

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

### Overview

Project Name:	WWU 2016-2019 GAS DISTRIBUTION
Project Number:	(2015-0838)
Country:	United Kingdom
Project Description:	Gas distribution extension and refurbishment programme in Wales and South West of England, for the period Q2/2016-Q1/2019

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

#### EIB notes the following key Environmental and Social outcomes at Project Completion

The Project involved the financing of a gas distribution project applying standard technologies and implemented by an experienced Promoter.

The majority of the investment was dedicated to the extension or reinforcement of the network to connect more customers and one third of capex was dedicated to the replacement of existing equipment and low/medium-pressure metallic gas pipelines by polyethylene ones, in the period between Q2/2016 and Q1/2019 (3 years in total).

None of the schemes fell under Annex I of Directive 2011/92/EU and subsequent amendments. By their technical characteristics, some of the individual schemes fell under Annex II of the EIA Directive and its amendments as transposed into UK's legislation. The Promoter had a contractual obligation to inform the EIB in the event that an EIA was required by the competent authorities for any of the schemes over the course of the Project's implementation. According to the information provided by the Promoter, the competent authorities did not require an EIA for any of the schemes. The main impacts, associated with construction works, were temporary in nature and mitigated according to established practices in the sector.

Equally, none of the investment schemes affected Natura 2000 sites, being located in urban or industrial areas.

Based on the information provided by the Promoter during Project implementation, no significant environment or social issues were noted.

The operation provided environmental benefits through the reduction of methane leakages and through the substitution of more polluting fuel sources by natural gas. According to the Promoter, methane losses from the low and medium pressure network have been reduced by ca. 76 GWh in the first year after Project completion (in comparison with the value at the start of the Project) due to the implementation of the pipe replacement component of the Project (equivalent to ca. 98 kton CO<sub>2</sub>/year).

#### Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

The EIB is of the opinion, based on reports from the Promoter during construction, that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.