

## South Hook neighbours to rate LNG carriers for noise

Residents living near the UK's South Hook import terminal are planning an LNG carrier ranking tool to draw attention to the low frequency noise emanating from visiting vessels.

Members of the South Hook LNG Ship Noise (SHLSN) pressure group said they will be issuing a rating to all the Q-Flex and Q-Max ships that have called at the facility since 1 July on a scale of zero to nine.

The higher the number the greater the disturbance caused by the ship. The ratings are due to be posted on the group's website soon.

A spokesman detailed that of the 10 arrivals monitored, five caused noise issues of which two were seriously disruptive.

The latter were named as the 210,100-cbm newbuilding Al Bahiya and the 263,249-cbm Al Ghuwairiya (built

2008), both of which would achieve rankings at the top end of the scale, the spokesman said.

Noise from the other five ships, which appear on a list of 14 given by terminal operator South Hook LNG as having undergone silencer upgrading work, is said to be much improved.

The group is particularly frustrated by the repeated calls made by ships that had statutory nuisance orders placed on them during previous visits by the Port Health Team at local authority Pembrokeshire County Council.

Al Ghuwairiya had such a notice served on it during January but SHLSN said it has returned four times since. The group said it has received no response from the ship's charterer Qatargas despite sending numerous e-mails.