

# SCOPING OPINION

## Proposed Progress Power Station



June 2013





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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is the Scoping Opinion (the Opinion) provided by the Secretary of State in respect of the content of the Environmental Statement for Progress Power Station on land at Eye Airfield Industrial Estate, Eye, Mid Suffolk.

This report sets out the Secretary of State's opinion on the basis of the information provided in Progress Power Limited's report entitled 'Progress Power Project, Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report' (May 2013). The Opinion can only reflect the proposals as currently described by the Applicant.

The Secretary of State has consulted on the Scoping Report and the responses received have been taken into account in adopting this Opinion. The Secretary of State is satisfied that the topic areas identified in the Scoping Report encompass those matters identified in Schedule 4, Part 1, paragraph 19 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (as amended).

The Secretary of State draws attention both to the general points and those made in respect of each of the specialist topic areas in this Opinion. The main potential issues identified are the following:

- Emissions to air
- Noise and vibration
- Ecology
- Water resources
- Landscape and visual
- Transport and traffic

Matters are not scoped out unless specifically addressed and justified by the Applicant, and confirmed as being scoped out by the Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State notes the potential need to carry out an assessment under the Habitats Regulations<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended)



# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

## Background

- 1.1 On 16 May 2013, the Secretary of State (SoS) received a scoping report submitted by Progress Power Limited (the Applicant) under Regulation 8 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (SI 2263) (as amended) (the EIA Regulations) in order to request a scoping opinion for the proposed Progress Power Station. This Scoping Opinion is made in response to this request and should be read in conjunction with the Applicant's Scoping Report.
- 1.2 In a letter dated 15 May 2013 addressed to the SoS and accompanying the Scoping Report, the Applicant formally notified the SoS under Regulation 6(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that it proposes to provide an ES in respect of the proposed development. Therefore, in accordance with Regulation 4(2)(a) of the EIA Regulations, the proposed development is determined to be EIA development. The EIA Regulations enable an applicant, before making an application for an order granting development consent, to ask the SoS to state in writing their formal opinion (a 'scoping opinion') on the information to be provided in the environmental statement (ES).
- 1.3 The proposed development concerns the construction of an onshore electricity generating station. It falls within the description of a Schedule 1 development under the EIA Regulations as being an infrastructure project. An EIA is mandatory for a Schedule 1 development.
- 1.4 Before adopting a scoping opinion the SoS must take into account:
  - (a) the specific characteristics of the particular development;
  - (b) the specific characteristics of the development of the type concerned; and
  - (c) environmental features likely to be affected by the development'.

*(EIA Regulation 8 (9))*
- 1.5 This Opinion sets out what information the SoS considers should be included in the ES for the proposed development. The Opinion has taken account of:
  - i the EIA Regulations
  - ii the nature and scale of the proposed development
  - iii the nature of the receiving environment, and

- iv current best practice in the preparation of environmental statements.
- 1.6 The SoS has also taken account of the responses received from the statutory consultees (see Appendix 2 of this Opinion). The matters addressed by the Applicant have been carefully considered and use has been made of professional judgement and experience in order to adopt this Opinion. It should be noted that when it comes to consider the ES, the SoS will take account of relevant legislation and guidelines (as appropriate). The SoS will not be precluded from requiring additional information if it is considered necessary in connection with the ES submitted with that application when considering the application for a development consent order (DCO).
- 1.7 This Opinion should not be construed as implying that the SoS agrees with the information or comments provided by the Applicant in their request for an opinion from the SoS. In particular, comments from the SoS in this Opinion are without prejudice to any decision taken by the SoS (on submission of the application) that any development identified by the Applicant is necessarily to be treated as part of a nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP), or associated development, or development that does not require development consent.
- 1.8 Regulation 8(3) of the EIA Regulations states that a request for a scoping opinion must include:
- (a) 'a plan sufficient to identify the land;
  - (b) a brief description of the nature and purpose of the development and of its possible effects on the environment; and
  - (c) such other information or representations as the person making the request may wish to provide or make'.
- (EIA Regulation 8 (3))*
- 1.9 The SoS considers that this has been provided in the Applicant's Scoping Report.

## The Secretary of State's Consultation

- 1.10 The SoS has a duty under Regulation 8(6) of the EIA Regulations to consult widely before adopting a scoping opinion. A full list of the consultation bodies is provided at Appendix 1. The list has been compiled by the SoS under their duty to notify the consultees in accordance with Regulation 9(1)(a). The Applicant should note that whilst the SoS list can inform their consultation, it should not be relied upon for that purpose.



- 1.11 The list of respondents who replied within the statutory timeframe and whose comments have been taken into account in the preparation of this Opinion is provided at Appendix 2 along with copies of their comments, to which the Applicant should refer in undertaking the EIA.
- 1.12 The ES submitted by the Applicant should demonstrate consideration of the points raised by the consultation bodies. It is recommended that a table is provided in the ES summarising the scoping responses from the consultation bodies and how they are, or are not, addressed in the ES.
- 1.13 Any consultation responses received after the statutory deadline for receipt of comments will not be taken into account within this Opinion. Late responses will be forwarded to the Applicant and will be made available on the Planning Inspectorate's website. The Applicant should also give due consideration to those comments in carrying out the EIA.

## Structure of the Document

- 1.14 This Scoping Opinion is structured as follows:

- Section 1 Introduction
- Section 2 The proposed development
- Section 3 EIA approach and topic areas
- Section 4 Other information.

The Scoping Opinion is accompanied by the following Appendices:

- Appendix 1 List of consultees
- Appendix 2 Respondents to consultation and copies of replies
- Appendix 3 Presentation of the environmental statement.

## 2.0 THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

### Introduction

2.1 The following is a summary of the information on the proposed development and its site and surroundings prepared by the Applicant and included in the Scoping Report. The information has not been verified and it has been assumed that the information provided reflects the existing knowledge of the proposed development and the potential receptors/resources.

### The Applicant's Information

#### Overview of the Proposed Development

2.2 The proposed Progress Power Station comprises the construction of a new gas fired thermal generating station with an electrical output of up to 299 MWe and a thermal output in the region of 400-950 MW.

2.3 Section 1.2 of the Scoping Report has identified the following principal components of the proposed development:

- a gas fired power station capable of providing up to 299 MWe;
- a new electrical connection to export power from the new generation plant to the National Grid; and
- a new gas pipeline connection to bring natural gas to the power generation plant from the National Gas Transmission System (NTS).

#### Description of the site and surroundings

##### *The Application Site*

2.4 The proposed power generation plant would be situated on approximately 10 ha of land within the former World War Two Eye Airfield, located approximately 1.3km west of Langton Green and approximately 1.5km north-east of Yaxley, Mid Suffolk. The power plant generation site is located within a larger triangular area directly to the east of the former 'main runway'.

2.5 The site is entirely within the administrative area of Mid Suffolk District Council and is designated as a Strategic Site for development.

2.6 Land use on the site consists of greenfield agricultural use with a number of small watercourses, ponds, hedgerows and fences and

land characterised by the remnants of the airfield. A belt of trees borders the site to the east.

- 2.7 The gas connection would run from the proposed power generation plant into Feeder 5 on the gas NTS which runs to the south and east of the site, through the Eye Airfield and across agricultural fields. Potential gas connection route corridor options are shown at Figure 3 of the Scoping Report.
- 2.8 The electricity connection would connect the proposed power generation plant to a new substation located either within the site or adjacent to the 400kV infrastructure located approximately 1.5km west of the site, which runs between the Bramford and Norwich Main substations.
- 2.9 Sections 5.5.5 and 5.5.6 of the Scoping Report identify bats; great crested newt; nesting birds and wintering birds; badger and BAP species such as brown hare as likely to be present on the sites:
- 2.10 There are a number of local roads and public rights of way both within the study area and outside of it.
- 2.11 Eye Airfield is a heritage site.

#### *The Surrounding Area*

- 2.12 To the north of the proposed power generation site is an existing thermal generating power station and situated to the south west are two existing wind turbines. Two further wind turbines are to be built to the south and south-east of the site. Immediately to the east is a belt of trees which separate the site from an existing gas compressor facility. To the west of the site is an existing industrial area.
- 2.13 Section 5.5.7 of the ES refers to the presence of 29 statutory designated sites within a 10km search radius, two of which are of international importance and seven of national importance. The remainder of the sites are ancient woodland. Two non-statutory designated sites are located within 2km of the site.
- 2.14 A number of ponds and watercourses are to be found in the wider area with the closest being location around 525m west of the proposed power generation plant site boundary.
- 2.15 The Broads Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) is located approximately 2.7km to the north of the site and 1.1km to the east of the site.
- 2.16 Burgate ancient and semi-natural woodland is located approximately 5.5km west of the site.

- 2.17 The Pennings Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is located approximately 2.3km to the south east of the site.
- 2.18 Section 5.11.5 of the Scoping Report states that several listed buildings and conservation areas are in the vicinity of the Airfield and these include Eye and Thrandeston Conservation Areas. Within Eye, there are several Grade I listed buildings.
- 2.19 The Scoping Opinion identifies the following Scheduled Ancient Monuments in proximity to the site:
- St Mary's Church – 1.3km to the north;
  - Moated site immediately south east of St Mary's Church;
  - Eye Castle – 2km from the centre of the site;
  - Remains of Eye Priory at Abbey Farm – 2km to the south-east;
  - Scole Roman Settlement – 4km to the north-east;
  - Barn at Rook Hall – 2.5km to the south; and
  - Moated site at Gate Farm – 4km to the south-east.

### **Description of the Proposed Development**

- 2.20 The proposed power generation plant dimensions will be in the order of 2.5ha and would be designed to provide a total output of up to 299 MWe (gross capacity) at rated site conditions. The choice of plant and technology are not yet confirmed but will comprise either one or a combination of the following:
- a Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) plant;
  - a Simple Cycle Gas Turbine (SCGT) plant; or
  - a Reciprocating Gas Ignition Engine (RGE) plant.
- 2.21 Section 3.3.5 onwards of the Scoping Report provides details of components required for a CCGT plant and describes the operation of such infrastructure; Section 3.3.15 onwards provides the components required and operational information for a SCGT plant and Section 3.3.22 provides details of the components and operational information of a RGE plant. Indicative dimensions of the main plant components are provided in Table 3.1 of the Scoping Report.
- 2.22 An underground gas connection of between 0.1km and 1.6km in length, depending on which connection corridor is chosen, would be required to connect the proposed power generation plant to Feeder 5 of the gas NTS. Inserts 5-8 of the Scoping Report show the proposed connection routes for each of the potential Gas Connection Corridors which are also shown together on Figure 3.

- 2.23 Connection to the NTS would require the installation of a Minimum Offtake Connection (MOC) facility of around 30m x 30m and a Pipeline Inspection Gauge Trap facility (PTF) of around 30m x 23m. The pipeline would be buried to a depth of cover in accordance with industry standards which is no less than 1.2m in agricultural land; no less than 2m under road crossings; and no less than 1.7m under water crossings.
- 2.24 An electrical connection is proposed to connect the power generation plant to a new substation either on site or adjacent to the 400kV infrastructure located approximately 1.5km west of the site which runs between Bramford and Norwich Main substations. The Scoping Report expresses uncertainty over whether the connection will comprise overhead line or underground cable.
- 2.25 If a new substation is constructed on site, power will be exported to the National Grid via a 400kv line to a SEC at the 400kv infrastructure.
- 2.26 If a new substation is constructed off site, it would be constructed by National Grid Company (NGC) while the connection between this and the proposed power generation plant will be in the form of a 400kv line constructed as part of the project.
- 2.27 Overhead line, if required, is likely to have tower heights ranging between 35m and 60m depending on design requirements and have a span of approximately 360m. The substation height would be limited to 12.5m.
- 2.28 Sections 3.3.40 – 3.3.42 of the Scoping Report refer to the possibility of Combined Heat and Power (CHP) being part of the proposed development but this is to be the subject of further investigation.

### **Proposed Access**

- 2.29 The site is accessed from a private road to the south, Potash Lane which, in turn, connects to Castleton Way, via the former main runway. Castleton Way, in turn, provides connectivity to the B1077 to the east and the A140 to the west.
- 2.30 Sections 5.10.5 and 5.10.6 of the scoping report state that access to the power generation plant and gas connection route corridor would be via the A140, entering the site from the south via Castleton Land and Potash Lane. Access to the electrical connection corridor would be via the A140, Mellis Road, through Yaxley or Mellis Road, through Thrandeston. There is also a possibility that a new access road may need to be constructed along the electrical route corridor with main access off the A140.

## **Construction**

- 2.31 The laydown area for storage of plant and equipment during construction will be within the red line boundary of the power generation plant as shown in Figures 1 & 2 of the Scoping Report.
- 2.32 Section 3.3.33 of the Scoping Report states that construction and commissioning of the proposed development will take approximately 12 to 36 months which is dependent upon the final choice of plant technology.
- 2.33 The main works associated with the construction phase include:
- the removal of hardstanding;
  - excavation and site levelling for new foundations;
  - potential piling; and
  - the laying of the gas and electrical connection.
- 2.34 Section 5.3.29 of the Scoping Report refers to the production of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which is to be provided.
- 2.35 Expected transport during the construction phase includes: civil works traffic; mechanical works traffic and heavy/abnormal loads.
- 2.36 Section 5.11.16 of the Scoping Report states that there are likely to be large items of plant involved in the construction of all aspects of the development.

## **Operation and Maintenance**

- 2.37 The power generation plant would have an operational life of 25 years after which it would either be re-powered or decommissioned. For the purpose of the EIA, the Scoping Report has assumed that it will be decommissioned.

## **Decommissioning**

- 2.38 Section 3.3.37 of the Scoping Report states that decommissioning would involve the removal of all power generation plant items and restoration of the site to a similar, pre-construction condition.
- 2.39 Gas and electricity connections may be left in situ to avoid any adverse environmental impacts associated with their removal.
- 2.40 Items of plant would be recycled or re-used where possible.

## The Secretary of State's Comments

### Description of the Application Site and Surrounding Area

- 2.41 In addition to detailed baseline information to be provided within topic specific chapters of the ES, the SoS is pleased to note the inclusion of a section that summarises the site and surroundings. This will establish the context of the proposed development including relevant designations and sensitive receptors. This section should identify land that could be directly or indirectly affected by the proposed development and any associated auxiliary facilities, landscaping areas and potential off site mitigation or compensation schemes.
- 2.42 The energy centre will require a pipeline connecting it to the NTS to obtain gas. It will also require connections to National Grid's electricity network. These connections will be included in the DCO. The Scoping Report, at Section 3.2, provides a brief description of the site and its surroundings but appear to apply to the power station site only. The SoS considers that in addition to a comprehensive description of the power station site and surrounding areas, including the identification of designated areas and sensitive receptors, the ES should also include a clear description of the separate routes for the electricity connection and gas pipeline.

### Description of the Proposed Development

- 2.43 The Applicant should ensure that the description of the proposed development that is being applied for is as accurate and firm as possible as this will form the basis of the environmental impact assessment. It is understood that at this stage in the evolution of the scheme the technology to be used and even the area to be used for the siting of this technology may not be confirmed. The Applicant should be aware however, that the description of the development in the ES must be sufficiently certain to meet the requirements of paragraph 17 of Schedule 4 Part 1 of the EIA Regulations and there should therefore be more certainty by the time the ES is submitted with the DCO.
- 2.44 The SoS notes from Sections 3.3.39 – 3.3.42 of the Scoping Report, that consideration will be given to CHP in accordance with Section 4.6 of National Policy Statement EN-1. The ES should provide clear evidence to show that the possibilities of CHP have been fully explored and clearly state whether it is intended to bring CHP forward as part of the proposed scheme.
- 2.45 The SoS notes from Section 2.4.7 of the Scoping Report that the proposed development will be of 299Mwe and therefore excluded from the requirement of EN – 1 to be designed to be carbon capture ready.

- 2.46 The SoS notes the inconsistency in the Applicants' Scoping Report with regards to the electrical and gas connections that are required and whether or not this will be part of the DCO. The description of the electricity connection and gas pipeline are limited within the ES and it is clear that further work is required to refine the proposals and determine the routes, and components of these elements of the development. Within the ES the SoS would expect to see a clear description of the connections, including any associated development required at either end, or along the routes of the electricity connection and gas pipeline.
- 2.47 If a draft DCO is to be submitted, the Applicant should clearly define what elements of the proposed development are integral to the NSIP and which is 'associated development' under the Planning Act 2008 or is an ancillary matter. Any proposed works and/or infrastructure required as associated development, or as an ancillary matter, (whether on or off-site) should be considered as part of an integrated approach to environmental assessment.
- 2.48 The SoS recommends that the ES should include a clear description of all aspects of the proposed development, at the construction, operation and decommissioning stages, and include:
- Land use requirements;
  - Site preparation;
  - Construction processes and methods;
  - Transport routes;
  - Operational requirements including the main characteristics of the production process and the nature and quantity of materials used, as well as waste arisings and their disposal;
  - Maintenance activities including any potential environmental impacts; and
  - Emissions- water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation.
- 2.49 The environmental effects of all wastes to be processed and removed from the site should be addressed. The ES will need to identify and describe the control processes and mitigation procedures for storing and transporting waste off site. All waste types should be quantified and classified.

## **Flexibility**

- 2.50 The SoS notes the comments in the Scoping Report that the detailed design of the power station is still being developed and that the draft description of development contains a number of variables. The SoS welcomes that the proposals are to be firmed up during the pre-application stages and encourages consultation with relevant bodies. The description of the proposed development



in the ES will need to be as accurate and firm as possible so that the EIA can robustly support the DCO application.

- 2.51 The Applicant's attention is drawn to the 'Flexibility' section in Appendix 3 of this Opinion which provides additional details.
- 2.52 The Applicant should make every attempt to narrow the range of options and explain clearly in the ES which elements of the scheme have yet to be finalised and provide the reasons. At the time of application, any proposed scheme parameters should not be so wide ranging as to represent effectively different schemes. The scheme parameters will need to be clearly defined in the draft DCO and therefore in the accompanying ES. It is a matter for the Applicant, in preparing an ES, to consider whether it is possible to robustly assess a range of impacts resulting from a large number of undecided parameters. The description of the proposed development in the ES must not be so wide that it is insufficiently certain to comply with requirements of paragraph 17 of Schedule 4 Part 1 of the EIA Regulations.
- 2.53 It should be noted that if the proposed development changes substantially during the EIA process, prior to application submission, the Applicant may wish to consider the need to request a new Scoping Opinion.

### **Grid Connection**

- 2.54 The connection of the power station into the gas and electricity networks is an important consideration. Therefore, the SoS welcomes the intention to include both connections within the proposed DCO application so that all potential effects can be assessed within the accompanying ES. The SoS is pleased to note that a number of route options for both connections are being considered to fully assess the environmental impacts of all options.
- 2.55 The SoS notes that in the absence of a confirmed connection route for both the gas and the electricity connections, a number of corridors have been identified. The SoS advises that once the routes for the connections have been determined, they should be refined to ensure a robust assessment of the environmental impacts is carried out. The DCO order limits should however be broad enough to encompass both temporary and permanent land take and development.

### **Proposed Access**

- 2.56 It is noted that the access arrangements for the gas and electricity connections have not been determined and will be developed through further studies. The SoS would anticipate a comprehensive description of the temporary and permanent access to all sites to be provided within the ES.

## **Construction**

- 2.57 The SoS considers that information on construction including: phasing of programme; construction methods and activities associated with each phase; siting of construction compounds (including on and off site); lighting equipment/requirements; and number, movements and parking of construction vehicles (both HGVs and staff) should be clearly indicated in the ES.
- 2.58 The SoS recommends that an outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) be appended to the ES providing details of specific mitigation measures required to reduce construction related impacts.

## **Operation and Maintenance**

- 2.59 The Scoping Report does not provide information regarding the operation and maintenance requirements for the power station or the electricity and gas connections. The ES should clearly describe these requirements for all elements of the development and should cover but not be limited to such matters as: the number of full/part-time jobs; the operational hours and if appropriate, shift patterns; the number and types of vehicle movements generated during the operational stage.

## **Decommissioning**

- 2.60 In terms of decommissioning, the SoS welcomes the initial consideration of decommissioning. Whilst it is acknowledged that information on the decommissioning strategy may not be fully developed at this early stage, the purpose of such a long term assessment is to enable the decommissioning of the works to be taken into account in the design and use of materials such that structures can be taken down with the minimum of disruption. The SoS advises that as much detail as possible on the proposed approach, including the process and methods of decommissioning, is provided within the ES to ensure that the long term assessment can consider the impacts of decommissioning for each element of the proposed scheme.

## 3.0 EIA APPROACH AND TOPIC AREAS

### Introduction

- 3.1 This section contains the SoS's specific comments on the approach to the ES and topic areas as set out in the Scoping Report. General advice on the presentation of an ES is provided at Appendix 3 of this Scoping Opinion and should be read in conjunction with this Section.
- 3.2 Applicants are advised that the scope of the DCO application should be clearly addressed and assessed consistently within the ES.

### ES Approach

- 3.3 The information provided in the Scoping Report sets out the proposed approach to the preparation of the ES. Whilst early engagement on the scope of the ES is to be welcomed, the SoS notes that the level of information provided at this stage is not always sufficient to allow for detailed comments from either the SoS or the consultees.
- 3.4 The SoS would suggest that the Applicant ensures that appropriate consultation is undertaken with the relevant consultees in order to agree wherever possible the timing and relevance of survey work as well as the methodologies to be used. The SoS notes and welcomes the intention to finalise the scope of investigations in conjunction with ongoing stakeholder liaison and consultation with the relevant regulatory authorities and their advisors.
- 3.5 The SoS recommends that the physical scope of the study areas should be identified under all the environmental topics and should be sufficiently robust in order to undertake the assessment. The extent of the study areas should be on the basis of recognised professional guidance, whenever such guidance is available. The study areas should also be agreed with the relevant consultees and, where this is not possible, this should be stated clearly in the ES and a reasoned justification given. The scope should also cover the breadth of the topic area and the temporal scope, and these aspects should be described and justified.

### Matters to be Scoped Out

- 3.6 The SoS notes the comments regarding the detailed assessment of noticeable odour associated with the operation of the Power Generation Plant. Given the characteristics of the site and proposed development the SoS agrees that a detailed assessment of odour can be scoped out.

- 3.7 The SoS notes the comments regarding the assessment of noise during operation for the gas and the electricity connections. Based on the assumption that the connections will be below ground, the SoS agrees to this. However, this is subject to the connections being below ground, the noise of substations and all above ground installations will require assessment within the ES.
- 3.8 The Scoping Report states that if the electrical connection is not included in the DCO (Development Consent Order) application then indicative information will be provided.
- 3.9 Decisions to scope out impacts should be fully explained in the ES. The SoS acknowledges that electricity routing options are not given at this time, in order to demonstrate that topics have not simply been overlooked, where topics are scoped out prior to submission of the DCO application, the ES should still explain the reasoning and justify the approach taken.

## ES Structure

- 3.10 Section 3.5 of the Scoping Report sets out the proposed Contents list of the ES on which the Applicant seeks the Opinion of the SoS. The list of headings differs from that set out on Page 1 of the Scoping Report.
- 3.11 The SoS notes that from the ES Contents sheet (Scoping Report Section 4.2) that the EIA would cover a number of assessments under the broad headings of:
- Air Quality
  - Noise and Vibration
  - Ecology
  - Water Resources
  - Geology, Ground Conditions and Agriculture
  - Landscape and Visual
  - Waste Management
  - Traffic and Infrastructure
  - Cultural Heritage / Archaeology
  - Socio-Economics, and
  - Cumulative Assessment.
- 3.12 The SoS recommends that the ES should include a description of the proposed construction programme and methods. This information should be used to inform the assessment of construction impacts.

- 3.13 The Scoping Report also states that the following information will be provided within the application:
- Design and access statement
  - Flood risk assessment
  - Planning statement
  - Climate change / sustainability assessment
  - Consultation report
  - Statement to inform / Habitat Regulations Assessment
  - Site Waste Management Plan
  - Surface Water Management Plan
- 3.14 The SoS welcomes the proposal of the applicants to take into account the effects of climate change and requires any adaptation measures to be based on the latest set of UK Climate Projections, the Government's latest UK Climate change risk Assessment and in consultation with the EA. The ES should where possible consider the potential effects with providing the proposed technology.

## Topic Areas

### **Air Quality** (see Scoping Report Section 5.3)

- 3.15 The SoS recommends that assessment methodology is determined in consultation with EA, Natural England (NE) and the relevant local authorities; including the study area and sensitive receptors. The SoS notes that the air quality baseline will be defined using available existing baseline monitoring data.
- 3.16 It is noted that the air quality modelling and assessment will consider impacts at European designated and other ecological sites within 10km of the proposed development. There is also a need for the ES to consider potential effects due to an increase in airborne pollution during construction, including fugitive dust emissions, on other important nature conservation and wildlife sites. The approach to this assessment should be agreed with NE.
- 3.17 The SoS welcomes the approach of using Atmospheric Dispersion Modelling to assess the effects of significant pollution emissions. All assumptions and limitations to assessments, including the number, location and height of flue stacks should be clearly specified in all relevant sections of the ES.
- 3.18 If details including the number, location and height of the flue stacks are not confirmed at the point of application the ES should assess operational air quality based on a worst case scenario taking into account other nearby pollution sources (existing and

proposed). The implications of stack height and dispersion of the discharge should also be clearly explained.

- 3.19 Predicted pollutant concentrations should be assessed against the applicable standard guideline value (e.g. relevant European air quality limit values and National Air Quality Objectives).
- 3.20 The SoS notes that the site is near to several sensitive areas including national and European-designated wildlife sites. There is the need to consider potential impacts to these areas related to an increase in airborne pollution including fugitive dust especially during site preparation, demolition and construction.
- 3.21 The assessment should take account of the air emissions from the proposed development and emissions related to increased vehicular movements associated with the proposed development. Such information should also inform the ecological assessment.
- 3.22 Changes in air quality and dust levels should be assessed not only on site but also off site, including along access roads, local footpaths and other PROW. The SoS welcomes the proposal to assess the gas and the electrical connections for construction and decommissioning impacts on air quality.
- 3.23 Consideration should be given to appropriate mitigation measures and to monitoring dust complaints.

#### **Noise and Vibration** (see Scoping Report Section 5.4)

- 3.24 The SoS recommends that the methodology and choice of noise receptors should be agreed with the relevant local authorities and with the Environment Agency (EA).
- 3.25 The noise and vibration assessments should take account of the increased traffic movements along access routes, especially during the construction phase. The results from the noise and vibration assessments will also provide information to inform the ecological assessments, exceptional but essential operations such as venting (as applicable to the technology) should be included in the assessment.
- 3.26 Noise impacts on sensitive receptors should be specifically addressed. Particularly effects on people from any potential noise disturbance at night and other unsocial hours such as weekends and public holidays.
- 3.27 Where appropriate, effective measures should be provided to mitigate against noise nuisance. Negative effects of any proposed mitigation on other areas of assessment in the EIA should also be assessed – such as the implementation of sound screens on wildlife or on visual impact. The ES must make a clear distinction between the assessment of effects with and without mitigation.

- 3.28 Consideration should be given to monitoring noise complaints during construction and when the development is operational.

**Ecology** (see Scoping Report Section 5.5)

- 3.29 The SoS draws the applicants attention to the comments of NE (see Appendix 2) regarding the approach to the ecological assessment.
- 3.30 The SoS recommends that surveys should be thorough, up to date and take account of other development proposed in the vicinity.
- 3.31 The SoS recommends that the proposals should address fully the needs of protecting and enhancing biodiversity. The assessment should cover habitats, species and processes within the site and its surroundings. The SoS draws attention in particular, but not exclusively, to the effects on bats, breeding birds, wintering birds and great crested newts. The SoS notes the submission of the 2013 Extended Habitat Survey and welcomes the inclusion of non-statutory designated sites.
- 3.32 The potential impacts on international and nationally designated sites should be assessed as well as county level habitats. The SoS notes the possible need for an Appropriate Assessment in view of the development site's location in relation to Redgrave and South Lopham Fens Ramsar site and Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC. Further information is provided in Section 4 of this Scoping Opinion.
- 3.33 The assessment should take account of impacts on noise, vibration, water management and air quality (including dust), and cross reference should be made to these specialist reports.
- 3.34 The operational and decommissioning phases of the works should be addressed. The SoS recommends the need to consider cumulative impacts and advises this is particularly relevant in terms of assessing the impacts on ecology.

**Water Resources** (see Scoping Report Section 5.6)

- 3.35 The SoS draws attention to the consultation responses from the EA, Mid Suffolk District Council, Suffolk County Council and Public Health England (PHE).
- 3.36 The SoS welcomes the assessment of the potential impacts resulting from the development of the Power Generation Plant on local water quality and flooding. The ES should identify and clearly map any surface water resources (including springs and private water supplies both internal and external to the site boundary) that could potentially affect or be affected by the proposal.

- 3.37 Potential sources of pollution should be identified, as well as pathways to potential hydrological and surface water receptors, this includes the aquifer below the site.
- 3.38 Full details on the rates of potable use at each stage of development should be assessed. .
- 3.39 Potential impacts on the public sewer network should be assessed, including easements and any potential impacts arising from vibration during the construction works. The SoS recommends consultation with relevant organisations (including water and sewerage companies) to agree the approach.
- 3.40 Mitigation measures should be addressed and the SoS advises that reference should be made to other regimes (such as pollution prevention from the EA). On-going monitoring should also be addressed and agreed with the relevant authorities to ensure that any mitigation measures are effective.
- 3.41 The SoS welcomes the commitment to provide a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) in accordance with the Applications Prescribed Forms and Procedures Regulations (APFP). The FRA should cover ground water, surface water and fluvial impacts. The SoS recommends that a Surface Water Management Plan should be prepared which may include a review of existing drainage facilities and the provision of interceptors on site.
- 3.42 The FRA should form an appendix to the ES. The SoS recommends that the sections considering the water environment should be cross referenced.

**Geology and Soils including ground conditions and land use**  
(see Scoping Report Section 5.7)

- 3.43 The SoS welcomes that there will be assessment of ground and water contamination. The baseline for the ES should explain in detail the extent of the study area, ensuring that the impacts are considered over a sufficiently wide area and provide the reasons to justify this.
- 3.44 The SoS welcomes that there will be full consideration of the impact of the proposal on soils as an agricultural resource.
- 3.45 The SoS refers the applicant to the comments raised by the EA and the need for early engagement with them. The SoS notes that the ES will need to address ground conditions and contaminated land fully and the approach to the assessment should be agreed in consultation with the EA.



## **Landscape and Visual** (see Scoping Report Section 5.8)

- 3.46 The Applicant's attention is drawn to the comments of NE regarding the need to consider the potential impacts on biodiversity resulting from the loss of existing vegetation; appropriate cross reference should be made to the ecology section.
- 3.47 The ES should identify landscape planning designations, landscape character areas and potentially sensitive receptors.
- 3.48 The SoS draws the attention of the Applicant of the need to liaise with the local planning authorities to ensure use is made in the EIA of the most up to date policy documents.
- 3.49 The landscape and visual assessment in the scoping report refers to the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV). The SoS advises that the ES should describe the methodology and model used, provide information on the area covered and the timing of any survey work. Having regard to the topography of the landscape, the ZTV should seek to ensure that all potential sensitive receptors are considered and viewpoints are agreed with the relevant Local Planning Authorities.
- 3.50 All parameters, including the assumptions for the number and heights of stacks used in the assessment should be clearly detailed and justified. Care should be taken to ensure that the worst case scenario for stack height is reflected as appropriate.
- 3.51 The proposals will be for large structures. The SoS requests that careful consideration should be given to the form, siting, and use of materials and colours in terms of minimising the adverse visual impact of these structures. This should include night time views, including the impact of lighting.
- 3.52 Appropriate use of photomontages will help to illustrate the views prior to development, upon completion and at an agreed future date when mitigation measures are fully established. Photos, photos montages and wireframes should be presented in a clear and readable format that includes clear points of reference to allow the reader to readily identify and fully understand the potential effects of the proposed development.
- 3.53 The SoS recommends that the location and the timing of viewpoints, photographs and visualisations should be agreed with the relevant local authorities.
- 3.54 The Applicant's attention is drawn to the comments of English Heritage (see appendix 2) regarding the need to consider historic development of landscape and its role in the wider setting of heritage assets.

## **Waste** (see Scoping Report Section 5.9)

- 3.55 The SoS welcomes that an assessment of waste will be undertaken and that a Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP) is to be produced. This should be provided as an Appendix to the ES.
- 3.56 The Applicant's attention is drawn to the comments of the EA, including the requirement of compliance with the waste hierarchy.
- 3.57 The SoS considers it essential to categorise and quantify the type and volume of materials to be removed from the site and identify where potential traffic movements would be routed.

## **Traffic and Infrastructure** (see Scoping Report Section 5.10)

- 3.58 The SoS welcomes the proposed consultation with the local highways authority and the Highways Agency (HA) on the assessment of transport impacts, particularly to identify any cumulative impacts.
- 3.59 The Applicants attention is drawn to the comments received from the local authorities and PHE (see Appendix 2) with regard to inclusion of information within a Transport Assessment (TA), including reference to consideration of non-road transportation impact.
- 3.60 Information should be provided on the types of vehicles and plant to be used, the number of vehicle trips, during the construction and operation phases. This should include vehicular movements required during shut down and maintenance periods.
- 3.61 The access route to the site has not been confirmed within the Scoping Report. The ES should detail the transport routes to be used during construction and operational phases, both within the site and along the strategic road network. The measures to be employed to ensure that these roads will be utilised should be detailed.
- 3.62 The SoS recommends that the ES should take account of the location of footpaths and any public rights of way (PRoW) including bridleways and byways. The ES should clearly set out the impacts on them including within the wider area. It is important to minimise hindrance to them where possible. A clear indication should be given as to how the development will affect the existing and future facilities in the area and what mitigation would be appropriate in the short, medium and long term.
- 3.63 The SoS welcomes the proposal to produce a Travel Plan for the construction and operational phases of the proposed development. If this is to form a separate document to the ES the Applicant should ensure that sufficient information is contained within the ES for it to be a stand alone document.

- 3.64 The significance of an identified effect from transportation will need to take into account a number of criteria. These criteria will need to be carefully described so that impact significance is clearly defined within the ES and so that it can be clearly understood how significance has been concluded.
- 3.65 Transport of the waste stored temporarily on site should be addressed in terms of the form of transport and the possible routing.
- 3.66 Cross reference should be made to the Air Quality, Noise and Vibration, and waste assessments where appropriate.

**Cultural Heritage / Archaeology** (see Scoping Report Section 5.11)

- 3.67 The SoS notes that a number of different study areas have been identified in paragraphs 5.11.21 and 5.11.26 of the scoping report. These study areas should be agreed with the relevant planning authority (ies) and English Heritage and justified within the ES.
- 3.68 The ES should detail the names and characteristics of the important heritage assets that could be potentially affected by the proposed development. Any cultural heritage/archaeological features that are likely to be affected directly or indirectly should be clearly identified in the plans of the ES. This should include assets considered to be of a national, regional and local importance.
- 3.69 The setting of cultural heritage resources could be affected; this includes historic buildings, historic landscapes and archaeological sites and the SoS considers that these should be addressed in the ES. Cross reference should be made to the Landscape and Visual section of the ES.
- 3.70 Whilst the SoS acknowledges that the proposed development structures may be removed after the operational lifespan of the proposed development, the effects on setting will be permanent during the operational phase. The SoS recommends that this impact is assessed fully within the ES.

**Socio-economics** (see Scoping Report Section 5.12)

- 3.71 The SoS recommends that the types of jobs generated should be considered in the context of the available workforce in the area, this applies equally to the construction and operational stages.
- 3.72 The SoS notes the proposal to study the socio-economic impacts for construction, operation and decommissioning, with a potential workforce of between 150 and 250 persons and that subject to procurement rules that as much of this workforce will be recruited locally. The SoS recommends that the assessment includes direct

and indirect impact with full explanation and justification for any presumptions used.

- 3.73 The SoS recommends that the assessment criteria should be locationally specific and consider the potential significance of the impacts of the proposal within the local and regional context.

**Cumulative Assessment** (see Scoping Report Section 5.13)

- 3.74 The SoS notes the intention to take into account the cumulative impact of other existing and planned developments in the area. This should include development under the control of the local planning authority and NSIPs.
- 3.75 The SoS welcomes and endorses the proposal to consult with the local planning authorities to identify any other development in the area which should be considered.

## 4.0 OTHER INFORMATION

- 4.1 This section does not form part of the SoS's opinion as to the information to be provided in the environmental statement. However, it does respond to other issues that the SoS has identified which may help to inform the preparation of the application for the DCO.

### Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

- 4.2 The SoS notes that European sites may be located close to the proposed development Redgrave and South Lopham Fens Ramsar site and Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC. It is the Applicant's responsibility to provide sufficient information to the Competent Authority (CA) to enable them to carry out a HRA if required. The Applicant should note that the CA is the SoS.
- 4.3 The Applicant's attention is drawn to The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (as amended) (The APFP Regulations) and the need to include information identifying European sites to which the Habitats Regulations applies or any Ramsar site or potential SPA which may be affected by a proposal. The submitted information should be sufficient for the competent authority to make an appropriate assessment (AA) of the implications for the site if required by Regulation 61(1) of the Habitats Regulations.
- 4.4 The report to be submitted under Regulation 5(2)(g) of the APFP Regulations with the application must deal with two issues: the first is to enable a formal assessment by the CA of whether there is a likely significant effect; and the second, should it be required, is to enable the carrying out of an AA by the CA.
- 4.5 When considering aspects of the environment likely to be affected by the proposed development; including flora, fauna, soil, water, air and the inter-relationship between these, consideration should be given to the designated sites in the vicinity of the proposed development.
- 4.6 Further information with regard to the HRA process is contained within Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 10 available on the National Infrastructure Planning's website.

### Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)

- 4.7 The SoS notes that a number of SSSIs are located close to or within the proposed development. Where there may be potential impacts on the SSSIs, the SoS has duties under sections 28(G) and 28(I) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (the W&C Act). These are set out below for information.

- Redgrave & Lopham Fensa SSSI
- Redgrave & Lopham Fen National Nature Reserve
- Wortham Ling SSSI
- Burgate Wood SSSI
- Gypsy Camp Meadows, Thrandeston SSSI
- Major Farm, Braiseworth SSSI
- Hoxne Brick Pit SSSI
- Westhall Wood and Meadow SSSI
- Shelfanger Meadows SSSI

4.8 Under s28(G), the SoS has a general duty ‘... to take reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of the authority’s functions, to further the conservation and enhancement of the flora, fauna or geological or physiographical features by reason of which the site is of special scientific interest’.

4.9 Under s28(I), the SoS must notify the relevant nature conservation body (NCB), NE in this case, before authorising the carrying out of operations likely to damage the special interest features of a SSSI. Under these circumstances 28 days must elapse before deciding whether to grant consent, and the SoS must take account of any advice received from the NCB, including advice on attaching conditions to the consent. The NCB will be notified during the examination period.

4.10 If applicants consider it likely that notification may be necessary under s28(I), they are advised to resolve any issues with the NCB before the DCO application is submitted to the SoS. If, following assessment by applicants, it is considered that operations affecting the SSSI will not lead to damage of the special interest features, applicants should make this clear in the ES. The application documents submitted in accordance with Regulation 5(2)(I) could also provide this information. Applicants should seek to agree with NE the DCO requirements which will provide protection for the SSSI before the DCO application is submitted.

## European Protected Species (EPS)

4.11 The Applicant should also be aware that the decision maker under the Planning Act 2008 (PA 2008) has, as the CA, a duty to engage with the Habitats Directive.

4.12 The SoS considers that there is potential for the presence of EPS within the study area for the proposed development. Where a potential risk to an EPS is identified and before making a decision to grant development consent the CA must, amongst other things, address the derogation tests in Regulation 53 of the Habitats Regulations. Therefore the Applicant may wish to provide

information which will assist the decision maker to meet this duty. Where required the Applicant should, in consultation with NE, agree appropriate requirements to secure necessary mitigation.

- 4.13 If the Applicant has concluded (in consultation with NE) that an EPS licence is required the ExA will need to understand whether there is any impediment to the licence being granted. It would assist the examination if the Applicant could provide with the application confirmation from NE whether they intend to issue the licence in due course.

## Health Impact Assessment

- 4.14 The SoS considers that it is a matter for the Applicant to decide whether or not to submit a stand-alone Health Impact Assessment (HIA). However, the Applicant should have regard to the responses received from the relevant consultees regarding health, and in particular to the comments from the Health and Safety Executive in relation to gas and electrical safety issues (see Appendix 2).
- 4.15 The methodology for the HIA, if prepared, should be agreed with the relevant statutory consultees and take into account mitigation measures for acute risks.

## Other regulatory regimes

- 4.16 The SoS recommends that the Applicant should state clearly what regulatory areas are addressed in the ES and that the Applicant should ensure that all relevant authorisations, licences, permits and consents that are necessary to enable operations to proceed are described in the ES. Also it should be clear that any likely significant effects of the proposed development which may be regulated by other statutory regimes have been properly taken into account in the ES.
- 4.17 It will not necessarily follow that the granting of consent under one regime will ensure consent under another regime. For those consents not capable of being included in an application for consent under the PA 2008, the SoS will require a level of assurance or comfort from the relevant regulatory authorities that the proposal is acceptable and likely to be approved, before they make a recommendation or decision on an application. The Applicant is encouraged to make early contact with other regulators. Information from the Applicant about progress in obtaining other permits, licences or consents, including any confirmation that there is no obvious reason why these will not subsequently be granted, will be helpful in supporting an application for development consent to the SoS.





# **APPENDIX 1**

## **List of Consultees**



## APPENDIX 1

### LIST OF BODIES FORMALLY CONSULTED DURING THE SCOPING EXERCISE

<b>CONSULTEE</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>
The Health and Safety Executive	The Health and Safety Executive
The National Health Service Commissioning Board	NHS England
The relevant clinical commissioning group	NHS Ipswich and East Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group
Natural England	Natural England
The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England	English Heritage
The relevant fire and rescue authority	Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service
The relevant Police and Crime Commissioner	Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk
The relevant Parish Council	Brome & Oakley Parish Council Eye Town Council Thrandeston Parish Council Yaxley Parish Council
The Environment Agency	The Environment Agency
The Civil Aviation Authority	Civil Aviation Authority
The Highways Agency	The Highways Agency
The relevant Highways Authority	Suffolk County Council
The Coal Authority	The Coal Authority
The Relevant Internal Drainage Board	Waveney, Lower Yare and Lothingland Internal Drainage Board

<b>CONSULTEE</b>	<b>ORGANISATION</b>
Public Health England, an executive agency to the Department of Health	Public Health England
The Forestry Commission	The Forestry Commission
The Secretary of State for Defence	The Ministry of Defence
<b>Relevant Statutory Undertakers</b>	
<b>Health Bodies (s.16 of the Acquisition of Land Act (ALA) 1981)</b>	
The NHS Commissioning Board	NHS England
The relevant Clinical Commissioning Group	NHS Ipswich and East Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group
NHS Commissioning Board, Local Area Team	East Anglia Local Area Team
Ambulance Trusts	East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust
<b>Relevant Statutory Undertakers (s.8 ALA 1981)</b>	
Railways	BRB Residuary Limited
Universal Service Provider	Royal Mail Group
Licence Holder (Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Transport Act 2000)	NATS en Route plc
Water and Sewage Undertakers	Anglian Water Essex and Suffolk Water
Public Gas Transports	British Gas Pipelines Ltd Energetics Gas Ltd ES Pipelines Ltd ESP Connections Ltd ESP Networks Ltd ESP Pipelines Ltd Fulcrum Pipelines Limited GTC Pipelines Limited Independent Pipelines Limited LNG Portable Pipeline Services Limited

CONSULTEE	ORGANISATION
	National Grid Gas Plc National Grid Plc Quadrant Pipelines Limited SSE Pipelines Ltd The Gas Transportation Company Limited Utility Grid Installations Limited
Electricity Licence Holders having CPO Powers	Energetics Electricity Limited ESP Electricity Limited Independent Power Networks Limited The Electricity Network Company Limited UK Power Networks Limited
Electricity Transmitters with CPO Powers	National Grid Electricity Transmission plc National Grid Plc
<b>Local Authorities (s.43)</b>	
Babergh District Council Breckland Council Cambridgeshire County Council Essex County Council Ipswich Borough Council Mid Suffolk District Council Norfolk County Council South Norfolk Council St Edmundsbury District Council Suffolk Coastal District Council Suffolk County Council The Broads Authority Waveney District Council	

**Note: the Prescribed Consultees have been consulted in accordance with the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 3 'Consultation and notification undertaken by the Planning Inspectorate' (May 2012).**



## **APPENDIX 2**

# **Respondents to Consultation and Copies of Replies**





## APPENDIX 2

### LIST OF BODIES WHO REPLIED BY THE STATUTORY DEADLINE

Anglian Water
The Broads Authority
Brome & Oakley Parish Council
The Civil Aviation Authority
The Coal Authority
English Heritage
Environment Agency
ES Pipelines Ltd
Eye Town Council
Fulcrum Pipelines Limited
Health and Safety Executive
Mid Suffolk District Council
National Grid
NATS
Natural England
NHS England – East Anglia Area Team
Norfolk County Council
Public Health England
South Norfolk Council
Suffolk Coastal District Council
Suffolk County Council
Thrandeston Parish Council
Yaxley Parish Council



**From:** [planningliaison@anglianwater.co.uk](mailto:planningliaison@anglianwater.co.uk)  
**To:** [Environmental Services;](#)  
**Subject:** LDF/SP160(383) The Planning Inspectorate, Planning Application N/  
A for AW Comment, LDF Consultation Body  
**Date:** 20 May 2013 13:12:48

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Dear Mr Ridley

Your Ref: 130517\_EN010060\_1803507

Thank you for your correspondence we received today. Please note we have no comment to make on this occasion.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on 01733 414669 or alternatively the Planning & Equivalence Team can be contacted on 01733 414690.

Kind Regards

**Sandeep Bains**  
**Planning & Equivalence Team**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Environmental Services;](#)  
**Subject:** 130517\_EN010060\_1803507 - Proposed Progress Power Station  
**Date:** 23 May 2013 14:42:27

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Dear Sir,

Application No : BA/2013/0152/SCOCON  
Description : Scoping opinion for proposed Progress Power  
Project power station  
Address : Land At Eye Airfield, Adjacent To A140 Ipswich  
Road , Eye, Suffolk  
Applicant : Progress Power Ltd

Thank you for contacting the Broads Authority on the above Scoping Opinion.

As the proposed site is a considerable distance from the Broads Authority Executive Area, the Broads Authority have no comments to make.

I hope this is acceptable.

Kind Regards

Mark King  
Planning Technical Support Officer  
Broads Authority

Tel: 01603 756028

Email: [REDACTED]

We have moved. Our new address is Yare House, 62-64 Thorpe Road, Norwich, Norfolk, NR1 1RY.

# BROME and OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

c/o Church Hill, Hoxne, Suffolk IP21 5AT. Tel: [REDACTED]  
Email: bromeandoakleypc@hotmail.co.uk

*Chairman:* Councillor David Prior  
*Vice Chairman:* Councillor Ursula Halton  
*Clerk:* Sarah Foote

FAO Alan Ridley, EIA and Land Rights Adviser  
The Planning Inspectorate  
3/18 Eagle Wing  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
BRISTOL  
BS1 6PN

28 May 2013

Dear Sirs,

Ref: 130517 EN010060 1803507  
Scoping Opinion, Proposed Power Station – Eye Airfield, Suffolk

In response to your letter of 17 May 2013, Brome and Oakley Parish Council wish to be consultees for the above application and as such detail below the information they wish to be considered in the Environmental Impact Assessment:

1. Visual Impact on the local community of both the plant itself and any associated structures, for example: - electricity pylons, smoke stacks, high-level structures etc.
2. Information regarding any tree planting schemes to mitigate the above visual impact with types, sizes, quantities etc.
3. Information regarding the likelihood and subsequent measures to be taken to prevent any noise pollution issues to the local community, and what levels of noise are likely to occur if any.
4. Information regarding the discharge of any materials likely to cause any air bourn pollution and what these pollutants would be and the quantities likely to be discharged including what mitigating measures to be taken.
5. Information regarding any likely ground pollution and what mitigating measures will be taken.
6. Details regarding plant operating times and numbers of staff entering and leaving the site during normal operation and the proposed route these would take.
7. Information regarding external illumination of the site with type and proposed measures to prevent overspill light pollution to surrounding areas.

I would be grateful if you would confirm receipt of this correspondence.

Yours faithfully,  
**Sarah Foote**

Sarah Foote CILCA  
Clerk to Brome and Oakley Parish Council.

# BROME and OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

c/o Church Hill, Hoxne, Suffolk IP21 5AT. Tel: [REDACTED]  
Email: bromeandoakleypc@hotmail.co.uk

*Chairman:* Councillor David Prior  
*Vice Chairman:* Councillor Ursula Halton  
*Clerk:* Sarah Foote

FAO Alan Ridley, EIA and Land Rights Adviser  
The Planning Inspectorate  
3/18 Eagle Wing  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
BRISTOL  
BS1 6PN

11 June 2013

Dear Sirs,

Ref: 130517 EN010060 1803507  
Scoping Opinion, Proposed Power Station – Eye Airfield, Suffolk

Further to my letter of 28 May, and a meeting with other statutory consultees, Brome and Oakley Parish Council would like to ask for the following information (in addition to the comments sent on 28 May) to be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment:

- additional noise and visual impact measuring point (PGP) as per the drawings attached on pages 2 and 3.

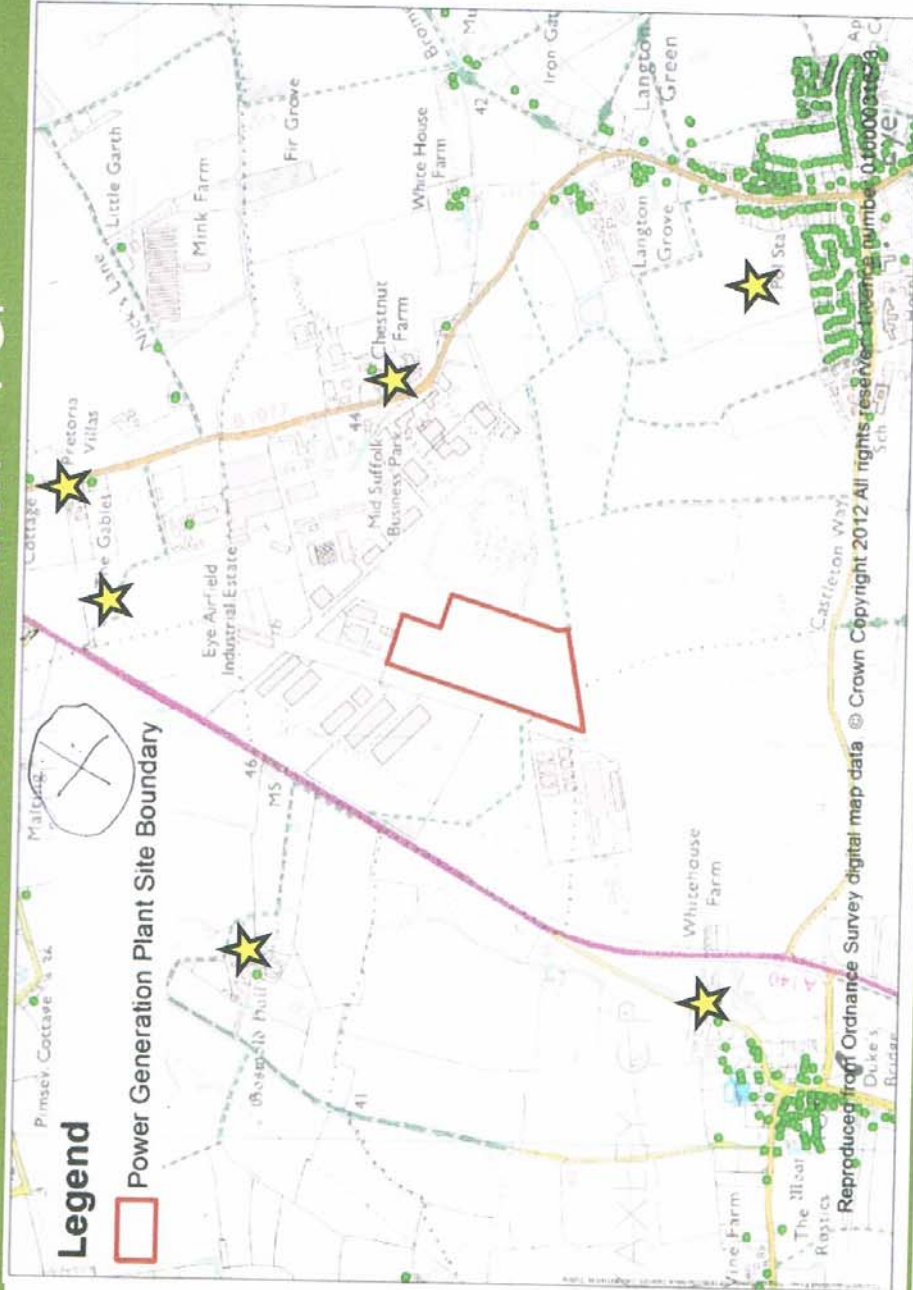
I would be grateful if you would confirm receipt of this correspondence.

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Foote CILCA  
Clerk to Brome and Oakley Parish Council.

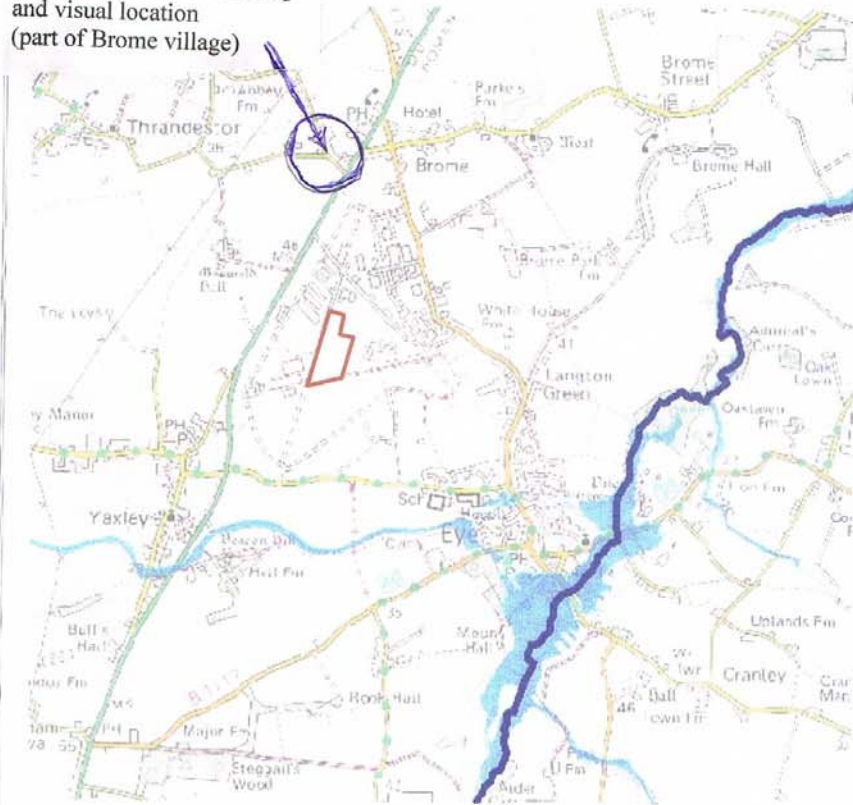
# BROME and OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Noise and Vibration - PGP



# BROME and OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Additional sound measuring  
and visual location  
(part of Brome village)





## Directorate of Airspace Policy

Mr Alan Ridley (via e-mail)  
The Planning Inspectorate

17 May 2013

Reference: ERM/DAP/Planning/ProgressPowerStation

Dear Mr Ridley,

### **Proposed Progress Power Station – Scoping Opinion**

Thank you for the recent Planning Inspectorate correspondence which sought Civil Aviation Authority scoping comment relating to the subject development. I trust the following is useful.

From the associated Scoping Report (SR) I gather that the height of the tallest structure associate with the Progress Power Station project is expected to be an as yet undecided number of chimney stacks that will be a maximum of 90m in height. On that basis, I trust the following comment is useful:

- **Aerodromes.** In respect of any potential aerodrome related issue, I should highlight the need to check any safeguarding maps lodged with relevant planning authorities to identify any aerodrome specific safeguarding issues. Noting the presences of several relatively small aerodromes in the general location and that aerodrome safeguarding responsibility rests in all cases with the relevant aerodrome operator / licensee, not the CAA, it is important that the related viewpoints of relevant aerodrome license holders / operators is established and planning deliberations take appropriate consideration of any issues highlighted.
- **Aviation Warning Lighting.** Given the assumed maximum height of associated structures (90m) I believe there to be a need for aviation warning lighting. For background:
  - In the UK, the need for aviation obstruction lighting on 'tall' structures depends in the first instance upon any particular structure's location in relationship to an aerodrome. If the structure constitutes an 'aerodrome obstruction' it is the aerodrome operator that with review the lighting requirement. For civil aerodromes, they will, in general terms, follow the requirements of CAP 168 - Licensing of Aerodromes. This document can be downloaded from the CAA website - Chapter 4 (12.8) refers to obstacle lighting.
  - Away from aerodromes Article 219 of the UK Air Navigation Order (ANO) applies. This Article requires that for en-route obstructions (ie away from aerodromes) lighting only becomes legally mandated for structures of a height of 150m or more. However, structures of lesser high might need aviation obstruction lighting if, by virtue of their location and nature, they are considered a significant navigational hazard.
  - Cranes, whether in situ temporarily or long term are captured by the points heighted above. Note that if a crane is located on top of another structure, it is the overall height (structure + crane) than is relevant.
  - In this case, even in the event that there proves to be no aerodrome related lighting requirement and the clear non applicability of Article 219, as the chimneys are likely to be the tallest structures in the immediate vicinity, I believe that the 'by virtue of their location and nature' holds true and that the developer considers the employment of aviation warning lighting.

#### **Civil Aviation Authority**

CAA House 45-59 Kingsway London WC2B 6TE www.caa.co.uk  
Telephone 0207 453 6545 Fax 0207 453 6565 marks.smailes@caa.co.uk

- Gas Venting and/or Flaring. It is assumed that the Progress Power Station is not intended to vent or flare gas either routinely or as an emergency procedure such as to cause a danger to overlying aircraft. If that is not the case parties are invited to use myself as an appropriate point of contact for any further related discussion.
- Aviation Promulgation. There is a civil aviation requirement in the UK for all structures over 300 feet high to be charted on aviation maps. It follows that, at a maximum of 90m (295 feet) high, there is no en-route (ie non-aerodrome specific) civil aviation charting requirement.
- Military Aviation. For completeness, the Ministry of Defence position in regards to the proposed development and military aviation activity should be established.
- I should also add that that due to the unique nature of associated operations in respect of operating altitudes and potentially unusual landing sites, it would also be sensible to establish the related viewpoint of local emergency services air support units.

Any associated Environmental Statement / Development Consent Order (or equivalent / similar) would be expected to acknowledge and where applicable address the issues highlighted above and accordingly the scoping opinion should make related comment.

Whilst none of the above negates any aforementioned need to consult in line with Government requirements associated with the safeguarding of aerodromes and other technical sites (Government Circular 1/2003 refers), I hope this information matches your requirements. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if the Planning Inspectorate requires any further comment or needs clarification of any point.

Yours sincerely,

*{original signed}*

Mark Smailes  
ORA5

UNCLASSIFIED



**The Coal  
Authority**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

200 Lichfield Lane  
Berry Hill  
Mansfield  
Nottinghamshire  
NG18 4RG

Tel: 01623 637 119 (Planning Enquiries)

Email: [planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk](mailto:planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk)

Web: [www.coal.decc.gov.uk/services/planning](http://www.coal.decc.gov.uk/services/planning)

For the Attention of Alan Ridley  
EIA and Land Rights Adviser  
The Planning Inspectorate

**[By Email: [environmentalservices@infrastructure.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:environmentalservices@infrastructure.gsi.gov.uk)]**

07 June 2013

Dear Mr Ridley

**Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 –  
Proposed Progress Power Station**

Thank you for your consultation letter of 17 May 2013 seeking the views of The Coal Authority on the EIA Scoping Opinion for the above proposal.

The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department of Energy and Climate Change. As a statutory consultee, The Coal Authority has a duty to respond to planning applications and development plans in order to protect the public and the environment in mining areas.

**The Coal Authority Response**

Having reviewed the information that the applicant has provided, I can confirm that the proposed development site is located outside of the defined coalfield. As such, The Coal Authority does not wish to make any specific comments on this EIA Scoping Opinion.

I trust this is acceptable, please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information or would like to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely



**David Berry** *B.Sc.(Hons), MA, MRTPI*  
**Planning Liaison Manager**

## Disclaimer

The above consultation response is provided by The Coal Authority as a Statutory Consultee and is based upon the latest available data and records held by The Coal Authority on the date of the response. The comments made are also based upon only the information provided to The Coal Authority for consultation purposes in relation to this specific development proposal. The views and conclusions contained in this response may be subject to review and amendment by The Coal Authority if additional or new data/information (such as a revised Coal Mining Risk Assessment) is provided for consultation purposes.



ENGLISH HERITAGE

EAST OF ENGLAND OFFICE

The Planning Inspectorate  
3/18 Eagle Wing  
2 The Square  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

Direct dial: 01223-  
Direct Fax: 01223 582701

Your Ref: 130517\_EN010060\_1803507

13 June 2013

Dear Sir or Madam,

**INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2009 SI 2263 (as amended) (the EIA Regulations)**  
**PROPOSED Progress Power Station (the project)**  
**PROPOSAL BY Progress Power Limited (PPL) (the applicant)**

Thank you for consulting English Heritage on the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report for the Progress Power Project (development at Eye Airfield, Suffolk). This sets out the applicant's approach to assessing the impact of the proposed development on the historic environment in section 5.1 (Cultural Heritage and Archaeology). Section 5.7, Landscape and Visual Assessment, is also of relevance in considering the historic environment.

We are broadly content with the approach taken in the document, although we have several specific observations to make on the Cultural Heritage Assessment. As regards the Landscape Assessment we would make the general observation that this assessment should be mindful of the historic development of landscape and the role it plays in the wider setting of heritage assets. A methodology for landscape assessment should therefore be flexible enough to consider the historic environment and inform the assessment in section 5.1.

All aspects of the historic environment should be considered, although the particular remit of English Heritage would concern the impact on Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs), grade I and II\* listed buildings and conservation areas. Undesignated archaeological remains would more properly be the province of the County Council, so we recommend the applicant consult with the County archaeological service at an early stage. Similarly, the conservation officers at Mid-Suffolk District Council (and potentially South Norfolk Council) should be consulted regarding listed buildings, including those listed at grade II, as well as conservation areas and undesignated assets.

BROOKLANDS 24 BROOKLANDS AVENUE CAMBRIDGE CB2 8BU

Telephone 01223 582700 Facsimile 01223 582701  
[www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

*The National Monuments Record is the public archive of English Heritage*



ENGLISH HERITAGE

EAST OF ENGLAND OFFICE

Section 2 of the Scoping Report identifies policies relevant to the proposals including the National Planning Policy Framework. We would also recommend the Practice Guide to PPS5 is consulted as it provides useful guidance on the setting of heritage assets. English Heritage's guidance documents on The Setting of Heritage Assets and Seeing History in the View would also be useful to the applicant's consultants as they establish the range of ways in which setting can contribute to heritage assets' significance and a framework for assessing individual sites.

Section 5.10.3 correctly identifies the need to assess the impact on the historic environment of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed power plant. However, the first step in this process should be to establish the significance of assets in the vicinity and should be so noted in the document. The itemization of SAMs and highly-graded listed buildings in paragraphs 5.10.5/6 and 5.10.13 might suggest the applicant considers the level of designation afforded a heritage asset to indicate the degree of sensitivity it has to development in its setting and therefore the level of impact assessment it merits. In fact, a grade II building with a particular relationship to its landscape could be more vulnerable to harm to its significance from development in that landscape than a SAM. The contribution setting makes to historic significance should be established at an early stage and without any preconceptions about sensitivity or priority.

If such a presumption about sensitivity of high-graded designated heritage assets has been made, it might explain the comment in paragraph 5.10.7 that "it is not anticipated that the project would impact on the immediate setting or appreciation of these buildings." Proper assessment is needed before such a judgment can be made, but we are of the view the methodology set out in the Cultural Heritage and Archaeology section should allow that to be achieved with some modification.

The proposed five kilometre initial search area seems reasonable, but we would suggest a search area wider than one kilometre is carried out through the HER (paragraph 5.10.21). The list of factors in paragraph 5.10.28 seem to assume only visual impact should be considered. The PPS5 practice guide and English Heritage guidance make it clear that spatial and historic relationships between places as well as the affect of noise, dust and vibration should be considered as well as specific views. Again, we would suggest our guidance document is used to ensure a suitably encompassing definition of setting is built into the assessment process.

BROOKLANDS 24 BROOKLANDS AVENUE CAMBRIDGE CB2 8BU

Telephone 01223 582700 Facsimile 01223 582701

[www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

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When considering visual impact and a strategy for field investigation (paragraph 5.10.24) it should not be assumed that buried archaeological remains have no setting to consider, but rather the contribution made to their significance by landscape should be considered. Similarly, visibility should not be the only factor governing a selection of sites to visit. Given the size of the study area we suggest that a quite generous approach should be taken to the number of sites that are visited in the field. This will produce more complete data to allow subsequent production of comprehensive assessment and visualizations.

I hope the above advice is of assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss the matter in detail.

Yours sincerely

David Eve  
Historic Buildings Inspector



BROOKLANDS 24 BROOKLANDS AVENUE CAMBRIDGE CB2 8BU

*Telephone 01223 582700 Facsimile 01223 582701*

*[www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)*

*The National Monuments Record is the public archive of English Heritage*

Mr Alan Ridley  
The Planning Inspectorate  
National Infrastructure Directorate  
Temple Quay House 2  
The Square Temple Quay  
Bristol  
Avon  
BS1 6PN

**Our ref:** AE/2013/116104/01-L01  
**Your ref:** EN010060  
**Date:** 14 June 2013

Dear Mr Ridley

**INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)  
REGULATIONS 2009 SI 2263 (AS AMENDED) (THE EIA REGULATIONS)  
PROPOSED PROGRESS POWER STATION (THE PROJECT)  
PROPOSAL BY PROGRESS POWER LIMITED (PPL) (THE APPLICANT) EYE  
AIRFIELD**

Thank you for consulting us about the above Scoping Opinion request by Progress Power Limited in connection with the proposed power station development at Eye Airfield.

We have reviewed the Scoping Report and have a number of comments on various topic areas which are set out below.

**Power Station Options**

We note that the developer has yet to finalise the choice of plant and technology and both areas are still the focus of ongoing technical studies. Until the final choice has been made we would expect the developer to carry out the impact assessment work, as based on those areas of significance that have been scoped in, across the range of options set out under section 3.4.

**Flood Risk - Surface Water Drainage**

Our most recent modelled data indicates that the site lies within Flood Zone 1, and is therefore at low risk of flooding from fluvial or tidal sources (i.e. a less than 0.1% annual probability of flooding). The modelled flood outlines show areas of potential flooding as a direct result of floodwater coming from a watercourse and no direct effects of surface runoff or surface flooding are included. As such, any planning application for a site greater than 1 hectare in area will need to be supported by an appropriate site specific



## Flood Risk Assessment (FRA).

The FRA will need to assess the flood risks to the development site, and demonstrate how the building and any occupants will be kept safe from flooding, now, and over the lifetime of the development and not increase flood risk elsewhere as a result of any additional impermeable surfaces.

Within the FRA, allowances for climate change should be considered within the design of the surface water drainage scheme. The allowances should be applied as detailed in the Technical Guidance to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), for the lifetime of the proposed development, including allowances for climate change.

The development of this site should look to incorporate sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) to manage surface water in accordance with paragraph 103 of the NPPF and Mid Suffolk District Council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). There is the opportunity to incorporate a range of SUDS features due to the scale of the development site.

### **Flood Risk to the Proposed Development Site**

The FRA submitted with the proposed application must comply with the requirements set out in paragraph 9 of the Technical Guide to the NPPF. The submitted FRA should provide a suitable basis for assessment to be made of the flood risks arising from the proposed development. In particular, the submitted FRA should demonstrate that an adequate surface water management strategy will be adopted. With regards to surface water management, the FRA should provide:

1. Confirmation that any runoff from the developed site shall not exceed the existing greenfield runoff rates for a range of equivalent return period rainfall events over the lifetime of the development.
2. Calculations to demonstrate that the proposed surface water management scheme has been adequately sized to accommodate the critical duration 1 in 100 year rainfall event including allowances for climate change without causing nuisance or damage. The management strategy should consider both storage and conveyance of surface water.
3. Plans and drawings showing the locations and dimensions of all aspects of the proposed surface water management scheme. The submitted plans should demonstrate that the proposed drainage layout will perform as intended based on the topography of the site and the location of the proposed surface water management features. In addition, Full design details, including cross sections of any proposed infiltration or attenuation features will be required.
4. Confirmation that in the event of exceedance flows that surpass the critical duration rainfall event or a blockage/failure occurs within the drainage network any proposed features should incorporate an emergency spillway as part of their design. We suggest that the emergency spillway directs any exceedance flows away from the development.
5. Sufficient information to demonstrate that people and property will be kept safe from flooding, with consideration given to overland flow routing where required.
6. Details of the future adoption and maintenance of all aspects of the surface water drainage strategy. The local planning authority should be satisfied that arrangements are in place for the long term maintenance and management of the surface water management scheme.
7. Information to demonstrate that priority is given to the use of sustainable

drainage systems (SUDS) for the disposal of surface water from all elements of the development proposal. Therefore, the scheme shall incorporate the SUDS “Management Train” and ensure all features are designed in accordance with CIRIA (C697) The SUDS Manual so ecological, water quality and aesthetic benefits can be achieved in addition to the flood risk management benefits. In addition, the maintenance requirements for the SUDS element of the proposed surface water drainage system should be formulated as per the recommendations within the CIRIA SUDS Manual (C697).

8. Evidence to establish if the principles of any infiltration based surface water drainage strategy are achievable on site based on the ground conditions. The FRA should provide evidence that the ground conditions are suitable for the proposed methods, such as infiltration or soakaway tests which adhere to BRE365 guidance.

### **Reason**

To prevent the increased risk of flooding, to improve and protect water quality, improve habitat and amenity, and ensure future maintenance of the surface water drainage system.

### **Additional Advice to Applicant**

Erection or replacement of flow control structures or any culverting of an ordinary watercourse requires consent from the relevant Lead Local Flood Authority (Suffolk County Council). It is best to discuss proposals for any works with them at an early stage.

We would suggest that, given the mapped presence of an aquifer at the site further groundwater investigation takes place in order to clarify any potential risk. In the event a high groundwater table occurs, the cumulative effect of surface water that is impeded from draining and an elevated groundwater table could pose an unacceptable flood risk to the development or impact the design of attenuation or infiltration features.

There are a number of valley features within the red line boundary which may act as surface water flow routes. The layout of the proposed development should follow the “sequential approach” detailed in paragraph 6.7 of the PPS25 Practice Guide so as to ensure that sensitive parts of the development avoid any potential flood risk.

### **Water Quality**

Paragraph 5.6.4 of the Scoping Report refers to small quantities of water (blowdown) from the Power Generation Plant being discharged to avoid the build-up of impurities in the HRSG steam/water cycle. It is not clear from this description whether this discharge will be to the existing sewerage system or to local watercourses.

The Environmental Statement (ES) should clarify the nature and location of the discharge, and if it is proposed that the discharge would be to a local watercourse the ES should

- set out the volumes of water likely to be discharged
- the constituents, including concentrations
- potential impacts arising from the discharge on the water environment, including implications for Water Framework Directive (including Habitats Directive) compliance.

In addition, it is advisable that the applicant initiates pre-application discussions with us early on the process so that the discharge requirements can be discussed and agreement reached at an early stage ahead of the submission of the Development Consent Order application.

Consideration of the potential for a Water Framework Directive (WFD) Report / Assessment is discussed – see paragraph 5.6.21 - under the heading of water resources. There is also the potential for a WFD Report to be required in relation to water quality. We can advise the developer further on this area once the impact assessment work is underway and there is certainty on the degree of impacts on water quality receptors.

## **Water Resources**

Consideration of the potential for a Water Framework Directive Report / Assessment in paragraph 5.6.21 is very much welcomed. We can advise the developer further on this area once the impact assessment work is underway and there is certainty on the degree of impacts on water resource receptors.

Paragraph 5.6.3: It should be noted that there is no water available in this catchment for abstraction should air cooling become unviable. From attendance by us at the meeting held with the developer and the local and county planning authorities on 16 May 2013 and the Scoping Report, it is evident that water will be tankered in from an external source which would be acceptable.

Paragraph 5.6.34: 'It is possible that an underground electrical route may need to cross a water body, various crossing techniques will also be considered. These may include horizontal directional drilling, particularly for larger water bodies, or temporary bunding and over-pumping where flows are lower'. If this is the case then the appropriate licensing must be sought for temporary works and a WFD assessment must be carried out for the affected waterbod(ies).

## **Waste Management**

Paragraph 5.9.3: More information will be required as to the types of hazardous wastes that will be produced on site and their management.

Paragraph 5.9.14: The applicant should be aware that compliance with the waste hierarchy is a legal obligation under section 12 (1) of the Waste Regulations (England and Wales) 2011 and revised Waste Framework Directive 2008 (rWFD)

Paragraph 5.9.16: With reference to the Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP), the Agency strongly recommends the use of the BRE's SMARTWaste Plan - see web link <http://www.smartwaste.co.uk/>. Many of the points raised in paragraph 5.9.15 will be addressed through the SWMP.

Waste should be designed out during the design phase to ensure that during the construction and during demolition at the end of life, minimal volumes of waste result.

There should be a prioritisation for waste prevention and we would expect to see recycled/reused/recovery targets, together with a minimum target for landfill diversion.

Yours sincerely

Cont/d..



**Andrew Hunter**  
**Sustainable Places - Planning Advisor**

Direct dial [redacted]  
Direct e-mail [redacted]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Environmental Services;](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Progress Power Station - EN010060 - Scoping Consultation  
**Date:** 22 May 2013 12:37:43

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Hi Alan,

**INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)  
REGULATIONS 2009 SI 2263 (as amended) (the EIA Regulations)  
PROPOSED Progress Power Station (the project)  
PROPOSAL BY Progress Power Limited (PPL) (the applicant)**

Your Ref: 130517\_EN010060\_1803507  
ESP Ref: PE108690

Further to your email communication to E S Pipelines Ltd, ESP Networks Ltd, ESP Pipelines Ltd, ESP Electricity Ltd and ESP Connections Ltd dated 17 May 2013 I can confirm that our businesses have no comments at this stage.

Regards,

**Alan Slee**  
Operations Manager

DD 01372 [REDACTED]  
Mobile [REDACTED]  
Fax 01372 386203  
[www.espipelines.com](http://www.espipelines.com)



# EYE TOWN COUNCIL

c/o Church Hill, Hoxne, Eye, Suffolk IP21 5AT

Tel: [REDACTED] Email: [townclerk@eyesuffolk.org](mailto:townclerk@eyesuffolk.org)

**Mayor:** Cllr Linda Cummins **Town Clerk:** Sarah Foote

FAO Alan Ridley, EIA and Land Rights Adviser  
The Planning Inspectorate  
3/18 Eagle Wing  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
BRISTOL  
BS1 6PN

11 June 2013

Dear Sirs,

Ref: 130517 EN010060 1803507

Scoping Opinion, Proposed Power Station – Eye Airfield, Suffolk

In response to your letter of 17 May 2013, Eye Town Council confirm their wish to be consulted on the above proposed application and as such detail below the information they wish to be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment:

Can a **Combined Heat and Power Option** be researched, in order to use the potentially massive amounts of excess heat that is produced? The possibility of using glass houses alongside the power station to use this heat and CO2 beneficially, should also be considered. (3.3.40/41 – *a problem with the variable nature of the heat production*)

**Landscape and Visual Impact;** the Zone of Theoretical Visibility needs to be much wider. Further viewpoints should be located on high ground to the North, West, the South and East of Eye (A140 north of Dickleburgh, the roads out to Thornham and Gislingham, the road out to Occold and the roads out to Hoxne/Stradbroke B1117) We suggest that a landscape architect should be used to assess the visual impact on the area of such a large building with it associated chimneys.

**Noise Monitoring sites;** add Langton Green/Grove to the East and the high ground to the South West beyond Cranley Manor in the area Fuffolk Farm and Cranley Green. There is already a high level of noise over this area caused by the regular venting of steam from the existing power station so any extra noise could be a problem.

*continued .....*

2.

**Water Resources;** how many tanker movements are involved? What effect will they have on existing A140 traffic volumes? What investigations for on-site water extraction are planned, particularly in view of the scarcity of ground water in the area? There is also a need for careful planning of surface water treatment/run off particularly with the existing run-off problems effecting Eye.

**Traffic movements and Safety;** The potential of such a large workforce during construction, their housing and travel to and from the site should also be investigated. The details of the lorry routes onto and off the site, 'their policing' during construction should also be factored in. How would such a large site, during and after construction, be made secure from theft or attack? Are high wire fences (for example) with their attendant visual impact being considered?

There are concerns on the possibility of a large transformer station being established near Thrandeston or Yaxley with all the associated cabling. Underground electrical connection to this substation adjacent to existing pylons is therefore the preferred option. We also feel that it is particularly important to assess the landscape and wildlife impacts of the various options for connection of gas and electricity in a way that allows us to compare them.

*Section 5.12.8* "PPL will investigate.....a method for providing benefits to the local community which will go beyond the creation of jobs" – Eye, and the closer parishes, will need substantial financial recompense in view of the impact on Eye, i.e. as a tourist attraction. For example, could something be done to recognise the heritage of the airfield or securing the electrical supply to the town or surrounding villages as part of the mitigation as something linked to benefit Eye?

In addition to the parishes you have chosen as statutory consultees, we feel there should also be input from parishes further afield (e.g. Mellis, Thornham and Hoxne who will be effected). We would suggest that a Liaison Group is quickly established with meetings, say, twice a year, with membership from all the surrounding parishes which are concerned about this development.

I would be grateful if you would confirm receipt of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Foote  
Clerk

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Environmental Services;](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Progress Power Station - EN010060 - Scoping Consultation  
**Date:** 28 May 2013 16:57:56  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)

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Thank you for asking Fulcrum Pipelines Limited to examine your consultation document for the above project.

We can confirm that Fulcrum Pipelines Limited have no comments to make on this scoping report. Please note that we are constantly adding to our underground assets and would strongly advise that you consult us again prior to undertaking any excavations.

Please note that other gas transporters may have plant in this locality which could be affected.

We will always make every effort to help you where we can, but Fulcrum Pipelines Limited will not be held responsible for any incident or accident arising from the use of the information associated with this search. The details provided are given in good faith, but no liability whatsoever can be accepted in respect thereof.

If you need any help or information simply contact Graham Penlington directly on 01142 804175.

To save you time, any future requests for information about our plant, can be emailed to [FPLplantprotection@fulcrum.co.uk](mailto:FPLplantprotection@fulcrum.co.uk)

GRAHAM PENLINGTON  
Process Assistant



**FULCRUM**

Tel: 0845 641 3010 ext: 4175

Direct Dial:

Email: [REDACTED]

Web: [www.fulcrum.co.uk](http://www.fulcrum.co.uk)





HID Policy - Land Use Planning  
NSIP Consultations  
Building 5.S.2, Redgrave Court  
Merton Road, Bootle  
Merseyside, L20 7HS

Your ref: 130517\_EN010060\_1803507  
Our ref: 4.2.1.3635

HSE email: [NSIP.applications@hse.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:NSIP.applications@hse.gsi.gov.uk)

FAO Alan Ridley  
The Planning Inspectorate  
3/18 Eagle Wing, Temple Quay House  
2 The Square, Bristol  
BS1 6PN

Dear Mr Ridley,

12<sup>th</sup> June 2013

**PROPOSED PROGRESS POWER STATION (the project)  
PROPOSAL BY PROGRESS POWER LIMITED (the applicant)  
INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2009 SI  
2263 (as amended) (the EIA Regulations)**

Thank you for your letter of 17<sup>th</sup> May 2013 regarding the information to be provided in an environmental statement relating to the above project.

Major Hazard Installations

This application falls within the Consultation Distance of a Major Hazard Site and two Major Accident Hazard Pipelines. In line with PADHI+ guidance we would advise against features that are more than 3 occupied storeys or allowed occupation by 100 or more workers. Based on the information contained in the EIA scoping report, it seems likely that the occupied buildings forming part of the proposal would not meet the above criteria, so would not meet the criteria for HSE to advise against.

Hazardous Substances Consent

The presence on, over or above land of certain hazardous substances, at or above set threshold quantities (Controlled Quantities), may require Hazardous Substances Consent (HSC) under the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990 as amended. The substances, alone or when aggregated with others, for which HSC is required, and the associated Controlled Quantities, are set out in The Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 1992 as amended particularly by The Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2009 and 2010, as well as Planning (Control of Major Accident Hazards) Regulations 1999.

Hazardous Substances consent would be required if the site is intending to store or use any of the Named Hazardous Substances or Categories of Substances and Preparations at or above the controlled quantities set out in schedule 1 of these Regulations.

Further information on HSC should be sought from the relevant Hazardous Substances authority.

Gas Connection

The proposed gas connection may be classified as a Major Accident Hazard Pipeline under the Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996. If this is the case then notification will be required as specified in the regulations.

### Explosives sites

The Progress Power Station development does not impinge on the separation distances of any explosives site licensed by HSE.

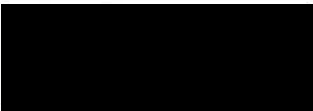
### **Electrical Safety**

This project may create or have an impact on existing generation, transmission and distribution assets. It needs to satisfy general UK health and safety legislation (i.e. Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and supporting regulations), and the proposed design and future operations must comply with the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 and Electrical Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002, as amended. Generators, distributors, their contractors and others have defined duties in order to protect members of the public from the dangers posed by the electrical equipment used. HSE enforces the safety aspects of these regulations. If you have any doubts about the particular application of these regulations in terms of either the operation or construction of substations, overhead lines or underground cables, please contact Mr J C Steed, Principal Specialist Inspector (Electrical Networks), either at [john.steed@hse.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:john.steed@hse.gsi.gov.uk) or Rose Court GSW, 2 Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HS.

Please send any further electronic communication on this project directly to the HSE's designated e-mail account for NSIP applications. Alternatively any hard copy correspondence should be sent to:

Miss Laura Evans  
NSIP Consultations  
5.S.2 Redgrave Court  
Merton Road  
Bootle  
Merseyside  
L20 7HS

Yours sincerely,



Laura Evans  
HID Policy - Land Use Planning

# Place Directorate

Responsible for the Economy  
and the Environment



**Mr. A Ridley**  
**The Planning Inspectorate**  
**3/18 Eagle Wing**  
**Temple Quay House**  
**2 The Square**  
**BRISTOL BS1 6PN**

Please ask for: Mr. Ward  
Direct line: 01473 8 [REDACTED]  
Fax number:  
Your reference: 130517-EN010060-1803507  
Our reference:  
E-mail: [REDACTED]  
Please reply to: Mid Suffolk District Council

14 June 2013

BY EMAIL

Dear Mr Ridley

- 1. INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS, 2009 (AS AMENDED)**
- 2. PROPOSED POWER GENERATION PLANT, EYE AIRFIELD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, EYE, SUFFOLK**

Thank you for your letter dated 17 May 2013.

Mid Suffolk Council request that consideration be given to the inclusion of the following information within the Environmental Statement which will accompany the proposed Development Consent Order application. The observations contained within this letter should be read in conjunction with those submitted by Suffolk County Council.

## Scope of the Project

The scope of the project has been very broadly defined. As a consequence the potential implications are not entirely clear. The Council therefore request that the parameters of the project are clarified in the Environmental Statement (ES) from the outset. In its opinion the project should include both the gas and electricity connections so that the project can be considered in totality. This would greatly assist the local community in understanding the nature and scope of the proposal.

## Consideration of Alternatives

The Scoping Report suggests that the ES will set out the site selection processes but contains no further information. In accordance with current best practice the Council would request that the applicants outline the main alternatives considered and the reasons why the site is being advanced for development.

## Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment

The suggested structure and layout of the proposed ES is acceptable however care will be required to ensure 'crossovers' between subject areas are fully explained and any mitigation measures are complementary.

Cont/...

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**Babergh District Council**  
Council Offices, Corks Lane, Hadleigh, Ipswich, IP7 6SJ  
Telephone (01473) 822801  
Facsimile (01473) 825742  
Minicom (01473) 825878  
[www.babergh.gov.uk](http://www.babergh.gov.uk)

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**Mid Suffolk District Council**  
Council Offices, High Street, Needham Market, Ipswich, IP6 8DL  
Telephone (01449) 724500  
Facsimile (01449) 724627  
SMS Text Mobile (07827) 842833  
[www.midsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk)

**Strategic Director (Place):** Lindsay Barker  
**Head of Economy:** Peter Burrows **Head of Environment:** Chris Fry

## **Policy Background**

The applicant's attention is drawn to the comments made by Suffolk County Council and in particular the provisions of the Suffolk Waste Core Strategy. The applicants will also be aware that the Eye Airfield Development Framework is close to adoption. This document makes provision for possible residential development within the vicinity of the proposed power generation plant. It will therefore be necessary for the environmental impact assessment to take this factor into account, especially in relation to noise and air quality issues.

## **Air Quality**

The overall approach to the assessment of air quality issues is acceptable however the Scoping Report makes reference to reliance upon local authority data. The applicant needs to be made aware that there is a paucity of air quality data which will have to be addressed.

The existing and proposed wind turbines within the area will need to be taken into account in order to assess their impact upon dispersion models. Likewise the existing biomass plant and other energy from waste proposals will need to be factored into the dispersion modelling in order to assess the cumulative impact of the scheme.

In terms of receptor locations the applicant will need to establish that there are no unimplemented planning permissions within the vicinity that may have an impact upon the modelling.

It is also requested that the ES outlines how the proposed plant will secure a reduction in carbon emissions within the region over its lifetime and whether it will have any micro climatic effects.

## **Noise and Vibration**

It should be noted that the site is located within a predominantly rural area where the ambient background noise levels are low, especially at night. The overall approach to the assessment of noise and vibration issues is acceptable however the Council would request that the applicant agrees the baseline line monitoring positions before commencing the background noise surveys. The Scoping Report suggests four locations for monitoring purposes but a fifth position on the outskirts of Eye should be considered near to the residential properties in Castleton Way.

## **Ecology**

The Council would draw the applicant's attention to the comments made by Suffolk County Council, particularly in relation to the linkages between the landscape visual and ecological implications of the proposal. As indicated in the County Council's response the ES should not only give consideration to the mitigation of the proposal but also the opportunities that exist to enhance local biodiversity. In this regard there is extensive knowledge within the local community.

## **Water Resources**

As indicated in the response provided by Suffolk County Council the site is located within an extremely water stressed area. The ES should therefore clearly set out the possible water requirements during the construction and operational phases of the development.

The Scoping Report identifies five surface water bodies within the vicinity of the proposed plant however there are known to be more. The applicant should therefore be encouraged to undertake a more extensive survey.

The ES should set out the opportunities available to manage surface water drainage as a means of mitigation, including the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems.

Cont/...



## **Geology, Ground Conditions and Agriculture**

The ES should be clear about the possible implications of buried pipes and cables on future agricultural activities and the opportunities available to mitigate any potential loss of productive land.

In view of the former WW2 use of the site the investigation for potential contaminants should be extended to include munitions.

## **Landscape and Visual Impact**

The District Council would draw the applicant's attention to the comments made by Suffolk County Council in relation to the assessment of baseline conditions and local landscape characterisations. It is requested that the applicant gives further consideration to the selection of viewpoints in consultation with both authorities and South Norfolk Council before embarking upon the preparation of the ES. The applicants will no doubt be aware of the Landscape Institute's recommendations in its '*Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Assessment*', Third Edition (2013) in this regard.

The ES should include a specific assessment to identify the possible implications of artificial lighting during the construction and operational phases.

## **Waste Management**

The ES should give thorough consideration to the management of waste arising from the site, particularly during the construction phase.

## **Traffic, Transport and Access**

Suffolk County Council is the relevant local highway authority and its comments should be taken into account by the applicants when preparing the ES. The Council would however request that the ES takes into account the impact of the proposals upon existing public rights of way and the needs of pedestrians and cyclists. A Travel Plan will be required to accompany the proposals in due course.

## **Cultural Heritage and Archaeology**

It would be helpful if the ES was prepared to provide an appropriate differentiation between above and below ground heritage assets.

In relation to above ground heritage assets the guidance produced by English Heritage '*The Setting of Heritage Assets*' (2011) should be followed and informed by the recent High Court Judgment (Barnwell Manor [2013] EWHC 473 (Admin)). Turning to the Scoping Report and specific paragraphs:

5.11.7 - The purpose of the ES is to assess the impacts of the proposed development on the significance of heritage assets. This paragraph correctly identifies factors which may apply to individual assets, but appears to include assumptions as to the outcome of such assessment.

5.11.24 - The approach of identifying heritage assets potentially affected through a desk-based approach combined with a ZTV is supported. The ES should list all assets identified in this way and explain how individual assets were selected for on-site evaluation. It is recommended that all buildings listed at grades I and II\* within the ZTV are assessed on site, and any grade II buildings whose settings appear from desk-based screening to be likely to be affected.

5.11.25 - Conservation Areas should be included, so as to enable assessment of the significance of views within, across, into and out of the Conservation Area, and the significance of their setting. The Scoping Report correctly includes undesignated historic buildings.

5.11.26 - The approach to the extent of the ZTV is appropriate and allows for amendment as found necessary.

Cont/...

In the event that an overhead electrical connection is proposed (5.11.14), the extent and shape of the ZTV should take into account the location of any proposed pylons.

5.11.28 - The Scoping Report correctly recognises that there are many relevant factors, and not just inter-visibility between the asset and the development. The checklists of factors found in English Heritage's *The Setting of Heritage Assets* should therefore be used, including:

- orientation of the building,
- principal and secondary elevations,
- important views from and towards,
- immediate designed setting,
- longer views,
- public viewpoints, and
- wider setting including negative features.

In settlements, groups of buildings can be assessed together rather than individually, but views along streets for instance may be sensitive.

Environmental Statements commonly address setting issues by means of scoring sensitivity and degree of impact, analysed in a matrix. English Heritage's guidance stresses that while this approach is useful in gauging the overall likely scale of harm, it cannot substitute for on-site assessment of the setting and significance of individual assets and any impact on them set out in a narrative account, in an appropriate and proportionate manner.

The applicant's attention is drawn to a few heritage assets which were subject of particular attention during handling of the turbine applications at Eye Airfield:

- Goswald Hall, Thrandeston – listed farmhouse and listed dovecote with designed landscape including moat and parkland with straight approach road from the east,
- Mellis Conservation Area – centred round a long green which is open to the countryside at the east, and
- Eye Castle and Church – prominent landmarks in long views of the town.

Please see the observations provided by Suffolk County Council in relation to below ground heritage assets.

### **Socio-Economic Impacts**

In addition to the comments made by Suffolk County Council the Council would request that the ES gives consideration to the possible impact of the proposal upon the availability of Tourist and Bed and Breakfast accommodation in the area during the constructional and operational phases. The duration of the construction phase is such that consideration should be given to the provision of temporary accommodation to minimise the potential impacts upon the tourism industry.

The ES also needs to be clear about the extent of 'efforts' (Section 5.11.25) that will be made to procure local goods and services.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The ES will need to account for the cumulative impact of the proposal with other projects within the vicinity of the site which either have the benefit of planning permission or are included as proposals within existing and emerging Development Plan documents. In addition consideration will be required to the implementation other Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects which may have implications upon labour supply and local accommodation.

Cont/...

I trust the above is self-explanatory but please do not hesitate to contact me if anything is unclear. A copy of this letter has been forwarded to the applicant and Suffolk County Council.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular redaction box covers the signature area. Above the box, there are faint, illegible handwritten marks.

**N J Ward**

Corporate Manager - Community Planning, Heritage and Design

CC C McKerrow – Progress Power  
M Wilks – Suffolk

The Planning Inspectorate  
Environmental Services  
3/18 Eagle Wing  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

**Land and Development Group**  
Marcella Styles  
Policy Planner  
Land & Development  
marcella.styles@nationalgrid.com  
Direct tel: +44 (0)1926 [REDACTED]

www.nationalgrid.com

SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL TO:  
environmentalservices@infrastructure.gsi.gov.uk

13 June 2013  
Our Ref:  
Your Ref: 130517\_EN010060\_1803507

Dear Sir/Madam

## **Progress Power Station**

I refer to your letter dated 17 May 2013 regarding the above proposed application. Having reviewed the scoping report, I would like to make the following comments:

## **National Grid Infrastructure within or in close proximity to the Proposed Order Limits**

### **National Grid Electricity Transmission**

National Grid Transmission has a high voltage electricity overhead transmission line which lies within or in close proximity to the proposed order limits. This line forms an essential part of the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, the details are as follows:

- 4YM – 400kV from Bramford substation to Norwich Main substation.

A plan showing the route of our overhead line within the area shown in the consultation documents is enclosed.

The following points should be taken into consideration:

- Statutory electrical safety clearances must be maintained at all times. Any proposed buildings must not be closer than 5.3m to the lowest conductor. National Grid recommends that no permanent structures are built directly beneath overhead lines. These distances are set out in EN 43 – 8 Technical Specification for “overhead line clearances Issue 3 (2004) available at:  
[http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/LandandDevelopment/DDC/devnearohl\\_final/appendixIII/applIII-part2](http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/LandandDevelopment/DDC/devnearohl_final/appendixIII/applIII-part2)
- If any changes in ground levels are proposed either beneath or in close proximity to our existing overhead lines then this would serve to reduce the safety clearances for such overhead lines. Safe clearances for existing overhead lines must be maintained in all circumstances.



- Further guidance on development near electricity transmission overhead lines is available here: <http://www.nationalgrid.com/NR/rdonlyres/1E990EE5-D068-4DD6-8C9A-4D0B06A1BA79/31436/Developmentnearoverheadlines1.pdf>
- The relevant guidance in relation to working safely near to existing overhead lines is contained within the Health and Safety Executive's ([www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)) Guidance Note GS 6 "Avoidance of Danger from Overhead Electric Lines" and all relevant site staff should make sure that they are both aware of and understand this guidance.
- Plant, machinery, equipment, buildings or scaffolding should not encroach within 5.3 metres of any of our high voltage conductors when those conductors are under their worse conditions of maximum "sag" and "swing" and overhead line profile (maximum "sag" and "swing") drawings should be obtained via the National Grid's Asset Protection Team at Warwick.
- Drilling or excavation works should not be undertaken if they have the potential to disturb or adversely affect the foundations or "pillars of support" of any existing tower. These foundations always extend beyond the base area of the existing tower and foundation ("pillar of support") drawings can be obtained via the Asset Protection Team at Warwick.

To view the Development Near Lines Documents. Please use the link below:  
[http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/LandandDevelopment/SC/devnearohl\\_final/](http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/LandandDevelopment/SC/devnearohl_final/)

To view the National Grid Policy's for our Sense of Place Document. Please use the link below:  
<http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/LandandDevelopment/DDC/>

## **National Grid Gas Transmission**

National Grid has a high pressure gas transmission pipeline located within or in close proximity to the proposed order limits. The high pressure gas pipeline located within this area is:

- FM05 – Yelverton to Stowmarket

The following compressor substation is also located within or in close proximity to the proposed order limits:

- Diss Compressor Station 7228

These assets are also shown on the enclosed plan.

## **National Grid Gas Distribution**

In addition, National Grid has the following gas distribution assets located within or in close proximity to the proposed order limits:

- Gas mains operating at high, intermediate and medium pressure.

## **Specific Comments – Gas Infrastructure**

The following points should be taken into consideration:

- National Grid has a Deed of Grant of Easement for each pipeline, which prevents the erection of permanent / temporary buildings, or structures, change to existing ground levels, storage of materials etc.

## Pipeline Crossings:

- Where existing roads cannot be used, construction traffic should ONLY cross the pipeline at previously agreed locations.
- The pipeline shall be protected, at the crossing points, by temporary rafts constructed at ground level. The third party shall review ground conditions, vehicle types and crossing frequencies to determine the type and construction of the raft required.
- The type of raft shall be agreed with National Grid prior to installation.
- No protective measures including the installation of concrete slab protection shall be installed over or near to the National Grid pipeline without the prior permission of National Grid.
- National Grid will need to agree the material, the dimensions and method of installation of the proposed protective measure.
- The method of installation shall be confirmed through the submission of a formal written method statement from the contractor to National Grid.
- Please be aware that written permission is required before any works commence within the National Grid easement strip.
- A National Grid representative shall monitor any works within close proximity to the pipeline to comply with National Grid specification T/SP/SSW22.
- A Deed of Indemnity is required for any crossing of the easement

## Cables Crossing:

- Cables may cross the pipeline at perpendicular angle to the pipeline i.e. 90 degrees.
- A National Grid representative shall supervise any cable crossing of a pipeline.
- Clearance must be at least 600mm above or below the pipeline.
- Impact protection slab should be laid between the cable and pipeline if cable crossing is above the pipeline.
- A Deed of Indemnity is required for any cable crossing the easement.
- Where a new service is to cross over the pipeline a clearance distance of 0.6 metres between the crown of the pipeline and underside of the service should be maintained. If this cannot be achieved the service shall cross below the pipeline with a clearance distance of 0.6 metres.

## General Notes on Pipeline Safety:

- You should be aware of the Health and Safety Executives guidance document HS(G) 47 "Avoiding Danger from Underground Services", and National Grid's specification for Safe Working in the Vicinity of National Grid High Pressure gas pipelines and associated installations - requirements for third parties T/SP/SSW22.

- National Grid will also need to ensure that our pipelines access is maintained during and after construction.
- Our pipelines are normally buried to a depth cover of 1.1 metres however; actual depth and position must be confirmed on site by trial hole investigation under the supervision of a National Grid representative. Ground cover above our pipelines should not be reduced or increased.
- If any excavations are planned within 3 metres of National Grid High Pressure Pipeline or, within 10 metres of an AGI (Above Ground Installation), or if any embankment or dredging works are proposed then the actual position and depth of the pipeline must be established on site in the presence of a National Grid representative. A safe working method agreed prior to any work taking place in order to minimise the risk of damage and ensure the final depth of cover does not affect the integrity of the pipeline.
- Excavation works may take place unsupervised no closer than 3 metres from the pipeline once the actual depth and position has been confirmed on site under the supervision of a National Grid representative. Similarly, excavation with hand held power tools is not permitted within 1.5 metres from our apparatus and the work is undertaken with NG supervision and guidance.

To view the SSW22 Document, please use the link below:

<http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/LandandDevelopment/DDC/GasElectricNW/safeworking.htm>

To view the National Grid Policy's for our Sense of Place Document. Please use the link below:

<http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/LandandDevelopment/DDC/>

To download a copy of the HSE Guidance HS(G) 47, please use the following link:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg47.htm>

Further information in relation to National Grid's gas transmission pipelines can be accessed via the following internet link:

<http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/LandandDevelopment/DDC/gastransmission/gaspipes/>

## **Further Advice**

**We would request that the potential impact of the proposed scheme on National Grid's existing assets as set out above is considered in any subsequent reports, including in the Environmental Statement, and as part of any subsequent application.**

**Where the promoter intends to acquire land, extinguish rights, or interfere with any of National Grid apparatus protective provisions will be required in a form acceptable to it to be included within the DCO.**

**Where any diversion of apparatus may be required to facilitate a scheme, National Grid is unable to give any certainty with the regard to diversions until such time as adequate feasibility and conceptual design studies have been undertaken by National Grid. Further information relating to this can be obtained by contacting the email address below.**

**National Grid requests to be consulted at the earliest stages to ensure that the most appropriate protective provisions are included within the DCO application to safeguard the**

**integrity of our apparatus and to remove the requirement for objection. All consultations should be sent to the following: [DCOConsultations@nationalgrid.com](mailto:DCOConsultations@nationalgrid.com) as well as by post to the following address:**

**The Company Secretary**  
**1-3 The Strand**  
**London**  
**WC2N 5EH**

In order to respond at the earliest opportunity National Grid will require the following:

- Draft DCO including the Book of Reference and relevant Land Plans
- Shape Files or CAD Files for the order limits

I hope the above information is useful. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

The information in this letter is provided notwithstanding any discussions taking place in relation to connections with electricity or gas customer services.

Yours faithfully

Marcella Styles

(Submitted Electronically)





nationalgrid

↑

- Aerial Photography
- Eagles Enquiry**
- Electricity Tx Assets**
- Cables and Accessories**
- OHL and Towers**
- 400kV
- 275kV
- 132kV and Less
- Towers
- Substations and Stations**
- Electricity Tx Capital Schemes**
- Gas Tx Assets**
- AGI's**
- Gas Pipe
- Gas Site**
- Transformer Rectifier
- Land Tenure**
- Proposed HS2 Route
- Maps**



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Produced by 10.34.24.73 08:59 05/06/2013

Background Mapping information has been reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. ©Crown Copyright Ordnance Survey. National Grid Electricity - 100024241. National Grid Gas -100024886

National Grid UK Transmission. The asset position information represented on this map is the intellectual property of National Grid PLC, Warwick Technology Park, Warwick, CV346DA

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Environmental Services;](#)  
**cc:** [NATS Safeguarding; Alan Ridley;](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Progress Power Station - EN010060 - Scoping Consultation  
**Date:** 22 May 2013 13:11:17

---

Dear Sir/Madam

NATS has no comments to make on the above referenced Scoping Consultation.

Regards  
S. Rossi  
NATS Safeguarding Office

**NATS**

**Mr Sacha Rossi**  
ATC Systems Safeguarding Engineer

' : 01489 444 205

\* : [REDACTED]

NATS Safeguarding  
4000 Parkway,  
Whiteley, PO15 7FL

<http://www.nats.co.uk/windfarms>



Date: 11 June 2013  
Our ref: 86912  
Your ref: 130517\_EN010060\_1803507



Alan Ridley  
3/18 Eagle Wing  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Customer Services  
Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Mr Ridley


**INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)  
REGULATIONS 2009 SI 2263 (as amended) (the EIA Regulations)  
PROPOSED Progress Power Station (the project)  
PROPOSAL BY Progress Power Limited (PPL) (the applicant)**

Thank you for seeking our advice on the scope of the Environmental Statement (ES) in your consultation dated 17 May 2013 which we received on the same date. Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Case law<sup>1</sup> and guidance<sup>2</sup> has stressed the need for a full set of environmental information to be available for consideration prior to a decision being taken on whether or not to grant planning permission. Annex A to this letter provides Natural England's advice on the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for this development. Should the proposal be amended in a way which significantly affects its impact on the natural environment then, in accordance with Section 4 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, Natural England should be consulted again.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us. For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Alison Collins on 01284 735236. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk). We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

  
Alison Collins  
Land Use Operations Cambridge

<sup>1</sup> Harrison, J in *R. v. Cornwall County Council ex parte Hardy* (2001)

<sup>2</sup> *Note on Environmental Impact Assessment Directive for Local Planning Authorities* Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (April 2004) available from

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/sustainability/environmental/environmentalimpactassessment/noteenvironmental/>

## **Annex A – Advice related to EIA Scoping Requirements**

### **1. General Principles**

Schedule 4 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (as amended), sets out the necessary information to assess impacts on the natural environment to be included in an Environmental Statement, specifically:

A description of the development, including in particular

- (a) a description of the physical characteristics of the whole development and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases;
- (b) a description of the main characteristics of the production processes, for instance, nature and quantity of the materials used;
- (c) an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation, etc) resulting from the operation of the proposed development.

An outline of the main alternatives studied by the applicant and an indication of the main reasons for the applicant's choice, taking into account the environmental effects.

A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development, including, in particular, population, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.

A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment, which should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and longterm, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development, resulting from:

- (a) the existence of the development;
- (b) the use of natural resources;
- (c) the emission of pollutants, the creation of nuisances and the elimination of waste, and the description by the applicant of the forecasting methods used to assess the effects on the environment.

A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment.

A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs above.

An indication of any difficulties (technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered by the applicant in compiling the required information.

It will be important for any assessment to consider the potential cumulative effects of this proposal, including all supporting infrastructure, with other similar proposals and a thorough assessment of the 'in combination' effects of the proposed development with any existing developments and current applications. A full consideration of the implications of the whole scheme should be included in the ES. All supporting infrastructure should be included within the assessment.

### **2. Biodiversity and Geology**

#### **2.1 Ecological Aspects of an Environmental Statement**

Natural England advises that the potential impact of the proposal upon features of nature conservation interest and opportunities for habitat creation/enhancement should be included



within this assessment in accordance with appropriate guidance on such matters. Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) have been developed by the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM) and are available on their website. EclA is the process of identifying, quantifying and evaluating the potential impacts of defined actions on ecosystems or their components. EclA may be carried out as part of the EIA process or to support other forms of environmental assessment or appraisal.

The National Planning Policy Framework sets out guidance in S.118 on how to take account of biodiversity interests in planning decisions and the framework that local authorities should provide to assist developers.

## **2.2 Internationally and Nationally Designated Sites**

The ES should therefore thoroughly assess the potential for the proposal to affect designated sites. European sites, e.g. designated Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), fall within the scope of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended). In addition paragraph 169 of the National Planning Policy Framework requires that potential SPAs, possible SACs, listed or proposed Ramsar sites, and any site identified as being necessary to compensate for adverse impacts on classified, potential or possible SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites be treated in the same way as classified sites.

Under Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 an Appropriate Assessment needs to be undertaken in respect of any plan or project which is (a) likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and (b) not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site.

Should a Likely Significant Effect on a European/Internationally designated site be identified or be uncertain, the competent authority (in this case the Secretary of State for Department of Energy and Climate Change) may need to prepare an Appropriate Assessment, in addition to consideration of impacts through the EIA process.

## **2.3 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and sites of European or international importance (Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites)**

The development site is within 10km of the following nationally designated nature conservation sites:

- Redgrave & Lopham Fens SSSI
- Redgrave & Lopham Fen National Nature Reserve
- Wortham Ling SSSI
- Burgate Wood SSSI
- Gypsy Camp Meadows, Thrandeston SSSI
- Major Farm, Braiseworth SSSI
- Hoxne Brick Pit SSSI
- Westhall Wood and Meadow SSSI
- Shelfanger Meadows SSSI

Further information on these SSSIs and their special interest features can be found at [www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk). The Environmental Statement should include a full assessment of the direct and indirect effects of the development on the features of special interest within these sites and should identify such mitigation measures as may be required in order to avoid, minimise or reduce any adverse significant effects.

The development site is within 10km of the following internationally and European designated nature conservation sites:

- Redgrave & South Lopham Fens Ramsar site
- Waveney & Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC

Natura 2000 Network site conservation objectives are available on our internet site [here](#)

In this case the proposal is not directly connected with, or necessary to, the management of a European site. In our view it is likely that it will have a significant effect on internationally designated sites and therefore will require assessment under the Habitats Regulations. We recommend that there should be a separate section of the Environmental Statement to address impacts upon European and Ramsar sites entitled 'Information for Habitats Regulations Assessment'.

The list of issues that the 'Information for Habitats Regulations Assessment' should cover are, but not exclusively limited to, the following assessments on the internationally designated site features:

- the likely impacts of the gaseous emissions to air from the operation of the proposed power generation plant
- the likely impacts of any increased water abstraction and waste water discharge, both during construction and operation, of the proposed power generation plant and gas connection.

Air quality in the UK has improved over recent decades but air pollution remains a significant issue; for example over 97% of sensitive habitat area in England is predicted to exceed the critical loads for ecosystem protection from atmospheric nitrogen deposition ([England Biodiversity Strategy](#), Defra 2011). A priority action in the England Biodiversity Strategy is to reduce air pollution impacts on biodiversity. The planning system plays a key role in determining the location of developments which may give rise to pollution, either directly or from traffic generation, and hence planning decisions can have a significant impact on the quality of air, water and land.

In terms of assessing the impact on air quality, we advise that a radius of 10km around the application site is searched for international and European designated sites (i.e. SPAs, SACs and Ramsar sites) and a radius of 2km for nationally designated sites (i.e. SSSIs). Non-statutory local sites (e.g. County Wildlife Sites) near to the application should also be considered. The assessment should take account of the risks of air pollution and how these can be managed or reduced. Further information on air pollution impacts and the sensitivity of different habitats/designated sites can be found on the Air Pollution Information System ([www.apis.ac.uk](http://www.apis.ac.uk)). Further information on air pollution modelling and assessment can be found on the Environment Agency website.

## **2.4 Regionally and Locally Important Sites**

The EIA will need to consider any impacts upon local wildlife and geological sites. Local sites are identified by the local Wildlife Trust, geoconservation group or a local forum established for the purposes of identifying and selecting local sites. They are of county importance for wildlife or geodiversity. The Environmental Statement should therefore include an assessment of the likely impacts on the wildlife and geodiversity interests of such sites. The assessment should include proposals for mitigation of any impacts and if appropriate, compensation measures. Contact the Suffolk Biological Records Centre and Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service for further information.

## **2.5 Protected Species**

Protected species are species protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

The ES should assess the impact of all phases of the proposal on protected species (including, for example, great crested newts, reptiles, birds, water voles, badgers and bats). Natural England does not hold comprehensive information regarding the locations of species protected by law, but advises on the procedures and legislation relevant to such species. Records of protected species should be sought from appropriate local biological record centres, nature

conservation organisations, groups and individuals; and consideration should be given to the wider context of the site for example in terms of habitat linkages and protected species populations in the wider area, to assist in the impact assessment.

The conservation of species protected by law is explained in Part IV and Annex A of Government Circular 06/2005 *Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: Statutory Obligations and their Impact within the Planning System*. The area likely to be affected by the proposal should be thoroughly surveyed by competent ecologists at appropriate times of year for relevant species and the survey results, impact assessments and appropriate accompanying mitigation strategies included as part of the ES.

In order to provide this information there may be a requirement for a survey at a particular time of year. Surveys should always be carried out in optimal survey time periods and to current guidance by suitably qualified and where necessary, licensed, consultants. Natural England has adopted [standing advice](#) for protected species which includes links to guidance on survey and mitigation.

## 2.5 Habitats and Species of Principal Importance

The ES should thoroughly assess the impact of the proposals on habitats and/or species listed as as 'Habitats and Species of Principal Importance' within the England Biodiversity List, published under the requirements of S41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 places a general duty on all public authorities, including local planning authorities, to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Further information on this duty is available in the Defra publication '[Guidance for Local Authorities on Implementing the Biodiversity Duty](#)'.

Government Circular 06/2005 states that Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species and habitats, 'are capable of being a material consideration...in the making of planning decisions'. Natural England therefore advises that survey, impact assessment and mitigation proposals for Habitats and Species of Principal Importance should be included in the ES. Consideration should also be given to those species and habitats included in the relevant Local BAP.

Natural England advises that a habitat survey is carried out on the site, in order to identify any important habitats present. In addition, ornithological, botanical and invertebrate surveys should be carried out at appropriate times in the year, to establish whether any scarce or priority species are present. The Environmental Statement should include details of:

- Any historical data for the site affected by the proposal (e.g. from previous surveys);
- Additional surveys carried out as part of this proposal;
- The habitats and species present;
- The status of these habitats and species (e.g. whether BAP priority habitat);
- The direct and indirect effects of the development upon those habitats and species;
- Full details of any mitigation or compensation that might be required.

The development should seek if possible to avoid adverse impact on sensitive areas for wildlife within the site, and if possible provide opportunities for overall wildlife gain.

The record centre for the relevant Local Authorities should be able to provide the relevant information on the location and type of BAP habitat for the area under consideration.

## 2.6 Contacts for Local Records

Natural England does not hold local information on local sites, local landscape character and local or national biodiversity priority habitats and species. We recommend that you seek further information from the appropriate bodies (which may include the local records centre, the local wildlife trust or other recording society and a local landscape characterisation document).

### 3. Landscape Character

#### 3.1 Landscape and visual impacts

Natural England would wish to see details of local landscape character areas mapped at a scale appropriate to the development site as well as any relevant management plans or strategies pertaining to the area. The EIA should include assessments of visual effects on the surrounding area and landscape together with any physical effects of the development, such as changes in topography. The European Landscape Convention places a duty on Local Planning Authorities to consider the impacts of landscape when exercising their functions.

The EIA should include a full assessment of the potential impacts of the development on local landscape character using landscape assessment methodologies. We encourage the use of Landscape Character Assessment (LCA), based on the good practice guidelines produced jointly by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment in 2013 (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition). LCA provides a sound basis for guiding, informing and understanding the ability of any location to accommodate change and to make positive proposals for conserving, enhancing or regenerating character, as detailed proposals are developed.

Natural England supports the publication *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*, produced by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment in 2013 (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). The methodology set out is almost universally used for landscape and visual impact assessment.

In order to foster high quality development that respects, maintains, or enhances, local landscape character and distinctiveness, Natural England encourages all new development to consider the character and distinctiveness of the area, with the siting and design of the proposed development reflecting local design characteristics and, wherever possible, using local materials. The Environmental Impact Assessment process should detail the measures to be taken to ensure the building design will be of a high standard, as well as detail of layout alternatives together with justification of the selected option in terms of landscape impact and benefit.

The assessment should also include the cumulative effect of the development with other relevant existing or proposed developments in the area. In this context Natural England advises that the cumulative impact assessment should include other proposals currently at Scoping stage. Due to the overlapping timescale of their progress through the planning system, cumulative impact of the proposed development with those proposals currently at Scoping stage would be likely to be a material consideration at the time of determination of the planning application.

The assessment should refer to the relevant [National Character Areas](#) which can be found on our website. Links for Landscape Character Assessment at a local level are also available on the same page.

#### 3.2 Heritage Landscapes

You should consider whether there is land in the area affected by the development which qualifies for conditional exemption from capital taxes on the grounds of outstanding scenic, scientific or historic interest. These are considered to be designated landscapes of national importance and the impact of your plan on these should be assessed where appropriate. An up-to-date list may be obtained at [www.hmrc.gov.uk/heritage/lbsearch.htm](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/heritage/lbsearch.htm) and further information can be found on Natural England's landscape pages [here](#).

### 4. Access and Recreation

Natural England encourages any proposal to incorporate measures to help encourage people to access the countryside for quiet enjoyment. Measures such as reinstating existing footpaths

together with the creation of new footpaths and bridleways are to be encouraged. Links to other green networks and, where appropriate, urban fringe areas should also be explored to help promote the creation of wider green infrastructure. Relevant aspects of local authority green infrastructure strategies should be incorporated where appropriate.

The EIA should consider potential impacts on access land, public open land and rights of way in the vicinity of the development. We also recommend reference to the relevant Right of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIP) to identify public rights of way within or adjacent to the proposed site that should be maintained or enhanced.

## 5. Soil and Agricultural Land Quality

Impacts from the development should be considered in light of the Government's policy for the protection of the best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land as set out in paragraph 112 of the NPPF. We also recommend that soils should be considered under a more general heading of sustainable use of land and the ecosystem services they provide as a natural resource in line with paragraph 109 of the NPPF.

Soil is a finite resource that fulfils many important functions and services (ecosystem services) for society, for example as a growing medium for food, timber and other crops, as a store for carbon and water, as a reservoir of biodiversity and as a buffer against pollution. It is therefore important that the soil resources are protected and used sustainably.

The applicant should consider the following issues as part of the Environmental Statement:

- (a) The degree to which soils are going to be disturbed/harmed as part of this development and whether 'best and most versatile' agricultural land is involved. This may require a detailed survey if one is not already available. For further information on the availability of existing agricultural land classification (ALC) information see [www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk). Natural England Technical Information Note 049 - [Agricultural Land Classification: protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land](#) also contains useful background information.
- (b) If required, an agricultural land classification and soil survey of the land should be undertaken. This should normally be at a detailed level, e.g. one auger boring per hectare, (or more detailed for a small site) supported by pits dug in each main soil type to confirm the physical characteristics of the full depth of the soil resource, i.e. 1.2 metres.
- (c) The Environmental Statement should provided details of how any adverse impacts on can be minimised. Further guidance is contained in the [Defra Construction Code of for the Sustainable Use of Soil on Development Sites](#).

## 6. Climate Change Adaptation

The [England Biodiversity Strategy](#) published by Defra establishes principles for the consideration of biodiversity and the effects of climate change. The ES should reflect these principles and identify how the development's effects on the natural environment will be influenced by climate change, and how ecological networks will be maintained. The NPPF requires that the planning system should contribute to the enhancement of the natural environment "by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures" ([NPPF](#) Para 109), which should be demonstrated through the ES.

## 7. Cumulative and in-combination effects

A full consideration of the implications of the whole scheme should be included in the ES. All supporting infrastructure should be included within the assessment.

The ES should include an impact assessment to identify, describe and evaluate the effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects and activities that are being, have been or will be carried out. The following types of projects should be included in such an assessment. (Subject to available information):

- a. Existing completed projects
- b. Approved but uncompleted projects
- c. Ongoing activities
- d. Plans or projects for which an application has been made and which are under consideration by the consenting authorities
- e. Plans and projects which are reasonably foreseeable, ie projects for which an application has not yet been submitted, but which are likely to progress before completion of the development and for which sufficient information is available to assess the likelihood of cumulative and in-combination effects.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Environmental Services;](#)  
**Subject:** Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) - Progress Power Station  
**Date:** 10 June 2013 11:40:33

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FAO Mr Alan Ridley

Your Ref: 130517\_EN010060\_1803507

Thank you for your letter dated 17 May 2013 asking for our comments regarding the proposed Progress Power Station by Progress Power Limited. We have no comments and have asked the relevant Local Authority Director of Public Health to respond direct.

Your sincerely  
Elaine Matthews

Elaine Matthews  
Temporary PA to Peter Wightman, Interim Commissioning Director

East Anglia Area Team  
NHS England  
CPC1, Capital Business Park, Fulbourn, Cambs, CB21 5XE  
01223 708714

[REDACTED]  
[www.england.nhs.uk](http://www.england.nhs.uk)



## **Norfolk County Council – Response to:-**

### **Progress Power Plant Project (Eye) – EIA Scoping Report June 2013**

#### **1. Preface**

- 1.1. The officer-level comments below are made on a without prejudice basis and the County Council reserves the right to make further comments on the emerging application.

#### **2. Energy Infrastructure Comments**

- 2.1. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will need to address any cross boundary impact associated with the proposed development. In particular the EIA will need to show where grid connection will take place and whether this will be in Norfolk. Any connection cabling to the grid from the proposed new power station should be placed underground in order to minimise any potential visual/landscape impact.
- 2.2. The EIA will need to indicate/consider whether there would be any need for the upgrading of the existing 400 KV power lines in the area as a consequence of the proposed development.
- 2.3. In addition the EIA will need to address whether there is a need for any further ancillary development such as electricity sub-stations and switchyards etc beyond the immediate proposal site. The location and impact of any ancillary development will need to be fully assessed in the EIA.
- 2.4. In the event that new power lines are needed (or existing power lines up-graded) or any other infrastructure needs up-grading (e.g. sub-station) there would need to be a description of the route(s) including plans at an appropriate scale incorporating, for example:
- an assessment of their impact (e.g. photomontages etc).
  - details of temporary construction compounds
  - identification of any sensitive features along the route.

- 2.5. The EIA will need to indicate the off site route and impact associated with the gas pipeline together with any mitigation is proposed.

- 2.6. If you have any general queries with any of the above comments please call or Stephen Faulkner (Principal Planner) email on 01603 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

#### **3. Landscape**

- 3.1. The ES/EIA would need to provide:
- An assessment of the impact of the development on the landscape, including landscape in neighbouring counties where they fall within the



- zone of visual influence;
- An assessment of the visual intrusion caused by the development which should include the preparation of a Zone of Visual Intrusion plan/map;
- Photomontages illustrating the impact of the development;
- An assessment of the cumulative impact;
- An assessment of the impact of the development on the heritage landscape.

#### 4. **Transport and Landscape Issues**

- 4.1. The ES/EIA will need to evaluate the impact on the landscape of upgrading existing roads and creating new access routes in the construction and operational phase of the project (including enhanced signage) as all of this can sub-urbanise a rural landscape. It will also need to consider how these should be mitigated, perhaps through removal and reinstatement at the end of the project. Please also refer to *Highway - Traffic and Access* section.

#### 5. **Tourism and Landscape Issues**

- 5.1. The ES/EIA will need to address the impact of the development on tourism, including tourism occurring in neighbouring counties, which may be affected if the natural landscape is altered sufficiently.

#### 5.2. **Ecology**

- 5.3. The ES/EIA will need to address the potential impact on Ecology, including in particular, impact on the following interests:

- designated sites e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Nature Reserves, Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Area for Conservation (SAC), County Wildlife Sites (CWS) etc; and
- Birds.

The need to consider cumulative impact is a requirement of the EIA process. This is of particular importance when considering ecological impacts. Projects to be incorporated in such an assessment must include those in the past, present and foreseeable future. Projects to be incorporated in such an assessment must include not only other potential wind farms but also other types of project taking place in the marine environment or onshore so that all elements of the infrastructure are assessed.

For further information on landscape and ecology matters please call Heidi Thompson on 01603 222773.

#### 6. **Socio-economic**

- 6.1. An economic assessment ought to be carried as part of the EIA considering how the project could utilise existing the supply chain capabilities in Norfolk, which is home to the Hethel Engineering Centre and other engineering and

manufacturing businesses.

For further information please call David Dukes (Economic Development Manager) on 01603 223142.

## 7. **Highway – Traffic and Access**

7.1. The comments below relate to the proposed power plant and any ancillary facilities such as sub-stations; cabling routes; and transporting and servicing of equipment.

1. **Vehicles** – define the nature of the traffic likely to be generated. In addition for the largest vehicles proposed to use each access route(s) this must include: -
  - minimum width (including unhindered horizontal space)
  - vertical clearance
  - axle weight restriction
2. **Access & Access Route** – description of the route (including plans at an appropriate scale incorporating swept-path surveys). Assessment to include site inspection and details of contact with the appropriate Highway Authority (including the Highways Agency for Trunk Roads where applicable). In addition: -
  - details of any staff/traffic movements/access routes;
  - detailed plans of site access/es incorporating sightline provision
  - confirmation of any weight restrictions applicable on the route together with details of contact with the relevant Bridge Engineer
  - overhead/ underground equipment – details of liaison with statutory undertakers - listing statutory undertakers consulted together with a copy of their responses
  - details of any road signs or other street furniture along each route that may need to be temporarily removed/relocated
3. **Impacts during construction** – are any special requirements needed and if so provide details e.g.:-
  - timing of construction works
  - removal of parked vehicles along the route(s) – full details will need to be provided – including whether or not alternative parking arrangements are being offered or bus services provided in lieu of potential loss of ability to use private cars
  - removal and reinstatement of hedgerows – since these are usually in private ownership has contact been made with the owners. Has formal legal agreement been reached or are negotiations pending/ in progress
  - identification of the highway boundary along the construction traffic route together with verification from the Highway Authority
  - confirmation of whether the identified route involves the acquisition of third party land and if so has consent been given, (verbal or has a formal legal agreement been entered into)
  - confirmation of any required third party easements – e.g. will construction vehicles need to overhang ditches (these are usually in private ownership), private hedges or open land adjacent to the highway. If so,

- details of consent (verbal or a formal written agreement)
  - any modifications required to the alignment of the carriageway or verges/over-runs
  - identification of sensitive features along route
  - trimming of overhead trees – has a survey been undertaken to identify trees that will need to be trimmed and if so what steps have been undertaken to identify the owners of those trees
  - confirmation of whether any affected trees are covered by a tree preservation order
  - confirmation of whether any of the verges along the route(s) are classified as SSSI or roadside Nature Reserve status. If so, detail any impact
  - confirmation of any extraordinary maintenance agreement/s required by the Highway Authority
4. **Cabling route/grid connection** – description of the route/s including plans at an appropriate scale, incorporating, for example:
- assessment to include site inspection and details of contact with the appropriate Highway Authority (including the Highways Agency for Trunk Roads where applicable)
  - traffic details of grid connection enabling works
  - **NOTE – only statutory undertakers are allowed to place longitudinal apparatus – including cables – within land forming part of the public highway.**
5. **Impacts during operation**
- details of type and frequency of vehicle to be used to service the facility/structure(s) when in operation
  - details of any long-term highway impact e.g. will trees and hedgerows need additional trimming to allow access for service vehicles
  - position of structures relative to public highways and/or public rights of way – the minimum distance of which should be no less than 50m
  - assessment of any impact on adjacent/affected public rights of way e.g. horses and pedestrians – e.g. with a wind farm are the blades positioned in close proximity to bridleways such that flicker may startle horses
6. **Impacts during decommissioning** – define the expected life span of the facility/structure(s).
- provide details of decommissioning works including an assessment of whether or not the structure is to be scrapped - i.e. can it be broken up on site and removed or will it require the same logistical process as initial construction.

For further Information on highway related matters I would suggest you contact John Shaw (Senior Engineer) on 01603 [REDACTED].

If you have any general queries with any of the above comments please call or Stephen Faulkner (Principal Planner) email on 01603 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



Public Health  
England

NSIP Consultations T +44 (0)1235 831600  
CRCE  
Chilton, Didcot  
Oxon OX11 0RQ www.gov.uk/phe

The Planning Inspectorate  
FAO: Alan Ridley  
3/18 Eagle Wing  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol BS1 6PN

Your Ref: 130517\_EN010060\_1803507  
Our Ref: EN FF GS 130517 233

5<sup>th</sup> June 2013

Dear Alan,

**INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)  
REGULATIONS 2009 SI 2263 (as amended) (the EIA Regulations)  
PROPOSED Progress Power Station (the project)  
PROPOSAL BY Progress Power Limited (PPL) (the applicant)**

Progress Power Ltd has asked the Planning Inspectorate (PIN) for its opinion ("scoping opinion") on the information to be provided in an Environmental Statement (ES) relating to a proposal for a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) of a 299 MWe Natural Gas fuelled power station at Eye Airfield Industrial Estate, Eye, mid-Suffolk, East Anglia. The request for a scoping opinion is a precursor to an intensive and detailed independent assessment of the environmental impact of the proposed development.

Public Health England (PHE) is a statutory consultee at the pre-application and application stages for NSIPs "which are likely to involve chemicals, poisons or radiation which could potentially cause harm to people."<sup>1</sup> For those NSIP applications subject to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) PHE is a consultation body under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009.

The PIN must therefore consult PHE on the information that PHE considers should be provided in the ES (or confirm that PHE has no comments) before the PIN adopts its scoping opinion.

PHE's enclosed response focuses on health protection issues relating to chemicals and radiation. The advice offered by PHE is impartial and independent. The scope of PHE's response does not extend to wider health matters; these fall under the remit of other stakeholders.

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<sup>1</sup> Cited in the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

The Appendix outlines generic considerations that PHE advises are addressed by all promoters when they are preparing ESs for NSIPs. In terms of the level of detail to be included in ESs, PHE recognises that the differing nature of projects is such that their impacts will vary. PHE's view is that the assessments undertaken to inform the ES should be proportionate to the potential impacts of the proposal. Where a promoter determines that it is not necessary to undertake detailed assessment(s) (e.g. undertakes qualitative rather than quantitative assessments), if the rationale for this is fully explained and justified within the application documents, then PHE considers this to be an acceptable approach.

Yours sincerely



Allister Gittins

Environmental Public Health Scientist

[nsipconsultations@phe.gov.uk](mailto:nsipconsultations@phe.gov.uk)

*Please mark any correspondence for the attention of National Infrastructure Planning Administration.*

## Appendix: HPA recommendations regarding the scoping document

### General approach

The EIA should give consideration to best practice guidance such as the Government's Good Practice Guide for EIA<sup>2</sup>. It is important that the EIA identifies and assesses the potential public health impacts of the activities at, and emissions from, the installation. Assessment should consider the development, operational, and decommissioning phases.

The EIA Directive<sup>3</sup> requires that ESs include a description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development, including "population". The EIA should provide sufficient information for PHE to fully assess the potential impact of the development on public health. **PHE will only consider information contained or referenced in a separate section of the ES summarising the impact of the proposed development on public health:** summarising risk assessments, proposed mitigation measures, and residual impacts. This section should summarise key information and conclusions relating to human health impacts contained in other sections of the application (e.g. in the separate sections dealing with: air quality, emissions to water, waste, contaminated land etc.) without undue duplication. Compliance with the requirements of National Policy Statements and relevant guidance and standards should be highlighted.

It is not PHE's role to undertake these assessments on behalf of promoters as this would conflict with PHE's role as an impartial and independent body.

Consideration of alternatives (including alternative sites, choice of process, and the phasing of construction) is widely regarded as good practice. Ideally, EIA should start at the stage of site and process selection, so that the environmental merits of practicable alternatives can be properly considered. Where this is undertaken, the main alternatives considered should be outlined in the ES<sup>4</sup>.

The following text covers a range of issues that PHE would expect to be addressed by the promoter. However this list is not exhaustive and the onus is on the promoter to ensure that the relevant public health issues are identified and addressed. PHE's advice and recommendations carry no statutory weight and constitute non-binding guidance.

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<sup>2</sup> Environmental Impact Assessment: A guide to good practice and procedures - A consultation paper; 2006; Department for Communities and Local Government. Available from:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/archived/publications/planningandbuilding/environmentalimpactassessment>

<sup>3</sup> Directive 85/337/EEC (as amended) on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment. Available from: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:1985L0337:20090625:EN:PDF>

<sup>4</sup> DCLG guidance, 1999 <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/155958.pdf>

## **Receptors**

The ES should clearly identify the development's location and the location and distance from the development of off-site human receptors that may be affected by emissions from, or activities at, the development. Off-site human receptors may include people living in residential premises; people working in commercial, and industrial premises and people using transport infrastructure (such as roads and railways), recreational areas, and publicly-accessible land. Consideration should also be given to environmental receptors such as the surrounding land, watercourses, surface and groundwater, and drinking water supplies such as wells, boreholes and water abstraction points.

## **Impacts arising from construction and decommissioning**

Any assessment of impacts arising from emissions due to construction and decommissioning should consider potential impacts on all receptors and describe monitoring and mitigation during these phases. Construction and decommissioning will be associated with vehicle movements and cumulative impacts should be accounted for.

We would expect the promoter to follow best practice guidance during all phases from construction to decommissioning to ensure appropriate measures are in place to mitigate any potential impact on health from emissions (point source, fugitive and traffic-related). An effective Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (and Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP)) will help provide reassurance that activities are well managed. The promoter should ensure that there are robust mechanisms in place to respond to any complaints of traffic-related pollution, during construction, operation, and decommissioning of the facility.

## **Emissions to air and water**

Significant impacts are unlikely to arise from installations which employ Best Available Techniques (BAT) and which meet regulatory requirements concerning emission limits and design parameters. However, PHE has a number of comments regarding emissions in order that the EIA provides a comprehensive assessment of potential impacts.

When considering a baseline (of existing environmental quality) and in the assessment and future monitoring of impacts these:

- should include appropriate screening assessments and detailed dispersion modelling where this is screened as necessary
- should encompass all pollutants which may be emitted by the installation in combination with all pollutants arising from associated development and transport, ideally these should be considered in a single holistic assessment
- should consider the construction, operational, and decommissioning phases
- should consider the typical operational emissions and emissions from start-up, shut-down, abnormal operation and accidents when assessing potential impacts and include an assessment of worst-case impacts
- should fully account for fugitive emissions
- should include appropriate estimates of background levels
- should identify cumulative and incremental impacts (i.e. assess cumulative impacts from multiple sources), including those arising from associated development, other existing and proposed development in the local area, and new vehicle movements associated with the proposed development; associated transport emissions should include consideration of non-road impacts (i.e. rail, sea, and air)
- should include consideration of local authority, Environment Agency, Defra national network, and any other local site-specific sources of monitoring data
- should compare predicted environmental concentrations to the applicable standard or guideline value for the affected medium (such as UK Air Quality Standards and Objectives and Environmental Assessment Levels)
  - If no standard or guideline value exists, the predicted exposure to humans should be estimated and compared to an appropriate health-based value (a Tolerable Daily Intake or equivalent). Further guidance is provided in Annex 1
  - This should consider all applicable routes of exposure e.g. include consideration of aspects such as the deposition of chemicals emitted to air and their uptake via ingestion
- should identify and consider impacts on residential areas and sensitive receptors (such as schools, nursing homes and healthcare facilities) in the area(s) which may be affected by emissions, this should include consideration of any new receptors arising from future development



Whilst screening of impacts using qualitative methodologies is common practice (e.g. for impacts arising from fugitive emissions such as dust), where it is possible to undertake a quantitative assessment of impacts then this should be undertaken.

PHE's view is that the EIA should appraise and describe the measures that will be used to control both point source and fugitive emissions and demonstrate that standards, guideline values or health-based values will not be exceeded due to emissions from the installation, as described above. This should include consideration of any emitted pollutants for which there are no set emission limits. When assessing the potential impact of a proposed installation on environmental quality, predicted environmental concentrations should be compared to the permitted concentrations in the affected media; this should include both standards for short and long-term exposure.

#### *Additional points specific to emissions to air*

When considering a baseline (of existing air quality) and in the assessment and future monitoring of impacts these:

- should include consideration of impacts on existing areas of poor air quality e.g. existing or proposed local authority Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs)
- should include modelling using appropriate meteorological data (i.e. come from the nearest suitable meteorological station and include a range of years and worst case conditions)
- should include modelling taking into account local topography

#### *Additional points specific to emissions to water*

When considering a baseline (of existing water quality) and in the assessment and future monitoring of impacts these:

- should include assessment of potential impacts on human health and not focus solely on ecological impacts
- should identify and consider all routes by which emissions may lead to population exposure (e.g. surface watercourses; recreational waters; sewers; geological routes etc.)
- should assess the potential off-site effects of emissions to groundwater (e.g. on aquifers used for drinking water) and surface water (used for drinking water abstraction) in terms of the potential for population exposure
- should include consideration of potential impacts on recreational users (e.g. from fishing, canoeing etc) alongside assessment of potential exposure via drinking water

## **Land quality**

We would expect the promoter to provide details of any hazardous contamination present on site (including ground gas) as part of the site condition report.

Emissions to and from the ground should be considered in terms of the previous history of the site and the potential of the site, once operational, to give rise to issues. Public health impacts associated with ground contamination and/or the migration of material off-site should be assessed<sup>5</sup> and the potential impact on nearby receptors and control and mitigation measures should be outlined.

Relevant areas outlined in the Government's Good Practice Guide for EIA include:

- effects associated with ground contamination that may already exist
- effects associated with the potential for polluting substances that are used (during construction / operation) to cause new ground contamination issues on a site, for example introducing / changing the source of contamination
- impacts associated with re-use of soils and waste soils, for example, re-use of site-sourced materials on-site or offsite, disposal of site-sourced materials offsite, importation of materials to the site, etc.

## **Waste**

The EIA should demonstrate compliance with the waste hierarchy (e.g. with respect to re-use, recycling or recovery and disposal).

For wastes arising from the installation the EIA should consider:

- the implications and wider environmental and public health impacts of different waste disposal options
- disposal route(s) and transport method(s) and how potential impacts on public health will be mitigated

## **Other aspects**

Within the EIA PHE would expect to see information about how the promoter would respond to accidents with potential off-site emissions e.g. flooding or fires, spills, leaks or releases off-site. Assessment of accidents should: identify all potential hazards in relation to construction, operation and decommissioning; include an

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<sup>5</sup> Following the approach outlined in the section above dealing with emissions to air and water i.e. comparing predicted environmental concentrations to the applicable standard or guideline value for the affected medium (such as Soil Guideline Values)

assessment of the risks posed; and identify risk management measures and contingency actions that will be employed in the event of an accident in order to mitigate off-site effects.

The EIA should include consideration of the COMAH Regulations (Control of Major Accident Hazards) and the Major Accident Off-Site Emergency Plan (Management of Waste from Extractive Industries) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009: both in terms of their applicability to the installation itself, and the installation's potential to impact on, or be impacted by, any nearby installations themselves subject to the these Regulations.

There is evidence that, in some cases, perception of risk may have a greater impact on health than the hazard itself. A 2009 report<sup>6</sup>, jointly published by Liverpool John Moores University and PHE, examined health risk perception and environmental problems using a number of case studies. As a point to consider, the report suggested: "Estimation of community anxiety and stress should be included as part of every risk or impact assessment of proposed plans that involve a potential environmental hazard. This is true even when the physical health risks may be negligible." PHE supports the inclusion of this information within EIAs as good practice.

### **Electromagnetic fields (EMF)**

There is a potential health impact associated with the electric and magnetic fields around substations and the connecting cables or lines. The following information provides a framework for considering the potential health impact.

In March 2004, the National Radiological Protection Board, NRPB (now part of PHE), published advice on limiting public exposure to electromagnetic fields. The advice was based on an extensive review of the science and a public consultation on its website, and recommended the adoption in the UK of the EMF exposure guidelines published by the International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP):-

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/Publications/Radiation/NPRBArchive/DocumentsOfTheNRPB/Absd1502/>

The ICNIRP guidelines are based on the avoidance of known adverse effects of exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF) at frequencies up to 300 GHz (gigahertz), which includes static magnetic fields and 50 Hz electric and magnetic fields associated with electricity transmission.

HPA notes the current Government policy is that the ICNIRP guidelines are implemented in line with the terms of the EU Council Recommendation on limiting exposure of the general public (1999/519/EC):

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicHealth/Healthprotection/DH\\_4089500](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicHealth/Healthprotection/DH_4089500)

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<sup>6</sup> Available from: <http://www.cph.org.uk/showPublication.aspx?pubid=538>



For static magnetic fields, the latest ICNIRP guidelines (2009) recommend that acute exposure of the general public should not exceed 400 mT (millitesla), for any part of the body, although the previously recommended value of 40 mT is the value used in the Council Recommendation. However, because of potential indirect adverse effects, ICNIRP recognises that practical policies need to be implemented to prevent inadvertent harmful exposure of people with implanted electronic medical devices and implants containing ferromagnetic materials, and injuries due to flying ferromagnetic objects, and these considerations can lead to much lower restrictions, such as 0.5 mT as advised by the International Electrotechnical Commission.

At 50 Hz, the known direct effects include those of induced currents in the body on the central nervous system (CNS) and indirect effects include the risk of painful spark discharge on contact with metal objects exposed to the field. The ICNIRP guidelines give reference levels for public exposure to 50 Hz electric and magnetic fields, and these are respectively  $5 \text{ kV m}^{-1}$  (kilovolts per metre) and  $100 \text{ } \mu\text{T}$  (microtesla). If people are not exposed to field strengths above these levels, direct effects on the CNS should be avoided and indirect effects such as the risk of painful spark discharge will be small. The reference levels are not in themselves limits but provide guidance for assessing compliance with the basic restrictions and reducing the risk of indirect effects. Further clarification on advice on exposure guidelines for 50 Hz electric and magnetic fields is provided in the following note on PHE website:

[http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb\\_C/1195733805036](http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1195733805036)

The Department of Energy and Climate Change has also published voluntary code of practices which set out key principles for complying with the ICNIRP guidelines for the industry.

[http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what\\_we\\_do/uk\\_supply/consents\\_planning/codes/codes.aspx](http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/consents_planning/codes/codes.aspx)

There is concern about the possible effects of long-term exposure to electromagnetic fields, including possible carcinogenic effects at levels much lower than those given in the ICNIRP guidelines. In the NRPB advice issued in 2004, it was concluded that the studies that suggest health effects, including those concerning childhood leukaemia, could not be used to derive quantitative guidance on restricting exposure. However, the results of these studies represented uncertainty in the underlying evidence base, and taken together with people's concerns, provided a basis for providing an additional recommendation for Government to consider the need for further precautionary measures, particularly with respect to the exposure of children to power frequency magnetic fields.

The Stakeholder Advisory Group on ELF EMFs (SAGE) was then set up to take this recommendation forward, explore the implications for a precautionary approach to extremely low frequency electric and magnetic fields (ELF EMFs), and to make practical recommendations to Government. In the First Interim Assessment of the Group, consideration was given to mitigation options such as the 'corridor option' near power lines, and optimal phasing to reduce electric and magnetic fields. A



Second Interim Assessment addresses electricity distribution systems up to 66 kV. The SAGE reports can be found at the following link:

<http://sagedialogue.org.uk/> (go to "Document Index" and Scroll to SAGE/Formal reports with recommendations)

The Agency has given advice to Health Ministers on the First Interim Assessment of SAGE regarding precautionary approaches to ELF EMFs and specifically regarding power lines and property, wiring and electrical equipment in homes:

[http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb\\_C/1204276682532?p=1207897920036](http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&HPAwebStandard/HPAweb_C/1204276682532?p=1207897920036)

The evidence to date suggests that in general there are no adverse effects on the health of the population of the UK caused by exposure to ELF EMFs below the guideline levels. The scientific evidence, as reviewed by HPA, supports the view that precautionary measures should address solely the possible association with childhood leukaemia and not other more speculative health effects. The measures should be proportionate in that overall benefits outweigh the fiscal and social costs, have a convincing evidence base to show that they will be successful in reducing exposure, and be effective in providing reassurance to the public.

The Government response to the SAGE report is given in the written Ministerial Statement by Gillian Merron, then Minister of State, Department of Health, published on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2009:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091016/wmstext/91016m0001.htm>

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_107124](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_107124)

HPA and Government responses to the Second Interim Assessment of SAGE are available at the following links:

[http://www.hpa.org.uk/Publications/Radiation/HPAResponseStatementsOnRadiationTopics/rpdadvice\\_sage2](http://www.hpa.org.uk/Publications/Radiation/HPAResponseStatementsOnRadiationTopics/rpdadvice_sage2)

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_130703](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_130703)

The above information provides a framework for considering the health impact associated with the proposed development, including the direct and indirect effects of the electric and magnetic fields as indicated above.

**Liaison with other stakeholders, comments should be sought from:**

- the local authority for matters relating to noise, odour, vermin and dust nuisance

- the local authority regarding any site investigation and subsequent construction (and remediation) proposals to ensure that the site could not be determined as 'contaminated land' under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act
- the local authority regarding any impacts on existing or proposed Air Quality Management Areas
- the Food Standards Agency for matters relating to the impact on human health of pollutants deposited on land used for growing food/ crops
- the Environment Agency for matters relating to flood risk and releases with the potential to impact on surface and groundwaters
- the Environment Agency for matters relating to waste characterisation and acceptance
- The Local Authority Director of Public Health at Suffolk County Council for matters relating to wider public health.

### **Environmental Permitting**

Amongst other permits and consents, the development will require an environmental permit from the Environment Agency to operate (under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010). Therefore the installation will need to comply with the requirements of best available techniques (BAT). PHE is a consultee for bespoke environmental permit applications and will respond separately to any such consultation.

## Annex 1

### Human health risk assessment (chemical pollutants)

The points below are cross-cutting and should be considered when undertaking a human health risk assessment:

- The promoter should consider including Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) numbers alongside chemical names, where referenced in the ES
- Where available, the most recent United Kingdom standards for the appropriate media (e.g. air, water, and/or soil) and health-based guideline values should be used when quantifying the risk to human health from chemical pollutants. Where UK standards or guideline values are not available, those recommended by the European Union or World Health Organisation can be used
- When assessing the human health risk of a chemical emitted from a facility or operation, the background exposure to the chemical from other sources should be taken into account
- When quantitatively assessing the health risk of genotoxic and carcinogenic chemical pollutants PHE does not favour the use of mathematical models to extrapolate from high dose levels used in animal carcinogenicity studies to well below the observed region of a dose-response relationship. When only animal data are available, we recommend that the 'Margin of Exposure' (MOE) approach<sup>7</sup> is used

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<sup>7</sup> Benford D et al. 2010. Application of the margin of exposure approach to substances in food that are genotoxic and carcinogenic. *Food Chem Toxicol* 48 Suppl 1: S2-24

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Environmental Services;](#)  
**Subject:** 130517\_EN010060\_1803507  
**Date:** 14 June 2013 09:57:55

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Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Inspectorate ref: 130517\_EN010060\_1803507  
LPA ref: ENQ/2013/1089

Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment)  
Regulations 2009 SI 2263 (as amended) (the EIA Regulations)  
Proposed Progress Power Station (the project)  
Proposal by Progress Power Limited (PPL) (the applicant)

Thank you for your letter of 17 May 2013 consulting South Norfolk Council on the above.

I can confirm that South Norfolk Council do not have any comments.

Regards

Michelle Lyon  
Senior Planning Officer

South Norfolk Council  
Swan Lane  
Long Stratton  
Norwich  
NR15 2XE

Direct Number: 01508 5 [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Web address: [www.south-norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.south-norfolk.gov.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/southnorfolkouncil](http://www.facebook.com/southnorfolkouncil)



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Environmental Services;](#)  
**Subject:** Progress Power Station, Eye Airfield, Suffolk (your ref 130517\_EN010060\_1803507)  
**Date:** 12 June 2013 14:07:56

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For the attention of Alan Ridley

Dear Mr Ridley,

I refer to your letter of 17 May 2013 in respect of the proposed gas fired power station proposed for Eye Airfield Industrial Estate.

I can confirm that this Council has no comments to make on this Scoping request given the distance of the development site from our administrative boundary and hence the limited potential impacts on our resident population.

Regards,

Bob Chamberlain  
Principal Planner (Major Projects)  
Suffolk Coastal District Council  
01394-444429.

Your Ref: 130517\_EN010060\_1803507

Our Ref:

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> June 2013

Enquiries to: Michael Wilks

Tel: 01473 264064

Email: [REDACTED]

Mr Alan Ridley

3/18 Eagle Wing

Temple Quay House

2 The Square

Bristol

BS1 6PN

Dear Mr Ridley

**Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 SI 2263 (as amended) (the EIA Regulations) Proposed Progress Power Station (the project) Proposal by Progress Power Limited (the applicant) - Response to Scoping Report of Suffolk County Council**

**Scope of the Project**

1. The scope of the project as defined in the Scoping Report is quite broad; the choice of technology is yet to be determined and it is not clear whether consent will be sought for all available technologies, or simply one of these. Description of a number of potential elements of the project is brief to non-existent.
2. For example the description of the substation includes reference to only a single parameter (height) (paragraph 3.5.7), the infrastructure required for an underground connection is not described other than by reference to a "sealing end compound" (1.2.10) and most of the individual elements of the permanent development as set out in Figure 2 are described little, if at all. The connection to the gas network also needs to be clarified in terms of the description and location of the Minimum Offtake Connection (MOC) and Pig Trap facilities (PTF). Specifically more detail on the size of equipment in both is required and confirmation of their whereabouts – the PTF is described as being onsite (3.4.27), but does not appear in Figure 2. A further unknown is whether the electrical connection will be part of the Development Consent Order (DCO) or not.
3. While the Rochdale Envelope can be used to address a degree of uncertainty, it should not be used so broadly as for the applicant to be able to deliver materially different projects. It is also important to note that what is a worst case in one topic area, may not be so in another, for example a high stack would be visually more intrusive, but may have air quality benefits.
4. The variations described in Table 3.1 are quite significant in themselves (as the applicant recognises – see paragraph 3.3.17) and these only relate to the physical parameters of the completed building. It is not clear how different the impacts of the project during construction (this phase varying from 12-36 months (paragraph 3.3.33))

will be in terms of transport and socio-economics (eg size/duration of workforce and indirect impacts on accommodation/tourism etc – see below for more detail). Equally more detail on implications of technology choice on operating requirements, such as water usage and noise is required.

5. While SCC understands that the current uncertainty is in part related to factors beyond the applicant's immediate control, the range and scale of impacts is correspondingly broad and thus SCC would welcome both further detail and early refinement of the project so that attention is focussed on the actual project, rather than a range of permutations.
6. This will greatly facilitate the consultation process for all and in particular the identification of proportionate mitigation measures and residual impacts. Good design is a fundamental principle of the National Policy Statements (see for example EN-1 section 4.5), so the earlier stakeholders are able to receive clarity on the parameters of the development, the more opportunity there is to develop a scheme, which in their view, responds to this requirement.

### **Selection of alternatives**

7. It is clear that the applicant is currently considering a number of alternatives, both related to the design of the plant itself and the associated electrical connection. In line with the Regulations, the relative environmental impacts of these should be presented.
8. While our strong preference is that the electrical connection is both underground and part of the DCO, if it is pursued separately the environmental impacts associated with the eventuality that it is either overhead or underground will need to be presented with the cumulative impacts with the power station clearly identified (see paragraph 84 below).

### **Planning Policy**

9. We welcome the comments at paragraph 3.3.42 - SCC is keen that every opportunity to deliver a CHP ready plant is explored, given the potential scale of development on the airfield. The additional infrastructure required to deliver a CHP-ready plant should be clarified and assessed as appropriate.
10. The Scoping Report makes reference to Suffolk Waste Core Strategy Policy WCS4 "Allocated sites for strategic waste treatment facilities" and the fact that the development would only require 5ha of an 81.35ha site. The Environment Statement should also make reference to Waste Core Strategy Policy WDM1 "Safeguarding of Waste Management Sites" which includes the sentence "This safeguarding is not intended to preclude other forms of development within the Area of Search which do not prejudice or would not be prejudiced by a strategic residual waste treatment facility."

### **Mitigation**

11. The proposed development is located centrally within a former World War II airfield, the entirety of which is identified for development by Mid Suffolk District Council in its Eye Airfield Development Brief. It is important therefore that when considering mitigation measures in particular, the applicant's proposals are designed with this in mind and do not prejudice the ability of future development to come forward, through proposal of bespoke solutions that do not align with the wider requirements of the site. This is likely to be particularly relevant to the mitigation associated with landscape & visual, transport (including rights of way/sustainable access) and drainage impacts.

## **Approach to the Environmental Impact Assessment**

12. The structure and layout of the Environmental Statement (ES) appears broadly appropriate though some clarity over where particular issues will be considered (see below) is needed. The ES will likely need to consider the likelihood of any accidents on site during operation and the associated potential for significant environmental impacts.
13. A consistent and clear approach to impact appraisal is welcomed, therefore any intention to deviate from this should be well justified (5.2.2). Further discussions with the local authorities around the identification and classification of sensitivity of receptors would be appropriate.
14. It will be important to recognise the linkages across the different topic areas, particularly when developing mitigation to ensure that initiatives being undertaken are complementary. Measures to minimise noise intrusion for example should also consider overlap with design and landscaping considerations. Equally particular forms of mitigation, for example developing a locally skilled workforce, would reduce the impacts associated with an itinerant workforce on traffic and pressures on tourist accommodation as well as providing a positive socio-economic legacy.

## **EIA Topics**

### **Socio-economics**

15. Section 5.12 is not particularly clear on the socio-economic impacts anticipated by the applicant, nor how they will be assessed. We are keen to see any potential benefits from the development maximised, and note that the Secretary of State will consider positively any beneficial provisions made by the developer (EN-1, paragraph 5.12.8). Consequently, we welcome the commitment to recruiting (5.12.1) and sourcing goods and services (5.12.25) locally and similarly the intention to investigate a mechanism to provide benefits 'beyond jobs' to the local community (5.12.8).
16. Based on the Scoping Report, our main concerns are;
  - the demands on the labour force and whether they can be met locally, and if not what the applicant proposed to do to address any identified gaps in volume or in particular skills. The ES should set out clearly the expected number and nature of employment opportunities during each phase of the development. It should relate this to the availability of labour in the area and identify how any mismatch between supply (taking into account skill levels) and demand will be addressed.
  - the demands on/opportunities within the supply chain. The applicant should assess its requirements and evaluate those against the services available locally. In order to maximise the extent of any benefits of the development it should seek to use local contractors and suppliers as much as possible and therefore look to undertake initiatives to develop opportunities for local companies to bid successfully in the procurement process by holding supply chain events or similar.
  - the potential impact of any reliance on a mobile workforce for the availability of tourist accommodation. Eye is a town with a strong tourism offer (not described in the Scoping Report) and the spending patterns of a transitory labour force would be quite different to those of tourists, thus this might jeopardise trade for other related tourist businesses, such as restaurants and visitor attractions. This needs to be assessed and again mitigation proposed.

- the impact on tourism more broadly. In addition to the specific point above concerning tourist accommodation during the construction phase, regard should be had to reducing the potential impacts on the tourist industry, both through minimising the visual impact of the permanent development (including the electrical connection) but also through programming of construction to avoid the peak tourist season. Tourism surveys (of tourists and tourism businesses) aimed at better understanding the focuses and timing of tourist activity and their use of local accommodation could be helpful to anticipate the potential effects and identify relevant mitigation
  - the impacts on the future development of Eye Airfield. As the applicant notes, the District Council has produced a development framework for the site. The implications of the permanent development for neighbouring landuses should be clarified and if necessary assessed. For example there are prescriptions relating to the nature of development that can be permitted within the vicinity of facilities such as that proposed. The gas and electrical connections will also require wayleaves/safeguarding areas which similarly is likely to result in the sterilisation of land. The socio-economic consequences of future development restrictions caused by this project should be assessed.
  - that the impacts on health are properly assessed. It is not clear where this will be done in the ES. The assessment will need to reflect how impacts associated with air quality, noise, amenity and transport in particular affect the local population.
17. In developing mitigation, the applicant should have regard to parallel initiatives being undertaken in association with other major infrastructure projects in the locality. It should therefore work closely with the Local Authorities and other key stakeholders, for example the Federation of Small Businesses and Chambers of Commerce.
18. In line with Section 5.12 of EN-1 the proposed mitigation for any impacts should be included within the application; a reliance on the agreement of mitigation strategies by Requirement post-consent will not be acceptable – information should be presented as part of the application.

## **Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment**

### **Baseline**

19. The baseline as set out in the scoping report does not adequately consider the likely visual envelope of the proposal. For example the existing power station stack is prominent for a considerable distance to the west of the site and is also visually prominent from across the Dove valley to the south-east of the site. As a result vertical structures on the airfield have a significant impact on the setting of adjacent Conservation Area, part of which is a Special Landscape Area.
20. Furthermore, there are others stacks and masts in the area, as well as the turbines, with which the proposal will create in combination effects.

### **Assessment**

21. The proposed desktop review (5.8.24) should include local landscape characterisations for both Suffolk ([www.suffolklandscape.org.uk](http://www.suffolklandscape.org.uk)) and South Norfolk, (it may also be appropriate to refer to the eastern region landscape typology, <http://landscape-east.org.uk/>, to achieve cross border consistency).
22. The range of receptors to be reviewed include; open access land, public rights of way, promoted routes, national and regional trails, and promoted cycle routes. Much of this

information is likely to be available via [www.discoversuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.discoversuffolk.gov.uk). Definitive map information is available from Suffolk County Council.

23. The scoping report contains a rather premature selection of photo-montage locations (5.8.28); these may prove to be appropriate but need to be selected as part of a wider discussion of viewpoint locations. While it is appropriate that viewpoints should be agreed in advance with Mid Suffolk District Council and SCC, we suggest it would also be reasonable given the scale and location of the proposal for South Norfolk District Council to be offered the opportunity to comment on this matter. Robin Taylor is the Landscape Officer at SNDC.
24. It is possible that the heritage assessment may require specific viewpoints and perhaps photo-montages which are not appropriate to be included in the LVIA.
25. Although the gas connection may not give rise to significant visual impacts (5.8.4) some of the possible routes may sterilise areas identified for strategic landscape planting as part of the Eye Airfield Development Framework. It is not clear from the Scoping Report what the implications are for the planting regimes above the gas pipe.
26. Although the landscape and visual impacts of the grid connection would be minimised by burial, such a connection (5.8.5) is likely to require a significant way leave which can lead to the loss of visually important trees and hedges, such as any crossing of Ley Lane for example. Therefore proposals for the use of trenchless engineering techniques and other mitigation methods are likely to be required.
27. The burial of the grid connection would also require a Sealing End Compound and/or associated infrastructure which may generate significant impacts on both the landscape and visual amenity and the setting of historic assets.
28. As part of consideration of any overhead connection the option of using the new T pylon design should also be reviewed in detail.
29. The visual impact of any temporary structures (5.8.34) during construction should be considered, for example related to the laydown area (3.3.29) – it is not clear if any temporary buildings are proposed here.
30. Visual impacts of the development during the operational phase may arise from night lighting, security measures and plumes and the ES should report on these.
31. Opportunities to reduce visual impacts can arise through site layout, for example through minimisation of clutter – so, as alluded to above, more detail on the elements that will compromise the permanent development are needed.
32. A draft landscape strategy should be provided as part of the application. It will need to be prepared and agreed with the Local Planning Authorities. It may be that measures contained therein will need to be secured via planning obligation, for example offsite planting given the visual envelope of the project.

## **Ecology<sup>1</sup>**

### **Survey and Assessment**

33. The scoping surveys appear to be based on current and local Suffolk Biological Records Centre (SBRC) data which should enable robust assessment of potential impacts on ecology from the construction of the power station and associated utility

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<sup>1</sup> Comments on the Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey are appended to this letter

connections. SCC does request that all additional data collected is made available to the Suffolk Biological Records Centre.

34. Regarding surveys of habitats and species, SCC has not reviewed the ecological scoping report carried out by MSDC in 2011 (5.5.4). Nevertheless, while we accept that the hedgerows, scrub and trees are the main habitats which require assessment for protected species, it should be noted that arable field margins are a BAP habitat and this should be added to the scoping surveys so that the impacts of the power generation plant and connection options on any arable plants as well as farmland birds are adequately assessed.
35. While the undergrounding of the electrical connection would have landscape and visual benefits, burial is likely to require a significant wayleave which can lead to the severance of ecological corridors such as any crossing of Ley Lane for example. Therefore proposals for the use of trenchless methods and other mitigation methods are likely to be required when considering the results of surveys identified in paragraph 5. 5.16.
36. With respect to both the gas and electrical connection options, there is particular crossover between the assessment of landscape, visual and ecological effects in the impacts of hedgerows and hedgerow trees. From an ecological perspective it is particularly important that all veteran trees (see EN-1 5.3.14) that may be affected are identified and that *all* hedgerows where bat passes are recorded are identified and recognised as important.
37. Clarification regarding the identified Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) on Progress Industrial Estate (5.5.25) is required. There is no County Wildlife Site (CWS) on the airfield in the CWS register for Mid Suffolk and we therefore need additional information regarding the ecological value of this site before assessing the survey and assessment needs for it.
38. Notwithstanding the comments at paragraph 34 above, we are content that the proposed species surveys for protected and BAP species are reasonable. Mitigation measures will need to be identified for European Protected Species (bats and Great Crested Newts) and for Brown hare.
39. We welcome the intention to undertake a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) Screening Exercise (5.5.35) and suggest that reference to a shadow HRA screening report for PINS is included in the ES.

### **Potential Mitigation Measures**

40. In addition to embedded mitigation (5.5.36), we would welcome early discussion of the potential requirements regarding specific measures to minimise any impacts on protected species.
41. In accordance with EN-1, paragraph 5.3.4, the applicant should seek to take advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity – for example through discussion of opportunities to enhance the local ecological network. Furthermore, offsetting of any residual impacts outside the red line boundary may need to be considered. Defra has produced some Guiding Principles<sup>2</sup> and an accompanying technical paper<sup>3</sup> outlining the relevant metrics.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/biodiversity/offsetting/documents/110714offsetting-guiding-principles.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb13745-bio-technical-paper.pdf>

42. A draft ecological management plan should be provided as part of the application. It will need to be prepared and agreed with the Local Planning Authorities. It may be that measures contained therein will need to be secured via planning obligation, for example to offset any residual ecological impacts.

### **Historic Environment (Archaeology only)**

43. The site of this major development for the construction of a power generation plant, gas connection and electrical connection, is located in an area of archaeological interest recorded in the County Historic Environment Record.

44. It is also located close to the edge of Broome Common (HER no. TDE 016) and there is high potential, therefore, for medieval green-edge settlement remains to be located in this area. There is also high potential for scattered prehistoric settlement remains to be located in this area and, potentially, Roman occupation remains given the proximity to the line of the Roman road (HER no. BRM 011). There is also potential for encountering features relating to the WW2 air field (HER no. EYE 072). Although there are no recorded heritage assets within the proposed development site, the area has not been the subject of previous systematic investigation and recording.

45. Consequently we recommend the following evidence should be provided in the Environmental Statement:

- *Cultural Heritage Desk-based Assessment and Visual Impact Assessment.* The Environmental Statement should also include an assessment of the impact of the development on a range of Cultural Heritage assets including the visual impact on designated heritage assets (Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings). The work should take into account the historic nature of the area and this should include assessment of the County's Historic Landscape Character (HLC). The work should also include a cumulative impact assessment of the Eye Windfarm on the historic environment. We would suggest that the locations identified for the Visual Impact Assessment in the Eye Windfarm applications should provide a good starting point for the current project.
- *Archaeological Evaluation* comprising geophysical survey and trial-trenched excavation across the site of power generation plant and also along the corridors for the gas and electrical connections (once the preferred routes have been identified) to assess the direct impacts on below-ground archaeological deposits (contra paragraph 5.10.23 of the Scoping Report). The trenched evaluation is normally 3.5–5% sample of the development area, depending on the results of the geophysical survey, to assess direct impacts of the proposal. The results of the evaluation must be presented in the application, along with a detailed strategy for further investigation. The results should inform the development to ensure preservation *in situ* of any previously unknown nationally important archaeological remains within the development area.

46. In order to establish the full archaeological implications of this area, the applicant should be required, prior to determination of the application, to provide for an archaeological field evaluation of the site. The results of this work will enable the archaeological resource (both in quality and extent) to be accurately characterised. This is in accordance with paragraphs 128 and 129 of the National Planning Policy Framework. Decisions on the need for, and scope of, any further work should there be any below-ground archaeological finds of significance, will be based upon the results of the evaluation.



47. We would be pleased to offer guidance to the applicant on the archaeological work required and will, on request, prepare a brief for each stage of the work.

### **Traffic, Transport & Access (including Public Rights of Way)**

48. The ES will need to explain and justify assumptions made within the transport assessment of the application. These should be discussed with SCC in advance of the application.

49. The ES will need to provide information on all construction and operational transport. The assumption that the vehicles will mainly be personnel related (5.10.1) seems very unlikely and is not accepted at this point. Information will also be required on vehicles used for materials, delivery and disposal, and construction equipment for all aspects of the construction.

50. A profile of vehicle numbers throughout the construction and for typical operation will be required (5.10.2). There will also need to be information on how delivery and shift times will be managed to avoid peak periods along the delivery/commuting routes.

51. The route for abnormal loads will need to be agreed with SCC Structural Engineering section (5.10.3).

52. Information will need to be provided on the type of vehicle and vehicle movements required for the operational phase (5.10.4), for example related to the tankering of water supplies (see water resources below). Consideration will also then need to be given to the timing of these movements to cause minimal impact on the network. Impact on the local network would also be affected by the introduction of any new access route to the site off the A140.

53. The A140 at this location needs to be considered as a corridor rather than a selection of specific junctions (5.10.5 & 5.10.6). This corridor should cover from a point south of the junction of the A140 with Castleton Way to a point north of the junction of the A140 and B1077. Particular attention needs to be assessing the impacts of additional traffic on safety and evaluating the need for any mitigation measures.

54. Reference is made to a new access off the A140 (5.10.6); it is not clear if this refers to a permanent access to the site or temporary access for the purpose of the electrical connection work.

55. The approach set out at paragraph 5.10.7 should not limit the options for mitigation or demand management considered during the transport assessment process. The extent of residual impact will have to be agreed.

56. The comparison of existing traffic flows should be by vehicle category so that the relative impact of construction related traffic can be assessed (5.10.9). Sufficient traffic data should be obtained to ensure a thorough assessment of transport impacts; the term "if considered necessary" seems to contradict this approach.

57. The ES needs to address the issue of sustainable non motorised access to the site on local roads, in particular the B1077 where there is no dedicated footway to the main site entrance. It should be noted that the impact of the development on all Non-Motorised Users needs to be considered, not just pedestrians (5.10.10). In addition to severance from amenity areas, the assessment also needs to consider NMU's use of the highway network for other uses. Mitigation will be needed to address any significant residual impacts, for example through the upgrade of part of the public footpath

network on the airfield site to bridleway to provide a preferable alternative means of access.

58. The sentence "and predicted traffic associated with the development." should be added to paragraph 5.10.11
59. SCC is the highway authority for this area (5.10.12). The Highways Agency should be consulted on potential impacts on the strategic network where this forms part of the delivery route (when it is confirmed where this is). MSDC should be consulted on their understanding of issues and potential sources of additional traffic from developments in the area. For the non-strategic network, SCC should be consulted directly.
60. The preparation of a travel plan is a key part of assessing potential mitigation and demand management, this needs to form part of this process and not be an add on as suggested by paragraph 5.10.13. The travel plan also needs to be deliverable and enforceable and a draft should be provided with the application. Particular regard should be had to the opportunity to deliver a rail-bus interchange facility at Diss for construction workers, and, more generally to improve connectivity between the site and adjacent employment and residential areas.
61. With respect to possible cumulative impacts, there is a need to take into account the impact along the proposed delivery routes rather than just the impact of associated developments in the immediate area (5.13.1). SCC can advise on this once the delivery routes are clarified.
62. We would expect all the mitigation proposals to be set out in a Code of Construction Practice, a draft of which should be provided with the application. It should include details of traffic routing, provisions for access and a travel plan. Details of a pre-construction condition survey for the highway (including public rights of way) network will need to be provided and provisions set out for the reinstatement of damage.

### **Public Rights of Way**

63. The Scoping Report does not adequately reflect the need to assess the impacts of the development on users of the public rights of way (PRoW) network.
64. The area is well served by such links and they are highly valued by local people. Consequently we would expect the ES to describe the local network, its extent (including the unofficial diversions and permissive paths) and usage. It should then evaluate the potential impact of the development on this network, both directly by construction activity and indirectly by diminishment of amenity value (due to for example visual or noise impacts of the development).
65. Reference should then be made to mitigating this impact and, in line with EN-1 5.10.20, enhancing the network to provide safe, healthy and sustainable access to and from the site both during construction and then ongoing operation, particularly by addressing barriers that may prevent the network being used as much as it might otherwise be. Improvements to access the wider countryside using local PRoW should be considered, including, in particular, safety improvements to the PRoW crossing of the A140 to the immediate west of the site.
66. It is important that any closures/diversions required are properly managed, and supported with an effective communications strategy, with parish, district and county councillors directly informed. Any signage needed should be appropriately placed, but should not become visually intrusive and should be removed in a timely fashion. The

use of interpretation boards in conjunction the signage should be considered to inform the public about the project.

67. All the mitigation proposals should be set out in the Code of Construction Practice, as described above.

### **Water Resources**

68. The Scoping Report does not reflect that the site is located in an extremely water stressed area. Essex and Suffolk Water's draft Water Resource Management Plan states<sup>4</sup> "[T]he Essex and Suffolk supply areas are located within some of the driest areas of the country and as such face particular challenges including a general lack of new intrinsic water resources, growing demand, and uncertainty from climate change".

69. Eye is located within Essex and Suffolk Water's Suffolk Hartismere Water Resource Zone, which historically has been the most affected by drought of all the WRZz (page 252).

70. It is recognised that water companies are under no obligation to supply new industrial users, but there is localised concern over the implications of the water requirements of this project (which are not set out in the Scoping Report, though it is assumed the plant will utilise air cooling (5.6.3)) for existing, particularly agricultural users.

71. Consequently the ES should set out more clearly the water requirements of the plant in operation (but also construction), where it proposes to source water from and in what quantities and how it will make it available on site and also, similarly, how waste water will be disposed of (for example via tankering).

72. The ES should also set out the opportunities for rainwater harvesting or other means or reducing the water resource footprint of the development and why they may have been discounted (5.6.18).

73. Sustainable Drainage Systems (5.6.19) should be deployed to maintain a greenfield runoff rate for the site and designed to be integrated in to a wider network in due course to ensure efficient use of space on the airfield. If well-designed, SUDS can have ancillary environmental benefits, for example through creation of new habitat.

74. The applicant should be aware that Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 is proposed to commence by April 2014. This will require the applicant to obtain drainage approval for any works affecting surface water and is in addition to planning consent. It will be an offence to construct without drainage approval. If, however development consent is granted before this time, then no drainage approval would be required.

### **Noise, Air Quality and Emissions**

75. These issues are principally matters for Mid Suffolk District Council as the relevant authority for environmental health, so we make limited comment.

76. As well as showing a contour map from the noise modelling, a list of the major noise sources (relating to the plant, electricity and gas infrastructure) should also be included in the ES to aid assessment.

77. The construction noise assessment should include reference to noise from construction vehicles accessing the site.

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<sup>4</sup> [http://www.eswater.co.uk/assets/documents/Draft\\_ESW\\_PR14\\_WRMP\\_Report\\_Final\\_for\\_Web.pdf](http://www.eswater.co.uk/assets/documents/Draft_ESW_PR14_WRMP_Report_Final_for_Web.pdf) page

78. Furthermore, the occurrence of any “steam releases” from the gas turbines (if relevant) should also be described in the ES (this is described as a nuisance associated with existing plant on neighbouring land).
79. The air quality assessment will need to consider carbon dioxide emissions in the terms described in EN-1 (5.2.2).

### **Geology, Ground Conditions and Agriculture**

80. The section recognises the potential for sterilisation of agricultural ground in the connection corridors. This also applies of course to the main site and in both locations the quality of the land lost should be described.
81. The ES should clarify the depth of soil that will remain above any buried cables and pipes and so available for agricultural operations. Although it is stated that the pipe depth will be “at least 1.1m” for the gas pipe (3.4.10) (not described for underground cables), it is important to understand the depth of soil that will be available for cultivation and if this will be sufficient to facilitate all normal arable operations such as sub-soiling.
82. If the soil above the cables/pipes is not available for these deeper arable operations, this may impact on arable farming operations (including through land sterilisation), and consequently result in landscape change. The impacts of undergrounding on soil conditions (soil structure and field drainage) more generally should also be considered.
83. As EN-1 notes (5.10.23), where a project has a sterilising effect on land use there may be scope for this to be mitigated through, for example, using or incorporating the land for nature conservation or wildlife corridors or uses ancillary to the development, for example access (vehicular or non-motorised users).

### **Cumulative Impact**

84. Our clear preference is to see the electrical connection consented alongside the main development. If it does not form part of the DCO, sufficient detail must be presented to ensure that an adequate assessment of the cumulative impacts of the power station and the electrical connection can be undertaken. The power station cannot function without the connection, therefore the environmental impact of both elements must be assessed as a whole.
85. The cumulative impact assessment will also need to include all those projects which may interact with any one of the EIA sub-topics. In socio-economic terms in particular, cumulative effects may occur with projects with similar labour market supply chain requirements further afield.
86. For example, both East Anglia ONE and National Grid’s Bramford to Twinstead project construction is programmed for 2016 to 2018. It is acknowledged that the likely demands on the workforce and the supply chain of this project are likely to be less than some of those other infrastructure projects in the region therefore the assessment should be proportionate to the scale of the anticipated impact.
87. Note also the comments at paragraph 61 concerning the spatial extent over which cumulative transport impacts should be considered.
88. SCC is pleased to note that existing developments will be included in the cumulative impact assessment and agrees that those projects identified at 5.13.3 are relevant. It is also important that the existing 400kV overhead line to the west of the site, which the applicant proposes to connect to, is also considered in this context.

I trust the above comments are helpful. If you require any clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Michael Wilks**

Spatial Planning Projects Manager

Economy, Skills and Environment

**Comments on Phase 1 Habitat Survey report**

- A. Criteria for classifying important hedgerows for this development (Appendix C) should follow the best practice identified from work with other NSIPs in the county particularly for Barbastelle bats.
- B. SINCS should be referred to as County Wildlife Sites and all the Ancient Woodlands listed in 3.1.2 and Table 3.1 are also CWS.
- C. Eye is a town not a village (as it has a Town Council) (1.2.1)
- D. The weblink for Suffolk BAP is incorrect (2.1.4 note 6) - it should be [www.suffolkbiodiversity.org](http://www.suffolkbiodiversity.org)
- E. Typographic error in Table 3.1 – it should read Roydon Fen
- F. Mellis Common is a Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT) reserve NOT Braiseworth Wood/Steggall's Wood (3.1.3 and Table 3.2)
- G. The Phase 1 habitat survey for the electrical connections is awaited
- H. For clarity, at 4.3.16 after "...although no records of GCN or reptiles." 'within 1 km of PGP and GCRCs' should be inserted.
- I. Appendix D, Target Note 12; roosting bats do not need a tree with a large branch or trunk so it may be necessary to revisit some assumptions about tree roost potential in this plantation.

## **JOINT CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

from

**YAXLEY PARISH COUNCIL and THRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL**

dated 13 June 2013

Planning Inspectorate reference: 130517\_EN010060\_1802507

Referring to a **SCOPING REPORT** submitted by **PROGRESS POWER LIMITED** and relating to  
**A PROPOSED GAS-FIRED POWER STATION ON EYE AIRFIELD, SUFFOLK**

### **1. Areas of assessments**

The area intended to be covered by some of the assessments is not large enough to give a comprehensive picture of the impact that a development of this magnitude might have on the surrounding environment.

The area covered by assessments relating to Noise & Vibration should have a minimum radius of 2 kilometres; for Air Quality, Ecology, Water Resources a minimum radius of 5 kilometres; and for Landscape & Visual Impact and Cultural Heritage & Archaeology a minimum radius of 6 kilometres.

### **2. Air Quality**

Assessments should quantify the likely impact on growing crops, open water and its wildlife, herbivorous wildlife and insects, especially pollinators. Yaxley Allotment is very close to the development and its users will expect any reassurances to be backed by reliable evidence.

Although the vulnerability of the local area needs to be assessed, will the surveys yield information on the wider dispersal by the prevailing winds, for example south-westerlies blowing along the Waveney Valley carrying emissions towards the coast?

Consideration should be given to assessing the particular impact on ecologically sensitive areas, including The Marsh at Thrandeston and all other land in the area that is managed under stewardship agreements with Natural England.

The emissions should be evaluated in the context of the area's committed carbon reduction target.

### **3. Noise and Vibration**

The noise monitoring position identified in the scoping report on Old Norwich Road, Yaxley is inappropriate because it lies behind a high earth bund that screens sound from the east. A position at a property further south along the road towards the centre of the village would be more representative.

### **4. Water Resources**

In its description of watercourses in the area, the scoping report fails to mention several relatively minor ones to the west that feed into Stuston Beck and Thrandeston Beck. Any impact from the development on these watercourses should be assessed.

Some surface water drainage from the proposed site runs westwards under the A140 and eventually feeds into a watercourse west of the Yaxley Allotment. There is a risk of flooding the field at times of high run-off. The capacity of this system to take any more water should be investigated.

### **5. Landscape and Visual Impact**

More viewpoints for photomontages are needed, some from much greater distances than those shown on the plan that Progress Power made available to the relevant parish councils.

Views from all the nearby conservation areas of Mellis, Thrandeston, Eye, Palgrave and

Hoxne should be included.

The viewpoint in Yaxley should be from Dukes Bridge. The viewpoint in Thrandeston should not be at the church but from a point between the pond in Little Green and the telephone box.

Viewpoints from important listed buildings especially those nearest to the site such as Goswold Hall and Maltings Farm are also necessary, as are some from various high points some distance away. Local knowledge could inform the selection of viewpoints when the time comes.

It is important that visual impact should be assessed in that half of the year when much of the screening value of foliage is lost. All photomontages should therefore use photographs taken in the winter months to meet the 'worst case scenario' requirement.

It is hoped that the design of the plant shown in any photomontages will reflect the design expectations in the Eye Airfield Development Framework and achieve a 'smoothed' profile by using different heights in the elements that make up the development.

Descriptions and visualisation of landscaping mitigation measures should be requested, possibly by including it in some of the photomontages.

Depending on the location of the electricity substation it may be necessary to extend the visual impact assessment area further west.

## **6. Traffic, Transport and Access**

A full assessment is needed of the almost inevitably increased accident risk at the staggered crossroads on the A140 where Castleton Way runs eastwards to Eye and Eye Road runs westwards into Yaxley. An increase in traffic volume, which is likely to be significant during the three-year construction phase, will put an added load onto this already hazardous junction. It will be necessary to assess not just the extent of the increased traffic but also to give a breakdown of the direction from which it approaches the junction. Vehicles arriving from the south will generate a greater accident risk than those from the north. Mitigation measures should be devised.

In paragraph 5.10.5 on page 115 of the scoping report it mentions that the vehicular access to the site will be 'via the A140, entering the site from the south via Castleton Lane [sic] and Potash Lane'. Potash Lane is on the eastern side of the airfield and is accessible only via the B1077. There is presently no vehicular route within the airfield from the end of Potash Lane to the proposed site. If there is any intention of opening an access route here to enable a route through from the B1077 to the site, further assessment and mitigation will be necessary at the junction of the B1077 and the A140, which is probably even more hazardous than the one further south.

## **7. Cultural Heritage and Archaeology**

The area is rich in built heritage and the settings of many will no doubt be compromised by this proposed development. The economy of north Suffolk relies heavily on tourism and the extent to which this is likely to be impacted should be investigated and quantified.

## **8. Miscellaneous**

Some risk assessment is required to determine whether the cumulative impact resulting from a concentration of high profile energy-producing developments, one being of strategic national importance, presents a greater risk of a major accident or might be seen as an attractive target for a terrorist attack. By way of mitigation, appropriate security measures should be proposed.

There is no mention in the scoping report of the assessment of a potential increase in light pollution. This should be addressed and mitigation measures should be proposed.





## **APPENDIX 3**

# **Presentation of the Environmental Statement**



## APPENDIX 3

### PRESENTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 (SI 2264) (as amended) sets out the information which must be provided for an application for a development consent order (DCO) for nationally significant infrastructure under the Planning Act 2008. Where required, this includes an environmental statement. Applicants may also provide any other documents considered necessary to support the application. Information which is not environmental information need not be replicated or included in the ES.

An environmental statement (ES) is described under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 (SI 2263) (as amended) (the EIA Regulations) as a statement:

- a) 'that includes such of the information referred to in Part 1 of Schedule 4 as is reasonably required to assess the environmental effects of the development and of any associated development and which the applicant can, having regard in particular to current knowledge and methods of assessment, reasonably be required to compile; but
- b) that includes at least the information required in Part 2 of Schedule 4'.

*(EIA Regulations Regulation 2)*

The purpose of an ES is to ensure that the environmental effects of a proposed development are fully considered, together with the economic or social benefits of the development, before the development consent application under the Planning Act 2008 is determined. The ES should be an aid to decision making.

The SoS advises that the ES should be laid out clearly with a minimum amount of technical terms and should provide a clear objective and realistic description of the likely significant impacts of the proposed development. The information should be presented so as to be comprehensible to the specialist and non-specialist alike. The SoS recommends that the ES be concise with technical information placed in appendices.

#### ES Indicative Contents

The SoS emphasises that the ES should be a 'stand alone' document in line with best practice and case law. The EIA Regulations Schedule 4, Parts 1 and 2, set out the information for inclusion in environmental statements.

Schedule 4 Part 1 of the EIA Regulations states this information includes:

- '17. *Description of the development, including in particular—*

- (a) *a description of the physical characteristics of the whole development and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases;*
  - (b) *a description of the main characteristics of the production processes, for instance, nature and quantity of the materials used;*
  - (c) *an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation, etc) resulting from the operation of the proposed development.*
18. *An outline of the main alternatives studied by the applicant and an indication of the main reasons for the applicant's choice, taking into account the environmental effects.*
19. *A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development, including, in particular, population, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.*
20. *A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment, which should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development, resulting from:*
- (a) *the existence of the development;*
  - (b) *the use of natural resources;*
  - (c) *the emission of pollutants, the creation of nuisances and the elimination of waste,*
- and the description by the applicant of the forecasting methods used to assess the effects on the environment.*
21. *A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment.*
22. *A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 5 of this Part.*
23. *An indication of any difficulties (technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered by the applicant in compiling the required information'.*

*EIA Regulations Schedule 4 Part 1*

- 4.18 The content of the ES must include as a minimum those matters set out in Schedule 4 Part 2 of the EIA Regulations. This includes the consideration of 'the main alternatives studied by the applicant' which the SoS recommends could be addressed as a separate chapter in the ES. Part 2 is included below for reference:

#### 4.19 Schedule 4 Part 2

- A description of the development comprising information on the site, design and size of the development
- A description of the measures envisaged in order to avoid, reduce and, if possible, remedy significant adverse effects
- The data required to identify and assess the main effects which the development is likely to have on the environment
- An outline of the main alternatives studied by the applicant and an indication of the main reasons for the applicant's choice, taking into account the environmental effects, and
- A non-technical summary of the information provided *[under the four paragraphs above]*.

Traffic and transport is not specified as a topic for assessment under Schedule 4; although in line with good practice the SoS considers it is an important consideration *per se*, as well as being the source of further impacts in terms of air quality and noise and vibration.

### Balance

The SoS recommends that the ES should be balanced, with matters which give rise to a greater number or more significant impacts being given greater prominence. Where few or no impacts are identified, the technical section may be much shorter, with greater use of information in appendices as appropriate.

The SoS considers that the ES should not be a series of disparate reports and stresses the importance of considering inter-relationships between factors and cumulative impacts.

### Scheme Proposals

The scheme parameters will need to be clearly defined in the draft DCO and therefore in the accompanying ES which should support the application as described. The SoS is not able to entertain material changes to a project once an application is submitted. The SoS draws the attention of the applicant to the DCLG and the Planning Inspectorate's published advice on the preparation of a draft DCO and accompanying application documents.

### Flexibility

The SoS acknowledges that the EIA process is iterative, and therefore the proposals may change and evolve. For example, there may be changes to the scheme design in response to consultation. Such changes should be addressed in the ES. However, at the time of the application for a DCO, any proposed scheme parameters should not be so wide ranging as to represent effectively different schemes.

It is a matter for the applicant, in preparing an ES, to consider whether it is possible to assess robustly a range of impacts resulting from a large number of undecided parameters. The description of the proposed development in the ES must not be so wide that it is insufficiently certain to comply with requirements of paragraph 17 of Schedule 4 Part 1 of the EIA Regulations.

The Rochdale Envelope principle (see *R v Rochdale MBC ex parte Tew (1999)* and *R v Rochdale MBC ex parte Milne (2000)*) is an accepted way of dealing with uncertainty in preparing development applications. The applicant's attention is drawn to the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 9 'Rochdale Envelope' which is available on the Advice Note's page of the National Infrastructure Planning website.

The applicant should make every attempt to narrow the range of options and explain clearly in the ES which elements of the scheme have yet to be finalised and provide the reasons. Where some flexibility is sought and the precise details are not known, the applicant should assess the maximum potential adverse impacts the project could have to ensure that the project as it may be constructed has been properly assessed.

The ES should be able to confirm that any changes to the development within any proposed parameters would not result in significant impacts not previously identified and assessed. The maximum and other dimensions of the proposed development should be clearly described in the ES, with appropriate justification. It will also be important to consider choice of materials, colour and the form of the structures and of any buildings. Lighting proposals should also be described.

## Scope

The SoS recommends that the physical scope of the study areas should be identified under all the environmental topics and should be sufficiently robust in order to undertake the assessment. The extent of the study areas should be on the basis of recognised professional guidance, whenever such guidance is available. The study areas should also be agreed with the relevant consultees and local authorities and, where this is not possible, this should be stated clearly in the ES and a reasoned justification given. The scope should also cover the breadth of the topic area and the temporal scope, and these aspects should be described and justified.

### *Physical Scope*

In general the SoS recommends that the physical scope for the EIA should be determined in the light of:

- the nature of the proposal being considered
- the relevance in terms of the specialist topic

- the breadth of the topic
- the physical extent of any surveys or the study area, and
- the potential significant impacts.

The SoS recommends that the physical scope of the study areas should be identified for each of the environmental topics and should be sufficiently robust in order to undertake the assessment. This should include at least the whole of the application site, and include all offsite works. For certain topics, such as landscape and transport, the study area will need to be wider. The extent of the study areas should be on the basis of recognised professional guidance and best practice, whenever this is available, and determined by establishing the physical extent of the likely impacts. The study areas should also be agreed with the relevant consultees and, where this is not possible, this should be stated clearly in the ES and a reasoned justification given.

#### *Breadth of the Topic Area*

The ES should explain the range of matters to be considered under each topic and this may respond partly to the type of project being considered. If the range considered is drawn narrowly then a justification for the approach should be provided.

#### *Temporal Scope*

The assessment should consider:

- environmental impacts during construction works
- environmental impacts on completion/operation of the development
- where appropriate, environmental impacts a suitable number of years after completion of the development (for example, in order to allow for traffic growth or maturing of any landscape proposals), and
- environmental impacts during decommissioning.

In terms of decommissioning, the SoS acknowledges that the further into the future any assessment is made, the less reliance may be placed on the outcome. However, the purpose of such a long term assessment, as well as to enable the decommissioning of the works to be taken into account, is to encourage early consideration as to how structures can be taken down. The purpose of this is to seek to minimise disruption, to re-use materials and to restore the site or put it to a suitable new use. The SoS encourages consideration of such matters in the ES.

The SoS recommends that these matters should be set out clearly in the ES and that the suitable time period for the assessment should be agreed with the relevant statutory consultees.

The SoS recommends that throughout the ES a standard terminology for time periods should be defined, such that for example, 'short term' always refers to the same period of time.

## Baseline

The SoS recommends that the baseline should describe the position from which the impacts of the proposed development are measured. The baseline should be chosen carefully and, whenever possible, be consistent between topics. The identification of a single baseline is to be welcomed in terms of the approach to the assessment, although it is recognised that this may not always be possible.

The SoS recommends that the baseline environment should be clearly explained in the ES, including any dates of surveys, and care should be taken to ensure that all the baseline data remains relevant and up to date.

For each of the environmental topics, the data source(s) for the baseline should be set out together with any survey work undertaken with the dates. The timing and scope of all surveys should be agreed with the relevant statutory bodies and appropriate consultees, wherever possible.

The baseline situation and the proposed development should be described within the context of the site and any other proposals in the vicinity.

## Identification of Impacts and Method Statement

### *Legislation and Guidelines*

In terms of the EIA methodology, the SoS recommends that reference should be made to best practice and any standards, guidelines and legislation that have been used to inform the assessment. This should include guidelines prepared by relevant professional bodies.

In terms of other regulatory regimes, the SoS recommends that relevant legislation and all permit and licences required should be listed in the ES where relevant to each topic. This information should also be submitted with the application in accordance with the APFP Regulations.

In terms of assessing the impacts, the ES should approach all relevant planning and environmental policy – local, regional and national (and where appropriate international) – in a consistent manner.

### *Assessment of Effects and Impact Significance*

The EIA Regulations require the identification of the 'likely significant effects of the development on the environment' (Schedule 4 Part 1 paragraph 20).

As a matter of principle, the SoS applies the precautionary approach to follow the Court's<sup>2</sup> reasoning in judging 'significant effects'. In other words

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<sup>2</sup> See Landelijke Vereniging tot Behoud van de Waddenzee and Nederlandse Vereniging tot Bescherming van Vogels v Staatssecretaris van Landbouw (Waddenzee Case No C 127/02/2004)



'likely to affect' will be taken as meaning that there is a probability or risk that the development will have an effect, and not that a development will definitely have an effect.

The SoS considers it is imperative for the ES to define the meaning of 'significant' in the context of each of the specialist topics and for significant impacts to be clearly identified. The SoS recommends that the criteria should be set out fully and that the ES should set out clearly the interpretation of 'significant' in terms of each of the EIA topics. Quantitative criteria should be used where available. The SoS considers that this should also apply to the consideration of cumulative impacts and impact inter-relationships.

The SoS recognises that the way in which each element of the environment may be affected by the proposed development can be approached in a number of ways. However it considers that it would be helpful, in terms of ease of understanding and in terms of clarity of presentation, to consider the impact assessment in a similar manner for each of the specialist topic areas. The SoS recommends that a common format should be applied where possible.

#### *Inter-relationships between environmental factors*

The inter-relationship between aspects of the environments likely to be significantly affected is a requirement of the EIA Regulations (see Schedule 4 Part 1 of the EIA Regulations). These occur where a number of separate impacts, e.g. noise and air quality, affect a single receptor such as fauna.

The SoS considers that the inter-relationships between factors must be assessed in order to address the environmental impacts of the proposal as a whole. This will help to ensure that the ES is not a series of separate reports collated into one document, but rather a comprehensive assessment drawing together the environmental impacts of the proposed development. This is particularly important when considering impacts in terms of any permutations or parameters to the proposed development.

#### *Cumulative Impacts*

The potential cumulative impacts with other major developments will need to be identified, as required by the Directive. The significance of such impacts should be shown to have been assessed against the baseline position (which would include built and operational development). In assessing cumulative impacts, other major development should be identified through consultation with the local planning authorities and other relevant authorities on the basis of those that are:

- under construction
  - permitted application(s), but not yet implemented
  - submitted application(s) not yet determined
  - projects on the National Infrastructure's programme of projects
-

- identified in the relevant development plan (and emerging development plans - with appropriate weight being given as they move closer to adoption) recognising that much information on any relevant proposals will be limited, and
- identified in other plans and programmes (as appropriate) which set the framework for future development consents/approvals, where such development is reasonably likely to come forward.

Details should be provided in the ES, including the types of development, location and key aspects that may affect the EIA and how these have been taken into account as part of the assessment.

The SoS recommends that offshore wind farms should also take account of any offshore licensed and consented activities in the area, for the purposes of assessing cumulative effects, through consultation with the relevant licensing/consenting bodies.

For the purposes of identifying any cumulative effects with other developments in the area, applicants should also consult consenting bodies in other EU states to assist in identifying those developments (see commentary on Transboundary Effects below).

#### *Related Development*

The ES should give equal prominence to any development which is related with the proposed development to ensure that all the impacts of the proposal are assessed.

The SoS recommends that the applicant should distinguish between development for which development consent will be sought and any other development. This distinction should be clear in the ES.

#### *Alternatives*

The ES must set out an outline of the main alternatives studied by the applicant and provide an indication of the main reasons for the applicant's choice, taking account of the environmental effect (Schedule 4 Part 1 paragraph 18).

Matters should be included, such as *inter alia* alternative design options and alternative mitigation measures. The justification for the final choice and evolution of the scheme development should be made clear. Where other sites have been considered, the reasons for the final choice should be addressed.

The SoS advises that the ES should give sufficient attention to the alternative forms and locations for the off-site proposals, where appropriate, and justify the needs and choices made in terms of the form of the development proposed and the sites chosen.

### *Mitigation Measures*

Mitigation measures may fall into certain categories namely: avoid; reduce; compensate or enhance (see Schedule 4 Part 1 paragraph 21); and should be identified as such in the specialist topics. Mitigation measures should not be developed in isolation as they may relate to more than one topic area. For each topic, the ES should set out any mitigation measures required to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects, and to identify any residual effects with mitigation in place. Any proposed mitigation should be discussed and agreed with the relevant consultees.

The effectiveness of mitigation should be apparent. Only mitigation measures which are a firm commitment and can be shown to be deliverable should be taken into account as part of the assessment.

It would be helpful if the mitigation measures proposed could be cross referred to specific provisions and/or requirements proposed within the draft development consent order. This could be achieved by means of describing the mitigation measures proposed either in each of the specialist reports or collating these within a summary section on mitigation.

The SoS advises that it is considered best practice to outline in the ES, the structure of the environmental management and monitoring plan and safety procedures which will be adopted during construction and operation and may be adopted during decommissioning.

### *Cross References and Interactions*

The SoS recommends that all the specialist topics in the ES should cross reference their text to other relevant disciplines. Interactions between the specialist topics is essential to the production of a robust assessment, as the ES should not be a collection of separate specialist topics, but a comprehensive assessment of the environmental impacts of the proposal and how these impacts can be mitigated.

As set out in EIA Regulations Schedule 4 Part 1 paragraph 23, the ES should include an indication of any technical difficulties (technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered by the applicant in compiling the required information.

### *Consultation*

The SoS recommends that any changes to the scheme design in response to consultation should be addressed in the ES.

It is recommended that the applicant provides preliminary environmental information (PEI) (this term is defined in the EIA Regulations under regulation 2 'Interpretation') to the local authorities.

Consultation with the local community should be carried out in accordance with the SoCC which will state how the applicant intends to consult on the

preliminary environmental information (PEI). This PEI could include results of detailed surveys and recommended mitigation actions. Where effective consultation is carried out in accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act, this could usefully assist the applicant in the EIA process – for example the local community may be able to identify possible mitigation measures to address the impacts identified in the PEI. Attention is drawn to the duty upon applicants under Section 50 of the Planning Act to have regard to the guidance on pre-application consultation.

## Transboundary Effects

The SoS recommends that consideration should be given in the ES to any likely significant effects on the environment of another Member State of the European Economic Area. In particular, the SoS recommends consideration should be given to discharges to the air and water and to potential impacts on migratory species and to impacts on shipping and fishing areas.

The Applicant's attention is also drawn to the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 12 'Development with significant transboundary impacts consultation' which is available on the Advice Notes Page of the National Infrastructure Planning website

## Summary Tables

The SoS recommends that in order to assist the decision making process, the applicant may wish to consider the use of tables:

**Table X** to identify and collate the residual impacts after mitigation on the basis of specialist topics, inter-relationships and cumulative impacts.

**Table XX** to demonstrate how the assessment has taken account of this Opinion and other responses to consultation.

**Table XXX** to set out the mitigation measures proposed, as well as assisting the reader, the SoS considers that this would also enable the applicant to cross refer mitigation to specific provisions proposed to be included within the draft Development Consent Order.

**Table XXXX** to cross reference where details in the HRA (where one is provided) such as descriptions of sites and their locations, together with any mitigation or compensation measures, are to be found in the ES.

## Terminology and Glossary of Technical Terms

The SoS recommends that a common terminology should be adopted. This will help to ensure consistency and ease of understanding for the decision making process. For example, 'the site' should be defined and used only in

terms of this definition so as to avoid confusion with, for example, the wider site area or the surrounding site.

A glossary of technical terms should be included in the ES.

## Presentation

The ES should have all of its paragraphs numbered, as this makes referencing easier as well as accurate.

Appendices must be clearly referenced, again with all paragraphs numbered.

All figures and drawings, photographs and photomontages should be clearly referenced. Figures should clearly show the proposed site application boundary.

## Bibliography

A bibliography should be included in the ES. The author, date and publication title should be included for all references. All publications referred to within the technical reports should be included.

## Non Technical Summary

The EIA Regulations require a Non Technical Summary (EIA Regulations Schedule 4 Part 1 paragraph 22). This should be a summary of the assessment in simple language. It should be supported by appropriate figures, photographs and photomontages.