

White Rose Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Project

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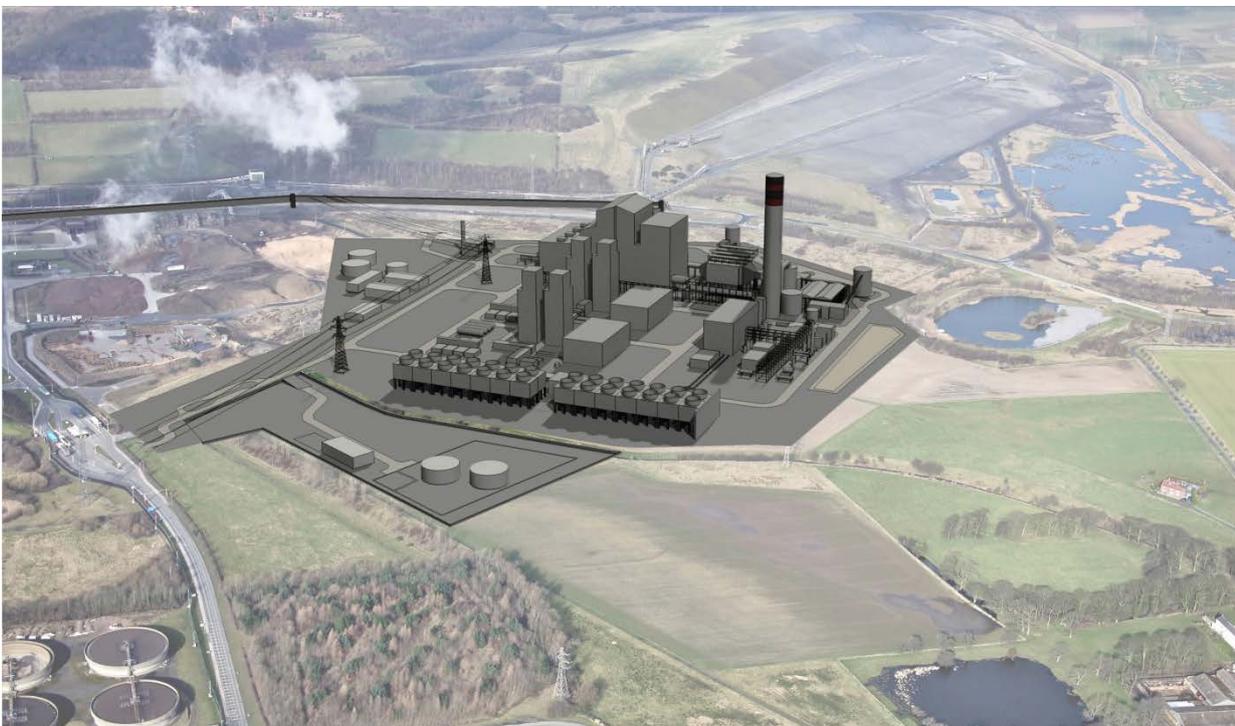
The White Rose CCS (Generating Station) Order

Land adjacent to and within the Drax Power Station, Drax, near Selby, North Yorkshire

Applicant's Statement of Common Ground with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust - **DRAFT**

The Planning Act 2008

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 - Regulation 5(2)(q)



Applicant: Capture Power Limited
Date: June 2015

Document History

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1	20.05.15	First draft for discussion.	GB
2	10.06.15	Updated to incorporate YWT comments.	GB

Glossary

CO ₂	Carbon dioxide.
CPL	Capture Power Limited.
DCO	Development Consent Order.
ES	Environmental Statement.
NE	Natural England
NEYEDC	North and East Yorkshire Ecology Data Centre.
NGCL	National Grid Carbon Ltd.
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
WRCCS	White Rose Carbon Capture and Storage.
YWT	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW

- 1.1 This is the Statement of Common Ground ('SoCG') between Capture Power Limited (the 'Applicant') and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust ('YWT') relating to the application (the 'Application') that has been made to the Secretary of State ('SoS') for a Development Consent Order ('DCO') under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (the '2008 Act').
- 1.2 The Application seeks development consent for the construction, operation and maintenance of the White Rose Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) project (the 'Project'). The Application was submitted in November 2014 and accepted for Examination on 17 December 2014.
- 1.3 The Project would be located on land within and adjacent to the operational boundary of the existing Drax Power Station site (the 'Power Station site'), near Selby, North Yorkshire.

THE BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

- 1.4 The Project comprises a new thermal generating station (an ultra-supercritical oxy-fuel coal-fired power plant of up to 448 MWe gross with the ability to co-fire biomass) that will be fitted with carbon capture and storage ('CCS') technology and associated development.
- 1.5 The CCS technology would capture up 90% of the carbon dioxide emissions from the new power plant. The carbon dioxide would be transported via the National Grid Carbon Limited Yorkshire and Humber CO₂ Pipeline (a separate project) for permanent storage beneath the North Sea.
- 1.6 The Project forms part of the UK Government's CCS Commercialisation Programme and would assist in demonstrating new coal-fired power plant fitted with CCS at a commercial scale. The Project would make an important contribution toward the delivery of national energy policy, which is aimed at ensuring the security of energy supplies while moving toward a low carbon electricity generation mix.

THE APPLICANT

- 1.7 The Applicant, CPL, is an English private limited company that was incorporated in December 2011 as a fully owned subsidiary of Drax CCS Limited (a company fully owned by Drax Group plc) to promote the Project.
- 1.8 In December 2013 ALSTOM UK Holdings Limited (an Alstom Group company) and The BOC Group Limited (a Linde Group company) each acquired a one-third interest in CPL. The Applicant (CPL) is therefore currently a joint venture company equally owned by Drax CCS Limited, ALSTOM UK Holdings Limited and The BOC Group Limited.

THE YORKSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

- 1.9 The YWT is an independent charity working to protect and conserve Yorkshire's wild places and wildlife. The YWT has responsibility for over 96 nature reserves across Yorkshire and is part of the Wildlife Trust movement.
- 1.10 The YWT provides advice to local authorities on biodiversity and nature conservation matters within Yorkshire. It has registered as an Interested Party in respect of the Project and has submitted a Relevant Representation to the SoS on the Application.

THE PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF THE SOCG

- 1.11 The purpose of this SoCG is to set out the agreement that has been reached between the Applicant and the YWT in respect of biodiversity and nature conservation considerations relating to the Project. It covers the matters that have been raised by the YWT in its Relevant Representation.
- 1.12 The SoCG also sets out any matters that are not agreed.

2.0 MATTERS AGREED

SURVEY DATA

- 2.1 It is agreed between the parties that the survey data contained within the ES represents a robust baseline for the assessment of effects upon ecology.
- 2.2 The YWT's Relevant Representation in respect of the Project raises the issue of the availability of survey data and in particular the provision of the following data referred to in the Environmental Statement ('ES') Volume 1 (Document Ref. 6.2) and ES Volume 2, Chapter I Ecology Technical Report and Ecology Technical Report Annexes 1-11 (Documents 63.13 and 6.3.14):
- North and East Yorkshire Ecology Data Centre ('NEYEDC') records search.
 - Whitcher Wildlife Limited protected species survey reports.
- 2.3 The Applicant advised the YWT that the above surveys had not included within the Annex to the ES as the results of these surveys had been reported in detail within ES Volume 1 and ES Volume 2, Chapter I Ecology Technical Report. It was agreed that the Applicant could provide the YWT with the above the NEYEDC and Whitcher survey reports if required. In addition to drawing upon the above survey data, the assessment of effects upon ecology within the ES has incorporated the findings of the Lytag and Ouse Renewable Energy Projects at and adjacent to the Project site, both of which required EIA.
- 2.4 Ecological surveys for the Project commenced in 2011 and involved a number of different consultancies, over the period 2011 to May 2015. Some surveys built on the original Whitcher surveys to aid in a comprehensive understanding of the site over time.

WATER BODIES

- 2.5 It is agreed that the existing waterbodies within the Project site consist primarily of a pond that is heavily encroached by reed and in a process of succession to willow carr; the heavily engineered and managed Carr Dyke; and an area of open water of variable extent resulting from and subject to use by heavy machinery. It is agreed that these water bodies, including that encroached by reed and willow carr, do make a contribution to the biodiversity interest and value of the Project site
- 2.6 A flood attenuation pond would be constructed as part of the Project. It is agreed that this pond could, subject to appropriate design and management, make some contribution to mitigating the reduction in wetland area within the Project site.

BADGERS

- 2.7 It is agreed that Natural England ('NE') is the responsible body in respect of the application for a Badger Licence at the Project site. The Applicant has agreed further badger survey work with NE, which has recently been completed (bait marking surveys were undertaken in April/May 2015). The Applicant is using this information to inform a finalised Badger License application, which it is envisaged will be submitted to NE later in June 2015.

REPTILES

- 2.8 It is agreed that the survey data identifying a relatively high density of grass snake related to an area surveyed in connection with the Lytag Project, the site of which lies outside the Project site. Furthermore, it is agreed that neither the NEYEDC data nor the reptile surveys carried out for the Project indicate anything other than a small population of grass snake at the Project site. Despite the small recorded population of grass snake, it is agreed that as grass snake is a mobile species, it is appropriate to mitigate the loss of habitat

MITIGATION

- 2.9 It is agreed that with appropriate design the flood attenuation pond could make a contribution to mitigating biodiversity impacts but that additional mitigation will also be required for wetland losses.

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- 2.10 It is agreed that the Applicant has provided an appropriate level of detail to the YWT with regard to the habitat losses and gains that would result from the Project in order to inform biodiversity offsetting.
- 2.11 It is agreed that the Project would provide for on-site habitat mitigation, including some mitigation of the reduction in wetland habitat through the provision of the flood attenuation pond, but that this would not fully offset the loss of habitat at the Project site. The Applicant is currently working with the YWT to further develop the Indicative Landscaping and Biodiversity Framework Plan submitted as part of the DCO Application (Document Ref. 4.10) to maximise the contribution that the proposed on-site mitigation can make to biodiversity value and interest.
- 2.12 The principal of providing further habitat mitigation off-site is agreed. It is also agreed that the priority for such mitigation would be the improvement and or provision of wetland habitat.
- 2.13 The Applicant, YWT and the Environment Agency have agreed to work together to identify options for further mitigation with the objective of reaching agreement on a preferred option and an appropriate mechanism to secure this before the close of the DCO Examination. Discussions are currently on-going.

BIODIVERSITY MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

- 2.14 It is agreed that requirement 16 'Biodiversity mitigation and management plan' would provide an appropriate mechanism by which to secure the on-site (within the Project site) biodiversity mitigation identified within the ES in addition to the on-going management of on-site habitat.
- 2.15 The parties are in discussion with regard to an appropriate mechanism by which to secure the agreed off-site mitigation. It is envisaged that this mechanism would take the form of a Section 106 agreement.

3.0 MATTERS NOT AGREED

3.1 The following matters are yet to be agreed

- The preferred option(s) for off-site habitat mitigation.

Signed

Print name and position

On behalf of YWT

Date

Signed

Print name and position

On behalf of the Capture Power Ltd

Date