

# The Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order

Land at, and in the vicinity of, Drax Power Station, near Selby, North Yorkshire

Consultation Report

Appendix 28 - News Stories Promoting the Consultation



The Planning Act 2008 – Section 37(3)(c)  
The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure)  
Regulations 2009 – Regulation 5(2)(q)

## **Drax Power Limited**

Drax Repower Project

Applicant: DRAX POWER LIMITED  
Date: May 2018  
Document Ref: 5.1.28  
PINS Ref: EN010091

## Contents

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|   |    |
|---|----|
| Selby Times (26 October 2017)             | 1  |
| Goole Times (11 January 2018)             | 2  |
| Selby Times & Post (18 January 2018)      | 3  |
| The Daily Telegraph (18 January.2018)     | 4  |
| Grimsby Telegraph (12 January 2018)       | 5  |
| The Press (24 January 2018)               | 6  |
| The Independent (28 January.2018)         | 7  |
| Utility Week (12 January 2018)            | 8  |
| Yorkshire Press (10 January 2018)         | 9  |
| Headlines Today (18 January 2018)         | 11 |
| NewDump.co.uk (10 January 2018)           | 12 |
| Humber business.com (11 January 2018)     | 13 |
| TheBuisnessDesk.com (11 January 2018)     | 15 |
| Insider Media Limited (11 January 2018)   | 16 |
| 4-Traders (11 January 2018)               | 17 |
| Electrify Europe (12 January 2018)        | 20 |
| The Business Desk.com (22 January 2018)   | 21 |
| The York Press (24 January 2018)          | 22 |
| KCFM (24 January 2018)                    | 24 |
| The Guardian (29 January 2018)            | 25 |
| ExecReview (29 January 2018)              | 28 |
| Goole Times (11 January 2018)             | 31 |
| Selby Times & Post (11 January 2018)      | 32 |
| TheBusiness Desk (22 January 2018)        | 33 |
| Goole Times (25 January 2018)             | 34 |
| The York Press (24 January 2018)          | 35 |
| The Press (14 February 2018)              | 37 |
| The York Press (14 February 2018)         | 39 |
| The York Press (14 February 2018)         | 40 |
| Selby District Council (13 February 2018) | 41 |
| Minister FM (13 February 2018)            | 44 |
| 4-traders (13 February 2018)              | 46 |
| HumberBuisness.com (13 February 2018)     | 48 |

---

|   |    |
|---|----|
| TheBuisnessDesk.com (13 February 2018)  | 50 |
| Business Link (14 February 2018)        | 51 |
| Selby Times & Post (25 January 2018)    | 53 |
| Goole Times (25 January 2018)           | 54 |
| Selby Times & Post (25 January.2018)    | 55 |
| The Business Desk.com (23 January 2018) | 56 |
| The Business Desk.com (23 January 2018) | 57 |

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Selby Times (26 October 2017)

# Selby Times

TODAY'S EDITION OF YOUR FAVOURITE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER IS INSIDE >>>>

Thursday, October 26th, 2017 Issue 7689



60p

## CONSULTATION BEGINS ON REPOWER PROJECT

### Drax Repower: chance to give views on gas and battery project

People can find out more about Drax Power Station's plans to upgrade up to two of its coal-fired electricity generating units to gas at events taking place next month.

Drax gave notice to the Planning Inspectorate in September about its intention to consult on the proposals, which are part of its strategy to play a vital role in changing the way energy is generated as the UK moves to a low carbon future.

The ongoing research and development project is exploring options including up to 3.0 gigawatts (GW) of new gas generation capacity and 200MW of battery storage in line with government plans to phase out coal by 2025.

The power station near Selby is already the UK's largest single site renewable power generator having converted three coal generating units to use sustainable wood pellets. More than two thirds of the power produced is now renewable, providing 17% of the UK's renewable electricity - enough for four million homes.

The upgrades would enhance Drax Power Station's flexible and responsive capability, and make Yorkshire the home of large scale battery technology.

Anby Koss, CEO of Drax Power, said: "We have always supported and worked with our local communities and want to ensure they have a role in shaping our thinking for the future. Drax Power Station is a national asset and a significant driver of economic growth in the North of England.



"These options could repurpose up to two of our coal assets and extend their operation into the 2030s, securing the future of the plant beyond 2025 when the government says coal must come off the system."

"We are undertaking a comprehensive programme of consultation over the coming months to share our ideas with the public and listen to their views."

Public consultation events will give people the opportunity to find out more about the plans. Events will take place at:

**Wednesday 8 November, 4pm-8pm**  
Selby Town Hall, York St, Selby YO8 4AJ

**Thursday 9 November, 11am-4.30pm**  
Drax Sports and Social Club, The Blue Room, Main Rd, Drax, Selby YO8 8EJ

**Saturday 11 November, 10.30am-5.30pm**  
Junction, Paradise Place, Goole DN14 5DL

The options for repowering to gas and building battery storage complement Drax's ongoing work to explore options for further generation from sustainable biomass.

Mr Koss added: "This is the start of the planning process but if developed these options for gas and battery storage show how we could upgrade our existing infrastructure to provide capacity, stability and essential grid services, as

we do with biomass.

"This would continue to keep costs low for consumers and help to deliver the government's commitment to remove coal from the UK grid."

The project includes the following elements:

- Up to 3.0 gigawatts (GW) of new gas generation capacity and up to 200MW of battery storage. The capacity of the coal units being replaced is 1.3GW.

- The gas generation plant will include up to four new combined cycle gas turbines (CCGTs).

- A new gas pipeline connection to the National Gas Transmission System and an electrical connection into Drax's existing substation to allow electricity to be exported to the National Grid.

- A temporary crane positioned next to the existing 447m on the River Ouse and at a point close to the power station during construction.

- Environmental assessments will consider issues such as local planning, air and water quality, flood risk, traffic and transport, noise, ecology, heritage and the effects on landscape and visual amenity.

Subject to development consent being granted and construction going ahead, the Drax Repower project (gas generating plants, battery storage and gas pipeline) could be operational in 2023/24.

Further information about the project, the consultation and planning application will be published on a dedicated website: [repowerdrax.com](http://repowerdrax.com)



Helping to change the way energy is generated, supplied and used for a better future.



To find out more visit [drax.com](http://drax.com)



Goole Times (11 January 2018)

**Goole Times**  
TODAY'S EDITION OF YOUR FAVOURITE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER IS INSIDE >>>>>  
Thursday, January 11th, 2018 Issue 7700 60p

# DRAX REPOWER: GIVE YOUR VIEWS

## Events to discuss gas generation and battery storage project begin on January 20

More events are being held to ensure local people have their say about Drax Power Station's plans to repower up to two of its remaining coal-fired electricity generating units with gas and install what could be amongst the largest batteries in the world.

Drax's project team will be on hand at the events to discuss the plans with local people and listen to their views. New images and interactive displays showing what the development will include, as well as an environmental impact report, will also be available.

If the plans go ahead in their entirety, the development would include two combined-cycle gas turbines (CCGTs) which would also be capable of operating in rapid response gas power plants in open-cycle mode, with a combined capacity of up to 3,600 megawatts (MW) of electricity as well as battery storage of up to 200MW.

The exhibitions follow on from similar events held in November and are part of the statutory consultation process required ahead of submitting an application for a Development Consent Order.

Ardy Koss, Chief Executive of Drax Power, said: "Holding public events to share our ideas with local people is a great way to hear their views. It's really important to us that we support and work with our local communities - we want people who live and work in the area near the power station to play a part in shaping our thinking for the future."

"The options we're exploring could reuse some of the existing infrastructure from the remaining coal assets at Drax and extend their operation as gas plants into the 2030s. The Repower project could secure the future of the power station beyond 2025 when the government says coal must come off the system."

"Drax Power Station is a national asset and a significant driver of economic growth in the North of England, generating more than £1bn for the northern economy and supporting 6,000 jobs."

Drax is already the UK's largest single site renewable power generator, having converted three coal generating units to use sustainable wood pellets. More than two thirds of the power produced is now renewable, providing 17% of the UK's renewable electricity - enough for four million homes.

Mr Koss explained that by upgrading its existing infrastructure to use gas it would provide more capacity, stability and essential grid services keeping costs low for consumers and delivering the government's commitment to end power generation with unabated coal by 2025.

Public exhibitions featuring Drax's proposals are taking place at the following venues:

- Selby Town Hall, York Street, Selby, YO8 4AJ - Saturday 20th January 2018 (10am - 4pm)
- Drax Sports and Social Club, Main Road, Drax, Selby, YO8 8PJ - Tuesday 23rd January 2018 (5pm - 8pm)
- Junction 2 Paradise Place, Goole, DN14 5DS - Wednesday 26th January 2018 (2pm - 7pm)
- Selby Town Hall, York Street Selby, YO8 4AJ - Thursday 31st February (10am - 4pm)
- Herringbrough Methodist Church Hall, 2 Main Street, Herringbrough, YO8 9QE - Friday 2nd February (9.30am - 1.30pm)

Leaflets about the project have been sent to homes and businesses in the areas around the power station.

The project's consultation documents, including the project's Preliminary Environmental Information Report are also available to view at the following locations from 16th January until 27th February 2018, when the statutory consultation period closes:

- Selby District Council, Access Selby, Market Cross Shopping Centre, Selby, YO8 4DS
- North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northcliffe Road, Doncaster
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Customer Service Centre, Canal Street, Beverley, HU17 9BA
- Selby Library, 52 Middlegate, Selby YO8 4BQ
- South Library, 27 Market Place, South DN14 9HE
- Goole Library, Carlake Street, Goole DN14 5DS

The options for repowering to gas and building battery storage complement Drax's ongoing work to explore options for further generation from sustainable biomass and are part of its strategy to play a vital role in changing the way energy is generated as the UK moves to a low carbon future.

Subject to development consent and construction, the project could start generating electricity in 2022/23.

Further information about the project, the consultation and planning application are available on the project website <http://repowerdrax.com>

**Helping to change the way energy is generated, supplied and used for a better future.**

**drax**

To find out more visit [drax.com](http://drax.com)

## Selby Times & Post (18 January 2018)

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**Circulation:** 6000  
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**AVE:** 315.00

# Repower



Statutory period of public consultation  
January 15th to February 27th 2018

### Public exhibitions about Drax Repower project

Drax Power Limited is proposing to modify up to two of its remaining coal-fired generating units and construct up to two gas-powered electricity generating units. Each gas-powered unit would (subject to technology and commercial considerations) be connected to its own battery energy storage facility. In addition, a proposed new pipeline will provide gas to the new generating units.

The whole scheme would upgrade and increase Drax's generation capability to meet demand into the 2030s and beyond, make Yorkshire home to large-scale battery technology and provide lower carbon power generation in line with Government plans to phase out coal-fired power stations.

Following a period of informal engagement in October/November 2017, a second series of public exhibitions about the Drax Repower project are being held on:

**Saturday 20th January 2018 10.00am to 4.00pm**  
Selby Town Hall, York Street, Selby YO8 4AJ

**Tuesday 23rd January 2018 3.00pm to 8.00pm**  
Drax Sports & Social Club, Main Road, Drax YO8 8PJ

**Wednesday 24th January 2018 2.00pm to 7.00pm**  
Junction, 2 Paradise Place, Coole DN14 5DL

**Thursday 1st February 2018 10.00am to 4.00pm**  
Selby Town Hall, York Street, Selby YO8 4AJ

**Friday 2nd February 2018 9.30am to 1.30pm**  
Hemingbrough Methodist Church Hall, 2 Main Street, Hemingbrough YO8 6QE

For more information, visit <http://repowerdrax.com>

Email us: [DraxRepower@drax.com](mailto:DraxRepower@drax.com)

Call us: 0800 731 8250

Write to us: FREEPOST DRAX REPOWER

The Report, Preliminary Environmental Information Report and other consultation documents will be available to view at the exhibition stands, between 16th January and 27th February 2018 at Selby District Council, Access Selby, North Yorkshire County Council in Northcliffe, East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Customer Service Centre in Bawtry, Selby Library, Southwell Library and Dole Library (opening times vary) and <http://repowerdrax.com>

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The Daily Telegraph (18 January.2018)

The Daily Telegraph

Date: 18 January 2018  
Page: 7



# Imperial dips as deal talk stubbed out

TOM REES  
MARKET REF



## Results roundup

| Company           | Turnover (£)   | Pre-tax (£)   | EPS (p)         | EV (p)    | Pay day | 30 |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------|---------|----|
| Alibaba Group     | 76.1bn         | 1.8bn         | 1.11            | 133.8     | Jan 26  | 26 |
| Actual Experience | 76.1bn (7.1bn) | -7.9m (-4.0m) | -17.77 (-15.23) | N/A (N/A) | -       | -  |
| Aditya            | 76.1bn (4.9m)  | 422m (-1.4m)  | -4.26 (-4.88)   | N/A (N/A) | -       | -  |

**IMPERIAL Brands** slipped back towards multi-year lows after Japan Tobacco's new boss poured cold water on hopes of a mega deal being struck by the two tobacco giants.

City analysts had speculated that a deal merging two of the "big five" tobacco heavyweights was in the offing after JT's acquisition-hungry chief executive Masamichi Terabatake admitted that he was on the hunt for deals. Imperial had been mooted as the perfect antidote to JT's lack of exposure in the US, Middle East and Africa, and the vaping market.

But the new boss scuppered hopes of a tie-up with the Golden Virginia maker after revealing that JT is targeting several deals in South East Asia and undeveloped markets, adding that a mega deal in Europe would be made "almost impossible" by competition laws.

Mr Terabatake added that undeveloped markets were more enticing than a "complicated" acquisition elsewhere, signalling that Imperial is not one of the deals JT has in the works. Cooling merger talk pushed Imperial down 61p to £30.73 with the tobacco giant's heavy weighting on the FTSE 100 helping to

drag the index to a 30.50-point drop at 7725.43. The index was put under further pressure by a trio of sharp fallers in Burberry, Informa and Pearson, pushing it lower for a third consecutive day.

Elsewhere, **Provident Financial** tumbled for a second straight day after analysts warned that the stricken doorstep lender is facing a funding shortfall. After admitting that it expects a £120m loss in its troubled consumer credit business, analysts at Liberum crunching the numbers found that Provident could face a £235m shortfall by the end of 2019.

Provident's value nosedived 68pc last year after a botched revamp of the division saw customers desert the firm and Shore Capital believes that selling shares to raise more cash is now becoming "increasingly likely" to help replenish the firm's resources, sending its shares sliding 105p to 699p.

The NHS crisis could provide a much-needed boost to private healthcare provider **Spire**, analysts at Jefferies told clients, to lift the Mediclinic takeover target 8.4p to

250p. Problems within the NHS will drive patients to Spire and double-digit growth in its self-pay division is achievable in the next few years, Jefferies argued.

**IWG** parted an 8.3pc surge late on, finishing just 1.6p higher at 266p, after reports surfaced that it had rejected a second takeover bid at £2.5bn for the office space provider from Brookfield Asset Management.

Lloyd's of London insurer **Beazley** gained 19.5p to 527p after telling shareholders that profit will be ahead of expectations despite hurricane season ramping up insurance payouts.

Pharma giant **GlaxoSmithKline** gave up early gains to finish just 4.2p higher at £13.59 after it unveiled its plan to pull back its operations in Africa as part of chief executive Emma Walmsley's shake-up. Energy producer **Drax** climbed 12p to 289.8p after revealing that it will have a fourth converted biomass power plant up and running by the end of the year. Finally, engineering consultancy **Ricardo** was boosted 49p to 994p, a one-year high, after reporting a 30pc rise in orders.



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## Grimsby Telegraph (12 January 2018)

Grimsby Telegraph

Date: 12 January 2018  
Page: 12



### Drax's dash for gas generation progresses with consultation plan

PLANS to re-power two of the remaining coal-fired generators at Drax will go on show later this month.

The regional giant, responsible for 8 per cent of the nation's electricity, is looking to switch to gas, as well as install what could be one of the largest batteries in the world.

If the plans go ahead in their entirety, the development would include two combined-cycle gas turbines with a combined capacity of up to 3,600 MW of electricity as well as battery storage of up to 200MW.

Subject to development consent and construction, the project could start generating electricity in 2022/23.

The exhibitions follow on from initial events held in November and are part of the statutory consultation process required ahead of submitting an application for a Development Consent Order.

Andy Koss, chief executive at Drax Power, said: "The options we're exploring could reuse some of the existing infrastructure from the remaining coal assets at Drax and extend their operation as gas plant into the 2030s.



**RE-POWER PLAN:** Andy Koss.

The re-power project could secure the future of the power station beyond 2025 when the government says coal must come off the system.

"Drax Power Station is a national asset and a significant

driver of economic growth in the North of England, generating more than half a billion pounds for the northern economy and supporting 6,000 jobs."

Drax is already the UK's largest single site renewable power generator having converted three coal generating units to use sustainable wood pellets, most of which is imported via Immingham, where the world's largest biomass reception facility has been built by Associated British Ports in a £130 million investment.

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## The Press (24 January 2018)

THE PRESS

Date: 24 January 2018  
Page: 24.25



# Powering into a green and renewable future

Business editor  
Laura Knowlson  
takes a closer look  
at Drax's turbine  
generation plan

AFTER decades of burning coal to power the nation, North Yorkshire power station Drax started a new journey five years ago when it set out to convert its fuel source to biomass.

The company welcomed the news last week that financial commitments from Government in support of biomass will continue, allowing it to convert its fourth unit, from a total of six, to burn chipped wood pellets instead of the dirty fuel.

However Unit 4 will be the last at Drax to undergo the conversion amid new plans at the power giant. Drax has turned its renewable agenda to gas in its latest scheme.

Public consultation is currently under way on plans to convert the final two units into combined-cycle gas turbines (CCGTs) with an associated battery - which promises to be among the largest in the world.

Talking to The Press about the move away from Biomass, Drax Power chief executive Andy Koss, said: "We've got financial support for Biomass until 2027. Our challenge is how do we get the cost of biomass down so when the support runs out we can still run this plant into the 2030s."

"We recognise and support the Government in its aim to get coal off the system by October 1, 2025."

"We still see a long term future for biomass, and particularly large pieces of kit like ours is all really important."

"However the Government is

looking very hard at the amount of support they give for renewables in the future. The support we get today isn't necessarily going to be available for future conversions, therefore its good for us to be diversified."

"We were always dependant on Government with biomass, it felt like we weren't in control of our own destiny."

"Our researchers and engineers set out to look at other options for ourselves. It became clear quite quickly that the gas conversion was something we could do. We have got some outstanding engineers that we believe can do this. It became a credible option."

"It's good to have different technologies or fuel types available to us. They will be able to do different things. We see ourselves as supporting other low carbon technologies."

The installation of the CCGTs will see the capacity of the coal units being considered, which currently stands at 1,290MW, increase to up to 3,600MW.

In the five years since it took its first step into renewables, Drax, near Selby, has become the largest single-site renewable electricity generator in the country, supplying 17 per cent of the UK's renewable power, which is enough for four million homes.

But with emerging renewable technologies, each dependent on varying levels of reliability from its

source, sitting hand-in-hand with demand changing nationally, power supply has never been more complex.

Drax believes its CCGT proposal can solve many of the problems by providing high levels of power instantly thanks to the associated batteries, which will store enough power to get the generators running at full power instantly.

Mr Koss said: "We can generate a lot more power on gas rather than coal."

"We can put integrated batteries into this as well, using cutting edge technologies to make these units more responsive."

"We think we are ahead of the curve on this. The grid needs a responsive, flexible and reliable plant that can ramp up and down very quickly in response to the energy demand of the UK at any one time. Because there's volatility in the markets we would be applying for a Capacity Market Contract to insure our investment. They are allocated in an auction every year, and the key is to be the most competitive in terms of the cost of the project against the power produced. We think the fact we are going to use a lot of our existing infrastructure, it will significantly reduce the cost."

Drax is hoping to have all the necessary planning permissions in place, so that if it is successful in securing a Capacity Market Contract it will be ready to proceed in 2019, with

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## The Independent (28 January.2018)

The  INDEPENDENT

Date: 18 January 2018  
Page: 78



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# Business news in brief

## Power producer Drax to complete fourth biomass unit in 2018

British power producer Drax said yesterday it planned to complete converting its fourth biomass power plant in the second half of the year so it comes online in late 2018. Drax has converted half its power plant in Yorkshire, once Europe's most polluting coal-fired power station, to burn wood pellets - often made from sustainably sourced dry sawdust compressed under high pressure. Drax said it would complete work on the fourth unit conversion in the second half of this year as part of a major planned outage, before returning it to service in late 2018. *Reuters*

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## Utility Week (12 January 2018)

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**Circulation:** 13000  
**Readership:** 39000  
**Size (cm<sup>2</sup>):** 52  
**AVE:** 374.4

### ELECTRICITY

## Drax seeks views on new power station

Drax will launch a public consultation later this month on revised plans to build a 299MW open-cycle gas turbine (OCGT) power station near Swansea.

If approved, the £100 million site could generate power for up to 150,000 homes.

Local residents were originally consulted in 2014, but the project was shelved in 2015 because of market uncertainty. The process is being relaunched after Drax Group acquired the development last year.

Drax Power chief executive Andy Koss said: "We have made a number of changes to the original proposals. For example, the cable for the electrical connection has been put underground instead of having an overhead line; we have selected an access route from the B4489 to the west of the site; and reduced the number of stacks from five to one."

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## Yorkshire Press (10 January 2018)

10th January

# Drax gas plant plans push forward

Laura Knowlson



PLANT PLAN: Andy Koss chief executive of Drax Power

NEW images of Drax Power Station's proposed gas turbines are being released as the energy giant pushes on with plans to install some of the largest batteries in the world at its North Yorkshire plant.

Drax is to stage a new round of community events, giving local people the chance to have their say on the firm's plans to repower up two of its remaining coal-fired electricity generating units with gas.

Drax's project team will be on hand at the events to discuss the plans alongside new images and interactive displays showing what the development will include.

If the plans go ahead in their entirety, the development would include two combined-cycle gas turbines (CCGTs) which would also be capable of operating as rapid response gas power plants, with a combined capacity of up to 3,600 megawatts (MW) of electricity as well as battery storage of up to 200MW.

The exhibitions follow on from similar events held in November and are part of the statutory consultation process required ahead of submitting an application for a Development Consent Order.

Andy Koss, chief executive of Drax Power, said: "Holding public events to share our ideas with local people is a great way to hear their views."

“It’s really important to us that we support and work with our local communities – we want people who live and work in the area near the power station to play a part in shaping our thinking for the future. We look forward to sharing our ideas and hearing thoughts.

“The options we’re exploring could reuse some of the existing infrastructure from the remaining coal assets at Drax and extend their operation as gas plant into the 2030s. The Repower project could secure the future of the power station beyond 2025 when the government says coal must come off the system.”

Public exhibitions featuring Drax’s proposals are taking place at the following venues:

- **Selby** Town Hall on January 20 and February 1, from 10am to 4pm
- Drax Sports and Social Club on January 23, from 3pm to 8pm
- Junction, 2 Paradise Place, Goole on January 24, from 2pm to 7pm
- Hemingbrough Methodist Church Hall on February 2 from 9.30am to 1.30pm

## Headlines Today (18 January 2018)

The screenshot shows the homepage of 'Today's NEWS HEADLINES TODAY'. On the left is a navigation menu with categories like UK News, Ireland News, World News, Politics, Financial News, Business News, Crime News, and Judicial News. The main content area features a headline: 'Drax gas plant plans push forward', published by York Press on 10-01-2018. Below the headline is a social media sharing bar with buttons for G+, Facebook (Recommend 0), and Twitter (Tweeten). A snippet of the article text reads: 'NEW images of Drax Power Station's proposed gas turbines are being released as the energy giant pushes on with plans to install some of th...'. At the bottom of the article preview is a 'Read Full Story ...' link and a row of social media icons (Facebook, Twitter, G+, RSS, Email, Print, and a counter showing 0).



## NewDump.co.uk (10 January 2018)

The screenshot shows the NewsDump.co.uk website interface. On the left is a sidebar with a 'Click to show all the subcategories' link and a 'Recommend 89' button. Below this is a list of categories: UK News, Ireland News, World News, Politics, and Financial News. The main content area features the NewsDump.co.uk logo and tagline 'Every second the latest news'. A navigation bar includes links for 'FRONTPAGE', 'CATEGORYLIST', 'ADD SOURCE', 'ADVERTISING', 'LINK TO US', and 'CONTACT'. The featured article is titled 'Drax gas plant plans push forward', published by 'York Press' on '10-01-2018'. It has a 'Recommend 0' button and a 'Tweeten' button. The article text begins with 'NEW images of Drax Power Station's proposed gas turbines are being released as the energy giant pushes on with plans to install some of th...'. A 'Read Full Story ...' link is provided at the bottom of the article snippet, accompanied by social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, Google+, LinkedIn, Email, and a plus sign for more options, with a '0' next to the plus sign.

Humber business.com (11 January 2018)

## Transformational plans for future power generation at Drax to be revealed



GOAL IS NO COAL: Drax Power Station, with coal supplies and the biomass silos in the foreground.

By **Hull Daily Mail** | Posted: 11 Jan 2018

PLANS to re-power two of the remaining coal-fired generators at Drax will go on show later this month.

As reported, **the regional giant, responsible for eight per cent of the nation's electricity, is looking to switch to gas**, as well as install what could be one of the largest batteries in the world.

If the plans go ahead in their entirety, the development would include two combined-cycle gas turbines (CCGTs) which would also be capable of operating as rapid response gas power plants in open-cycle mode, with a combined capacity of up to 3,600 megawatts (MW) of electricity as well as battery storage of up to 200MW.

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Andy Koss, chief executive at Drax Power, said: “The options we’re exploring could reuse some of the existing infrastructure from the remaining coal assets at Drax and extend their operation as gas plant into the 2030s. The re-power project could secure the future of the power station beyond 2025 when the government says coal must come off the system.

“Drax Power Station is a national asset and a significant driver of economic growth in the North of England, generating more than half a billion pounds for the northern economy and supporting 6,000 jobs.”

Drax is already the UK’s largest single site renewable power generator having converted three coal generating units to use sustainable wood pellets, most of which is imported via Immingham, **where the world’s largest biomass reception facility has been built by Associated British Ports in a £130 million investment**, and Hull, where a smaller scale facility has also been developed.

More than two thirds of the power produced is now renewable, providing 17 per cent of the UK’s renewable electricity – enough for four million homes.

Mr Koss explained that by upgrading its existing infrastructure to use gas it would provide more capacity, stability and essential grid services keeping costs low for consumers and delivering the government’s commitment to end power generation with unabated coal by 2025.

The work complements ongoing work to explore options for further generation from sustainable biomass.

Public exhibitions featuring Drax’s proposals are taking place at:

- Selby Town Hall, York Street, Selby, on January 20, from 10am to 4pm
- Drax Sports and Social Club, Main Road, Drax, on January 23, from 3pm to 8pm
- Junction, 2 Paradise Place, Goole, on January 24, from 2pm to 7pm
- Selby Town Hall, York Street Selby, on February 1, from 10am to 4pm
- Hemingbrough Methodist Church Hall, Main Street, Hemingbrough, on February 2, from 9.30am to 1.30pm

“Holding public events to share our ideas with local people is a great way to hear their views,” Mr Koss added. “It’s really important to us that we support and work with our local communities – we want people who live and work in the area near the power station to play a part in shaping our thinking for the future. We look forward to sharing our ideas and hearing thoughts.”

**READ MORE: Toughening market place felt by business according to Chamber survey**

The project’s consultation documents are also available to view at the following locations from January 16 until February 27, when the statutory consultation period closes:

- Selby District Council, Access Selby, Market Cross Shopping Centre, Selby, YO8 4JS
- North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton DL7 8AD
  
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Customer Service Centre, Cross Street, Beverley, HU17 9BA
- Selby Library, 52 Micklegate, Selby YO8 4EQ
- Snaith Library, 27 Market Place, Snaith DN14 9HE
- Goole Library, Carlisle Street, Goole DN14 5DS

Further information about the project, the consultation and planning application visit the [Drax website](#).




[TheBuisnessDesk.com \(11 January 2018\)](#)

[Home](#) / [Yorkshire](#) / [News](#) / [Plans to re-power two coal-fired units with gas at Drax to be discussed with public](#)

## Plans to re-power two coal-fired units with gas at Drax to be discussed with public



News  
January 11 2018  
Kayley Worsley

  
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Public events are being held about Drax Power Station's plans to re-power up to two of its remaining coal-fired electricity generating units with gas and install what could be amongst the largest batteries in the world. Drax's project team will be on hand at the events to discuss the plans with local people and listen to their views. New images and interactive displays showing what the development will include, as well as an environmental impact report, will also be available. If the plans go ahead in their entirety, the d... [For the full story register now for free](#) or login below...

## Insider Media Limited (11 January 2018)

# DRAX'S GAS CONVERSION AND BATTERY STORAGE PLANS MOVE FORWARD

© 11 Jan 2018 | Yorkshire | Business



Andy Koss

A project to repower up to two of the coal-fired units to gas and build battery storage at Drax Power Station have moved forward with a series of events set to be held to update nearby residents on the plans.

Drax's is proposing two combined-cycle gas turbines (CCGTs), which would also be capable of operating as rapid response gas power plants in open-cycle mode, with a combined capacity of up to 3,600 megawatts (MW) of electricity as well as battery storage of up to 200MW.

The latest exhibitions follow on from similar events held in November 2017 and are part of the statutory consultation process required ahead of submitting an application for a Development Consent Order.

Drax's project team will be on hand at the events to discuss the plans and listen to the views of residents. New images and interactive displays showing what the development will include, as well as an environmental impact report, will also be available.

Andy Koss, chief executive of Drax Power, said: "Holding public events to share our ideas with local people is a great way to hear their views. It's really important to us that we support and work with our local communities – we want people who live and work in the area near the power station to play a part in shaping our thinking for the future. We look forward to sharing our ideas and hearing thoughts.

"The options we're exploring could reuse some of the existing infrastructure from the remaining coal assets at Drax and extend their operation as gas plant into the 2030s. The Repower project could secure the future of the power station beyond 2025 when the government says coal must come off the system.

"Drax Power Station is a national asset and a significant driver of economic growth in the North of England, generating more than £1/2bn for the northern economy and supporting 6,000 jobs."

## 4-Traders (11 January 2018)

### Drax : 11 January 2018 - More local events to discuss gas and battery project



01/11/2018 | 07:24am GMT

More events are being held to ensure local people have their say about Drax Power Station's plans to repower up to two of its remaining coal-fired electricity generating units with gas and install what could be amongst the largest batteries in the world.

Drax's project team will be on hand at the events to discuss the plans with local people and listen to their views. New images and interactive displays showing what the development will include, as well as an environmental impact report, will also be available.

If the plans go ahead in their entirety, the development would include two combined-cycle gas turbines (CCGTs) which would also be capable of operating as rapid response gas power plants in open-cycle mode, with a combined capacity of up to 3,600 megawatts (MW) of electricity as well as battery storage of up to 200MW.

The exhibitions follow on from similar events held in November and are part of the statutory consultation process required ahead of submitting an application for a Development Consent Order.

Andy Koss, Chief Executive of Drax Power, said:

*"Holding public events to share our ideas with local people is a great way to hear their views. It's really important to us that we support and work with our local communities - we want people who live and work in the area near the power station to play a part in shaping our thinking for the future. We look forward to sharing our ideas and hearing thoughts."*

*"The options we're exploring could reuse some of the existing infrastructure from the remaining coal assets at Drax and extend their operation as gas plant into the 2030s. The Repower project could secure the future of the power station beyond 2025 when the government says coal must come off the system."*

*"Drax Power Station is a national asset and a significant driver of economic growth in the North of England, generating more than £1.2bn for the northern economy and supporting 6,000 jobs."*

Drax is already the UK's largest single site renewable power generator having converted three coal generating units to use sustainable wood pellets. More than two thirds of the power produced is now renewable, providing 17% of the UK's renewable electricity - enough for four million homes.

Mr Koss explained that by upgrading its existing infrastructure to use gas it would provide more capacity, stability and essential grid services keeping costs low for consumers and delivering the government's commitment to end power generation with unabated coal by 2025.

Public exhibitions featuring Drax's proposals are taking place at the following venues:

- **Selby Town Hall**, York Street, Selby, YO8 4AJ - Saturday 20 January 2018 (10am - 4pm)
- **Drax Sports and Social Club**, Main Road, Drax, Selby, YO8 8PJ - Tuesday 23 January 2018 (3pm - 8pm)
- **Junction**, 2 Paradise Place, Goole, DN14 5DL - Wednesday 24 January 2018 (2pm - 7pm)
- **Selby Town Hall**, York Street Selby, YO8 4AJ - Thursday 1 February (10am - 4pm)
- **Hemingbrough Methodist Church Hall**, 2 Main Street, Hemingbrough, YO8 6QE - Friday 2 February (9.30am - 1.30pm)

Leaflets about the project have been sent to homes and businesses in the areas around the power station.

The project's consultation documents, including the Project's Preliminary Environmental Information Report, are also available to view at the following locations from 16 January until 27th February 2018, when the statutory consultation period closes:

- Selby District Council, Access Selby, Market Cross Shopping Centre, Selby, YO8 4JS
- North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton DL7 8AD
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Customer Service Centre, Cross Street, Beverley, HU17 9BA
- Selby Library, 52 Micklegate, Selby YO8 4EQ
- Snaith Library, 27 Market Place, Snaith DN14 9HE
- Goole Library, Carlisle Street, Goole DN14 5DS

The options for repowering to gas and building battery storage complement Drax's on-going work to explore options for further generation from sustainable biomass and are part of its strategy to play a vital role in changing the way energy is generated as the UK moves to a low carbon future.

Subject to development consent and construction, the project could start generating electricity in 2022/23.

Further information about the project, the consultation and planning application are available on the project website: <http://repower.drax.com>.

- Ends -

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Notes to editors:

#### **About the planning regime**

The proposed development is a nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP) under 'the construction or extension of a generating station' category in Part 3 Sections 14(1) (a) and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended). As such, Drax is required to seek planning permission known as a Development Consent Order (DCO) from the Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy.

#### **About the Repower Project**

Drax's proposals include the following elements:

- Up to 3,600 megawatts (MW) of new gas generation capacity and up to 200MW of battery storage - two battery storage facilities, one per unit and each up to 100MW
- The capacity of the Drax's coal units being considered for this project is 1,290MW.
- Gas-fired generation units (four new turbines, up to two per unit) that can operate in combined-cycle or open-cycle modes.
- Use of existing steam turbines and cooling towers.
- A new gas pipeline connection to the National Gas Transmission System and an electrical connection into Drax's existing substation to allow electricity to be exported to the National Grid.
- An option to install a temporary crane positioned next to the existing jetty on the River Ouse and at a point close to the power station during construction.
- Environmental assessments are considering issues such as local planning, air and water quality, flood risk, traffic and transport, noise, ecology, heritage and the effects on landscape and visual amenity.



### **About Drax Group**

Drax Group plc plays a vital role in helping change the way energy is generated, supplied and used as the UK moves to a low carbon future. Drax operates the largest power station in the UK, based at Selby, North Yorkshire and supplies 7 percent of the country's electricity needs. The energy firm converted from burning coal to become a predominantly biomass-fuelled electricity generator. Drax is the biggest single site renewable generator in the UK and the largest decarbonisation project in Europe. Its 2,300-strong staff operate across three principal areas of activity - electricity generation, electricity sales to business customers and compressed wood pellet production.

The Group includes:

**Drax Biomass**, based in the US and manufactures compressed wood pellets produced from sustainably managed working forests.

**Haven Power**, based in Ipswich, providing businesses with electricity.

**Opus Energy**, based in Oxford, Northampton and Cardiff, providing electricity and gas to businesses.

## Electrify Europe (12 January 2018)



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Friday, 12 January 2018

### Public gets informed over Drax repowering



Drax Power Station

Operators of Drax, the UK's largest coal power station, are staging a series of events to inform the wider public about plans to repower up to two of the plant's remaining coal-fired units with gas and adding a large battery storage system. If the repowering proceeds as planned, Drax will be expanded with two combined-cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power units with a combined capacity of 3,600-MW and a battery storage system of up to 200-MW.

The Business Desk.com (22 January 2018)

## Drax CEO outlines 'first of its kind' plan to future-proof the power station



News  
January 22 2018  
Kayley Worsley

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Drax Power Station near Selby generates 7% of the country's electricity and now has three of its generators fuelled by low-carbon biomass; with a fourth due to be converted to this method in the summer. This will leave the power station with two coal-fired generators, which the government has set out must be offline by 2025. The station, which employs 900 people, is now launching its 're-power project', setting out planning proposals which need to be approved by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strateg... **For the full story register now for free** or login below...

## The York Press (24 January 2018)

“We recognise and support the Government in its aim to get coal off the system by October 1, 2025.

“We still see a long term future for biomass, and particularly large pieces of kit like ours is all really important.

“However the Government is looking very hard at the amount of support they give for renewables in the future. The support we get today isn’t necessarily going to be available for future conversions, therefore its good for us to be diversified.

“We were always dependant on Government with biomass, it felt like we weren’t in control of our own destiny.

“Our researchers and engineers set out to look at other options for ourselves. It became clear quite quickly that the gas conversion was something we could do. We have got some outstanding engineers that we believe can do this. It became a credible option.

“It’s good to have different technologies or fuel types available to us. They will be able to do different things. We see ourselves as supporting other low carbon technologies.”

The installation of the CCGT’s will see the capacity of the coal units being considered, which currently stands at 1,290MW, increase to up to 3,600MW.

In the five years since it took its first step into renewables, Drax Power Station, near **Selby**, is now the largest single site renewable electricity generator in the country, supplying 17 per cent of the UK’s renewable power, which is enough for four million homes.

But with emerging renewable technologies, each dependent on varying levels of reliability from its source, sitting hand in hand with demand changing nationally, power supply has never been more complex.

Drax believes its CCGT proposal can solve many of the problems by providing high levels of power instantly thanks to the associated batteries, which will store enough power to get the generators running at full power instantly.

Mr Koss said: “We can generate a lot more power on gas rather than coal. We can put integrated batteries into this as well, using cutting edge technologies to make these units are more responsive.

“We think we are ahead of the curve on this. The grid needs a responsive, flexible and reliable plant that can ramp up and down very quickly in response to the energy demand of the UK at any one time. Because there’s volatility in the markets we would



applying for a Capacity Market Contract to insure our investment. They are allocated in an auction every year, and the key is to be the most competitive in terms of the cost of the project against the power produced.

“We think the fact we are going to use a lot of our existing infrastructure, even though it is more difficult to integrate, it will significantly reduce the cost.”

Drax is hoping to have all the necessary planning permissions in place, so that if it is successful in securing a Capacity Market Contract it will be ready to proceed in 2019, with the first gas powered turbine potentially up and running by 2023.

Public consultation events are on February 1, at Selby Town Hall 10am-4pm and Hemingbrough Methodist Church Hall on February 2.

## KCFM (24 January 2018)

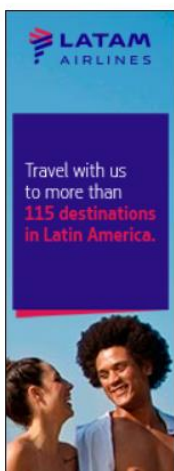
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News > Local News > Proposals for gas and battery project go on show in Goole

### Proposals for gas and battery project go on show in Goole

News Home More from Local News

Wednesday, January 24th, 2018 9:00am



#### Plans to build one of the world's biggest battery storage facilities in Yorkshire go on show in Goole today.

Drax Power Station which is based near the town is looking to change from coal to gas power and want people's views on the project.

CEO of Drax, Andy Koss, says they have to make the change to meet the demand of the UK powergrid:

"The Government have announced they're taking the system by 2025, it's part of our change of fuel at the power station. We're looking to change our last two remaining coal units to gas."



## The Guardian (29 January 2018)

### Gas-fired plants to reap huge subsidies despite uncertain future

Fossil fuel faces stiff competition from nuclear, renewables and European imports



▲ The Teesside gas-fired power station. Photograph: Alanay

Gas power plant operators will scoop millions of pounds in state subsidies in coming days to go on standby next winter, but the owner of the UK's largest gas fleet has warned the fossil fuel faces an uncertain future as a cornerstone of UK energy.

Auctions starting on Tuesday for contracts in the capacity market, the government's insurance policy for ensuring reliable electricity supplies, are crucial to the survival of gas plants.

But nuclear, renewables and energy imported from European markets could change British energy provision within two decades, according to Tom Glover, the UK chair of German energy group RWE.

Glover said the outlook for new gas plants - quicker and cheaper to build than atomic sites or offshore windfarms - remained unclear.

"It's uncertain, when you look across 15 years. You've got to look at how interconnectors [power cables to other countries], how new nuclear, renewables will develop. It's very uncertain," he said.

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Glover's caution comes despite the government confirming the phase-out of coal. Gas has cemented itself as the top source of electricity over the past two years as coal declined dramatically in the face of a carbon tax.

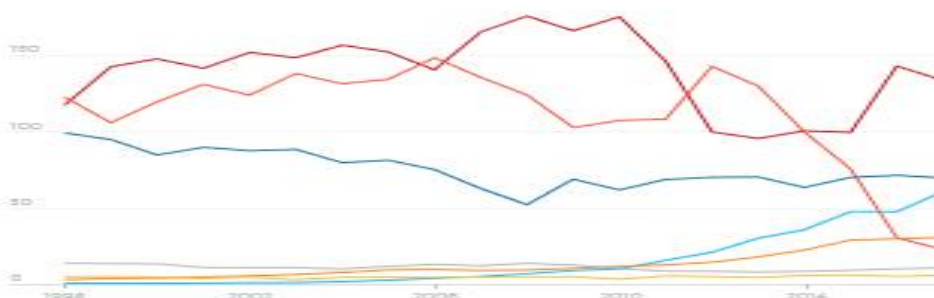
The North Sea's gas, together with pipelines from Europe and ships from Qatar, regularly supplies more than 40% of the UK's power, and on cold, still days earlier in the month has at times been providing nearly 60%.

This month the government spelled out how it would force the last of Britain's eight coal plants to close in October 2025 to meet climate change goals, and how that would help gas.

#### Gas is the UK's top source of power

Fuel used in electricity generation (terawatt hours)

■ Gas ■ Coal ■ Nuclear ■ Wind and Solar ■ Bioenergy ■ Hydro (natural flow)  
■ Oil and other fuels



Guardian graphic | Source: BEA/Carbon Brief

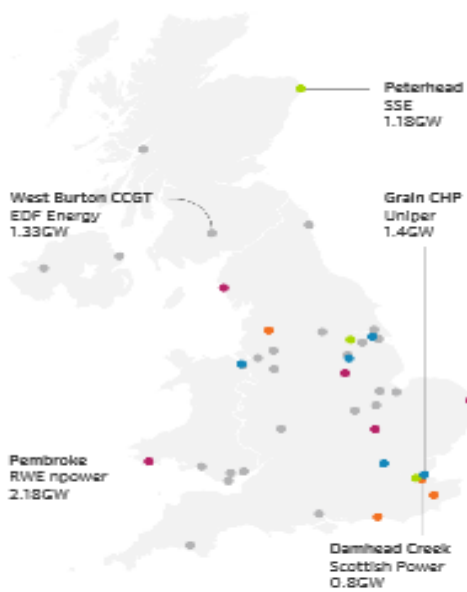
Officials **said** they expected the plan would lower the cost of funding gas plants, and lead to higher revenues because the power stations would be used more often.

But a look at the official estimates of how much new gas capacity will be built in coming years helps explain Glover's concern, despite the current dominance of gas.

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) this month **revised the amount of new gas plants** it expects to be built by 2035 to 6GW, down from the 14GW it predicted last year. In comparison, its forecast for new renewables, which it expects to generate more power than gas by 2020, remained largely the same.

**The UK has 45 gas power stations with a capacity of 50MW or more**

- RWE npower 6.6GW total
- SSE 2.6GW
- Scottish Power 2GW
- Uniper 4.2GW
- Others 17.1GW



Guardian graphic | Source: BEIS Dulles (current as of end May 2017), Centrica

The economics of gas-fired power stations today largely hinge on the **capacity market**.

Peter Atherton, energy analyst at Cornwall Insight, said: "[Large gas plants] are entirely dependent on the capacity market really, it needs to cover something like 60-80% of the economics of those plants. That leaves maybe only 20% of the economics to the wholesale market."

The **Energy** and Climate Intelligence Unit (ECIU) calculates that £3.4bn worth of capacity market subsidies have already been promised to power station operators, many of them gas-fired operations.

Yet so far the scheme has failed to bring forward any new plants on the scale of the large ones built during the "dash for gas" of the 1990s.

Gas plant owners complain that, despite reforms over the past year that should diminish the role of **small local power stations** and **battery storage plants**, the capacity market is still not a level playing field.

They are concerned by **competition in auctions for capacity market contracts next month from new interconnectors** - long-distance power cables - being planned for the early 2020s to Belgium and France.

Gas supporters argue those interconnectors can compete for a lower price because they do not have to pay the same costs as gas operators in the UK, such as the carbon tax.

Experts think the price of the contracts awarded in the auctions will be the same or lower as previous years, because of how many firms are bidding for them. Bernstein bank expects prices for the four-year ahead auction to clear at £18-19 per kilowatt, compared with £22.50/kW last year.

There is little comfort in wholesale gas prices either, which are historically relatively low, even after a brief surge in December **during disruptions to European gas supplies**.



**The UK has four interconnectors today, with a further three due to be completed by 2022**



Guardian graphic

Some companies have begun to transform their portfolios. British Gas owner Centrica **sold off the last of its large-scale gas power stations in 2018**, to focus on smaller plants.

Mark Futyran, Centrica's merchant power director, said: "The rapid expansion of renewable energy has created a growing need for flexible power that has in turn triggered a shift in focus from large centralised power plants towards smaller units that can respond quickly to changes in demand."

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Despite this seemingly gloomy picture for big gas plants, companies are either keeping them running or exploring building new ones.

SSE looks likely to keep Scotland's last fossil fuel power station open at Peterhead in Aberdeenshire, after it generated fears from unions by **announcing a review of the plant a year ago**. It also **hopes** to build a new plant in North Lincolnshire if it can secure a contract in the capacity market.

Drax Group **is looking to convert its coal power units in North Yorkshire to a huge 3.5GW gas plant**. RWE is consulting this year on plans for a major new 2.5GW gas power plant at its former biomass power station at Tilbury, Essex.

Glover said that despite uncertainty, gas will remain a key component of power supplies, especially if electric cars reverse years of falling demand.

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## ExecReview (29 January 2018)

Adam Vaughan January 29, 2018

[← Previous](#) [Next →](#)

### Gas-fired plants to reap huge subsidies despite uncertain future

Fossil fuel faces stiff competition from nuclear, renewables and European imports

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The Teesside gas-fired power station. Photograph: Alamy

Gas power plant operators will scoop millions of pounds in state subsidies in coming days to go on standby next winter, but the owner of the UK's largest gas fleet has warned the fossil fuel faces an uncertain future as a cornerstone of UK energy.

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#### [Gas power graph](#)

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#### [Gas power station map](#)

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#### [interconnectors](#)

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Despite this seemingly gloomy picture for big gas plants, companies are either keeping them running or exploring building new ones.

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## Goole Times (11 January 2018)

**Publication:** Goole Times  
**Date:** 11/01/2018  
**Page:** 0  
**Display Rate (£/cm<sup>2</sup>):** 2.74

**Circulation:** 14582  
**Readership:** 43746  
**Size (cm<sup>2</sup>):** 630  
**AVE:** 1726.20

# DRAX REPOWER: GIVE YOUR VIEWS

## Events to discuss gas generation and battery storage project begin on January 20

More events are being held to ensure local people have their say about Drax Power Station's plans to repower up to two of its remaining coal-fired electricity generating units with gas and install what could be amongst the largest batteries in the world.

Drax's project team will be on hand at the events to discuss the plans with local people and listen to their views. New images and interactive displays showing what the development will include, as well as an environmental impact report, will also be available.

If the plans go ahead in their entirety, the development would include two combined-cycle gas turbines (CCGTs) which would also be capable of operating as rapid response gas power plants in open-cycle mode, with a combined capacity of up to 3,600 megawatts (MW) of electricity as well as battery storage of up to 200MWh.

The exhibitions follow on from similar events held in November and are part of the statutory consultation process required ahead of submitting an application for a Development Consent Order.

Andy Koss, Chief Executive of Drax Power, said: "Holding public events to share our ideas with local people is a great way to hear their views. It's really important to us that we support and work with our local communities – we want people who live and work in the area near the power station to play a part in shaping our thinking for the future.



"The options we're exploring could reuse some of the existing infrastructure from the remaining coal assets at Drax and extend their operation as gas plants into the 2030s. The Repower project could secure the future of the power station beyond 2025 when the government says coal must come off the system.

"Drax Power Station is a national asset and a significant driver of economic growth in the North of England, generating more than 20TWh for the northern economy and supporting 6,000 jobs."

Drax is already the UK's largest single site renewable power generator having converted three coal generating units to use sustainable wood pellets. More than two thirds of the power produced is now renewable, providing 17% of the UK's renewable electricity – enough for four million homes.

Mr Koss explained that by upgrading its

existing infrastructure to use gas it would provide more capacity, stability and essential grid services keeping costs low for consumers and delivering the government's commitment to end power generation with unabated coal by 2025.

Public exhibitions featuring Drax's proposals are taking place at the following venues:

- Selby Town Hall, York Street, Selby, YO8 4AJ - Saturday 20th January 2018 (10am – 4pm)
- Drax Sports and Social Club, Main Road, Drax, Selby, YO8 8PJ - Sunday 21st January 2018 (3pm – 8pm)
- Junction, 2 Paradise Place, Goole, DN14 3DL - Wednesday 24th January 2018 (2pm – 7pm)
- Selby Town Hall, York Street Selby, YO8 4AJ - Thursday 1st February (10am – 4pm)
- Hemingbrough Methodist Church Hall, 2 Main Street, Hemingbrough, YO8 8QE - Friday 2nd February (9.30am – 1.30pm)

Leaflets about the project have been sent to homes and businesses in the areas around the power station.

The project's consultation documents, including the project's Preliminary Environmental Information Report, are also available to view at the following locations from 16th January until 25th February 2018, when the statutory consultation period closes:

- Selby District Council, Anson Selby, Market Cross Shopping Centre, Selby, YO8 8JS
- North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton DL7 8AD
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Customer Service Centre, Cross Street, Beverley, HU17 9DA
- Selby Library, 32 Middlegate, Selby YO8 8EQ
- South Library, 27 Market Place, South DN14 9HE
- Goole Library, Castle Street, Goole DN14 5DF

The options for repowering to gas and building battery storage complement Drax's ongoing work to explore options for further generation from sustainable biomass and are part of its strategy to play a vital role in charging the way energy is generated as the UK moves to a low carbon future.

Subject to development consent and construction, the project could start generating electricity in 2022/23.

Further information about the project, the consultation and planning application are available on the project website: <http://repowerdrax.com>.

Selby Times & Post (11 January 2018)

# DRAX REPOWER: GIVE YOUR VIEWS

Events to discuss gas generation and battery storage project begin on January 20

More events are being held to ensure local people have their say about Drax Power Station's plans to repower up to two of its remaining coal-fired electricity generating units with gas and install what could be amongst the largest batteries in the world.

Drax's project team will be on hand at the events to discuss the plans with local people and listen to their views. New images and interactive displays showing what the development will include, as well as an environmental impact report, will also be available.

If the plans go ahead in their entirety, the development would include two combined-cycle gas turbines (CCGTs) which would also be capable of operating as rapid response gas power plants in open-cycle mode, with a combined capacity of up to 3,600 megawatts (MW) of electricity as well as battery storage of up to 200MW.

The exhibitions follow on from similar events held in November and are part of the statutory consultation process required ahead of submitting an application for a Development Consent Order.

Andy Kass, Chief Executive of Drax Power, said: "Holding public events to share our ideas with local people is a great way to hear their views. It's really important to us that we support and work with our local communities – we want people who live and work in the area near the power station to play a part in shaping our thinking for the future."



"The options we're exploring could reuse some of the existing infrastructure from the remaining coal assets at Drax and extend their operation as gas plant into the 2030s. The Repower project could secure the future of the power station beyond 2025 when the government says coal must come off the system."

"Drax Power Station is a national asset and a significant driver of economic growth in the North of England, generating more than £3bn for the northern economy and supporting 6,000 jobs."

Drax is already the UK's largest single site renewable power generator having converted three coal generating units to use sustainable wood pellets. More than two thirds of the power produced is now renewable, providing 17% of the UK's renewable electricity – enough for four million homes.

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- North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton DL7 8AD
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Customer Service Centre, Cross Street, Beverley, HU17 9BA
- Selby Library, 32 Micklegate, Selby YO8 4EQ
- Snaith Library, 27 Market Place, Snaith DN14 9HE
- Goole Library, Carlisle Street, Goole DN14 5DS

The options for repowering to gas and building battery storage complement Drax's ongoing work to explore options for further generation from sustainable biomass and are part of its strategy to play a vital role in changing the way energy is generated as the UK moves to a low carbon future.

Subject to development consent and construction, the project could start generating electricity in 2022/23.

Further information about the project, the consultation and planning applications are available on the project website: <http://repowerdrax.com>



Helping to change the way energy is generated, supplied and used for a better future.




To find out more visit [drax.com](http://drax.com)

The Business Desk (22 January 2018)

# Drax CEO outlines 'first of its kind' plan to future-proof the power station



News  
January 22 2018  
Kayley Worsley

  
Write a comment

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Drax Power Station near Selby generates 7% of the country's electricity and now has three of its generators fuelled by low-carbon biomass; with a fourth due to be converted to this method in the summer. This will leave the power station with two coal-fired generators, which the government has set out must be offline by 2025. The station, which employs 900 people, is now launching its 're-power project', setting out planning proposals which need to be approved by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strateg... [For the full story register now for free](#) or login below...



## Goole Times (25 January 2018)

**Publication:** Goole Times  
**Date:** 25/01/2018  
**Page:** 0  
**Display Rate (£/cm<sup>2</sup>):** 2.74

**Circulation:** 14582  
**Readership:** 43746  
**Size (cm<sup>2</sup>):** 260  
**AVE:** 712.40

# Out with the coal, in with the wood

by **ANTONIO SCANCARIELLO** [antonio.scancariello@selbytimes.info](mailto:antonio.scancariello@selbytimes.info)

Drax Power Station is planning a re-powering process that could get the whole complex to be coal free by the government's 2025 deadline.

Three of the six units that made up the station are already running on biomass, generated by wood pellets, while the remaining three are working on coal.

A further unit has completed a trial to be run on biomass, which will come from the United States and Canada.

Andy Koss, chief executive (CEO) of Drax Power, said: "Half of the system is still on coal. By October, 1, 2025 the power station will get rid of coal. We received confirmation from the government of our fourth unit conversion to biomass."

The re-powering process' aim is to convert two more units making up the whole system, in this case to gas. This development would include two combined-cycle gas turbines (CCGTs), which would also be capable of operating as rapid response gas power plants in open-cycle mode.

Mr Koss stated that 'there's a lot more power on gas rather than coal'.

If the entire process will go ahead there will be four units running on biomass, and two on gas.

The re-powering of units 5 and 6 would give the power station up to 3,600 megawatts (MW) of new gas generation capacity and up to 200 MW of battery storage. There would be two battery storage facilities, one per unit and each up to 100 MW.

At the moment, the current capacity of the power station is six units at 645 MW each.

"We are planning to run four units on biomass, at the moment the challenge to do six units is too big."

At present, Mr Koss is not able to 'quantify the cost' of the whole process, but he said that 'we are confident we can fund it'.

Mr Koss also explained how the power station was relying on the government to give biomass away, 'but we felt we were not really in charge of our destiny.'

"It very quickly became clear that it was something that we could do," he also added.

The positive outcome of the re-powering process also depends on environmental assessments and issues like local planning, air and water quality, flood risk, traffic and transport, noise, ecology, heritage and the effects on landscape and visual amenity.

Mr Koss said: "We think people will be supportive, and the council was superb when we started biomass conversion."





## The York Press (24 January 2018)

14th January

### The future for power generation at Drax

Jaura Knowlson [@JauraKnowlson](#)  
business editor



Most popular      Most commented

AFTER decades of burning coal to power the nation, North Yorkshire power station Drax started a new journey five years ago when it set out to convert its fuel source to biomass.

The company welcomed the news last week that financial commitments from Government in support of biomass will continue allowing it to convert its fourth unit, from a total of six, to burning chipped wood pellets instead of the dirty fuel.

However Unit 4 will be the last at Drax to undergo the conversion amid new plans at the power giant. Drax has turned its renewable agenda to gas in its latest scheme.

Public consultation is currently underway on plans to convert the final two units into combined-cycle gas turbines (CCGTs) with an associated battery - which promises to be among the largest in the world.

Talking to The Press about the move away from Biomass, Drax Power chief executive Andy Koss, said: "We've got financial support for Biomass until 2027. Our challenge is how do we get the cost of biomass down so when the support runs out we can still run this plant into the 2030's.

"We recognise and support the Government in its aim to get coal off the system by October 1, 2025.

"We still see a long term future for biomass, and particularly large pieces of kit like ours is all really important.

“However the Government is looking very hard at the amount of support they give for renewables in the future. The support we get today isn’t necessarily going to be available for future conversions, therefore it’s good for us to be diversified.

“We were always dependant on Government with biomass, it felt like we weren’t in control of our own destiny.

“Our researchers and engineers set out to look at other options for ourselves. It became clear quite quickly that the gas conversion was something we could do. We have got some outstanding engineers that we believe can do this. It became a credible option.

“It’s good to have different technologies or fuel types available to us. They will be able to do different things. We see ourselves as supporting other low carbon technologies.”

The installation of the CCGT’s will see the capacity of the coal units being considered, which currently stands at 1,290MW, increase to up to 3,600MW.

In the five years since it took its first step into renewables, Drax Power Station, near **Selby**, is now the largest single site renewable electricity generator in the country, supplying 17 per cent of the UK’s renewable power, which is enough for four million homes.

But with emerging renewable technologies, each dependent on varying levels of reliability from its source, sitting hand in hand with demand changing nationally, power supply has never been more complex.

Drax believes its CCGT proposal can solve many of the problems by providing high levels of power instantly thanks to the associated batteries, which will store enough power to get the generators running at full power instantly.

Mr Koss said: “We can generate a lot more power on gas rather than coal. We can put integrated batteries into this as well, using cutting edge technologies to make these units are more responsive.

“We think we are ahead of the curve on this. The grid needs a responsive, flexible and reliable plant that can ramp up and down very quickly in response to the energy demand of the UK at any one time. Because there’s volatility in the markets we would applying for a Capacity Market Contract to insure our investment. They are allocated in an auction every year, and the key is to be the most competitive in terms of the cost of the project against the power produced.

“We think the fact we are going to use a lot of our existing infrastructure, even though it is more difficult to integrate, it will significantly reduce the cost.”

Drax is hoping to have all the necessary planning permissions in place, so that if it is successful in securing a Capacity Market Contract it will be ready to proceed in 2019, with the first gas powered turbine potentially up and running by 2023.

Public consultation events are on February 1, at Selby Town Hall 10am-4pm and Hemingbrough Methodist Church Hall on February 2.

## The Press (14 February 2018)

THE PRESS

Date: 14 February 2018  
Page: 23



# Powering the north on gas

By Laura Knowson  
Business Editor  
laura.knowson@thepress.co.uk

PLANS to secure the future of power generation at North Yorkshire power station Drax were under review during a ministerial visit surrounding the plant's gas proposals.

Northern Powerhouse Minister Jake Berry, and Selby MP Nigel Adams, visited Drax Power Station to find out more about the Drax Repower project, which would see up to two of Drax's coal generating units repowered to gas.

The plans sit alongside Drax's existing coal-to-biomass conversion which has seen three units repowered to run on sustainable biomass pellets, with a fourth biomass conversion to follow this year.

If the Drax Repower plans go ahead in their entirety the development would include two combined-cycle gas turbines (CCGTs) with a combined capacity of up to 3,600 mega-

watts (MW) of electricity as well as battery storage of up to 200MW.

Andy Koss, Drax power chief executive, said: "We were delighted to welcome Nigel Adams and Jake Berry to Drax.

"Our repowering project represents a really exciting time for us; the options we're exploring could reuse some of the existing infrastructure from the remaining coal assets at Drax and extend their operation as gas plant into the 2030s.

"We hope the Repower project will secure the future of the power station beyond 2025 when the government says coal must come off the system.

"The North of England has a rich heritage in providing energy to the rest of the UK and Drax has an important role to play in delivering a low carbon economy as the UK comes off coal."

Drax Power Station employs around 900 people and gener-

ated 16 per cent of the country's renewable electricity in 2016 - enough for four million households.

Jake Berry, Minister for the Northern Powerhouse and Local Growth, said: "Drax plays a hugely important role in the northern economy and it's truly impressive how it has continued to innovate in recent years to move away from coal power.

"I enjoyed learning more about Drax's gas conversion project and its wider plans to support Britain's transition to a low carbon future based on an electric economy."

Mr Adams said: "Thousands of jobs in Selby and across Yorkshire directly or indirectly rely on Drax Power Station.

"Drax's proposal to convert its remaining coal units to gas to extend the life of the power station comes as welcome news at a time when other power stations in my constituency are closing their doors, with significant consequences for employees."

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**THE PRESS**

Date: 14 February 2018  
Page: 23



FULL POWER: From left, Will Gardiner, Drax Group CEO, Northern Powerhouse Minister Jake Berry, Selby and Ainsty MP Nigel Adams and Andy Koss, Drax Power CEO

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## The York Press (14 February 2018)



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The plans sit alongside Drax's existing coal-to-biomass conversion which has seen three units repowered to run on sustainable biomass pellets, with a fourth biomass conversion to follow this year.

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Andy Koss, Drax power chief executive said: "We were delighted to welcome Nigel Adams and Jake Berry to Drax. Our repowering project represents a really exciting time for us; the options we're exploring could reuse some of the existing infrastructure

## The York Press (14 February 2018)

from the remaining coal assets at Drax and extend their operation as gas plant into the 2030s.

“We hope the Repower project will secure the future of the power station beyond 2025 when the government says coal must come off the system. The North of England has a rich heritage in providing energy to the rest of the UK and Drax has an important role to play in delivering a low carbon economy as the UK comes off coal.”

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Mr Adams said: “Thousands of jobs in Selby and across Yorkshire directly or indirectly rely on Drax Power Station.

“Drax’s proposal to convert its remaining coal units to gas to extend the life of the power station comes as welcome news at a time when other power stations in my constituency are closing their doors, with significant consequences for employees.”

## Selby District Council (13 February 2018)

# Northern Powerhouse Minister visits development sites in Selby

📅 Tuesday, 13 February 2018



Three of the Selby district's strategic sites for new business development and new homes have been visited by Jake Berry, the Government Minister for the Northern Powerhouse. He was accompanied on the visits by Nigel Adams MP, Selby and Ainsty who had organized the visit to showcase business opportunities in the district.

Jake Berry, toured the Sherburn2 development and saw at first-hand how nearly £9m of new government funding will help unlock the development of around 1,000 new homes and significant new business space at Olympia Park. He then visited Drax and met with Andy Koss, Chief Executive where ambitious plans to convert the last remaining coal powered generators to gas.

Sherburn2 and Olympia Park are two of the Selby district's prime development opportunities – both are part of an expanding local economy and will support the district's position as the fastest-growing area in North Yorkshire.

**Sherburn2** is a 75-acre site with direct links onto the A1(M). It's next to the existing successful Sherburn Park, whose occupiers include Debenhams, Sainsbury's, Optare, Eddie Stobart, Kingspan and Legal & General Homes. With its strategic location and enormous potential to grow the Selby District economy, the project was kick-started with £3.1m in infrastructure funding from the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Enterprise Partnership and Government's Growing Places' Fund. Sherburn2 is one of the most significant new development sites in Yorkshire, both in terms of the jobs it will create and the inward investment it will attract.

At Olympia Park, meanwhile, [the government has agreed to invest nearly £9m on new infrastructure](#), including a new link road to the site, to kick start the development. This followed a bid for the funding from the District Council, supported by the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Enterprise Partnership and the local MP.

Speaking at the visit, Jake Berry MP, explained, "The Selby district is right at the heart of Yorkshire and well-placed to be a significant player in the economy of the north. The government's backing new investment across the region, through practical help such as funding for infrastructure improvements at sites like Olympia Park. Targeted funding like this will unlock significant new investment to create jobs and new opportunities."

Selby and Ainsty MP, Nigel Adams, added, "I invited the minister to see some of our strategic development sites which all form part of the ambitious plans for the Northern Powerhouse. The three projects we visited will all create new business opportunities and jobs. The Government has an important role in this and I am delighted that Jake Berry accepted my invitation to visit and saw the progress we are making and the role played by the local council, the LEP and others."

Leader of Selby District Council, Cllr Mark Crane, explained what the sites offer for new investors, "Our strengths for business here in the Selby district are our fantastic road and rail connections, the affordability of our business space, our workforce skills and the fact that we have a growing population. We've got two very different development sites – one offering significant new business space and the other a site for major new housing – but both will help us to deliver new job opportunities and growth. Ultimately this benefits everyone in the area."

Olympia Park will also unlock significant employment space as well as housing – and improve the quality of access for existing businesses on the site such as the Potter Group and Clipper Logistics.

Jeremy Nolan of Glentroot Estates, who own Sherburn2, commented: "These are exciting times for Sherburn2. Hard on the heels of the visit by Heathrow Airport chairman Lord Deighton, comes this visit by Jake Berry MP, the Northern Powerhouse Minister. We were delighted to welcome them both and to highlight its importance to the economy of Selby.

"The location of Sherburn2 is a massive selling point. Not only does the park boast great access to essential routes across the UK, with Yorkshire's excellent motorway network only minutes away, but the adjacent Sherburn Airfield and Sherburn Rail Freight Terminal provides a superb combination of road, rail and air connectivity.



“Meanwhile Sherburn2 is one of the most significant new employment sites in the Yorkshire region, both in terms of the sustainable jobs it will create and the inward investment it will attract. The visits by the Heathrow delegation and by Jake Berry MP are a welcome link between the north and south of England and underpin the growing importance of the Northern Powerhouse.

“Sherburn2 provides a great opportunity for occupiers to benefit from a labour pool with impeccable logistics connections. These visits underline the strategic importance of Sherburn2 for the region. We are looking forward to welcoming a new generation of businesses with an announcement of a major new occupier imminent. These two visits put us firmly on the national stage.”

## Minister FM (13 February 2018)

### Northern Powerhouse Minister visits development sites in Selby



1:23pm 13th February 2018  
(Updated 1:46pm 13th February 2018)

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He was accompanied by Nigel Adams, MP for Selby and Ainsty, who had organized the visit to showcase business opportunities in the district.

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“The government's backing new investment across the region, through practical help such as funding for infrastructure improvements at sites like Olympia Park. Targeted funding like this will unlock significant new investment to create jobs and new opportunities.”

**Selby and Ainsty MP, Nigel Adams, added,**

“I invited the minister to see some of our strategic development sites which all form part of the ambitious plans for the Northern Powerhouse.

The three projects we visited will all create new business opportunities and jobs. The Government has an important role in this and I am delighted that Jake Berry accepted my invitation to visit and saw the progress we are making and the role played by the local council, the LEP and others.”

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We’ve got two very different development sites – one offering significant new business space and the other a site for major new housing – but both will help us to deliver new job opportunities and growth. Ultimately this benefits everyone in the area.”

## 4-traders (13 February 2018)

# Drax : 13 February 2018 - Northern Powerhouse Minister and Selby MP visit Drax to find out more about Drax Repower



02/13/2018 | 10:16am GMT

Nigel Adams, MP, and Northern Powerhouse Minister Jake Berry this week visited Drax Power Station to find out more about the Drax Repower project, which would see up to two of Drax's coal generating units repowered to gas.

The plans would complement Drax's existing coal-to-biomass conversion which has seen three units repowered to run on sustainable biomass pellets, with a fourth biomass conversion to follow this year.

If the Drax Repower plans go ahead in their entirety, the development would include two combined-cycle gas turbines (CCGTs) with a combined capacity of up to 3,600 megawatts (MW) of electricity as well as battery storage of up to 200MW.

Andy Koss, Drax power CEO said, 'We were delighted to welcome Nigel Adams and Jake Berry to Drax. Our repowering project represents a really exciting time for us; the options we're exploring could reuse some of the existing infrastructure from the remaining coal assets at Drax and extend their operation as gas plant into the 2030s.



'We hope the Repower project will secure the future of the power station beyond 2025 when the government says coal must come off the system. The North of England has a rich heritage in providing energy to the rest of the UK and Drax has an important role to play in delivering a low carbon economy as the UK comes off coal.'

Drax Power Station employs around 900 people and generated 16% of the country's renewable electricity in 2016 - enough for four million households, the equivalent of Leeds, Manchester, Sheffield and Liverpool.

Jake Berry, Minister for the Northern Powerhouse and Local Growth, added, 'Drax plays a hugely important role in the northern economy and it's truly impressive how it has continued to innovate in recent years to move away from coal power. I enjoyed learning more about Drax's gas conversion project and its wider plans to support Britain's transition to a low carbon future based on an electric economy.'

Nigel Adams, Member of Parliament for Selby & Ainsty, said, 'Thousands of jobs in Selby and across Yorkshire directly or indirectly rely on Drax Power Station. Drax's proposal to convert its remaining coal units to gas to extend the life of the power station comes as welcome news at a time when other power stations in my constituency are closing their doors, with significant consequences for the employees working there.'

Drax Group contributed almost £1.7 billion towards UK GDP in 2016 and supported thousands of jobs across the country, including £577m across the North of England - Yorkshire and Humber, North West, and North East, termed as the 'Northern Powerhouse Region'.

## HumberBusiness.com (13 February 2018)

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### Powerhouse minister calls in on power plant to check on re-power plans



POWERING ON: Will Gardiner, Drax Group chief executive, with Jake Berry, Nigel Adams, Andy Koss, Drax Power chief executive.

By Hull Daily Mail | Posted: 13 Feb 2018

Northern Powerhouse Minister Jake Berry has visited Drax Power Station to find out more about plans to convert the final two coal generating units to gas-firing.

The proposal would complement Drax's existing coal-to-biomass conversion which has seen three units transformed to run on sustainable biomass pellets, with a fourth to follow this year.

If the Drax Repower plans go ahead in their entirety, the development would include two combined-cycle gas turbines (CCGTs) with a combined capacity of up to 3,600 megawatts (MW) of electricity as well as battery storage of up to 200MW.

**Read more: Coal-fired Eggborough Power Station to close later this year**

Mr Berry, who was joined by Nigel Adams, MP for Selby & Ainsty, said: "Drax plays a hugely important role in the northern economy and it's truly impressive how it has continued to innovate in recent years to move away from coal power. I enjoyed learning more about Drax's gas conversion project and its wider plans to support Britain's transition to a low carbon future based on an electric economy."

Drax Power Station employs around 900 people and generated 16 per cent of the country's renewable electricity in 2016 – enough for four million households, the equivalent of Leeds, Manchester, Sheffield and Liverpool.

**VISIT: Andy Koss, Drax Power chief executive, Jake Berry, apprentice Lucy Riley, Nigel Adams, apprentice Jacob Spencer, Will Gardiner, Drax Group chief executive and apprentice Thomas Hughes in the Drax Power Station control room.**

Andy Koss, Drax Power chief executive, said: "We were delighted to welcome Nigel Adams and Jake Berry to Drax. Our repowering project represents a really exciting time for us; the options we're exploring could reuse some of the existing infrastructure from the remaining coal assets at Drax and extend their operation as gas plant into the 2030s.

"We hope the Repower project will secure the future of the power station beyond 2025 when the government says coal must come off the system. The North of England has a rich heritage in providing energy to the rest of the UK and Drax has an important role to play in delivering a low carbon economy as the UK comes off coal."

**Read more: Hull waste firm has vehicle for one-stop collection**

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## TheBuisnessDesk.com (13 February 2018)

Home / Yorkshire / News / Northern Powerhouse Minister heads to Drax

# Northern Powerhouse Minister heads to Drax



News  
February 13 2018  
Rachel Covill



Write a comment



Northern Powerhouse Minister Jake Berry visited Drax Power Station near Selby this week to find out more about its Repower project, which would see up to two coal generating units repowered to gas. The plans would complement Drax's existing coal-to-biomass conversion which has seen three units repowered to run on sustainable biomass pellets, with a fourth biomass conversion to follow this year. If the Drax Repower plans go ahead in their entirety, the development would include two combined-cycle gas turbines (CCGTs) with a co... [For the full story register now for free](#) or login below...



## Business Link (14 February 2018)

# Drax welcomes Northern Powerhouse Minister

By **Dominic Cuthbert** - 14th February 2018

125



Will Gardiner, Drax Group chief executive, Jake Berry, Nigel Adams, Andy Koss, Drax Power CEO

Northern Powerhouse Minister Jake Berry and Nigel Adams, MP have visited Drax Power Station this week to find out more about the 'Repower' project.

The project would see up to two of Drax's coal generating units repowered to gas. The plans would complement its existing coal-to-biomass conversion which has seen three units repowered to run on sustainable biomass pellets, with a fourth biomass conversion to follow this year.

If the plans go ahead in their entirety, the development would include two combined-cycle gas turbines (CCGTs) with a combined capacity of up to 3,600 megawatts (MW) of electricity as well as battery storage of up to 200MW.

CEO Andy Koss said: "We were delighted to welcome Nigel Adams and Jake Berry to Drax. Our repowering project represents a really exciting time for us; the options we're exploring could reuse some of the existing infrastructure from the remaining coal assets at Drax and extend their operation as gas plant into the 2030s.

"We hope the Repower project will secure the future of the power station beyond 2025 when the government says coal must come off the system.

"The North of England has a rich heritage in providing energy to the rest of the UK and Drax has an important role to play in delivering a low carbon economy as the UK comes off coal."

Drax Power Station employs around 900 people and generated 16% of the country's renewable electricity in 2016 – enough for four million households, the equivalent of Leeds, Manchester, Sheffield and Liverpool.

Mr Berry added: "Drax plays a hugely important role in the northern economy and it's truly impressive how it has continued to innovate in recent years to move away from coal power.

"I enjoyed learning more about Drax's gas conversion project and its wider plans to support Britain's transition to a low carbon future based on an electric economy."

Nigel Adams, Member of Parliament for Selby & Ainsty, said: "Thousands of jobs in Selby and across Yorkshire directly or indirectly rely on Drax Power Station.

“Drax’s proposal to convert its remaining coal units to gas to extend the life of the power station comes as welcome news at a time when other power stations in my constituency are closing their doors, with significant consequences for the employees working there.”

Drax Group contributed almost £1.7 billion towards UK GDP in 2016 and supported thousands of jobs across the country, including £577 million across the North of England – Yorkshire and Humber, North West, and North East, termed as the ‘Northern Powerhouse Region’.

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# Drax could be coal free by 2025

by ANTONIO SCANCARIELLO - antonio.scancariello@selbytimes.info

Drax Power Station is planning a re-powering process that could get the whole complex to be coal free by the government's 2025 deadline.

Three of the six units that made up the station are already running on biomass, generated by wood pellets, while the remaining three are working on coal.

A further unit has completed a trial to be run on biomass, which will come from the United States and Canada.

Andy Koss, chief executive (CEO) of Drax Power, said: "Half of the system is still on coal. By October, 1 2025 the power station will get rid of coal. We received confirmation from the government of our fourth unit conversion to biomass."

The re-powering process' aim is to convert two more units making up the whole system, in this case to gas. This development would include two combined-cycle gas

turbines (CCGTs), which would also be capable of operating as rapid response gas power plants in open-cycle mode.

Mr Koss stated that 'there's a lot more power on gas rather than coal'.

If the entire process will go ahead there will be four units running on biomass, and two on gas.

The re-powering of units 5 and 6 would give the power station up to 3,600 megawatts (MW) of new gas generation capacity and up to 200 MW of battery storage. There would be two battery storage facilities, one per unit and each up to 100 MW.

At the moment, the current capacity of the power station is six units at 645 MW each.

"We are planning to run four units on biomass, at the moment the challenge to do six units is too big."

At present, Mr Koss is not able to 'quantify the cost' of the whole

process, but he said that 'we are confident we can fund it'.

Mr Koss also explained how the power station was relying on the government to give biomass away, 'but we felt we were not really in charge of our destiny.'

"It very quickly became clear that it was something that we could do," he also added.

The positive outcome of the re-powering process also depends on environmental assessments and issues like local planning, air and water quality, flood risk, traffic and transport, noise, ecology, heritage and the effects on landscape and visual amenity.

Mr Koss said: "We think people will be supportive, and the council was superb when we started biomass conversion."

**Drax Power Station after the re-powering process. (25-01-18 SU)**

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# Out with the coal, in with the wood

by **ANTONIO SCANCARIELLO** - [antonio.scancariello@selbytimes.info](mailto:antonio.scancariello@selbytimes.info)

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The Business Desk.com (23 January 2018)

## Drax CEO outlines ‘first of its kind’ plan to future-proof the power station



Drax Power Station near Selby generates 7% of the country’s electricity and now has three of its generators fuelled by low-carbon biomass; with a fourth due to be converted to this method in the summer.

This will leave the power station with two coal-fired generators, which the government has set out must be offline by 2025.

The station, which employs 900 people, is now launching its ‘re-power project’, setting out planning proposals which need to be approved by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Drax Group is proposing to build two gas-powered generators on the north of the station’s site; which would, when combined, generate 3,600 megawatts of power – each one would have the capacity to produce nearly three times as much of the power generated by one coal-fired generator. Each coal unit has 645MW and each gas generator would produce 1,800MW.

Should they get the go ahead, the two remaining operational coal-fired generators would close and the power generated across the site would increase and be more reactive to consumer needs, said CEO of Drax Power, Andy Koss.

He added that the proposed new generators would use the existing infrastructure, including the steam turbines and cooling towers. In a briefing with TheBusinessDesk.com, Koss said that the battery storage units would be used to ‘kick-start’ the gas generators into action; which he described the engineering concept behind it as “the first of its kind.”



## The Business Desk.com (23 January 2018)

Koss added that with the growth of renewable energy generation, including wind and solar, there was be a need to increase reactive power generation to "fill the gaps" that could emerge when demand outstrips renewable supply.

Talking of the proposed gas generator and battery storage, Koss said it was an incredibly exiting prospect to be ahead of the market. He said: "It will be the first of its kind in the UK. We think power generation needs to be as flexible as it possibly can be.

"This is a huge step away from coal-fired generation and, hopefully, over time, we will be able to take coal off the system by 2025.

"We need to be able to provide responsive, flexible and reliable power. Rather than leaving the generators to run, we need to be able to ramp up the voltage and respond to customer needs when there is demand."

Each gas powered generator would take three years to build and Drax hope to have planning in place by 2019 and the first gas generator operational by 2023.

The multi-million-pound project would require a new gas pipeline connection to the Drax site to supply the generators, two potential routes for which are included in the consultation; it would also see tall but slim stacks being constructed, which are no higher than the cooling towers.

Koss won't be drawn on exact figures, other than to say the price would need to be very competitive and the company would need to go through an auction process. He added: "The intention is to be the most competitive out there in the auction process."

Of the future of Drax, Koss said: "We still see a long term future for biomass because it's flexible and reliable. We hope to run the four biomass units past 2027. But it is very good to diversify and the gas generators would be at the cutting edge of power generation."

The firm will re-skill people employed on the site and more jobs would be created through the construction phase.

"This increases the complexity of what we are doing here, helping job preservation and creating an even more interesting job for people on site," he added.

Koss said it was imperative to always be ahead of the market and be testing options for power generation, as it becomes increasingly difficult to predict human demand for electricity as gadgets allow consumers to pre-set and cut down electricity usage. While there are peak usage times that the power station have to respond to, they want to be able to react to a quick surge or rise in demand in the future at a quicker rate.

"There has been more changes in the electricity sector in the last few years than the last few decades. We believe we have the expertise to build and operate the power generation of the future. Digital is changing demand. We won't solve everything by going down one particular path but it's a competitive marketplace as it becomes essential we use less carbon."

Drax generated £577m for the Northern Powerhouse regional economy in 2016 and £1.7bn for the UK.

Further information about the project and planning application can be found at <http://repower.drax.com>