



Ref: EN010091

Application by Drax Power Ltd for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Drax Re-power Project

The Examining Authority's (ExA) note of its Unaccompanied Site Inspection on Wednesday 3 October 2018

1. Background

- i. The ExA undertook an Unaccompanied Site Inspection on Wednesday 3 October 2018. The site visit began at approximately 1130 and finished at approximately 1700. The ExA were accompanied by the case manager Mrs Michele Gregory.
- ii. The purpose of the Inspection was for the ExA to familiarise itself with the site and surrounding area, and to support the examination of the proposed repowering of up to two existing coal-powered generating units (Units 5 and 6) with new gas turbines at the Existing Drax Power Station Complex. The ExA wanted to observe the application site from both nearby and long-ranger viewpoints.
- iii. The site inspection was undertaken by car and on foot.
- iv. As no inspections were undertaken on private land and advance permission to enter land was not required, the Inspection could be undertaken on an unaccompanied basis.
- v. The ExA did not encounter any interested parties or other persons during the Inspection.
- vi. Weather conditions were partly cloudy and partly sunny, and the temperature was mild. Visibility was good at all times.
- vii. The locations visited by the ExA were in part guided by the viewpoints identified and assessed within Chapter 10 of the Environmental Statement, and as illustrated by Figure 10.10.

2. Particulars of the Site Inspection

- i. The ExA began by observing the site from distance along the M62 and M18 motorways.
- ii. We then inspected the application site from Drax Sports and Social Club. We then proceeded to the settlement of Drax, observing the site and gas pipeline route from Main Road and Church Dike Lane. The ExA observed the road conditions on Brier Lane and the settlement of Newland.
- iii. The ExA travelled along Rusholme Lane and observed towards the site of the above ground installation at the start of the proposed pipeline. We observed the scheduled monument of the Drax Augustinian Priory and Scurff Hall.

- iv. The ExA then travelled in a westerly direction and observed the site from Camblesforth. The ExA then proceeded in a northerly direction and observed the power station from Barlow. We then headed further away from the site and towards Barlby and North Duffield we went to Bubwith. The ExA observed and appreciated the Lower Derwent Valley Ramsar, Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area.
- v. The ExA then proceeded towards Brackenholme. We then followed the A63 through to Newsholme; crossing the River Ouse and then proceeding along Bridge Road to Airmyn and returning to Drax along the A614 and A645.
- vi. The ExA concluded the Inspection by observing the site along New Road, from several vantage points directly outside the power station and from Carr Lane and Pear Tree Lane. The ExA observed the locations of the two Public Rights of Ways (Ref 35.47/1/1 and 35.47/6/1 as indicated on Figure 3.1c in Chapter 3 of the Environmental Statement) which are proposed to be diverted.

3. Summary

- i. The ExA viewed the application site from a number of short and long range public vantage points, located in all directions around the application site.
- ii. The ExA considers that it was able to obtain a good understanding of the site and surroundings, and the general character of the area.
- iii. The ExA considers that it is not necessary to visit these locations again, and does not propose to do so unless specifically requested to do so; and then only to view a specific physical.

Richard Allen

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Lead Member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors

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