

## **The Drax Power (Generating Stations) Order**

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

## **Statement of Common Ground between Drax Power Limited and Historic England**

(Submitted for Deadline 1)



The Planning Act 2008

## **Drax Power Limited**

**Drax Repower Project**

Applicant: DRAX POWER LIMITED  
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## Glossary

Abbreviation	Description
AGI	Above Ground Installation
Applicant	Drax Power Limited (also referred to as Drax)
Application	Application made by Drax Power Limited for a Development Consent Order on 29 May 2018
Authorised Development	Development described in Schedule 1 of the draft Development Consent Order
CCGT	Combined Cycle Gas Turbine
OCGT	Open Cycle Gas Turbine
DCO	Development Consent Order
Drax	Drax Power Limited (also referred to as the Applicant)
ES	Environmental Statement
NPS	National Policy Statement
NTS	National Transmission System
PA 2008	Planning Act 2008
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
Proposed Scheme	Drax Repower Project
SoCG	Statement of Common Ground
SoS	Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Purpose of this Statement of Common Ground

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground ("SoCG") has been prepared by Drax Power Limited ("Drax" or "the Applicant") and Historic England (HE) in relation to an application ("the Application") made by Drax for a Development Consent Order on 29 May 2018 to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy ("the SoS"). The Application relates to the Drax Repower Project ("the Proposed Scheme") which is described in section 1.2 below.
- 1.1.2 For the purpose of this SoCG, Drax, and Historic England will be referred to as the "Parties".
- 1.1.3 The purpose of this SoCG is to set out the agreement that has been reached between the Parties in respect of a number of matters relating to the Proposed Scheme, including:
- Consultation with Historic England
  - Scope of the assessment
  - Assessment methodology
  - Results of the assessment
  - DCO Requirements
- 1.1.4 Section 2 of this SoCG sets out the areas of agreement in relation to the above matters, and any areas of disagreement between the Parties.

## 1.2 The Proposed Scheme

- 1.2.1 Drax is proposing to repower up to two existing coal-fired units (known as unit 5 and unit 6) with gas – this means the existing coal-fired units would be decommissioned and replaced with newly constructed gas-fired units utilising some of the existing infrastructure. Each unit, which is a new gas fired generating station in its own right, would comprise combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) and open cycle gas turbine (OCGT) technology. Each new gas generating unit would also use existing infrastructure, including the cooling system and steam turbines, and would each have a new capacity of up to 1,800 MW, replacing existing units each with a capacity of up to 660 MW. Each unit would have a battery storage capability of up to 100 MW (subject to technology and commercial considerations). Should both units be repowered, the new gas-fired units / generating stations would have a combined capacity of 3,600 MW and a combined battery storage capacity of 200 MW (totalling a capacity of up to 3,800 MW).
- 1.2.2 Drax is seeking consent for the flexibility to construct a single generating station with a 1,800 MW generating capacity and a 100 MW battery storage capacity or to construct two generating stations each with a 1,800 MW generating capacity and each with its own 100 MW battery storage capacity. The construction of each new gas fired generating station would repower either one or both of Unit 5 and Unit 6. The decision as to whether Drax constructs one or two gas fired generating stations and when, is a commercial decision that can only be taken post any consent being granted.

- 1.2.3 In order to repower to gas, a new Gas Pipeline needs to be constructed from Drax Power Station to the National Gas Transmission System (NTS). In addition, an Above Ground Installation (AGI), and Gas Receiving Facility (GRF) are required. A connection to the electrical network would be made via the existing National Grid Substation within the Existing Drax Power Station Complex. Other development includes construction laydown areas, a passing place to enable the construction of the Gas Pipeline and a temporary bridge during construction.
- 1.2.4 The development being applied for is called the "Proposed Scheme" and is more fully described in Schedule 1 of the draft Development Consent Order (where it is termed the "Authorised Development").
- 1.2.5 The Proposed Scheme includes the construction of a generating station with a capacity of more than 50 MW and accordingly meets the criteria given in the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) ("PA 2008") for being a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ("**NSIP**").
- 1.2.6 As a NSIP, the Proposed Scheme therefore requires a Development Consent Order ("DCO") from the SoS for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

## 2 MATTERS AGREED AND MATTERS NOT AGREED

### 2.1 Consultation with Historic England

The following is AGREED between the Parties:

- 2.1.1 It is agreed that Chapter 8 (Historic Environment) in the Environmental Statement submitted with the Application (Examination Library Ref: APP-076) accurately sets out the consultation and engagement undertaken between the Parties in relation to the Application.
- 2.1.2 The consultation that has taken place with Historic England up to the date of this SoCG concerning the issues raised within this SoCG is presented in Table 1.

Table 1 - Consultation with Historic England

Ref	Date	Form of contact or type of correspondence	Summary of that contact and key outcomes and points of discussion
1	11/10/17	Letter in response to consultation on the scoping report.	Agreed that the potential impacts on designated, non-designated assets and below ground archaeology would be assessed in the Environmental Statement.  Agreed that the study area for the assessment of impacts would extend further than 3km.
2	28/11/2017	Face to face meeting with HE	Historic England confirmed that the 10 km Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) should be utilised in the setting assessment. It was highlighted that this distance would include a number of locations and



Ref	Date	Form of contact or type of correspondence	Summary of that contact and key outcomes and points of discussion
			<p>settings which are unlikely to be affected by the proposed project.</p> <p>It was agreed the most appropriate mitigation strategy for Drax Augustinian priory (SM 1016857) should comprise enhancement measures such as the placement of interpretative signage on the public right of way (PRoW).</p>
3	26/02/18	Written Response to consultation under section 42(1)(a) of the Planning Act 2008	<p>Historic England welcomed the wider study area of 10km.</p> <p>Agreed that potential for harm to the setting, and therefore the significance, of a number of designated heritage assets within the vicinity would be fully assessed in the Environmental Statement.</p> <p>Agreed that wireframes and photomontages were produced (these are contained in the ES Volume 1 Chapter 10 Landscape and Visual Amenity, document reference 6.1.10, Examination Library Reference APP-078).</p> <p>Further discussion was requested once geophysical surveys had been undertaken. The results of the geophysical survey and subsequent trial trenching have been shared with Historic England.</p>
4	21/08/2018	Meeting at HE offices, York	<p>Presentation of key issues reported in the Environmental Statement relevant to Historic England.</p> <p>Discussion of draft SoCG.</p> <p>Confirmation that alternative locations for the interpretative panels (such as Drax Visitor Centre) would be acceptable to Historic England.</p>

2.1.3 It is AGREED that Table 1 is an accurate record of the meetings and key correspondence between Drax and Historic England.

## 2.2 Scope of the assessment

The following is AGREED between the Parties:

- 2.2.1 The scope of the assessment in terms of the 10km Study Area and the designated and undesignated archaeological assets identified for assessment within that Study Area.
- 2.2.2 The impacts of the buried Gas Pipeline on the settings of designated heritage assets were deemed to be insignificant and scoped out of the assessment.

## 2.3 Assessment methodology

The following is AGREED between the Parties:

- 2.3.1 The methodology adopted for the assessment of historic environment effects, as set out in the ES Appendix 8.1: Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment (document reference 6.2.8.1, Examination Library Reference APP-104).

## 2.4 Assessment Conclusions

The following is AGREED between the Parties:

- 2.4.1 The conclusions of the assessment that there would be a temporary, direct, short-term adverse effect of minor significance to the setting of Drax Augustinian Priory resulting from the temporary construction laydown (Work No. 9B) during the construction of Unit X (Work No. 1) and Unit Y (Work No. 2). There would be a permanent, direct long-term adverse effect of minor significance resulting from the impact of new built forms in the landscape (Units X and Y) during operation.
- 2.4.2 The conclusions of the assessment that there would be a direct, temporary short-term adverse effect of minor significance to the setting of the Scurff Hall resulting from the construction of the Gas Pipeline (Work No. 7) and the associated Above Ground Installation (Work No.4).
- 2.4.3 In the context of the National Planning Policy Framework (2018), effects of minor significance in the Historic Environment Chapter of the ES (APP-076) equate to less than substantial harm. Therefore, the effects of the Proposed Scheme will result in less than substantial harm on designated heritage assets.
- 2.4.4 The geophysical survey (document reference 6.2.8.2, Examination Library Reference APP-105) and evaluation trenching fieldwork (document reference 6.2.8.3, Examination Library Reference APP-106) was shared with Historic England as requested in their response to consultation under 42(1)(a) of the Planning Act 2008. It was agreed that no remains of national significance were exposed or expected.
- 2.4.5 Although no significant impacts are predicted on any settings of Heritage Assets, it is agreed that enhancement mitigation for Drax Augustinian priory (SM 1016857), to enhance people's experience of the priory in the context of the reported minor negative impacts, would comprise the provision of interpretative panels. These will be placed at a suitable location, such as the Drax Visitor Centre or on the PRoW adjacent to the site boundary.

## 2.5 Matters Under Discussion

- 2.5.1 There are no outstanding matters under discussion.



### 3 AGREEMENT ON THIS SOCG

#### 3.1.1 This SoCG has been jointly prepared and agreed by

Name:

EMMA SHARPE

Signature:

[Redacted Signature]

Position:

Inspector of Historic Buildings & Areas

On behalf of:

Historic England

Date:

03/10/18

Name:

KEITH EMERICK

Signature:

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Position:

Inspector of Ancient Monuments

On behalf of:

HISTORIC ENGLAND

Date:

03/10/18

Name:

OLIVER DAYBUT.

Signature:

[Redacted Signature]

Position:

ENVIRONMENT & GOVERNANCE SECTION HEAD.

On behalf of:

Drax Power Ltd.

Date:

03/10/18.