

VPI Immingham OCGT Project

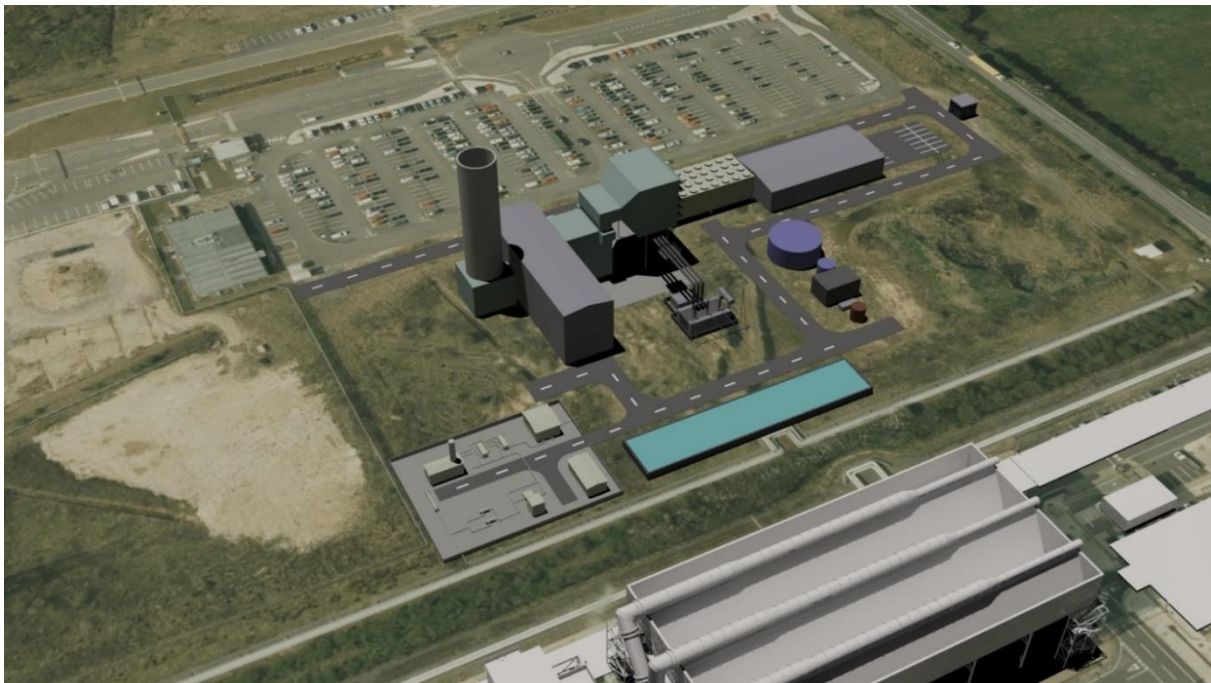
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The Immingham Open Cycle Gas Turbine Order

Land to the north of and in the vicinity of the VPI Immingham Power Station, Rosper Road, South Killingholme, Lincolnshire, DN40 3DZ

Statement of Common Ground with Historic England

The Planning Act 2008



Applicant: VPI Immingham B Ltd

Date: July 2019

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GLOSSARY

Abbreviation	Description
Access	Work No. 2 – access works comprising access to the OCGT Power Station Site and access to Work Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6;
Access Site	The land required for Work No.2.
AGI	Above Ground Installation
Applicant	VPI Immingham B Ltd
Application	The Application for a Development Consent Order made to the Secretary of State under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008.
CHP	Combined Heat and Power
DCO	Development Consent Order
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
Electrical Connection	Work No. 5 – an electrical connection of up to 400 kilovolts and controls systems.
Electrical Connection Site	The land required for Work No.5.
ES	Environmental Statement
Existing AGI	The exiting AGI within the Existing VPI CHP Site.
Existing AGI Site	The land comprising the exiting AGI within the Existing VPI CHP Site.
Existing Gas Pipeline Site	The land comprising the Existing Gas Pipeline and a stand-off either side of it.
Existing VPI CHP Plant	The existing VPI Immingham Power Station.
Existing VPI CHP Plant Site	The land comprising the Existing VPI CHP Plant, located immediately to the south of the Main OCGT Power Station Site.
Gas Connection	Work No. 4 – the new underground and overground gas pipeline
Gas Connection Site	The land required for Work No.5.
GW	Gigawatts – unit of power.
km	Kilometre – unit of distance.
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
m	Metres – unit of distance.
MW	Megawatts – unit of energy.
NELC	North East Lincolnshire Council
NG	National Grid
NLC	North Lincolnshire Council
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
OCGT	Open Cycle Gas Turbine – a combustion turbine plant fired by gas or

Abbreviation	Description
	liquid fuel to turn a generator rotor that produces electricity.
OCGT Power Station	Work No. 1 – an OCGT power station with a gross capacity of up to 299MW.
OCGT Power Station Site	The land required for Work No.1.
PA 2008	Planning Act 2008. An Act which provides the need for and the powers to apply for and grant development consent orders ('DCO') for nationally significant infrastructure projects ('NSIP').
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
Project Land	The land required for the Proposed Development (the Site) and the land comprising the Existing Gas Pipeline Site. The Project Land is the same as the 'Order land' (in the DCO).
Proposed Development	The construction, operation and maintenance of a new gas-fired electricity generating station with a gross output capacity of up to 299 MW, including electrical and gas supply connections, and other associated development.
Site	The land required for the Proposed Development, and which is the same as the 'Order limits' (in the DCO).
SoS	The Secretary of State
Temporary Construction and Laydown	Work No. 3
Temporary Construction and Laydown Site	Land Required for Work No. 3.
Utilities and Services Connections	Work No 6 – utilities and services connections to the OCGT Power Station.
Utilities and Services Connections Site	The land required for Work No.6 – the land required for the utilities and services connections to the OCGT Power Station.
Vitol	Vitol Group – the owner of VPI LLP and VPIB.
VPIB	VPI Immingham B Limited – the Applicant
VPI LLP	VPI Immingham LLP – the owner and operator of the Existing VPI CHP Plant.
Work No.1	An OCGT power station (the 'OCGT Power Station') with a gross capacity of up to 299MW.
Work No.2	Access works (the 'Access Site'), comprising access to the Main OCGT Power Station Site and access to Work Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6.
Work No.3	Temporary construction and laydown area
Work No.4	An underground and overground gas pipeline (the 'Gas Connection') of up to 600 mm (nominal internal diameter) for the transport of natural gas to Work No. 1.
Work No.5	An electrical connection (the 'Electrical Connection') of up to 400 kilovolts and control systems.
Work No.6	Utilities and services connections (the 'Utilities and Services Connections').
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation – a method statement or a project design to cover a suite of archaeological works for a site.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

- 1.1.1 This Statement of Common Ground ('SoCG') (Document Ref: 8.4) has been prepared on behalf of VPI Immingham B Ltd. ('VPIB' or the 'Applicant') in respect of its application (the 'Application') for a Development Consent Order (a 'DCO') under the Planning Act 2008 (the 'PA 2008').
- 1.1.2 The Application has been submitted to the Secretary of State (the 'SoS') for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy for the construction, operation and maintenance of a new gas-fired electricity generating station with a gross output capacity of up to 299 megawatts ('MW'), including electrical and gas supply connections, and other associated development (the 'Proposed Development'). The Proposed Development is located primarily on land (the 'Site') to the north of the existing VPI Immingham Power Station, Rosper Road, South Killingholme, North Lincolnshire, DN40 3DZ.
- 1.1.3 A DCO is required for the Proposed Development as it falls within the definition and thresholds for a 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project' (a 'NSIP') under section 14(1)(a) and sections 15(1) and 15(2) of the PA 2008. The DCO, if made by the SoS, would be known as the 'VPI Immingham OCGT Order' (the 'Order').

1.2 VPI

- 1.2.1 VPI Immingham LLP ('VPI LLP') owns and operates the existing VPI Immingham Power Station, one of the largest combined heat and power ('CHP') plants in Europe, capable of generating 1,240 MW (about 2.5% of UK peak electricity demand) and up to 930 tonnes of steam per hour (hereafter referred to as the 'Existing VPI CHP Plant'). The steam is used by nearby oil refineries to turn crude oil into products, such as gasoline. The land comprising the Existing VPI CHP Plant is hereafter referred to as the 'Existing VPI CHP Plant Site'.
- 1.2.2 VPI LLP is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Vitol Group ('Vitol'), founded in 1966 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Since then Vitol has grown significantly to become a major participant in world commodity markets and is now the world's largest independent energy trader. Its trading portfolio includes crude oil, oil products, liquid petroleum gas, liquid natural gas, natural gas, coal, electricity, agricultural products, metals and carbon emissions. Vitol trades with all the major national oil companies, the integrated oil majors and independent refiners and traders. For further information on VPI LLP and Vitol please visit:

<https://www.vpi-i.com/>

- 1.2.3 VPIB has been formed as a separate entity for the purposes of developing and operating the Proposed Development.

1.3 The Site

- 1.3.1 The Site is primarily located on land immediately to the north of the Existing VPI CHP Plant Site, as previously stated. Immingham Dock is located approximately 1.5 kilometres ('km') to the south east of the Site at its closest point. The Humber ports facility is located approximately 500 metres ('m') north and the Humber Refinery is located approximately 500m to the south.

- 1.3.2 The villages of South Killingholme and North Killingholme are located approximately 1.4 km and 1.6 km to the west of the Site respectively, and the town of Immingham is located approximately 1.8 km to the south east. The nearest residential property comprises a single house off Marsh Lane, located approximately 325 m to the east of the Site.
- 1.3.3 The Site comprises the following main parts:
- OCGT Power Station Site;
 - Access Site;
 - Temporary Construction and Laydown Site;
 - Gas Connection Site;
 - Electrical Connection Site; and
 - Utilities and Services Connections Site.
- 1.3.4 The Site is located entirely within the boundary of the administrative area of North Lincolnshire Council ('NLC'), a unitary authority. The different parts of the Site are illustrated in the Works Plans (Application Document Ref: 4.3).
- 1.3.5 The Site has been selected by the Applicant for the Proposed Development, as opposed to other potentially available sites, for the following reasons:
- It comprises primarily of previously developed or disturbed land, including land within the operational envelope of the Existing VPI CHP Plant Site;
 - It is situated in an industrial setting with few immediate receptors and is not particularly sensitive from an environmental perspective;
 - It is located adjacent to the Existing VPI CHP Plant, which provides visual screening and synergies in terms of the existing workforce, and utilities and service connections;
 - It benefits from excellent grid connections (gas and electricity) on the Existing VPI CHP Plant Site; and
 - It benefits from existing highway accesses onto Rosper Road, with the latter providing a direct connection (via a short section of Humber Road) to the Strategic Highway Network (A160) to the south of the Site.
- 1.3.6 A more detailed description of the Site is provided in Environmental Statement ('ES') Volume 1 Chapter 3 'Description of the Site' (Application Document Ref: 6.2.3).

1.4 The Existing Gas Pipeline

- 1.4.1 In addition to the Site, the Application includes provision for the use of an existing gas pipeline (the 'Existing Gas Pipeline') to provide fuel to the Proposed Development. The Existing Gas Pipeline was constructed in 2003 to provide fuel to the Existing VPI CHP Plant. The route of the pipeline runs from a connection point at an above ground installation (the 'Existing AGI Site') within the Existing VPI CHP Plant Site to a tie in point at the existing National Grid ('NG') Feeder No.9 pipeline located to the west of South Killingholme.

- 1.4.2 A small part of the Existing Gas Pipeline Site lies within the administrative area of North East Lincolnshire District Council ('NELC'), the neighbouring local authority.
- 1.4.3 The Applicant is not seeking consent to carry out any works to the Existing Gas Pipeline and, as a result, it does not form part of the Site or Proposed Development. It is included in the Application on the basis that the Applicant is seeking rights to use and maintain the pipeline and it is therefore included within the DCO 'Order land' (the area over which powers of compulsory acquisition or temporary possession are sought). The area of land covered by the Existing Gas Pipeline, including a 13 m stand-off either side of it to provide for access and any future maintenance requirements, is hereafter referred to as the 'Existing Gas Pipeline Site'.
- 1.4.4 The Site and the Existing Gas Pipeline Site are collectively referred to as the 'Project Land'. The area covered by the Project land is illustrated in the Location Plan (Application Document Ref: 4.1).
- 1.4.5 The Existing Gas Pipeline has not been assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') carried out in respect of the Application. This is on the basis that it is a pre-existing pipeline and the Applicant is not seeking consent to carry out any works to it. Further explanation in respect of this matter is provided in ES Volume 1, Chapter 1 'Introduction' and Chapter 3 'Description of the Site' (Application Document Ref: 6.2.3).

1.5 The Proposed Development

- 1.5.1 The main components of the Proposed Development are summarised below, as set out in the draft DCO (Application Document Ref: 2.1):
- Work No. 1 – an OCGT power station (the 'OCGT Power Station') with a gross electrical output capacity of up to 299MW;
 - Work No. 2 – access works (the 'Access'), comprising access to the OCGT Site;
 - Work No. 3 – temporary construction and laydown area ('Temporary Construction and Laydown') comprising hard standing, laydown and open storage areas, contractor compounds and staff welfare facilities, vehicle parking, roadways and haul routes, security fencing and gates, gatehouses, external lighting and lighting columns;
 - Work No. 4 – gas supply connection works (the 'Gas Connection') comprising an underground and/or overground gas pipeline of up to 600 millimetres (nominal internal diameter) and approximately 800 m in length for the transport of natural gas from the Existing Gas Pipeline to Work No. 1;
 - Work No. 5 – an electrical connection (the 'Electrical Connection') of up to 400 kilovolts and associated controls systems; and
 - Work No. 6 – utilities and services connections (the 'Utilities and Services Connections').
- 1.5.2 It is anticipated that subject to the DCO having been made by the SoS and a final investment decision by VPIB, construction work on the Proposed Development would commence in early 2021. The overall construction programme is expected to

last approximately 21 months and is anticipated to be completed in late 2022, with the Proposed Development entering commercial operation later that year or early the following year.

1.5.3 A more detailed description of the Proposed Development is provided at ES Volume 1, Chapter 4 'The Proposed Development' (Application Document Ref: 6.2.4).

1.5.4 The areas within which each of the main components of the Proposed Development are to be built are shown by the coloured and hatched areas on the Works Plans (Application Document Ref: 4.3).

1.6 The purpose and structure of this document

1.6.1 The purpose of this SoCG is to set out the agreement (see Section 2 of this report) that has been reached between the Applicant and Historic England ('HE') in respect of the following matters:

- Adequacy of the Environmental Statement ('ES');
- Visual Impacts on the setting of Thornton Abbey; and
- Archaeology at the Site.

1.6.1 Section 2 of this SoCG sets out the role of Historic England ('HE') Section 3 sets out details of consultation undertaken with HE by the Applicant, Section 4 sets out the areas of agreement in relation to the above matters, and section 5 sets out any areas of disagreement between the parties.

2. THE ROLE OF HISTORIC ENGLAND

- 2.1.1 HE is an executive non-departmental public body responsible for protecting the historical environment of England by preserving and listing historic buildings, ancient monuments and advising central and local government.
- 2.1.2 HE is the government's expert advisor on England's heritage and has a statutory role in the planning system. HE is responsible for giving advice to local planning authorities, government departments, developers and owners on development proposals affecting the historic environment.

3. CONSULTATION WITH HISTORIC ENGLAND

3.1.1 The consultation that has taken place with HE to date in relation to the issues raised within this SoCG is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Consultation with HE

Date	Details
June / July 2018	HE consulted by PINS in respect of a request made by the Applicant for an EIA Scoping Opinion in respect of the Project. No response from HE was included within the Scoping Opinion
June / July 2018	HE notified by email of the intention to submit the Application for the Proposed Development. Response received 4 July 2018 including the opinion that there was a likelihood of effects on the historic environment and so a structured assessment should be scoped into the EIA. Advice on the setting impacts upon designated heritage assets was also included as was advice on archaeological impacts and impacts on built heritage.
December 2019	Consultation in accordance with S42 of the 2008 Planning Act. HE's response on 3 December 2019 included recommendation to assess the visual impacts on Thornton Abbey in particular including a visual representation of the visibility of the stacks from this asset.
March 2019	HE responded by letter (dated 26 March 2019) to an email (dated 15 March 2019) from DWD the Applicant's planning consultant. HE's letter confirmed that the approach set out in the email of 15 March 2019 is acceptable to HE. The approach referred to by HE related to the proposed assessment of the impact of the Proposed Development on Thornton Abbey (a Scheduled Monument) and the consideration and investigation of archaeological remains within the Site.
June 2019	HE confirmed by email that it does not wish to be registered as an interested party.

4. MATTERS AGREED

4.1 Adequacy of the Environmental Statement

4.1.1 An assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on cultural heritage is presented in Chapter 13 of ES Volume I (Application Document Ref: 6.2.13). Known and designated heritage assets are illustrated in Figures 13.1 to 13.3 of ES Volume II (Application Document Refs. 6.3.21 to 6.3.23). Designated and non-designated assets are listed in Appendices 13A to 13C of ES Volume III (Application Document Refs 6.4.27 to 6.4.29).

4.1.2 It is agreed that with the identified embedded mitigation, control measures and proposed mitigation as set out in the Environmental Statement, the impacts of the Proposed Development on cultural heritage assets would not be significant and are acceptable. It is also agreed that the assessment of cultural heritage within the Environmental Statement (Chapter 13 of ES Volume I (Application Document Ref. 6.2.10)) is robust.

4.2 Visual Impacts on Thornton Abbey

4.2.1 Visual Impacts have been assessed as part of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment presented in Chapter 10 of ES Volume I (Application Document Ref. 6.2.10).

4.2.2 A photomontage and wireframe has been produced and included with the ES as Appendix 10D (Application Document Ref. 6.4.21). This demonstrates that no part of the Proposed Development will be visible from the Abbey and accordingly no further assessment is required.

4.2.3 It is agreed that the Proposed Development would have no visual impact on the setting of Thornton Abbey.

4.3 Archaeology

4.3.1 In respect of the potential for the Site to hold archaeological remains and to demonstrate that the Proposed Development will not have a significant effect on any such remains, the Applicant has proposed to undertake a programme of archaeological works.

4.3.2 A framework Written Scheme of Investigation ('WSI') (Application Document Ref: 6.4.31) has therefore been submitted with the Application. Furthermore, the provision of a detailed WSI is secured by Requirement 13 of the draft DCO (Application Document Ref: 2.1), whereby no part of the authorised development may commence until a written scheme of investigation for that part has been submitted to and, after consultation Historic England, approved by the relevant planning authority. The scheme must be in accordance with chapter 13 (cultural heritage) of the ES (Application Document Ref. 6.2.10) and the Framework Written Scheme of Investigation (Application Document Ref: 6.4.31).

4.3.3 It is agreed that this approach is acceptable and appropriate, as confirmed in the aforementioned letter from HE to the Applicant dated 26 March 2019 (see Table 1).

4.4 Additional Aspects

- 4.4.1 It is agreed that HE has identified no further concerns in relation to the Proposed Development and has no further comments to make in respect of the Application.

5. MATTERS TO RESOLVE

5.1.1 There are no outstanding matters to resolve.

Signed 

Print name and position: Rosamund Worrall, Team Leader (Development Advice)

On behalf of Historic England

Date: 02 August 2019

Signed: 

Print name and position: Marvin Seaman, VPI-B Development Manager

On behalf of VPI Immingham B Ltd:

Date: 02 August 2019