



Meeting note

Project name	Stallingborough Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) generating plant and Carbon Capture Plant (CCP)
File reference	EN010161
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	23 November 2023
Meeting with	RWE Generation UK plc
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Inception Meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed, and advice given

The Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) advised that a note of the meeting would be taken and published on its website in accordance with section 51 of the Planning Act 2008 (the PA2008). Any advice given under section 51 would not constitute legal advice upon which applicants (or others) could rely.

The Inspectorate explained that the publication of the meeting note could be delayed up to six months, if required by the developer for commercial confidentiality/ sensitivity reasons, or until a formal scoping request had been submitted.

Project briefing

The Proposed Development involves the construction and operation of the Stallingborough Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) generating plant and Carbon Capture Plant (CCP) and is anticipated to generate a net figure of approximately 900MW of electricity.

Natural gas would be transported from the National Transmissions System to the main site via a new pipeline.

Electricity would be transferred from the main site into the National Grid transmission network, by a new electrical connection, to the existing National Grid West Grimsby substation, which is planned to be established in 2035.

Feasibility studies are being completed for a number of routes for the natural gas pipeline and HV cable, which will be further refined. The Proposed Development indicative site is adjacent to an Ecological Mitigation Area, where the Applicant is hoping to include a temporary laydown area. Both the proposed development site and the Ecological Mitigation Area are under the ownership of RWE.

Environmental receptors and features

The Applicant showed North East Lincolnshire Council's Local Plan 2018, highlighting employment zones and housing allocations.



The Applicant discussed the surrounding environmental features and their sensitivities including South Humber Gateway Strategic Mitigation Site, a Special Protected Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Ramsar Site and Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI) and local designations Local Nature Reserve (LNR).

The Applicant informed that there is a scheduled ancient monument in Stallingborough and listed buildings around residential settlements, as well as intertidal habitats including salt marsh and mudflats within the adjacent designated estuary. These would be considered in the Scoping Report.

Project Programme

The Applicant discussed its project programme and aim to submit the Development Consent Order (DCO) application in Q4 2025.

The Inspectorate reminded the Applicant to submit the Shapefile at least ten working days before submitting the Scoping Report and directed to [Advice Note 7.5](#).

The Inspectorate advised that any draft documents review would take six to eight weeks and recommended allowing time in the project programme to action feedback.

The Inspectorate queried whether the Applicant was aware of any other projects or Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) that the Local Authorities (LA) are handling, and the Applicant reassured that it was monitoring applications in the surrounding area and communicating with LAs about the project programme to make them aware.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping

The Applicant discussed the specialist assessments it intended to undertake during EIA Scoping and informed that it will clearly set out each topic in a summary table and distinguish which topics will be scoped in or out.

Environmental surveys

The Applicant discussed which environmental surveys would be undertaken to examine:

- Air quality baseline monitoring;
- Arboriculture tree surveys;
- Cultural heritage walkover;
- Geology and soils: Agricultural Land Classification;
- Landscape and visual: viewpoint photography;
- Ornithology;
- Terrestrial ecology;
- Water environment walkover; and
- Marine ecology.

The Inspectorate recommended potentially carrying out viewpoint photography over the estuary to aid with surveying. The Applicant stated its intention to submit its request for a Scoping Opinion in January 2024.

Consultation



The Applicant discussed positive engagement and support from the local MP. A draft consultation strategy had been discussed with North Lincolnshire Council, which was one of two anticipated host LAs (the other expected to be North East Lincolnshire Council).

It was planned that non-statutory consultation would run for six weeks from 15 February to 28 March 2024 and include a newsletter to the consultation zone, three community events, two webinars and a website with exhibition material and a feedback form.

The Applicant stated that statutory consultation was scheduled for early 2025.

Compulsory Acquisition

Land where the CCGT and CCP would be located is owned by the Applicant while the route for the natural gas pipeline (approx. 10km) and electricity connection (approx. 4km) was owned by third parties.

Cooling water intake infrastructure would be located in the Humber Estuary where the foreshore is owned by the Crown estate.

The Applicant informed that land referencing was ongoing and contact with landowners has been made with landowners to gain access for surveys. Further discussions would take place with landowners once studies for the gas pipeline route and electrical connection were complete and the design work had progressed.

AOB

The Inspectorate informed the Applicant that the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities was compiling shapefiles in GIS to create a map of planning data.

The Applicant queried whether Biodiversity Net Gain was a requirement in the DCO and the Inspectorate advised that it was best practice and the project programme may fall in the statutory requirement.

The Applicant enquired about which LAs they were required to include in the Statutory consultation and the Inspectorate would address and respond to this when the Applicant provides the Proposed Development shapefile.

The Inspectorate gave the Applicant examples of DCO projects to research (Keadby 3 Carbon Capture Power Station Riverside Energy Park and Little Crow Solar Farm) relating to references to outputs, maintaining flexibility but also ensuring clear environmental parameters were set.

Specific decisions/ follow-up required?

The following actions were agreed:

- The Applicant to give the Inspectorate notice for the next project update meeting and will aim for quarterly meetings in the first year of the project.
- The Applicant and the Inspectorate to organise a trial run for sharing documents.