

Meeting note

Project name	Stallingborough CCGT generating plant
File reference	EN010161
Status	Final
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	10 April 2024
Meeting with	RWE Generation UK plc (RWE)
Venue	Microsoft Teams
Meeting objectives	Project Update 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.

Activities updates since previous meeting

Since the previous meeting, the Applicant has held meetings with the Planning Officers of several host Local Authorities.

The Applicant submitted its EIA Scoping Report to the Inspectorate on 9 February 2024. Subsequently, the Inspectorate issued its Scoping Opinion on 21 March 2024.

The Applicant advised that it had been engaging with key stakeholders. Expert Topic Groups have been set up which will allow stakeholders with similar interests to collaborate on key topics. These meetings are set to be held throughout April 2024 and include matters such as the Water Environment, Ecology, Transport and Heritage. The Inspectorate asked whether there were any difficulties with stakeholder engagement and attendance. The Applicant confirmed that it had received multiple confirmed attendees, however Natural England were yet to confirm attendance. The Applicant also outlined that inception meetings had taken place with host Local Authorities including North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC), North Lincolnshire Council, West Lindsey District Council and Lincolnshire County Council. Discussions with NELC to date have had a long lead in time due to NELC availability.

Environmental Surveys

The Applicant highlighted that several surveys have been completed and some remain ongoing. Surveys undertaken to date include:

- Ornithology (at the Main Site and wider area).
- Terrestrial Ecology (at the Main Site and wider area).

- Ambient Noise Surveys (at the Main Site and at the nearest residential properties).
- Phase 1 ground investigations (at the main site).

The Applicant advised that once the connection corridors for the natural gas supply pipeline and high voltage electrical connection to the national grid and cooling water study have been refined following the outcome of feasibility studies, more surveys will be undertaken within the next 6 months. These include:

- arboriculture survey,
- baseline nitrogen dioxide monitoring (if agreed with LPAs),
- archaeological geophysical survey,
- Agricultural Land Classification survey of Main Site,
- Walkover surveys for heritage, ground conditions, water quality and hydrogeology,
- detailed ecological surveys,
- ongoing ornithological surveys, and
- marine studies in the estuary.

The Applicant stated that a limited response had been received from Natural England in response to the surveys.

EIA Scoping Opinion

The Applicant confirmed that it had received the Scoping Opinion from the Inspectorate, and this was still under review. The Applicant has compiled a table in Excel which is allowing them to work with specialists to provide their responses to comments raised in the Scoping Opinion. It is hoped that this table will be included in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) as a signposting document to where the comments are addressed in the PEIR documentation. A further update will be provided in August 2024, before the PEIR publication.

The Applicant advised that multiple key issues are currently being discussed in the project team, including:

- Options for transport of the captured CO₂ via a new pipeline.
- Elements of the Proposed Development anticipated by the Applicant to be classed as Associated Development.
- Timing and operation of the CCP infrastructure.
- Cooling water technology.
- Strategic mitigation site use and development.
- Shipping and navigation.
- Local service provisions for water, local electricity distribution and telecommunications.

The Applicant is liaising with Anglian Water in relation to sourcing water during the construction period. The Applicant advises that it is seeking to bring together the relevant organisations to collaborate on the strategic mitigation site use and development.

Consenting Programme

The Applicant will be preparing the PEIR from May to December 2024.

The Statutory Consultation Period is estimated to take place in the First Quarter of 2025.

The Applicant will be preparing the Environmental Statement and DCO application documents throughout the second, third and fourth quarters of 2025.

The submission of the DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate is targeted for the fourth quarter of 2025.

The Inspectorate asked the Applicant whether it intends on submitting any draft documents for review. The Applicant advised that this will be discussed further and asked what the likely timescales were for draft document reviews. The Inspectorate advised that timely notice is required, and the review could take 6-8 weeks. The Inspectorate asked the Applicant to highlight any novel drafting or specific matters that it would appreciate the Inspectorate's advice on.

Non-Statutory Consultation

The non-statutory consultation commenced on 8 April 2024 and will run until 20 May 2024. Ahead of the consultation, the Applicant offered briefings to local MPs, ward members and leaders at NELC, North Lincolnshire Council, West Lindsey Council, Lincolnshire County Council and parish councils.

The Applicant utilised posters and a press release to publicise the consultation in addition to sending information to key businesses, local schools, local organisations and hard to reach groups.

In-person and online webinar sessions are being held throughout April and May 2024 and a recording of the presentation will be made available online.

The Applicant advised that over 13,000 properties within the consultation zone will receive a notification of consultation.

Copies of consultation materials will be available on the Applicant's website and at several deposit locations.

Look ahead for the next 6 months

The Applicant stated that it will be working with specialists in engineering, environment and planning disciplines to assist in developing the design of the project.

Feasibility studies into the route of the gas pipeline, electrical connection and cooling water infrastructure are to be undertaken.

Throughout April 2024, the Applicant has scheduled meetings with local authorities and other environmental stakeholders.

Actions

The Inspectorate will look at possible dates for a follow up meeting and confirm this with the Applicant. **Post Meeting Note:** this has been shared with the Applicant.