

Net Zero Teesside Non-Material Change 2

The Net Zero Teesside Project

Land within the eastern part of the Net Zero Teesside DCO Order Limits.

[Appendix B: Landscape and Visual Technical Note](#)



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B1. Landscape and Visual Amenity Technical Note

B1.1 Introduction

- B1.1.1 This Technical Note provides an assessment of the likely significance of landscape and visual amenity effects arising from the NMC2 Application. Terms used in this Technical Note have the same meaning as defined in the NMC2 Supporting Statement, to which this Technical Note is appended.
- B1.1.2 A number of Proposed Non-Material Changes to the Development Consent Order (DCO) are sought, as defined in the NMC2 Supporting Statement. The following change is considered relevant to landscape and visual amenity and is therefore assessed in this Technical Note:
- Change No. 1: Change to design parameters
 - Change (i): Increase in the inner diameter of the absorber stack from 6.6 m to 7.0 m
 - Change (ii): Increase in the inner diameter of the Heat Recovery Steam Generator (HRSG) stack from 6.5 m to 9.0 m
- B1.1.3 For both stacks, the change to the inner diameter corresponds to an equivalent change to the outer diameter, as the stacks comprise single-wall steel sheet construction.
- B1.1.4 The potential landscape and visual amenity effects of the Proposed Non Material Changes were not previously assessed in Chapter 17: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the Environmental Statement (ES) or the ES Addendum (Document Ref. EN010103/6.4 and Document Ref. EN010103/9.14), as the proposed increases in stack diameter fall outside the design parameters set out in Schedule 15 of the NZT DCO and those assessed in the ES. This Technical Note considers whether the Proposed Non Material Changes give rise to any new or materially different likely significant effects as discussed in more detail in the Environmental Considerations section of the Supporting Statement.

B1.2 Assessment Methodology

- B1.2.1 The assessment methodology applied in this Technical Note is consistent with that presented in Chapter 17: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the ES.
- B1.2.2 Likely significance of effects has been determined using the same criteria and receptor sensitivity classifications as previously applied. No changes have been made to the assessment approach.
- B1.2.3 The landscape and visual impact assessment of the Proposed Non Material Changes has been based on the best practice guidance previously stated in Chapter 17: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the ES, ES Addendum and:
- TGN 02/21: Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations (Landscape Institute 2021);

- TGN 04/2020: Infrastructure (Landscape Institute 2020); and
 - TGN-2024-01: Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute 2024).
- B1.2.4 The aforementioned guidance is relevant, applicable and is the most up to date available.

B1.3 Baseline Conditions

- B1.3.1 The Proposed Non-Material Changes do not give rise to any alteration to the established baseline conditions for landscape character or visual amenity as described in Chapter 17 of the ES.
- B1.3.2 There have been no material changes to the receiving landscape or visual context since submission of the ES. The baseline photography and associated photomontages remain valid and representative of existing conditions.
- B1.3.3 The absorber stack and the HRSG stack remain located within Work No. 1, as defined in Chapter 4: Proposed Development (Document Ref. EN010103/6.2.4) and shown on the Works Plan Key Plan (Document Ref. EN010103/4.4).

B1.4 Significance of Effects

- B1.4.1 This section considers whether the following Proposed Non Material Changes result in any change to the likely significance of landscape and visual amenity effects previously reported in Chapter 17 of the ES.

Construction Effects

- B1.4.2 Construction activities associated with the Proposed Non Material Changes would be limited to works of a similar nature, scale and duration to those assessed for the Authorised Development within Chapter 17: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the ES. The SoS accepted the ES conclusion that the development would give rise to significant visual effects at certain viewpoints during construction due to the scale and prominence of structures. These effects were acknowledged but given limited weight in the planning balance. See paragraphs 4.72–4.85 of the Decision Letter.
- B1.4.3 The use of cranes, mobile plant and associated construction activities would be comparable to those previously assessed. There would therefore be no new or materially different effects on identified landscape receptors, visual receptors or dynamic views. The conclusions on construction effects set out in Chapter 17 of the ES remain unchanged, namely likely significant effects from visual impact on recreational users at South Gare, England Coast Path and Redcar seafront are predicted.

Operational and Maintenance Effects

Change No. 1 (i) Absorber Stack

- B1.4.4 The increase in the absorber stack maximum inner diameter from 6.6 m to 7.0 m represents a slight dimensional amendment to the Authorised Development. Change No. 1(i) does not alter the consented height, siting or overall form of the structure.
- B1.4.5 The increase in diameter would not give rise to any perceptible change in views experienced by identified landscape receptors, visual receptors or within dynamic views when compared to the Authorised Development as assessed in Chapter 17 of the ES.
- B1.4.6 Accordingly, there would be no change to the previously assessed magnitude of impact or the likely significance of effects. No new or materially different likely significant landscape or visual effects would arise.
- B1.4.7 The SoS accepted the ES conclusion that the development would give rise to significant visual effects at certain viewpoints during operation due to the scale and prominence of structures. These effects were acknowledged but given limited weight in the planning balance. See paragraphs 4.72–4.85 of the Decision Letter.

Change No. 1 (ii) HRSG Stack

- B1.4.8 The increase in the HRSG stack maximum inner diameter from 6.5 m to 9.0 m represents a dimensional amendment to the Authorised Development. Change No. 1(ii) does not alter the consented height, siting or overall configuration of the stack.
- B1.4.9 While the increase in diameter would result in a slight increase in the apparent massing of the HRSG stack, this element forms a relatively small component of the overall built form of the Authorised Development. Change No. 1(ii) would be barely perceptible in views and would not materially alter the key characteristics of the landscape or the composition of views from representative viewpoints or dynamic routes.
- B1.4.10 The proposed amendment would therefore not result in any increase in the magnitude of impact on landscape or visual receptors, nor would it result in any new or materially different likely significant effects.
- B1.4.11 Both Change No. 1 (i) and Change No. 1 (ii) would result in no change to the likely significant residual effects identified in Chapter 17: Landscape and Visual Amenity. The residual effects would remain as previously reported, namely likely significant effects on recreational users of the England Coast Path during operation.
- B1.4.12 These significant effects arise due to the close proximity and prominence of structures associated with the Authorised Development and would not be materially altered by the Proposed Non Material Changes.
- B1.4.13 The SoS accepted the ES conclusion that the development would give rise to significant visual effects at certain viewpoints during operation due to the scale and prominence of structures. These effects were acknowledged but given limited weight in the planning balance. See paragraphs 4.72–4.85 of the Decision Letter.

Refinements within the Rochdale Envelope

- B1.4.14 The air quality assessment presented in Appendix A: Air Quality Technical Note includes a number of refinements to the modelling parameters to support the Environmental Permit variation application. These refinements include updates to stack characteristics and operational parameters used to inform the dispersion modelling.
- B1.4.15 These refinements remain within the design parameters assessed for the Authorised Development in Chapter 17: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the ES and the ES Addendum. In particular, the parameters relating to stack height, building height and the overall scale of the structures remain within the Rochdale Envelope assessed in the ES.
- B1.4.16 As these refinements remain within the parameters previously assessed in the ES, they do not constitute a change to the Authorised Development and are not part of the Proposed Non Material Changes being sought through the NMC2 Application. Accordingly, they do not give rise to any new or materially different likely significant landscape or visual effects.

Plumes

- B1.4.17 The visibility and characteristics of plumes associated with the absorber and HRSG stacks are anticipated to remain comparable to those assessed in Chapter 17 of the ES. The proposed increases in stack diameter would not materially alter plume behaviour or visibility and would not give rise to any new or materially different likely significant landscape or visual effects.

Decommissioning Effects

- B1.4.18 Chapter 17: Landscape and Visual Amenity of the ES assessed the likely landscape and visual effects associated with decommissioning of the Authorised Development. Decommissioning effects were anticipated to be temporary and comparable to those experienced during the construction phase.
- B1.4.19 The Proposed Non Material Changes comprise slight increases in the inner diameters of the absorber and HRSG stacks and do not alter the consented height, siting or overall configuration of the structures.
- B1.4.20 Decommissioning of the amended stacks would not introduce any additional structures, increase demolition duration, or materially change the visual characteristics of decommissioning activities when compared to those previously assessed.
- B1.4.21 Accordingly, there would be no change to the magnitude of decommissioning effects on landscape receptors, visual receptors or dynamic views. No new or materially different likely significant effects would arise during decommissioning as a result of the Proposed Non Material Changes.

Cumulative Effects

- B1.4.22 The Proposed Non Material Changes relate to increases in the inner diameters of the absorber stack and HRSG stack. While this results in a marginal increase in the width of the stacks, the consented height, siting and

overall scale of the Authorised Development remain unchanged. The resulting increase in the width of the structures is very limited and would be barely perceptible in views from identified landscape receptors, visual receptors or dynamic views. As such, the dimensional amendments do not alter the magnitude of landscape or visual effects previously assessed in Chapter 17 of the ES.

- B1.4.23 The cumulative baseline has been reviewed for the purposes of this Technical Note to ensure that the assessment remains up to date. This review confirms that the limited dimensional changes to the stacks would not alter the contribution of the Authorised Development to cumulative landscape and visual effects previously identified in the ES.
- B1.4.24 Cumulative landscape and visual effects were assessed within Chapter 17 of the ES and ES Addendum. The assessment concluded that, while the Authorised Development would give rise to significant effects at certain viewpoints due to its scale and prominence, these effects arise primarily from the Project itself rather than from cumulative interactions with other developments. No additional likely significant cumulative landscape and visual effects were identified.
- B1.4.25 The SoS agreed with the Examining Authority's assessment of cumulative and combined effects and concluded that no significant adverse cumulative effects would arise in most cases, and that any effects identified would not be unacceptable. See paragraphs 4.173–4.183 of the Decision Letter.
- B1.4.26 The wider NZT Project also includes a return pipeline and associated above-ground infrastructure, which is currently being progressed separately under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990¹ (TCPA 1990). The Proposed Non Material Changes do not alter the scale, operation or visual interaction of the Authorised Development with this infrastructure. Accordingly, the conclusions of the cumulative assessment presented in Chapter 17 of the ES and ES Addendum remain valid and no new or materially different likely significant cumulative effects would arise.

B1.5 Summary

- B1.5.1 The assessment confirms that the proposed increases in stack diameters would result in a slight increase in the width of the absorber and HRSG stacks, but would not alter the consented height, siting or overall scale of the Authorised Development. The resulting change to the width of the structures would be very limited and would be barely perceptible in views. The magnitude of landscape and visual effects on identified landscape receptors, visual receptors and dynamic views would therefore remain as previously assessed, and no change to the likely significance of effects would arise.
- B1.5.2 In conclusion, the Proposed Non Material Changes do not give rise to any new or materially different likely significant environmental effects compared to those assessed in the ES and ES Addendum and concluded by the SoS. The likely significance of effects remains as previously reported, and the

¹ RCBC Planning Reference R/2026/0155/ESM

conclusions of the ES therefore remain valid and unchanged. Accordingly, the Proposed Non Material Changes do not materially alter the environmental effects previously assessed and are considered non material.

B1.6 References

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA 3), third Edition (landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental management and Assessment, 2013)
- Technical guidance Note 9 (TGN) 06/2019: Visual Representation of Development Proposals (Landscape Institute, 2019)
- TGN 02-21: Assessing Landscape Outside National Designations (Landscape Institute, 2021)
- TGN 04/2020: Infrastructure (Landscape Institute, 2020)
- TGN 2024-01: Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third edition, Third Edition (Landscape Institute, 2024)

UK Government (1990). *Town and Country Planning Act 1990* (as amended). London: HMSO.