

Meeting note

Project name	North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park
File reference	EN010116
Status	Draft
Author	The Planning Inspectorate
Date	1 September 2020
Meeting with	North Lincolnshire Green Energy Park project team
Venue	Microsoft Teams meeting
Meeting objectives	Project Update Meeting
Circulation	All attendees

Summary of key points discussed and advice given

The Applicant and the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) case team introduced themselves and their respective roles. 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.

Project update

The Proposed Development seeks to process up to 750 tonnes of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) per annum to generate some 97 MW electricity, with a connection to the grid at Scunthorpe North (via an underground HV cable). The Applicant is assessing the possibility of carbon capture and the capacity to export heat to the proposed business park. The Applicant did not foresee there being any difficulties in securing RDF to operate the generating station.

The Proposed Development also includes a link road, re-opening of an existing railway line, battery and hydrogen storage, all as Associated Development.

The Applicant explained that the private rail line has not been used for about 8 years and it is intended to compulsorily acquire it as part of the DCO. It was previously used in connection with the Scunthorpe steel works. It is thought that most, if not all, works to the rail line would be permitted development (on operational rail land) potentially including signalling and track/tunnel reinforcement works.

The 132Kv grid connection would be underground and would run under the new link road.

It is anticipated that the link road would be adopted by the local highway authority (North Lincolnshire Council). The purpose of the link road was to provide an alternative route to the site, avoiding a known pinch point on the existing access road to the industrial park.

The Proposed Development will also have an ash treatment facility with a capacity to producing up to 120 tonnes of concrete products.

The draft Development Consent Order (DCO) may contain a Harbour Revision Order.

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that the business park and the glasshouses have been removed from the proposed DCO application. This followed the decision by the Secretary of State to decline the request under section 35 of the Act for these elements to be included in the DCO. Instead, these two elements will be taken forward as planning applications under the Town and Planning Act 1990 (TCPA) and submitted to North Lincolnshire Council. The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that the business park was proposed to be included as an allocation in the emerging Local Plan. However, it was unclear how the publication of the Government's Planning White Paper could affect the progress of the emerging Local Plan.

The timing of these two applications under TCPA was discussed. The Inspectorate advised that it was important that there was clarity around what was in the DCO so that interested parties could remain focused on the relevant and important matters under consideration at the DCO examination. From a consenting perspective there was no dependency between the DCO and the proposed TCPA applications and therefore the applicant should consider waiting until the DCO examination had concluded before submitting any TCPA applications. The applicant was advised to consider the relevance of the TCPA applications in the context of the EIA (cumulative assessment), particularly as a result of the proposed allocation of the business park in the emerging Local Plan.

The Applicant has also removed the residential development and centre of excellence aspects from their initial consideration of development they may include in the proposed DCO application.

Project timescales

- Non-statutory consultation completed in July 2020;
- EIA Scoping in September 2020;
- Statutory Consultation in Q1/Q2 2021;
- Submission of DCO application in Q3 2021.

The Applicant was advised to draft the Statement of Community Consultation in a way that it could be flexible and respond to any changes to the current Government advice on Covid-19 or a local lockdown, while still be clear on the opportunities parties would have to engage in the consultation. The Applicant confirmed it was aware of the Infrastructure Planning (Publication and Notification of Applications etc.) (Corona virus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020.

Scoping

The Applicant intends to submit its EIA scoping request in October 2020. Topics to be scoped out were discussed. The Inspectorate advised the Applicant to robustly justify any topics intended to be scoped out. It was further stated that the shapefile needed to be submitted ten days beforehand.

Compulsory Acquisition and Special Category Land

The order limit covers approximately 32 land interests split between several farming families. The impact on Crown Land and Special Category Land was discussed. The

Applicant stated that it needed to explore further if any Crown Land or Special Category land was impacted by the Proposed Development.

Any other Business

The Applicant stated it was not aware of any local action groups with an interest in the project, although they would ensure that any identified are fully consulted.

The Applicant informed the Inspectorate that it would continue to review and seek agreement to its Transport and Noise Assessments survey methodologies to ensure that the data is representative of normal conditions (not subject to Corona virus lockdown measures) or is sufficiently robust should assessments be undertaken during times of Corona virus lockdown measures.

It was confirmed that no Public Rights of Way are impacted by the project.

The Applicant was advised to consider how the application would be affected in the event that any of the legal challenges against the relevant Energy National Policy Statement were successful. For example, how the content of the application would change if it was decided under section 105 of the Act.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be arranged after the next project milestone.

Specific decision/follow-up required

- Applicant to confirm its legal team has access to the Statutory Instrument Template.