

REPORT

Boston Alternative Energy Facility – Environmental Statement

Chapter 1 Introduction

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Planning Inspectorate
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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Document

- 1.1.1 This Environmental Statement (ES) has been prepared on behalf of Alternative Use Boston Projects Limited (AUBP) (the Applicant) in relation to an application to be made to the Secretary of State (SoS) for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 for a Development Consent Order (DCO) authorising the construction, operation and maintenance of a power-generation plant, known as the Boston Alternative Energy Facility (including all related works to be authorised by the DCO) (herein ‘The Facility’).
- 1.1.2 The Facility proposed development constitutes a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008 by virtue of requiring the building, commissioning and operating of a generating station with an energy generating capacity greater than 50 megawatts electric (MWe). As the Facility is a NSIP, the Applicant is required to make an application for a DCO to the Planning Inspectorate, which will be decided by the SoS.
- 1.1.3 The application is accompanied by this ES, prepared in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) (EIA Regulations, 2017).
- 1.1.4 The purpose of this ES is to provide environmental information and assessments as required by the EIA Directive (85/337/EEC) as amended (European Parliament, 2014) and more specifically under the EIA Regulations, 2017. This ES describes the potential environmental impacts associated with the Facility including associated infrastructure, which may arise from the construction, operation (including maintenance activities) and decommissioning phases.

1.2 Environmental Impact Assessment

- 1.2.1 The process of EIA is governed by the EIA Regulations (EIA Regulations, 2017).
- 1.2.2 This type of facility is not listed in Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations (EIA Regulations, 2017). The Facility would be a Schedule 2 development (Paragraph 3. Energy Industry “(a) *industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water projects not included in Schedule 1 of these Regulations*”). In consideration of the nature of the Facility and the associated elements, the Applicant has determined that an EIA will be required without a request for a formal Screening Opinion and is submitting this ES with the DCO application for the Facility.

- 1.2.3 This ES is based on a Scoping Opinion that was provided by the Planning Inspectorate in July 2018 (Planning Inspectorate, 2018a). Each topic chapter has a section detailing how the Planning Inspectorate's comments have been addressed. General comments are addressed in **Chapter 7 Consultation**.
- 1.2.4 This ES builds upon the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) which was produced to support statutory consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008. The PEIR was published for both Section 42 and Section 47 stakeholder consultation in June 2019 and was available for further consultation in August – September 2020 and the feedback received has been considered and used to inform the final impact assessment for the ES. Section 42 consultation responses specific to individual chapter topics have been included and addressed within the relevant topic chapter and general comments have been addressed in **Chapter 7 Consultation**.
- 1.2.5 Further information on the legislative context for the proposed development is provided in **Chapter 3 Policy and Legislation**.

1.3 The Proposed Development

- 1.3.1 The Facility is proposed to be located at Riverside Industrial Estate, Boston, Lincolnshire. The Riverside Industrial Estate is adjacent to the tidal River Witham (known as The Haven) and down-river from the Port of Boston. The DCO Application Site for the Facility (herein the 'Application Site') is denoted by the solid red line on **Figure 1.1**. The Application Site covers 26.8 hectares (ha) and comprises two components:
- the Principal Application Site (NGR TF33950 42241), which covers 25.3 ha and will contain all of the operational infrastructure; and
 - the Habitat Mitigation Area, which covers 1.5 ha and is located approximately 170 m to the south east of the Principal Application Site, encompassing an area of saltmarsh and small creeks at the margins of The Haven that will be enhanced.
- 1.3.2 The Facility is a proposed Energy from Waste (EfW) plant that would generate approximately 102 MWe (gross) of renewable energy and would deliver approximately 80 MWe (net) to the National Grid. The energy recovery plant would be a thermal treatment facility using refuse derived fuel (RDF) as the feedstock to generate energy. A full project description is given in **Chapter 5 Project Description**.

1.3.3 The main elements of the Facility are:

- an EfW facility comprising three thermal treatment units and steam turbine generators to generate up to 102 MW (gross) of energy;
- a wharf with cranes and berthing points;
- a storage bunker and contingency external storage area for the temporary storage of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) bales;
- a RDF bale shredding facility (a sealed building) to remove bale wrap and reduce the particle size;
- conveyors to transfer RDF bales and processed material;
- turbine plant comprising three steam turbine generators, make-up water facility and associated piping and ductwork;
- air-cooled condenser structure, transformer pen and associated piping and ductwork;
- an on-site grid connection and substation to facilitate the export of up to 80 MW to the National Grid;
- a lightweight aggregate manufacturing plant to process the thermal treatment ash and air pollution control residues into two separate aggregate products;
- two carbon dioxide (CO₂) recovery plants, allowing a proportion of the CO₂ from two of the three thermal treatment units to be captured and converted to food grade CO₂ for off-site industrial use;
- a storage area for lightweight aggregate product prior to removal (by ship) from the site;
- associated infrastructure including a visitor centre, car parking, onsite roads, site surfacing, site security, storage and workshop facility, weighbridge, fencing, site control centre and welfare facilities; and
- habitat improvements for redshank and other bird species comprising of small features such as pools/scrapes and small boulders on the Habitat Mitigation Area.

1.4 Developer and Project Team

- ### 1.4.1
- AUBP is the Applicant undertaking the development and securing funding for the Facility. Alternative Use Boston Projects Limited is a privately-owned company with core business in Energy from Waste, specifically renewable electricity projects producing “Green Energy”.

- 1.4.2 The company team has been involved in industrial development at Riverside Industrial Estate, Boston, Lincolnshire since 2004. In March 2005, planning consent was obtained for a Special & Clinical Waste Processing Plant, with conditions discharged and commencement of construction.
- 1.4.3 In 2010, consent was obtained for a 12 MWe Gasification Power Station that would process waste wood (known as Biomass UK No. 3 Ltd) with enabling works carried out during 2013. This facility was sold to Aviva Investors in November 2015, along with the right to develop the facility, and in September 2016 it was transferred to Biomass UK No. 3 Ltd. The Biomass UK No. 3 Ltd facility is entirely separate to the Facility covered by this ES.
- 1.4.4 Royal HaskoningDHV was commissioned by the Applicant to coordinate the DCO application process and produce the documentation necessary to consider the Facility's impacts on all environmental receptors.
- 1.4.5 Royal HaskoningDHV is supported through the EIA process by several additional consultants who are responsible for particular specialist topics, as detailed in **Table 1-1**.
- 1.4.6 The EIA Regulations require an ES to be compiled by 'competent experts'. A statement of competency is provided in **Appendix 1.1**.

1.5 ES Structure

- 1.5.1 The chapters included in the ES are detailed in **Table 1-1**. Figures and appendices referred to within this ES are available in separate volumes (document reference 6.3 and 6.4). A separate Non-Technical Summary (NTS) (document reference 6.1) which summarises the ES in non-technical language is also available.

Table 1-1 ES Chapter List

Chapter Type	Chapter Number	Title	Responsible Author
Introductory	1	Introduction	Royal HaskoningDHV
	2	Project Need	Royal HaskoningDHV, Lichfields, BDB Pitmans
	3	Policy and Legislation	
	4	Site Selection and Alternatives	
	5	Project Description	Royal HaskoningDHV, Lichfields, BDB Pitmans, AUBP
	6	Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment	Royal HaskoningDHV

Chapter Type	Chapter Number	Title	Responsible Author
	7	Consultation	Royal HaskoningDHV, Athene Communications
Topic-specific	8	Cultural Heritage	Royal HaskoningDHV
	9	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment	DRaW
	10	Noise and Vibration	Royal HaskoningDHV
	11	Contaminated Land, Land Use and Hydrogeology	
	12	Terrestrial Ecology	
	13	Surface Water, Flood Risk and Drainage Strategy	
	14	Air Quality	
	15	Marine Water and Sediment Quality	
	16	Estuarine Processes	
	17	Marine and Coastal Ecology	
	18	Navigational Issues	
	19	Traffic and Transport	
	20	Socio-Economics	Lichfields
	21	Climate Change	Royal HaskoningDHV
	22	Health	
	23	Waste	
24	Major Accidents and Risk Management		
25	Transboundary Impacts		
26	Summary		

1.5.2 A cumulative impact assessment was carried out considering other schemes proposed or in development in the Boston area, as identified through consultation with relevant stakeholders.

1.5.3 The Scoping Report (Royal HaskoningDHV, 2018) did not specifically address transboundary effects. The Planning Inspectorate undertook a screening for transboundary effects under Regulation 32 of the EIA Regulations in September 2018, and the screening report was published on the Boston Alternative Energy Facility pages of the National Infrastructure Planning website (Planning Inspectorate, 2018b).

1.5.4 Based on the information that was available at the time of the screening, the

Planning Inspectorate concluded that the Facility is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment in another European Economic Area (EEA) State. In reaching this view the Planning Inspectorate applied the precautionary approach, as explained in its Advice Note Twelve: Transboundary Impacts (Planning Inspectorate, 2018c), and considered information supplied by the Applicant.

- 1.5.5 Further consideration of potential transboundary effects was undertaken and is presented in the relevant technical chapters of this document and summarised in **Chapter 25 Transboundary Impacts**.

1.6 References

European Parliament (2014). Council Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment.

Royal HaskoningDHV (2018) Boston Alternative Energy Facility EIA Scoping Report. Available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010095/EN010095-000013-BAEF%20Scoping%20Report.pdf> [Accessed: 19/03/2021].

Royal HaskoningDHV (2019) Boston Alternative Energy Facility Preliminary Environmental Information Report.

The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (2017) (the EIA Regulations). [Online] Available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/572/contents/made> (Accessed 19/03/2021).

The Planning Inspectorate (2018a). Scoping Opinion: Proposed Boston Alternative Energy Facility, Case Reference: EN010095. Available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010095/EN010095-000008-BAEF%20-%20Scoping%20Opinion.pdf> [Accessed: 19/03/2021].

The Planning Inspectorate (2018b) Transboundary screening undertaken by the Planning Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) on behalf of the Secretary of State (SoS) for the purposes of Regulation 32 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the 2017 EIA Regulations) <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010095/EN010095-000020-BAEF%20-%20Regulation%2032%20Transboundary%20Screening.pdf> [Accessed: 19/03/2021].

The Planning Inspectorate (2018c) Advice Note Twelve: Transboundary Impacts and Process <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-twelve-transboundary-impacts-and-process/> [Accessed: 19/03/2021].