

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction and Background

1.1.1 Eco2 North Lincs Ltd (hereafter referred to as Eco2) has submitted this application for planning permission to North Lincolnshire Council, for the development of a renewable energy plant near Brigg, North Lincolnshire (Brigg Renewable Energy Plant hereafter referred to as Brigg REP). The facility would comprise a biomass fired power station, for which the primary fuel would be straw.

1.1.2 This application is a resubmission of a previous application for the development of a biomass fuelled renewable energy plant, submitted in May 2008, which was withdrawn in September 2008 following a review of statutory / technical consultation responses pertaining to the application. The main differences between the re-submitted application and the original are in the treatment of flood risk.

1.1.3 The original planning application indicated that flood mitigation measures (compensatory flood storage capacity and surface water drainage attenuation) would be the subject of a separate planning application and that these elements would be located on an area of land to the north of the proposed REP development outside of the then planning application boundary.

1.1.4 This resubmission incorporates a wholly new flood mitigation scheme which involves no material off-site works, with flood compensatory storage and drainage attenuation measures being on-site and contained wholly within the original planning application boundary.

1.1.5 The re-submission makes the following other substantive changes:

- Additional ecological studies are included (in response to consultee comments on the original application);
- Results of a Phase 1 and 2 Environmental Site Assessments are reviewed (in response to consultee comments on the original application);

- Particulate emissions have been re-calculated to reflect the lower emissions limit that the plant will achieve (in response to discussions with the Environment Agency regarding the plant's Environmental Permit);
- PM_{2.5} emissions are discussed in the emissions chapter (in response to changes in legislation since the original application); and
- The results of an archaeological survey into the paleontological history of the site are presented (in response to consultee comments on the original application).

1.1.6 The applicant has taken the opportunity to make minor changes to the text of the original Environmental Statement where small corrections were necessary. However, with the exception of these corrections and the substantive changes noted above, this resubmission remains identical to the withdrawn May 2008 application. For the avoidance of doubt, the following aspects of the proposals are unchanged:

- the design, size and location of the buildings (the straw barns have been altered at ground level to accommodate the revised flood mitigation measures but the architectural treatment and roof lines are maintained as before);
- the electricity generating capacity;
- fuel inputs;
- traffic generation;
- design life.

1.2 The Proposal

1.2.1 The Brigg REP development would be based around four main buildings comprising the turbine and boiler hall (circa 1,935m² and 30.61m high) two straw storage barns (circa 3,158m² each and 16.82m high) and a wood storage building (circa 652m² and 13.9m high). These four buildings would be linked by a series of high level conveyors. In addition there would be a stack (chimney) of 62m in height. The development would also include a series of air cooled condensers, offices, control room and staff welfare facilities, external hardstanding areas for vehicle manoeuvring / parking, a weighbridge and extensive perimeter landscaping.

- 1.2.2 The facility would have an electricity generating capacity of 40 megawatts (MW) and would use circa 240,000 tonnes per annum of biomass, consisting primarily of baled straw sourced from the local area.
- 1.2.3 The Applicant is in the process of completing contracts for the straw fuel which will be sourced from producers within a 50 mile radius of the facility (the majority of which are significantly closer). Contracts for fuel supply will be based upon a 12 year initial commitment and result in over £6 million per annum investment into the local agricultural economy. Whilst the vast majority of fuel will be straw, the plant would be able to accept a modest proportion of other biomass (e.g. willow coppice) and clean, untreated wood, which would be delivered to the site as chippings.
- 1.2.4 Vehicles delivering the biomass material would arrive at the site from a northerly direction. The existing vehicular entrance off Scawby Road, which serves an adjacent gas fired power station, would be utilised. Vehicles would unload within one of two storage barns or the wood storage building. A vehicle routeing agreement would be put in place to ensure that delivery vehicles do not pass through the settlement of Scawby.
- 1.2.5 The facility has a design life of 25 years, following which it could be refurbished. It would take approximately 2.5 years to construct and commission the plant.
- 1.2.6 A detailed description of the Brigg REP development is contained within Section 4.0 of this document

1.3 The Site

- 1.3.1 The site comprises circa 5.26 hectares of previously developed land, formerly occupied by British Sugar's Brigg works. It lies approximately 800 metres east of the B1206 Scawby Road (from which the site is accessed) and 500 metres west of the River Ancholme. It is located approximately 1.5 kilometres south-west of Brigg Town and 1.8 kilometres east of Scawby. The smaller village of Scawby Brook is around 600 metres to the north-west (see Figure 1.1). The site is ostensibly flat and stands at a level of circa 3-4 m AOD.

- 1.3.2 Most of the buildings that comprised the British Sugar works have been demolished to ground level leaving areas of concrete hard surfacing. The buildings remaining on the site include a manned security office and unoccupied former factory offices, stores and warehouses.
- 1.3.3 In terms of the natural landscape features, the site is bordered to the north by Scawby Beck, a well maintained stream. There are a number of mature trees intermittently bordering the west, north and east of the site.
- 1.3.4 Arable fields lie to the east and west of the site. To the north lies what are understood to be former settling lagoons from washing activities relating to sugar beet. These are now backfilled and characterised by coarse grass and some scrub. South of the site is Glanford Brigg gas fired power station.
- 1.3.5 Due to the very flat nature of the surrounding area, views into and out of the site can be long distance, but even relatively small features can provide a high degree of screening, such as the trees bounding the site. In terms of context, the villages of Brigg and Scawby have little visibility of the site, due to intervening trees providing a reasonable degree of screening. From the south of the site the existing power station is visually dominant and screens many views towards the REP site.
- 1.3.6 The development will benefit from landscaping proposals which are described in this Environmental Statement. The proposed landscape works would lead to a considerable increase in both woodland and grassland when considered against the existing situation. As trees become more mature, visual screening of some of the proposal would be achieved, although the chimney stack and upper parts of taller buildings would remain visible. The site is shown within its immediate context on the aerial photograph contained as Figure 1.2.

1.4 The Applicant

- 1.4.1 The Applicant is Eco2 North Lincs Ltd, which is one of the Eco2 biomass companies.
- 1.4.2 The Eco2 biomass companies each hold the assets and contracts associated with a particular project. Development of the projects themselves is achieved

through the use of the management skills, technical expertise and administration offered by Eco2 Ltd.

- 1.4.3 The main development company, Eco2 Ltd, specialises in initiating, developing, financing and operating renewable energy projects throughout the UK. The company is committed to developing a broad based renewable energy business. It is this commitment that has already yielded considerable success across a wide range of renewable technology projects relating to biomass, wind farms, and landfill gas over the last five years.
- 1.4.4 Eco2 North Lincs Ltd has been formed by the shareholders and senior management of Eco2 Ltd to facilitate the funding of the Brigg REP. The total project cost will be around £90million and this will be funded through a combination of equity and bank debt which is a typical method of funding large investment projects such as this.

1.5 This Document

- 1.5.1 This document is the Environmental Statement (ES), which has been prepared to accompany the planning application. It describes the potential environmental effects of the proposed scheme, both during its construction and operation. It has been prepared in accordance with European Community (EC) Directives on the assessment of the effects of certain projects upon the environment (85/337/EEC updated by 97/11/EEC). This legislation is now manifest in England through the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 (the EIA Regulations), with which this report is fully compliant.
- 1.5.2 Table 1.1 below outlines the structure of the ES.

Table 1.1: ES Chapter Schedule

Chapter	Description	Changes from the previous application
Chapter 1	Introduction	Updated to acknowledge this is a re-submitted application.
Chapter 2	Scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment	No material changes
Chapter 3	The Need for the Scheme	No material changes
Chapter 4	Detailed Scheme Description and Alternatives	Updated to include a description of the new flood mitigation measures.
Chapter 5	Planning Policy and Guidance	No material changes
Chapter 6	Transportation (potential environmental impacts of the proposal including proposed mitigation measures).	No material changes
Chapter 7	Landscape and Visual Impact (potential environmental impacts of the proposal including proposed mitigation measures).	No material changes
Chapter 8	Ecology (potential environmental impacts of the proposal including proposed mitigation measures).	Further assessments to include amphibian surveys of ponds and ditches, bat activity / emergence survey of buildings and an extended phase 1 habitat survey of Silversides SNCI. In addition, further information / detail has been added to the bird and habitat surveys
Chapter 9	Geology and Hydrogeology (potential environmental impacts of the proposal including proposed mitigation measures).	Phase 1 and 2 Environmental Site Assessments have been amended as necessary to address the comments through direct correspondence with the Environment Agency
Chapter 10	Surface Waters and Flood Risk (potential environmental impacts of the proposal including proposed mitigation measures).	Original off-site flood mitigation scheme has been replaced by an on-site scheme.
Chapter 11	Noise and Vibration (potential environmental impacts of the proposal including proposed mitigation measures).	None
Chapter 12	Air Quality (potential environmental impacts of the proposal including proposed mitigation measures).	Updated to cover affect of PM _{2.5} s on local air quality. PM ₁₀ emissions have been reduced.
Chapter 13	Archaeology and Heritage (potential environmental impacts of the proposal including proposed mitigation measures).	An auger survey has been undertaken to understand the palaeontological history of the site.
Chapter 14	Construction Impacts (consolidates the construction impacts discussed in earlier chapters)	None
Chapter 15	Summary of Effects	Updated to reflect changes to application.