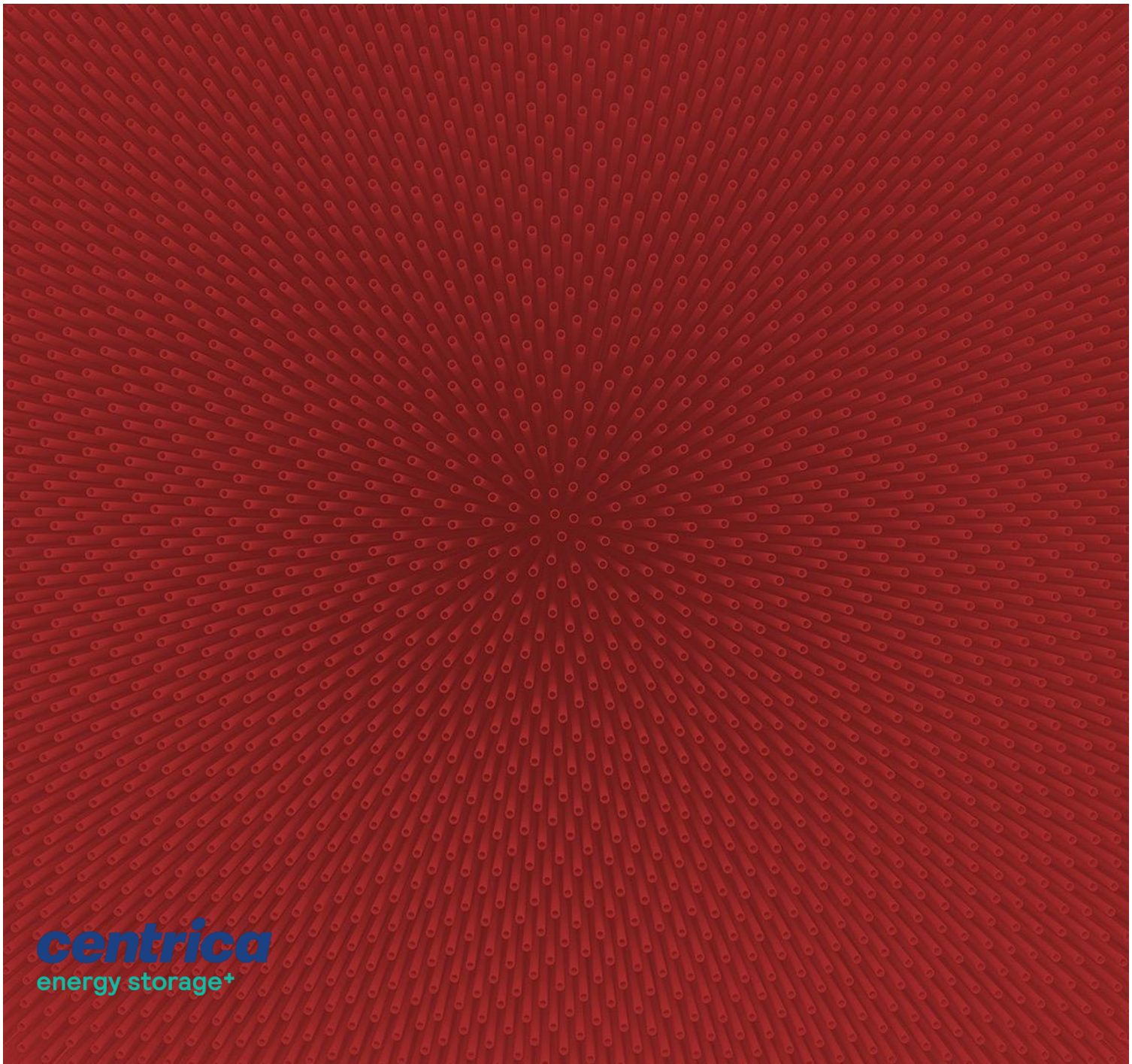
Planning, Design & Access Statement

Location: Land North of the A18, Melton Ross Quarries, North Lincolnshire, DN38 6AE
Date: February 2026
Revision: 1.0



ISSUE AND REVISION RECORD

Revision	Date	Originator	Checker	Approver	Narrative
1.0	29.08.2025	AF	BG	BG	Draft
2.0	04.01.2026	AF	BG	BG	Final

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Executive Summary

Singleton Birch has partnered with Centrica Energy Storage+ Ltd to produce hydrogen for use as a fuel source in Singleton Birch's lime kilns. This initiative supports low carbon hydrogen production, which can contribute to the decarbonisation of key industries while utilising the skills and experience of the current workforce at the site. Energising a greener, fairer future.

Centrica Energy Storage+ (hereafter referred to as 'the Applicant') have prepared a Planning, Design and Access Statement in respect to development proposals for Land to the north of the A18, Melton Ross Quarries, Barnetby, North Lincolnshire, DN38 6AE Singleton Birch (hereafter referred to as the 'Site').

The proposed development comprises:

'Outline planning application, with all matters reserved (except for means of access), for a Hydrogen Production facility, including provision of Landscaping, Sustainable Drainage and Associated Infrastructure and Works'

In addition to the local economic and energy transition benefits the application has been designed in a manner which will deliver in excess of 10% net gain in biodiversity along with additional ecological enhancements and introduces new landscaping.

Several environmental and technical assessments have been undertaken to support the planning application, none of which have identified any significant adverse effects as a result of the proposed development. As identified throughout this Statement, decision on planning applications are required to be made in accordance with the provision of the Development Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The proposed development has been assessed as fully compliant with the Development Plan when taken as a whole, and there are no material considerations have been identified which indicate that the proposed development should not proceed.

1 Introduction

1.1.1 Centrica Energy Storage+ have prepared a Planning, Design and Access Statement in respect to development proposals for Land to the north of the A18, Melton Ross Quarries, Barnetby, North Lincolnshire, DN38 6AE Singleton Birch. The proposed development comprises:

'Outline planning application, with all matters reserved (except for means of access), for a Hydrogen Production facility, including provision of Landscaping, Sustainable Drainage and Associated Infrastructure and Works'

1.1.2 This Planning, Design and Access Statement provides an assessment of the Site and its surroundings, along with the design principles and concepts that have been developed to inform the scheme presented. The Statement also outlines the benefits of the proposed development and provides a planning rationale for the proposals, having regard to the adopted Local Plan and any other material planning considerations relevant to the planning balance, including the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

1.1.3 This Planning Statement should not be read in isolation, as it forms part of a comprehensive package of documents and drawings, which when considered together, support the overall planning application.

1.1.4 In addition to this Statement, the following plan and reports are submitted in support of the planning application:

Plans for determination

- Site Location Plan
- Proposed Access Junction General Arrangement (Drawing number: 65216055-SWE-XX-ZZ-D-TP-0002b)
- Proposed Access Junction including visibility splays and swept path analysis (Drawing number: 65216055-SWE-XX-ZZ-D-TP-0002a)

Plans for Indicative Purposes

- Proposed Site Layout
- Existing Site Layout
- Site Layout Hydrogen Production Facility Looking East
- Site Layout Hydrogen Production Facility Looking West
- Site Layout Hydrogen Production Facility Plan
- Landscape and Ecological Proposals Plans

Statement and Reports

- Planning, Design and Access Statement (Centrica)
- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment including Landscape Context Plan, Visual Context Plan and Representative Viewpoints (SWECO)
- Heritage Statement including Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (SLR)
- Ecological Impact Assessment (SWECO)
- Ecological and Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment (SWECO)
- Transport Statement (SWECO)
- Road Safety Audit and Designers Response (SWECO)
- Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy (PJA)

- Arboriculture Survey and Arboriculture Impact Assessment and associated plan (Haydens)
- Noise Assessment (JPM Acoustics)
- Air Quality Assessment (ECL)
- Phase 1 Geoenvironmental Assessment (Geosyntec)

2 Background, The Site and Surroundings

2.1 Background

2.1.1 Singleton Birch has been operating for over 200 years, building a reputation as a leading lime supplier trusted for exceptional quality and service. Singleton Birch provides a wide portfolio of calcium-based solutions, chemical specialties, and technical services, which bring essential performance and value to markets such as metals, construction, chemical synthesis, water and emissions treatment, glass, textiles, plastics, rubber, agriculture, and anaerobic digestion.

2.1.2 Following successful funding shortlisting from the Hydrogen Allocation Round initiative managed by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, Centrica Energy Storage have partnered with Singleton Birch to produce hydrogen fuel for low carbon lime production.

2.1.3 Centrica will construct the hydrogen plant at Singleton Birch for commissioning in 2028, which will convert water into hydrogen and oxygen through electrolysis, providing 20% of the energy needed to fuel Singleton Birch's lime kilns, reducing natural gas consumption.

2.1.4 Hydrogen will be produced through electrolysis, with electrolysers arranged in several modules consisting of eight electrolyser stacks each and balance of plant equipment. The stacks consist of two chambers separated by a membrane, with water circulated via pumps and coolers through the stacks. Direct Current (DC) power is applied to the stacks and hydrogen is generated at the cathode and oxygen at the anode. The wet hydrogen is then passed through a desiccant drying system, the purified hydrogen product is then cooled via an air-cooler down to a suitable export temperature (35°C) before being routed to the lime kilns for use as a fuel source.

2.1.5 With green hydrogen production, no hazardous or toxic gases are vented. The co-product created from splitting hydrogen from water (H2O) is oxygen, this oxygen is proposed to be vented to the environment.

2.2 Site and Surroundings

2.2.1 The majority of the Site is located on part of a former quarry, which has been backfilled, to the north of the A18, approximately midway between Melton Ross and Kirmington. The Site extends north under the railway line, connecting into the Singelton Birch dry kiln facility. The Site area is approximately 1.50Ha.

2.2.2 The topography of the site is flat, with the eastern and southern boundaries demarked by vegetation, the railway line can be found to the north with the remainder of the restored quarry to the west. A Public Right of Way (PROW) passes close to the south-eastern corner but it out with the Site boundary.

2.2.3 The following heritage assets can be found in proximity to the site, but no closer than 500m: The Beeches (Grade II), Church of St John the Evangelist (Grade II*), Medieval Settlement of Croxton (Scheduled Monument), Roman Settlement (Scheduled Monument), and Yarborough Camp Large Univallate Hillfort (Scheduled Monument).

2.2.4 The site itself is not subject to any designations, with no international designations within 10km, one national designation (Kirmington Pits SSSI) within 3km and four non-statutory designations within 2km.

2.2.5 The site is not within an area subject to a designated landscape and is not in agricultural production.

2.2.6 The site is located within FRZ1 (low risk) for flooding from river and sea as identified by the Environment Agency. Small pockets of the site are subject to surface water flooding.

3 The Development

3.1.1 The proposed development comprises an outline planning application, with all matters reserved (except for means of access), for a Hydrogen Production facility, including provision of Landscaping, Sustainable Drainage and Associated Infrastructure and Works.

3.1.2 Whilst submitted in outline the scheme presented demonstrated how the site is expected to be developed at subsequent reserved matters stage.

3.1.3 The key objectives and principles that have informed the preparation of the Layout Plan can be summarised as follows:

- To minimise impact on the landscape character;
- To enhance biodiversity;
- To preserve the setting of nearby heritage assets;
- To provide a sustainable drainage strategy to ensure surface water is managed appropriately; and
- Ensure access and movement associated with the scheme is safe.

Design and Access

3.1.4 The legal requirement to provide a Design and Access Statement is set out in Article 9 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (as amended). This is hereafter referred to as the "DMPO".

3.1.5 A Design and Access Statement is required for development which is (inter alia) a major development. The Proposed Development meets this criterion, and accordingly this document constitutes a combined Planning Statement and Design and Access Statement.

3.1.6 Paragraph 2 of Article 9 requires that a Design and Access Statement must include details of:

(a) the design principles and concepts that have been applied to the development; and

(b) how issues relating to access to the development have been dealt with.

3.1.7 In achieving this Paragraph 3 of Article 9 requires that a Design and Access Statement must:

(a) explain the design principles and concepts that have been applied to the development;

(b) demonstrate the steps taken to appraise the context of the development and how the design of the development takes that context into account;

(c) explain the policy adopted as to access, and how policies relating to access in relevant local development documents have been taken into account;

(d) state what, if any, consultation has been undertaken on issues relating to access to the development and what account has been taken of the outcome of any such consultation; and

(e) explain how any specific issues which might affect access to the development have been addressed.

3.1.8 The information necessary to satisfy the requirements of Article 9 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, in respect of Design and Access Statements are contained within this document. The level of detail provided is appropriate and proportionate to the nature and complexity of the scheme.

Use

3.1.9 The proposal is for a Hydrogen Production Facility which is expected to comprise the following elements:

- Electrolyser equipment (consisting of stacks, transformers, rectifiers) and buildings and containers;
- Gas Handling equipment and Gas Holders;
- Hydrogen Metering;
- Cooling water package;
- Water purification, Demineralisation (which is part of the electrolyser container), and water storage;
- Interconnecting pipe-racks and pipe-tracks;
- Service buildings (store, workshop and control room);
- Electrical substations; and
- Boundary fence;
- Sustainable Drainage;
- Landscaping; and
- Biodiversity enhancements

Amount

3.1.10 The application comprises a single hydrogen production facility of multiple parts as set out above, and will be supported by electrical substations, sustainable drainage infrastructure, and landscaping including measures to enhance biodiversity.

Layout

3.1.11 The application is supported by a Layout Plan and Landscape Plan which identify the locations of the Hydrogen Production Facility, Access and areas for landscape enhancements. These locations have been informed by the supporting surveys and reports and ensure the proposals will minimise impact on the local community whilst bringing forward a deliverable scheme which complies with relevant environmental and technical standards.

3.1.12 The detailed layout of buildings, equipment and structures will come forward at Reserved Matters stage.

Scale

3.1.13 The indictive elevation plans set out the expected maximum height of buildings, equipment and structures proposed and has been fully assessed in the supporting reports and surveys. The scale of the scheme is in keeping with the established character of Singleton Birch.

Appearance

3.1.14 At this stage the detailed appearance of the development has not been finalised but will be similar to the indicative elevations accompanying this application.

Boundary Treatment

3.1.15 Boundary treatment details are expected to comprise 2 or more layers of security fencing.

Access

3.1.16 A single point of vehicular access is proposed in the form of a ghost island priority junction with the A18. All egressing traffic will be required to turn left out of the junction, with a traffic island provided to enforce this.

4 Planning History and Community Engagement

Planning History

4.1.1 A review of North Lincolnshire Council's planning records has identified a single previous application on the site for which two decisions were issues as follows:

- PA/2027/463 - Outline planning permission with all matters reserved for an industrial park at Singleton Birch, Brigg Road, Melton Cross, DN38 6AE – Approved 23/02/2019
- PA/2017/463 – Full planning permission for land raising at Singleton Birch, Brigg Road, Melton Ross, DN38 6AE – Approved 23/02/2018

Community Engagement

4.1.2 The scheme has been subject to public engagement being presented to representatives of three local Parish Council and the Environment Agency at the regular Singleton Birch local liaison meetings held 12:00 Tuesday 19th November 2024 and 12:00 Thursday 20th November 2025 in the Conference Room at Melton Ross, DN38 6AE.

4.1.3 This followed the form of a presentation (see below) by representatives of Centrica Energy Storage+ which outlined the proposed Hydrogen Production Facility following by a Question-and-Answer session to which no notable concerns were raised with the exception of access arrangements which have been amended such that all vehicles egress 'left only' from the site.

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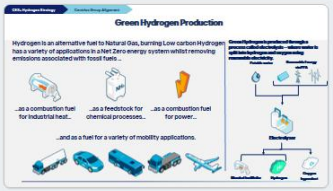

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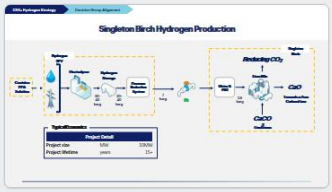

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5 Planning Policy Context

5.1.1 This section sets out the relevant national and local planning policy applicable to the development proposal.

5.1.2 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 came into force in September 2004. It carries forward the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, giving statutory force to a plan-led system of development control. Under Section 70(2) of the 1990 Act and Section 38(6) of the 2004 Act, the determination of planning applications must be in accordance with the adopted Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Local Planning Policy

5.1.3 At the time of writing the following Development Plan documents are relevant to the determination of this planning application.

- 'saved' policies of the Local Plan 2003
- Local Development Framework
- Statement of Community Involvement
- Planning for Renewable Energy Development – Supplementary Planning Document
- Sustainable Drainage Systems and Flood Risk Guidance

5.1.4 Relevant 'saved' policies of the Local Plan 2003

- IN3 - Industrial and Commercial Development in the Urban Area, Principal Growth Settlements, South Humber Bank (Including North Killingholme Airfield) and Humberside International Airport
- IN6 - Defined Industrial Buffer Areas
- RD2 - Development in the Open Countryside
- T1 - Location of Development
- T2 - Access to Development
- T8 - Cyclists and Development
- T13 - Humberside International Airport
- T15 - Highway Improvements and New Highway Construction
- T18 - Traffic Management
- T19 - Car Parking Provision & Standards
- L7 - Landscape Protection
- LC15 - Landscape Enhancement
- HE9 - Archaeological Excavation
- W2 - Groundwater Protection
- DS1 - General Requirements
- DS12 - Light Pollution
- DS13 - Groundwater Protection and Land Drainage
- DS14 - Foul Sewage and Surface Water Drainage
- D15 - Water Resources
- DS21 - Renewable Energy

5.1.5 The Local Development Framework Core Strategy provides the framework for managing development and sets out 10 spatial objectives on what is needed to achieve the Vision, which are guiding principles for managing development over the plan period. Of most relevance to this application are:

- Spatial objective 1: An area wide renaissance
- Spatial objective 2: Delivering the Global Gateway
- Spatial objective 4: Creating greater economic success
- Spatial objective 6: Protecting and enhancing The World Class Environment
- Spatial objective 7: Efficient Use and Management of Resources
- Spatial objective 10: Creating a Quality Environment

5.1.6 The Core Strategy also sets out locally specific policies which each planning application needs to demonstrate compliance with. The following policies are identified as relevant to this application:

- CS1: Spatial Strategy for North Lincolnshire
- CS2: Delivering more Sustainable Development
- CS5: Delivering Quality Design in North Lincolnshire
- CS6: Historic Environment
- CS11: Provision and distribution of employment land
- CS13: Lifelong learning and skills
- CS16: North Lincolnshire's Landscape, Greenspace and Waterscape
- CS17: Biodiversity
- CS18: Sustainable Resource Use and Climate Change
- CS19: Flood Risk

National Policy

Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019

5.1.7 The Climate Change Act 2008 set a legally binding target for the UK to achieve an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, from the 1990 baseline. However, the UK Government decided that this legally binding target was not ambitious enough to mitigate the nation's activities on climate change. In 2019 the UK Government became the first major economy in the world to pass laws to end its contribution to global warming by 2050, compared to the 1990 baseline.

5.1.8 On 12 June 2019, the Government laid the draft Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 to amend the Climate Change Act 2008 by introducing a target for at least a 100% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (compared to 1990 levels) in the UK by 2050. This is otherwise known as the net zero target. The draft order amended the 2050 greenhouse gas emissions reduction target in the Climate Change Act from at least 80% to at least 100% thereby constituting a legally binding commitment to end the UK's contribution to climate change.

5.1.9 At the time the legislation was enacted the UK had already reduced emissions by 42% while growing the economy by 72%. However, the new target requires a significant increase in renewable energy, development of carbon capture and storage technology, construction of new nuclear generation, and a transition to hydrogen and electric for heating and transport.

5.1.10 On 20 April 2021 the UK government announced that it would set in law a more ambitious target of cutting carbon emissions by 78% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels. This was in response to the UK's Sixth Carbon Budget from the Climate Change Committee and signals the Government's acceptance of the recommendations and commitment to carbon emission reductions.

5.1.11 It is clear from the Government's legally binding commitment to net zero by 2050 and recent announcement that significant new investment will be required in renewable energy projects across the UK to deliver these ambitious objectives.

UK Hydrogen Strategy

5.1.12 In 2021 the UK government released its Hydrogen Strategy. This strategy sets out the approach to developing a thriving low carbon hydrogen sector in the UK to meet an ambition for 5GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030. In labour's 2024 British Energy Security Strategy, Labour doubled this ambition from 5 gigawatts (GW) to up to 10GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030, subject to affordability and value for money, with at least half of this coming from electrolytic hydrogen.

5.1.13 Various business and government support process have been put in place to support enabling this strategy including;

- a £240 million Net Zero Hydrogen Fund to support the deployment of new low carbon hydrogen production plants, and a Hydrogen Business Model to provide producers with revenue support.
- a commitment to design new business models for hydrogen transport and storage infrastructure.
- a Low Carbon Hydrogen Standard, and a commitment to set up a certification scheme, to support future international trade.
- a £1 billion Net Zero Innovation Portfolio (NZIP), which supports the commercialisation of clean energy technologies in 10 priority areas, including hydrogen.

- a £170 million Industrial Decarbonisation Challenge Fund to invest in developing technologies such as CCUS and hydrogen fuel switching

National Planning Policy Framework

5.1.14 Support for renewable energy is clearly set out within the NPPF through its presumption in favour of sustainable development. Paragraph 38 of the NPPF states that:

'Local planning authorities should approach decisions on proposed development in a positive and creative way. They should use the full range of planning tools available, including brownfield registers and permission in principle, and work proactively with applicants to secure developments that will improve the economic, social and environmental conditions of the area. Decision-makers at every level should seek to approve applications for sustainable development where possible.'

5.1.15 Paragraph 160 of the NPPF states that:

'To help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat, plans should:

a) provide a positive strategy for energy from these sources, that maximises the potential for suitable development, and their future re-powering and life extension, while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed appropriately (including cumulative landscape and visual impacts);

b) consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure their development; and

c) identify opportunities for development to draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supply systems and for co- locating potential heat customers and suppliers.'

5.1.16 Paragraph 163 of the NPPF identifies that when determining planning applications for renewable and low carbon development, local planning authorities should:

a) not require applicants to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low carbon energy, and recognise that even small-scale projects provide a valuable contribution to significant cutting greenhouse gas emissions;

b) approve the application if its impacts are (or can be made) acceptable. Once suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy have been identified in plans, local planning authorities should expect subsequent applications for commercial scale projects outside these areas to demonstrate that the proposed location meets the criteria used in identifying suitable areas; and

c) in the case of applications for the repowering and life-extension of existing renewable sites, give significant weight to the benefits of utilising an established site, and approve the proposal if its impacts are or can be made acceptable.'

5.1.17 The NPPF supports the increased deployment of renewable and low carbon energy schemes and that the planning system should support such development, unless their impacts would be unacceptable in environmental terms.

Planning Practice Guidance

5.1.18 On 6th March 2014, the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) web-based resource was launched. The 'renewable and low carbon energy' section of the NPPG at paragraph 001 states that:

'Increasing the amount of energy from renewable and low carbon technologies will help to make sure the UK has a secure energy supply, reduce greenhouse gas emissions to slow down climate change and stimulate investment in new jobs and businesses. Planning has an important role in the delivery of new renewable and low carbon energy infrastructure in locations where the local environmental impact is acceptable.'

5.1.19 The NPPG supports the increased deployment of renewable and low carbon energy schemes and that the planning system should support such development, unless their impacts would be unacceptable in environmental terms.

National Policy Statements

5.1.20 EN-1 Overarching National Statement for Energy sets out the governments objectives for the energy system to ensure the supply of energy always remains secure, reliable, affordable, and is consistent with meeting the UK net zero target by 20250.

6 Planning Assessment

Principle of Development

6.1.1 Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires applications for planning permission to be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material consideration indicate otherwise. The NPPF has a presumption in favour of sustainable development whereby Paragraph 11 states LPA's should approve development proposals that accord with an up-to-date Development Plan without delay.

6.1.2 While the Development Plan must be read as a whole, it follows that the greatest weight should be attributed to both site-specific policies relating to the application Site and bespoke policies that are designed to address a specific development type or policy area. In this case, the predominant policies are 'saved' policy DS21: Renewable Energy of the North Lincolnshire Loal Plan 2003 and CS11: Provision of and distribution of employment land of the North Lincolnshire Local Development Framework.

6.1.3 CS11 allocates 'around 20 hectares' of land to deliver economic growth at a local and regional level for economic activates with airport links, with this allocation split across two parcels. A larger landholding which lies partly within the defined airport boundary is served by an established vehicular access from a roundabout on the A18, and benefits from full-service provision. A second smaller triangular shaped parcel of around 8Ha located north of the A18, and which does not benefit from vehicular access or services.

6.1.4 Approximately 14 years have passed since the site was allocated, and despite planning consent being granted in 2017 for an industrial park on part of the allocation, very limited development has been delivered. Whilst the proposed Hydrogen Production Facility is not directly related to airport activities it offers the opportunity to act as a catalyst for the remainder of the second allocation parcel to come forward.

6.1.5 The scheme will deliver a vehicular access and services (potable water, foul drainage, electricity) to a virgin land parcel which could facilitate future employment uses through removing the upfront funding requirements that would otherwise be experienced - making the land parcel more attractive to a developer/end user. Additionally, there is scope for symbiotic uses to follow the Hydrogen Production Facility, which could include the production of Sustainable Aviation Fuel.

6.1.6 Notwithstanding the above, the scheme – when excluding the access road which is required for all employment uses – would extend to less than 1Ha representing approximate 5% of the total allocation land take.

6.1.7 Turning to DS21 Renewable Energy, the policy is supportive of generation of energy from renewable sources subject to any detrimental impacts being outweighed by environmental benefits and taking into consideration associated infrastructure such as ancillary buildings and access roads.

6.1.8 For the reasons set out below the scheme results in a minimal impact on the landscape, delivers a net gain in biodiversity with no further environmental impacts, whilst delivering a significant savings in CO2 emissions.

Landscape

6.1.9 SWECO have prepared a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment which accompanies this application. The document confirms that the Site is not covered by any designations for recognised quality or value, with no such designations within a 4km radius (study area).

6.1.10 The LVIA notes the site is already visually contained by a landscape framework to all three sides in the form of embankments, tree belts of varying heights ranging from approximately 3m to 11m in height which provides effective screening of the site for nearby receptors. The most sensitive visual receptors are residential properties and users of the footpath network to the east, south and west. Existing vegetation would be retained for the most part, however, tree removal is required to accommodate site access from the A18 at the southeastern corner. Replacement tree planting is proposed along the site boundary with the A18 to mitigate for trees removed and to maintain visual screening of the proposed development. Further scattered tree planting is proposed to the south of the proposed development to increase visual filtering of the proposed development. Hedgerow planting is proposed along the north of the site to replace hedgerow lost as a result of the site access and to provide ecological screening.

6.1.11 The mitigation strategies have been developed to minimise both the shorter and longer-term residual landscape and visual effects. This includes woodland planting along the southern site boundary to:

- Facilitate the integration of the development into the landscape setting; and
- Replace trees lost as a result of the proposed site access to provide screening of the proposed development.

6.1.12 The appraisal has concluded that the level of long-term residual landscape and visual effects of the proposed development would generally be Negligible. However, visual receptors located in close proximity to the site including residents of The Lodge and users of PrOW KIRM127 and PrOW KIRM120 would experience Minor adverse effects (refer to Viewpoints 1 and 2).

6.1.13 The proposed development is positioned within a visually enclosed site where the context is influenced by the existing large scale Singleton Birch infrastructure. The proposed development would be largely screened by existing tree cover along the site boundaries and within the wider study area. It would be in keeping with the existing adjacent, large scale industrial built form and would appear to assimilate with the Singleton Birch site. The proposed mitigation planting would replace landscape elements lost as a result of the required site access and provide visual screening and landscape integration of the scheme.

Local Amenity

6.1.14 A Noise Impact Assessment of the Site has been undertaken by JPM Acoustics to identify and assess the implications of noise emissions from the proposed scheme. The report recommends restricting noise emissions from the proposed development to ensure rating levels remain at or below the background values, thus avoiding adverse effect on neighbour amenity. This can be secured through a suitably worded planning condition.

6.1.15 The application is supported by an Air Quality Assessment prepared by ECL which does not identify any harm to air quality arising from construction dust or vehicle exhaust emissions during the construction or operational phases. In respect of vented emissions, this would predominately consist of oxygen with negligible other quantities emitted which are not considered to pose harm to human or environmental health.

6.1.16 Measures to ensure construction activities minimise nuisance caused by vibration and dust during construction can be secured through an appropriately worded condition through for example securing wheel washing facilities for heavy goods vehicles. Similarly details of the external lighting can be controlled by condition to ensure appropriate amenity standards of residents are respected.

Ecology

6.1.17 The application is supported by both an Ecological Impact Assessment and Biodiversity Net Gain Report prepared by SWECO. Targeted protected species surveys for badger and roosting bats have been undertaken. Badger have been confirmed present on site however no setts have been identified. Woodland on site has limited potential for roosting bats given the immaturity of many of the trees.

6.1.18 Mitigation includes reduction of habitat loss through proposed development design and habitat creation. Construction impacts would be mitigated through installation of bird boxes, pollution prevention measures, minimisation of night working and lighting, supervision of woodland clearance and sensitive felling measures. Given the on-site presence of potential bird nesting habitat, any clearance of vegetation, should be timed to avoid the core bird breeding season (March-August inclusive).

6.1.19 In respect of biodiversity, post development on-site biodiversity value would result in a +21.43% increase, with linear hedgerow biodiversity value increasing by 161.43%.

Historic Environment

6.1.20 The application is supported by an archaeological Desk Based Assessment prepared by SLR which note the Site is completely within the footprint of historical quarrying activity and has been subject to extensive extraction, such that no adverse effects to buried archaeology interests are predicted. No designated archaeological remains would therefore be physically affected by the proposals.

6.1.21 The supporting Heritage Statement (SLR) identifies a limited number of heritage assets within a 1km study area, concluding the following assets will be unaffected (no harm identified), primarily due to lack of intervisibility: The Beeches (Grade II), Church of St John the Evangelist (Grade II*), Medieval Settlement of Croxton, Roman Settlement (Scheduled Monument), and Yarborough Camp Large Univallate Hillfort (Scheduled Monument). As such it is concluded the development proposal does not result in harm through a setting change caused by development of the site.

Telecommunications

6.1.22 No new above ground telecommunications cabling is proposed as part of this application.

Transport

6.1.23 A new access forms a ghost island priority junction with the A18, with all vehicles egressing required to turn left out of the junction and a traffic island provided to enforce this.

6.1.24 This access has been designed in accordance with Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Guidance and allows for two-way HGV movements at the junction with the widening of the existing carriageway along the northern verge to allow for provision of the ghost island.

6.1.25 Visibility at the junction is provided in accordance with the guidance for 40mph roads with this arrangement improving safety for all road users, in particular motorcyclists.

Flood Risk

6.1.26 The site is located in Flood Zone 1 and is at very low risk of flooding from Fluvial, Tidal, Canal and Reservoir Flood Risk, and Low Risk of Surface Water, Groundwater and Sewer Flood Risk.

6.1.27 Surface water will be managed via an attenuation swale where it will discharge at a rate of 1 l/s via a rising surface water sewer and discharge to the existing Anglian Water surface water sewer network at a connection point at Manhole 4052 along the A18.

6.1.28 Foul water flows will drain via a proposed foul sewer running from north to south-east. A foul pumping station is proposed within the Site which will pump foul flows out of the Site and discharge into the existing Anglian Water foul sewer network.

The Land

6.1.29 A Phase 1 Desk Study (Geosyntec) supports the application which notes the former quarry site has been subject to recent restorative backfilling and recommends that further investigation is undertaken. It is considered these measures can be secured by condition prior to work commencing.

6.1.30 The land is/has not been used for agriculture, and the proposal will not result in the loss of agricultural production.

Water Usage

6.1.31 Centrica is dedicated to managing and minimising the use of water throughout the development of this project. Our approach to water management is comprehensive and proactive, encompassing the following strategies:

- Water Efficiency: We will incorporate water-efficient systems in the design of the facilities to reduce overall water consumption.
- Water Recycling: We will explore opportunities to recycle water within the project.
- Monitoring and Management: We will implement a robust water monitoring and management system to track water usage and identify areas for improvement. This includes regular audits and reviews to ensure that our water conservation measures are effective and up-to-date.
- Stakeholder Engagement: We will engage with stakeholders, including local communities and regulatory bodies, to ensure that our water management practices align with their expectations and requirements. This includes transparent communication about our water use and conservation efforts.

6.1.32 By prioritising water management and conservation in all aspects of the project, Centrica aims to protect this vital resource and contribute to the sustainability of the environment.

Safety

6.1.33 Centrica is committed to ensuring the highest standards of safety for all aspects of this project. Our approach to safety is comprehensive and proactive, encompassing the following key measures:

- Risk Assessment and Management: Centrica conducts appropriate and thorough risk assessments at every stage of the project to identify potential hazards and implement effective mitigation strategies. This includes regular reviews and updates to ensure that all safety measures remain relevant and effective.
- Training and Competency: All personnel involved in the project will undergo appropriate safety training to ensure they are fully aware of the risks and the necessary precautions. Centrica ensures that all staff and contractors are competent in their roles and responsibilities, with ongoing training and development to maintain high safety standards.
- Safety Culture: Centrica fosters a strong safety culture within the project team, encouraging open communication and reporting of safety concerns. This includes regular safety meetings, safety audits, and the promotion of a 'safety first' mindset among all team members.
- Emergency Preparedness: Centrica will develop and implement comprehensive emergency response plans to ensure that we are prepared for any potential incidents.
- Continuous Improvement: Centrica is committed to continuous improvement in our safety performance. This includes regular monitoring and review of our safety practices, learning from any incidents or near misses, and implementing improvements to enhance safety.
- Organisational Capability and Experience: Centrica brings extensive experience and proven capability in managing large-scale projects with a strong emphasis on safety. Our team comprises highly skilled professionals with a track record of successfully delivering complex projects while maintaining the highest safety standards. We leverage our deep industry knowledge and best practices to ensure that safety is prioritised at every stage of the project.

6.1.34 By prioritising safety in all aspects of the project, Centrica aims to protect the health and wellbeing of our workforce, the public, and the environment.

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7 Conclusion

7.1.1 This outline planning application seeks North Lincolnshire Councils approval for the proposed development of Hydrogen Production facility, including provision of Landscaping, Sustainable Drainage and Associated Infrastructure and Works at Land to the north of the A18, Melton Ross Quarries, Barnetby, North Lincolnshire, DN38 6AE Singleton Birch.

7.1.2 Several environmental and technical assessments have been undertaken to support the planning application, none of which have identified any significant adverse effects as a result of the proposed development. As identified throughout this Statement, decision on planning applications is required to be made in accordance with the provision of the Development Plan when read as a whole, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The proposed development has been assessed as fully compliance with the provisions of each of these, and there are no material considerations have been identified which indicate that the proposed development should not proceed.

7.1.3 There is significant support for the principle of renewable energy developments and presumption in favour of sustainable development throughout the NPPF. Paragraph 148 of the NPPF is clear that the planning system should support transition to a low carbon future, specifically renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure. Granting planning permission for the Proposed Development would comply with these requirements and would act as a catalyst for development proposals to come forward on the rest of the employment allocation. The NPPF also directs that planning applications for renewable development should be approved if impacts are (or can be made) acceptable. As outlined above, the assessments of environmental effects have been shown to be limited and would also accord with the provisions of national policy and the NPPG where these specifically refer to environmental effects. The Proposed Development is deemed to have struck an acceptable balance between renewable energy production and all relevant planning and environmental considerations and, on this basis, planning permission should be granted.