



# Progress Power proposes to develop a gas-fired power station on the Eye Airfield industrial estate, a part of which has been identified by Mid Suffolk District Council for potential use as an Energy Park.

The proposed power station will be capable of generating up to 299MW of electricity, enough to power the equivalent of 400,000 homes. Using the very latest and most efficient power generating technology, it will burn natural gas to generate electricity that will be delivered into the National Grid.

Subject to public consultation, planning and financing, the Progress power station could enter commercial operation in 2018. It would create between 150-250 jobs during construction, up to 30 full time jobs once operating and plough tens of millions of pounds into the local economy during its 25-30 year lifetime. The Progress Power plant would help underpin Mid Suffolk District Council's wider development ambitions for the Airfield.

#### Who is Progress Power?

Progress Power is an energy development company dedicated to the Eye Airfield project and is a part of Watt Power Ltd.

The development team at Watt Power has a long track record of developing successful energy infrastructure projects in the UK and overseas. The company aims to develop a portfolio of flexible gas-fired power stations in the UK in support of the Government's drive towards a low carbon economy.

Watt Power has a strong commitment to safety, the environment and the communities within which it operates. Progress Power intends to work closely with local communities as the proposals for the Eye Airfield power station evolve.

#### The need for gas generation:

Gas is affordable, reliable and flexible. It is acknowledged by the Government as being essential to a low-carbon economy and to retain the country's energy security, as many coal and oil-fired power stations in the UK are set to close down over the next few years. Many ageing nuclear power stations will also close in the near future. Whilst new nuclear stations such as Sizewell C have been proposed, they are unlikely to enter service until after 2025.

In addition, gas provides essential back-up to power generation from renewable resources, primarily wind power, which is increasing but intermittent.

New gas generation plants, like the one proposed for Eye Airfield, will underpin energy security and help ensure there is no shortfall in the country's generating capacity.

The proposed power station at Eye Airfield will be designed to operate flexibly (i.e. not 'always on') so that it can respond quickly and efficiently to short-term variations in customer demand and intermittent output from onshore and offshore wind power.

Modern gas-fired power plants are among the most efficient forms of electricity generation. They emit at least 50% less carbon dioxide than existing coal-fired plants and can therefore make a significant contribution to the reduction of the country's carbon emissions.

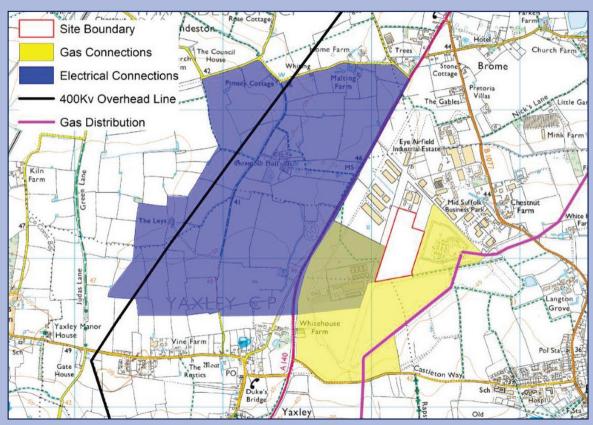
#### Why Eye Airfield?

After extensive studies across the country, we consider Eye Airfield to be one of the very best sites in the UK. It has three key advantages:

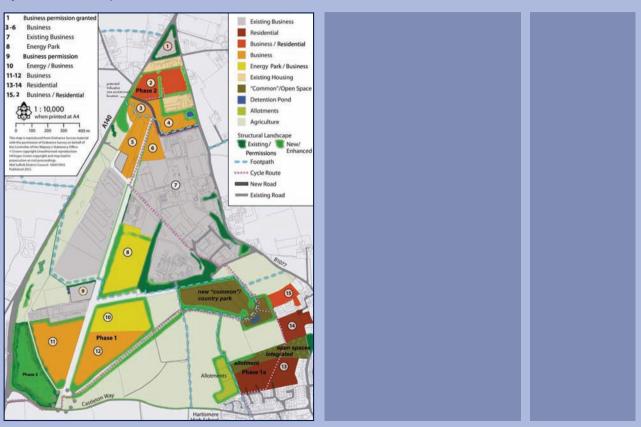
- 1. Close proximity to the national gas and electricity distribution networks
- 2. Location in National Grid's strategic area for new generation (south of The Wash)
- The airfield has been identified for potential energy use in Mid Suffolk Council's Eye Airfield Development Framework



## Proposed Survey Areas for Electricity and Gas Connections



## **Eye Airfield Development Framework**





### Community benefits:

This £200m project would represent a substantial investment in the area and deliver significant economic benefits for a period of least 25 years

- Creation of around 150-250 jobs during the 2 to 3 year construction period
- Up to 30 permanent skilled jobs for on-going operation and maintenance of the facility
- Potential business opportunities for local suppliers

Progress Power will consult Mid Suffolk District Council and Suffolk County Council on ways to bring wider social and environmental benefits to the surrounding area.

#### **Environment:**

This proposed power station will help ensure that the country meets its low carbon emission targets by being designed and constructed to the highest quality, safety and environmental standards. Every effort will be made to minimise its impact on the local environment, both during construction and operation. Its footprint within the area and the steps to mitigate its impacts will form a major part of the consultation and planning process.

An Environmental Scoping Report has been prepared to identify the scope of information required to complete the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO). It is available on our website and in council offices.

A detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be undertaken in accordance with local planning policy, Government legislation, statutory guidance and best practice and will be shared with local interest groups.

#### The EIA will consider a range of issues including:

- air and water quality
- emissions
- noise
- visual impact
- local ecology, archaeology and heritage
- transport





Submission of Development Consent Order to Planning Inspectorate Jan 2014 Decision from The Secretary of State June 2015

#### **EXAMINATION AND DECISION**

FINANCE, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONS

June 2015

Construction Start 2016/2017 Commercial Operations Q4 2018



## Planning and Consultation:

The proposed Progress Power station will require development consent approval. Given its size, the project will be considered by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, not by the local planning committee. The final decision will be made by the Secretary of State. Mid Suffolk District Council and Suffolk County Council will be key consultees along with local parish councils and other local and national organisations.

Public consultation is an integral part of the planning process. Local residents, businesses and other local interest groups will be consulted before any applications are made and their views will help shape the final DCO application.

The local community will have several opportunities to consider and comment on the proposed station as technical and environmental studies and associated design works are undertaken.

Prior to submission of any application, there will be a two-stage consultation process: non-statutory consultation (Phase I) followed by a period of statutory consultation (Phase II).



