Proposals for a new data centre at Drax Power Station

Drax has partnered with Brookfield and Radiant, Brookfield's UK-headquartered AI infrastructure platform, to bring forward plans for a new data centre of up to 100 MW within the Power Station footprint.

As our use of AI and advanced computing grows, we need more data centre capacity to support the services people and businesses rely on.

A new data centre at Drax would help meet this demand on an existing industrial site, while creating new jobs and supporting future economic growth and innovation in the region.

Ahead of submitting a planning application, we want to hear your thoughts. These boards explain the proposals and how to have your say on the plans.



Have Your Say

You can have your say by:

– Completing a paper survey here today, online by scanning the QR code at the bottom of these boards, or visiting the project website at: **www.drax.com/CommunityConsultation**

– Emailing: **info@draxselby.com**

Please make sure you share your feedback by the close of consultation on **3 December 2026**.

All the feedback received during the consultation will be considered by the project team, ahead of submitting a planning application to North Yorkshire Council in the coming months.

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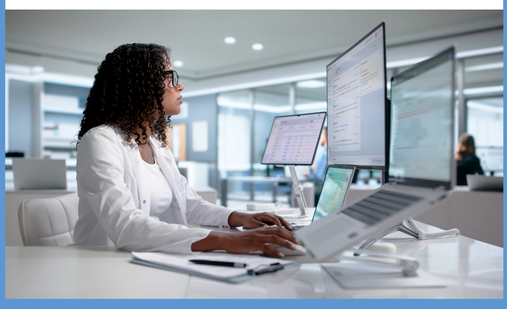
Why are data centres needed

Data centres are Critical National Infrastructure, providing the computing power needed to support AI, discover new medicines, advance scientific research and support essential public services. They could also create jobs and supply chain opportunities in the areas in which they are built, and help expand our domestic digital capabilities, reducing our dependence on overseas infrastructure.

Supporting emergency services like the NHS

The NHS relies on data centres to store patient information and run the digital systems that support everyday care. This includes the NHS App, which allows patients to book appointments, access their health records and order repeat prescriptions.



Everyday uses

Data centres and AI also help support a range of everyday activities. These can range from learning a new recipe, helping to plan holidays, translate documents and even move money around. Examples of these include:

Online banking

Some online banking platforms - like Monzo - use Amazon Web Services to support everyday services like card payments, transfers and checking balances. Monzo also uses Google Cloud as a backup, both of which require data centres to operate smoothly.



Going grocery shopping

Sainsbury's SmartShop lets customers scan and pack groceries as they move around the store, using a handset or their phone. Both this SmartShop and the Sainsbury's loyalty programme - Nectar Points - rely on Amazon Web Services.



Choosing what to watch

Netflix uses cloud computing for recommendations, databases and converting programmes into formats suitable for different devices. Its separate digital network Open Connect delivers the video itself - which uses data centres to operate.



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The site

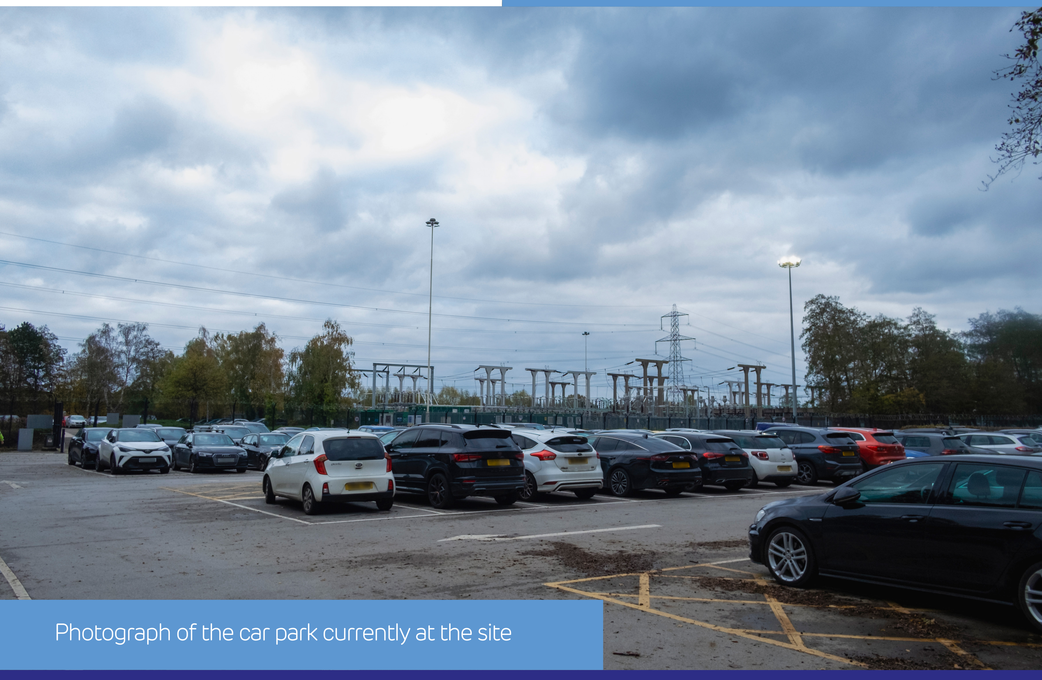
The data centre would be located within the footprint of the Drax Power Station, just off the A645 at the south end of the site. We are proposing to redevelop an area which includes a car park, alongside existing site buildings and roads.

The Power Station is well-suited to hosting a data centre, because it:

- Is located on previously developed land – avoiding the need to develop on new or agricultural land.
- Sits within an existing secure, industrial site, with an extremely high level of security.
- Is seeking to make use of existing infrastructure on the site, including electrical and water infrastructure.



Approximate location of site at Drax Power Station



Photograph of the car park currently at the site

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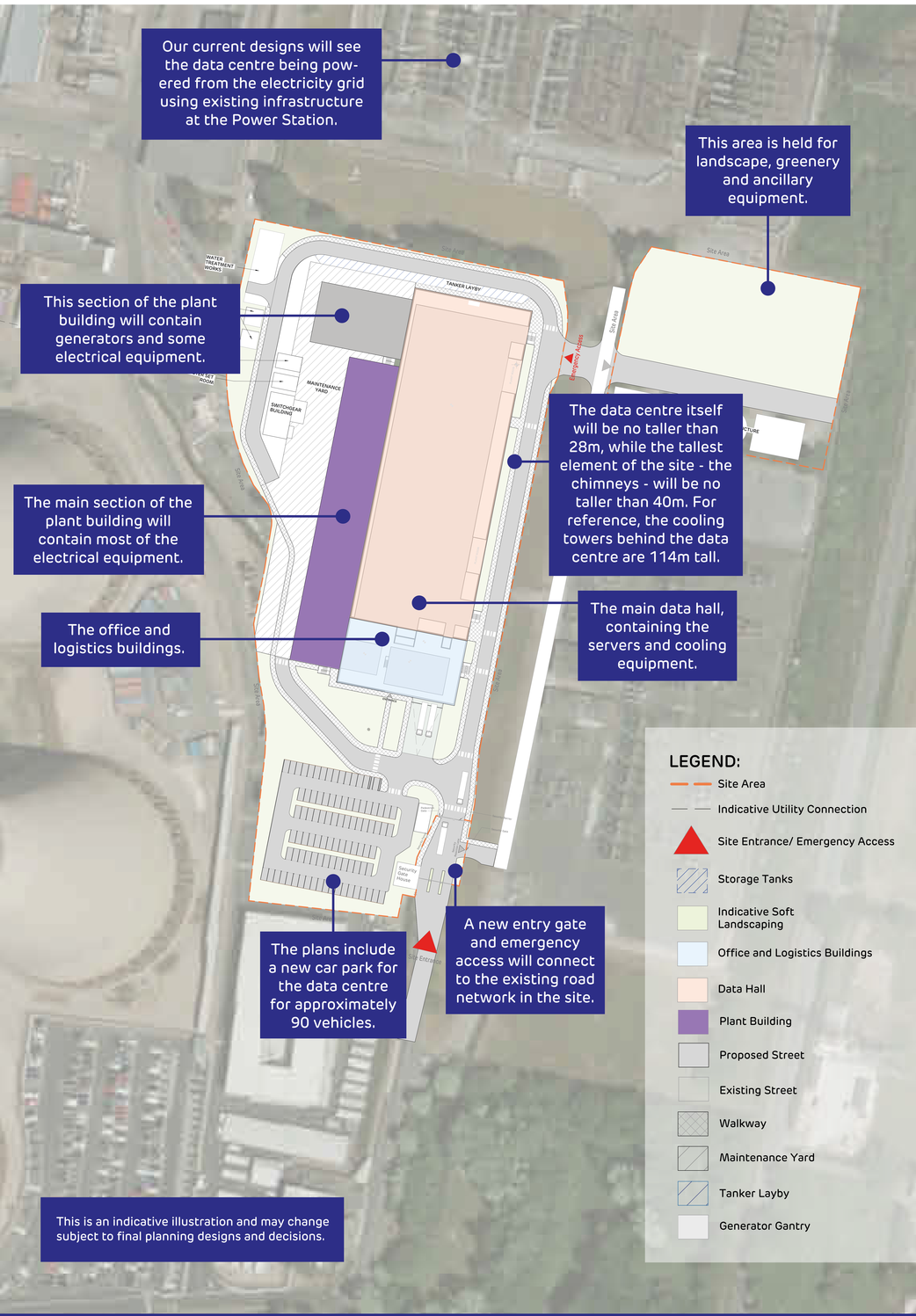
The plans

We are proposing a data centre of up to 100 MW, located within the footprint of the Drax Power Station.

The data centre will include a data hall housing the advanced computer systems used to support AI applications, together with associated cooling infrastructure, plant buildings for electrical equipment, and an office and logistics building.



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Creating new jobs and supply chain opportunities

The project will help create new jobs and local supply chain opportunities, supporting future economic growth and innovation in the region.



An already-developed, industrial location

Drax Power Station offers already-developed land within an industrial site, avoiding the need to develop on new or agricultural land.



Delivering off-site biodiversity enhancements

Targeting 20% biodiversity net gain off site will mean preserving and extending habitats in their natural environment.



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Generating business rates for North Yorkshire

The project will generate additional business rates for North Yorkshire Council, which could be spent on a range of public services and improvements.



Support local community projects

Continuing Drax's commitment to investing in the communities around it, a community benefit fund could help support local community projects and spaces.



Boost the UK's computing capability

An up to 100 MW site, helping expand the UK's digital capabilities and support our everyday activities.

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Drax in the community



Drax has a long track record of investing in local causes. In 2025, we invested £3.1m in 251 local projects through the Drax Foundation and Drax Community Fund, reaching more than 118,000 people in our local communities and regions.

Drax's Community & Education team based at the Drax Power Station delivers STEM education in local schools, welcomes school groups for educational tours of the power station and takes part in mentoring and careers events – all designed to inspire young people and introduce them to careers in the energy sector.

We are exploring ways in which Drax, Brookfield and Radiant can further contribute to the local community. This includes establishing a voluntary community benefits fund – developed in consultation with communities around the Drax Power Station site – that is separate from and additional to any planning obligations and Drax's existing community initiatives.



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Environment



Wildlife and biodiversity

By using land largely occupied by car parks, roads and buildings within the existing Drax industrial complex, the proposals limit the amount of natural habitat affected.

Ecological surveys are helping shape measures to protect wildlife, including timing vegetation clearance to avoid bird nesting season where possible, checking for wildlife before construction and keeping animals safe as works take place.

We are also exploring wildlife-friendly boundary planting and opportunities for bird and bat boxes and insect habitats in suitable off-site locations.

The proposals will aim to deliver 20% biodiversity net gain through off-site habitat enhancements, with details to be set out in the planning application.

Noise, landscape and air quality

Noise, air quality and visual effects will be assessed as the proposals develop, covering construction and operation where relevant. Given the site's location within the existing Drax footprint, visibility is expected to be limited from many surrounding areas. Where necessary, landscaping and careful design will help reduce visual impacts, and we will seek to incorporate appropriate mitigations into the design where possible.

Lighting

The existing car park is already floodlit around the clock. Lighting for the proposed development will be designed to provide safety and security while limiting effects on surrounding habitats. This will include seeking to avoid light spilling towards the woodland to the south-east, helping protect bats and other nocturnal wildlife.

Transport

Traffic would temporarily increase during construction. A Transport Assessment and Construction Traffic Management Plan will be prepared to inform the planning application and identify any mitigation required. Once operational, traffic is expected to be relatively low, comprising mainly staff, maintenance and servicing visits.

Flood risk and drainage

Based on current Environment Agency flood maps for planning, the majority of the development site is located within Flood Zone 1, which has the lowest probability of flooding. A Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy will be prepared to support the planning application. Surface water drainage proposals will include measures where necessary to manage runoff and protect surrounding areas.

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Construction and operation

Our development partners

Drax has partnered with Brookfield and Radiant, Brookfield's UK-headquartered AI infrastructure platform, to jointly develop, deliver and operate an AI data centre on the Drax Power Station estate.

Drax intends to provide the land, power, water and planning expertise to this project, whilst the data centre itself will be developed and operated by Brookfield and Radiant.

Radiant is an experienced, responsible developer of AI computer campuses, with projects in the UK, France and the United States. We intend to secure a customer for the use of the data centre in the future.

Managing construction

As part of the planning application, we will submit a Construction Environmental Management Plan. This will evaluate the impacts of construction on the area around the site, including transporting the equipment and materials to the site, crew movements and the construction itself. Appropriate mitigation measures to reduce these impacts will be incorporated into the design.

Security and fire safety

The proposed site sits within an existing secure industrial facility with an extremely high level of security. Appropriate fire safety and security measures would be considered to ensure this level of protection continues as the proposals develop.

What happens next

Following the public consultation, the project team will review all the feedback received. A planning application will then be submitted to North Yorkshire Council for review.

Should the application be approved, we are targeting operations by early 2028.

In the meantime, we'll continue to keep you updated and provide further opportunities for you to have your say as the plans progress.

Longer-term vision

Drax and Brookfield have announced the ambition for >1GW of data centre capacity, however this planning application is for an up-to 100MW data centre. No subsequent phases have been confirmed at this stage.

We'll continue to engage local communities after the planning application is submitted. The project website will remain a central source of information, supported by further newsletters to keep you updated as information become available. We'll also provide more opportunities for you to ask questions and share your views as the project progresses.

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