

## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Project Genesis Ltd (hereafter referred to as 'the Applicant'), is seeking planning consent from Durham County Council under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) (hereafter referred to as 'the Act') for the development of an Energy Facility.
- 1.1.2 The application site is approximately 1.64 hectares and is located within the Hownsgill Industrial Estate in Consett, Durham, DH8 7EQ (Grid reference E 410469 N 549814).
- 1.1.3 Enzygo Ltd (hereafter referred to as 'Enzygo') has been appointed by the Applicant to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), including the preparation of a Scoping Report and preparation of this Environmental Statement (ES).
- 1.1.4 A formal Scoping Opinion was requested from Durham County Council under Regulation 15 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (hereafter referred to as the 'EIA Regulations'). The ES is based on the Scoping Opinion (Ref SCO/20/00006) received from Durham Council on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020.
- 1.1.5 This ES presents the results and conclusions of the Environmental Impact Assessment and provides the supporting information to conclude that there is unlikely to be any significant environmental effects resulting from the proposed development.

### 1.2 The Applicant

- 1.2.1 Project Genesis is a joint venture between Dysart Developments Ltd and Durham County Council and was formed after the closure of the Consett steel works, with the intension to comprehensively redevelop the redundant land. The development has invested millions into the local economy so far and is seeking to continue to do so through future projects.
- 1.2.2 The Project Genesis Trust has been active in the preparation of the County Durham Plan, to seek to ensure that future plans for the former Consett steel works site are incorporated into the adopted plan.
- 1.2.3 A comprehensive masterplan has been agreed with County Durham and is now considered as part of the Adopted Development Plan.

### 1.3 The Proposed Development

1.3.1 The proposed development will generate low carbon electricity and heat, and provide a sustainable solution for managing residual commercial waste to significantly reduce waste otherwise sent to landfill or for export abroad. The Energy Facility will have a 15MWth capacity (3.48MWe), enabling it to process up to a maximum of 60,000 tonnes per annum of non-hazardous Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) produced from various types of waste locally arising, mainly commercial and industrial waste from 4 to 5 local sources/suppliers.

1.3.2 In summary, the proposed development includes the following:

- ) Water Tank
- ) Gas fired back up boilers
- ) Energy Plant
- ) Chimney
- ) Bag House
- ) Damper
- ) Multicyclone
- ) Transformer
- ) Dry coolers
- ) Security Hut
- ) Weigh bridge and
- ) Parking and deliver lorry drop off hardstanding areas and access road.

1.3.3 The CHP element of the scheme is a crucial element of the Hownsgill Industrial Estate and Project Genesis. In combination with other developments the potential is to create reliable sources of zero and low carbon heat and power which can be supplied at advantageous rates to current and future commercial developments. This directly supports objectives for a circular economy and to promote a Green Recovery, with a strong pull to attract inward investment to Consett through the availability of low carbon, lower cost energy.

### 1.4 Statutory Context for EIA

1.4.1 EIA is the process of evaluating the likely significant environmental effects of a proposed project or development, both beneficial and adverse, prior to decision-making. For projects and proposals of a certain type, the process of EIA is governed by the EIA Regulations which provide the legislative framework for undertaking EIA. These regulations apply the

requirements of the EU directive 'on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment' (usually referred to as the EIA Directive (2014/52/EU)) to the planning system.

- 1.4.2 In accordance with the EIA Regulations, the proposed development includes a waste disposal installation for the incineration of non-hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 100 tonnes per day and therefore falls within Class 10 of Schedule 1 The Regulations. As such, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required to support the planning application.
- 1.4.3 The scope and structure of the ES is described in Chapter 2.

#### **Commenting on the Planning Application**

- 1.4.4 The local authority determining the planning application is Durham County Council.
- 1.4.5 The planning application and Environmental Statement can be inspected online at:
- ) Durham County Council; and,
  - ) <https://www.enzygo.com/consultations/consett-energy-recovery-facility>.
- 1.4.6 Hard copies of the ES are available for a charge of £150 or £10 on CD (including VAT). Copies of the NTS are available free of charge. To obtain a copy of the ES, please contact Enzygo on 01454 269237.

#### **The Assessment Team**

- 1.4.7 The assessment of environmental effects and the preparation of the EIA Report has been undertaken by a team of competent experts, as required by Regulation 5 (2) of the EIA Regulations, from Enzygo, supported by:
- ) Air Quality Consultants Ltd for Air Quality and Human Health;
  - ) Shadbolt Group for Site Investigations.
- 1.4.8 Relevant expertise and qualifications of the assessment team are provided in table 1.1 (Statement of Competency) below:

**Table 1.1 Statement of Competency**

<b>Author of reports</b>	<b>Chapter</b>
<p>Sharon Queeney MRTPI IEMA Planning Consultant</p> <p>Sharon is a qualified planning consultant with over 20 years in the waste and energy industry. She has a wide range of experience in the formulation and submission of planning applications, project management of Environmental Impact Assessments and formulation of Environmental Statements.</p>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15, and NTS
<p>Carolyn Gratty Principal Landscape Architect Enzygo</p> <p>BA(hons) Landscape Architecture Post Graduate Diploma Landscape Architecture Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute</p> <p>Chartered Landscape Architect with over 20 years' experience of undertaking LVIA, EIA coordination and ES chapter production for various projects including utilities, nationally significant infrastructure, energy, commercial and residential developments. Chapter 12 – Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment</p>	7
<p>Steve Rhodes BSc (Hons) MSc DIC CEng CGeol MIMMM MIEnv Sc FGS Enzygo Ltd</p> <p>Steve Rhodes is Director for the Geo-Environmental team. Steve has over 30 years in the geo-environmental industry undertaking a wide range of schemes from residential development, waste and energy and major infrastructure projects. Steve is a Chartered Engineer, Chartered Geologist and Member of the Institution of Environmental Sciences</p>	8
<p>Darren Lafon-Anthony, Director of Acoustics Enzygo Ltd</p> <p>MSc Applied Acoustics Member of the Institute of Acoustic (MIOA) Fellow of the Institute of Quarrying (FIQ)</p> <p>Darren has 30 years' experience in the field of noise and vibration, initial as a design engineer and project manager for industrial noise control and for the last 15 years as a consultant working on projects in the minerals, waste, energy and residential development sectors.</p>	9
<p>Ricky Gellatly BSc (Hons) CSci MIEnvSc MIAQM Air Quality Consultants Ltd</p> <p>Ricky is a Principal Consultant with AQC with over nine years' relevant experience. He has undertaken air quality assessments for a wide range of projects, assessing many different pollution sources using both qualitative and quantitative methodologies, with most assessments having included dispersion modelling (using a variety of models). He has assessed road schemes, airports, energy from waste facilities, anaerobic digesters, poultry farms, urban extensions, rail freight interchanges, energy centres, waste handling sites, sewage works and shopping and sports centres, amongst others. He is the company specialist in the assessment of energy from waste schemes, having</p>	10

supported applications for more than ten such schemes in the UK. He is a Member of the Institute of Air Quality Management and is a Chartered Scientist.	
Daniel Alstead BSc (Hons) MSc MCIWEM C.WEM  Associated Director/Hydrologist  Daniel has 13 years experience working in environmental and engineering consultancy producing Water Resources ES chapters for a range of projects including mixed use and housing, and the production of Water Framework Directive Assessments.	11

## 1.5 The Project Team

1.5.1 The project team consists of the following:

1.5.2 **Project Genesis Ltd** – The Applicant as described in section 1.2.

1.5.3 **HoSt** – HoSt was formed in 1991 as the result of a joint-venture between Holec Projects and Stork, two well-established suppliers of energy systems. From 1999 onwards HoSt has been a fully independent business whose activities focus 100% on the technological development of waste-to-energy systems for the processing of biomass and waste flows and the supply of systems for the sustainable generation of energy from biomass and waste. HoSt has become a major European EPC supplier of bioenergy systems with over 27 years’ experience, a large service team throughout Europe and a team of more than 120 engineers who design, construct and install these advanced bioenergy systems.

The technology offered is based on a step grate, for which HoSt has more than 40 reference plants throughout Europe. 10 of these plants have a boiler capacity between 5-20 MW. They run on various types of waste, biomass and various wood fuel streams.

1.5.4 **BGI: Bio Global Industries Ltd (BGI)** is an innovative energy company that delivers both highly flexible and cost effective solutions to renewable energy in the UK.

BGI are in Partnership with HoSt Technologies in Amsterdam, Netherlands for Waste to Energy installations in the UK, ranging from 6MW to 20MW, they technology is renowned for their low emissions, which are below EU standards.

1.5.5 **Sadler Brown Architects:** With offices in Newcastle, Chester, London, Harrogate, Edinburgh and Cardiff our practice operates throughout the UK, and internationally on a broad range of projects.

The practice has a proven track record across a number of industrial and infrastructure commissions, including recently with rail infrastructure in Tyneside, Wearside and the Middle East; below ground service roads and tunnels in the UAE; Warehousing facilities in

Northumberland and Sunderland; and masterplanning layouts for infrastructure on a commercial business park in Newcastle.

More locally we were part of the team who secured Outline Planning Consent for a mixed use development close to the Howns Gill Industrial Park, as well as delivering projects in many other sectors across County Durham. Many of our projects are sited in sensitive rural / rural-urban fringe locations. Each proposal is developed on merit, considering place and being environmentally responsive in approach.