



LARKSHALL MILL AGGREGATE MANUFACTURING AND CARBON CAPTURE FACILITY

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION (SoCC)

27 June 2022

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1. Introduction

1.1. Overview

1.1.1. O.C.O. Technology Ltd is inviting feedback from the local community on its proposals for a new facility that will manufacture carbon-negative aggregate for use in the construction industry at Larkshall Mill, Wretham, Norfolk as part of a public consultation from 4 July to 12 August 2022.

1.2. What is this document?

1.2.1. This document, known as a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), sets out how we plan to consult with the local community. It includes details on:

- The proposed development and developer information
- The planning process
- Our approach to community consultation
- What we will be consulting on
- Who we will be consulting
- How we will consult the local community
- How we will publicise the consultation
- The consultation arrangements
- What we will do with feedback from the consultation

1.3. Why are we publishing this document?

1.3.1. The project is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) for the purposes of the Planning Act 2008 and requires consent from the relevant Secretary of State via a Development Consent Order (DCO). We have therefore published this document, in line with the requirements of section 47 of that Act and regulation 12 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017, to help people understand how we will seek their views on the project. We very much want feedback from the local community on our proposals and this document sets out the different ways you can find out more and respond.

2. The Applicant

2.1. About us

- 2.1.1. O.C.O Technology produces carbon-negative aggregate for use in the construction industry. It does so by using a carbon capture and utilisation (CCU) process to treat and stabilise thermal residues and turn them into sustainable construction products in the form of carbon negative aggregate. This process has been patented by O.C.O Technology and is the result of many years of award-winning research.
- 2.1.2. O.C.O Technology is one of the top ten companies in the world for permanent carbon capture in an industrial process. It is believed that it is the only company in the world that produces commercial aggregate that is truly carbon negative.
- 2.1.3. O.C.O Technology is UK-based and has a number of existing sites. These include Brandon in Suffolk, Avonmouth near Bristol and a further site in Leeds. In addition to this, O.C.O Technology is increasingly working with other companies around the world to roll out this exciting technology for recovery of waste materials in the manufacture of aggregates.
- 2.1.4. Further information is available on our website: www.oco.co.uk

2.2. The Scheme

- 2.2.1. O.C.O Technology is bringing forward proposals for a new facility that will manufacture carbon-negative aggregate (using carbon capture technology) for use in the construction industry at Larkshall Mill, Wretham, Norfolk ('the Scheme'). This is known as the 'Larkshall Mill Aggregate Manufacturing and Carbon Capture Facility'.
- 2.2.2. This is to support the growth of its business and because an existing facility operated by O.C.O Technology at Brandon in Suffolk needs to relocate.
- 2.2.3. The site is already the subject of an application to Norfolk County Council for planning permission under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for a facility processing up to 30,000 (thirty thousand) tonnes of Air Pollution Control residue (APCr) every year. This is the maximum threshold under which Norfolk County Council, as local waste planning authority, can determine applications for such facilities before they must be determined instead by the Secretary of State under a separate Act, the Planning Act 2008. O.C.O Technology proposes delivering this 30,000 tonne per year facility on the site as soon as possible in the event that Norfolk County Council grants planning permission for it.

- 2.2.4. However, O.C.O Technology considers that there is a need for a larger facility than this on the site. This would involve processing up to a total of 100,000 tonnes (one hundred thousand) per annum of Air Pollution Control residue (APCr) or other similar waste products in the manufacture of aggregate for the construction industry. A facility of this scale would be classified as an NSIP for which an application to the Secretary of State is required for development consent under the Planning Act 2008. O.C.O Technology is therefore preparing a separate application to the Secretary of State for development consent to authorise the construction, operation and maintenance of this larger scale facility. This application to the Secretary of State will include any elements of the smaller 30,000 tonne per year facility for which Norfolk County Council may already have granted planning permission and which, it is proposed, might already have been constructed on the site. This is because it is important for both O.C.O Technology and any relevant authorities to keep things simple going forward from a compliance perspective with one rather than two such planning consents on the same site. That is also why it is currently proposed that once the Secretary of State grants development consent (in the form of the DCO), the planning permission granted by Norfolk County Council would fall away. The consultation proposed in this document is about the 100,000 tonne per annum Scheme for which development consent is being sought from the Secretary of State – that is, all aspects of the proposed facility. This will more particularly be set out in materials published as part of the consultation.
- 2.2.5. Details of the materials that we will publish are set out in the 'Consulting the Community' section below.



Figure 1: Site location plan

3. The planning process

3.1. Why is the Scheme an NSIP?

3.1.1. We are bringing the Scheme forward under the Planning Act 2008.

3.1.2. This is because the Scheme would be classified as a hazardous waste facility, to be located in England, whose main purpose is the recovery of hazardous waste at a capacity up to 100,000 tonnes per year by combining it with other materials (sand, cement, water and carbon dioxide) to produce manufactured limestone. Under Section 30 of the Planning Act 2008, such facilities with a capacity of more than 30,000 tonnes per year fall under the definition of an NSIP and therefore would require a DCO.

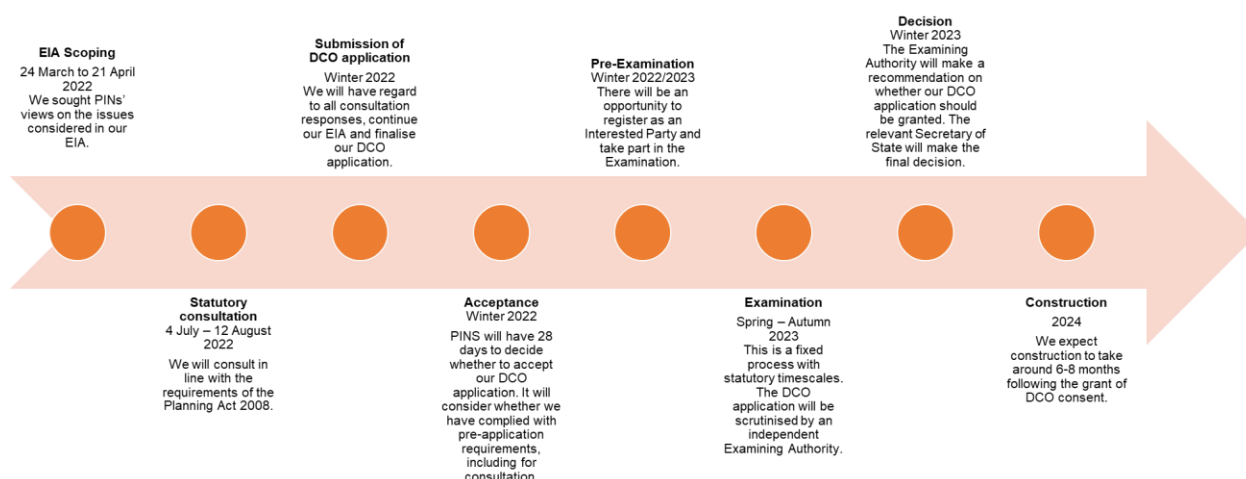
3.1.3. Unlike planning applications, which are considered by local authorities, DCO applications are made to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). This independent body administers the application process on behalf of the relevant Secretary of State – who makes the final decision on the application.

3.1.4. PINS has produced a guide to the application process for members of the public. This is available on its website:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Advice-note-8.0.pdf>

3.1.5. Figure 2 shows each stage of the planning process for NSIPs.

Figure 2: The planning process for NSIPs, as currently anticipated for the Project



3.2. The Planning Act 2008 and consultation

3.2.1. DCOs are governed by a fixed, statutory process, which requires us to:

- consult with persons with specified interests in the land to which the Scheme relates, and certain bodies as prescribed under section 42 of the Planning Act 2008
- consult the local community under section 47 of the Planning Act 2008
- publicise the proposals locally and nationally under section 48 of the Planning Act 2008

3.2.2. This means we are following a well-established and clear process to develop our proposals. This provides a fixed role for local authorities, including reviewing and commenting on this SoCC and responding to our proposals as a statutory consultee.

3.2.3. We will meet these requirements for consultation by holding what is known as a statutory consultation. We will use the feedback that we receive during the statutory consultation to help us develop our final proposals for the Scheme, before submitting our DCO application. We are publishing this document before the statutory consultation to help local people understand how they can find out more and share their views.

3.2.4. As part of our DCO application, we will submit a Consultation Report detailing our approach to consultation, the feedback that we received during

the statutory consultation, and how we have had regard to it. When considering our DCO application, the Secretary of State will consider whether the consultation that we have undertaken has been adequate.

3.3. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

- 3.3.1. The Scheme counts as EIA development for the purposes of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and so we are also carrying out an EIA in line with these. This involves assessing any likely significant environmental effects from our proposals and, where appropriate, proposing mitigation. We have already sought advice from PINS and stakeholders on how we should assess potential environmental impacts from the Scheme. PINS has set out the results of this process in a document called a Scoping Opinion. This is available online: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/WS010006/WS010006-000003-WS010006_Scoping%20Opinion.pdf
- 3.3.2. As part of the statutory consultation, we will share the next stage of our EIA work. This is a report of the preliminary findings of our EIA and our initial proposals for mitigation, known as a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). The PEIR will be publicised and consulted upon during the statutory consultation in the same way described in this document for the other consultation materials included in that consultation.
- 3.3.3. Following the consultation, we will finalise our assessments and report on them in a document called an Environmental Statement (ES). This will form part of our DCO application.

3.4. More information

- 3.4.1. You can find more information about the Planning Act 2008, PINS and its role and how to participate in the DCO process on the PINS National Infrastructure Planning website: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/>, or by calling PINS on 0303 444 5000.

4. Consulting the community

4.1. Overview of the consultation

4.1.1. We are inviting the community living in the vicinity of Scheme to take part in the statutory consultation and provide feedback on our proposals.

Through consultation, we want to:

- ensure that those potentially affected by our proposals have the opportunity to understand them and provide their views
- gain useful feedback on the Scheme which will help improve our design and EIA process
- comply with the requirements set by the Planning Act 2008 for projects of this type

4.1.2. In this period of statutory public consultation, we will make available further information about the Scheme, including details of our advanced design proposals. This will be an opportunity for members of the community to influence the project by submitting feedback.

4.2. Developing our approach to consultation

4.2.1. We have undertaken early engagement with stakeholders to develop our approach to community consultation.

4.2.2. This has included meeting with officers and members at Breckland Council and Norfolk County Council while developing this SoCC in draft.

4.2.3. We are required to consult with host authorities as defined by section 43(1) of the Planning Act 2008 on the development of this SoCC. We consulted Breckland Council and Norfolk County Council between 27 April 2022 and 26 May 2022. **Table 1** below summarises comments received from these authorities through the consultation and how we have had regard to them in developing the SoCC.

Table 1: Regard had to local authority comments on the draft SoCC

| Issue raised | Regard had |
|--|--------------------------------|
| The final sentence of para 2.2.3 refers "O.C.O Technology proposes delivering this 30,000 tonne per year facility on the site as soon as possible after Norfolk County Council grants planning permission for it." It is recommended that this phrase be amended to read "O.C.O Technology | This wording has been amended. |

| | |
|---|---|
| proposes delivering this 30,000 tonne per year facility on the site as soon as possible <u>in the event</u> that Norfolk County Council grants planning permission for it." | |
| Although the project has no direct impact on any PROWs, it may be beneficial to consult The Ramblers and other local walking/cycling groups. | We will consult The Ramblers and other relevant local walking and cycling groups. |
| Table 3 on 'Consultation publicity and techniques' refers to advertising the consultation online, but it does not clarify if this is just through the O.C.O Technology website or if this will incorporate additional online platforms. | The consultation will be advertised online via the online edition of the Thetford and Brandon Times. We have clarified this in Table 3. |
| Section 4.9 refers to 'seldom heard audiences.' It is recommended that reference is made specifically to community Gypsy and Traveller groups also. | This reference has been added in section 4.9. |
| Section 5.5. refers to 'Further information' and it would be useful to have the O.C.O Technology website address in this section so that consultation and information documents can be easily found. | The O.C.O Technology website address has been added into this section. |

4.3. What will we be consulting on?

4.3.1. During the statutory consultation, we will be asking for views on:

- The Scheme
- The short term and long term effects of Scheme including:
 - Construction impacts
 - Environmental impacts
 - Operational impacts
 - Impacts from decommissioning
- The Preliminary Environmental Information Report

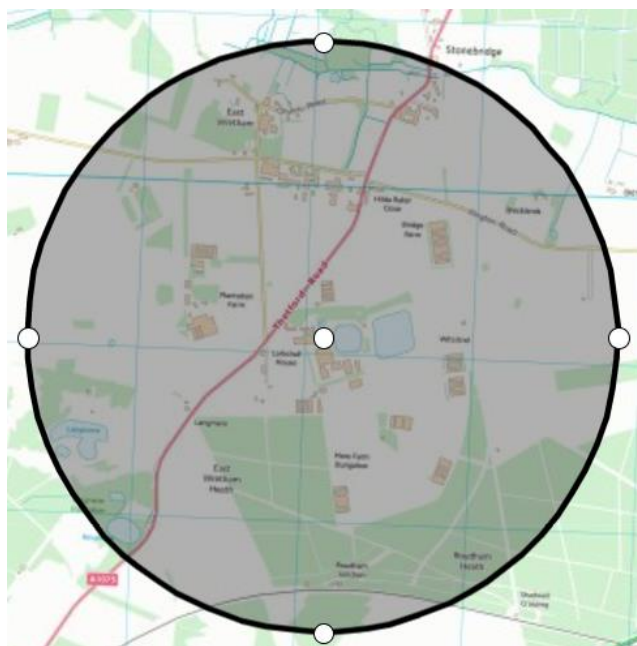
4.4. Who will we consult?

- 4.4.1. We will consult widely in accordance with this SoCC and encourage participation in the consultation from any person or group who is interested in the Scheme within the geographic areas set out in **Table 2** below.
- 4.4.2. We have defined a series of 'zones of consultation' for publicising the consultation directly to the local community for the purposes of section 47 of the Planning Act 2008. This recognises that the levels of potential impact and interest are likely to vary with geography. We will use different consultation techniques within each zone.
- 4.4.3. These zones are set out in **Table 2** below alongside a map of the zone 1 consultation area in **Figure 2**.

Table 2: Zones of consultation

| Zone | Definition |
|------|--|
| 1 | A radius of one mile around the site, shown in Figure 3 . This includes a total of 110 addresses. |
| 2 | The area of Breckland district not included within zone 1. |
| 3 | The area of Norfolk not included within zones 2 or 3. |

Figure 3: Consultation zone 1



4.5. How will we consult?

4.5.1. We will use a range of techniques to consult the community, which will be guided by the zones of consultation. These are designed to allow people with different needs across the community to take part in the consultation in a way that is convenient to them. These are set out in **Table 3** below.

Table 3: Consultation publicity and techniques

| How we will publicise the consultation | Zone 1 | Zone 2 | Zone 3 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|
| Writing to all addresses within the zone | ✓ | | |
| Writing to elected representatives, parish councils and community groups within the zone with details of the consultation | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Sharing a poster with consultation details with parish councils and community groups within the zone | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Writing to the Leader and Chief Executive of local authorities within the zone | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Publicising the consultation in the Thetford and Brandon Times | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Publicising the consultation via regional and local broadcasters including BBC Radio Norfolk | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Advertising the consultation online, including on the O.C.O Technology Website and the online edition of the Thetford | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| How we will consult | | | |
| Sending a newsletter summarising the Scheme and how to take part in the consultation, including a questionnaire which can be returned by Freepost | ✓ | | |
| Holding a minimum of one public exhibition at a venue in consultation zone one | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Providing copies of consultation materials for review at the deposit points listed in paragraph 5.1.2 below and online via a dedicated page on O.C.O Technology's website | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Contacting community and voluntary organisations within the zone to offer direct engagement | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Publication of consultation information online at a dedicated project page on O.C.O Technology's website | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Inviting elected representatives to take part in briefings | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Inviting enquiries and responses online through the consultation website, by freephone, freepost or email | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

4.6.Changes to consultation arrangements

4.6.1. At the time of publication, there are no restrictions in place on social mixing in relation to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic. However, we must allow for the risk that this could change during the consultation period.

4.6.2. If the Government introduces restrictions on social mixing which prevent the delivery of activity set out in **Table 3** within the consultation period, we would:

- Replace the public exhibition with a webinar including a live Q&A session

- Inviting residents of consultation zone 1 to book an appointment to speak to us by the telephone
 - Continue to make consultation documents available via a dedicated project page on the O.C.O Technology website
- 4.6.3. We would publicise changes to consultation arrangements using the techniques included in **Table 3**.

4.7. Consultation information

4.7.1. We will produce a range of materials providing information as part of the consultation:

- A consultation newsletter
- Information boards (for the public exhibition)
- A dedicated project page on the O.C.O Technology website
- A Preliminary Environmental Information Report

4.7.2. Copies of consultation information will be made available for review free of charge online at the dedicated project page on the O.C.O Technology website and at public deposit points. Hard copies of the newsletter and information boards will also be made available on request using the contact details in this document.

4.8. Collection of feedback

4.8.1. To capture participants' feedback, we will produce a consultation questionnaire inviting comments on the different elements of the proposed Scheme. A copy of the questionnaire will be posted with the newsletter to everyone living in consultation zone 1. It will also be available online through the dedicated project page on the O.C.O Technology website.

4.8.2. Consultees will be able to respond during the consultation period by completing a questionnaire online or returning a completed questionnaire using the contact details set out in this document. Pre-addressed Freepost envelopes will also be made available on request.

4.9. Seldom heard audiences

4.9.1. It is important to ensure that consultation is inclusive and enables participation from a wide range of audiences, including those who are seldom heard in public consultation such as young people, people with disabilities, Gypsies and Travellers and those for whom English is not a first language. We will do this by:

- Making provision for people who do not have access to the internet through the consultation programme. This includes the public exhibition

- Choosing accessible venues for public information points and the public exhibition
- Producing our consultation materials in accessible formats on request
- Contacting community and voluntary organisations including parish councils and schools within consultation zone 1 to offer direct engagement and sharing a consultation information pack designed to support them in promoting consultation through their own existing communication channels such as social media feeds
- Providing a variety of communication channels including a Freephone number, email address and Freepost address for those seeking information
- Engaging with the Norfolk and Suffolk Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Service to support engagement with community Gypsy and Traveller groups

5. Consultation arrangements

5.1. How to take part in the consultation

5.1.1. The statutory public consultation on the Scheme will take place between 4 July to 12 August 2022.

5.1.2. Consultees can find out more by:

- Contacting us on 0800 0194 576 or larkshallmillconsultation@secnewgate.co.uk
 - Attending a public exhibition at Wretham Village Hall, Church Rd, Thetford IP24 1RL at the following dates and times:
 - o Friday 8 July 2022 from 3:30pm to 7:30pm
 - o Saturday 9 July 2022 from 10:00am to 2:00pm
 - Viewing the information boards from our public exhibition on our website
 - Reading a newsletter summarising our proposals. We will send a copy of the newsletter to all addresses in consultation zone 1. The letter will also be available from a dedicated project page on the O.C.O Technology website and on request
 - Reviewing the PEIR and other consultation documents by going to the dedicated project page on the O.C.O Technology website and the following locations in the local area:
 - o Thetford Library, Raymond St, Thetford IP24 2EA
 - o Attleborough Library, Church St, Attleborough NR17 2AH
 - o Wretham Village Hall, Church Rd, Thetford IP24 1RL
- 5.1.3. Details of opening hours when documents will be able to view at locations in the local area will be available on our website and in the consultation newsletter. Should deposit points be unavailable through circumstances beyond our control, we will consider making alternative arrangements.

5.1.4. Copies of consultation documents on USBs/CDs will be made available free of charge, one per household. Hard copies of consultation documents will also be available on request. A charge of £0.35 per page will be applicable for hard copies of the PEIR and its non-technical summary.

5.2. Responding to the consultation

5.2.1. We welcome feedback on our proposals for the Scheme. Anyone can share their views by:

- Completing a consultation questionnaire online at our website
- Returning a questionnaire to Larkshall Mill consultation, FREEPOST SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL or larkshallmillconsultation@secnewgate.co.uk
- Submitting their comments by email to larkshallmillconsultation@secnewgate.co.uk or in writing to the above Freepost address

5.2.2. Responses must be received by the consultation deadline of 23:59 on 12 August 2022.

5.3. How we will consider the responses

5.3.1. Following the statutory consultation, we will consider all the views that we receive and continue to develop our design for the Scheme ahead of submitting our DCO application to the Secretary of State. Our DCO application will include a Consultation Report setting out how we have had regard to all responses received.

5.3.2. Any comments received will be collected and processed by O.C.O Technology Ltd and its appointed agents in accordance with its privacy policy: <https://oco.co.uk/privacy-policy/> and the relevant data protection legislation. However, please be aware that responses will be used in connection with the application and that copies may be made available in due course to the Secretary of State, PINS and made public. PINS has also published details of how it manages comments received in a Privacy Notice available on its website: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/879604/Privacy_Note_Final_15042020.pdf

5.4. Further consultation (if applicable)

- If, following the statutory consultation, O.C.O Technology considers it is necessary to undertake further targeted statutory consultation, this would be undertaken, so far as relevant and proportionate, in accordance with the principles and methods set out in this SoCC.

5.5. Further information

5.5.1. For further information, please contact us on:

- Post: Larkshall Mill consultation, FREEPOST SEC NEWGATE UK LOCAL
- Email: larkshallmillconsultation@secnewgate.co.uk
- Phone: 0800 0194 576
- Website: www.oco.co.uk