

Metlen

Energy & Metals

Work continues at Eye Airfield Industrial Estate

Global industrial energy company, Metlen, are continuing to construct a new Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) power peaking plant, also known as a Simple Cycle Gas Turbine, on the Eye Airfield Industrial Estate. Metlen are in charge of building the power station and once complete, the facility will be operated by the energy company, Drax.

When operational, Progress Power Limited (PPL) will provide up to 299 Megawatts (MW) of electricity, enough instant electricity to power 150,000 households. The station will operate for between 10-20% of the year and is designed specifically to provide essential back-up power generation to intermittent renewable technologies such as wind turbines and solar farms, and as such, will help the country transition to a lower carbon economy.

The project is due to enter commercial operation later this year, with several significant developments taking place in recent months. This newsletter aims to inform the local community and neighbouring businesses of progress on site at the Eye Airfield Industrial Estate, including how to get in touch with the project.



The site is now looking like a power station

A lot has happened since our last newsletter. After their journey from Ipswich docks to Eye, the transformer, turbine and the generator, essentially the heart of the power station, are all now in position and the installation of the supporting apparatus and machinery is well advanced.

Once in position, the generator and turbine shafts have to be aligned to within 0.001mm of each other. This is a very slow and tedious process and the sub millimetre adjustments and checking take longer than the road journey from Ipswich Docks.

The air intake plenum is now in place. This is

probably the most visually noticeable element of the station. Like a giant mushroom sitting on top of the generator but feeding filtered air to the turbine.

We now have the switchyard almost ready to accept the incoming cables from National Grid. Cables will be connected by National Grid but they won't be activated until the onsite work has progressed further. We will need to draw some initial power to start turning the generator and turbine until they can operate independently on power generated by the station. Once that's done, we'll start supplying much-needed power to the grid.

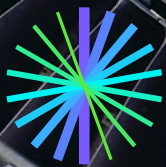
Many other separate

systems, which are needed to support the operation and control of the generator and turbine, are making good progress.

We would like to thank our partners for their support in getting us to where we are now, and also our local communities for their patience and understanding during the construction phase.

Special thanks to the local residents who allowed us to place noise monitoring equipment in their gardens allowing us to monitor the noise we make in comparison to the local background noise. We are pleased to report that our operations do not contribute any additional local background noise.





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Metlen in the Community

At the end of January we met with local councillors to update them on construction progress.

We discussed a wide range of issues, from the completion timeline, to opportunities for apprenticeships and employment for local people. We also updated councillors on work as part of our community fund, which is an important part of our operation.

Metlen has been working with Blossom, www.theblossomcharity.co.uk a charity based in Eye. The team at PPL donated £3,000 to the Blossom Charity in Spring 2024 and will continue to support the charity and its great community initiatives.

Working Hours Application

As might be appreciated, there is a lot of work going on in a small area. To keep our workers safe, we need to separate work activities. Where we cannot separate by distance, we need to separate in time.

We are currently working with Mid Suffolk District Council on an application which would enable us to work extended hours at weekends in order to keep the project to its designated timeline. We are liaising with local councillors, parish councils and community groups regarding this application.

Progress Power Site Manager Mike Atkins



The site manager at Progress Power is Mike Atkins. Mike is an experienced construction manager who has worked on major projects across the globe.

Community Liaison Group Site Visits

Rather than having regular meetings in April and August, members of the Progress Community Liaison Group visited the site instead to see for themselves how the project is getting along.

Representatives from the Parish and County councils were impressed with the 'progress' at Progress and were interested to see the site taking shape. There were several questions about how it will be supporting the UK energy infrastructure, how the site will look when completed and how it will operate.



Community Liaison Group
visit to the site



Contacts & enquiries

Contact Progress Power Ltd

If you have an enquiry regarding construction of the power station, please get in touch with the project team using the details below:

Email ProgressPower@secnewgate.co.uk

Call 01685 706150

