

**PRESS NOTICE** (*Embargoed until 00:00 Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2013*)

**Richborough Power Station Owners Submit Applications for First Phase of Redevelopment**

The developers of the former Richborough Power Station site in Kent have submitted planning applications to Dover and Thanet District Councils in a move that marks the start of redeveloping the site.

Two detailed planning applications have been submitted containing proposals for new infrastructure on the site, and for a peaking plant to generate electricity. Because of the location of the site at the boundary between the two local planning authorities, Dover and Thanet District Councils will both consider each application.

**Gary Lever, Managing Director, Richborough Management Company said:**

*"I am delighted to be announcing the submission of the first two planning applications for Richborough; it is a huge milestone for us and the development team. We have been working hard for several years, first to demolish the old power station structures on the site and since then on developing viable energy generating proposals which bring the site back to life.*

*We greatly appreciate the support we have received from local people and from Dover and Thanet District Councils throughout this long process. Planning applications for complex projects such as this take a lot of time and effort to put together but we have always been committed to getting it right."*

The infrastructure application deal with essential issues such as site road network and landscaping without which the former power station land could not be opened up for development. The second application, for a peaking plant, is the first of the new energy generating technologies that will be located at Richborough. The diesel powered plant will have the capacity to generate up to 40MW of electricity but will only operate at times of high demand or short fall in supply. Peaking plants are an essential element of the Government's energy security strategy, allowing electricity to be generated almost instantly and for short periods of time.

The Richborough project team has been working closely with both local authorities for over three years to ensure that robust environmental, ecological and transport studies have been carried out to support the development proposals. Unusually for an application like this, much of the environmental mitigation works have already been carried out, such as a bat house, bat boxes, falcon nesting box and new habitat.

National Grid, who are taking a significant portion of the site to host a new Interconnector and substation, are submitting their own planning applications for their proposals.

Over the coming months Richborough Management Company will continue to work on proposals for developing the remainder of the site for energy uses and will submit further planning applications at that time.

**Ends**

**5th February 2013**

## Notes for Editors

- In 2007, BFL Management Ltd was appointed by the owners of the former Richborough Power Station (Richborough A Ltd) to develop a comprehensive masterplan for the site which will include energy-related uses. The Power Station was decommissioned in 1996.
- In December 2012 BFL Management Ltd became Richborough Management Company Ltd to reflect the transition from site preparation to delivery of development. Key staff and consultants remained unchanged.
- To enable its redevelopment, the site has been cleared of all structures related to its former use, with the exception of the steel structure of the turbine hall which is being retained and re-used.
- Following ongoing investigation work and surveys, progress has been made in developing plans for the site, with a number of major energy providers seeking involvement. The site is already home to Vattenfall's Thanet Offshore Wind grid connection which went live at the start of 2011. National Grid is developing plans to locate the voltage convertor and grid connection for a new 1000MW Interconnector with Belgium involving a joint venture with the Belgium company Elia.
- Initial plans for the site were presented to local people at a series of public exhibition in May 2011, with further public consultation taking place in summer 2012.

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