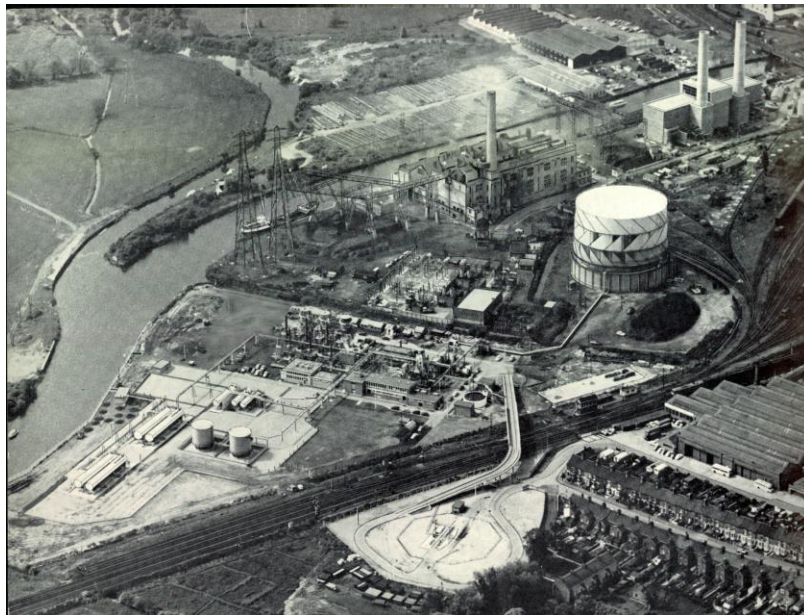


Briefing Note - Generation Park Norwich (Utilities Site)

Delivering green power and district heating for Norwich, its residents and employers, cutting carbon and transforming the riverside.

The 30-acre (12 hectare) Utilities Site, adjacent to Crown Point rail depot is in the Norwich City and Broads Authority planning areas. It has been home to electricity and gas production and transmission since 1926. As a brownfield site, it was earmarked by Norwich City Council for renewable energy production in the former City of Norwich Replacement Local Plan, adopted in 2004, and is now allocated for mixed use development including District Heating renewable energy generation specifically CHP and District Heating in the current Local Plan adopted on 1st December 2014. In the Broads Site Specifics Policies Local Plan (Adopted 11th July 2014) under Policy NOR.1 the site is identified for comprehensive development of a mixed use scheme.



Historic photograph of the site in the 1960's

NPH (Norwich) LLP, an independent renewable energy project partnership, working with the UEA, is bringing forward proposals for a regeneration scheme for the site for public comment.

The £325 million Generation Park Norwich scheme includes a Community Energy Centre to provide both electricity and district heating for Norwich (known as combined Heat and Power – CHP) as well as an Energy Research Development and an Education Centre and housing in a riverside parkland setting. The project requires no support from council taxpayer yet will help the city of Norwich to reduce its carbon

footprint by some 22% and generate up to 40MW of electricity, sufficient to meet the needs of 88,000 homes.

This is a very complex site, sandwiched between the railway lines and river with a considerable number of existing structures and foundations. The scheme is conceived to work within the existing confines and buildings.

The proposal will redevelop this largely redundant site into an attractive park with a riverside walk, cycle paths linking to the national Sustrans network and a new crossing over the river. Other amenities such as a cafe, outdoor seating and rivercraft access will be considered in consultation with the local community.



Current photograph of the site 2015

The Community Energy Centre is designed to use straw pellets which is a true renewable fuel, grown and processed in the UK and delivered to the site by rail.

The Community Energy Centre will be highly efficient, producing both electricity and heat. The latter will be distributed to local homes and businesses via a new district heating scheme to be developed by energy company E.ON.

The Education Centre will be open to all, designed to be stimulating, interactive and fun. It will tell the story about energy, the way we use it and its impacts.

A new Energy Research and Development facility will be led by UEA, internationally renowned for its work on climate and environmental change, with a highly-regarded energy engineering programme.

This will include a gasification project to demonstrate and research the next generation renewable energy technology.

UEA will partner City College Norwich and others in skills training for the jobs of the future, helping to equip youngsters from Norwich and Norfolk for jobs, which will become a crucial part of all of our futures.

The proposal also features around 120 low carbon new homes, plus high-quality low

carbon student accommodation involving a possible joint initiative between UEA, City College Norwich and the Norwich University of the Arts.

The community nature of the energy generation and use will draw on European models, but the way in which the whole scheme would be integrated is unique and forward-looking. It will help us to:

- generate and use energy efficiently in ways which will help protect our precious environment and future generations
- gain a better understanding of the impacts of the way we use energy
- develop the next generation of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies
- provide locally the skills and experience for the jobs of the future
- stimulate new thinking and innovation through direct experience necessary to strike a sustainable balance in the way we live our lives

Around 500 jobs are expected to be created once the project is complete. Others will be protected by improving the reliability of energy supplies to key employers in the city.

Planning applications will be made to both Norwich City Council and the Broads Authority in summer 2015. Presentations to the committees will be made before the planning applications are submitted.



Site location showing planning permissions in the area and the proposed site uses

Historically, the Utilities Sites was an energy gateway for Norwich; a gateway belonging to the last century. This proposal delivers in line with the Local Plan

and could position Norwich as an exemplar of sustainable community energy generation and distribution.