

## Hansard Entries

<https://api.parliament.uk/historic-hansard/commons/1944/jul/20/durham-proposed-electricity-station>

DURHAM (PROPOSED ELECTRICITY STATION)  
HC Deb 20 July 1944 vol 402 cc342-3

**Mr. Storey [Samuel Storey, MP for Sunderland]** asked the Minister of Town and Country Planning whether he has considered the appeal lodged by the Bishop of Durham, the Dean and Chapter, the University of Durham and the Durham Preservation Society for a public inquiry into the proposal to construct an electrical power station in the vicinity of Durham Cathedral and Castle; and whether he can give an assurance that such an inquiry will be held.

**The Minister of Town and Country Planning (Mr. W. S. [William] Morrison)** Last April, in pursuance of my statutory powers, I directed the Durham rural district council as interim development authority to refer to me for decision any application which the North Eastern Electric Supply Company Ltd. might make for consent to the erection of buildings or the use of land in their area for the purposes of an electricity generating station. The company has now made such an application and it has been referred to me for decision accordingly. I will consider the representations to which my hon. Friend refers and all other relevant matters before I give my decision, and I will not grant the application without holding a local inquiry.

**Mr. Storey** While thanking the Minister for his reply, which will bring relief not only to the people of Durham, but to the people of the country as a whole, may I be assured that he will take every possible step to safeguard Durham from the fate of York, where the Minster has to share with a gasometer, pride of place in the plain of York?

**Mr. Ritson [Joshua Ritson, MP for the City of Durham]** Is the Minister aware that the public authorities are strongly supporting the company in this, but they do not object to a public inquiry? As the Member for the division, may I be allowed to put that question?

**Mr. Morrison** I am aware of the fact that there are two sides to this question, as there are to most other questions.

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<https://api.parliament.uk/historic-hansard/commons/1945/apr/12/power-station-site-durham>

Power Station Site, Durham  
HC Deb 12 April 1945 vol 409 c1965

**Mr. Ritson [Joshua Ritson, MP for the City of Durham]** asked the Minister of Town and Country Planning if, in view of the concern that is being expressed at the long delay of the report concerning the site of the power station at Keipur, Durham, and as the development committees in the area are becoming anxious with regard to the letting of future sites in the same vicinity, he will expedite the publication of the report.

**Mr. W. S. Morrison [William Morrison, The Minister of Town and Country Planning]** I would refer the hon. Member to the reply to the hon. Member for Gateshead (Mr. Magnay) on 8th February, of which I am sending him a copy and to which I have, at present, nothing to add.

**Mr. Ritson** What is holding this up?

**Mr. Morrison** The public inquiry did disclose certain matters on which further information was necessary, and these inquiries have proceeded and have taken rather longer than was expected. I hope soon to be able to make an announcement on the matter.

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<https://api.parliament.uk/historic-hansard/written-answers/1945/oct/09/power-station-durham>

Power Station, Durham  
HC Deb 09 October 1945 vol 414 cc101-2W

**Mr. Grey [Charles Grey, MP for Durham]** asked the Minister of Town and Country Planning if he is aware that the proposal of the North Eastern Electric Supply Company, to erect a power station at Kepier, in Durham, had the support of all the local authorities and was only opposed by a minority; upon what authority he is delaying his consent to the proposed scheme; what independent investigations his department conducted in respect of the proposal; and, as the scheme is vital to the well being of the County of Durham, will he reconsider his position with a view to issuing permission for the proposed development.

**Mr. Silkin [Lewis Silkin, the Minister of Town and Country Planning]** After very full consideration of all the representations made regarding these proposals, including the views of the local authorities, and investigation of their effects and possible alternatives, my predecessor found them open to objection on planning grounds and decided, in consultation with the Minister of Fuel and Power, that if the occasion arose he would on these grounds feel bound to refuse his consent to them. The company have since informed me that in an endeavour to mitigate the effects of the delay which has taken place in this matter, they already have taken steps to meet the present demand for additional electric supply by the installation of plant elsewhere than at Kepier. In these circumstances, the question of a decision on the original proposals does not now arise, but I am satisfied that if it did, the well-being of the County of Durham would not be materially affected by the provision of additional supplies of electricity on this site rather than elsewhere in the county.