

CONCLUSION

DRAX IMPACTS



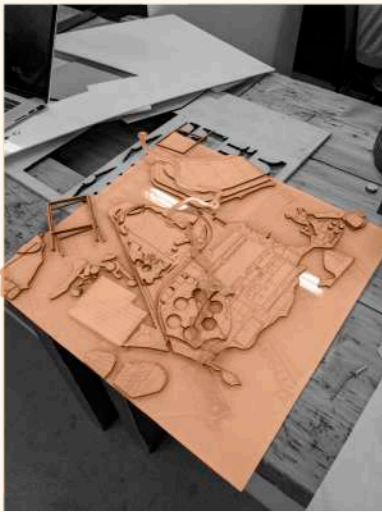
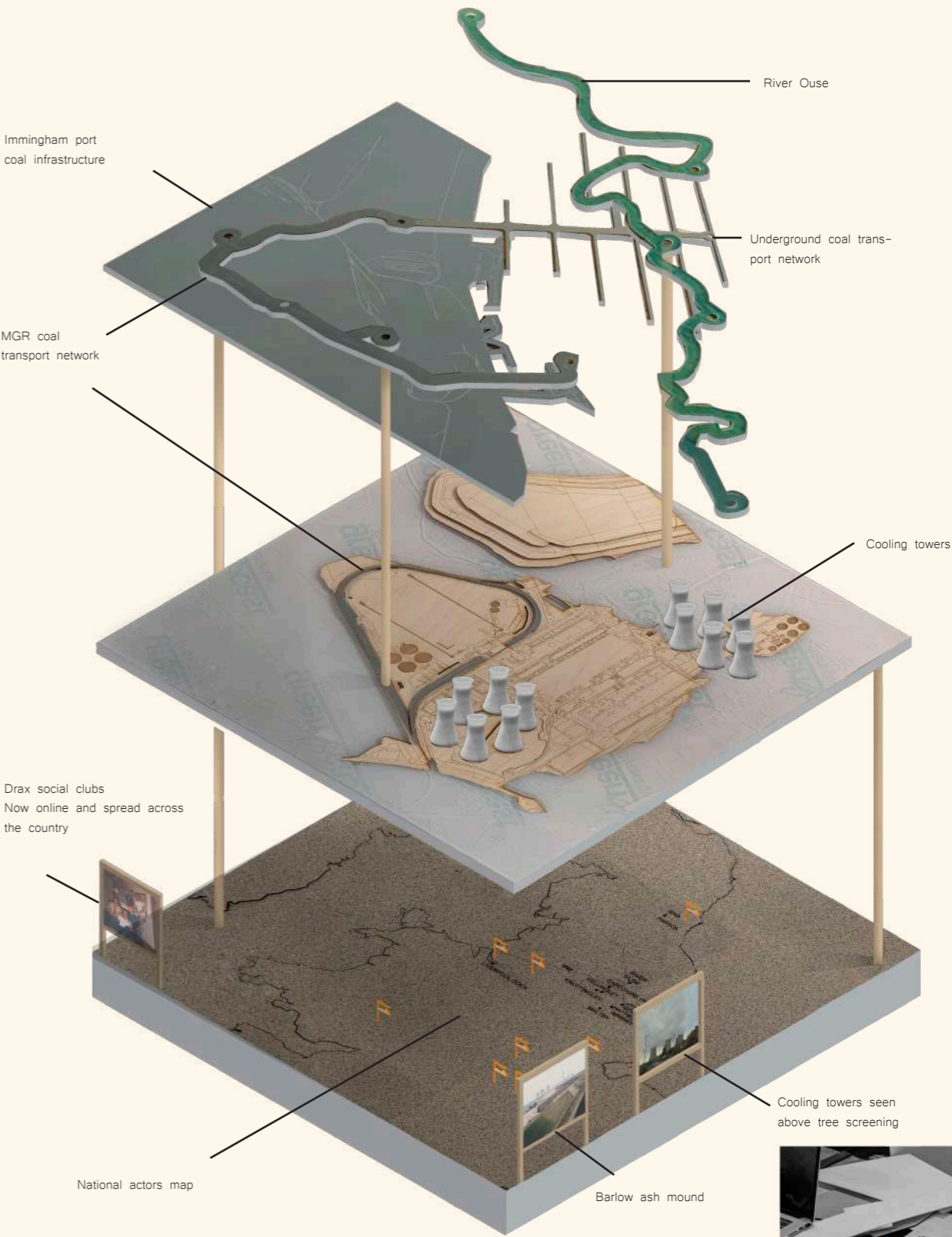
Figure 95. Sun setting over Drax Power Station

Drax Power Station (DPS) is a significant human industrial feature which overwrites the landscape of the area between, Barlow, Drax & Cambleforth. Due to their physical size DPS's cooling towers are widely visible in the local area. While the power station can detract from the rural character of the region implementation of planted screening helps to minimise visual impact of the smaller elements of the infrastructure. This leaves the chimney and cooling towers as a clear landmark on the area which although can be seen as a visual disturbance to the flat landscape has become something of a cultural icon to the area.

Due to DPS's more modern design and construction it was constructed and run in a different way to earlier power stations such as Eggborough and Ferrybridge. As a result of modern developments in motorways & growth in personal car ownership combined with learnings from past coal infrastructure projects DPS did not build purpose built housing for workers. Instead workers tended to commute from where they had settled in communities from earlier coal infrastructure projects elsewhere. They key result from this is that may of the impacts of Drax on the community and landscapes were not from drax itself but were due to wider connections on a broader scale of national and international landscape. These studies have therefore focused primarily on the wider networks of actors with agency over DPS, the landscape and its inhabitants.

Coal has formed a large set of networks connecting Selby mines, Kellingley mine, Knottigley residents, BR, UK Government, nuclearisation, EU policies, international coal sales, International shipping demands, Immingham Port, Goole Port, Maltby mine, Haffield mine and more all to Drax Power Station. Drax's sourcing of fuel has changed considerably over time as a result of many of the agency of these actors. In these changes they have had new/changing knock-on impacts on the landscapes and their inhabitants. Drax's ability to adapt has enabled it to survive whilst other power stations and coal infrastructure has closed. In that respect it can be seen as a success. However, what is less obvious is the impacts of these changes which have been uncovered by these studies. These have highlighted the role that external agents such as government policies & freight companies play in the impact that power stations such as Drax have on the landscape.

This can similarly be seen in the development, implementation and running of the FGD plant at DPS. Here International policies were put in place as a result of DPS's polluting impact on international environments and landscapes. These policies then drove DPS to implement FGD processes. Though these did reduce acid rain significantly, in turn reducing DPS's impact on international landscapes, as was widely publicised. However what was less well known is the impacts this had on the local area. The FGD process required vast quantities of stone to be brought in which resulted in new roads being required from Goole port to DPS to handle the increased traffic.



Due to the Covid 19 pandemic restrictions the workshops closed and we were unable to finish the model physically, instead having to digitally assemble what we had made so far.