

# Keuper Gas Storage Project 29/05/2025

## Local Liaison Group

### Minutes of Meeting

Item	Summary	Actions
<b>Meeting</b>	Keuper Gas Storage Project (KGSP) Local Liaison Group (LLG)	
<b>Details</b>	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2025, 6pm – 7pm, via MS Teams	
<b>Attendees</b>	Rebecca Eatwell, Font Communications (RE) Yasmin Stretton, Font Communications (YS) Nick Hilton, ERM (NH) Paul Snary, Storengy UK (PS) Peter Scott, Storengy UK (PSc) Beth Thomas, Storengy UK (BT) Amanda Hufton, Storengy UK (AH) Richard Stevenson, Ineos (RS) Nicki Mablesen, Lichfields (NM) Steven Holmes, Cheshire West and Chester Council (SH) Andrea Stott, Byley PC (AS) Simon Moorehead, Byley PC (clerk) (SM) John Beecroft, Byley PC (JB) Tony Roberts, Lach Dennis and Lostock Green PC (TR) Apologies: Hazel West, Allostock PC Julia Wilson, Allostock PC	
<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Welcome and introductions</b>	
	Chair Rebecca Eatwell welcomed attendees to the meeting and provided introductions.	
<b>Item 2</b>	<b>KGSP Material Change Update</b>	
	<p>RS explained that the team was looking to bring forward a new Material Change Application to amend the existing Development Consent Order (DCO) to allow the KGSP to store hydrogen.</p> <p>RS ran through a brief background to the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed change to the Keuper Gas Storage Project Development Consent Order (approved in 2017) to underground hydrogen storage.</li> <li>Non-Material Change to the DCO for hydrogen storage submitted in 2022 with Secretary of State notification in May 2024 that the change could not be determined through this process.</li> <li>Recommendation was the change to hydrogen storage should come under a new DCO or Material Change Application.</li> <li>Material Change Application process commenced in early 2025 and includes scoping, environmental survey and assessment stages alongside stakeholder engagement and public consultation.</li> <li>Many of the planning conditions to start construction of the KGSP DCO have been agreed. There is an ongoing review and update of these in liaison with CWAC.</li> </ul>	

	<p>RS outlined that construction started in 2022, with the site entrance near King Street.</p> <p>RS ran through the proposed changes to the consented KGSP DCO which form the Material Change Application include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the proposed storage of hydrogen gas rather than natural gas;</li> <li>• changes to the Gas Processing Plant (GPP) area and hydrogen compatible equipment, including road;</li> <li>• the National Transmission System (NTS) for natural gas is being replaced by the Hydrogen Above Ground Infrastructure (HAGI) for connection to the HyNet hydrogen transmission system (Cadent's DCO Application) and</li> <li>• changes to elements of the Solution Mining Compound (named 'SMC3' in the Consented Development).</li> </ul> <p>Questions raised by attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JB asked where the venting unit would be on the map? AS asked if the vent is like a chimney stack? RS explained that the original planning consent included a 25m tower stack and that the options for venting for the Material Change application were still being considered by the team, but one option could see this height increased.</li> </ul> <p>Environmental studies are being carried out to support the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and Environmental Summary (ES). These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecology – including the significance of effects on Habitats, Great Crested Newts, Bats, Badgers, Birds etc, following the completion of ecology surveys in 2025.</li> <li>• Landscape and Visual Impact – including viewpoint analysis, visual effects from the selection of the depressurisation technology and wider visual effects.</li> <li>• Noise and Vibration – including baseline noise during construction + effects during operation from equipment within the gas processing plant.</li> <li>• Air Quality – including operational effects on air quality from choice of depressurisation technology for emergency shutdown / maintenance.</li> <li>• Hydrology – namely effects on flood risk which shall be informed by surveys in Q2 / Q3 2025.</li> <li>• Geology + Ground Conditions – agricultural land surveys to be completed for PEIR. Further assessment required for the potential loss of best and most versatile land.</li> <li>• Heritage – including assessing effects such as the loss of buried archaeology due to changes in above ground infrastructure.</li> <li>• Socioeconomics and Population – including effects on public rights of way and public amenity due to changes in the site infrastructure.</li> <li>• Major Accidents and Disasters and Climate Change – including safety effects associated with depressurisation technology for operation + maintenance.</li> </ul>	
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<b>Item 3</b>	<b>Update on Hydrogen – North West</b>	
	<p>RS provided an update on the HyNet project, which KGSP will be part of.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The HyNet consortium and Cadent are due to submit the DCO application for the hydrogen pipeline network in June / July 2025. This pipeline will feed into the KGSP. The latest publicly available documentation (including the latest draft of the ES) for the project is available at <a href="https://www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/">https://www.hynethydrogenpipeline.co.uk/</a></li> </ul>	
<b>Item 4</b>	<b>Public Consultation Approach</b>	
	<p>RE provided a summary of the consultation that will be carried out in the autumn on the Material Change application. This will be very similar to the previous consultations already carried out on the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community newsletter to the community in Holford Brinefield</li> <li>Drop-in public consultation event at Byley Village Hall (TBC) for members of the public to find out more about the proposals</li> <li>Online Q&amp;A including a project presentation and opportunity to ask questions of the team</li> <li>Project website update with information about the Material Change application and online feedback form</li> <li>Contact channels for comments and feedback via freepost, freephone, email, website, questionnaire.</li> </ul> <p>The team is also in the process of engaging with stakeholders during preparation and pre-application stage.</p> <p>AS stated that it has been a while since the last consultation and that local people will be wary of safety concerns, particularly the difference between hydrogen and gas, visual impact and construction impact (particularly noise). She mentioned that it would be good to see a comms and engagement plan from the team and suggested using social media channels as well as traditional engagement methods to communicate with stakeholders.</p> <p>RE said that an engagement plan has been prepared and that could be shared with the group.</p> <p>RS said that noise during construction will be assessed as part of the environmental studies but that there will be little change to the consented scheme in this regard.</p> <p>JB suggested giving as much notice of the consultation as possible so people have time to coordinate and engage with the proposals.</p>	RE to share engagement plan

<b>Item 5</b>	<b>Community Benefit</b>	
	<p>RS outlined the proposed community benefits associated with the project.</p> <p>The development will bring an investment of more than <b>£600million</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to <b>300 construction jobs</b> and <b>30 operational jobs</b>.</li> <li>• A community benefit fund similar to the funds previously in place for the other existing gas storage projects at the Holford Brinefield, where <b>£30,000 is made available for local community projects each year of main construction</b></li> </ul> <p>SM stated that in his view £30,000 was not enough if it is to be shared between all the local parish councils. He asked whether the fund would be in operation for all 10 years of construction.</p> <p>JB suggested that the amount hasn't considered inflation.</p> <p>AS also voiced concern over the amount of money available as part of the community benefit fund.</p> <p>RS said he would take this back to the project team and revert back to the group.</p>	
<b>Item 6</b>	<b>Any other business</b>	
	<p>AS asked for a copy of the slide pack, minutes and consultation plan to be circulated.</p> <p>A date for the next meeting will also be circulated.</p>	<p>RE to circulate slide pack and date of next meeting</p>