

Keuper Gas Storage Project

Statement of Engagement

PREPARED FOR
KGSL

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Acronym
SoE	Statement of Engagement
KGSP	Keuper Gas Storage Project

Abbreviation	Acronym
DCO	Development Consent Order
MC	Material Change
NMC	Non-Material Change
DESNZ	Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
PINS	Planning Inspectorate
ES	Environmental Statement
PEIR	Preliminary Environmental Information Report
SOCC	Statement of Community Consultation
SCI	Statement of Community Involvement
CWAC	Cheshire West and Chester Council
CEC	Cheshire East Council

STATEMENT OF ENGAGEMENT

1. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

1.1 PURPOSE

- 1.1.1.1 This Statement of Engagement (or SoE) is prepared by Keuper Gas Storage Limited (KGSL) in relation to the Keuper Gas Storage Project (KGSP). The SoE sets out a strategy for engagement on a proposed Material Change (MC) to the consented Keuper Gas Storage Project (KGSP) to construct and operate an underground hydrogen storage facility on and under land in the Holford Brinefield, Middlewich in the County of Cheshire (hereafter referred to as 'the Proposed Development').
- 1.1.1.2 This SoE has been prepared by Font Communications on behalf of the Applicant to inform the MC application for proposed changes to the scheme consented under the Keuper Underground Gas Storage Facility Order 2017 (Statutory Instrument 2017 No. 433), and the Keuper Underground Gas Storage Facility (Amendment) Order 2024 (Statutory Instrument 2024 No. 674), together referred to as 'the Consented Development'.
- 1.1.1.3 A Statement of Community Consultation or SOCC is not prescribed for an MC application within the relevant Infrastructure Planning (Changes to, and Revocation of, Development Consent Orders) Regulations 2011. However, this SoE demonstrates the commitment by the Applicant to delivering proactive and transparent pre-application engagement and consultation. This will ensure local people are aware of and understand the MC to the Consented Development and are provided the opportunity to feedback and comment.
- 1.1.1.4 The approach taken by the Applicant will include early liaison with the host local authority Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWAC) and the established KGSP Local Liaison Group (LLG) prior to the launch of the public consultation.
- 1.1.1.5 The consultation approach includes sharing the SoE with previously consulted non-host authorities prior to the launch of consultation - namely Cheshire East Council (CEC) as the closest neighbouring authority and made publicly available on the KGSP website. The consultation and engagement on the MC application will be delivered in line with the approach set out in the SoE.

1.2 PROPOSED SCHEME AND BACKGROUND

- 1.2.1.1 The Keuper Underground Gas Storage Facility Order 2017 was made on 15 March 2017 and came into force on 5 April 2017. The original Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) proposed to build an Underground Natural Gas Storage facility consisting of 19 salt caverns and associated gas treatment and transfer facilities for connection to the national gas transmission network.
- 1.2.1.2 The DCO was submitted to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS, now DESNZ – Department for Energy Security and Net Zero) in December 2015 and was granted in March 2017. A Correction Order was made later in 2017 to correct minor errors.
- 1.2.1.3 Following the Order being made, the need for hydrogen gas storage within the UK to support the storage of excess renewable electricity ('British Energy Security Strategy', UK Government, 7 April 2022) has grown. In support of the UK's efforts to decarbonise and achieve net zero emissions by 2050, KGSL have been working towards the conversion of the consented DCO to allow for large-scale underground hydrogen storage (UHS). This will support regional and national ambitions for decarbonisation by providing essential low carbon energy storage capacity. In

particular, the storage of hydrogen at the site will form a critical element of the HyNet consortium for hydrogen generation and supply in the North-West and North Wales.

- 1.2.1.4 A Non-Material Change (NMC) application to the consented DCO was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) and Secretary of State in November 2022. The NMC sought to amend the consented DCO to enable the storage of hydrogen gas, alongside an alternative gas connection compound and amendment to the siting and layout of an office building. A decision on the NMC application was provided by the Secretary of State in May 2024 but was not granted for the hydrogen related amendments proposed. Other minor amendments were granted, and an Amendment Order was made by Government in May 2024 (S.I.2024/674).
- 1.2.1.5 The DCO as it stands following the original consent order and the amendment order will be referred to as 'the Consented Development' throughout this SoE from this point onwards.
- 1.2.1.6 The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero confirmed in a letter of 15 May 2024 that it is considered that the changes relating to hydrogen are not non-material changes and cannot therefore be dealt with under the procedure for non-material changes. Following discussions with PINS in January 2025, it was determined that the consenting route for the Proposed Development would be a MC to the Consented Development.

1.3 ABOUT KGSP

- 1.3.1.1 The KGSP is being developed in a partnership between INEOS Inovyn and Storengy UK Limited. Both partners bring extensive experience in the development of gas storage projects, salt cavern creation and operation, hydrogen and natural gas systems.
- 1.3.1.2 To facilitate hydrogen being used as a low carbon clean fuel in the UK, storage will be essential to respond quickly to peaks in demand. Currently, hydrogen cannot be stored in the national transmission system. Instead, new specific hydrogen storage facilities will need to be developed.
- 1.3.1.3 The changes proposed by this MC amendment would underpin the UK's efforts to help tackle climate change and reach net zero emissions. Hydrogen is a game-changing source of energy that can be used as both a raw material for industry and as a clean power source for transport, industry, business and the home.
- 1.3.1.4 The North West is seen as a key location for hydrogen production and storage and carbon capture and storage, partly due to its natural geological assets and partly due to the significant presence of established, energy intensive industries that need to cut their carbon emissions. It is planned for the KGSP to connect to HyNet North West – the regional hydrogen and carbon capture project planned to produce, store and transport hydrogen around the North West region.

1.4 THE SITE AND PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1.4.1.1 The Proposed Development is located within the Holford Brinefield, in Cheshire, about 3 km west of the M6 and approximately 3 km north of Junction 18 which is shown below on Figure 1.1.
- 1.4.1.2 The Proposed Development is bounded to the west by the A530 (King Street) and to the east by the B5081. The nearest village is Byley, 2.5 km to the east. The Proposed Development and all the proposed amendments are still contained within the Consented Development DCO Order Limits (as shown on Figure 1.1).



- 1.5.1.1 The project will include the construction and operation of up to 19 underground salt cavities with capacity to store up to 500 million standard cubic metres (mcm) of hydrogen gas, having an import and export capability of up to 34 mcm per day.
- 1.5.1.2 Solution mining produces brine (a concentrated saltwater solution), which is used in the chemical industry. Among other things, brine is used as a raw material to make everyday essentials such as washing powder, toothpaste and table salt and is used to produce chlorine, which makes drinking water safe. INEOS Inovyn has an ongoing demand for brine to meet the needs of its operations across Cheshire.
- 1.5.1.3 All of the new gas storage cavities would be located at the southern end of the Holford Brinefield and surrounding area, north of Middlewich, Cheshire. The site entrance proposed for construction and operation is on King Street at Drakelow Farm. The surrounding area is generally open countryside and land used for farming.
- 1.5.1.4 Cheshire's unique geology means it is one of the few places in the UK where gas can be stored underground in salt cavities and there are a number of existing gas storage facilities already operating in the Holford Brinefield area. The site is immediately adjacent to two existing underground natural gas storage facilities. The Holford Gas Storage facility, operated by Uniper, was approved by the Secretary of State in 2004 and is now fully operational. The Stublach Gas Storage Project, approved by the local planning authority in 2006, and operated by Storengy UK Limited, is also fully operational.
- 1.5.1.5 The site of the Proposed Development falls within part of INOVYN Enterprises' minerals working area known as Holford Brinefield. INOVYN Enterprises has planning permission to win and work salt deposits within the area. Some of the proposed new underground gas storage cavities are on land that is not owned by INEOS Inovyn.

KGSL has secured agreements with most of the affected landowners and is currently in discussions with the last landowner concerned.

1.5.1.6 The key components of the Proposed Development are as follows:

- proposed storage of hydrogen gas rather than natural gas;
- changes to the Gas Processing Plant (GPP) area and hydrogen compatible equipment including amendments to the locations of utility package plants (nitrogen and air) package plant and the electrical substation, as well as amendments to the venting / flaring technology. Engineering and process safety studies are underway to determine the most suitable arrangement;
- the proposed National Transmission System (NTS) compound for natural gas is being replaced by the Hydrogen Above Ground Infrastructure (HAGI) for connection to the HyNet hydrogen transmission system (secured through Cadent's HyNet Hydrogen Pipeline DCO Application) which requires an amendment to the location and sizing of the network connection compound; and
- changes to elements of the Solution Mining Compound (named 'SMC3' in the Consented Development).

1.5.1.7 Other elements of the Consented Development unaffected by the Proposed Development are being brought forward and are under construction.

1.5.1.8 The MC to the Consented Development would amend the form of gas that can be stored in the specially designed underground salt cavities – created through solution mining. Although the actual cavern details do not change. The storage of hydrogen will help to further secure a flexible supply of energy in the UK.

1.6 BENEFITS

1.6.1.1 The project will provide a number of benefits:

- A flexible and secure supply of clean energy to underpin the UK's energy security and transition to net zero emissions.
- Storing enough hydrogen to provide 6GW of dispatchable power backup energy to a wind and solar decarbonised electricity grid.
- An investment of more than £600million.
- Up to 300 construction jobs and 30 operational jobs.
- A community benefit fund similar to the funds previously in place for the other existing gas storage projects at the Holford Brinefield, where a fund of £400,000 is made available for local community projects over a 10 year construction period¹.

1.7 ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

1.7.1.1 The MC to the Consented Development will not include any changes to the DCO Order Limits and there will be no additional compulsory acquisition powers required for the Proposed Development. However, there will be changes to some of the site infrastructure and, where relevant, these will be assessed in an updated Environmental Statement (ES). This includes the extension of the Gas Processing Plant, new Hydrogen Above Ground Infrastructure (considered as part of Cadent's Project) and Flowlines.

1.7.1.2 To initiate the MC process, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report which presents an initial consideration of the changes in likely significant

¹ Note: A community benefit fund is not a material planning consideration.

effects associated with the changes to the Proposed Development has been prepared to confirm the scope of environmental topics to be included in the ES. This will be subject to consultation with key statutory consultees in accordance with relevant legislation and guidance. Further information about the Proposed Development is included in the EIA Scoping Report including the Proposed Development Description.

- 1.7.1.3 As part of the statutory consultation on the Material Change application, KGSL will publish a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). The PEIR will provide the results of KGSL's preliminary assessments on potential environmental effects, both positive and negative, of the construction, operation and maintenance of the Proposed Development and any measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, where necessary and practical, offset any significant effects on the environment.
- 1.7.1.4 In addition to providing copies of the PEIR direct to statutory consultees, the document will also be made publicly available along with the other consultation material during the public consultation period. Engagement within the surrounding communities on the Material Change to the Consented Development is an important stage within the preparation of these application documents and the project team welcome these views from the local community.
- 1.7.1.5 Comments from consultees on the content of the PEIR will be fed into both the ongoing EIA process and also the iteration of the design of the Proposed Development.
- 1.7.1.6 The PEIR will not set out the final findings, which will be included in an ES that will accompany the MC application.

2. CONSULTATION SCOPE

2.1 LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

- 2.1.1.1 In setting out the scope for the consultation for the MC application, regard has been had to The Infrastructure Planning (Changes to, and Revocation of, Development Consent Orders) Regulations 2011 and the Planning Act 2008: Guidance on Changes to Development Consent Orders (DCLG, 2015).
- 2.1.1.2 KGSL has also considered CWAC's adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), 2022 in determining the approach to consultation. The document sets out a number of aims and principles for consultation and advocates a hybrid approach involving digital/online technology and communications tools to ensure consultation is wide reaching and cost-effective.
- 2.1.1.3 The 2011 Regulations no longer require an applicant to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC) for a MC to a DCO. However as previously stated, the Applicant is voluntarily preparing this SoE to ensure a transparent and inclusive approach.
- 2.1.1.4 Ahead of the commencement of the pre-application consultation period KGSL will share the SoE and conduct early engagement through both correspondence and meetings with:
 - CWAC as the host local authority
 - PINS
 - Department of Energy Security & Net-Zero Team Leaders.
- 2.1.1.5 The consultation approach includes sharing the SoE with the established KGSP Local Liaison Group, landowners and tenant farmers, previously consulted non-host authorities - namely Cheshire East Council (CEC) as the closest neighbouring authority and made publicly available on the KGSP website. The consultation and

engagement on the MC application will be delivered in line with the approach set out in the SoE.

2.2 BUILDING ON PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

- 2.2.1.1 Extensive pre-application consultation was undertaken during both the original DCO application and during the non-material amendment application in 2022. The Consultation Reports for both consultations can be found on the [KGSP website](#).
- 2.2.1.2 The consultation approach further builds on KGSL's experience and learning from the previous stages of consultation on the scheme (both the DCO and the non-MA) and our understanding of local issues.
- 2.2.1.3 This results in a consultation approach that is proportionate and considered and which re-engages with the established KGSP Local Liaison Group, local residents, businesses and stakeholders, interested parties and those persons specified in the 2011 Regulations and 2015 Guidance (See section 2.3 below) are provided another opportunity to comment.

2.3 CONSULTEES

PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION

- 2.3.1.1 In setting out the scope of consultees for the MC application, regard has been had to The Infrastructure Planning (Changes to, and Revocation of, Development Consent Orders) Regulations 2011 and the Planning Act 2008: Guidance on Changes to Development Consent Orders (DCLG, 2015).
- 2.3.1.2 KGSL has also considered CWAC's adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), 2022.
- 2.3.1.3 The 2011 Regulations and 2015 Guidance state the following provision are to be met for consultation undertaken during the pre-application stage:
 - Pre-application consultation is to take place with defined consultees prior to any application being submitted for a MC to a DCO (Regulation 10).
 - As the application will be a 'subsequent application', and consistent with Regulation 22 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (refer to para 2.5.1.1 below), the application will carry out its consultation period for no less than 30 days.
 - The Applicant is to supply the Secretary of State who made the DCO with the same information on their Proposed Development as would be supplied in the SoS were a consultee as well as to the Planning Inspectorate before consultation commences (Regulation 12).
- 2.3.1.4 Regulation 10 also specifies those consultees which should be subject to consultation prior to the submission of the application. In line with Regulation 10 of the 2011 Regulations and our previous experience, KGSL will consult with communities, groups and individuals that live in, work in or use the area or are likely to be affected by the Proposed Development as well as statutory consultees. This includes:
 - each person who may be directly affected by the changes proposed in the application;
 - any person apart from the applicant who has the benefit of the Development Consent Order to which the application relates;
 - persons or bodies listed in Schedule 1 to the 2011 Regulations;
 - relevant local authorities (as defined in Regulation 2 and section 43 of the 2008 Act) i.e CWAC, see paragraph below;

- persons with an interest in the land and other persons covered by section 44 of the 2008 Act;
- the Greater London Authority and the Marine Management Organisation (in specified circumstances);
- any other person that the Secretary of State considers should be consulted.

- 2.3.1.5 The project falls within the administrative boundary of CWAC as the host local authority that KGSL will consult with on the SoE.
- 2.3.1.6 KGSL will also share a copy of the SoE with CEC as the neighbouring authority, who have been engaged during the previous consultation periods and within proximity of the project 'red line' boundary.
- 2.3.1.7 Halton Borough Council (HBC) (part of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority) was also previously consulted as the relevant authority covering one of the three small satellite development sites associated with the solution mining infrastructure. One site at Runcorn, Cheshire, is within the boundary of HBC. In addition, there are two other small satellite sites at Whitley Parish Council and Lostock Parish Council in Cheshire West. This current public consultation processes for the MC application will not extend to cover these areas as 'the land' as affected by the proposed application does not extend into these areas, although the key stakeholders will be made aware of the MC application via correspondence.
- 2.3.1.8 Where not covered already under the list above, the consultation will also include:
- Community stakeholders
 - Local residents living in proximity to the Proposed Development
 - Local businesses situated in proximity to the Proposed Development
 - The general public and anyone who expresses interest in the proposals.
- 2.3.1.9 Further information on those consultees are provided in **Appendices 1 and 3** to this SoE.

2.4 COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS AND HARD TO REACH GROUPS

- 2.4.1.1 The public consultation proposes to consult a wide group of community stakeholders. This includes local residents living in proximity to the Proposed Development and local businesses situated in proximity to the Proposed Development as well as the general public and anyone who expresses interest.
- 2.4.1.2 Consistent with the consultation on the DCO for the Consented Development, the direct mailing area to publicise the public consultation proposes a 3.5km area within Holford Brinefield, around the Proposed Development site. All residents and business addresses within this area will be mailed a copy of the project newsletter and invited to comment on the Proposed Development. This area is shown in **Appendix 2**.
- 2.4.1.3 The public consultation will be announced by press release to local and regional media to ensure a wide reach.
- 2.4.1.4 Through our experience KGSL understand that there are a number of potential 'hard to reach' groups in the area as well as individuals who may be time limited or unable to attend in person events. To ensure an accessible and inclusive consultation KGSL have consider the following:
- Time limited individuals: Information will be accessible on the project website, available to access and comment throughout the consultation period. The events will include an online Q&A session which will enable access to live information out of normal working hours.

- Older people: Over 65s are less likely to have access to the internet than younger people and tend to prefer more traditional methods of consultation, such as public exhibitions. However, if mobility is a problem, some older people can find access to events difficult. A variety of opportunities to access information online and in person will support participation in the consultation.
- Young people (under 25): Online consultation including access to the project website and social media can be particularly effective in engaging with young people. The Project website will include an online questionnaire, copies of project materials (e.g. newsletters, exhibition boards etc).
- People with disabilities: Similar issues of mobility and access to information apply to people with disabilities. The public exhibition will be held in an accessible, local venue, the information and opportunity to comment provided on the project website and requested consultation materials will be supplied in alternative formats – for example with larger text for partially sighted readers.
- Farmers/agricultural workers: Farm owners and tenants including those temporarily living or working in the areas can be isolated from nearby communities, working long hours and often on lower-than-average incomes. KGSL will invite farmers likely to be affected by the proposals to attend face-to-face meetings and write to all tenant farmers, requesting that information is passed onto staff members.

2.4.1.5 Please refer to **Appendix 3** for a full list of community stakeholders.

2.5 CONSULTATION FEEDBACK PERIOD

- 2.5.1.1 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) 2017, regulation 17 in addition confirms that an application for a material change shall be treated as a 'subsequent application' for the purposes of the EIA regs. As such regulation 22(3) sets out the requirements for notifying consultees and publishing an application for a material change where an updated ES is provided with the application.
- 2.5.1.2 In line with Regulation 11 of the 2011 Regulations and Regulation 22 of the 2017 EIA Regulations, KGSL will carry out its consultation period for no less than 30 days and will programme for a longer period in the consultation programme proposed.

2.6 PUBLICISING THE PROPOSED APPLICATION

- 2.6.1.1 The 2011 Regulations, 2015 Guidance and 2017 EIA Regulations specify various publicity arrangements ahead of and when the MC application is made.
- 2.6.1.2 At pre-application stage, Regulation 14 requires a notice of KGSL's proposed intent to make an application to be published once in the London Gazette, and for at least two successive weeks in the following local newspaper:
- Northwich, Winsford & Middlewich Guardian.
- 2.6.1.3 In addition, the applicant must arrange for a notice of the proposed application to be displayed at, or as close as reasonably possible to, the land to which the application relates at a place accessible to the public.
- 2.6.1.4 When the application is made, the applicant is required to notify those persons and bodies set out in Regulation 19 unless they have written consent from the Secretary of State to not do so. Regulation 19 also sets out the information that must be included in the notice. This includes how to make representations on the application and the deadline for receipt of representations no less than 28 days and extended to no less than 30 days (refer to para 2.5.1.1 below) to meet the requirements of the 2017 EIA Regulations.

- 2.6.1.5 Regulation 20 requires the applicant to publish a notice of their application and sets out what must be included in this notice. This must be done in the same manner as for the notice published at pre-application stage under Regulation 14 as set out above in 2.4.1.2. Regulation 20 also sets out what must be included in the notice. This includes how to make representations and a deadline for receipt of these.
- 2.6.1.6 The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) 2017, regulation 17 in addition confirms that an application for a material change shall be treated as a 'subsequent application' for the purposes of the EIA regs. As such regulation 22(3) sets out the requirements for notifying consultees and publishing an application for a material change where an updated ES is provided with the application. Namely regulation 22(3)(a)(x) – a deadline of no less than 30 days for receipt of representations and regulation 22(3)(b)(ii) – requirement to publish the notice of the application once in a national newspaper.
- 2.6.1.7 Taking both regulations into account, the project will ensure that the deadline for representation must be no less than 30 days following the date on which a person receives the notification as well as meeting the requirements of publishing notices as per both the 2011 Regulations and 2017 EIA Regulations.

2.7 CONSULTATION METHODS

- 2.7.1.1 The following consultation methods will be used to ensure that the local community and stakeholders have an opportunity to find out more and comment on the proposed MC application.

NEWSLETTER

- 2.7.1.2 A community newsletter will be issued to properties in the communities surrounding Holford Brinefield. The newsletter will provide a summary of the Consented Scheme; outline the Proposed Development; and promote feedback mechanisms and contact points. A questionnaire/comment form will be included, which can be returned to the project team via Freepost. Reflecting the approach from the previous DCO application and the NMC application, the newsletter will be distributed to a 3.5km radius surrounding the main gas storage site. The distribution area can be viewed at **Appendix 2**.

INFORMATION EVENT

- 2.7.1.3 KGSL will hold a drop-in information event at De Vere Cranage Estate, De Vere Cranage Estate, Byley Lane, Holmes Chapel, CW4 8EW during the consultation period where details about the proposals will be displayed and members of the project team will be available to answer questions.

ONLINE Q&A

- 2.7.1.4 KGSL will hold an online consultation webinar during the consultation period where details about the proposals will be presented and members of the project team will be available to answer questions.

MEDIA AND ADVERTISING

- 2.7.1.5 KGSL will issue a press release to local and regional media on launch of the public consultation period. This will promote the project website and the drop-in event as well as the channels for providing feedback.

PROJECT WEBSITE

- 2.7.1.6 KGSL's website for the project (www.kgsp.co.uk) will be updated, to feature information about the proposed MC, this SoE, details of the proposed consultation events and responses to frequently asked questions. There will also be an online feedback form and methods of contacting the project team. The website will serve as an online location for all project documentation.

LOCAL LIAISON GROUP

- 2.7.1.7 A Local Liaison Group (LLG) for KGSP was set up in 2021, providing a forum for dialogue between the project team and the community during the construction period. The LLG meets regularly and is made up of local elected and community representatives. A meeting of the LLG is proposed in Spring/Summer 2025 to advise the LLG of KGSL's intention to bring forward the MC application. Further meetings of the LLG will be held during the pre-application consultation period.

MEETINGS AND BRIEFINGS

- 2.7.1.8 Meetings with relevant stakeholders will be held where the need is identified, or where meetings are requested.

DIRECT COMMUNICATION

- 2.7.1.9 Emails/letters to landowners and relevant stakeholders will be issued where necessary to announce the commencement of the public consultation and the closing date for feedback.

CONTACT CHANNEL AND FEEDBACK

- 2.7.1.10 KGSL has established a range of feedback mechanisms to ensure all those interested in responding to the consultation are able to provide their views and comments.
- Questionnaire/comment form – to be provided in hard copy at the public exhibitions and available online at the project website.
 - Freepost – write to Freepost HAVE YOUR SAY (no stamp required)
 - Freephone - 0800 698 1095 (9am – 5.30pm Mon – Fri)
 - Email – info@kgsp.co.uk
 - Website - www.kgsp.co.uk

2.8 CONSULTATION MATERIAL

- 2.8.1.1 In line with Regulation 12 of the 2011 Regulations, the consultation documents will be sent to the Secretary of State (via the Planning Inspectorate) before consultation commences.
- 2.8.1.2 Consultation materials will be available to provide the local community with information about the MC application, what is being consulted on and how to provide feedback.
- 2.8.1.3 Summary consultation material (including Non-Technical Proposal Summary Document, Statement of Engagement, exhibition boards, newsletters, PEIR) will be made available on the website and at the information events.
- 2.8.1.4 A copy of the consultation documents can be posted on request on a USB memory sticks for a cost of £10+VAT or via a transfer link free of charge on request. Printed

copies of the main public consultation documents will be available on request at a cost of £700+VAT.

- 2.8.1.5 Hard copies of the materials will be made available to view at the public information event and can be viewed on request during the consultation period at the Storengy site at Storengy UK Stublach Site (Gatehouse), King Street, Northwich, Cheshire. CW9 7SE.

2.9 RESPONDING TO THE CONSULTATION

- 2.9.1.1 In line with the 2011 Regulations and 2017 EIA Regulations, KGSL will carry out its formal consultation period for no less than 30 days, over a minimum six-week period during Autumn 2025.
- 2.9.1.2 Responses should be made in writing to any of the contacts mechanisms outlined in this document or by attending an information event.
- 2.9.1.3 All issues raised during the statutory consultation period will be taken into consideration in finalising the EIA and the details to be included in the MC application, in line with Regulation 15 of The Infrastructure Planning (Changes to, and Revocation of, Development Consent Orders) Regulations 2011.
- 2.9.1.4 A Consultation Report will be submitted as part of the MC application that will:
- Provide a general description of the consultation process
 - Set out how KGSL has complied with or exceeded the pre-application consultation requirements of the Planning Act 2008 for material amendment applications and had regard to its related guidance
 - Summarise the relevant responses to the pre-application consultation that have been received
 - Describe how the responses have been taken into account.
- 2.9.1.5 KGSL will ensure that the local community, key stakeholders and statutory consultees have access to the Consultation Report by placing on the project website. It will also be available on the Planning Inspectorate's website along with all MC application documentation submitted by KGSL.

APPENDIX 1 – REGULATION 10 CONSULTEES

Regulation 10 of the 2011 Regulations	Consultee listed in relevant schedule	Consultees for the MC application
each person who may be directly affected by the changes proposed in the application;	N/A	Defined for the MC as those residing within 3.5km radius around the Proposed Development Area at the proposed underground hydrogen gas storage area Holford Brinefield – consistent with the DCO consultation. Settlements included Lach Dennis, Byley, Watcroft, Middlewich (See Appendix 2 map).
any person apart from the applicant who has the benefit of the	N/A	N/A

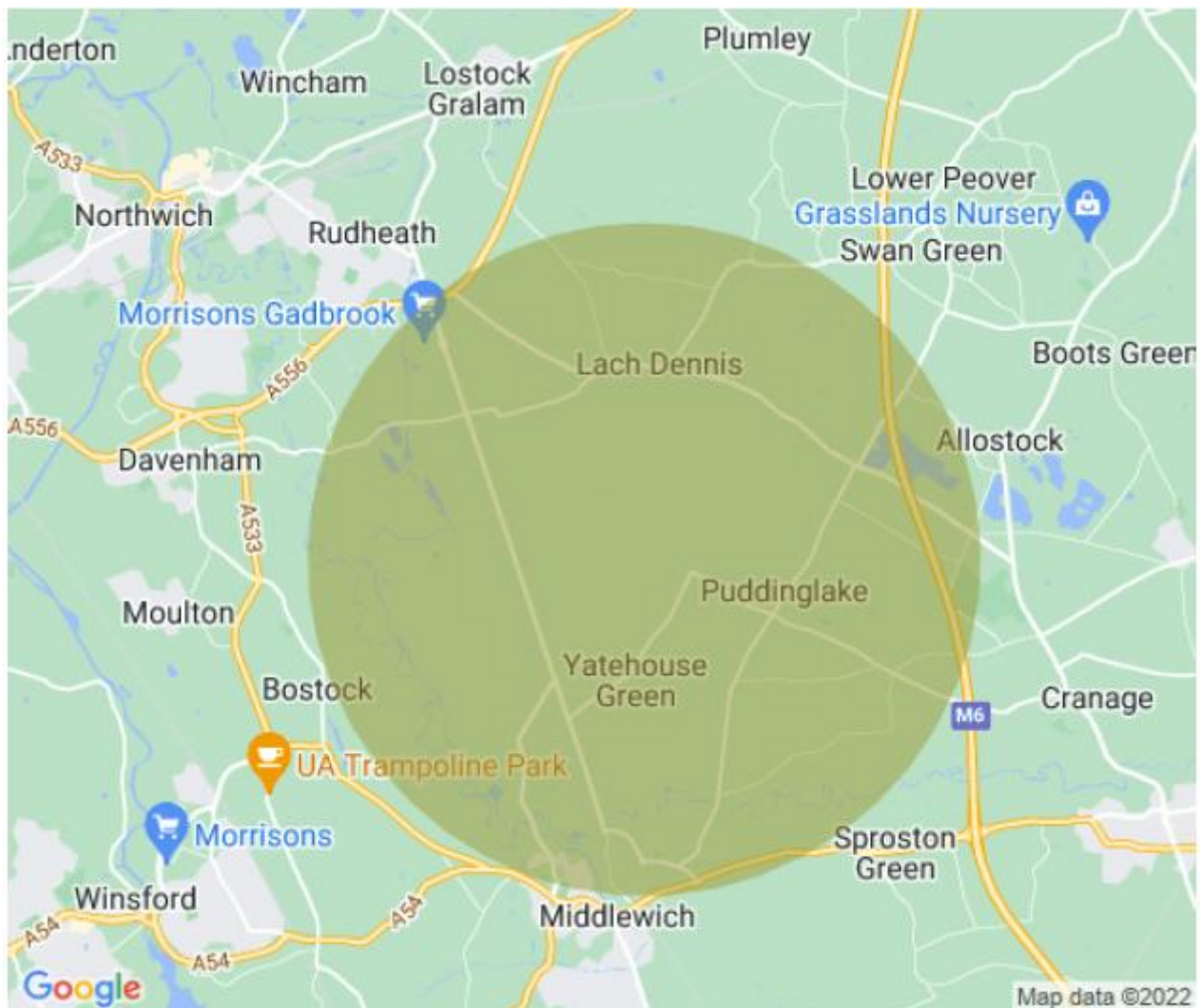
Development Consent Order to which the application relates;		
persons or bodies listed in Schedule 1 to the 2011 Regulations;	<p>Welsh Ministers</p> <p>The Scottish Executive</p> <p>The relevant Northern Ireland Department</p> <p>The Health and Safety Executive</p> <p>NHS England and relevant integrated health board</p> <p>The relevant Health Board</p> <p>Natural England</p> <p>The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England</p> <p>Relevant fire and rescue authorities</p> <p>The relevant police and crime commissioners</p> <p>The relevant parish council, or, where the application relates to land Wales or Scotland the relevant community council</p> <p>The Environment Agency</p> <p>The Scottish Environment Protection Agency</p> <p>The Equality and Human Rights Commission</p> <p>The Scottish Human Rights Commission</p> <p>AONB Conservation Boards</p> <p>Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales</p> <p>The Natural Resources Body for Wales</p>	<p>N/A - scheme not in Wales</p> <p>N/A - scheme not in Scotland</p> <p>N/A - scheme not in NI</p> <p>The Health and Safety Executive</p> <p>NHS England NHS Cheshire & Merseyside ICB</p> <p>N/A - scheme not in Scotland</p> <p>Natural England</p> <p>Historic England</p> <p>Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service</p> <p>Police and Crime Commissioner Cheshire</p> <p>Byley Parish Council Lach Dennis and Lostock Green Parish Council</p> <p>The Environment Agency</p> <p>Application not likely to affect land in Scotland</p> <p>Equality and Human Rights Commission</p> <p>Not relevant</p> <p>Not relevant</p> <p>Not relevant - not likely to affect the historic environment in Wales</p> <p>Not relevant - not likely to affect land in Wales</p>

	The Joint Nature Conservation Committee	The Joint Nature Conservation Committee
	Scottish Natural Heritage	Not relevant
	The Maritime and Coastguard Agency	Not relevant
	The Civil Aviation Authority	The Civil Aviation Authority
	The Secretary of State for Transport	The Secretary of State for Transport
	Integrated Transport Authorities (ITAs) and Passenger Transport Executives (PTEs)	Not relevant
	The relevant strategic highways company	National Highways
	The relevant Highways Authority	Cheshire West and Cheshire Highways Department
	Transport for London	Not relevant
	Passenger Focus	Not relevant
	The Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee	Not relevant
	The Coal Authority	The Mining Remediation Authority
	The Office of Rail and Road and approved operators	Not relevant
	The Gas and Electricity Markets Authority	GEMA (OFGEM)
	The Water services regulation authority	OFWAT
	The Water industry commission of Scotland	Not relevant
	The relevant waste regulation authority	Not relevant
	The relevant internal drainage board	Not relevant
	The Canal and River Trust	The Canal and River Trust
	Trinity House	Not relevant

	United Kingdom Health Security Agency and executive agency of the Department of Health and Social Care	Not relevant
	The relevant local resilience form	Not relevant
	Relevant statutory undertakers	British Gas Pipelines Ltd Dee Valley Water United Utilities E.ON UK PLC Energetics Gas Ltd ES Pipelines Ltd ESP Connections Ltd ESP Electricity Ltd ESP Networks Ltd ESP Pipelines Ltd Fulcrum Pipelines Limited GTC Pipelines Limited Highways Agency Historical Railways Estate Holford Gas Storage Ltd Holford to Runcorn Pipeline Independent Pipelines Limited Independent Power Networks Limited NATS En-route (NERL) Safeguarding National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC National Grid Gas PLC National Grid PLC Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd Quadrant Pipelines Ltd Rocksavage Power Company Ltd Royal Mail Group SP Distribution PLC SP Manweb PLC SSE Pipelines The Electricity Network Company The Gas Transportation Company Ltd Utility Assets Limited Utility Grid Installations Ltd United Utilities
	The Crown Estate Commissioners	The Crown Estate Commissioners
	The Forestry Commission	Forestry Commission
	The Natural Resources Body for Wales	Not relevant
	The relevant local health board	Not relevant – scheme not in Wales

	The National Health Services Trust	Not relevant – scheme not in Wales
	The Secretary of State for Defence	Not relevant
relevant local authorities (as defined in Regulation 2 and section 43 of the 2008 Act);	The host authority Neighbouring authorities	Cheshire West and Chester Council Cheshire East Council Halton Borough Council Wrexham County Borough Council Flintshire County Council Shropshire Council Wirral Borough Council Warrington Borough Council Liverpool City Council Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
persons with an interest in the land and other persons covered by section 44 of the 2008 Act;	All owners, lessees, tenants or occupiers of the land.	All owners, lessees, tenants or occupiers of the land – set out in the project Book of Reference.
the Greater London Authority and the Marine Management Organisation (in specified circumstances);	Not relevant.	Not relevant, scheme is not in London. Marine Management Organisation not relevant.
any other person that the Secretary of State considers should be consulted.	Not known.	At an early stage as the scope of the material change application is defined

APPENDIX 2 – DIRECT MAILING AREA



APPENDIX 3 – LIST OF CONSULTEES

Community Groups	1st Over St. Johns Scout Group 4th Runcorn Scouts Age UK Cheshire Beechwood West Management Limited Byley Community Association Cheshire Community Action Guides Middlewich Halton and Saint Helens Voluntary Community Action Hartford (Northwich) Civic Society Middlewich Cubs & Scouts Middlewich Heritage Trust Middlewich Community Group Middlewich Clean Team Middlewich Vision Moulton & District Community Association Northwich & District Youth Centre Northwich District & Heritage Society Northwich Victoria Football Club
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	Runcorn Golf Club Runcorn Sports Club Weaver Valley Cycling Club Witton Albion Football Club Ltd, Norwich Youth Federation
Educational groups	Byley Primary School & Nursery Cavendish High Academy Comberbach Primary School Hope Corner Academy Little Leigh School Mid Cheshire College Northwich School of Music Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy, Runcorn Rudheath Primary Academy St Chads Catholic & C of E High School The Heath School Rudheath Senior Academy Safehands Green Start Nursery University of Manchester Weston Point Primary Academy Weston Primary School and Pre School Whitley Village School Witton Church Walk C of E Primary School University of Chester Academy, Rudheath
Religious groups	Comberbach Methodist Church Hope Corner Community Church Northwich Methodist Church St Luke's Church St Mary's Catholic Church, Middlewich
Parish & Town Councils	Allostock Parish Council Anderton with Marbury Parish Council Aston by Budworth Parish Meeting Byley Parish Council and Parish Meeting (site) Davenham & Bostock Parish Council Cranage Parish Council Comberbach Parish Council Dutton Parish Council Goostrey Parish Council Holmes Chapel Parish Council Lach Dennis & Lostock Green Parish Council (site) Little Leigh Parish Council Lostock Gralam Parish Council Lower Peover Parish Council Marston Parish Council Middlewich Town Council Northwich Town Council Plumley With Toft & Bexton Parish Council Preston Brook Parish Council Rudheath Parish Council Sproston Parish Council Stanthorne & Wimboldsley Parish Meeting Sutton Parish Council Whitley Town Council Wincham Parish Council Winsford Town Council
Ward councillors	Shakerley (site) Chelford Dane Valley

	Brereton Rural Middlewich Winsford Gravel Davenham, Moulton and Kingsmead Rudheath Northwich Witton
MPS	Chester West and Chester (site) Chester South & Eddisbury Alyn & Deeside Congleton Crewe & Nantwich Macclesfield Tatton
Business Groups and LEPS	East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce & Enterprise Halton Chamber of Commerce & Enterprise Warrington Chamber of Commerce West Cheshire and North Wales Chamber of Commerce Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington Liverpool LEP
Environmental Groups	CPRE Cheshire Friends of the Earth, North West Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire & Merseyside Mid-Cheshire Ornithological Society Sustainable Northwich (Transition Northwich)
Transport/Infrastructure	Liverpool John Lennon Airport Manchester Airport Manchester Ship Canal Company Peel Ports Group (Manchester Ship Canal) The Bridgewater Canal Company Ltd The Canal and River Trust Port of Weston (Westlink Holdings Ltd) Halton Borough Council Highways, Transportation and Logistics Department
Health Bodies	Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System Cheshire West - Place Cheshire East - Place Halton - Place Knowsley - Place Liverpool - Place St Helens - Place Warrington - Place Wirral- Place
Industrial and Industry Groups	Cadent Hydrogen Energy Association Hynet North West INEOS Enterprises Ltd Jodrell Bank Consultation Zone North West Hydrogen Alliance Net Zero North West