



# **PRESALL UNDERGROUND GAS STORAGE FACILITY, LANCASHIRE**

**Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) Application  
Reference Number: EN030001**

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**STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND BETWEEN HYDER  
CONSULTING (UK) LIMITED (ON BEHALF OF HALITE ENERGY  
GROUP LIMITED) AND THE ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE  
PROTECTION OF BIRDS ON THE TOPIC OF ECOLOGY**

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<b>Author:</b>	<b>Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited 330 Firecrest Court Centre Park Warrington WA1 1RG  Telephone 01925 800700 www.hyderconsulting.com</b>
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# 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This is a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited (Hyder) (on behalf of Halite Energy Group Limited) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) on the topic of Ecology.
- 1.1.2 Ecology has been the subject of discussions between Hyder (on behalf of Halite Energy Group Limited) and the RSPB at the pre-Development Consent Order (DCO) Application stage. A telephone conversation was held with Tim Melling of the RSPB, and Janet Belfield, Jon Hickling and Mark Johnston of Natural England (NE), on 24 February 2012 at 10am to discuss the Ecology SoCG. The aim of this discussion was, where possible, to reach a common ground in relation to the following DCO Application Documents:
- Chapter 9: Ecology and Nature Conservation of Volume 1A of the Environmental Statement (ES) (DCO Application Document Reference 5.1)
  - Appendices 9.1 to 9.19 of Volume 1B of the ES (DCO Application Document Reference 5.2)
  - Figures 9.1 and 9.2 of Volume 2B of the ES (DCO Application Document Reference 5.4)
  - Information to Support a Habitats Regulations Assessment – Morecambe Bay SAC, Liverpool Bay SPA, Shell Flat and Lune Deep cSAC (DCO Application Document Reference 3.2)
  - Information to Support a Habitats Regulations Assessment – Morecambe Bay SPA and Ramsar (DCO Application Document Reference 3.3)
  - The Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy Plan (LEMSP), which is presented on Figure 14.10 of Volume 2B of the ES (DCO Application Document Reference 5.4) and within Appendix 14.11 of Volume 1B of the ES (DCO Application Document Reference 5.2)
- 1.1.3 Following the submission of the ‘Information to Support a Habitats Regulations Assessment – Morecambe Bay SPA and Ramsar’ (DCO Application Document Reference 3.3), a number of matters were raised by NE. A document containing responses to these matters was subsequently provided to NE (hereinafter referred to as the ‘Responses to NE’ document). NE reviewed this document collectively with the above DCO Application Documents to inform the SoCG discussion.
- 1.1.4 It should be noted that for the purposes of this SoCG, the RSPB’s interest relate to sites designated for their nature conservation interest and land that is functionally linked to those sites. RSPB’s interest also relates to other land with conservation interest or potential within the DCO Application boundary. Conservation interest includes birds, mammals, invertebrates and flora, and the habitats that support these species.

## 2 ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

### 2.1 Accepted Data

- 2.1.1 The RSPB agrees with the conclusions of NE in relation to Chapter 9: Ecology and Nature Conservation of Volume 1A of the ES (as set out in the Statement of Common Ground between Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited (on behalf of Halite Energy Group Limited) and Natural England on the topic of Ecology), where it applies to the RSPB's interests as set out in Section 1.1.4 above.

### 3 INFORMATION TO SUPPORT A HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT – MORECAMBE BAY SAC, LIVERPOOL BAY SPA, SHELL FLAT AND LUNE DEEP CSAC (DCO APPLICATION DOCUMENT REFERENCE 3.2)

#### 3.1 Accepted Data

- 3.1.1 The RSPB agrees with the conclusions of NE in relation to the 'Information to Support a Habitats Regulations Assessment – Morecambe Bay SAC, Liverpool Bay SPA, Shell Flat and Lune Deep cSAC' (as set out in the Statement of Common Ground between Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited (on behalf of Halite Energy Group Limited) and Natural England on the topic of Ecology), where it applies to the RSPB's interests as set out in Section 1.1.4 above.

## 4 INFORMATION TO SUPPORT A HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT – MORECAMBE BAY SPA AND RAMSAR (DCO APPLICATION DOCUMENT REFERENCE 3.3)

### 4.1 Accepted Data

- 4.1.1 The RSPB agrees with the conclusions of NE in relation to the ‘Information to Support a Habitats Regulations Assessment – Morecambe Bay SPA and Ramsar’ (as set out in the Statement of Common Ground between Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited (on behalf of Halite Energy Group Limited) and Natural England on the topic of Ecology), where it applies to the RSPB’s interests as set out in Section 1.1.4 above.



## 5 LANDSCAPE AND ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY PLAN

### 5.1 Accepted Data

- 5.1.1 The LEMSP has been submitted as part of the DCO Application. The RSPB confirms that they have no issues with the principles underlying the LEMSP.
- 5.1.2 Since the DCO Application was submitted, further discussions with the RSPB on the LEMSP have taken place. Following the conclusion of these discussions, a slightly modified LEMSP has been produced. This is presented in the SoCG between Hyder (on behalf of Halite Energy Group Limited) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds on the topic of the Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy Plan.

## 6 DATA NOT ACCEPTED

- 6.1.1 There are no elements of the conclusions of NE that the RSPB does not concur with (as set out in the Statement of Common Ground between Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited (on behalf of Halite Energy Group Limited) and Natural England on the topic of Ecology), where it applies to the RSPB's interests as set out in Section 1.1.4 above.

## STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

**This Statement of Common Ground on the topic of Ecology has been prepared by Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited, on behalf of Halite Energy Group Limited, and agreed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.**

Signed: 

David Hoare

on behalf of Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited

Date: 1 May 2012

Signed: 

Tim Melling

on behalf of RSPB

Date: 1 May 2012