



PRESALL UNDERGROUND GAS STORAGE FACILITY, LANCASHIRE

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

**STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND BETWEEN HYDER
CONSULTING (UK) LIMITED (ON BEHALF OF HALITE ENERGY
GROUP LIMITED) AND LANCASHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST ON THE
TOPIC OF ECOLOGY**

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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 Lancashire Wildlife Trust (LWT) 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 LWT at the pre-Development Consent Order (DCO) Application stage. A telephone conversation was held with Kim Wisdom of LWT on 27 March 2012 at 2pm to discuss the Ecology SoCG. A subsequent telephone conversation was held with Kim Wisdom of LWT and John Jones of Lancashire County Council (LCC) on 01 May 2012 at 10.30am. The aim of these discussions were, 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)
- 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)

2 ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

2.1 Accepted Data

Assessment Methodology

- 2.1.1 The methodology sets out the approach to the Ecology and Nature Conservation assessment, and is presented within Section 9.3 of Volume 1A of the ES.
- 2.1.2 The assessment methodology is considered appropriate and agreed.

Baseline Information

- 2.1.3 Sections 9.4 and 9.5 of Volume 1A of the ES present the existing and future baseline information, respectively, that has been considered in relation to the Ecology and Nature Conservation assessment.
- 2.1.4 The baseline information is considered appropriate and agreed.

Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

- 2.1.5 Mitigation and enhancement measures are identified within Section 9.8 of Volume 1A of the ES.
- 2.1.6 The mitigation and enhancement measures are agreed.

Assessment Findings

- 2.1.7 Section 9.7 of Volume 1A of the ES presents the Potential Effects on Ecology and Nature Conservation as a result of the Project without consideration of the proposed mitigation and enhancement measures. Section 9.9 of Volume 1A of the ES presents the Residual Effects, i.e. with incorporation of the proposed mitigation and enhancement measures.
- 2.1.8 The findings of the assessment are agreed.
- 2.1.9 Although the findings of the assessment are agreed, LWT commented that Chapter 9: Ecology and Nature Conservation of Volume 1A of the ES did not clearly specify whether the Project would generate an overall permanent loss (or gain) of habitat. LWT indicated that paragraph 9.11.5 of Chapter 9 states that approximately 4.45 hectares of habitat would be permanently lost as a result of the Project, but in recognition of the considerable amount of habitat creation which is proposed as part of the Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy Plan (LEMSP), there would be no net loss in biodiversity as a result of the Project. LWT requested clarification on the total permanent habitat loss and gain as a result of the Project. Hyder subsequently provided this information, which is presented in full within Appendix A of this SoCG.
- 2.1.10 In light of the information presented in Appendix A of this SoCG, LWT considers that the area of proposed re-established habitat is adequate to compensate for the permanent loss of habitat as a result of the Project.

2.1.11 LWT also requested clarification on the total permanent habitat loss and gain as a result of the Project in relation to the Fleetwood Marsh Biological Heritage Site (BHS). Hyder confirms that habitat loss associated with this BHS is temporary and will be mitigated for appropriately. LWT is satisfied with Hyder's response.

3 LANDSCAPE AND ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY PLAN

3.1 Accepted Data

- 3.1.1 The LEMSP has been submitted as part of the DCO Application. The principles underlying the LEMSP have been agreed.
- 3.1.2 Since the DCO Application was submitted, further discussions with LWT 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 Lancashire Wildlife Trust on the topic of the Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy Plan.

4 DATA NOT ACCEPTED

- 4.1.1 There are no elements of the documents identified within Section 1.1.2 of this SoCG that are not agreed.

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 Lancashire Wildlife Trust.

Signed: 

David Hoare

on behalf of Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited

Date: 15 May 2012

Signed: 

Kim Wisdom

on behalf of Lancashire Wildlife Trust

Date: 14th May 2012

Appendix A

Approximate Areas of Habitat Permanently Lost and Created

Approximate Areas of Habitats Permanently Lost and Created as a Result of the Project

Habitat	Approximate Area Permanently Lost (Hectares (Ha) or Linear Metres)	Approximate Area Created (Hectares (Ha) or Linear Metres)
Arable land	6.2 ha	4,000 linear metres of arable field margins / wildflower strip
Improved grassland	7.7 ha	0 ha
Open ditch	507 linear metres	90 linear metres*
Gorse, scrub	181 linear metres of gorse, scrub field boundary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1.5 ha of screen mounding (grassland and scrub mosaic) ▪ 2.3 ha of native species scrub / grassland mosaic ▪ 0.5 ha of native species dense scrub ▪ 0.2 ha of terrestrial habitat links to ponds (grassland and scrub mosaic)
Hedgerows	121 linear metres of boundary hedgerow	750 linear metres of native species hedgerow**
Marshy grassland	0.03 ha	0 ha
Trees / Woodland	0.02 ha	0.8 ha
Reed beds	N/A	0.6 ha
Pasture field scrapes	N/A	Scrapes would be provided, each scrape at a minimum size of 20m ²
Ponds	N/A	One new pond would be created***
Alder/ willow wet woodland copse	N/A	0.3 ha

* In addition, approximately 1,670 linear metres of existing watercourse / ditch habitat would be improved under the provisions of the Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy Plan

** In addition, approximately 1,690 linear metres of existing hedgerow would be planted up / reinstated under the provisions of the Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy Plan

*** In addition, 11 existing ponds would be improved under the provisions of the Landscape and Ecological Management Strategy Plan