



**PREESALL 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 LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ON  
THE TOPIC OF LANDSCAPE**

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<b>Author:</b>	<b>Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited 330 Firecrest Court Centre Park Warrington WA1 1RG  Telephone 01925 800700 <a href="http://www.hyderconsulting.com">www.hyderconsulting.com</a></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 Lancashire County Council (LCC) on the topic of Landscape.

1.1.2 Landscape has been the subject of discussions between Hyder (on behalf of Halite Energy Group Limited) and LCC at the pre-Development Consent Order (DCO) Application stage. A telephone conversation was held with Steve Brereton of LCC on 16 March 2012 at 10am to discuss the Landscape SoCG. The aim of this discussion was, where possible, to reach a common ground in relation to the following DCO Application Documents:

- Chapter 14: Seascape, Landscape, Townscape and Visual Amenity of Volume 1A of the Environmental Statement (ES) (DCO Application Document Reference 5.1)
- Appendices 14.1 to 14.10 of Volume 1B of the ES (DCO Application Document Reference 5.2)
- Figures 14.1 to 14.9 of Volume 2B of the ES (DCO Application Document Reference 5.4)

1.1.3 With regard to Chapter 14, at LCC's request only the 'Assessment Methodology' and 'Baseline Conditions' sections have been discussed to date. It is intended that further discussion will take place on the 'Mitigation and Enhancement Measures' and 'Assessment Findings' and those sections of Chapter 14 may be the subject of a further SoCG that would be submitted to the Examining Authority after 6 June 2012.

## 2 ACCEPTED DATA

### 2.1 Assessment Methodology

2.1.1 The methodology sets out the approach to the Seascape, Landscape, Townscape and Visual Amenity assessment, and is presented within Section 14.3 of Volume 1A of the ES.

2.1.2 The assessment methodology is considered appropriate and agreed.

2.1.3 Although the assessment methodology is considered appropriate and agreed, LCC would like to make the following points:

- LCC notes that Figures 14.1 – 14.10 are in Volume 2A of the ES, not in Volume 2B as is stated within Chapter 14 of Volume 1A of the ES. Hyder confirms that Figures 14.1 – 14.10 are indeed presented in Volume 2B of the ES, but the files were incorrectly named on the DCO Application Document CD that was provided. LCC accepts this explanation.
- LCC notes that the wording of the description given in paragraph 14.3.4 of Volume 1A of the ES which explains what the study area boundary represents is not quite correct. The paragraph incorrectly states *"The study area boundary forms the limit to which both landscape and visual impacts arising from the Project may occur. This boundary is defined by the Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI) and extends across the application site."* LCC believes this is not the case as evidenced by Photomontage 10, Year 4 in Volume 2B of the ES which shows that structures would be visible from an area beyond the ZVI. Hyder accepts that there is the potential for the Project to be seen beyond the identified limit of the ZVI, but is of the opinion that based on site surveys and the agreed representative viewpoints for the assessment, an effect on any view outside the ZVI would not be significant. LCC accepts this opinion. Hyder also notes that with regard to Photomontage 10, the viewpoint location is within the ZVI, as shown on Figures 14.1 and 14.7 of Volume 2B of the ES.
- LCC notes that Paragraph 14.3.7 of Volume 1A of the ES does not include a reference to the LCC Historic Designed Landscapes study. Hyder confirms that the historic aspects of the landscape are based on the information contained within Chapter 7: Archaeology and Built Heritage of Volume 1A of the ES, which makes reference to the LCC Historic Designed Landscapes study. A summary of this information is presented in Appendix 14.2 of Volume 1B of the ES. LCC accepts this explanation.

### 2.2 Baseline Information

2.2.1 Sections 14.4 and 14.5 of Volume 1A of the ES present the existing and future baseline information, respectively, that has been considered in relation to the Seascape, Landscape, Townscape and Visual Amenity assessment.

2.2.2 The baseline information is considered appropriate and agreed.

2.2.3 Although the baseline information is considered appropriate and agreed, LCC would like to make the following point:

- LCC notes that Table 14-14 of Volume 1A of the ES does not show all of the existing baseline information, focusing instead on Project specific landscape character types/areas. Hyder confirms that a more detailed description of these character types and areas, along with the higher level characterisation work and other baseline research material, is provided in Appendix 14.3 of Volume 1B. Hyder believes this clearly demonstrates how the Project specific character areas identified in Table 14-14 relate to the higher level characterisation work done by LCC. LCC accepts this explanation.

### **3 DATA NOT ACCEPTED**

**3.1.1** Based on the items discussed (refer to Section 1.1.3 of this SoCG), there are no elements of the documents identified within Section 1.1.2 of this SoCG relating to landscape and visual impact assessment methodology and baseline conditions that are not agreed.

**STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND**

**This Statement of Common Ground on the topic of Landscape has been prepared by Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited, on behalf of Halite Energy Group Limited, and agreed by Lancashire County Council.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Robert Kitch

on behalf of Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited

Date: 1-6-2012

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Michael Green

Cabinet Member for Economic  
Development, Environment and  
Planning

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012

