



# **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 NATURAL ENGLAND ON THE TOPIC OF  
LANDSCAPE**

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# CONTENTS

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1.....	INTRODUCTION .....	1
2.....	ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT .....	2
2.1	Accepted Data.....	2
3.....	LANDSCAPE AND ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY PLAN .....	3
3.1	Accepted Data.....	3
4.....	DATA NOT ACCEPTED .....	4



# 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 Natural England 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 Natural England at the pre-Development Consent Order (DCO) Application stage. A telephone conversation was held with Natural England on 24 February 2012 at 2pm 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 14.11 of Volume 1B of the ES (DCO Application Document Reference 5.2)
  - Figures 14.1 to 14.10 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)
- 1.1.3 Agreements made within this SoCG are in relation to the elements that are within Natural England's interest, which comprise designated landscapes including National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The closest designated landscape to the application site is the Forest of Bowland AONB, which lies within 5km of the National Transmission System (NTS) feeder near Garstang, the eastern most part of the application site.
- 1.1.4 Natural England has considered potential effects only on designated landscapes. It is content that the wider landscape, seascape, townscape and visual amenity assessment has been the subject of separate discussions between Hyder (on behalf of Halite Energy Group Limited) and Lancashire County Council and Wyre Borough Council.
- 1.1.5 In discussion with both Lancashire County Council and Wyre Borough Council during the pre-DCO Application stage, it was agreed that a distant elevated viewpoint within the Forest of Bowland AONB, which was identified by the Infrastructure Planning Commission in their responses received to the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report, would not be necessary as it was considered any effect on this receptor, because of distance and the nature of the view, would not be significant.

## 2 ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

### 2.1 Accepted Data

#### 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 methodology for assessing effects on designated landscapes is considered appropriate and agreed.

#### Baseline Information

- 2.1.3 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.
- 2.1.4 The baseline information for designated landscapes is considered appropriate and agreed.

#### Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

- 2.1.5 Mitigation and enhancement measures are identified within Section 14.8 of Volume 1A of the ES.
- 2.1.6 No mitigation or enhancement measures are proposed in relation to designated landscapes as no potential effects on such sites have been identified. This is agreed.

#### Assessment Findings

- 2.1.7 Section 14.7 of Volume 1A of the ES presents the Potential Effects on Seascape, Landscape, Townscape and Visual Amenity as a result of the Project without consideration of the proposed mitigation and enhancement measures. Section 14.9 of Volume 1A of the ES presents the Residual Effects, i.e. with incorporation of the proposed mitigation and enhancement measures.
- 2.1.8 It is agreed that there would be no effects on designated landscapes.

### 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 Natural England 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 Natural England 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 Landscape has been prepared by Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited, on behalf of Halite Energy Group Limited, and agreed by Natural England.**

Signed:

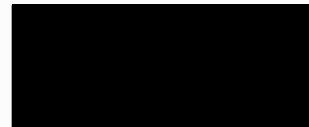


Robert Kitch

on behalf of Hyder Consulting (UK) Limited

Date: 11 May 2012

Signed:



Chris Edwards

Land Use Principal Advisor

on behalf of Natural England

Date: 11 May 2012