



KEUPER GAS STORAGE PROJECT

E-NEWSLETTER UPDATE - FEBRUARY 2026

Thank you to everyone who took part in the recent public consultation on the Proposed Material Change to the Keuper Gas Storage Project (KGSP). The formal consultation period closed on the 20 November 2025.

This e-newsletter provides an interim update with signposting on some of the main topics and themes covered in the feedback ahead of an Application being made to the Planning Inspectorate, planned for Spring 2026. Read on to find out how we are listening.

GLOSSARY

KGSL	- Keuper Gas Storage Limited	PEIR	- Preliminary Environmental Information Report
DCO	- Development Consent Order	GPP	- Gas Processing Plant
HSE	- Health and Safety Executive	LLG	- Local Liaison Group
HAGI	- Hydrogen Above Ground Infrastructure Installation	ISEP	- Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals
NSIP	- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project		
CWAC	- Cheshire West and Chester Council		

SAFETY

You shared comments and questions on the safety aspects of hydrogen storage and wanted us to share with you further evidence and information.

Find out more:

- [Salt Cavern Integrity Report](#)
- [PEIR Chapter 15 Major Accidents and Disasters](#)

The solution mining process for producing underground cavities is exactly the same whether it be for hydrogen or natural gas and remains consistent with the Development Consent Order (DCO) consented in 2017.

KGSL will utilise previous experience and expertise from the neighbouring Storengy UK Stublach facility to construct the project safely and ensure a secure facility.

The construction and operation of a hydrogen storage facility is not a new concept with examples in Teesside and Texas. The UK is heavily regulated by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) whose primary function is to ensure workplaces are safe for employees and the public. Working with the HSE to meet UK safety regulations remains integral to the safe delivery of the storage of hydrogen if the Material Change Application is approved.



CAVITY & WELLHEAD LOCATIONS

You shared concerns about the location of cavities and wellheads in relation to residential properties in the area and potential mitigation for nearby properties.

Find out more:

- [Main Site Layout Plan](#)

There are no proposed changes to the size, location, or construction methodology of the 19 storage cavities, wellheads and associated underground pipework. The only change associated with the underground salt cavities will be the change from storage of natural gas to hydrogen. As part of the planning process, we are reviewing how landscape, noise and construction mitigation measures can be improved, and are considering a range of potential enhancements which could include tree planting, landscape screening and additional noise mitigation measures.

Ongoing engagement will take place with the local community to mitigate any impact during both construction and operation phases if the Material Change is approved.

FLARE & ABOVE GROUND INFRASTRUCTURE

You said that you wanted more information on the proposed flare, changes to its height and location, the frequency of flaring, light impact and monitoring of air quality.

Find out more:

- [PEIR Chapter 8 Air Quality](#)
- [PEIR Chapter 11 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment](#)
- [Construction Environmental Management Plan \(2017 DCO\)](#)

The DCO includes consent to build a 25m tall gas vent located in the GPP area. The Material Change Application will propose a 50m flare, which is intended to replace the consented gas vent. The location of the flare will remain in the GPP area but move further from King Street, approximately 0.7km away.

The flare fulfils the same purpose as the approved gas vent which is to mitigate potential effects from high pressure plant scenarios. The flare will not be burning continuously; it is not intended for the flare to routinely operate under high pressure conditions, only for a short period of time to meet annual maintenance requirements.

Due to the nature of hydrogen, the flame will be a clean faint flame and will be difficult to see by the human eye. Visualisations of the project, including the proposed 50m flare, have been completed, with viewpoints in Lach Dennis, Byley and King Street. Air quality assessments conclude that the effects for flaring hydrogen on the local community are considered negligible.



CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

You said that during the construction of the proposed development you were concerned about traffic, dust, noise, drilling and health impacts.

Find out more:

- [Consented Traffic Plan and Routes](#)
- [Construction Environmental Management Plan \(2017 DCO\)](#)

The Material Change Application is not proposing any increase to traffic or any changes to the already approved traffic management plan and routes which were consented in 2017 as part of the DCO.

The methods of construction for the underground cavities, pipework, wellheads and the above ground GPP area remain consistent with the consented DCO and therefore it is unlikely that further assessment of the impacts from dust, noise, drilling on human health will be significant.

We are committed to considerate construction practices and will continue to listen to any concerns from the local community and through the KGSP LLG. Details of further design, construction and operation updates will be discussed through ongoing engagement if the Material Change is approved.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

You said that you wanted more information on how the project is taking into account health and wellbeing concerns.

Find out more:

- [Construction Environmental Management Plan \(2017 DCO\)](#)
- [PEIR Chapter 14 Population and Human Health](#)

Any major construction project may result in localised, temporary potential impacts within the immediate local communities.

We are listening to these concerns and are committed to being a considerate contractor, operator and neighbour throughout the project lifecycle, by providing additional and bespoke mitigation measures. During construction, the project will have a dedicated community liaison to manage concerns and provide response.

The project adheres to all UK and European regulations and laws, including ISEP guidance on community health and latest scientific guidance on hydrogen.



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

You said that you had some concerns about environmental impact such as subsidence, geology, ecology, and biodiversity.

Find out more:

- [Salt Cavern Integrity Report](#)
- [PEIR Chapter 6 Geology and Ground Conditions](#)
- [PEIR Chapter 7 Hydrology and Flood Risk](#)
- [PEIR Chapter 10 Ecology and Nature Conservation](#)

The Holiford Brinefield is well characterised in terms of its geology due to controlled solution mining processes being conducted for around 100 years. In recent years, three separate seismic surveys have characterised the salt and confirmed the location of specific geological features, further supporting the concept of hydrogen gas storage within underground salt cavities.

The creation of the cavities and the storage of hydrogen does not affect the fundamentals of ground stability. The cavities are carefully controlled and monitored during their creation to ensure the correct size and shape and will be subject to strict monitoring schemes when operational.

A number of ecology surveys have been completed in 2025 including bats, badgers, great crested newts, breeding and wintering birds, lesser silver water beetles. Baseline survey findings suggest the site is largely comprised of agricultural grassland, with ponds and hedgerow present. Specific mitigation measures will be agreed primarily through consultation with Natural England and the Environment Agency.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND TRANSPARENCY

You said that you wanted more information about ongoing engagement through the KGSP LLG and how to continue to communicate questions on the project.

Find out more:

- [Statement of Engagement](#)
- [KGSP Website 'Community' Page](#)
- [KGSP Website 'Next Steps' Page](#)
- [Non-Technical Summary](#)
- [Proposal Summary Document](#)

The statutory consultation process for a Material Change Application is set out by the The Infrastructure Planning Regulations 2011 and The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) 2017. The requirement on KGSL to comply with the consultation, publicity and notifications set out in this legislation will be presented in full in the Consultation Report, to be issued when the Application is made in Spring 2026.

KGSL has aimed to deliver maximum transparency throughout the consultation process. The approach builds on the previous stages undertaken for the DCO in 2017 and Non-Material Change in 2022, informed by the commitments set out in the KGSP Statement of Engagement 2025.

We are committed to continuing to work with the community through the KGSP LLG which is made up of representation from CWAC, Byley, Lach Dennis and Lostock Green and Allostock Parish Councils. The LLG meetings are intended to communicate project updates and address community concerns. This forum has met quarterly through the recent Material Change activities, and will continue through the submission, determination, and into the construction stages of the project. The KGSP contact channels remain open for questions and comments.



ECONOMIC AND LOCAL BENEFITS

You said that you wanted more information on the community benefit fund and compensation aligned with the project.

Find out more:

- [KGSP Website 'Community' Page](#)

KGSL has communicated through the consultation materials and KGSP LLG meetings that a total community benefit fund of up to £400,000 is available during construction. This was substantially increased from the fund originally proposed in 2017, after it was discussed during the May 2025 LLG meeting.

This fund will come into use if the Material Change Application is approved and the associated construction activities commence.

In line with the Planning Act 2008, neither matters of compensation nor the value of an offered community fund are material considerations in the determination of the Material Change Application by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS).

PLANNING PROCESS FOR MATERIAL CHANGE APPLICATION

You said that you wanted more information on the NSIP process and why KGSL is submitting a Material Change Application.

Find out more:

- [KGSP Website 'The Plans' Page](#)
- [KGSP Website 'Next Steps' Page](#)
- [Have your say guide - Have your say about a national infrastructure project](#)

KGSL has determined the route for the Material Change through dialogue with the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) and our approach follows legislation which allows for changes to the consented DCO in certain circumstances.

KGSL's decision to proceed via this route is influenced by discussions with PINS (who administer applications for NSIPs like KGSP); and also with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) who will ultimately make the decision on the change.

Bringing forward a Material Change comes with a requirement for statutory consultation. We carried out comprehensive consultation in October and November 2025 and the outcomes from that process are now being incorporated into our scheme and any follow up discussions taking place where needed.

When the Material Change Application is submitted (Spring 2026), consultees and the public will be notified that the application is being considered and there will be opportunities to provide further representations. If an Examination is required to examine any particular issues, the public have an opportunity to be involved in that process.

NEXT STEPS FOR THE MATERIAL CHANGE APPLICATION

The Consultation Report, Environmental Statement and additional supporting reports and plans will be submitted with the Material Change Application in Spring 2026.

CONTACT CHANNELS

You can continue to contact the project team with your questions through the project channels:



Email: kgsp@fontcomms.com



Visit: www.kgsp.co.uk



Call: **Freephone 0800 689 1095**
(Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.30pm)

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