

# Public Document Pack



## Development Control Committee

**\*URGENT ITEM\***

**Monday, 8 September 2014 6.30 p.m.  
Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W R', positioned above a rectangular stamp.

**Chief Executive**

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

<b>Councillor Paul Nolan (Chairman)</b>
<b>Councillor Keith Morley (Vice-Chairman)</b>
<b>Councillor Arthur Cole</b>
<b>Councillor Ron Hignett</b>
<b>Councillor Stan Hill</b>
<b>Councillor Carol Plumpton Walsh</b>
<b>Councillor June Roberts</b>
<b>Councillor Christopher Rowe</b>
<b>Councillor John Stockton</b>
<b>Councillor Dave Thompson</b>
<b>Councillor Kevan Wainwright</b>
<b>Councillor Bill Woolfall</b>
<b>Councillor Geoff Zygadlo</b>

*Please contact Ann Jones on 0151 511 8276 Ext. 16 8276 or  
ann.jones@halton.gov.uk for further information.  
The next meeting of the Committee is on Monday, 6 October 2014*

**ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH  
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**Part I**

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
<b>4. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS</b>	
<b>PLANNING ACT 2008, NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS – KEUPER GAS STORAGE PROJECT (KGSP)</b>	<b>1 - 26</b>

***In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.***

## **Planning Act 2008**

### **Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects**

#### **Keuper Gas Storage Project (KGSP)**

##### **1.0 Legislation background**

1.1 The Planning Act 2008 introduced a new system of planning control for projects deemed to relate to nationally significant infrastructure (NSIPs).

1.2 These projects are taken out of the control of local planning authorities and determined by the Secretary of State. Instead of applying for a planning permission (often to a number of local planning authorities) the permission takes the form of a Development Consent Order.

1.3 The procedure for obtaining a Development Consent Order is set out both in the 2008 Act and in a number of regulations.

##### **2.0 The Keuper Gas Storage Project (KGSP)**

2.1 Keuper Gas Storage Limited (KGSL) is seeking consent to construct and operate an underground gas storage facility and associated infrastructure ('the Project') on and under land at the southern end of the Holford Brinefield and surrounding area, north of Middlewich, Cheshire.

2.2 The proposals are known as the Keuper Gas Storage Project (KGSP) and constitute a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the terms of the Planning Act 2008. Section 47 of the Act requires KGSL to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) that sets out its plans to consult with people who live in, work and use the local area.

2.3 Keuper Gas Storage Limited (KGSL) is a wholly owned subsidiary of INEOS Enterprises Group Limited which consists of a number of chemical manufacturing and related businesses. INEOS Enterprises and its predecessors have been solution mining brine for the manufacture of chlor-alkali (chlorine and caustic soda), sodium carbonate (soda ash) and white salt from Cheshire's natural salt deposits for more than 80 years. Chlorine and caustic soda are used in the manufacture of a diverse range of everyday products including PVC, bleach and disinfectants, soap, solvents and pharmaceuticals.

2.4 The proposed KGSP development would involve using purpose built underground salt cavities, created through solution mining, to store natural gas, helping to further secure a flexible supply of energy in the UK. The Project includes the construction and operation of up to 19 underground caverns with capacity to store up to 500 standard million cubic meters (mcm) of natural gas, having an import and export capability of up to 34 mcm per day.

2.5 Solution mining produces brine (a concentrated salt water solution), which is used in the chemical industry. Among other things, brine is used as a raw material to make everyday essentials such as washing powder, toothpaste and table salt and is used to produce chlorine, which makes our drinking water safe. INEOS has an ongoing demand for brine to meet the needs of its operations across Cheshire.

2.6 All of the new gas storage cavities will be located at the southern end of the Holford Brinefield and surrounding area, north of Middlewich, Cheshire. The site is about 3km due West of the M6 and 1 approximately 3km North of Junction 18. It is bounded to the West by the A530 (King Street) and to the East by the B5081. The nearest village is Byley which is to the East. The site entrance proposed for construction and operation is on King Street at Drakelow Farm. The surrounding area is generally open countryside and land used for farming.

2.7 Cheshire's geology means it is one of the few places in the UK where gas can be stored underground and there are a number of existing gas storage facilities already operating in the Holford Brinefield area. The site is immediately adjacent to two existing underground gas storage facilities. The Holford Gas Storage facility, operated by E.ON, was approved by the Secretary of State in 2004 and is now fully operational. The Stublach Gas Storage Project, approved by the local planning authority in 2006, operated by Storengy, is currently being solution mined with the commencement of gas storage having started in the first few cavities.

2.8 The site falls within part of INEOS Enterprises' minerals working area known as Holford Brinefield. INEOS Enterprises has planning permission to win and work salt deposits within the area. Some of the proposed underground gas storage cavities are on land that is not owned by INEOS. KGSL is currently in discussions with the landowners concerned.

2.9 The site boundary includes proposed new gas storage and processing development, in the Holford Brinefield, and extends northwest to Weston Point in Runcorn and south to Ravenscroft to facilitate connection to and upgrade of existing solution mining, water abstraction and brine discharge infrastructure. Other aspects of development will include two new brine processing tanks on the Lostock Works site, Northwich and the refurbishment of the existing Whitley Pumping Station, Whitley. At Runcorn, the development will involve a new brine outfall pipeline located at the main INEOS ChlorVinyls site. The existing brine pipeline (which runs from the Lostock Brine Purification Plant in Northwich to Runcorn) will continue to be used to transport brine to INEOS' operations in Runcorn. This pipeline will not be used to transport gas. As far as the operation in Runcorn is concerned the impact is minimal.

2.10 This requires an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, which processes and examines the application before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy who will make the final decision on the application.



2.11 Any decision will be made with regard to the relevant National Policy Statement (NPS). The relevant NPSs are EN-1 Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy and EN-4 Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines. The NPS for Energy states that the UK is highly dependent on natural gas and it will continue to play an important part in the UK's fuel mix for many years to come. It also states that the UK needs a diverse mix of gas storage and supply infrastructure to respond effectively to daily and seasonal changes.

2.12 When considering whether to accept an application for examination, the Planning Inspectorate must be satisfied that the applicant has undertaken effective pre-application consultation.

2.13 Pre-application consultation is essential in allowing KGSL to understand and take account of the effects of the proposed development and to allow a thorough examination by the Planning Inspectorate. KGSL will be required to submit a Consultation Report with its application for a DCO. This report will include details of the local community feedback received, during non-statutory and statutory stages of consultation, and explain how KGSL has had regard to the feedback received and complied with the consultation requirements of the Planning Act 2008.

### **3.0 The request for delegated authority**

3.1 There has never been an application under the 2008 Act which involved the Borough of Halton and consequently, the Council's Constitution is silent of the subject of NSIPs, other than assigning responsibility to the Committee.

3.2 It is reasonable to assume that most NSIPs would have significant implications for the Borough and that substantive decisions would be dealt with by the Committee despite the fact that time-scales under the 2008 Act are sometimes quite tight.

3.3 Nevertheless, procedural matters ought to be delegated in the interests of good managements on all occasions with the Committee deciding on substantive matters.

3.4 The Keuper Gas Storage Project is so minor in natures in so far as it affects Halton that the entire response of the Council ought to be delegated.

### **Recommendation**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT:

- (1) In respect of the Keuper Gas Storage Project all matters under the Planning Act 2008 be delegated to Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation.
- (2) In respect of future matters coming within the Planning Act 2008 relating to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects all matters up to the stage of acceptance of applications under section 55 of the 2008 Act be delegated to Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation.

Mr Andrew Plant  
Policy, Planning and Transportation  
Municipal Buildings  
Widnes  
Cheshire  
WA8 7QF

20<sup>th</sup> August 2014

Dear Mr Plant,

**Ref: Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) for Keuper Gas Storage Project (KGSP)**

Please find enclosed the Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) outlining how KGSL proposes to consult with people living in the vicinity of the land about the proposed application for development consent for the Keuper Gas Storage Project in Holford Brinefield, Cheshire.

KGSP is formally consulting you in accordance with section 47(2) Planning Act 2008 about the contents of the SoCC. The SoCC has also been sent for information to Cheshire East Council due to the proposed site being located close to the boundary of this authority.

In line with the requirements of the Planning Act 2008, KGSL will carry out the formal consultation on the contents of the SoCC for a period of 28 days and ask that your Council responds by Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2014. KGSL will have regard to the Council's comments on the contents of the statement which are received within this period.

As explained in the SoCC, the public consultation on the proposal is set to commence on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014 and conclude on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014. Within this period, public Information Days will take place during the weeks commencing 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014. The SoCC will be published and made readily available prior to the start of the consultation and with further advertisement prior to the public exhibitions.

For your convenience, I am sending this letter and its enclosures to you in both electronic and hard copy format. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Stevenson  
KGSP Project Manager

**Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) – Draft 20.08.14**

**Keuper Gas Storage Limited (KGSL)**

**Underground Gas Storage Project in Northwich, Cheshire**

**Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC)**

**Prepared in Accordance with Section 47 of the Planning Act 2008**

**Introduction**

Keuper Gas Storage Limited (KGSL) is seeking consent to construct and operate an underground gas storage facility and associated infrastructure ('the Project') on and under land at the southern end of the Holford Brinefield and surrounding area, north of Middlewich, Cheshire.

The proposals are known as the Keuper Gas Storage Project (KGSP) and constitute a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the terms of the Planning Act 2008. Section 47 of the Act requires KGSL to prepare a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) that sets out its plans to consult with people who live in, work and use the local area.

**About Keuper Gas Storage Limited**

Keuper Gas Storage Limited (KGSL) is a wholly owned subsidiary of INEOS Enterprises Group Limited which consists of a number of chemical manufacturing and related businesses. INEOS Enterprises and its predecessors have been solution mining brine for the manufacture of chlor-alkali (chlorine and caustic soda), sodium carbonate (soda ash) and white salt from Cheshire's natural salt deposits for more than 80 years. Chlorine and caustic soda are used in the manufacture of a diverse range of everyday products including PVC, bleach and disinfectants, soap, solvents and pharmaceuticals.

INEOS has a number of other sites in the UK which, in the North West, includes INEOS ChlorVinyls' chemical operations at the Runcorn Site, employing 1100 people, and INEOS Enterprises' Salt business also at Runcorn.

**The Site and Proposed Development**

The proposed KGSP development would involve using purpose built underground salt cavities, created through solution mining, to store natural gas, helping to further secure a flexible supply of energy in the UK. The Project includes the construction and operation of up to 19 underground caverns with capacity to store up to 500 standard million cubic meters (mcm) of natural gas, having an import and export capability of up to 34 mcm per day.

Solution mining produces brine (a concentrated salt water solution), which is used in the chemical industry. Among other things, brine is used as a raw material to make everyday essentials such as washing powder, toothpaste and table salt and is used to produce chlorine, which makes our drinking water safe. INEOS has an ongoing demand for brine to meet the needs of its operations across Cheshire.

All of the new gas storage cavities will be located at the southern end of the Holford Brinefield and surrounding area, north of Middlewich, Cheshire. The site is about 3km due West of the M6 and

approximately 3km North of Junction 18. It is bounded to the West by the A530 (King Street) and to the East by the B5081. The nearest village is Byley which is to the East. The site entrance proposed for construction and operation is on King Street at Drakelow Farm. The surrounding area is generally open countryside and land used for farming.

Cheshire's geology means it is one of the few places in the UK where gas can be stored underground and there are a number of existing gas storage facilities already operating in the Holford Brinefield area. The site is immediately adjacent to two existing underground gas storage facilities. The Holford Gas Storage facility, operated by E.ON, was approved by the Secretary of State in 2004 and is now fully operational. The Stublach Gas Storage Project, approved by the local planning authority in 2006, operated by Storengy, is currently being solution mined with the commencement of gas storage having started in the first few cavities.

The site falls within part of INEOS Enterprises' minerals working area known as Holford Brinefield. INEOS Enterprises has planning permission to win and work salt deposits within the area. Some of the proposed underground gas storage cavities are on land that is not owned by INEOS. KGSL is currently in discussions with the landowners concerned.

The site boundary includes proposed new gas storage and processing development, in the Holford Brinefield, and extends northwest to Weston Point in Runcorn and south to Ravenscroft to facilitate connection to and upgrade of existing solution mining, water abstraction and brine discharge infrastructure. Other aspects of development will include two new brine processing tanks on the Lostock Works site, Northwich and the refurbishment of the existing Whitley Pumping Station, Whitley. At Runcorn, the development will involve a new brine outfall pipeline located at the main INEOS ChlorVinyls site. The existing brine pipeline (which runs from the Lostock Brine Purification Plant in Northwich to Runcorn) will continue to be used to transport brine to INEOS' operations in Runcorn. This pipeline will not be used to transport gas.

The site red line boundary and the proposed location of new and existing infrastructure is shown in Appendix 1.

The Project falls within the administrative boundaries of Cheshire West & Chester Council and Halton Borough Council. The Project 'red line' boundary also comes close to the boundary of Cheshire East Council.

### **Underground Gas Storage**

Gas storage helps to keep lights on and homes warm across the UK by providing a secure and flexible source of energy. Over a quarter of the UK's electricity is generated from gas and as a country we rely heavily on imports, meaning a domestic supply is needed to respond to variable demands – for example, more gas is needed during colder, winter months. Forecasts show that gas will remain an important energy source for heating and electricity for UK homes for many decades.

UK Government policy supports the creation of underground gas storage facilities as a means of achieving a secure energy supply. The Energy and Climate Change Committee, which examines the work of government departments, has called for the Government to double the UK's current gas storage by 2020.

### **Planning Process**

The proposed development includes the construction and operation of up to 19 underground caverns with capacity to store up to 500 standard million cubic meters (mcm) of natural gas, having

an import and export capability of up to 34 mcm per day. In accordance with the provisions of the Planning Act 2008 s.17(1) the Project is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project by virtue of the facts that development is to be carried out in England, and the working capacity and maximum flow rate of the Project exceed 43 mcm and 4.5 mcm respectively.

This requires an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, which processes and examines the application before making a recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy who will make the final decision on the application.

Any decision will be made with regard to the relevant National Policy Statement (NPS). The relevant NPSs are EN-1 Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy and EN-4 Gas Supply Infrastructure and Gas and Oil Pipelines. The NPS for Energy states that the UK is highly dependent on natural gas and it will continue to play an important part in the UK's fuel mix for many years to come. It also states that the UK needs a diverse mix of gas storage and supply infrastructure to respond effectively to daily and seasonal changes.

When considering whether to accept an application for examination, the Planning Inspectorate must be satisfied that the applicant has undertaken effective pre-application consultation.

Pre-application consultation is essential in allowing KGSL to understand and take account of the effects of the proposed development and to allow a thorough examination by the Planning Inspectorate. KGSL will be required to submit a Consultation Report with its application for a DCO. This report will include details of the local community feedback received, during non-statutory and statutory stages of consultation, and explain how KGSL has had regard to the feedback received and complied with the consultation requirements of the Planning Act 2008.

Further information on the planning process for NSIPs can be found at <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk>.

The community consultation described in this SoCC will be carried out under Section 47 of the Act. This is in addition to consultation with relevant local authorities, statutory consultees and those with relevant interests in the land (Section 42) and wider publication of the proposals (Section 48), which KGSL plans to run concurrently with the Section 47 consultation.

As required by the Planning Act 2008, KGSL has consulted Cheshire West & Chester Council and Halton Borough Council on a draft of this SoCC and has had regard to their responses. KGSL has also informally consulted Cheshire East Council on this SoCC and has had regard to its responses.

### **Environmental Information**

The Project is EIA development within the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive and will require an EIA to be carried out and an Environmental Statement to be prepared and submitted as part of the DCO application.

Statutory bodies have been consulted on the scope of the EIA. A request for a Scoping Opinion was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in March 2014, accompanied by a Scoping Report. The Planning Inspectorate issued its formal Scoping Opinion on April 2014. All documents are available to view at <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk> and the Project website <http://www.kgsp.co.uk/>.

As part of the statutory pre-application consultation, KGSL will publish a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). The PEIR provides the results of KGSL's preliminary assessments as to the potential environmental effects, both positive and negative, of the construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed development and any measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and,

where possible, offset any significant effects on the environment, such as landscaping. This SoCC sets out how KGSL intends to publicise and consult on the preliminary environmental information.

The PEIR does not set out the final findings, which will be included in the Environmental Statement that will accompany the DCO application.

In addition to providing copies of the PEIR direct to Section 42 consultees, KGSL will provide copies of the PEIR to Cheshire West and Chester Council, Halton Borough Council and Cheshire East Council. The document will also be made publicly available with the other consultation material (see below).

### **Benefits and Potential Effects**

The Project could provide a number of benefits:

- Providing a flexible and secure supply of energy to help keep the lights on in the UK
- Up to 300 construction jobs and 30 operational jobs
- A significant further investment in Cheshire, which can be delivered without subsidies from Government
- Supporting INEOS' businesses at Runcorn by providing brine, which is essential to ongoing operations

Development can result in potential effects on the land and surrounding areas that may require mitigation. An Environmental Impact Assessment will consider potential effects and mitigation options for a range of topics including protected species, noise at nearby receptors and traffic on the local road network.

### **Consultation Scope**

Pre-application consultation is important, as it gives promoters of Projects the opportunity to have regard to feedback and, where possible, address any issues of concern before the application is submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination.

KGSL undertook non-statutory consultation during April-June 2014 on the initial design for the underground gas storage project which included a number of public exhibitions and a stakeholder workshop. Both the local community and statutory consultees were consulted. An Interim Consultation Report detailing this first stage of consultation was published in August and is available to view on the Project website [www.kgsp.co.uk](http://www.kgsp.co.uk).

The feedback received from this non-statutory consultation has helped KGSL to develop the proposals that will be the subject of the statutory consultation outlined in this SoCC.

The principle of whether there should be an underground gas storage facility on this site will be determined by the Secretary of State for Energy following a public examination and a recommendation from PINS. KGSL will note all comments received about the principle of development of this site for an underground gas storage facility and address the need for such a development in the submitted DCO. However, the scope of the pre-application consultation will focus on the overall design of the underground gas storage facility and its effects, both positive and negative, on key stakeholders and the nearby local communities.

Specifically, the scope of the consultation will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- The design and layout of the infrastructure and buildings on the site, including landscaping
- Proposals for road access to the site

- Main and likely environmental effects on surrounding local communities and any proposed mitigation measures considered necessary in relation to a range of topics, including:
  - Traffic
  - Noise
  - Air quality
  - Visual impact
  - Flood risk
  - Ecology
- Maximising socio-economic benefits for the wider area including:
  - Job creation
  - Skills and training
  - Supporting businesses in the area by providing brine, which is essential to ongoing operations
- Safety of underground gas storage

On or before the commencement of the statutory consultation period KGSL will notify the Secretary of State of the Project as application in accordance with section 46. Statutory consultees (section 42) will be consulted on the proposals concurrently with section 47 consultees covered by this SoCC. Publicity requirements under section 48 of the act will also be undertaken at this time.

### Consultation Zones

KGSL will consult with communities, groups and individuals that live in, work or use the area or likely to be affected by the proposed development as well as statutory consultees.

This includes:

- Identified consultation bodies (see Appendix 2)
- Community stakeholders (see Appendix 3)
- Local residents living in proximity to the proposed development
- Local businesses situated in proximity to the proposed development
- The general public and anyone who expresses interest in the proposals.

KGSL has identified potential ‘hard to reach’ groups in the area and plans to use the following techniques to engage them:

Hard to reach group	Engagement Technique
<p><b>Time limited individuals:</b> Cheshire West &amp; Chester Council recognises that the largest of all hard to reach groups in Cheshire is “time limited individuals”. This group includes people in full time employment, professionals or people in employment with families<sup>1</sup>.</p>	<p>Consultation events will be organised for different times of the day, with events in the evening or weekends. A variety of methods are proposed, including newsletters, web-based consultation and stakeholder workshops.</p>
<p><b>Older people:</b> Over 65s are less likely to have access to the internet than younger people and tend to prefer more traditional methods of consultation, such as public exhibitions. However, if mobility is a problem, some older people can find access to events such as public</p>	<p>Public exhibitions will be held in accessible, local venues. KGSL will also offer home visits for those unable to attend public events or provide/fund transport if appropriate. Where requested consultation materials will be supplied in alternative formats – for example with larger</p>

<sup>1</sup> Cheshire West & Chester Council Statement of Community Involvement Update 2013

exhibitions and stakeholder workshops difficult.	text for partially sighted readers.
<b>People with disabilities:</b> Similar issues of mobility and access to information apply to people with disabilities.	Public exhibitions will be held in accessible, local venues. KGSL will also offer home visits for those unable to attend public events or provide/fund transport if appropriate. Where requested consultation materials will be supplied in alternative formats – for example with larger text for partially sighted readers.
<b>Farmers/agricultural workers:</b> Farm owners and tenants can be isolated from nearby communities, working long hours and often on lower than average incomes. This group can be short on time to engage in consultations and a more direct approach is often necessary.	KGSL will invite farmers likely to be affected by the proposal to attend face-to-face meetings.
<b>People on low incomes:</b> This group is less likely to have access to private transport than wealthier residents and are also less likely to be property owners. Planning consultations can often therefore leave people feeling disenfranchised and without access to the information needed to become involved.	The location of public exhibitions is particularly important for this group. As such they will be held in local venues close to residents likely to be affected in order to limit difficulties with transportation.
<b>Young people:</b> Young people (under 25) are likely to be turned off by formal processes. This group does however tend to be more technically adept, with the vast majority being active on social media.	Online consultation can be particularly effective in engaging with young people. The Project website will include an online questionnaire, copies of project materials (e.g. newsletters, exhibition boards etc) and an online enquiry facility. INEOS has previously held site visits for a local school (Lostock Gralam Primary School) and schools close to the site will be informed about the Project and presentations offered.
<b>Transient groups:</b> This group is made up of those who may be temporarily living or working in the area, for example farm staff.	KGSL will issue posters and community newsletters to a wide variety of community venues to raise awareness of the proposal and consultation. This stakeholder group will also be engaged via media coverage, targeted at a wider audience, and online consultation tools. KGSL will also write to all tenant farmers, requesting that information is passed onto staff members.
<b>People who socialise in the area:</b> This group may not be as engaged, given they do not reside permanently in the area.	KGSL will issue posters and community newsletters to community venues and stakeholder groups, in order to inform those not living in the area, but socialising. KGSL will also write to all businesses within Consultation Zone A in order to engage with members of staff who may live outside the area. Engagement with key stakeholders, online consultation tools and the website, alongside advertising in the local media will also aid engagement with this group.



The DCLG guidance on pre-application consultation (January 2013) suggests that in addition to consulting with ‘people in the vicinity of the land’ developers should also consider those areas and communities not directly impacted but who may be affected by the Project, “for example visually, environmentally or through increased traffic flow”. The guidance also encourages developers to “capture the views of those who work in or otherwise use the area, as well as those who live there”.

To account for the fact that there will be some community stakeholders that will be directly impacted by the proposals and others that may have an interest but are not directly impacted, two distinct consultation zones have been defined below.

**Zone A**

The areas within Zone A are those where there is the potential to experience some effects (both positive and negative) from the proposed Project. For example – construction works impacts, traffic impacts and employment opportunities. The consultation will be most intense in Zone A and homes and businesses within this Zone will be contacted by post about the consultation through a newsletter. All public exhibitions will be held in the vicinity of Zone A and advertised through the newsletter and local newspaper. Local community groups and other interested parties will also be informed, including Cheshire West & Chester Council, Halton Borough Council and Cheshire East Council, parish and town councils, local MPs/MEPs and stakeholder groups.

The areas in Zone A include:

Distance	Description	Settlements included
3.5km radius	Radius around the main site at Holford	Lach Dennis, Byley
0.5km	Radius around the two new tanks to be located on the existing Lostock Works site	Lostock Gralam
0.5km	Area within 0.5km of the new outfall pipe to be located at INEOS ChlorVinyls site, Runcorn	Weston Point, Runcorn
0.75km	Radius around the existing Whitley Pumping Station, which is to be refurbished	Whitley

A diagram of Consultation Zone A can be found in Appendices 4-8.

**Zone B**

Zone B has been designed to engage with a wider population who, whilst not directly affected, may have an interest in the Project. KGSL will mainly consult through key stakeholders and representatives of the local community in this Zone. Members of the community will also be able to access information via the website and posters will be used to publicise consultation events.

Consultation Zone B includes areas within the red line area but where no construction is proposed to take place, including the existing brine pipeline between Holford and Runcorn and the existing Ravenscroft water pipe from the edge of Zone A north of Whatcroft to the Lostock Works site.

A diagram of Consultation B zones can be found in Appendix 4.

**Consultation methods**

The following consultation methods will be used to ensure that the local community and stakeholders have an opportunity to find out more and comment on the proposed development.

Public Exhibitions – KGSL will hold public exhibitions during the statutory consultation period where information about the proposals (including this SoCC) will be displayed and members of the project team will be available to answer questions.

Public exhibitions will be held at:

Venue	Date & Time (TBC)
Pavilions, Sandy Lane, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 4EX	
Lach Dennis Village Hall, Holmes Chapel Road, Lach Dennis, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 7SZ	
Byley Village Hall, Moss Lane, Middlewich, Cheshire, CW10 9NG	
Whitley Village Hall, Village Lane, Higher Whitley, Warrington, WA4 4EJ	
Lostock Gramam, Stubbs Lane, Lostock Gramam, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 7PU	

Newsletter – a project newsletter will be used to explain the Project and the planning process and advertise the public exhibitions. The newsletter will be delivered to households and businesses in Zone A (Appendix 4) and the identified stakeholders and elected representatives in Zones A & B (see Appendix 3).

Media and Advertising – details of the proposed development and consultation events will be advertised through the SoCC advertisement in the Northwich, Winsford & Middlewich Guardian; Runcorn & Widnes World and Runcorn & Widnes Weekly News. Press releases will be issued to local media. Posters advertising the consultation and public exhibitions will be placed in appropriate community venues.

Project Website – a dedicated website [www.kgsp.co.uk](http://www.kgsp.co.uk) has been established that provides information on the proposed development (including this SoCC), details of the consultation events and responses to frequently asked questions. The website will continue to be updated as the Project progresses. People will be able to complete a questionnaire or register to receive direct information on the Project via the website.

Stakeholder Workshop – representatives of the local community and local stakeholders will be invited to a stakeholder workshop to discuss the preliminary environmental information as well as potential benefits and issues of the proposed development.

Stakeholder meetings – meetings with relevant stakeholders will be held where the need is identified or meetings are requested.

Consultation Material – consultation materials will be available to provide the local community with information about the proposals, what is being consulted on and how to provide feedback. Summary consultation material will include written copy (Non-Technical Proposal Summary Document, this SoCC, exhibition boards, newsletters, a non-technical PEIR summary, factsheets and feedback form), maps and diagrams where appropriate.

Feedback Mechanisms<sup>2</sup> – KGSL has established a range of feedback mechanisms to ensure all those interested in responding to the consultation are able to provide their views and comments.

- Questionnaire/comment form – to be provided in hard copy at the public exhibitions and available online at the Project website.
- Freepost – write to Freepost RSKS-SBBE-LHHZ, Keuper Gas Storage Project, c/o PPS Group, Hanover House, 30-32 Charlotte Street, Manchester, M1 4FD (no stamp required).
- Freephone – 0800 1777 250 during normal office hours (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm excluding public holidays).
- Email – [info@kgsp.co.uk](mailto:info@kgsp.co.uk)
- Website - [www.kgsp.co.uk](http://www.kgsp.co.uk)

### Access to Consultation Materials

To ensure that this SoCC and the consultation materials (including the Preliminary Environmental Information Report and Non-Technical Proposal Summary Document) are available and accessible to people living and working in the local community, hard copies will be available for inspection throughout the statutory consultation period at the locations listed below:

Venue	Address	Opening hours
Northwich Library	86 Witton St, CW9 5DR	9am – 5pm (Mon-Wed), 9am – 7pm (Thur – Fri), 9am – 1pm (Sat)
Cheshire West & Chester Council	Wyvern House, The Drumber, Winsford, CW7 1AH	8.30am – 5pm (Mon – Fri)
Halton Borough Council	Runcorn Town Hall, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 5TD	8.30am – 5pm (Mon – Fri)
Halton Direct Link	Concourse Level, Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn, WA7 2ES	9am – 5pm (Mon-Wed), 9am – 7pm (Thur – Fri), 9am – 1pm (Sat)

This SoCC will also be issued to stakeholder groups (listed in Appendix 3) and made available at the public exhibitions for inspection.

Alternatively consultation materials can be downloaded from the Project website: [www.kgsp.co.uk](http://www.kgsp.co.uk) at no charge. Hard copies of any project documentation can be purchased on request at a reasonable charge.

All consultation materials, including this SoCC, will be translated into other languages upon request.

### Responding to the Consultation

In line with the Planning Act 2008 requirements, KGSL will carry out its formal consultation period for no less than 28 days beginning on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014.

Responses should be made in writing to any of the contacts mechanisms outlined above or directly by attending an exhibition by no later than the consultation close date of Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

<sup>2</sup> These feedback mechanisms will put you in touch with PPS (Local & Regional) Ltd, who are managing the public consultation programme on behalf of Keuper Gas Storage Ltd.

All issues raised during the statutory consultation period will be taken into consideration in finalising the application, in line with Section 49 of the Planning Act 2008.

A summary of the feedback received and how this has helped to shape and inform the proposals will be reported to the community following the close of the consultation.

A Consultation Report will be submitted as part of the DCO application that will:

- Provide a general description of the consultation process
- Set out how KGSL has complied with the pre-application consultation requirements of the Planning Act 2008 and had regard to its related guidance
- Explain how KGSL has taken into account any response to the consultation with the relevant local authorities about this SoCC
- Summarise the relevant responses to the pre-application consultation that have been received during the non-statutory and statutory consultation stages
- Describe how the responses have been taken into account in the DCO application that is submitted

KGSL will ensure that the local community, key stakeholders and statutory consultees have access to the Consultation Report by placing copies in the locations identified above for displaying consultation material and on the Project website. It will also be available on the Planning Inspectorate's website along with all DCO application documentation submitted by KGSL.

## **Other Consultations**

KGSL will, wherever possible, try to avoid scheduling consultation activities with the same community on the same dates as other consultation events. To date no other consultation activities have been identified which would conflict with the proposed timetable.

## **About this Statement of Community Consultation**

The consultation programme has also been designed in line with a range of guidance:

- 'Planning Act 2008: Guidance on the pre-application process', published by the Department for Communities and Local Government, January 2013
- 'The developer's pre-application duties', Advice Note 16 published by The Planning Inspectorate (PINS), April 2012
- 'Statement of Community Involvement Update 2013', published by Cheshire West and Chester Council in 2013
- 'Statement of Community Involvement', published by Halton Borough Council in September 2013

**Appendices****Appendix 1 – Red Line Boundary**

See attached/enclosed diagram.

**Appendix 2 – Consultation Bodies**

<b>Consultee</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
The Health and Safety Executive	The Health and Safety Executive
The National Health Service Clinical Commissioning Board	NHS England
The relevant clinical commissioning group	NHS Vale Royal CCG NHS Halton CCG
Natural England	Natural England
The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England	English Heritage
The Joint Nature Conservation Committee	The Joint Nature Conservation Committee
The relevant Police and Crime Commissioner	Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire
The relevant Parish Council(s)	Allostock Parish Council Anderton with Marbury Parish Council Aston Parish Council Byley Parish Council Comberbach Parish Council Dutton Parish Council Lach Dennis Parish Council Little Leigh Parish Council Lostock Gralam Parish Council Marston Parish Council Northwich Town Council Preston Brook Parish Council Rudheath Parish Council Sutton Parish Council Whitley Parish Council Wincham Parish Council
The Environment Agency	The Environment Agency
The Maritime and Coastguard Agency	The Maritime and Coastguard Agency
The Marine Management Organisation	The Marine Management Organisation
The Civil Aviation Authority	The Civil Aviation Authority
The Highways Agency	The Highways Agency
The relevant Highways Authority	Halton Borough Council Highways, Transportation and Logistics Department Cheshire West and Chester Highways Department
The Coal Authority	The Coal Authority
The Canal and River Trust	The Canal and River Trust
Public Health England, an executive agency of the Department of Health	Public Health England
The Crown Estate Commissioners	The Crown Estate
The Forestry Commission	Forestry Commission
The Secretary of State for Defence (Ministry of	Ministry of Defence

Defence)	
<b>Relevant Statutory Undertakers</b>	
<b>Health Bodies</b>	
The National Health Service Commissioning Board	NHS England
The relevant Clinical Commissioning Group	NHS Vale Royal CCG NHS Halton CCG
The relevant Local Area Team	NHS Merseyside Area Team NHS Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral Area Team
The relevant NHS Foundation Trusts	Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust East Cheshire NHS Trust Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
<b>Relevant Statutory Undertakers</b>	
Railway (England Only)	Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd Highways Agency Historical Railways Estate
Water Transport	The Canal and River Trust
Canal or Inland Navigation Authorities	The Bridgewater Canal Company Ltd The Canal and River Trust Manchester Ship Canal Company
Harbour	The Port of Weston (Westlink Holdings Ltd) Peel Ports Group (Manchester Ship Canal Company)
Civil Aviation Authority	Civil Aviation Authority
Licence Holder (Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Transport Act 2000)	NATS En-Route (NERL) Safeguarding
Universal Service Provider	Royal Mail Group
The relevant Environment Agency	Environment Agency
The relevant water and sewage undertakers	Dee Valley Water United Utilities
The relevant public gas transporters	British Gas Pipelines Ltd Energetics Gas Ltd ES Pipelines Ltd ESP Connections Ltd ESP Networks Ltd ESP Pipelines Ltd Fulcrum Pipelines Limited GTC Pipelines Limited Independent Pipelines Limited LNG Portable Pipeline Services Limited National Grid Gas PLC National Grid PLC SSE Pipelines Ltd Quadrant Pipelines Ltd Utility Grid Installations Ltd The Gas Transportation Company Ltd INEOS Enterprises Ltd
The relevant electricity licence holder with CPO Powers (electricity generators)	Rocksavage Power Company Ltd E.ON UK PLC
The relevant electricity licence holder with CPO Powers (electricity distributors)	Energetics Electricity Limited ESP Electricity Limited

	Independent Power Networks Limited The Electricity Network Company Limited SP Distribution Limited SP Manweb PLC Utility Assets Limited
The relevant electricity licence holder with CPO Powers (electricity transmitters)	National Grid Electricity Transmission PLC National Grid PLC
<b>Local Authorities</b>	
A county council, or district council, in England	Cheshire West and Chester Council Halton Borough Council Wirral Borough Council Flintshire County Council Wrexham County Borough Council Shropshire Council Cheshire East Council Warrington Borough Council St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council Knowsley Council Liverpool City Council

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## Appendix 3 – Community Consultees

Local Authorities
Cheshire West and Chester Council
Halton Borough Council
Cheshire East Council
Wrexham County Borough Council
Flintshire County Council
Shropshire Council
Wirral Borough Council
Warrington Borough Council
Liverpool City Council
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
Parish Councils
Byley Parish Council
Lach Dennis Parish Council
Lostock Gralam Parish Council
Northwich Town Council
Rudheath Parish Council
Wincham Parish Council
Marston Parish Council
Comberbach Parish Council
Whitley Parish Council
Dutton Parish Council
Preston Brook Parish Council
Sutton Parish Council
Anderton with Marbury Parish Council
Allostock Parish Council
Little Leigh Parish Council
Aston Parish Council
Davenham Parish Council
Middlewich Town Council
Plumley Parish Council
Cranage Parish Council
Sproston Parish Council
Lower Peover Parish Council
Holmes Chapel Parish Council
Goostrey Parish Council
Winsford Parish Council
Bostock Parish Council
Stanthorne Parish Council
Stakeholder Groups
Cheshire Wide
Stakeholder
Cheshire Region Biodiversity Partnership
Cheshire Community Action
CPRE Cheshire
Cheshire Wildlife Trust
Friends of the Earth, North West
Cheshire and Warrington LEP



Liverpool LEP
Halton Chamber of Commerce & Enterprise
Warrington Chamber of Commerce
East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce
West Cheshire and North Wales Chamber of Commerce
Youth Federation
Groundwork Cheshire
Age UK Cheshire
Cheshire Community Development Trust
<b>Northwich Main Site Area</b>
Byley County Primary School
Byley Community Association
Witton Albion Football Club Ltd, Northwich
Northwich Victoria Football Club
University Of Chester Academy, Rudheath
Rudheath Primary Academy
Moulton & District Community Association, Northwich
Northwich Methodist Church
Northwich & District Youth Centre
Safehands Green Start Nursery
Witton Church Walk C of E Primary School
Northwich School Of Music
Mid Cheshire College
St Mary's Catholic Church, Middlewich
Guides Middlewich
Middlewich Cubs & Scouts
Weaver Valley Cycling Club
Middlewich Community Group
Middlewich Clean Team
Middlewich Vision
1 <sup>st</sup> Over St. Johns Scout Group
Middlewich Heritage Society
<b>Runcorn Area</b>
Runcorn Rowing Club
Weston Kids Club
Beechwood West Management Limited
4th Runcorn Scouts
Hope Corner Community Church & Hope Corner Academy
Runcorn Residents Federation
Runcorn Golf Club
Cavendish High School
St Chads Catholic & Church of England High School
The Heath School
Halton and Saint Helens Voluntary Community Action
Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy, Runcorn
Weston Primary School
Weston Point Primary School
Weston Point Pre School
<b>Pipeline between Holford and Runcorn</b>
St Lukes Church
Whitley Village School

Comberbach Pre School, and Primary School
Comberbach Methodist Church
Little Leigh School

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**Appendix 4 – Consultation Zones for KGSP site  
Existing pipeline from Holford to Runcorn**



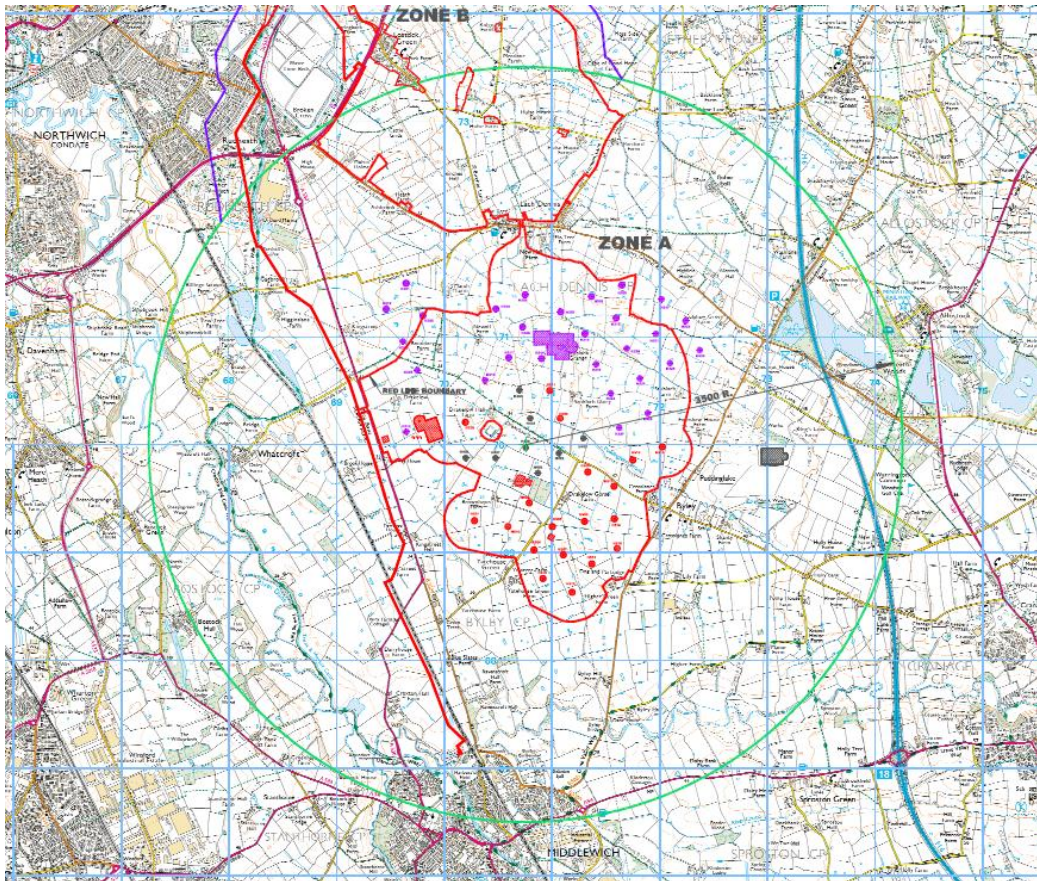
**Key**

- Red line** – KGSP application red line area
- Green line** – Consultation Zone A
- Purple line** – Consultation Zone B
- Purple and Grey spots** – Existing gas storage facilities
- Red spots** – Proposed KGSP gas storage cavities

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Appendix 5 – Consultation Zone A at the main development site at Holford Brinefield



**Key**

**Red line** – KGSP application red line area

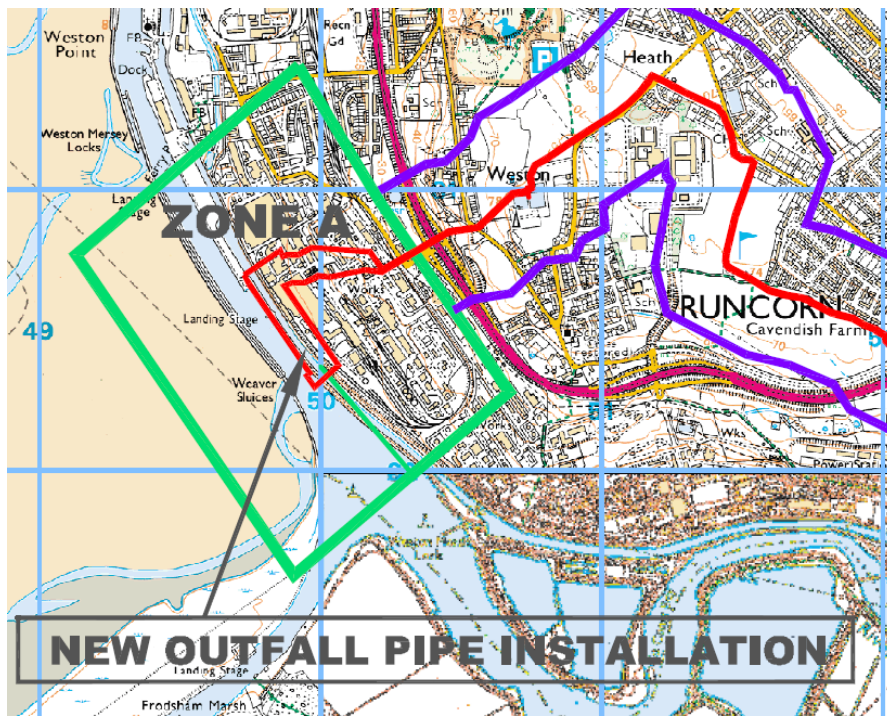
**Green line** – Consultation Zone A

**Purple and Grey spots** – Existing gas storage facilities

**Red spots** – Proposed KGSP gas storage cavities

**Appendix 6 – Consultation Zone A at Runcorn**

**New outfall pipe to be located at INEOS ChlorVinyls site, Runcorn**



**Key**

**Red line** – KGSP application red line area

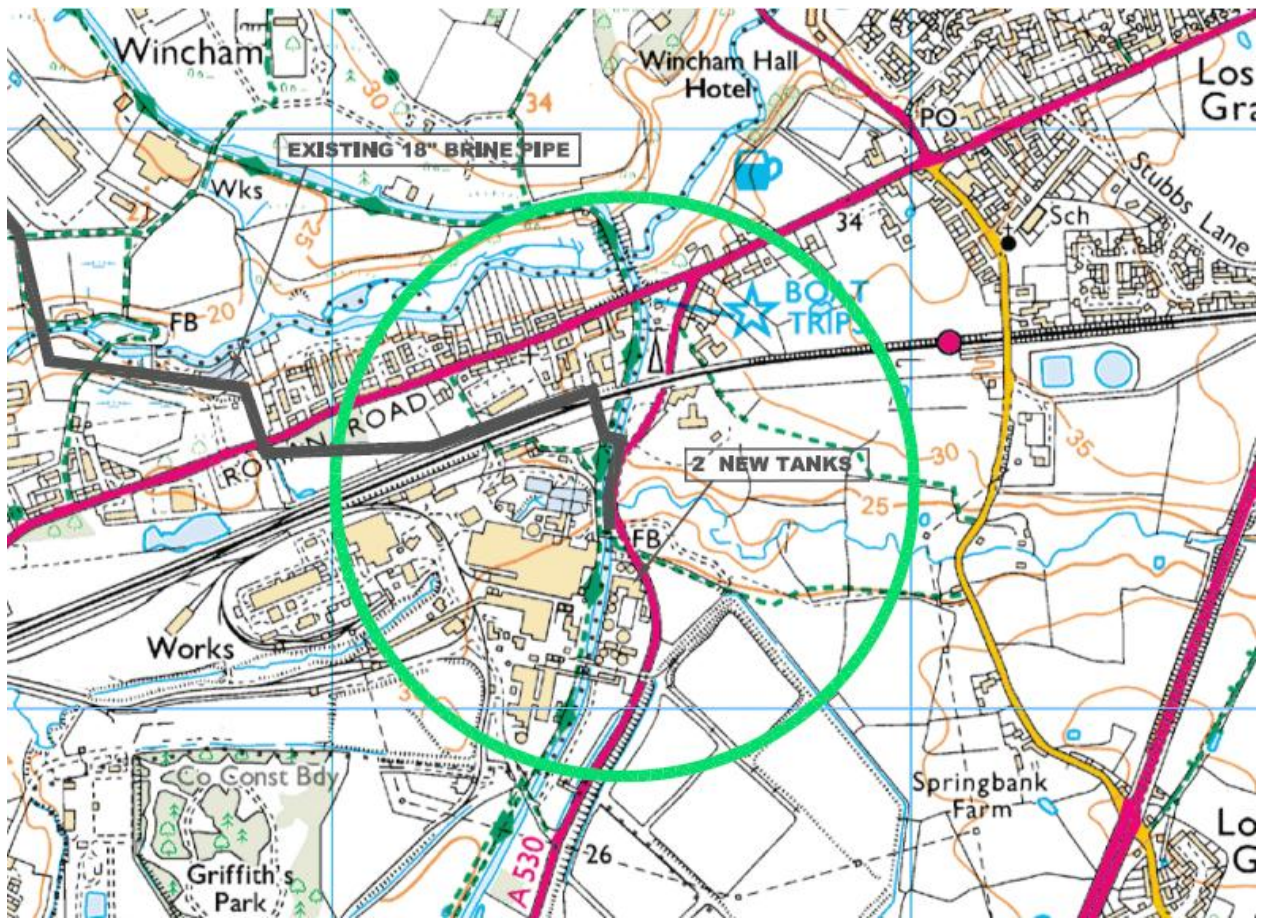
**Green line** – Consultation Zone A

**Purple line** – Consultation Zone B



Appendix 7 – Consultation Zone A at Lostock

Two new tanks to be located on the existing Lostock Works site

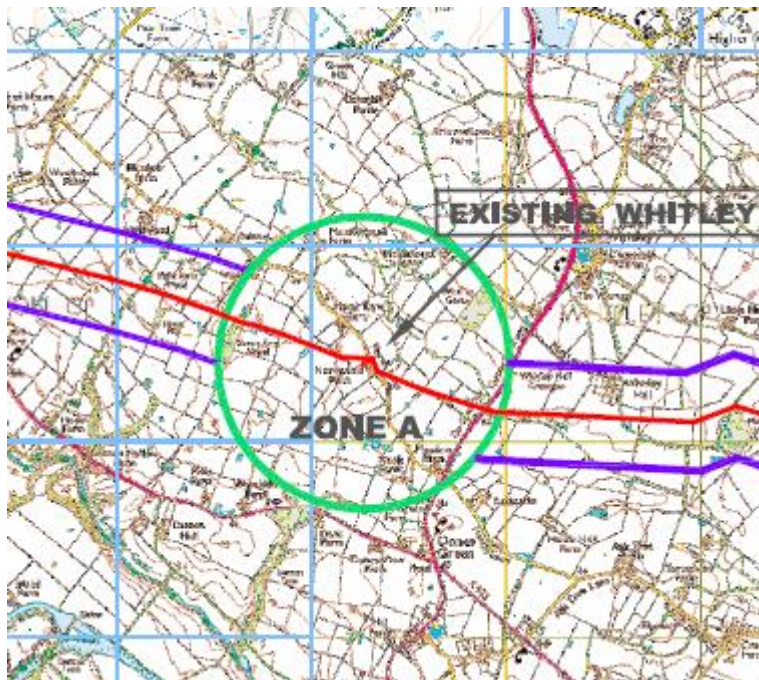


Key

Green line – Consultation Zone A

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**Appendix 8 – Consultation Zone A at Whitley**  
**Existing pumping station to be refurbished**



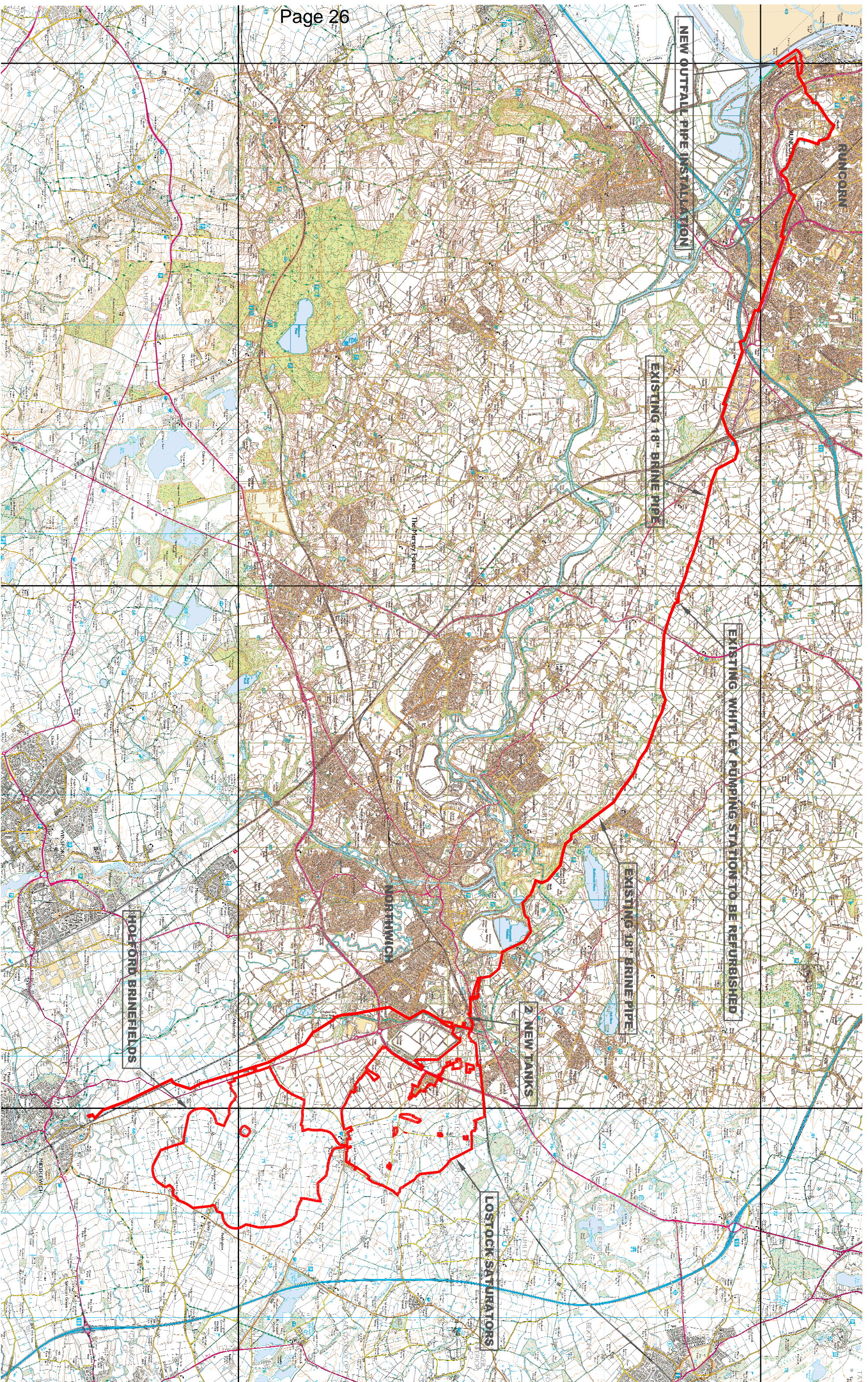
**Key**

**Red line** – KGSP application red line area

**Green line** – Consultation Zone A

**Purple line** – Consultation Zone B





KEUPER GAS STORAGE PROJECT - PLANNING RED LINE BOUNDARY