KEUPER GAS STORAGE PROJECT PUBLIC CONSULTATION NEWSLETTER

To underpin the UK's efforts to help tackle climate change and meet net zero by 2050, Keuper Gas Storage Limited (KGSL) is planning the UK's largest hydrogen storage facility known as the Keuper Gas Storage Project (KGSP) on a site between Lach Dennis and Middlewich in Cheshire.

The plans will see the previously consented KGSP amended to give the option of storing hydrogen rather than natural gas.

INEOS Inovyn

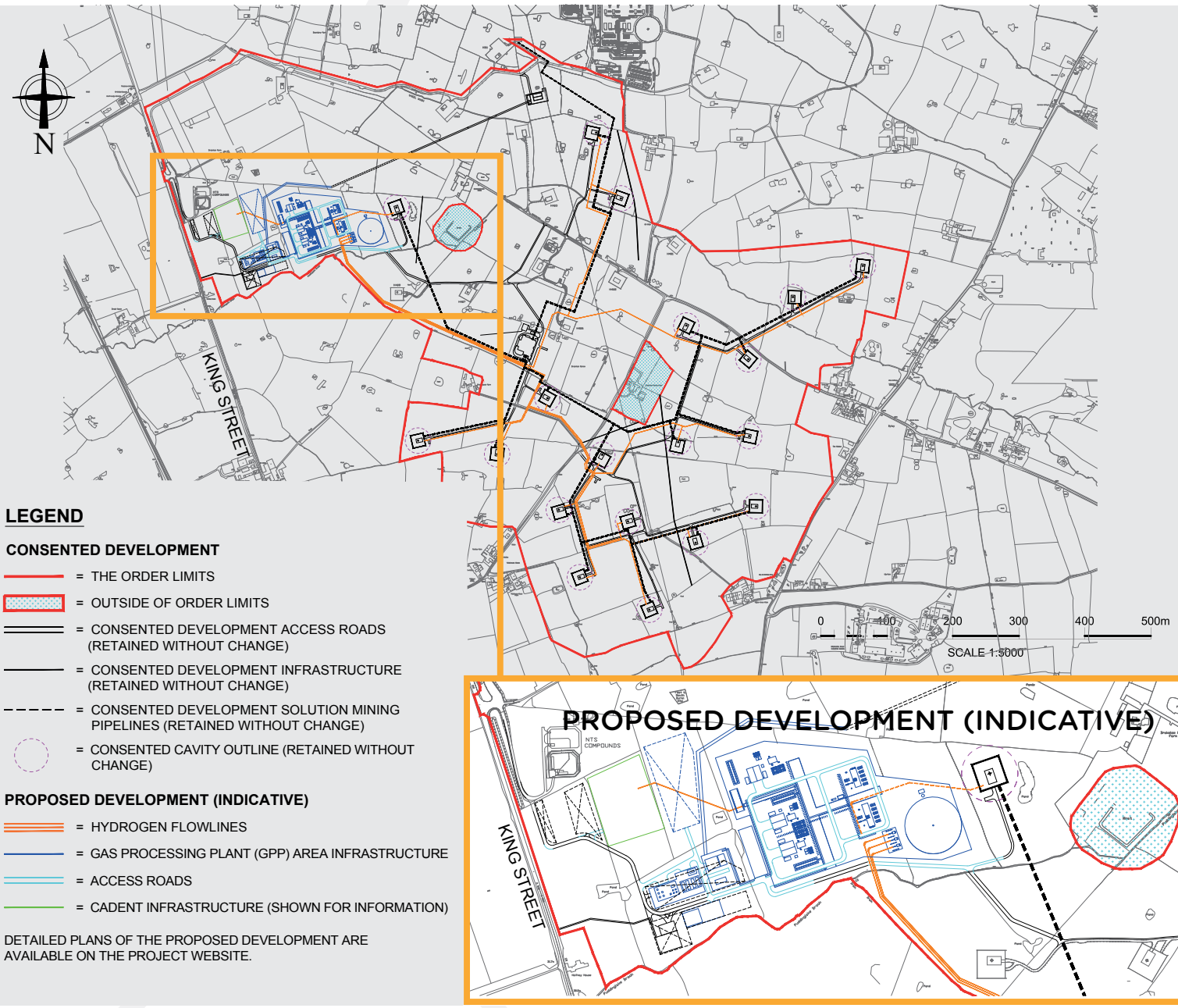
storengy
A company of ENGIE

Interested in the plans and want to find out more?

Public consultation on the changes to the consented KGSP will start on **Thursday 9 October 2025** and run until **Thursday 20 November 2025**.

- Attend our Project Information Event where you can meet members of the project team and ask any questions. De Vere Cranage Estate, Byley Lane, Holmes Chapel, CW4 8EW on **Wednesday 15 October, 3pm - 7pm**
- Attend our online Q&A taking place on **Wednesday 22 October, 6.30pm** (details to register are on our website)
- Visit the project website at **www.kgsp.co.uk** or scan the QR code below

THE PLANS



LEGEND

CONSENTED DEVELOPMENT

- = THE ORDER LIMITS
- = OUTSIDE OF ORDER LIMITS
- = CONSENTED DEVELOPMENT ACCESS ROADS (RETAINED WITHOUT CHANGE)
- = CONSENTED DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE (RETAINED WITHOUT CHANGE)
- = CONSENTED DEVELOPMENT SOLUTION MINING PIPELINES (RETAINED WITHOUT CHANGE)
- = CONSENTED CAVITY OUTLINE (RETAINED WITHOUT CHANGE)

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT (INDICATIVE)

- = HYDROGEN FLOWLINES
- = GAS PROCESSING PLANT (GPP) AREA INFRASTRUCTURE
- = ACCESS ROADS
- = CADENT INFRASTRUCTURE (SHOWN FOR INFORMATION)

DETAILED PLANS OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ARE AVAILABLE ON THE PROJECT WEBSITE.

The KGSP would involve using specially designed underground salt cavities – created through solution mining – to store hydrogen.

Cheshire's geology means it is one of the few places in the UK where hydrogen can be safely stored underground and INOVYN Enterprises has been solution mining the Holford Brinefield to produce brine for over 90 years. The cavities left behind once the brine is mined have been used to safely store gas since the 1980s.

We are proposing a 'Material Change' to the KGSP plans approved in March 2017, to allow the project to store hydrogen rather than natural gas, improve the associated infrastructure and allow connection to the HyNet Hydrogen Pipeline, the regional hydrogen and carbon capture project planned to produce, store and transport hydrogen around the North West and North Wales.

The proposed changes comprise:

- the proposed storage of hydrogen gas rather than natural gas, including consolidation of pipelines;
- changes to the Gas Processing Plant (GPP) area and hydrogen compatible equipment, including a 50m flare instead of a vent;
- moving non-hydrogen equipment to a utility compound adjacent to the GPP;
- the National Transmission System (NTS) for natural gas is being replaced by the Hydrogen Above Ground Infrastructure (HAGI) for connection to the HyNet Hydrogen Pipeline.

If the changes are approved, KGSP will store 1,300 gigawatt hours of hydrogen – more clean energy than any other facility.

WHY HYDROGEN?

Hydrogen is a game-changing source of energy that can be used as both a raw material for industry and as a clean power source for transport, industry, business and electricity generation when the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shining.

The North West is seen as a key location for hydrogen production and carbon capture, due to its natural assets and established, energy intensive industries that need to cut their carbon emissions.

The KGSP will connect to HyNet North West and support the delivery of the project through the storage of hydrogen. HyNet is the regional hydrogen and carbon capture project planned to produce, store and transport hydrogen via Cadent's HyNet North West pipeline around the North West of England and North Wales - helping to decarbonise our industries from the mid-2020s. By 2030, HyNet will reduce carbon dioxide emission by 10 million tonnes every year, the equivalent of taking 4 million cars off the road.

Visit the HyNet website at **www.hynet.co.uk** for more information.

THE PLANNING PROCESS

We are holding a public consultation on the proposed material changes to the Development Consent Order (DCO) consented in 2017 and on a range of updated environmental information.

The original DCO consent states that the cavities will be used to store natural gas. The main change is proposing that hydrogen storage is allowed in the cavities. The location, amount, size and construction method of the 19 cavities is not planned to change.

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION UPDATES

KGSP is engaging with industry experts to provide targeted ecology and environmental surveys in the local area.

Information about the findings are available in our **Preliminary Environmental Information Report or PEIR**. The main topics covered include:

- Geology and Ground Conditions
- Hydrology and Flood Risk
- Air Quality, Noise and Vibration
- Ecology and Nature Conservation
- Landscape and Visual Impact
- Cultural Heritage.

You can view the PEIR at our Project Information Event, view or download from the project website or view in person at the Storengy Stublach Site (Gatehouse), King Street, Northwich, Cheshire. CW9 7SE. Opening hours: Monday to Friday: 9am-4pm. To arrange a viewing, contact the team on kgsp@fontcomms.com or 0800 689 1095.

Other aspects of the project including the site entrance on King Street, wellhead compounds and access roads, and electrical connection infrastructure would remain the same. No changes are proposed at the locations beyond the main Holford Brinefield site at Whitley, Lostock and Runcorn.

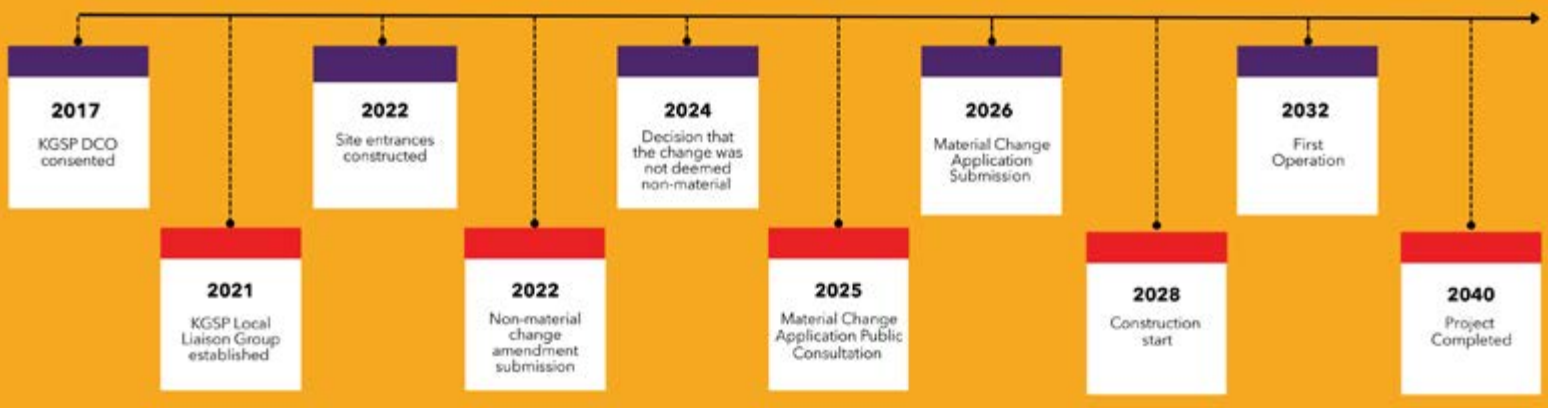
We have already started construction of some of the roads under an approved Construction and Environmental Management Plan, working closely with the Council and statutory regulators to ensure minimal disruption to the local community.

WHAT IS A DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER?

A DCO is a type of planning permission under the Planning Act 2008 for certain large infrastructure projects, called Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) such as major roads, railways, ports, airports, power stations, and wind farms.

WHY IS KGSP A NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT?

KGSP is a NSIP because of the project's importance in helping the UK meet its increasing energy needs. This means that rather than going through the local authority like most planning applications, the material change will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate or PINS who will administer the application before the Secretary of State for the Department of, Energy Security and Net Zero makes the final decision after examination.



WIDER SCHEME BENEFITS

Providing a flexible and secure supply of clean energy to underpin the UK's energy security and transition to net zero emissions.

Provide resilience and flexibility to the HyNet network to support the energy supply to North West manufacturing industries.

Up to 300 construction jobs and 30 operational jobs.

A community benefit fund similar to the funds previously in place for the other existing gas storage projects at the Holford Brinefield, where a total investment of over £400,000 across 10 years of construction, will be available.

ABOUT US

The Keuper Gas Storage Project (KGSP) is being developed in partnership between INEOS Inovyn and Storengy UK. Keuper Gas Storage Limited (KGSL) is the project developer.

Storengy UK is a subsidiary of ENGIE, who developed and now operate the Stublach Natural Gas Storage site in Cheshire. Now fully completed, the scheme is the largest on shore gas storage facility in the country, enhancing the security of supply to the UK gas market. Storengy UK are actively participating in the energy transition and supporting the UK government strategy to reach net zero by 2050 and have set their own carbon neutral target of 2025. For over 5 years Storengy UK have had in place a responsible business board which focuses on how they contribute to the local community and impact the economy. Additionally, Storengy UK sponsor the Green Jobs Expo, supports local projects through Cheshire Community Foundation, and encourages biodiversity on the Stublach site.

INOVYN Enterprises Limited is the landowner and its Brine & Water Business would be responsible for the solution mining of brine to facilitate this proposed development. INEOS has strong ties to the region and employs over 1,000 people in Runcorn and Northwich. The Company produces a range of essential chemicals for use by industry and the public. INEOS, through its subsidiary INOVYN, is already Europe's largest existing operator of electrolysis, the critical technology to produce hydrogen. At our existing site in Runcorn, we've been producing hydrogen gas for more than 125 years.

HAVE YOUR SAY

You can have your say on our plans to amend the existing KGSP consent by:

- Completing the questionnaire sent with this newsletter and returning it back to us in the envelope provided, no stamp required
- Take a look at our website **www.kgsp.co.uk** to fill in the questionnaire or ask a question
- Get in touch using the contact details on the bottom of the newsletter
- Please send us your comments before Thursday 20 November at 23.59pm when consultation closes
- We currently plan to submit an application for the material change to the DCO to the Planning Inspectorate during the Spring of 2026

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A company of ENGIE

GET IN TOUCH

Email: **kgsp@fontcomms.com**

Write to: **Freepost HAVE YOUR SAY**
No further information or stamp required

Visit: **www.kgsp.co.uk**

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

Please scan this QR code to take you directly to our website.