

## **IGas Energy PLC**

### **North Yorkshire County Council Joint Local Plan – Examination**

#### **Inspector note for Springs Road, Misson, Nottinghamshire**

**Site visit 8 February 2019**

**Prepared by IGas Energy PLC 4.2.19**

#### **Planning permission 1/15//01498/CDM**

*'To develop a hydrocarbon wellsite and drill up to two exploratory hydrocarbon wells (one vertical and one horizontally) by use of a drilling rig together with associated ancillary works. The proposed development will be carried out in four phases: Phase 1 – well site construction; Phase 2 – drilling of up to two exploratory wells for hydrocarbons including potential shale gas (the first one vertical and the second one horizontal); Phase 3 – suspension of the wells and assessment of drilling results; Phase 4 – site decommissioning, well abandonment and restoration'.*

**Granted:** 24 May 2017 subject to 37 conditions. Time limited to 3 years from date of commencement. Development commenced 20.11.17. Phase 2 is currently being carried out.

**Section 106 Planning Agreement:** vehicle routing; driver code of conduct; site restoration bond; establishment of a community liaison committee.

**Site:** A former military 'Surface to Air Guided Weapon' facility located within a former military complex now used by a private company specialising in the storage and sale of ex-military vehicles and equipment.

**Surroundings:** Rural; surrounded by a mix of agricultural land and woodland copses in a flat landscape. Nearest settlement is a village 3,2km away. Nearest residential properties 130 and 268m away from the site boundary. Nearest area of ecological interest, Mission Training Area SSS1 – 125m.

**Main impacts:** Traffic; landscape; noise; ecology.

**Traffic:** Site served by a 'c' class road approximately 1 mile from the B1396. Impacts of traffic addressed by planning conditions and a traffic management agreement through a Section 106 Agreement. Conditions 9, 10, 11 and 12 control vehicle movements.

**Landscape:** Site is part of a former military complex partially screened from the surrounding area by an operational 6m to 9m high dark green acoustic wall, existing warehouses and woodland copses. Main visual impact is associated with traffic movements, lighting and height of rig. The road network has been found acceptable to accommodate the proposed levels of traffic; lighting is controlled by condition 13; drilling is restricted to a period of 9 months (condition 7). The rig is controlled by condition 8; the application did not identify a specific rig height but undertook noise and visual assessments on a worst-case basis at 60m high. Details of the rig were required to be submitted for approval prior to the commencement of Phase 2. Details

were submitted for a 30m high rig and approved by the council on 24.7.18. The rig is located in the centre of the site.

**Noise:** Nearest sensitive receptors to the boundary of the site: Residential properties 130m and 268m; 170m and 242m respectively to the operational areas of the site. SSSI, 125m.

Noise is controlled by conditions 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20

Noise condition value:     Day   55dB Laeq (1 hour)  
                                      Night 42dB Laeq (1 hour)

Noise limits set out in conditions have been complied with for Phases 1 and 2 to-date.

**Ecology:** Nearest ecological receptor: Mission Training Area SSSI – 125m. Status is primarily for birds and in particular Long Eared Owls.

Conditions 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26 control ecology. Condition 21 prevents Phase 1 (construction) and Phase 4 (restoration) operations being carried out during the bird-breeding season *‘to ensure breeding birds, particularly Long Eared Owl are not adversely affected by the development’* unless otherwise agreed in writing with the council.

Phases 1 and 2 of the development have been carried out in accordance with the requirements of the planning conditions. IGas satisfactorily demonstrated to the council that noise was not having an adverse impact on breeding birds in the SSSI and agreed to Phase 1 works (construction) being continued into the bird-breeding season.