

Date of Inspection: 5 August 2020
Site Name: Springs Road No 2
Site Code: 1136/M
District Council: Bassetlaw
Development: Exploratory wellsite
Operator: Island Gas limited
Present: John Cranham & Tim Turner - NCC
IGas

Visit to the site as part of a routine monitoring programme to check compliance with the Conditions attached to the planning permission and legal agreement. The last inspection was carried out on 5 February 2020. The site entered the Evaluation Phase on the 1/5/2019 and remains in this Phase.

The weather conditions at the time of the visit were bright sunshine with a temperature of 20°C and a light westerly breeze.

Planning Permissions relevant to the site

The site is subject to two planning permissions, **Planning Permission 1/15/01498/CDM** dated 24 May 2017 for the drilling of up to two exploratory wells and **Planning Permission 1/15/01034/CDM** dated 20 January 2016 for the installation of groundwater monitoring boreholes.

Planning Permission 1/15/01498/CDM dated 24 May 2017 and accompanying S106 Agreement in terms of exploratory drilling. The following changes to the permission have been granted or permitted development works approved -

NMA/3785 – approved on the 19 December 2017 and revised the drill pad construction profile over the hardcore surface of the former missile pad and also allows the erection of temporary 1m high orange fencing pending erection of hoarding on completion of well pad (the hoarding is now complete).

NMA/3792 – approved on the 21 January 2018 and revised the location of the hoarding fencing, cabins, offices and parking. NB to be read in conjunction with approval letter and a separate request for prior approval of additional cabins proposed under GPDO Part17B.

PN3808 - on 12 February 2018 approval was given under Part 17 Class B of the GPDO for the provision of additional cabins and units associated with the on-going development and as detailed on plan Drawing 9 Rev C received 7 February 2018. (This is part implemented).

PN3893 – on 24 September 2018 an approval was given under Part 17 Class B of the GPDO for the additional of further cabin for office use in association with the HH220 drill rig layout. (Yet to be implemented)

NMA/3981 – approved on the 14 May 2019 for the retention of parking area; retention of viewing platform; retention of shipping containers; and use of shipping Containers as detailed on 'Drawing Number 11 Rev G – Indicative Site Layout – Phase 2' dated 5 March 2019, and 'Drawing Number 30 – Indicative Evaluation Layout' dated 8 February 2019.

NMA/4076 – approved on the 6 December 2019 to amend drainage details approved under Condition 35 of the planning permission to provide for draining of clean water directly from the site.

The groundwater monitoring boreholes were installed subject to **Planning Permission 1/15/01034/CDM** which is for a temporary period which expiring five

years after the commencement of the development, and should be removed by 27 January 2021.

Complaints and Concerns Raised

The last inspection of the site was undertaken on the 5 February 2020 since which time the MPA has not received any complaints. However during this same period the MPA has received a number of enquires as to the current status of the site.

Review of development site

The site layout remains unchanged with the protective container over the well cellar preventing surface water entering it along with the container wall around the well pad. A security cabin remains at the start of the access road along with a site cabin to the west of the well pad area along with a green secure storage container and two large black liquid storage tanks. The housing for the generators during drilling operations remains in the south east corner of the well pad along with equipment removed from Tinker Lane along with drill rods and the noise abatement structure for the drill rig. The five containers removed from the top level of the eastern container wall remain on the well pad storing valuable and sensitive equipment that needs to be protected from adverse weather conditions.

The site has remained in the Evaluation Phase since the last inspection with regular checks taking place of the well cellar and the pressure within the borehole.

Planning Permission 1/15/01498/CDM - Dated 24 May 2017

A review of the planning conditions was undertaken and those relevant discussed:-

Condition 2 (f) – Notification of the commencement of the Evaluation, Phase 3, of the vertical well was received on the 1 May 2019.

Condition 2 (g) – IGas were reminded that the MPA shall be notified in writing at least 7 days, but not more than 14 days, prior to the completion of Phase 3, Evaluation.

Action – NCC to remind IGas of requirements of this Condition

Condition 3 (j) & (o) – The layout of the site remains unchanged from the last inspection with the container covering the well cellar.

Condition 4 – The operator was reminded that the permission is for a temporary period only expiring three years following the date of commencement, as notified under Condition 2 a) above, by the 20/11/2020.

Action – NCC to remind IGas of requirements of this Condition

Condition 5 – The operator was reminded that on or before the expiration of the temporary period, as detailed in Condition 4 above, all construction, drilling or evaluation works authorised by this permission shall cease. Thereafter the site shall be cleared of all plant, buildings, machinery and equipment within one month of the cessation of use. The site shall be restored to its original state as shown on Drawing 18 titled 'Proposed Site Layout – Phase 4' – received by the MPA on 28 October 2015

Action – NCC to remind IGas of requirements of this Condition

Condition 6 – The site remains in Phase 3 - Evaluation Phase.

Condition 16 – Noise monitoring has been suspended during the Evaluation Phase with no operational activity currently at the site.

Condition 19 (d) – Noise monitoring has been suspended during the Evaluation Phase with no operational activity currently at the site.

Condition 25 – Air quality monitoring has been suspended during the Evaluation Phase with no operational activity currently at the site.

Condition 26 – Reptile habitat (refuge/brush piles) remain in place around the boundary of the site along with the artificial hibernacula compost boxes. The compost boxes were in need of topping up.

Action – NCC to raise this with IGas

Condition 35 – The surface water drainage management remains in accordance with the Non Material Amendment Ref NMA/4076 approved on the 6 December 2019.

Clean water is pumped from the surface water tank over the eastern bund wall of the well pad onto the concrete surface before the container wall. It then drains under the container wall and onto the adjoining grass and on via the existing silt fence towards the tree line along the eastern boundary of the missile site.

Section 106 – dated 24 May 2017

Second Schedule - Dilapidation Survey

IGas was reminded that on the anniversary of the baseline survey of the Nottinghamshire roads they shall carry out and submit to NCC a dilapidation survey.

Action – NCC to remind IGas of this requirement

Fourth Schedule - Community Liaison Committee

The Community Liaison Committee last met on the 11 April 2019. It was agreed not to meet again until there was something to report.

Fifth Schedule – Off Site Water Monitoring Scheme

IGas was reminded that the approved monitoring scheme requires, see Section 5.1.4 of the submission under the Fifth Schedule of the Section 106 relating to Planning Permission 1/15/01498/CDM received by the MPA on the 2/10/2017 and approved on the 3/11/2017, an annual monitoring and an analysis of the results to be submitted to the Council during January of each year of the Development. The report for 2019, due in January 2020 remains to be submitted.

Action – NCC to remind IGas of this requirement

Planning Permission 1/15/01034/CDM – Dated 20 January 2016

Condition 6 – IGas were reminded that the development is for a temporary period only, expiring five years after the commencement of development as notified under Condition 2, by the 27/1/2021.

Action – NCC to remind IGas of this requirement

Condition 7 – IGas were reminded that upon the expiry of the temporary period the boreholes shall be abandoned in accordance with the appropriate guidance at the time and the sites shall be restored to their original conditions as detailed on Drawing Ref: I2 titled 'Phase 1 Habitat Map' – received by the MPA on 18 September 2015.

Action – NCC to remind IGas of this requirement

Site Inspection

The inspection commenced from the entrance off Springs Road which was clean and tidy. The grass verge of the bell mouth was supporting a well-established grass sward which had recently been mown. The verges of Springs Road also continue to support a well-established grass sward. The concrete access road into the site was clean and tidy with the security hut remaining at the side.

Grass verge on Springs Road



The additional car parking area surfaced with limestone through the second gates remains unchanged. The small soil bund along the back of the parking area was supporting considerable weed development. The silt fencing remains in place on the grass area behind the bund along with the brush pile forming a reptile habitat although these were not easy to distinguish due to the vegetation growth that has taken place over the past few months.

In the well pad area the container wall remains around the pad with five containers having been removed from the second level and placed in the north east and south east corners of the pad for use in storing valuable and sensitive equipment. The blue container remains over the well cellar along with the housing for the generators used during drilling operations in the south east corner. In the north west corner remains stacked equipment and fencing panels which continue along the northern section of the pad. Further equipment is stacked around the south west corner of the pad along with drill rods along the western boundary. The portacabin and small container along with two black storage tanks remain on the concrete missile pad west of the well pad.

Container over Well Cellar



Portacabin



The surface water tank with a submersible pump remains mid-way along the eastern boundary of the well pad. The submersible pump continues to discharge the clean surface water collected in the tank over the bund wall of the well pad onto the exposed concrete of the missile pad between the well pad and the western container wall. The water then drains under the container wall, over the adjoining grass and then via the existing silt fence into the wooded area beyond.

The inspection then continued through the security hording fencing on the outside of the southern section of the container wall on through the secondary security heras fencing and over the small footbridge crossing the open drainage channel that runs along the eastern boundary of the missile site to the original site boundary 6' concrete post and weld mesh fencing and the view over the open field to the Misson Training Area SSSI. The silt trap fencing remains between the herras security fencing and the line of trees on the boundary of the missile site. The grass in the area is high and obscuring the silt trap fencing as well as the artificial hibernacula compost boxes.

The inspection concluded by returning back to the well pad and along the access road to the entrance on to Springs Road.

FURTHER ACTION

Letter to IGas confirming the points raised.

Re-visit at end of October.