

PLANNING ACT 2008 (as amended)

INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE)
RULES 2010

Rule 17 - Deadline 4 Response

SUBJECT: Viking CCS Pipeline

APPLICANT: Chrysaor Production (UK) Limited

INTERESTED PARTY:

**NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE
COUNCIL**

Interested Party Reference number: 20047168

YOUR REF: EN070008

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Following the Issue Specific Hearings 2 and 3 held on Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th July 2024, the ExA has requested the following actions points to be addressed by North East Lincolnshire Council.

The Council's response is below including the questions raised by the ExA, provided for clarity.

Action Point 8 following ISH2;

To review the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP), with a view to checking whether such documents do satisfactorily secure biodiversity net gain to the extent that a separate requirement in the DCO is not required.

This has been reviewed by the Ecology Officer and the following response has been provided on this matter.

The CEMP and OLEMP do not show measurable gains although 6.8 Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan does show landscape plans with species lists and sets out appropriate management, including methods and timelines, of created habitats, such as the grasslands and hedgerows, and a monitoring programme. It states within the CEMP that a 10% net gain in biodiversity will be achieved which would require numerical values to be applied and that isn't present in these documents or others that I can see. The habitats present along the route have been mapped using Phase One which should be converted to the UKHab mapping system, and the Statutory Metric used to calculate baseline and post-construction biodiversity values as that capability now exists. That would provide the evidence that a gain and a 10% gain had been achieved or not which currently can't be ascertained from these documents. The Plan also states that where habitats are impacted, they will be returned to, at minimum, the same state and condition as they were pre-works. If it stated that an improvement in habitat type or condition would be applied post-construction, it would suggest there would likely be a gain in biodiversity but still unmeasured.

Action Point 10 following ISH3;

A meeting has taken place between the Council's ecologist and the Applicant so providing an update of any outstanding concerns.

This has been reviewed by the Ecology Officer and the following response has been provided on this matter.

I had concerns that blow wells along the proposed route had not been identified and were at risk of being impacted. Blow wells are a type of natural spring specific to the North and North East Lincolnshire area because of the coastal geology and therefore certainly have local significance and arguable regional and national significance as they don't occur elsewhere.

I accompanied the aquatic ecological consultant on the survey assessment of the identified potential blow wells that could possibly be impacted by the works. The consultant and I both concluded that the water bodies were blow wells, all had different characteristics such as depth, water permanency, vegetation type and coverage, both within and surrounding. The site at [TA 18846 09364](#) also had an

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active badger set at the time of the visit. I recommended a 10-metre impact buffer zone around each blow well feature and potential improvement works could contribute to biodiversity gain, although the applicant isn't the landowner, and agreements would have to be put in place. The badger sett would need separate mitigation and licence if works were to take place within 30 meters.

I have also been in contact with Natural England over concerns with the great crested newt (GCN) District Level Licensing (DLL) approach having not seen the licence conditions, and supplied them with information regarding GCN surveys, known breeding ponds and mitigation ponds, and my considerations that Ashby-cum-Fenby and surrounding area is significant for populations of GCN.

As we are not currently part of the DLL scheme, I would appreciate knowing where the mitigation ponds will be created and therefore future breeding populations of GCN will be and likely traversing to avoid breaches in legislation, if that information could be submitted to me, please.

Other Matters;

Some further comments have been made by the Highways Officer following the ISH3 Hearing and reference to the revised Transport Assessment. This comment is as follows.

Further to the email below I would like to see some further assessment from the revised TA provided. As it stands, during the peak traffic month (June 2026) they are showing an increase as follows:

7-8am 48 two way trips previously and 76 two way from the revision

8-9am 48 two way trips previously and 72 two way from the revision

4-5pm 48 two way trips previously and 68 two way from the revision

5-6pm 48 two way trips previously and 68 two way from the revision

Given these sits within the network peaks I would like to ensure there will be no impact on the surrounding junctions as a result of this. I would therefore request that the applicants look at any junction that will be impacted by more than 30+ two-way trips and assess as appropriate.

I would also highlight that within the change request received there was no mention that the TA had been updated and it was only brought to the attention of the Highway Authority at the hearing last week. I would have expected this to be communicated to us prior to this.

In terms of the removal of a couple of the proposed accesses, the Highway Authority welcomes this.

In regard to the Highway Authorities outstanding concerns on some of the access points proposed, we have been informed by the applicants that revised plans, road safety audits and traffic management proposals will be submitted to us within the next two weeks. I must stress that the Highway Authority still have significant concerns with these at this time.



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Conclusion;

In conclusion, North East Lincolnshire Council can confirm that these specific matters are still outstanding and welcome further liaison with the applicant to resolve these issues.