

Your questions answered

We understand that any kind of development close to your home or business can be worrying and that you will have lots of questions about how it might impact on you and your property.

We've answered a few questions that were raised at the Parish Council meeting here but please feel free to talk to any member of staff here today or you can email us on info@europaoil.com and we'll get back to you.

Q. We are supposed to be heading toward Net Zero.

The plans for Cloughton are in line with the UK Government's commitments for Net Zero by 2050. Even under Net Zero plans the UK will require natural gas up to and possibly beyond 2050 under Government-supported Carbon Capture and Hydrogen use scenarios. Domestic production is better for the environment than imported gas.

Q. How are the implications considered at wider (not local) level?

This development is being considered at national level and as part of the Government's Net Zero commitment.

Q. What effect could the proposed development have on water supply in the immediate area?

The impact on the hydrology of the local area including shallow water boreholes and springs will be examined by an independent third party as part of the planning process. This report will be publicly available. In particular with respect to the well there will be a further independent third party study addressing the design of the well and the proppant squeeze and any potential impact on any subsurface aquifers both shallow and at depth. This report will be publicly available. These concerns as well as others relating to well design and the proppant squeeze will be regulated by the EA (Environment Agency), HSE (Health and Safety Executive), NSTA (North Sea Transition Authority) authority and a government regulated Independent Well Examiner. There will be no effect on the local mains water supply as water used at site (other than drinking water) will come in via tanker.

Q. What happens to the water used or produced on site?

All water used on site (even rainwater run-off) will be collected and stored in tanks and then transported by a licensed operator to a wastewater disposal site for processing.

Q. What about air quality?

There may be some dust emissions during the construction phase of the development, but this will be mitigated as much as possible with damping especially in dry conditions. However, the site is located around 300m from the nearest residential property. The Environment Agency licensing permit and monitoring will ensure that there will be no release of hydrocarbon gas or odorous gases into the atmosphere.

Q. Who would pay for the archaeology assessment and who do they submit their findings to, is this private information?

An independent third party is commissioned to do archaeology assessment as part of the planning process. The information will be made public for comment.

Q. Will the lorries transporting the rig fit through the village?

All vehicles used, except the drilling rig mast transport, are road-standard and therefore will fit comfortably on the local road network. The favoured route will be into Burniston from the south on the Scalby Road so completely avoiding the village high street. The rig mast transport will be approximately 3.17m wide and, while it will fit comfortably on the road network from the south to the village, will require a wide load escort and will most likely be routed up the A165 and therefore totally avoid the village.

Q. Where do we find details of access route and details of HGV movements?

Details of access routes, HGV movement, rig movement and the number of vehicles per day will be part of the planning application and we are sharing these details at meetings and online ahead of planning for commentary. You can find a board on this subject here.

Q. Nearby cliffs are very delicate and could be de-stabilised or eroded. Local scientific sites are important.

Natural England has been consulted under their Discretionary Advice Service (DAS). Natural England considers that there would be no risk to the cliffs becoming de-stabilised or any other significant adverse impacts on the cliffs or SSSI area from this application.

The well pad will be more than 1km from the cliffs and the bottom hole location (the base of the well) would be more than 2km from the cliffs.

The planning application will consider landscape effects including any impact on the Heritage Coast and National Park along with noise and light pollution with respect to residents as well as air quality. It should be noted that the site has been specifically chosen on the advice of the National Park Authority.

Q. Will there be flaring of gas produced at the site?

It will involve some temporary flaring, none of which will be visible, even at night, from the village as the flare will be safely enclosed (shrouded) which prevents light pollution.

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