Europa's plans for appraisal drilling in Burniston

This application is for construction of the wellpad, appraisal drilling and site restoration only, on a site at Burniston Mill. The site would be accessed from the existing access off Coastal Road which serves a number of industrial and storage units.

The application covers the following activities:

Phase one: Site construction (around seven weeks in duration)

The topsoil on the site would be removed and stored in earth bunds along the perimeter of the site. A perimeter fence would be erected around the wellsite and access track and a secure security gate installed immediately to the north of the existing solar array.

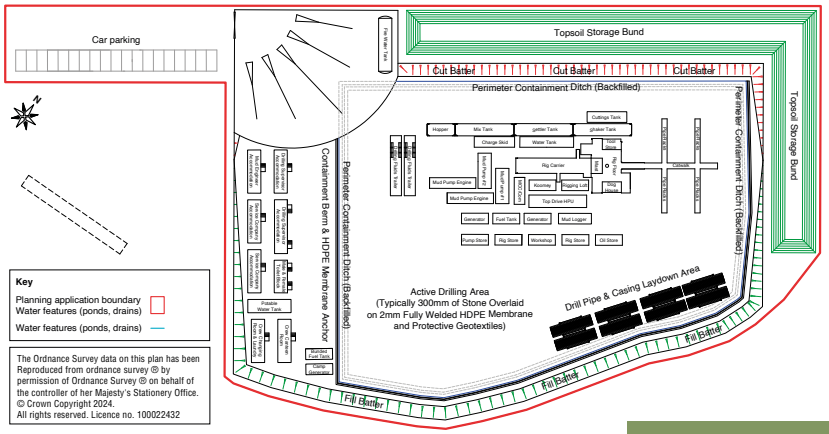
A perimeter containment ditch would be constructed around the site and a high-density polyethylene (HDPE) membrane would be installed across the entire site to provide a protective layer. This protective layer prevents any liquids from entering the soil or groundwater. The membrane will be overlain with a further 300mm of stone.

Phase two: Drilling operations (seven weeks – one week for rig mobilisation, five weeks for drilling and one week for demobilisation)

The rig would be brought to site and erected. It would have a maximum working height of 30m.

Additional drilling equipment would be brought to site and six security and welfare cabins will be installed on the southern part of the wellsite, along with a fire water tank and bunded fuel tank. Approximately 10 car parking spaces will be included.

Once the site is ready, one deviated borehole would be drilled from the site in a south-westerly direction, to a depth of 3,000m below the surface, in the direction of Scalby, approximately 1.8 km from the well pad.



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Site layout

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Europa's plans for appraisal drilling in Burniston (continued)

Phase three: Proppant squeeze and flow testing (Up to 17 weeks. One week of testing, one week for the proppant squeeze and 15 weeks flow testing)

In order to determine the potential reserves of gas, it will be necessary to test the well. This is expected to take up to 17 weeks comprising an initial testing of a week, followed by the proppant squeeze operation lasting around one week, and then possible further flow testing for up to fifteen weeks.

Phase four: Well decommissioning, site restoration and aftercare (six weeks)

Following the end of phase three (assuming an unsuccessful outcome), the site would be restored to its former condition, in this case agricultural use. The well would be plugged, hydrostatically tested and sealed following a programme approved by the Health and Safety Executive, the Environment Agency and the North Sea Transition Authority (which regulates the oil and gas industry).

All equipment, infrastructure, membranes, aggregate and facilities will be removed. The soil stored in the bunds will be tested and used to level the site ensuring compatibility with the surrounding land quality.

If the appraisal well testing is successful then we may decide to apply for a production licence. Any application for gas production would be subject to a separate planning application. This is likely to be at least two years away.



Decommissioned sites are returned to their former use which is often agricultural

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