EUROPA
Oil & Gas

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Application for Appraisal Drilling

Burniston Mill site, Burniston, Scarborough

Prepared by Rachel Smith

Clarence Communications

January 2025

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1.0 Executive summary

This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sits alongside and supports the planning application for appraisal drilling at the Burniston Mill site, Burniston, Scarborough. This document therefore forms part of the formal planning submission for that application.

The proposed scheme can be summarised as: *Proposed temporary planning permission for the construction and operation of a drilling rig for the appraisal of subsurface hydrocarbons, testing well and retention of the equipment.*

This document outlines the activity undertaken within the application area to engage communities and stakeholders and to inform them of plans for the site.

Europa Oil and Gas, and their community engagement consultant Clarence Communications, employed a variety of strategies leading up to and following the drop-in event in September 2024 to ensure extensive involvement with the local community and interested stakeholders.

The following table provides a brief overview of this activity.

Consultation activity	
Leaflet distribution	Leaflet posted by Royal Mail to 767 properties - 22 business and 745 residential
Posters	Posters outlining the consultation and including details of the drop-in event, were posted in various locations through the consultation area.
Briefing email with leaflet	An email outlining the plans was sent, along with the project leaflet, to the following: • Burniston Parish Council clerk • Parish Council chairman • North Yorkshire Council (NYC) leader and ward councillor • NYC officers for highways, planning, landscape, growth and heritage • North York Moors National Park • Heritage Coast management team • Natural England • Environment Agency The email offered a briefing meeting and invited recipients to the drop-in session.
Letter outlining the plans	A letter was sent to the MP for Scarborough and Whitby, Alison Hume, and followed up with three further emails offering a briefing meeting to explain the project. Other MPs in the area were also alerted.
Meetings	Online and face-to-face meetings were held with the following organisations to further explain the plans: • NYC planning and environmental health officers • Local Ward councillor • Burniston PC chair

Media	Media briefing were held with the following news outlets both before, during and following the drop-in session: • BBC news • Drill or Drop • ITV News • This is the Coast • York Press • Yorkshire Post • Scarborough News • That's TV North Yorkshire
Event	A drop-in session, was held at the Burniston and Cloughton Village Hall on 26th September 2024 between 1pm and 6pm. Exhibition banners outlining the plans were on display and members of the project team were on hand to answer questions.
Project web page	All exhibition panels were posted on a dedicated web page where interested members of the public were directed for further information and to revisit the plans. All visitors to the website were invited to complete a project feedback sheet on the online portal.
Dedicated email address	Alongside all materials, including the invitation letter, emails and exhibition brochure, a dedicated consultation email address was included to enable local people and key stakeholders to make contact.
Follow up emails	Follow up emails and correspondence were sent to any respondent to the consultation who asked specific questions or required clarity on certain aspects. These also opened up email lines of communication for further feedback and meetings where required.
Additional mail out	A second mail out was sent via Royal Mail to all households and businesses in Burniston after the drop-in event.
Follow-up meetings	A number of follow-up meetings were held with key landowners and interested stakeholders following the consultation.
Site tour	A site tour of a producing oil site at Wressle near Scunthorpe was facilitated for Burniston councillors.

The remainder of this document explains in more detail what consultation activities have taken place and the feedback from local people.

2.0 Background and overview

A comprehensive public engagement and consultation programme has been prepared on behalf of Europa Oil and Gas around plans seeking planning permission for appraisal drilling at land off Burniston Mill, Coastal Road, in Burniston (see map below).

The programme was designed to be public-facing and engage with those people local to the site and those who may be potentially impacted by the proposed development. It also sought to engage local politicians and officers in public bodies with an interest in the local area.

The Cloughton gas reservoir was discovered in 1986, and Europa has been a licence holder since 2014. With the governing body, the North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA), supportive of potential development at Cloughton, Europa became the licence operator in July 2023.

Appraisal drilling is required to understand and evaluate if the discovered gas in place within the Cloughton Gas Field can be produced at commercially viable rates from the Carboniferous sandstones.



This SCI outlines, in detail, the consultation activity that took place in the surrounding area in September and October 2024 and further communication thereafter. This demonstrates that the level of consultation accords with both NYC's Statement of Community Involvement and industry best practice.

3.0 Consultation programme

In line with the objective to engage with the community and interested bodies as soon as possible to allow for the plans to be understood, our consultation programme focused on communicating with those in the local area who would be most likely to have an interest in the plans.

The overall aim of the consultation process was to:

- provide factual information so that local people understood the nature of the proposed activity;

- counter any misinformation and misconceptions;
- understand the public and stakeholders' perception of the proposals; and,
- take on board concerns about potential environmental impacts from the proposed development at this location.

The key strategies we employed are listed below.

Pre-event engagement

Prior to the public exhibition we undertook a number of pre-event engagement strategies to discuss the plans and drive public awareness of the event.

Pre-engagement emails

Prior to the direct mail to local people, we engaged with key community stakeholders to ensure that they were pre-briefed on the plans. The public leaflet was emailed in advance to stakeholders along with an invitation to be briefed on the plans prior to the public launch. This was sent to the NYC ward councillor, NYC council leader, Burniston Parish Council chair and clerk.

The local MP, Alison Hume, has made a number of media appearances incorrectly stating that the drilling plans involved 'fracking' at Burniston. The team was keen to engage with her and explain the process proposed. At the time of writing, she has been contacted on four different occasions with information including the leaflet distributed to local people and a letter outlining the plans. She has not yet engaged with the Europa team.

On 9th September 2024 Minister for Energy, Michael Shanks MP wrote to Ms Hume to explain that the proppant squeeze operation is not fracking and is commonplace in other sectors such as the water industry as well as in conventional oil and gas operations.

We also engaged with the MPs of neighbouring constituencies, namely, Kevin Hollinrake for Thirsk and Malton, Anna Turley for Redcar and Luke Myer for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland.

In addition, the team contacted relevant public bodies who may have an interest in the proposals. The same briefing email was sent to NYC officers for planning policy, minerals, highways, landscape and ecology; the Environment Agency, Natural England and the North York Moors National Park Authority.

An example copy of these emails can be found in appendix one.

Briefings

Following on for the email briefing, a number of meetings were held with those people keen to engage about the plans. These included NYC officers, the local ward councillor and Burniston PC chair.

Media

To further spread the message about the plans and the consultation, members of the team conducted interviews with local, regional and national media outlets. These interviews sought to rectify the considerable amount of misinformation which was circulating about the plans for the site and the processes to be undertaken.

In the run-up to and during the consultation open day, interviews were held with the following publications. Hyperlinks and copies of the coverage can be found in appendix two.

- BBC news
- Drill or Drop
- ITV News
- This is the Coast
- York Press
- Yorkshire Post
- Scarborough News
- That's TV North Yorkshire

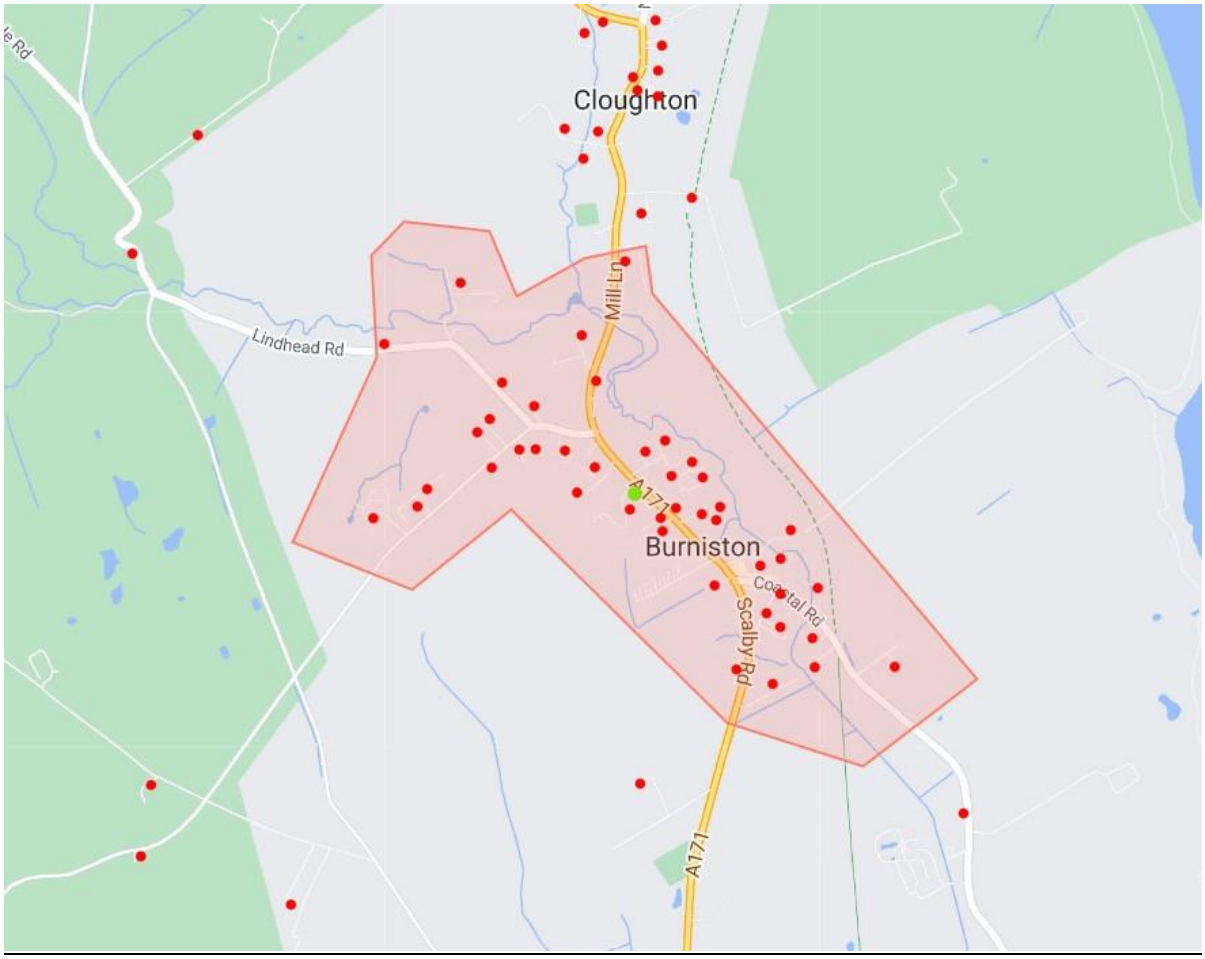
Leaflet drop

A leaflet was delivered to all 767 properties in Burniston (both business and residential) by Royal Mail.

The leaflet contained a brief overview of the plans, an invitation to the consultation event and dedicated contact details for the team. It also included a brief Q&A section based on the questions raised at the extraordinary parish council meeting held on 29th July 2024. Again, this Q&A aimed to counter some of the misinformation which was being spread around the local community from opponents to gas development in principle.

The distribution area was designed to reach those who may have the most interest in the development and can be seen in the map below. Delivery of the leaflet was completed more than a week before the consultation launch and well ahead of the public drop-in session to allow adequate notice.

A copy of the leaflet can be seen in appendix three.



The distribution area for the leaflet showing post code markers

Online

Prior to the launch of the consultation, the mail out leaflet was posted online and information provided to advise visitors to check back after the launch. Once the consultation launched, all the exhibition boards were made available alongside a digital feedback form which could be completed online.

Poster sites

Posters advertising the consultation and the drop-in event were displayed at various locations around the village including the post office and the digital display at the village hall. A copy of the poster and pictures of it in position can be seen at appendix four.

Public exhibition

On Thursday 26th September 2024, a public drop-in event was held displaying boards detailing the proposed activity and members of the Europa team were on hand to answer any questions. 201 people attended the event in total.

The event was held at the Burniston and Cloughton Village Hall in Burniston, which is centrally located, is fully accessible, on a bus route and provides ample car parking. Although the venue is very well used and has a packed diary, we were able to secure a slot from 1pm to 6pm. This slot accommodates post-school time and, by running through into the early evening, allows people the opportunity to drop in after work.

All the exhibition boards displayed at the drop-in event and online can be seen in appendix five.

Brochure

A brochure was produced which included all the information displayed at the drop-in event. This was made available for people to take away from the event and could be posted to anybody who was unable to attend and did not have access to the internet.

Follow-up meetings

After the consultation, face-to-face meetings were held with eight local business owners and interested stakeholders on the proposed site in Burniston on Wednesday 13th November 2024. These meetings gave stakeholders the opportunity to view the site and discuss any concerns about potential impacts.

Site tour

A site tour of an operational oil drilling site at Wressle near Scunthorpe was held for members of Burniston parish council. While an oil drilling operation is slightly different to a gas site, the site tour gave them the opportunity to see what a working site looks like and to ask questions about how the Burniston site might operate.

Backdrop to the consultation

The consultation at Burniston was conducted against a backdrop of protestor activity providing misinformation which led to confusion amongst local audiences attending the drop-in event.

Protestors posted online and erected posters and billboard sites around the village claiming the plans were for fracking. A public meeting was held by Frack Free which was well attended and further exacerbated the confusion around the nature of the plans.

On the day of the public exhibition, protestors picketed the venue with tents and banners displayed outside and discouraged attendees from coming into the hall. They also discouraged people within the hall from completing feedback forms.

This protestor action could have dissuaded some people from engaging in their democratic rights to have their say about the plans and to tell us about local concerns.

Follow-up additional engagement

Because of the protestor action (and the bad weather) on 26th September, we decided to undertake a further mailing to households in Burniston. This aimed to reach the local people who would be most impacted by plans rather than the protestors, many of whom had travelled from elsewhere to disrupt the consultation process. It also gave us the opportunity to engage directly and better understand local concerns.

The leaflet was sent to all the houses and businesses covered by the previous mailing and invited local people to contact us by phone, email or post to let us know their concerns or questions. We also offered to meet people in their homes or via Teams if they wanted a face-to-face meeting.

A copy of the additional leaflet can be found in appendix six.

Feedback form

A feedback form was available at the drop-in event and online for people to inform us about their views about the proposed development and their concerns about the plans for Burniston.

One of the objectives of the feedback form was to determine if respondents were opposed to gas development in principle rather than this development specifically. It asked the following questions:

- Do you agree with the Government that, as the UK progresses to Net Zero emissions, natural gas will be required until at least 2050?

- Do you agree with the principle of producing gas domestically in the UK rather than importing gas from abroad?

- The UK is currently using twice as much gas as we are producing, and we are importing half of the gas we consume from abroad. In 2023, 43% of this imported LNG was transported by takers. This imported gas results in emissions 20 times greater than domestic production. How do you think we should manage this situation moving forwards until the technology and infrastructure improves to make renewables an effective solution for our industrial site and homes and generating reliable electricity?

The feedback form also sought to understand the concerns local people felt about the development. It suggested a number of issues and asked respondents to rank these issues for Europa to consider in the development.

An open text box at the end of the questionnaire allowed respondents to address any further areas for consideration. A copy of the feedback form can be found in appendix seven.

4.0 Event feedback - Key themes and detail

Throughout the consultation, both anecdotally at the drop-in event and on the feedback forms, a number of themes were apparent. These included:

1. Anti-fossil fuel sentiment
2. Calls for investment in renewables
3. Concern that gas produced will be sold internationally
4. Benefits to the local community
5. Threat to tourism, house prices and property
6. Localised environmental impacts
7. Impacts of traffic and HGVs

These concerns can be divided into two groups. Those which are covered by Government and planning policy (1-3) and those which are of local concern (4-7).

Finding ways to address those in the latter group was therefore the major outcome from the community consultation and subsequent steps have been taken to ensure that full information is available for members of the public in relation to these concerns. These issues were addressed in the additional mailing and further questions and answers have been added to the Burniston consultation website. These address the issues and ensure that the community remain fully informed of plans for the site.

More detailed findings

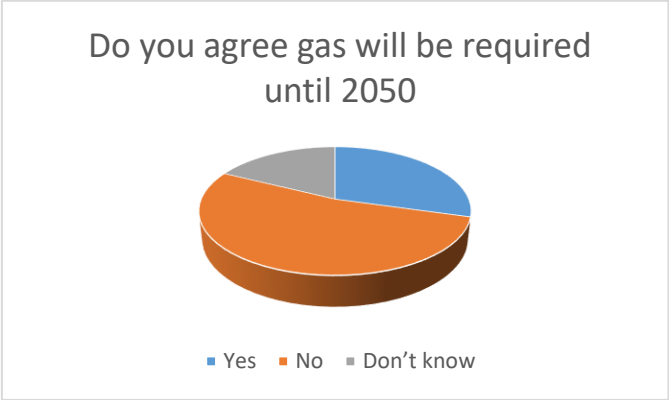
The following section will deal with the feedback received at the drop-in session and then the feedback received online.

In total 25 people completed a feedback form at the drop in (out of 201 attendees). This is a low response rate for the number of attendees, but it was apparent that protestors in the hall during the day were discouraging attendees from completing a feedback form (hence the additional mailing).

The feedback form asked respondents a series of questions which aimed firstly to understand if the objection to the development was a fundamental one (eg a matter of policy) and also if there were specific concerns about the impact of the development at a local level.

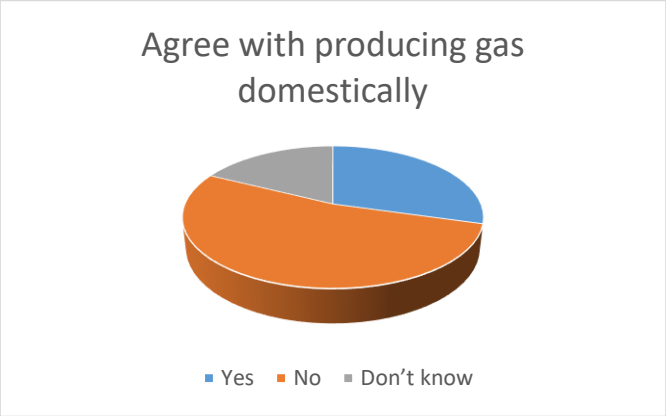
The first question asked respondents if they agreed with the Government that gas would be required until 2050?

24 people answered the question of which 3 said yes, 16 said no and 5 said they didn't know.



Respondents were then asked if they agreed with the principle of producing gas domestically.

17 people answered this question of which 5 said yes, 9 said no and 3 said they didn't know.



A follow-up question asked for suggestions on how the shortfall between the gas produced domestically and the gas required by the UK should be managed (given the UK imports half the gas we use from abroad).

The respondents were given options as below:

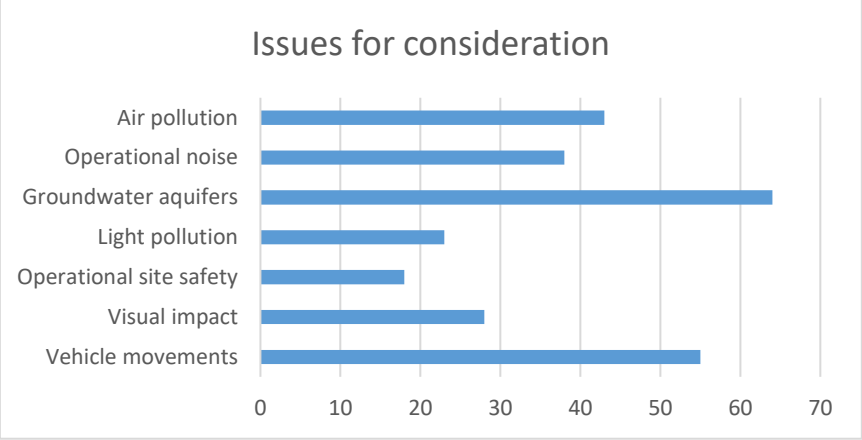
Continue to import gas: 2 respondents

Generate our own UK gas supplies: 4 respondents

Other: 13 respondents

Of those replying 'other' 9 respondents cited renewable energy sources and 3 used the opportunity to object fundamentally to gas development.

Respondents were also asked to rank suggested issues from 1-7 with 7 being the most important. The points scored for each issue were aggregated and the following table shows those issues which respondents scored as being of most importance. These issues will all be dealt with through the planning process and have been addressed in the Q&A circulated to local people.



An open comments section encouraged users to leave feedback on other issues they would like to be considered.

Some respondents raised **specific questions or concerns** relating to their home or business. For example:

"Proposal to go under my house and farm, worried about the effects on water supply, subsistence, earthquakes, animal behaviour, value of property and compensation if affected."

"I want to know the mix of chemicals used because I am an organic farmer of vegetables and fruit."

Where respondents raised specific questions or concerns such as this, Europa's team made contact with the respondent directly (where contact details have been provided) once the consultation closed to address their concerns or questions.

Some comments suggested that while the respondent was not against development per se, they would **prefer it elsewhere**. Comments included:

"As a householder, I obviously do not want my property devalued. Surely there are more rural sites?"

"Explore for gas NOT near villages"

Other themes which arose from the open comments section included impact on house prices and property, traffic congestion and delays, air quality, ground movements and other environmental concerns.

5.0 Online feedback - Key themes and detail

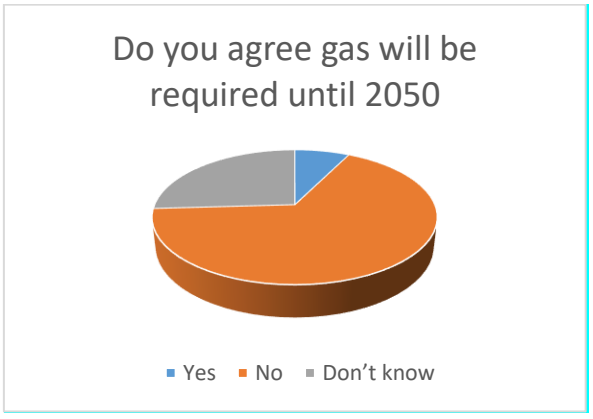
In addition, a further 27 feedback forms were submitted through the online feedback form. Unlike the drop-in event, much of the feedback from the online platform has come from much further afield and is largely not from local people.

Of the 27 responses received online, only five are from a YO13 postcode. Other responses come from as far afield as Harrogate (62 miles from site) and Leicester (147 miles from site). There is a cluster of responses from areas round 30 miles away – Cawton, Appleton-le-Moors, Brawby and Helmsley for example.

The online feedback form asked respondents the same series of questions as the printed version.

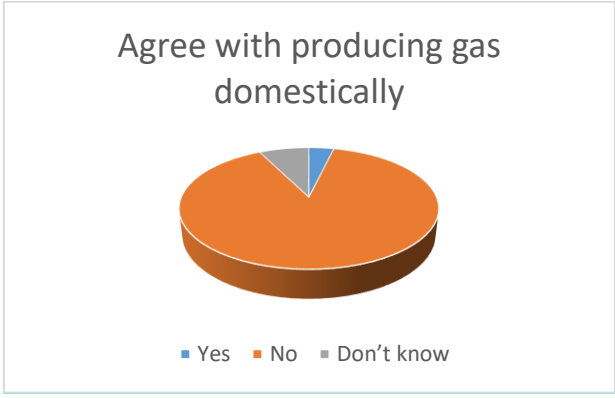
The first question asked respondents if they agreed with the Government that gas would be required until 2050.

27 people answered the question of which 2 said yes, 18 said no and 7 said they didn't know. This response is similar to the printed forms received at the event.



Respondents were then asked if they agreed with the principle or producing gas domestically?

27 people answered this question of which 1 said yes, 24 said no and 2 said they didn't know.



A follow-up question asked for suggestions on how the shortfall between the gas produced domestically and the gas required by the UK should be managed (given we import half the gas we use from abroad).

The respondents were given options as below:

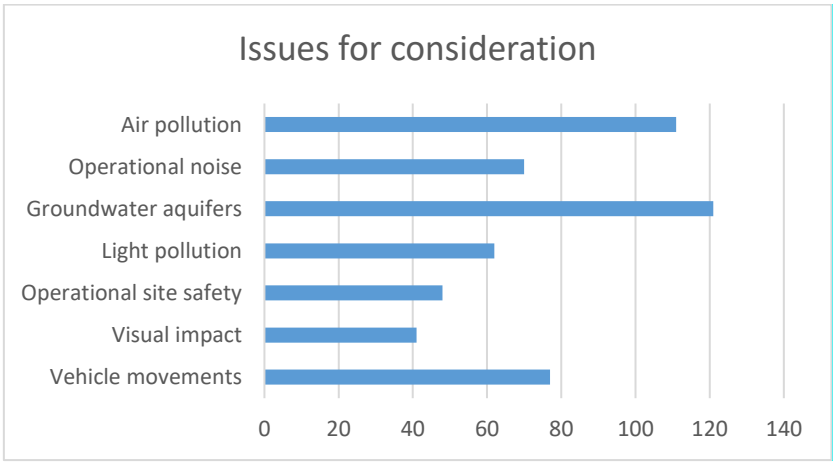
Continue to import gas: 3 respondents

Generate our own UK gas supplies: 0 respondents

Other: 20 respondents

Of those replying 'other' 19 respondents cited renewable energy sources and 1 respondent suggested fossil fuel developments in other countries, 5 respondents used the opportunity to question how gas is traded both in the UK and abroad.

Respondents were also asked to rank suggested issues for consideration in the development of the plans. The following table shows those issues which respondents scored as being of most importance. These issues will all be dealt with through the planning process and have been addressed in the Q&A circulated to local people.



An open comments section encouraged users to leave feedback on other issues they would like to be considered.

Two respondents raised **specific question or concerns** relating to their home or business. These respondents have been contacted directly by the Europa team to deal with their questions.

Questions raised were around access to business properties and potential compensation for loss of business if access was limited (please note: access would not be restricted).

A number of online respondents were specifically concerned that the development would be **'fracking'** and would have associated impacts, therefore. The consultation communication and the online materials have been careful to explain the substantial difference between the proppant squeeze process and high volume fracturing or 'fracking'. There is potentially more confusion about this issue in the online feedback as respondents had not attended the drop-in event and may not have read the online materials. Comments included:

"I believe there should not be any fracking taking place."

"I would also regard as "important" the ban that there is on fracking and the reasons for that ban."

"All previous attempts at extracting gas by applying huge pressure to fissures have been totally unsuccessful and uneconomic so I think this project should not be approved. Fracking is banned in the U.K."

"Fracking was banned in this country because of the environmental damages, so this should not be any different."

"Fracking is known to cause earth tremors."

A high number of respondents used the **additional comments** section to express general anti-fossil fuel sentiment.

As the online feedback was received from a much wider geographical area there **were less questions and concerns raised about local issues**. Two respondents quoted concerns over traffic, house prices and insurance availability and the impact on tourism including noise, pollution and seismicity. Another respondent mentioned the nearby cliffs and questioned the issue of stability.

Where they had not already been addressed in the exhibition boards, the issues which arose from the event and the online feedback were addressed in a Q&A, which was included on the additional leaflet sent out to all households following the consultation event. Other issues will be addressed in the planning application and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

6.0 Feedback from additional leaflet

The additional leaflet was delivered by Royal Mail to all households in Burniston week commencing January 6th 2025. Of those 767 properties feedback was received by email from six respondents.

Of these, one respondent asked 8 questions about technical and practical matters relating to the drilling operation. These included questions on water transport and disposal, HGV movements, house prices and insurance, seismic activity and timescales.

Two respondents were positive about the planned operation. They said:

"As a long-term resident and gas user, I see absolutely no reason why the proposed operations should not be allowed to go ahead."

"I wish you good luck and hope you are successful - although dare not say this publicly!"

One resident questioned how many residents had told Europa that they were dissuaded from attending the September meeting by weather and protestors.

Two respondents objected to the plans. Comments included:

"I am emailing to say NO. Not in my village, too close to residential dwellings and too much traffic so please note Burniston says NO."

"We live in Burniston and are strongly against any kind of drilling/extracting/fracking in our little village. We like our village the way it is so it's a big fat no from us."

All feedback can be seen in the accompanying document – SCI feedback.

7.0 Conclusion

This SCI outlines the high level of engagement undertaken in Burniston.

The consultation received a high level of interest in the proposals from the local community and further afield. While the protestor activity and weather may have impacted on some people's appetite to attend the event, the attendance figures still showed a good engagement with local people (201 attendees including protestors from a mail shot of 767 properties).

The level of misinformation about the plans was very high and this is reflected in the amount of feedback which refers to 'fracking' received, both online and at the drop-in event. The two mailings undertaken aimed to combat this misinformation and the invitation extended, in that leaflet, to engage with Europa's team directly through a face-to-face or online meeting, will help to address this issue.

A lot of the feedback received focussed on a fundamental objection to fossil fuel development. For example, only 8% (five respondents) of those expressing an opinion agreed with the Government stance that gas will still be required in the UK until 2050.

Other issues raised such as HGV movements and noise, light and pollution control will be addressed through the EIA and planning documents.

8.0 Appendices

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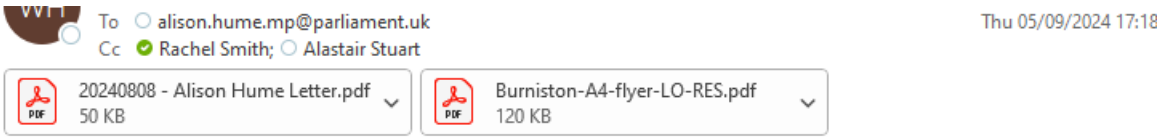
APPENDIX 7

Feedback form Page 38

APPENDIX 8

All feedback can be found in the appended document – SCI feedback.

APPENDIX 1 – example emails to key stakeholders



Dear Ms Hulme

Further the letter which I sent to you on 9th August (copy attached) we are just following up to see if you might be available for a Teams or face-to-face meeting to discuss the plans for Burniston? We're happy to meet in London or at your constituency office.

The attached leaflet is being distributed to all the homes and businesses in Burniston and we are in contact with local council and town representatives to further spread the word about the consultation process.

We would be delighted to meet with you during the consultation event if you, or a member of your team, would be able to attend. The details are on the flyer attached.

Kind regards,
Will Holland
Chief Executive Officer
Europa Oil & Gas (Holdings) plc

30 Newman Street
London
W1T 1PT

Dear Mr Hill,

As you know Europa Oil and Gas is working towards submitting a planning application to NYC for appraisal drilling for gas at a site in Burniston.

We are planning to submit the application in November and will be launching a consultation for local people and interested stakeholders on Monday 16th September.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at the drop-in session we are holding to support the consultation on Thursday 26th September. The details of the event are in the attached leaflet. This leaflet will be distributed to local homes and businesses in Burniston the week before the consultation launches.

Please let us know if you have any questions. We are working with Rachel Smith at Clarence Communications who is managing the consultation on our behalf. Please contact Rachel (cc'd) with any questions.

We look forward to meeting you and discussing these plans.

Kind regards,
Will Holland
Chief Executive Officer
Europa Oil & Gas (Holdings) plc

Department for Energy Security & Net Zero

Michael Shanks MP
Department for Energy Security & Net Zero
55 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HP

www.gov.uk

Alison Hume MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Our ref: MCB2024/11677

9 September 2024

Dear Alison,

Thank you for your letter of 23 July to the Secretary of State, on behalf of a number of your constituents, regarding oil and gas production in North Yorkshire. I am responding as this matter falls under my Ministerial portfolio.

As I hope you will appreciate, I am unable to comment on the details of the specific proposal by Europa Oil and Gas in your constituency. This is a matter for the local authority to consider.

More broadly, this Government intends to ban fracking for good. There is currently an effective moratorium on high volume hydraulic fracturing to extract shale gas (fracking) anywhere in England.

The Petroleum Act 1998 sets specific criteria to capture the activities commonly known as 'fracking', which involve high-volume, high-pressure fracturing to extract shale gas and how such activity is regulated.

Any proposed activities in the UK, including 'proppant squeezes', are not fracking as defined in the Petroleum Act. These lower volume, lower pressure activities are commonplace in other sectors such as the water industry as well as in conventional oil and gas production.

Best wishes,

MICHAEL SHANKS MP
Minister for Energy

APPENDIX 2 – Media coverage

Example article:



All Sections

THE YORKSHIRE POST

Latest News Heritage Property Sport Opinion Business Country and Farming

BREAKING ma legend dies • TV star's cancer has spread • Classic TV heavyweight dies •

Politics

More than 100 residents and activists protest against Scarborough fracking plan

By Anttoni James Numminen
Local Democracy Reporter

Comment

Published 27th Sep 2024, 14:39 BST | Updated 27th Sep 2024, 15:39 BST

More than 100 residents, activists and politicians attended a demonstration against plans for a hydraulic fracking project in Burniston, Scarborough.

A drop-in information session held by Europa Oil & Gas on Thursday, September 26, was met with a large demonstration against the company's fracking plans.

Links to other media coverage:

King's estate does not respond to request over Burniston gas drilling plan – DRILL OR DROP?

Burniston anti-fracking activists protest against gas drilling plan - BBC News

Burniston drilling meeting – key points and reaction – DRILL OR DROP?

Anti-fracking demonstrators gather in Burniston over fears for North Yorkshire village | ITV News Tyne Tees

More than 100 residents and activists protest against Scarborough fracking plan (yorkshirepost.co.uk)

Burniston Gas Drilling Rig Firm Holds Public Drop In Session - This is the Coast

Burniston residents to show opposition to drilling at fracking consultation meeting (thescarboroughnews.co.uk)

Mayor David Skaith says there are 'real concerns' about Scarborough fracking plan (thescarboroughnews.co.uk)

More details on proposals for gas drilling and small-scale fracking near Scarborough – DRILL OR DROP?

Scarborough fracking plan set to proceed despite opposition | York Press

More than 100 residents and activists protest against Scarborough fracking plan (thescarboroughnews.co.uk)

APPENDIX 3 – leaflet distributed by Royal Mail to households and by email to key stakeholders

Europa's plans for appraisal drilling in Burniston

We have been looking for a suitable site for appraisal drilling to test the Cloughton gas field. The site needs to be within reach of the underground gas reservoir while minimising the impact on local people and wildlife.

We think that the site we have identified at Burniston Mill is suitable and we are keen to talk to residents to understand your concerns and address them in our planning process.

We are in the process of preparing the layout and design of the site. We will be carrying out a number of surveys which will carefully consider existing levels of traffic, ecology and biodiversity, archaeology, noise, air quality, flood risk, surface water drainage, landscape and lighting. The site design will take into account the results of these surveys and include measures to mitigate the impacts, both during the construction and the drilling of the wellsite.

Any appraisal operations at Burniston are subject to planning permission by the mineral planning authority, North Yorkshire Council. We are intending to submit our planning application before the end of November.

Our application will only seek permission for site construction, drilling and testing, and the restoration of the site. That work will tell us if the gas contained in the underground reservoir can be extracted at sufficient rates to make it commercially viable for production. If successful, any production phase would be subject to a separate planning application at a later stage.

We would like to invite you to a drop-in session where you can meet the team and find out more about the plans.

Where: Burniston and Cloughton Village Hall, High Street, YO13 0HJ

When: Anytime between 1pm and 6pm Thursday 26th September 2024

We hope to see you there but if you cannot make it to our event, you can:

Find all the information at **www.europaoil.com**

Email **info@europaoil.com** to request a copy of our brochure.

EUROPA Oil & Gas

Your questions answered

Why drill for gas?

The new Labour government recognises that we will still require oil and gas until at least 2050 in order to make a smooth transition to renewables and meet our Net Zero commitments.

The UK is currently using twice as much gas than we are producing from the North Sea and onshore and we are importing half of the gas that we consume from abroad. This balance of domestic versus imported gas is forecast to worsen to 2050. This imported gas that we consume has significantly more greenhouse gas emissions associated with it than domestically produced gas. High levels of imports also make us more vulnerable to security of supply such as experienced following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

What about the climate crisis?

The UK will require gas for heating and cooking until at least 2050. Producing gas locally in the UK is much better for the environment as it displaces liquified natural gas imports, which would reduce global emissions.

Are you fracking?

Fracking, or high volume hydraulic fracturing is the process of removing gas from shale rocks and is currently banned in the UK. It is termed 'unconventional' because of how it differs from traditional methods.

However, low volume hydraulic fracturing operations, which have been used for many decades in the UK, were not included in the 2019 moratorium. They were deliberately excluded because these operations are well-established and proven to be safe, both from a health and safety and an environmental perspective. As such the legal basis under which the ban on high volume hydraulic fracturing was prosecuted does not apply. This is therefore not a "loophole" in the law relating to the 2019 moratorium.

The proposed drilling activities at Burniston include a conventional low volume hydraulic fracturing operation, which is called a proppant squeeze. The proppant squeeze is a standard industry technique which is safe and non-polluting. It has been used on sites including Crosby Warren in Scunthorpe and Wressle at Broughton in North Lincolnshire.

What about impacts on the village?

We will be working hard to minimise any impacts such as traffic, views of the site, air quality, lighting and noise. The planning application will address a wide range of issues, all of which you will be able to comment on.

You can find out more about this at the event or online. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss your concerns and work with you to help mitigate them.

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EUROPA Oil & Gas

APPENDIX 4 – posters displayed in public buildings and locations around Burniston




Burniston Stores
D. & F. Minor
Newspapers | Magazines | Groceries
Europe's plans for appraisal drilling in Burniston
COFFEE MORNING
EVERYONE WELCOME!
URGENT – WAITING ON STAFF WANTED
LUNCH TIME
11.00A.M. – 3.30 P.M.
"PET TAXI"
yes you can
Slimming World
Tots TALENT


BURNISTON & CLOUGHTON VILLAGE HALL
Europe's plans for appraisal drilling in Burniston

APPENDIX 5 – Exhibition boards

Welcome to our exhibition

Thank you for coming along today to find out more about our proposals for appraisal drilling at the Burniston Mill site. We have lots of information available and members of the team are happy to chat through any questions you might have.

This exhibition is part of a consultation we are carrying out prior to submitting a planning application for appraisal drilling to the mineral planning authority, North Yorkshire Council (NYC). This consultation opened on Monday 16th September and closes on Sunday 13th October. We are intending to submit our planning application before the end of November.

This application will only seek permission for site construction, drilling, testing and then the restoration of the site to its former condition. This work is likely to take around nine months, however the drilling rig is only expected to be on site for 50 days.

The appraisal drilling will tell us if the gas contained in the underground reservoir can be extracted at sufficient rates to make it commercially viable for production. If successful, any production phase would be subject to a separate planning application at a later stage.

We recognise that you might have questions or concerns about this process, and we hope this exhibition helps answer those today. We are committed to working with the local community as this application progresses and we look forward to your feedback.

Your feedback during this consultation will be used to inform our application and help us address any issues you might raise. You will also get the opportunity to comment once the application has been submitted when North Yorkshire Council will launch their own consultation.



Location plan

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EUROPA Oil & Gas

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.

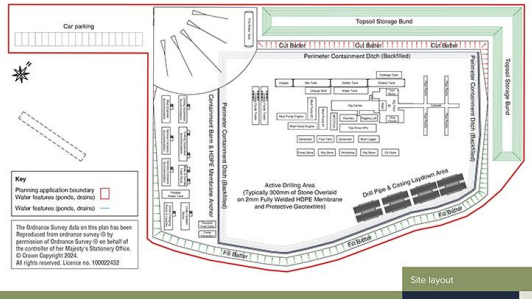
A perimeter containment ditch would be constructed around the site and a high-density polyethylene (HDPE) membrane would be installed across the entire site to provide a protective layer. This protective layer prevents any liquids from entering the soil or groundwater. The membrane will be overlain with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



Site layout

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EUROPA Oil & Gas

How we'll minimise impacts on the local community

The oil and gas sector is one of the most highly regulated industries in the country on both a local and national level. Part of that regulation helps ensure our operations have the minimum impact on the local community and the environment. If we received planning permission for the site at Burniston Mill, we will be subject to restrictions on many aspects of our operation.

Noise

We will be undertaking noise monitoring during the drilling phase to ensure that we do not breach any statutory noise thresholds.

Lighting

During the drilling phases, operations will be 24-hour so low-level lighting would be needed to ensure safety. However, given the location of the site and the screening provided by trees and other land uses such as the feedstock mill and industrial units, it is unlikely that this will be intrusive or will impact on local properties.

Visual impact

During the drilling phase (five weeks) the rig will be visible in places from the surrounding areas as it is 30m tall. This is a temporary phase however and during the rest of the appraisal operation the equipment on site will be no taller than the surrounding buildings.



Oil sites are highly regulated

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EUROPA Oil & Gas

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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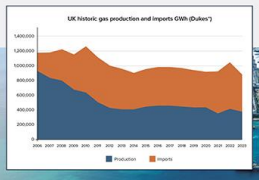
Why we should drill for gas

There's lots in the news about the climate crisis and the need to move away from fossil fuels and turn to renewables. We do not disagree with this principle, but it needs to be a managed process which allows us to heat our homes and run our businesses while we make that transition.

- Both the former Conservative and the new Labour governments recognise that we will still require oil and gas until at least 2050
- Domestic gas produced here in the UK will displace liquified natural gas imports, which would reduce global emissions
- The UK is currently using twice as much gas as we are producing from the North Sea and onshore and we are importing half of our gas from abroad. The UK currently imports 36% of its LNG demand from the USA, Qatar and Peru which has a particularly high CO_2 footprint. The UK government recognises that UK onshore gas production has a minimal carbon footprint in comparison.
- High levels of imports make us more vulnerable to security of supply such as we experienced following Russia's invasion of Ukraine
- The Government spends more money importing oil and gas (including petroleum products) than on education. (2023: £135 billion compared to about £106 billion)*

**Source: Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's Digest of UK Energy Statistics Annual Data for UK (DUKES) www.gov.uk/government/collections/digest-of-uk-energy-statistics-dukes*

There is no published government scenario for the UK reaching Net Zero 2050 which does not involve continued use of natural gas even in the most ambitious high-electrification scenarios. Hence why the government is supporting Carbon Capture and Hydrogen from natural gas initiatives.



LNG tanker being loaded

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EUROPA Oil & Gas

How we'll manage traffic

We have set out below some key details in relation to the different phases, in terms of how long the activities will take and the likely number of HGV movements.

HGV movements will only be permitted during daytime hours, Mondays to Fridays (7am to 7pm), and on Saturdays up to 1pm. There will be no HGV movements on Sundays, bank holidays and public holidays.

There will be an approved HGV route to the site which all drivers must follow.

Phase one: site construction should last around seven weeks, based on a 5.5-day week. It is expected that this phase would generate approximately 334 HGVs to bring materials and equipment onto the site. This is expected to result in an average of seven HGVs per day with a maximum of 17 HGVs on any one day.

Phase two: drilling operation should last seven weeks (five weeks of drilling). Based on other sites, we would expect a total of 330 HGVs to come to site. The average number of HGVs would be seven per day with a maximum of 18 on any one day.

Phase three: proppant squeeze and flow testing will take around 17 weeks (one week for the proppant squeeze). It is anticipated that this will generate around 40 HGVs with an average of one HGV per day and a maximum of five HGVs on any one day.

Phase four: well decommissioning, site restoration and aftercare will take around six weeks. We estimate that around 350 HGVs will be required to restore the site over a six-week period. The average number of HGVs will be eight a day, with the highest single day generating up to 17 HGVs.

	Weeks	Days	Nr Loads	Loads per day	Loads per hour
Phase one Construction	7	49	334	6.8	0.85
Phase two Rig Mob	1	7	80	11.4	1.43
Phase two Drilling	5	35	170	4.9	0.61
Phase two Rig Demob	1	7	80	11.4	1.43
Phase three Testing + Squeeze	2	14	15	1.1	0.13
Phase three Testing production	15	105	25	0.2	0.03
Phase four Restoration	6	42	350	8.3	1.04
TOTAL TMP	**37**	**259**	**1054**	**4.1**	**0.51**



Route plan

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EUROPA Oil & Gas

Explaining the proppant squeeze

A proppant squeeze is a localised operation which is used to help increase the gas flow from the rock formations. The proppant squeeze takes place once the well has been drilled and the casing is in place. This casing ensures that nothing brought up the wellbore can leak into surrounding formations or the water aquifer.

The area of this operation will be more than 2000m below ground level and over 1.7 km to the south west of Burniston. At a depth of over 2000m each proppant squeeze will radiate between 100m to 200m from the wellbore and extend no more than 40-80m in height. The operation is localised and thousands of metres below the level where both conventional mining and aquifer water production activities occur. It's important to note that the water aquifer is around 30m below the surface and is protected by eight concentric layers of cement and steel.

A slurry of sand and gelled water is pumped under pressure to create channels of communication in the near wellbore, and the sand then acts as the proppant to support the induced channels which increases the rate that the gas will flow.

This is a small-scale standard oilfield operation which historically has taken place elsewhere in Lincolnshire (e.g. nearby Crosby Warren well). It should not be confused with high volume hydraulic fracturing (fracking) that has been proposed in other areas for shale gas or oil.

A proppant squeeze operation itself will last no more than 30-40 minutes although setting up equipment for the operation and systems testing will normally take a week.



Entrained proppant in carrier gel/fluid

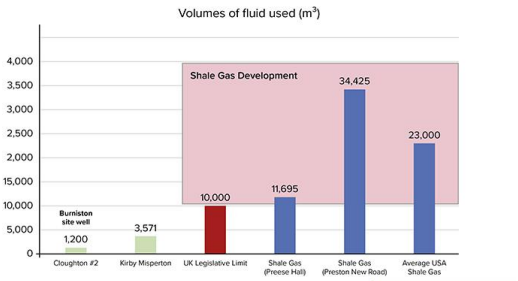
EUROPA Oil & Gas

Are you fracking?

Fracking, or high-volume hydraulic fracturing is the process of removing gas from Shale rocks and is currently banned in the UK. It is termed 'unconventional' because it differs from traditional methods. Traditionally, in the UK onshore, production to date is from conventional reservoirs where the gas is more readily available and easier to produce.

We will not be carrying out fracking at Burniston at any time neither in this application or any future applications.

However, low-volume hydraulic fracturing operations, which have been used for many decades in the UK, were not included in the 2019 moratorium. They were deliberately excluded because these operations are well-established and proven to be safe, both from a health and safety and an environmental perspective. The proposed drilling activities at Burniston include a conventional low-volume hydraulic fracturing operation, which is called a proppant squeeze. The proppant squeeze is a standard industry technique which is safe and non-polluting. It has been safely used for decades in the UK, including recently on sites at Crosby Warren in Scunthorpe and Wressle at Broughton in North Lincolnshire.



Volumes of fluid used

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EUROPA Oil & Gas

Protecting the environment

We are proud of our record on environmental issues and have an established Environmental Management System that covers all of our operational activities. Some of our key protection measures are detailed below.

Land

All of our exploration sites are built to high standards of environmental protection, using a high-density polyethylene (HDPE) membrane which would be installed across the entire site to provide a protective layer under the site surface. This ensures that the land beneath is completely unaffected by our operations. In addition, containment ditches around the site are designed to contain fluids.

Watercourses

A specialist surface water interceptor will be installed to prevent any flood risk and ensure that any discharged water is clean. The local watercourses will be monitored for water quality.

Groundwater

We will be installing a number of groundwater monitoring boreholes on the site, to a depth of c.50m. This will enable us to sample and analyse groundwater quality both before and during our operations to ensure that activities on site are not having any detrimental impact.

Air Quality

There will be a monitoring process in place to measure and quantify any emissions from the site.



For illustrative purposes only

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Environmental studies

Although the proposed development at Burniston Mill is relatively short term and low level, it is currently the opinion of North Yorkshire Council (who act as mineral planning authority) that an Environmental Impact Assessment is required to accompany the application.

The planning application will be supported by the following technical reports. These reports are undertaken by respected, independent environmental specialists and will be submitted as part of our planning application. They help inform the planning decision process and may feed through into specific planning conditions to manage potential impacts.

You will be able to review all these documents once the planning application is submitted in November. They will be available in the Council's planning portal.

- Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment
- Landscape Visual Impact Assessment
- Lighting Assessment
- Transport Statement
- Noise Assessment
- Air Quality Assessment
- Agricultural Land Quality and Soils Assessment
- Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Assessment
- Flood Risk Assessment, Hydrogeological Risk Assessment and Surface Water Drainage

Assessment

The UK has very strict environmental regulations. With these regulations in place, the testing and production of natural gas reserves can be done safely and responsibly, minimising risks to the environment and public health.



Noise testing

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EUROPA Oil & Gas

Benefits

A well as the national security, climate and economic benefits of producing gas in the UK, we aim to support the local economy too.

If our planning application is successful, the operation in Burniston will create and support jobs and encourage investment.

While the development is both temporary in nature and relatively short term and many of the tasks involved in drilling operations are specialist, some jobs will be created in areas such as construction, catering, security and support services.

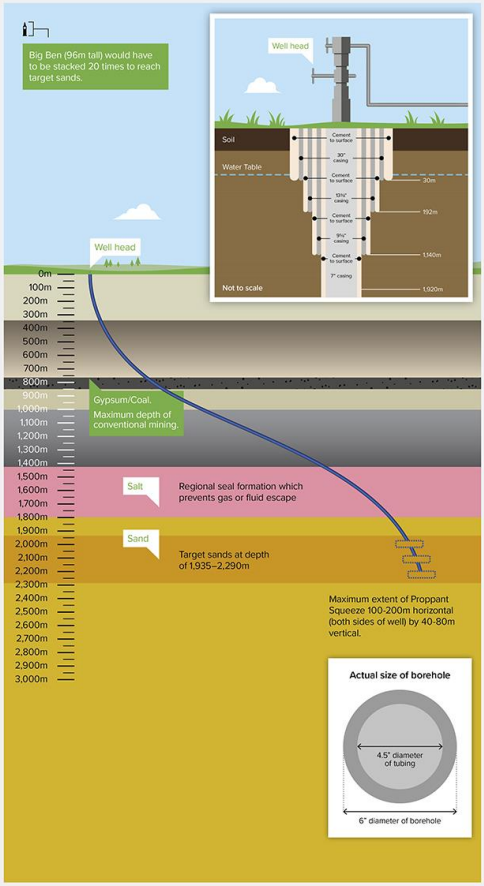
There will also be expenditure in local goods and services including hiring local venues, hotel rooms, bars, restaurants and catering outlets.

If you have a business which you would like us to add to our supplier roster, please fill out a feedback form with your details.



Local restaurants are among the businesses which will benefit

The Cloughton wellbore



The Cloughton wellbore

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Fast facts takeaway

1. The UK Government says we will need oil and gas until at least 2050.
2. We currently import half the gas we use from abroad because we do not produce enough in the UK. We currently spend more on importing gas from abroad than we do on education.
3. Producing gas in the UK is better for the environment than imported gas.
4. Domestic gas produced in the UK will reduce emissions and our reliance on foreign imports.
5. A proppant squeeze is not the same as fracking. Fracking is banned in the UK.
6. Proppant squeezes have been used in the UK for decades without environmental damage, earthquakes or other impacts.
7. The rock fractures produced by a proppant squeeze are 1-2mm wide in a wellbore that is 6" wide. A proppant squeeze operation takes 30-40 minutes.
8. The target rock formation (and the proppant squeeze) is more than 2,000m below the surface – 1,200m deeper than a coal shaft and 1.6 km south west from the village.

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EUROPA Oil & Gas

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) 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.

We are engaging with Natural England under their Discretionary Advice Service (DAS) and will continue to do so as the application develops.

While our planning is still ongoing, we will, of course, ensure that there is no risk to the Heritage Coast cliffs from our proposed works on site.

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 chosen in response to 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.

EUROPA Oil & Gas

Your questions answered (continued)

Q. What about the Horse Hill ruling that future emissions of gas produced should be considered?

Europa will be submitting a full assessment of the estimated Scope 3 emissions likely to be generated by the proposed development in line with the Supreme Court ruling which now necessitates the recording of emissions. Any development approval will be in line with the Governments Net Zero commitments which Europa is committed to.

Q. Is this bringing heavy industry to the village?

No, the development is not heavy industry. The site would involve no more disruption than a small (2-3 homes) housing development for a period of nine months.

Q. Will there be social issues caused by staff?

There will never be large numbers of staff on site. At peak times in the project site staff numbers would not exceed circa 20 individuals. Temporary accommodation on site would be limited to 4-5 people, mainly for security. Our staff and contractors will always be considerate.

Q. What about flooding in the area?

A full hydrological, flood risk and surface water drainage assessment will be undertaken as part of the planning process. This will need to demonstrate and ensure there is no increased risk of flooding as a result of our development in the local area.

Q. A site at Staintondale was deemed too complex to extract and was abandoned.

An original discovery well, drilled in 1986, called Cloughton #1, which is near Staintondale just off the A171, discovered the Cloughton gas field which is the target of this well, Cloughton #2. At the time Cloughton was deemed non-commercial by the company that drilled and tested it.

There is a chance that the temporary well Cloughton #2 at Burniston will also not progress due to complexities in recovering the gas present. If the site does not progress it will be remediated and returned to its current use as was the Cloughton #1 site.

Q. Alison Hume MP is very anti-fracking and is looking at this mini fracking loophole.

It is a misconception that there is a loophole. Fracking (high volume fracturing) associated with Shale gas development is banned due to risks associated with induced seismic activity (earthquakes).

Cloughton #2 is not a Shale gas development. Europa is proposing a conventional low-volume fracture in sandstones, known in the industry as a proppant squeeze. This is a proven safe operational technique, which has been used on wells for decades in the UK and, unlike fracking (high volume fracturing), is approved for use in the industry.

Alison Hume MP has commented that all operations involving any induced fracture should be banned however there is no supporting rationale for this. There is no evidence that supports the banning of a proppant squeeze on Health & Safety or environmental grounds.

Europa has reached out to Alison Hume MP to discuss the proposed development but has yet to receive any response.

Q. The air quality around Kirby Misperton at the time of fracking near there was worse than in parts of London.

Air quality at Kirby Misperton was compromised due to the presence of Hydrogen Sulfide (H_2S) in the target rock formation which was not treated correctly. We are not targeting the same formation with the Cloughton #2 well and there was no evidence of H_2S present in the Cloughton #1 well in the target sands.

Q. The Coastguard/Search & Rescue station is in the industrial units next to the site and access is essential.

There will be no changes to access to the industrial units and 24/7 access will be maintained at all times.

Q. Fracking is associated with earthquakes.

Fracking (high volume fracturing) associated with Shale gas development is banned due to risks associated with induced seismic activity (earthquakes). Europa does not support such practice and has no interest in pursuing high volume fracturing or shale gas development.

Furthermore, Europa has ensured that the Burniston site can never be used for such development as a condition of the site lease.

The small-scale fracture or proppant squeeze proposed is a proven safe operational technique. There will be no earthquakes as a result of this operation. Despite there being no risk we will still monitor seismic activity at the site and the operation will be immediately shut down if any unusual seismic activity is noted as a result.

Q. There will be more than 1,000 HGVs.

This is true but they will be over a period of nine months. At most it will be 18 vehicles during one day of the nine months with an average over the nine-month period of 4 per day. See pull up on traffic movement details by phase of the development.

Q. Is the Duchy of Lancaster (which owns the surrounding land) aware of the planning application?

Yes, the Duchy is aware of Europa's plans and has granted Europa access to land owned by the Duchy in order to evaluate the gas discovery and assist in preparing for the planning application.

Q. What if private or public property is damaged as a result of the project?

It is unlikely that there will be any damage to any property in the village or surrounding area. However, in the unlikely event that property is damaged as a result of the activities, Europa is fully insured for all aspects of the project and any damage caused to property will be repaired and returned to its prior condition.

www.europaoil.com

EUROPA Oil & Gas

Next steps

This consultation is being held to support our planning application for appraisal drilling. The feedback we receive from stakeholders will be used to develop our application and address any concerns raised.

Following the submission of the application, you will be able to view the application and submit comments to the council's planning department. Any comments received will be considered alongside the application, feeding into the decision as to whether or not to grant consent.

It is anticipated that North Yorkshire Council will determine the application by the end of March 2025.

If successful it will be around 12-14 months before we would aim to start work on site. This time scale depends on a number of factors such as availability of drilling infrastructure, so may change. We'll use our website to keep you updated.

The appraisal work will take around nine months to complete and the site will be restored to agricultural land during this period. If the appraisal drilling tells us that the gas contained in the underground reservoir can be extracted at sufficient rates to make it commercially viable for production, we will prepare an application for production.

Any application for gas production would be subject to a separate planning application. This is likely to be at least two years away.

We strive to be good neighbours, and your views are important to us. We are keen to understand your thoughts about this exhibition, and to listen and address any questions or concerns you may have so please feel free to approach our team members here today or fill out the feedback forms online at **www.europaoil.com**

Thank you for attending our exhibition, we hope that you have found it informative.



Dates are indicative

Application process

Fast facts takeaway

1. The UK Government says we will need oil and gas until at least 2050.
2. We currently import half the gas we use from abroad because we do not produce enough in the UK. We currently spend more on importing gas from abroad than we do on education.
3. Producing gas in the UK is better for the environment than imported gas.
4. Domestic gas produced in the UK will reduce emissions and our reliance on foreign imports.
5. A proppant squeeze is not the same as fracking. Fracking is banned in the UK.
6. Proppant squeezes have been used in the UK for decades without environmental damage, earthquakes or other impacts.
7. The rock fractures produced by a proppant squeeze are 1-2mm wide in a wellbore that is 6" wide. A proppant squeeze operation takes 30-40 minutes.
8. The target rock formation (and the proppant squeeze) is more than 2,000m below the surface – 1,200m deeper than a coal shaft and 1.6 km south west from the village.

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APPENDIX 6 – Additional direct mail leaflet

Another chance to have your say

As you may know Europa Oil and Gas has identified a site at Burniston, just off Coastal Road behind Wayside Farm, for potential gas appraisal drilling.

This short-term development will investigate if the gas in the underground reservoir can be produced at sufficient rates to make commercial extraction a possibility.

The Government says we will require oil and gas until at least 2050 and, if successful, the site could help offset carbon emissions from imported gas (UK currently imports 60% of its gas) and help to secure the UK's gas supply.

On Thursday 26th September we held a public drop-in day at Burniston and Cloughton Village Hall and more than 200 people attended to find out more about the plans. Thank you if you came along on the day and we hope that you found this an informative session. The exhibition boards used during the event can be found on our website at **www.europaoil.com**

Since the event, we have received feedback that a combination of the weather and the protestors may have dissuaded some local residents from attending the event. We would like as many local people as possible to give us their thoughts on the plans, where applicable to learn more about what is involved in the drilling operations and understand how the activity could impact the local area.

As such, we would like to offer you the opportunity to ask any questions and tell us about any local concerns you may have about the planned appraisal drilling and potential gas field development. You can also get in touch if you would like to arrange a meeting, either online or at your home address, and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Please get in touch via one of the following options:

Email us at: info@europaoil.com

Call us on: 020 3968 6411 and leave your details and we'll call you back

Write to us at: Europa Oil & Gas (Holdings) plc, 30 Newman Street, London W1T 1PT

We have been carrying out a number of surveys which will carefully consider existing levels of traffic, ecology and biodiversity, archaeology, noise, air quality, hydrology and flood risk, surface drainage, landscape and lighting. Our plans will take into account the results of these surveys during the construction, drilling and testing at the wellsite.

Any appraisal operations at Burniston are subject to planning permission by the mineral planning authority, North Yorkshire Council. We intend to submit our planning application in January 2025.

EUROPA Oil & Gas

Our application will only seek permission for site construction, appraisal drilling and testing, and then the restoration of the site. That work will tell us if the underground gas reservoir can be flowed at rates that make it commercially viable for production. If successful, any production phase would be subject to a separate planning application at a later stage.

We have answered some of the questions raised at the consultation event. Please do get in touch if you have further questions.

Frequently asked questions

Why drill for gas?

The government recognises that we will still require oil and gas until at least 2050 but the UK is currently using twice as much gas than we are producing. As a result, we are importing over half the gas that we consume from abroad, mostly in the form of liquified natural gas (LNG). High levels of imports make us vulnerable to security of supply such as experienced following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and imported gas, particularly LNG, has a greater carbon intensity than domestically produced gas. A large volume of imported LNG is from shale gas fracking from the USA, which has a higher carbon intensity than conventional gas.

What about the climate crisis?

Producing gas locally in the UK is much better for the environment as it displaces LNG imports which have significantly more greenhouse gas emissions than domestically produced gas. The emissions associated with LNG that would be negated by producing domestically include the energy intensive process of chilling the gas to -162°C for ship transport, the fuel requirements of shipping from another continent and the subsequent re-gasification and compression processes before feeding into the national network.

Will you produce an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)?

Yes. This will form part of our planning application.

Are you fracking?

No. Fracking is high volume fracturing which is used to extract gas from shallow shale rocks and is currently banned in the UK. At Cloughton we are drilling a conventional well and utilising a conventional proppant squeeze technique to help extract gas in deeper conventional sandstone reservoirs. This technique has been safely utilised in the UK for many decades without any of the adverse environmental or seismic side-effects that can be associated with fracking. The proppant squeeze is a standard gas field



Noise testing



Entrained proppant in carrier gel/fluid

technique which is safe and non-polluting and has been used on sites across the UK most recently in Broughton in North Lincolnshire as well as across the North Sea.

The approval for the well operational plans and proppant squeeze is separate from the local council planning application. Approval for the operational activity rests with The Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ) in conjunction with the North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA), the Environmental Agency (EA) and the Health & Safety Executive (HSE).

DESNZ, who is the UK authority with respect to hydraulic fracturing, has formally confirmed that the planned operation is not fracking.

How deep is the well?

The target sands are at a depth of around 2,000m below the surface.

Will it devalue my house?

There is no evidence from other oil and gas sites in the UK that these operations have any impact on house prices. We have reviewed property prices near one of our other sites in Lincolnshire and there is no discernible variation from trends in the area. In fact, some of the most valuable property in the country – at Sandbanks near Poole Harbour in Dorset – is close to Wytch Farm, the largest onshore oil site in Western Europe.

How long will you be on site?

The full development from initial site construction to final restoration will be around nine months. The drilling operation is around five weeks and a proppant squeeze would take around an hour (although preparing the site and equipment for this will take one week).

What about impacts on the village?

We will be working hard to minimise any impacts such as traffic, views of the site, air quality, lighting and noise. The planning application will address a wide range of issues, all of which you will be able to comment on.

Will there be a lot of traffic?

Traffic will be highest during the drilling phase but that will be on average 12 vehicles coming to and from the site over two, one-week periods. This would represent less than a 4% increase in heavy goods vehicles (HGV) traffic based on a survey of traffic on the Coastal Road. Averaged over the nine months of the project, the development would represent a 1% increase in HGV traffic. Details on all traffic movements is available on our website.

If the gas field progresses to production will the gas be used locally or traded on global markets?

If we progress to a full development of the field, the gas will be sent via pipeline directly into the national gas transmission network (NTS). While this might potentially be sold to Ireland or the Isle of Man, in the balance of probability it is likely to be used domestically in the UK. Even if the Cloughton gas is sent to Ireland or the Isle of Man it would displace LNG imports. The UK currently imports over 60% of its gas with this figure rising annually.

Will it impact the water supply?

All water used on site will be brought in by tanker and any wastewater will be removed in the same way to a treatment centre. To prevent groundwater contamination there will be eight layers of steel casing and cement between the wellbore and the water table. All site operations will be above an impermeable membrane. There will also be ground water monitoring boreholes installed onsite the monitoring of which, before and during the development, will be overseen by the Environment Agency.

The depth at which the United Kingdom Technical Advisory Group (UKTAG) suggests that a groundwater loses its value as a resource that can be either exploited for human activities, or support surface flows and ecosystems, is 400m below the surface (UKTAG, 2012). The proppant squeeze will take place between 2,000m and 2,300m below the surface. The proppant squeeze will take place with over 2000m of rock between it and the local ground water. In addition the gas field at depth is directly overlain by 500m of the regionally extensive and world class sealing rocks of the Zechstein salt. The presence of this seal across the structure (which has stopped the gas from escaping for millions of years) will continue to act as a barrier to any fluids at depth.

As such there will be no credible risk to shallow natural aquifer systems from the planned operation.

Will the proppant squeeze result in seismic activity (earthquakes or movement)?

The potential for seismic hazard was the basis on which fracking (large volume hydraulic fracturing in shale gas development) was banned in the UK.

The planned operation differs from the banned fracking activity.

1. It is a conventional well plan and not a horizontal well
2. The proppant squeeze is a low volume hydraulic fracture with a planned cumulative volume of 1,200m^3. This is thirty times less than a typical shale gas well and ten times less than the volumes under which fracking is banned in the UK
3. The character of the targeted rock formation at depths exceeding 2,000m is a sandstone not a shale.

In total proppant squeeze operations have been conducted on 150 conventional wells in the UK onshore from the late 1950s through to the 2000s. No recorded induced seismicity has been associated with any of these operations, indicating that there is no credible risk of potential seismic hazard posed by such activity.

All seismic activity will be continuously monitored to allow a real time record of any events. If unexpected levels of seismic activity are detected amidst the normal background seismicity, the operation would be suspended.

EUROPA Oil & Gas

APPENDIX 7 – Feedback form



Feedback form

About our proposals

Europa Oil and Gas has been looking for a suitable site for appraisal drilling to test the Cloughton gas field. We think that the site we have identified at Burniston is suitable and we are keen to hear feedback from residents. Please complete the form below.

EUROPA Oil & Gas

About you

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

What is your interest in the scheme? (e.g. resident/business)

Have you visited the drop-in session or viewed the materials online before answering these questions?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you agree with the Government that, as the UK progresses to Net Zero emissions, natural gas will be required until at least 2050?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know ☐

Do you agree with the principle of producing gas domestically in the UK rather than importing gas from abroad?

Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know ☐

The UK is currently using twice as much gas than we are producing and we are importing half of the gas that we consume from abroad. In 2023, 43% of this imported liquefied natural gas (LNG) was transported by tankers. This imported gas results in emissions over 20 times greater than domestic production. How do you think we should manage this situation moving forward until the technology and infrastructure improves to make renewables an effective option for heating our industrial sites, homes and generating reliable electricity?

☐ Continue to import our gas

☐ Generate our own UK gas supplies

☐ Other – please suggest.

Additional comments:

Continued overleaf

What do you think are the most important issues for us to consider in relation to this application? Please rank your answers (with number 1 as most important)

- ☐ Vehicle movements to and from the site
- ☐ Visual impact of the drilling rig/site
- ☐ Operational safety on site
- ☐ Light pollution
- ☐ Protection of groundwater aquifers and water sources
- ☐ Noise from operations
- ☐ Air pollution

Are there any other aspects you would like us to consider?

Your issues for consideration:

www.europaoil.com

Once completed, this form can be posted in the ballot box at drop-in events, emailed to us at **info@europaoil.com** or posted to Europa Oil & Gas (Holdings) plc, 30 Newman Street, London W1T 1PT.

Thank you for your feedback.

GDPR Statement Europa Oil & Gas

At Europa Oil & Gas, we respect your privacy and are committed to protecting your personal data. We will only ask for, and collect, data as part of this public consultation (Burniston) and will only share that data with the company which is conducting this consultation and analysing the findings.

Any comments made on this consultation form may be used in the Statement of Community Involvement produced as part of our planning permission however all your personal data will be removed prior to submission.

We keep your information secure and retain it only as long as necessary to fulfil this consultation, or as required by law.

If you have any questions about how we handle your data or wish to exercise your rights under the UK GDPR, please email **info@europaoil.com**

Your privacy matters to us and we're here to help.

EUROPA Oil & Gas

Appendix 8 – feedback - see appended document. SCI feedback.