

Holford Gas Storage News

Project and community update from E.ON

Getting ready for operations in 2011

As North Sea gas reserves reduce, the need for facilities like Holford has become a major political talking point. Politicians and industry experts are debating over how much more gas storage is needed to help balance our gas system and ensure our gas supplies remain secure.



On site we have made significant progress in the construction of Holford both above and below the ground.

Whilst the detailed and complex work of preparing the underground salt caverns continues below the ground, the most visible signs of progress can be found at

the main site. Behind the screening landscaping and newly planted trees is the administration block and the gas processing plant which are both now complete.

Describing the changes on site at Holford, Mike Cooper, Project Manager, said "We've now reached all of the construction milestones for the project and on 17th January we completed all of the safety checks to bring the first gas onto site. This year marks another exciting time for Holford with the commissioning of the gas processing plant and the first caverns ready to begin gas storage operations towards the end of 2011."

The commissioning of Holford marks the first major milestone in the operational phase of the project. Commissioning is the term given to the process where the safety and the performance of the plant are checked against the design and gas is delivered to site for the first time. Later in the Spring, as part of the cavern conversion process, gas will be injected into the caverns and further testing will be undertaken prior to the start of commercial operations.

Holford is on schedule for the commercial operations of the first caverns to begin towards the end of 2011, with the other caverns becoming available to store gas by 2013.



See inside for more news around the Holford site

Our ongoing commitment to safety

We are committed to operating to the highest safety and environmental standards and we have a wide range of systems and procedures in place to protect the health and safety of our employees, our neighbours and the general public.

At the start of this year, gas was introduced for the first time to the Gas Processing Plant (GPP), via the mains gas pipeline. It was then circulated around the plant so that our main contractor, Costain, could complete the commissioning of the equipment. The gas will eventually be sent to the underground caverns, via the Gas Marshalling Area at the

Drakelow Lane site. This will happen once the GPP has been successfully commissioned and the first cavern is prepared to receive gas during Spring this year.

The whole facility has been designed and built to high safety and environmental standards. It meets the stringent requirements of legislation, including the Control of Major Accident Hazard (COMAH) Regulations and the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR). The COMAH regulations require Emergency Plans to be prepared that are shared with and practiced with the Emergency Planning Team at Cheshire West & Chester Local Authority and all of the external emergency services in the area. These plans have to be prepared and tested even though it is highly unlikely they will ever be called into use.

The whole facility has been designed and built to high safety and environmental standards.

Under the COMAH regulations we need to make you aware of the plans that have been made. We have prepared an Emergency Response Card which will be distributed to our nearest neighbours and will describe the actions that should be taken in the unlikely event of an emergency at the Holford Gas Storage site. A copy of this card can also be found on the E.ON website at www.eon-uk.com/generation/holfordcommunity.aspx

We will be getting in touch with local residents about some drop-in sessions we plan to hold in the summer where you can meet some of the team, find out about the progress on site, as well as find out more about the safety team and the processes in place.



Working with you

As with any new project, E.ON works together with the local community on a number of topics including safety on site, traffic, visual impact, recruitment for local people and funding opportunities within the local area. We wanted to update you on the work we have been doing in these areas.

During the construction of the Holford site, we put in place a thorough plan to ensure that we restricted the traffic to and from site as much as possible. As we move forward into operations, Holford has been designed to require minimal maintenance, therefore deliveries of equipment to site should be few and far between.

We've also been improving the look and feel of the site with the early planting of

11,500 trees and shrubs and this work has continued with:

- **More than 700 hedge sections planted and refilled,**
- **Approximately 4,000 metres of fencing installed,**
- **26,000 sq metres of screening mounds constructed,**
- **82,600 sq metres of coppices constructed and managed.**

Away from the main site at Holford, E.ON has been supporting the communities around the site and has made a real difference to groups of all shapes and sizes.

Tamara Bainbridge, Development Officer of Cheshire Community Action helps to deliver the Holford Community Fund on behalf of E.ON and the committee. "The Holford Community Fund can help almost any kind of group. Individuals, community members,

local community groups and 'not-for-profit' organisations, village halls, Parish Councils – the list goes on! They have to be based in the Allostock, Byley, Cranage, Lach Dennis and Lostock Gralam area," explains Tamara.

"My real hope for the fund is to engage more local community groups. Targeting organisations that work to make their community safer and a better place to live and work. It's vital that the projects supported are based on an understanding of the wants and needs of the community."

The best way to get in touch or get further details about accessing funding through the Holford Community Fund is to contact Tamara directly, contact details are at the bottom of the page. See below for some highlights of the Community Fund so far.

Local investment

During the past two years of construction at Holford, we've been working with people like Tamara to get involved in some great local projects, spending in the region of £20,000 per year. We thought we'd give you an update on the type of things we've done so far.

Byley Village Hall refurbishments –
We helped to bring the electrical installation in the village hall up to the standard required by current regulations.

Cranage Village Hall refurbishments –

We supported with refurbishments at Cranage Village Hall too.

Byley Primary School

We provided a protective canopy between the external storeroom and the reception classroom, to provide protective shelter for the children when outdoor activities are taking place.

Byley village clock

We supported the restoration of the village clock in the Church tower at Byley.

Cranage village notice board

Residents requested a notice board to display details of meeting agendas and minutes and information about what is

happening at the village and we worked with them to make this happen.

Byley village sign

An old sign which was not easily accessible was replaced with an open notice board that was put up where local people could easily read it.

Byley Parish meeting hall

We supported the painting of the hall – it is a very well used hall and a new coat of paint helps to improve the look and feel for future events.



If you think you have a project that could be supported by the fund, get in touch with Tamara on 01244 323 602 or via email:

Tamara.bainbridge@cheshireaction.co.uk.

Meet the team

Introducing Justin Humphrey



In this edition, we meet Justin Humphrey who is the Gas Storage Operations Manager for E.ON's Holford site.

"I joined the E.ON Gas Storage team in June 2009, having worked on the development and operation of major gas power plants in the UK and across Europe.

Joining the gas storage team at Holford allowed me to fulfil my desire to develop, commission and operate a major infrastructure project that has a real benefit to the UK. It also means I can use the best practice and experience I have gained throughout my career to ensure we do everything in the safest possible way and we do it right first time.

I have been deeply involved with technical performance, compliance and safety of engineering businesses over the last ten

years and have spent the last five with E.ON. As an engineer, I feel a strong sense of duty to the ongoing safe operation of Holford, a project that I have been personally involved with now for the last 18 months.

The best parts of my job have been the recruiting of 18 people and seeing them take Holford forward into commissioning. These engineers and operators have been involved in the construction and now commissioning of Holford. Each has benefited from their early involvement with the technology used at Holford and has experience of training at our sister plant in Germany which has over 30 years of operational experience of gas storage in salt caverns. I feel completely reassured that we have a group of operators and engineers that approach everything we do with a focus on safety and the environment and with this continued focus, we will have a successful business going forward for the years to come.

Just some of Justin's Operations Team at Holford.

Pictured from left to right: Gavin, Stephen, Steve, Mike, Paul, Pete, Ruth, John, Garry, Simon, Pete, John, Colin and Justin.



E.ON Contact file:

E.ON would like to hear from you if you have any queries or issues relating to the project.

All complaints will be recorded, dealt with as quickly as possible and reviewed on a regular basis. If you feel more comfortable raising queries via your local Councillor or Parish Council, these will be brought to our attention via the Local Liaison Committee.

For any urgent or safety-related site matters contact:

Dave Thompson, Site Manager

07738 143 296

Non-urgent queries to:

Mike Cooper, Senior Project Manager
Telephone: **024 7618 3414**

Justin Humphrey, Operations Manager
Telephone: **024 7618 3943**

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Community Contacts:

Parish Councillors, Byley Parish Council:

John Beecroft - (01606 837611)
Lilac Cottage, Byley Road, Byley, Cheshire, CW10 9NL

Cranage Parish Council:

George Yarwood - (01606 833131)
Holy House Farm, Cranage, Middlewich,
Cheshire, CW10 9LT

Lach Dennis Parish Council:

John Hardman - (01606 41777)
The Firs, Holmes Chapel Road, Lach Dennis,
Cheshire, CW9 7SZ

Lostock Gralam Parish Council:

Shaun Wells - (07973 642387)
20 Cinder Lane, Lostock Gralam, Northwich,
Cheshire, CW9 7SP

Borough Enforcement Officer

Rob Brookfield - (01244 402339)
Cheshire West and Chester Council,
The Forum, Chester, CH1 2HS