

How do I comment on Planning Applications?

A planning application has been submitted to Nottinghamshire County Council to drill two exploratory wells at Springs Road in the parish of Misson. The formal consultation period runs until the 23rd of December and anyone can submit comments on the contents of the application. However, the County Council will take comments right up until the planning meeting is held.

If you would like to make a comment, place an objection or show support, you can do so by going to:

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/planningsearch/plandisp.aspx?AppNo=ES/3379>

Why is Gas Important?

It is important to understand just how crucial gas is, and will remain, in our energy system:

- 84% of our homes are heated by gas;
- Around one third of our electricity is generated by gas;
- And gas is a raw material that is processed into chemicals that are used to make almost anything.

Half a million jobs depend on gas as a feedstock, and all of us depend on products that are made with gas. These include plastics, toothpaste, medicines such as analgesics and nitrogen-based fertilisers, which are spread on 75% of UK farmland to help grow our food.



We need to see more renewables, but even if we had a completely renewable electricity system, we would still need large amounts of gas for heating, manufacturing and agriculture. That's why the Department of Energy and Climate Change thinks that we will be using roughly the same amount of gas in 2035 as we do today.

It is estimated that by 2035 we will import 92% of our gas whilst the National Grid believes that shale gas could supply 40 % of our energy needs in the future.

And gas is crucial to a more sustainable economy:

- It provides crucial back-up electricity when the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shining. With the exception of pumped hydro, we are not able to store electricity at scale;
- Gas is used as a raw material to manufacture renewable energy hardware, such as solar panels where the cells are bonded together using ethylene vinyl acetate;
- Gas is needed to generate heat for the furnaces used to recycle materials such as glass;
- And it has great potential as a transport fuel, particularly for trucks and buses. Engines running on natural gas are cleaner and quieter than those using diesel, so alongside electric cars gas can help us to improve air quality in our cities.

IGas have over 30 years history of producing onshore oil and gas safely in this country and believes that shale gas development provides a lower carbon solution to our energy shortage over the coming years.

The Government has recognised that shale gas has the potential to provide the UK with greater energy security, growth and jobs, and help the UK's chemical and energy-intensive UK manufacturing industry to succeed.

Done properly, responsible shale gas extraction within a strict regulatory framework presents significant opportunity for the UK with minimal environmental impact.



NORTH NOTT'S UPDATE

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter, which will keep you up to date with our planned activities in North Nottinghamshire

Community Exhibitions

IGas recently held two community exhibitions at Blyth and Austerfield in order to help local residents understand our plans in the area. We have submitted a planning application to drill two exploratory hydrocarbon wells at Springs Road and have also submitted a scoping report for a site at Tinker Lane, where we hope to drill a well in order to determine the geology of the area.

Alongside a range of display boards containing a variety of information, geologists, drillers, planners and other IGas specialists were there to answer questions from members of the community.

This was our first exhibition at Blyth and the event was very well attended. We will host more of these events in the future – watch this space!

The role of the Community Liaison Group

The Springs Road Community Liaison Group (CLG) has been in existence for almost 17 months now and is an effective way of ensuring that the community is kept informed about our activities and plans. Representatives from all local parishes are asked to send one representative from the Parish Council and another interested member of the community along to meetings, where IGas representatives are present to answer questions and provide updates.

The meeting agenda is agreed by the membership, with IGas providing support and bringing along experts to give presentations on areas such as seismic acquisition, drilling, planning and any other topics the CLG members request. They meet monthly, or more often if required, ensuring that there is a two way conversation between the local community and the operator, IGas.

The parishes surrounding the Tinker Lane site have decided that they would like a stand alone CLG. We plan to hold the first meeting of the Tinker Lane CLG in early January with membership still to be confirmed. If you have any questions or comments about either of the IGas developments in North Nottinghamshire please speak to your local member of the CLG. Minutes of all meetings can be found on our website at www.igas-engage.co.uk

How to contact us

We seek open and honest dialogue with the communities near to all our sites in the UK and have set up a number of routes to allow you to ask questions and to hear about the developments near you, as well as information to help you to better understand the industry.

There is a dedicated website for our Springs Road development www.springsroad.co.uk. Our main IGas website www.igas-engage.co.uk has information about all of our sites, how the industry is regulated and the potential for shale in this region. There is also a feedback page on both of these websites, so that you can ask us any questions not covered on the sites. Our e-mail address enquiries@igasplc.com will send your note directly to our team, who are on hand to answer any questions you may have, whether they are site specific or relate to the industry as a whole. We make every effort to make sure your query is answered by the relevant person in our business, so bear with us, it may take a couple of days to get back to you, but if your query is urgent it will get our immediate attention. We also have a dedicated information line on 0203 675 6058 which is staffed from 10am until 4pm. Outside these hours you can leave a message and we will get back to you the next working day.

Springs Road Frequently Asked Questions

There are a number of questions that we are asked frequently about our Springs Road planning application and so we thought it would be helpful to share these along with our responses.

Will there be a significant increase in traffic levels and how will this be managed?

All traffic generated by our proposal at Springs Road will be routed to and from the A614 at Blaxton, Bank End Road (B1396) and Springs Road. No traffic will go through Misson.

The average daily number of traffic movements during the construction, drilling, evaluation and restoration phases (where one vehicle going in and out generates two movements) is anticipated to be:

	Wellsite Construction	Rig Mobilisation / Demobilisation*	Drilling	Evaluation	Restoration
HGV movements	36	12 – 16	10	0	36
Light Vehicle movement	20	10	40	10	20

Will there be a lot of noise from the development?

The noise levels during the day are required to be less than 55 dB LAeq, which is equivalent to you having a quiet conversation within the house. In the evening the noise limits are 42 dB, equivalent to the noise of a fridge running.

The levels of noise created by our development will result in, at most, a 1dB temporary increase in ambient (background) noise during the day and at most 4 dB in the evening.

What chemicals are used in fracking?

Our current proposals for Springs Road and Tinker Lane are not for hydraulic fracturing. However, fracking fluid is 99.5% water and sand. The other 0.5% is made up of basic additives such as guar gum which can be found in lipsticks.

The Environment Agency must approve chemicals that are used in hydraulic fracturing fluids, and will only approve those that are non-hazardous to groundwater.

The chemicals used vary depending on a number of factors such as the geology, the process and the operator. The UK industry has agreed to publish fully the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing on both the Environment Agency's and UKOOG's website.

How long is all this going to take?




If our planning application for Springs Road is approved early next Spring, then we will begin construction shortly afterwards. We would anticipate drilling in the Summer of next year, with the second well being drilled at the end of 2016.

If you would like to know more about shale gas development go to www.talkaboutshale.co.uk

General Questions

Does fracking cause earthquakes?

The Department of Energy and Climate Change has put in place regulations which make it a requirement to monitor and respond to even minor levels of seismic activity. Shale operators must use the 'traffic light system' to monitor seismicity, which determines whether operations can proceed:

-  Green – less than Richter magnitude 0 – safe to proceed
-  Amber – magnitude 0 to 0.5 – proceed with caution, at a slower rate
-  Red – magnitude 0.5 or higher – operations suspended

This means that any work would be suspended before any noticeable seismic activity could take place. However the current planning application at Springs Road is for conventional drilling and we cannot carry out any hydraulic fracturing without submitting a further planning application and receiving approval for this.

What is in it for us?

People want a secure, affordable and reliable energy supply. We have a clean energy resource in the UK shale that we believe can be developed safely and environmentally responsibly, and this can bring a wide range of benefits nationally and locally.

Locally there will be some opportunities in the short term for local contractors to bid for work. We will require aggregates, will need construction supplies and will use local accommodation providers.

The main advantage at a local level is through a community benefits package. As soon as any well is fracked, we automatically pay £100,000 to the local community. This will be administered through a local panel assisted by an independent support provider. It will be up to the local communities to decide how the money is spent.

If we get to the stage of production then the community will be awarded 1% of pre-tax production revenues, which could total £5m to £10m per site over a 20 year timescale depending on gas flow and price. Again, this will be administered by an agreed panel of local people.

In addition to this, the Local Authority may be eligible to keep 100% of business rates for sites where hydraulic fracturing is used, as opposed to the usual 50%.

How will you make sure you don't damage our water supply?

There are numerous measures in place to make sure that water supplies are not contaminated. These include regulations set by local councils, central Government and the European Union.

The proposed plan is reviewed by the relevant water utility and baseline monitoring is carried out before/during and post operations to monitor the groundwater.

Water sources are protected by multiple layers of steel and concrete protection around the well and each well will be drilled to distances of around 3km underground.

UK well construction is governed by some of the highest standards of regulation in the world led by bodies including the Environment Agency, DECC and the HSE. Every well is examined by independent experts and monitored throughout its lifetime.

