



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

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Energy Infrastructure Planning  
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26/03/2024

Dear Mr Wilson,

**REQUEST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR CADENT GAS LTD PROPOSED WORKS TO DIVERT AN EXISTING GAS PIPELINE  
ADJACENT TO ADDENBROOKE'S HOSPITAL, CAMBRIDGE, CB2 0AJ.**

Thank you for your letter of 5 February 2024, in which you requested an environmental determination by the Secretary of State in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Public Gas Transporter Pipeline Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1999 (as amended) ("the 1999 Regulations"). This letter was supplemented with plans sufficient to identify the proposed works and documents containing information which details the works to be undertaken, the predicted effects on the environment and mitigation to be put in place, and consultation undertaken by the Applicant to date ("the Application").

**Project background:**

The area south-west of Addenbrooke's Hospital, along Dame Mary Archer Way, is currently undergoing development as part of an expansion to the Cambridge Biomedical Campus. Several of the new buildings are to be positioned over the existing 10" Teversham to Madingley Road high pressure gas pipeline, owned and operated by Cadent Gas. To facilitate the new buildings, the existing gas pipeline is required to be diverted along the north and east boundary of the site, through a new 430m heavy wall pipe ("the Proposed Development").

**Local Planning Authority consultation:**

The Proposed Development affects one Local Planning Authority ("LPA"), Cambridge City Council. The LPA, through the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service, was formally

consulted by officials on behalf of the Secretary of State as per Regulation 6(2)(b) of the 1999 Regulations on 12 February 2024. The LPA responded on 12 March 2024 stating that: “... it is considered by the Local Planning Authority that there will unlikely be significant adverse effects on the environment, and as such in the opinion of the Local Planning Authority an Environmental Statement is not required.”

### Secretary of State considerations and decision:

The Secretary of State has considered the information submitted, including the views of the LPA and all consultees.

The Proposed Development does not meet the criteria in Part 1 of Schedule 3 to the 1999 Regulations. However, it is for a pipeline for which the design operating pressure will be over 7 bar gauge, under Part 2 of Schedule 3 to the 1999 Regulations. Consequently, an environmental determination is needed from the Secretary of State as to whether an Environmental Statement is required under the 1999 Regulations.

In considering the request and whether the Proposed Development is likely to have significant effects on the environment, the Secretary of State has had regard to the matters contained in Schedule 2 of the 1999 Regulations. The Secretary of State’s conclusion is that the Proposed Development is **not EIA** development under the 1999 Regulations, due to the evidence that the Proposed Development would be unlikely to have significant effects on the environment. In coming to her decision, the Secretary of State particularly notes the following matters:

#### Ecology

- The Proposed Development is not within 1km of a European designated site or nationally designated site. The Applicant identified no potential effect pathways.
- The Proposed Development is located within 500m of the Nine Wells Local Nature Reserve (“LNR”) and Local Geological Site (“LGS”). Nine Wells was once designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (“SSSI”).
- The Proposed Development is adjacent to the Red Cross Lane Drain City Wildlife Site (“CWS”) to the east of the site. Hedgerow West of Babraham Road CWS is located approximately 60m to the east of the Proposed Development.
- The Applicant has committed to producing a Construction Environmental Management Plan (“CEMP”) and Water Management Plan (“WMP”) to identify measures to avoid and mitigate potential impacts on surface and groundwater. This must include relevant measures to avoid and mitigate potential infiltration of pollutants and silt into the Red Cross Lane Drain CWS.
- An area of Tree Preservation Orders (“TPO”) is located approximately 40m north-east of the Proposed Development.
- The Applicant has committed to undertaking ecological pre-construction surveys prior to the commencement of works to identify any suitable habitat for protected species. The Secretary of State notes that should suitable habitat be identified then further surveys must be undertaken to confirm the presence or absence of protected species. If the presence of a protected species is confirmed the Applicant **must** comply with its ongoing duties<sup>1</sup> and obtain licences from Natural England where relevant.
- During the operational phase of the Proposed Development, no significant impacts on ecology are anticipated.
- The Secretary of State is satisfied that, subject to the implementation of ecological pre-construction surveys and the CEMP, no significant effects on ecology are anticipated.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wildlife-licences>

## Pollution and Nuisances

- The Proposed Development is located adjacent to commercial properties to the north and west of the site. Residential properties and allotments are located 160m and 20m to the east respectively. The Proposed Development is also adjacent to Addenbrooke's Hospital to the north of the site. The Proposed Development is located within 1km of a Noise Important Area (ID 5027). During the construction phase of the Proposed Development, works may produce noise and vibration affecting nearby human and ecological receptors for a temporary period. The Applicant has committed to producing a CEMP to identify measures to avoid and mitigate potential impacts from noise and vibration during construction.
- The Proposed Development is not located within 1km of an Air Quality Management Area. The Proposed Development is located adjacent to an Air Quality Monitoring Station on Dame Mary Archer Way. During the construction phase of the Proposed Development, works may produce dust affecting nearby human and ecological receptors for a temporary period. The Applicant has committed to producing a CEMP to identify measures to minimise and mitigate potential impacts from dust during construction.
- During the construction phase of the Proposed Development, works may produce light affecting nearby human and ecological receptors for a temporary period. The Applicant has committed to using site lighting during construction hours and avoiding unnecessary light spillage onto surrounding land to minimise impacts during construction. The Applicant has also committed to producing a CEMP to identify measures to avoid and mitigate potential impacts from lighting during construction.
- During the operational phase of the Proposed Development, no significant noise, vibration, light, or dust impacts are anticipated.
- The Secretary of State is satisfied that, subject to the implementation of the CEMP, no significant effects relating to pollution and nuisances are anticipated.

## Water Resources and Flood Risk

- The Proposed Development is located approximately 850m east of Hobson's Conduit or Hobson's Brook and 2.5km east of the River Cam. The Proposed Development includes works within an area of Flood Zone 3 associated with Hobson's Conduit.
- The Proposed Development is not located within 1km of a Source Protection Zone ("SPZ"). The Proposed Development is located within the Anglian Chalk Nitrate Vulnerable Zone ("NVZ") and the Ely Ouse and Cut-Off Channel NVZ. The Applicant has committed that no nitrate will be used during construction.
- The Environment Agency has confirmed that a Flood Risk Activity Permit ("FRAP") is not required for the Proposed Development. Cambridgeshire County Council have also confirmed that an Ordinary Watercourse Land Drainage Consent ("OWLDC") is not required for the Proposed Development.
- The Applicant has committed to producing a CEMP and WMP to identify measures to avoid and mitigate potential impacts on surface and groundwater.
- During the operational phase of the Proposed Development, no significant impacts on watercourses are anticipated.
- The Secretary of State is satisfied that, subject to the implementation of the CEMP, no significant effects relating to water resources and flood risk are anticipated.

## Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

- The Proposed Development is not within a World Heritage, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, or Registered Historic Park and Garden. Sun House (Grade II) is located approximately 900m to the north-east and Nine Wells Monument (Grade II) is located 650m to the south-east. A Scheduled Monument, west of White Hill Farm, is located approximately 650m to the south-east.
- The Applicant has committed to producing a CEMP to identify measures to avoid and mitigate potential impacts on any unexpected archaeology during construction.

- During the operational phase of the Proposed Development, no significant impacts on archaeology or cultural heritage are anticipated.
- The Secretary of State is satisfied that, subject to the implementation of the CEMP, no significant effects on archaeology and cultural heritage are anticipated.

#### Landscape and Visual Amenity

- The Proposed Development is located approximately 50m north-west of the Cambridge Green Belt.
- During the construction phase of the Proposed Development, works may be temporarily visible to road users, users of Public Rights of Way in the vicinity, as well as nearby properties. The construction phase of the Proposed Development would also result in temporary localised disturbance to the surrounding landscape.
- On completion, the pipeline will be buried beneath ground level and therefore not visible.
- The Secretary of State is satisfied that no significant effects on landscape and visual amenity are anticipated.

#### Traffic, Transport, and Public Rights of Way

- The Proposed Development is located adjacent to a Public Right of Way (“PRoW”) to the north of the site, and a National Cycle Network (“NCN”) route to the south and east.
- The Applicant has not identified a requirement to temporarily close or divert the PRoW and/or NCN to enable construction of the Proposed Development. However, if the need for temporary closure or diversion of the PRoW and/or NCN is subsequently identified by the Applicant, this must be agreed with Cambridge City Council.
- The Applicant has committed to producing a CEMP to identify measures to avoid and mitigate potential impacts on traffic and transportation during construction. This must include relevant measures to avoid and mitigate potential traffic and transportation impacts on the operation of Addenbrooke’s Hospital and the Royal Papworth Hospital.
- During the operational phase of the Proposed Development, only infrequent visits by maintenance personnel are anticipated.
- The Secretary of State is satisfied that, subject to the implementation of the CEMP, no significant effects relating to traffic, transport, and PRoWs are anticipated.

Taking account of all matters including the above and having regard to Schedule 2 of the 1999 Regulations, the Secretary of State concludes that the documents provided with your letter of 5 February 2024 and the evidence supplied by the relevant LPA are sufficient. She can conclude that the Proposed Development **is not EIA** development as it is unlikely to have significant effects on the environment due to its nature, size and location. Should substantial changes occur to the design of the Proposed Development or any of the mitigation measures not be implemented, the conclusions of this environmental determination will be subject to review.

A copy of this letter is sent to the following for information:

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service: Michael Huntington

Yours sincerely,

*Nicola Parker*

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