

West Newton Community Liaison Committee

- a written update in lieu of a normal meeting due to the Coronavirus pandemic -

21st May 2020

Circulation List:

David Montagu Smith (Chairman, Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited)
Tom Selkirk (Country Manager, Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited)
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Stephen Croft (Site Technical and Local Liaison, Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited)
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Deborah Stabler (Representing Burton Constable Parish Council)
Ron Jagger (Resident Representative, Burton Constable)
Anita Howell (Representing Ellerby Parish Council)
Harry Clark (Resident Representative, Ellerby)
Lisa Brazier (Representing Humbleton Parish Council)
Vanessa Nolan (Resident Representative, Humbleton)
Annette Ford (Resident Representative, Sproatley)
Charlie Sharp (Representing Withernwick Parish Council)
Matthew Grove (Resident Representative Withernwick)
Don Fields (Resident Representative, Sproatley)
Geoff North (Representing Aldbrough Parish Council)

1. Introduction

The last meeting of the Liaison Committee was held on 29 October 2019. As it is not currently possible to hold meetings in person, we (Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited) have decided to issue an update of the works which are being carried out to prepare for the construction of the drilling site at the West Newton B location. We also give a brief update on progress at West Newton A.

It is important to emphasise that, throughout this period of Covid-19 restrictions, all of our work is being (and will continue to be) carried out in strict compliance with all the relevant Government guidelines.

The safety of Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited's people, our supply chain partners' employees and the local community remains the central concern of the company. We hope that everyone on the circulation list, your families, and all the residents in the local community, are well and coping with the extraordinary times through which we are all living.

2. West Newton B – Construction Update

Pre-Construction Works

- Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited undertook a series of supply chain partner evaluations to make sure that the right skills and capabilities are in place to comply with Government guidance on COVID-19 social distancing prior to appointment.
- Drainage contractors have completed a series of land drainage improvement works and have also installed the filter drain on the eastern perimeter of the proposed access track.
- Two ground water monitoring boreholes have been installed within the proposed main wellsite area.
- Ecological searches, in line with the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), have been undertaken.
- Some areas of hedgerow and a small tree were removed following completion of the ecological surveys and prior to bird nesting season - to make way for the highway access at both Pasture Lane and Crook Lane.
- East Riding of Yorkshire Council's highways team has visited the site and confirmed the locations of the highway boundaries at the entry points to the access track and wellsite.
- Highway dilapidation surveys along Pasture Lane and Crook Lane were completed in advance of construction start-up.
- Works traffic signage has been installed.
- An application has been made to Northern Power Grid for a temporary mains connection. This has environmental benefits of allowing mains electric in place of generators on site for some equipment.

Construction

- Noise monitoring equipment has been deployed to nearby receptors to ascertain current construction noise levels.
- Road closures are in place on Pasture Lane for the safety of construction operatives and the public due to construction traffic, entrance works, etc.
- A traffic management plan, approved by East Riding of Yorkshire Council, is in effect providing for the access route to site as well as site access during construction. These are:

Day	Start	Finish
Monday to Friday	07:00	18.00
Saturdays	07:00	18:00
Sundays and Bank Holidays	N/A	N/A

- A temporary compound has been set up to be used until such time that the wellsite area is made available. The compound will be dismantled and an area of land made good once the new area has been established within the wellsite.
- Plant and equipment, including welfare facilities for the construction phase of the access track, have been delivered.
- The highway access at Pasture Lane has been formed. This involved removing subsoil and installing a culvert within an existing ditch - facilitating access into the field. Curbs and tarmac surfacing of the entrance will be undertaken over the next few days.
- Gate posts at the Pasture Lane highway access have been installed with the permanent gates and fencing being installed in the next few days.

- Excavation and construction of the main access track has commenced. An archaeological watching brief will be undertaken throughout the works. To date no archaeology has been found. Topsoil has been removed and placed to the east of the track where a berm will be shaped and sealed. The excavation has been proof rolled prior to the application of geomembranes and capping layer of stone. The capping layer will be topped with MOT Type 1 stone over the coming weeks.
- The programme is currently on schedule and to date approximately 900m of access track has been formed. This roughly equates to 50 lorry loads of aggregate and 1,000 tonnes of material.
- There have been no breaches of the traffic management plan.
- In the following weeks, the access track works will continue with the construction of a larger culvert within L'Dyke.
- The main site area will be fenced with the commencement of soil stripping. These works will be undertaken again with an archaeological watching brief with additional associated works (site strip, map and record) undertaken prior to commencement of the main wellsite build.
- Track construction is expected to continue for approximately four weeks.
- Site construction is expected to take five to six weeks.

3. West Newton B further works

Conductor drilling

- Following completion of site construction, and subject to equipment and personnel availability and any government restrictions in effect at the time, a conductor drilling rig will be mobilised to site.
- The conductor rig is a small rig, the same as most water well or geotechnical drilling rigs.
- It will drill a borehole to approximately 80m depth (top of the Chalk) which will be cased and cemented to surface.
- The conductor casing is designed to provide a stable base for the rig and protect shallow and less consolidated strata during the subsequent main hole drilling operations.
- The conductor rig will be mobilised over a two to three-day period and remain onsite for approximately four weeks while this borehole section is drilled.
- Upon completion the rig will be demobilised.
- Additional detail regarding conductor drilling will be provided at a subsequent liaison committee meeting.

Main wellbore drilling

- On completion of the conductor drilling, the main drilling rig will be mobilised to site and constructed over approximately eight to 10 days.
- The main wellbore, West Newton B-1 (WNB-1), will be drilled to a total depth of approximately 2,100 metres subsea.
- This wellbore will target the conventional carbonates reservoirs of the Permian Zechstein group (Kirkham Abbey and Cadeby).
- Drilling of the main borehole is expected to take about seven to eight weeks.
- Pending evaluation of the data acquired while drilling, the WNB-1 well will either be cased and suspended pending further testing, or it will be abandoned.
- Further details about the drilling and testing of the main borehole will be provided at a subsequent liaison committee meeting (or by exception in this way if the current situation does not change).

4. West Newton A-2 testing update

- The Environment Agency permit required to continue with the extended well test of West Newton A-2 well is now in hand.
- The West Newton A-2 test programme will recommence once Government restrictions allow access to the required personnel and equipment.

5. Keep in touch

We would ask our community liaison members to continue to share this 'liaison meeting update' in the usual way with local residents.

Please address any of your residents' questions or concerns to the Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited team at: fielduk@rathlinenergy.co.uk

Thank you and best wishes

David

David Montagu-Smith
Chairman
Rathlin Energy (UK) Limited