

Connah's Quay Low Carbon Power

Draft Cadw SoCG

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Document

- 1.1.1 This Draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared to support the application (the Application) for the Connah's Quay Low Carbon Power Project (the Proposed Development) made by Uniper UK Limited (the Applicant). The Application was submitted to the Secretary of State for a Development Consent Order (DCO) (the Order) under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 in July 2025.
- 1.1.2 This SoCG does not seek to replicate information which is available elsewhere within the Application documents.
- 1.1.3 SoCGs are an established means in the planning process of allowing all parties to identify and so focus on specific issues that may need to be addressed during the examination. This SoCG has been produced to confirm to the Examining Authority (ExA) where agreement has been reached between the parties and where matters are under discussion or where agreement has not been reached. The SoCG will be progressed during the pre-examination and examination periods to reach a final position between the Parties and to clarify if any issues remain unresolved. This SoCG will be revised and updated as appropriate and/or required by the ExA at relevant examination deadlines.

1.2 Parties to this Statement of Common Ground

- 1.2.1 This SoCG has been prepared between (1) the Applicant and (2) Cadw (jointly referred to as the Parties).

The Applicant

- 1.2.2 The Applicant is a UK-based company, wholly owned by Uniper SE (Uniper) through Uniper Holding GmbH. Uniper is a European energy company with global reach and activities in more than 40 countries. With approximately 7,500 employees, the company makes an important contribution to security of supply in Europe, particularly in its core markets of Germany, the UK, Sweden and the Netherlands. In the UK, Uniper owns and operates a flexible generation portfolio of power stations, a fast-cycle gas storage facility and two high-pressure gas pipelines, from Theddlethorpe to Killingholme and from Blyborough to Cottam.
- 1.2.3 Uniper is committed to investing around €8 billion (~£6.9 billion) in growth and transformation projects by the early 2030s and aims to be carbon-neutral by 2040. To achieve this, the company is transforming its power plants and facilities and investing in flexible, dispatchable power generation units. Uniper is one of Europe's largest operators of hydropower plants and is helping further expand solar and wind power, which are essential for a more sustainable and secure future. Uniper is gradually adding renewable and low-carbon gases such as biomethane to its gas portfolio and is developing a hydrogen portfolio with the aim of a long-term transition. The

company plans to offset any remaining CO₂ emissions by high-quality CO₂-offsets.

Cadw

1.2.4 Cadw is the Welsh Government's historic environment service, responsible for protecting and promoting Wales's historic assets. Cadw is a prescribed consultee in respect of Development Consent Order (DCO) applications in Wales that may impact scheduled monuments, registered historic parks and gardens, registered historic landscapes, and World Heritage Sites. The Applicant has engaged with Cadw throughout the development of the Scheme to assess and mitigate potential impacts on the historic environment.

1.3 The Proposed Development

1.3.1 The Applicant is seeking a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of a proposed low carbon Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) Generating Station fitted with Carbon Capture Plant (CCP) (the CQLCP Abated Generating Station) and supporting infrastructure (collectively the Proposed Development).

1.3.2 The CQLCP Abated Generating Station would comprise up to two CCGT with CCP units (and supporting infrastructure) achieving a net electrical output capacity of more than 350 megawatts (MW; referred to as MWe for electrical output) and up to a likely maximum of 1,380 MWe (with CCP operational) onto the national electricity transmission network.

1.3.3 Through a carbon dioxide (CO₂) pipeline, comprising existing and new elements, the Proposed Development would make use of CO₂ transport and storage networks owned and operated by Liverpool Bay CCS Limited, currently under development as part of the HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline project (referred to as the 'HyNet CO₂ Pipeline Project'), that will transport CO₂ captured from existing and new industries in North Wales and North-West England, for offshore storage. The captured CO₂ will be permanently stored in depleted offshore gas reservoirs in Liverpool Bay.

1.3.4 For the purposes of the electrical connection, National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET), which builds and maintains the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the existing 400 kV NGET Substation.

1.3.5 A description of the Proposed Development, including details of maximum parameters, is set out in **Chapter 4: The Proposed Development** of the **Environmental Statement (ES) (EN010166/APP/6.2.4)**. At this stage in the development, the design of the Proposed Development incorporates a necessary degree of flexibility to allow for ongoing design development.

1.4 Status of this Statement of Common Ground

1.4.1 This version of the SoCG has been prepared by the Applicant at submission of the Application to document discussions between the Parties to date. This version does not yet incorporate comments from Cadw or their

representatives. The document will continue to be revised and updated as discussions progress during the Examination period.

1.5 Terminology

- 1.5.1 Section 3 summarises the issues that are 'agreed', 'not agreed' or are 'under discussion'.
- 1.5.2 These terms are used as follows:
 - a. "Agreed" indicates where the issue has been resolved;
 - b. "Under discussion" indicates where these points will be the subject of on-going discussion wherever possible to resolve, or refine, the extent of disagreement between the parties; and
 - c. "Not Agreed" indicates a final position where the Parties have agreed to disagree.

1.6 Record of Engagement

1.6.1 A summary of all meetings and correspondence that has taken place between the Parties in relation to the Application to date is outlined in **Table 1**. This includes email correspondence between the Parties to discuss sharing of information, arrangement of meetings and where appropriate to comment on draft documentation. **Table 1** reflects the key meetings and emails of note.

Table 1: Record of Engagement

Date	Form of Correspondence	Key topics discussed and key outcomes
01/07/2024	Letter (to Cadw)	A letter to introduce the project, inform Cadw of the submission of the Scoping Report and to seek advice regarding the identification of study areas and confirmation of the cultural heritage assets to be assessed within the Cultural Heritage Assessment chapter.

1.7 Areas of Discussion between the Parties

1.7.1 **Table 2** below details the areas of discussion and matters that are agreed, under discussion and not agreed between the Parties.

Table 2: Areas of Discussion with Cadw

Ref	Topic	Relevant Application Document	Applicant Position	Cadw Comment	Status	Likelihood of Resolution
1.0 Terrestrial Heritage						
1.1	Assessment methodology	Chapter 17: Terrestrial Heritage (EN010166/APP/6.2.17). Appendix 17-A: Terrestrial heritage Desk Based Assessment (EN010166/APP/6.4).	<p>The assessment presented in Section 17.6 of ES Chapter 17: Terrestrial Heritage (EN010166/APP/6.2.17) utilises a 3 km study area for designated heritage assets and this has been agreed with Cadw. An assessment for all designated heritage assets located within this study area is presented in Appendix 17-A: Terrestrial heritage Desk Based Assessment (EN010166/APP/6.4).</p>		Under discussion	High
1.2	Additional consultation	Chapter 17: Terrestrial Heritage (EN010166/APP/6.2.17).	<p>Technical engagement has been undertaken with Clwyd-Powys Archaeological trust (CPAT) (the archaeological advisors to Flintshire County Council (FCC)) to agree the scope of any archaeological fieldwork required. Cadw have confirmed that they would defer agreement of the scope of fieldwork to CPAT.</p>		Under discussion	High

Ref	Topic	Relevant Application Document	Applicant Position	Cadw Comment	Status	Likelihood of Resolution
1.3	Scope of archaeological fieldwork	<p>Chapter 17: Terrestrial Heritage (EN010166/APP/6.2.17).</p> <p>Appendix 17-C: Geophysical Survey Report (EN010166/APP/6.4).</p> <p>Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Archaeological Mitigation Works (EN010166/APP/7.1).</p>	<p>Technical engagement has been undertaken with CPAT (the archaeological advisors to FCC) to agree the scope of any archaeological fieldwork required to inform the baseline. Cadw have confirmed that they would defer agreement of the scope of any the archaeological fieldwork to CPAT. It was agreed with CPAT that a geophysical survey would be undertaken in the first instance on land not previously disturbed by historic construction or where existing made ground is present, the results of which would inform the requirement for any further stages of archaeological fieldwork. The geophysical survey has been completed in October 2024 and the results presented in Appendix 17-C: Geophysical Survey Report (EN010166/APP/6.4). In agreement with CPAT, no further archaeological evaluation surveys are required in advance of the DCO application submission. Mitigation strategies have been identified</p>		Under discussion	High

Ref	Topic	Relevant Application Document	Applicant Position	Cadw Comment	Status	Likelihood of Resolution
			based on the results of the geophysical survey, which are set out in Section 17.7 of this chapter and presented in the Overarching Written Scheme of Investigation for Terrestrial and Marine Heritage Mitigation (EN010166/APP/6.7) .			
1.4	Updated guidance	Chapter 17: Terrestrial Heritage (EN010166/APP/6.2.17) .	The assessment presented in Section 17.6 of ES Chapter 17: Terrestrial Heritage (EN010166/APP/6.2.17) takes account of the most up to date and relevant guidance and policies at the time of writing.		Under discussion	High
2.0 Marine Heritage						
2.1	Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023	Chapter 18: Marine Heritage (EN010166/APP/6.2.18)	The Act is referenced in Section 18.1 of ES Chapter 18: Marine Heritage (EN010166/APP/6.2.18) . The Act came into full effect on 4 November 2024.		Under discussion	High
2.2	Updated guidance	Chapter 18: Marine Heritage (EN010166/APP/6.2.18)	It is expected that guidance will continue to be updated to reflect Act, and the assessment presented		Under discussion	High

Ref	Topic	Relevant Application Document	Applicant Position	Cadw Comment	Status	Likelihood of Resolution
			<p>in ES Chapter 18: Marine Heritage (EN010166/APP/6.2.18) has taken into account the most up to date methodology and guidance available at the time of writing.</p>			

